

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012



From the Executive Director's desk...

What an Amazing Year!

As I reflect on the past year, I am amazed at all that we have accomplished as a team in CEESA. At our Fall Board of Directors' Meeting in Warsaw, we finalized

our Vision and set three Strategies for our work together. Our Vision, CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration, has been the driving force for all of our office efforts for this year.

Vilnius hosted the High School Principals, Athletic Directors and Activities Coordinators. These three groups have perfected the art of collaboration by setting up and implementing an array of competitions and activities for students.

I have had a unique opportunity to experience day-to-day life at a CEESA school with my office being at the American International School of Zagreb. Connecting with the staff has helped illuminate ways that CEESA can help to improve our schools. I got to visit several schools in the region and worked with administration team and teacher teams to better understand how CEESA can assist our schools.

Our March Conference in Warsaw was truly the highlight of the year. Not only were the speakers and facilitators engaging, we also had a lot of fun! Dr. Jane Goodall was the icing on the cake for most of us. What a joyous person she is, sharing her story of determination, passion and caring for the earth and her animals.



This year, we created a great partnership with APPLE Education resulting in learning labs at the March Conference and an invitation for 25 CEESA Leaders to attend their APPLE Leadership Summit in Geneva. We all came away

with many new ideas of possibilities for transforming education with technology.

The CEESA Board of Directors met in Kiev to identify the actions for 2012-13 that will help us lead educational transformation. We developed a yearlong training plan and are finalizing details. These will be great opportunities to develop leadership capacity and learn more about using technology in our educational programs.



I am excited about the Spring Conference in Prague. Be prepared for a whole new conference format focused on educational transformation through collaboration. We will be hosting the Saturday night celebration in the Lobkowicz Palace, so get your fancy clothes ready for an Elegant Evening in the Palace.

I am looking forward to next year although it will have many more transitions to deal with. CEESA will have three new Directors join our Board, as we say goodbye to Don Fitzmahan, Tony Gerlicz and Eric Sands. In addition, the CEESA Office is moving to my home, as space is needed at the school for students.

As every year ends, it opens new possibilities for the next year.

Have a great summer!

Kathy

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

CEESA's Strategic Plan

CORE VALUES

CEESA believes:

- All people deserve to be treated fairly and with compassion and respect
- People have a responsibility to themselves and to the community
- People thrive in a supportive environment of learning and joy

MISSION

CEESA is a collaborative community of international schools, which enhances school effectiveness and inspires student learning and development.

VISION

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- CEESA schools are engaged in initiatives focused on educational transformation
- CEESA programs inspire students to learn and develop holistically

STRATEGIES

- CEESA will cultivate leadership capacity in order to inspire transformation
- CEESA will be a catalyst for the effective use of technology in support of educational transformation
- CEESA will employ effective practices, which support financial sustainability

American International School of Budapest's High School Foundations - a good building block for High School

AISB is in its third year of an experiment designed to help strengthen its Freshman Class, and help prepare students for both the rigors and enjoyment of High School. High School Foundations is a required course for all Grade 9 students that was first introduced in the 2009-10 school year to help address difficulties in the leap that students were making moving from Middle to High School. The curriculum has evolved over the past three years, to now include sections on developing students' Social, Emotional and Academic skills, Service Learning, and use of Technology to support learning.

As AISB HS Counselor David Spencer puts it, "High School Foundations is the secondary school equivalent to a university freshmen seminar course. It gives the high school an opportunity to address a variety of topics and issues that might fall through the cracks in other courses. It gives students a baseline of knowledge and expectation about what they are going to find over the next three years, and allows them to see the big picture of what high school is intended to do in terms of preparing them for further study. It also provides a working knowledge of many 'softer skills' needed to be successful: communication, conflict resolution, problem solving and a sense of perspective on what to prioritize."

The course is also designed to provide students on practical issues including tech skills that can be used in other courses, assessment and grading, transcripts and career exploration. According to Michael Campbell, the AISB HS Supervisor of Students, "High School Foundations is a time when our youngest High School students can exhale, reflect on skills that transcend subjects and refocus efforts. It promotes balanced lifestyles and healthy habits."

The course incorporates use of the *School-Connect* curriculum, and also includes a service learning program where students work with children from a local, state-run children's home. According to the HS CAS Coordinator Ben O'Brien (also one of the teachers of HS Foundations), "The Service component of the course is a great introduction for students to our Service Learning program, and lays the expectations we have for high school students' participation in service."

Student reaction to the course has been enthusiastic, even as the importance and usefulness of the course may not always be readily apparent to ninth graders. Said one current Junior about the class, "I didn't realize the benefits of the class right away, but looking back on it, it was great to learn the note taking skills, team work skills and have the opportunity for service."

By Mike Mahon

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

CEESA EVENT CALENDER 2011-2012

April 2010

- 18-21 CEESA/ECIS European Literacy Coaching Cohort – Session 3 (closed registration) in Warsaw
- 25-29 HS Combined Choir/Band in Moscow
- 25-29 MS Cultural Arts in Vienna/Budapest

May 2010

- 3 Spring EC Meeting in Kiev
- 4-5 Spring BOD Meeting in Kiev
- 10-13 Blue League MS Girls Volleyball in Belgrade
- 10-13 Blue League MS Boys Volleyball in Cyprus
- 10-13 Red League MS Girls Volleyball in Budapest
- 10-13 Red League MS Boys Volleyball in Prague
- 10-13 MS Girls Softball in Warsaw
- 10-13 MS Boys Softball in Bucharest
- 10-13 HS Girls-Tennis in Warsaw
- 17-20 Red League HS Boys Volleyball in Istanbul
- 17-20 Red League HS Girls Volleyball in Moscow
- 17-20 Red League HS Boys JV Volleyball in Istanbul
- 17-20 Red League HS Girls JV Volleyball in Moscow
- 17-20 Blue League HS Boys Volleyball in Helsinki
- 17-20 Blue League HS Girls Volleyball in Skopje
- 17-20 HS Girls-Softball in Bucharest
- 18-21 HS Boys-Tennis in Zagreb

American International School of Bucharest Robotics Team is invited to the *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge World Championships from April 25 - 29 in St. Louis, Missouri United States

The American International School of Bucharest hosted the 2nd annual Eastern European *FIRST* Tech Challenge robotics tournament from March 22nd to March 24th. *FIRST*[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. *FIRST*[®] is based in New Hampshire, United States and provides 4 levels of robotics competitions; the junior *FIRST*[®] Lego League, the *FIRST*[®] Lego League, the *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge and the *FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition. AISB is now the official *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge Affiliate Partner for Eastern Europe.



Eight CEESA schools attended this year's tournament from Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Macedonia, Ukraine, Romania, Czech Republic and Serbia. AISB also sponsored 2

teams from Romanian public school with the donation of 1,800 euros of parts. In total, 13 teams competed including a privately sponsored team from Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine.

The captain team from the winning alliance was the DracuBots Green team from AISB and the Inspire Award winner was the Auto-Vortex Team from Voluntari Public High School. (seen competing as an alliance in the photo below) Both teams will be competing at the *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge World Championships in St Louis, Missouri in the United States along with 12,800 other students from 127 teams coming from 14 different countries. More information about the Eastern European *FIRST* Tech Challenge can be found at <http://web.me.com/deanhester/CEESAFTCRoboticsTournament/Home.html>.

By Dean Hester

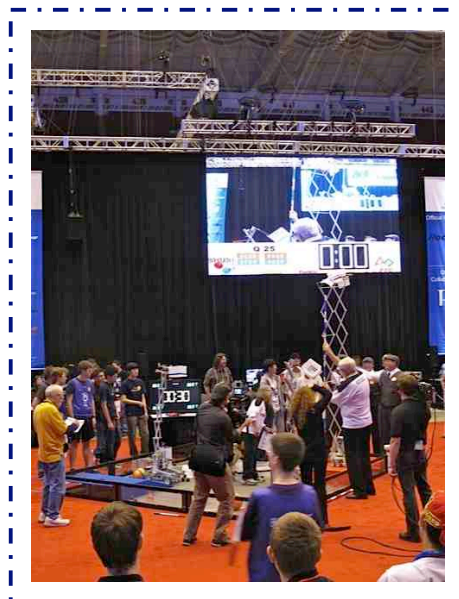
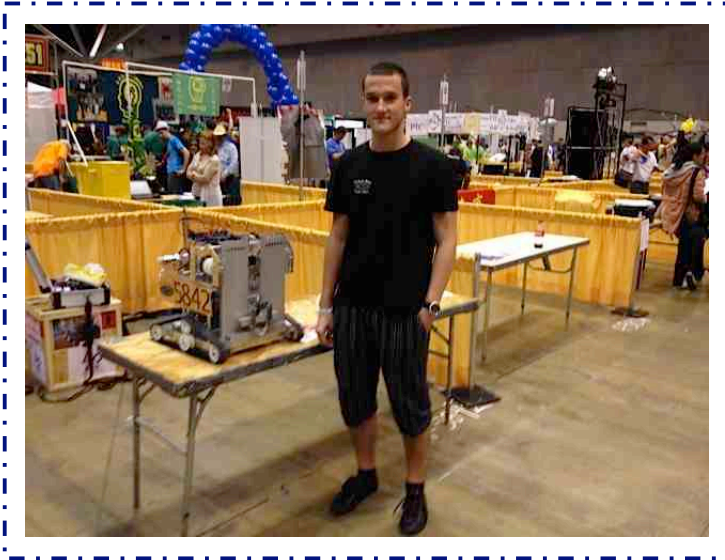
PS Please find on the next page some pictures of the *FIRST* World Championships in St Louis, Missouri, USA. The American International School of Bucharest's DracuBots team had sent Vlad Calina to compete against 127 other teams from 11 different countries over the 3 day tournament from April 25-28th. The DracuBots team finished 41 out of the 64 teams in it's division!!

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

FIRST World Championships in St Louis, Missouri, USA, April 25-28, 2012



CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

ELMLE conference hosted by the International School of Prague

The European League for Middle Level Education is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and sharing good practice in middle level education.

We were very honored to host the 26th Annual ELMLE Conference from 26th - 28th January 2012 with the theme: "From Comenius to cutting-edge curriculum: Questioning what matters".

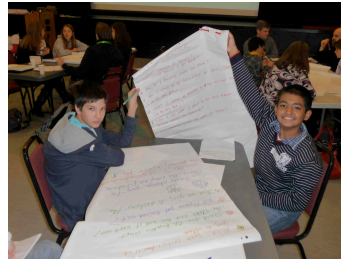
Jan Amos Komenský was a Czech teacher, educator and writer who is considered the father of modern education, so his words are very relevant today as education changes at such a rapid pace. He reminds us that teaching isn't just what happens in our classrooms but that we make a bigger impact on our world through our teaching of students. He uses nature as a source for inspiration and as a model for approaching learning and designing schools.



The Conference was a huge success, with a Pre-Conference held at ISP, followed by a two day Conference at a hotel in town.

One of the memories I will take with me, from the Pre-conference held at ISP, was when Mark Springer conducted a workshop about integration with a mix of teachers and ISP Middle school students. The students were not at all inhibited by the occasion and were confident enough to express their own ideas but also question those of the teachers they were working with! Something I would never had dreamt

of when I was at school, let alone spending my holiday with my teachers! We have come so far.



Our keynote speakers were **Mark Springer** who focused on integration and worked together with groups of students and faculty. **John Abbott** followed the theme

of 'Over schooled but Undereducated: How the crisis in education is jeopardizing adolescence'. **Jason Ohler** focused on exploring the issues of helping students and ourselves blend our digital and non-digital lives into one integrated approach to living.

Christine Brown ran workshops looking at Planning, Teaching, and Assessing Standards-Based World Language Units Using Understanding by Design. "Not Another Paper!" is something we often hear so **Tom Daccord** gave some insight into using Alternative Projects & Social Media. **Alan Leis** presented us with an Administrative Toolbox of "Look-Fors":

Curriculum, Instruction, Hiring, Evaluation, and Workplace Satisfaction. In the fast pace of the modern world it is important to take time to get in touch with yourself. **Chris Cullen** shared a mindfulness curriculum for teenagers called ".b" that is being used in a growing number of schools and organisations for young people.



Here's looking forward to the next **ELMLE** conference in Rome 2013!

By Tony Mobbs

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012



Pechersk School International's Dog Shelter Project

As an IB school with a strong community service programme, students at Pechersk School International in Kiev, Ukraine, has a strong commitment to helping students develop their leadership as they learn to serve their community.

A great example of this effort is the work done by a small but dedicated group of students who saw a problem and have worked steadily toward a long-term solution. Outraged by a newspaper article indicating that many of the city's street dogs would be rounded up and put to sleep in anticipation of the European Cup events in Kiev, two Grade 11 students

developed a fund-raising and support effort for a local animal shelter in the city. In their own words, here is their story:

Six months into our first year of the DP programme, our CAS project has developed into a solid routine. Since the fall and every Sunday without fail, (weekly visits through the Christmas holidays and the last few weeks - even in -20 degrees) we have been working on improving the living conditions of the animals. First, we distribute 40 kg of dry food to the dogs; it is a ritual the animals have come to expect when our car pulls up in front of the shelter. The dogs are friendly, happy to get a little bit of food and some petting and attention. Then we start working on what we have planned for the day, following our discussion of the previous week with Tamara, the owner of the shelter. Interacting closely with her is essential, as she is able to tell us the immediate needs of the animals. For example in the fall, it was urgent to insulate the floor of the cages, as the dogs had to lie down directly on the ground, inevitably wet, muddy and cold once bad weather conditions started. Other actions included repairing the roof of the hospital wing, covering some open grounds to provide more sheltered spaces for the animals, and consolidating fences and rain pipes.



Thanks to the generosity of the PSI community and a fund-raising event led by our Students Council in November 2011, we raised 9000 UAH (nearly \$1200 USD) for the animal shelter. From November to February, we used this money to buy more building/repair material and to deliver every Sunday the equivalent of one day's supply of food. We established a budget that would allow us to do this for 7 weeks.

Unfortunately in February, as if the harsh weather was not enough for the animals to cope with, the owner of the shelter informed us that sadly, the few sponsors who were still helping her had withdrawn their contribution. For us it meant only one thing: the situation was dramatic and we had to act fast! So once more, we appealed to the generosity of the school community. We continued to sell silicone bracelets that say "I love animals" at all school events, but this fundraising was like a drop of water in the sea. We contacted international associations in the hope of receiving some form of support for the animals. We created a portfolio to present to businesses in Kiev to try and get some donations. But these would take time and we needed to act immediately.

(To be continued on page 6)

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

(Continued from page 5 "Pechersk School International The Dog Shelter Project")

That is when we had a brainstorm:

SPONSOR AN ANIMAL

Our project allows any animal-loving family to support the shelter by "adopting" one. For the monetary contribution of 2 UAH per day (0.25 USD), contributors helped us pursue our dream of making a difference by committing for 3 months (180 UAH) or 7 months (420 UAH). Donors were able to pick a particular dog or cat, within a selection of photos taken recently and were given some information about the animal as well as a regular update when possible. It was explained to the sponsors that the money raised through this project would support the shelter as a whole, as much and as often as possible. We intend to repeat our action in a few months by contacting the sponsors and ask them to renew their contribution.

It did not take long to see that this sponsorship would be a huge success. After only a couple of weeks, more than 60 dogs and cats were chosen by students and members of staff and enthusiastically sponsored. Our project even reached our family members living abroad, who were touched by the living conditions of our animals



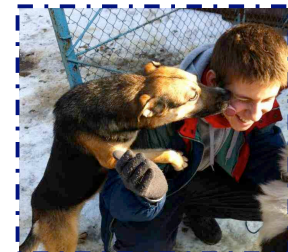
Yoda's health has dramatically improved since September. She is now eating again and is happy to see us every week.

and wanted to contribute too. Altogether, we were able to raise just over 19,000 UAH (about 2500 USD), which we are now using to pay for more building material and to continue improving the state of the shelter. Our goal is to help give the animals a better life on a long term basis. When we go there now, we can see a difference. The cages we worked on are cleaner, and yes, the dogs enjoy lying down on a dry surface. Thanks to the food and medicine we were

able to provide through the winter months, motherless puppies have survived and grown. Injured or sick animals have been taken care of. And we as PSI students learned a lot; not only to lay sand and bricks as a regular slope to allow water to run out the cage, not only to think and budget money the wisest way; but also to work collaboratively with members of the community and attempt, with our CAS project, to have an impact locally.

Our goal is to help give the animals a better life on a long term basis

Here at PSI, we are taught every day about the importance of protecting our environment. It is vital for us that our planet be habitable and so we must learn on all levels to look after our environment as much as we can. The protection of animal species, whether endangered or not, is one of the ways in which we can preserve our natural habitat and ecosystem balance to make sure we continue to have a safe place to live, and keep it that way for future generations. Helping the shelter care for its animals demonstrates how we can act locally with a global issue in mind. Our job, as inhabitants of Kiev, is to care for the vulnerable, whether they are people or animals. We must act locally because this is where we live and this is where we can begin to tackle an issue. We must act locally to be able to think globally.



By Elliott Caudron and Marton Kiss
Grade 11

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

American International School of Vilnius Hosts Multilingual Tournament of Lithuania



The tournament was initiated by the Ministry of Education and Science, the British Council and the American International School of Vilnius. After the initial talks among these three institutions, more partners were invited on board, and the organising committee of 14 members was formed. After a numerous meetings and discussions, the concept, goals and objectives, and the format of the event were developed, and the first ever multilingual tournament "I Speak, Your Speak - We Communicate!" organised in Lithuania gathered students of Grades 9-11 from all over Lithuania speaking no less than two non-native (foreign) languages and forming teams from 33 secondary schools or gymnasiums speaking no less than three non-native (foreign) languages.

The main languages of this competition were English, Russian, German and French, however there were such languages as the Italian, Spanish,

Ukrainian, Swedish, Chinese, Polish, Japanese, and Armenian used in the main four tasks of the tournament: impromptu speaking, running dictation, jokes (Chinese whispers) and dubbing of an animation film. The fifth task was Knowledge Bowl in English on general knowledge of the countries where the four main contest languages are spoken.

All the participating student teams including a teacher had to prepare a 1-minute presentation on a language which is not the main language of the competition. This activity has even more broadened the diversity of languages and included Latin, Belorussian, Hindi, Latvian, Japanese, Ukrainian, Spanish, Bavarian, Turkish, Italian, Dutch, Armenian, and Finnish. All the teams proved to be not only creative but very talented with a good sense of humour and great presentation skills. This was the only task which was not judged by the professional language specialists, but by the participants themselves. As the tournament was held in three rounds, there were three teams that received most of the audience's votes in each round, and they performed during the awards ceremony in



the evening.

Student performances in different languages and tasks were evaluated by a big group of professional language specialists from secondary schools and institutions of Lithuania. At the end of the day after counting all the points teams had accumulated, the winners were announced at the closing ceremony which took place at ISM University of Management and Economics, the AISV's generous partner.



Three schools from Vilnius won the first three places. The 1st place winner school where seven languages are taught was also elected as Language Ambassador of Year 2012. A special award of this nomination was presented by the Education Exchanges Support Foundation. All the winners were awarded medals and trophies sponsored by AISV. In addition, the three winning teams were granted the opportunity to spend one week at the American International School of Vilnius (AISV).

(To be continued on page 8)

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

(Continued from page 7, "American International School of Vilnius Hosts Multilingual Tournament of Lithuania")

We are very proud of our AISV students who scored the 5th and the 7th among 34 teams, especially that they used the Russian, German and French languages which are the 3rd and 4th languages used by our students. As English is the language of instruction at AISV, the students were not eligible to take part in the tasks performed in English, except for Knowledge Bowl which checked general knowledge on the countries the four main contest languages are spoken at.



LINGUA PERFECTA, the bookstores of Rotas, Humanitas, Litterula, and Pearson Longman for their generous donations.

The multilingual tournament proved to be a successful event and was enjoyed by the participants, their teachers, evaluators and everybody who helped it

to run smoothly. We are planning to organise this event next year hosted by AISV as well.

We are very grateful to the sponsors of the event as mentioned above and others including Goethe Institut in Litauen, L'Institut français de Lituanie, Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania, the Embassy of Sweden in Lithuania, the language school

By Jolita Norkūnaitė
AISV Activities Coordinator
Head of Multilingual Tournament
Organising Committee

Visitors and Community Integration at American School of Warsaw in Spring 2012



Gary Glazer, founder of the Alzheimer's Poetry Project, visited A.S.W. with local Polish poets, on Tuesday April 3rd. This internationally recognized poet is an expert on working with people with Alzheimer's disease. His therapy utilizes poetry to bring to life memories which the Alzheimer's sufferers may recognize. During his visit, Gary Glazer and the Polish poets gave a presentation to elementary school students in the A.S.W. theater. They also made a presentation to 2nd grade students and visited the Alzheimer's Center with them, using poetry to connect with and enliven those residing there.

Another memorable event was the 11th Living History Day which took place at A.S.W. on March 22nd. Survivors of World War 2 from the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw were interviewed by 8th grade students to recount their experiences. Translators, comprised of high school students and staff, made the event possible. The project brought to life the tragic events of World War 2 in Poland which took place over 60 years ago.



(To be continued on page 9)

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

(Continued from page 8, Visitors and Community Integration at the American School of Warsaw in Spring 2012)

Yet another recent A.S.W. project, reaching out to the community, was undertaken by Olivia Pastor, an A.S.W. 10th grader. This student organized a food drive for The Warsaw Volunteer Mission that helps “Families in Crisis”. Whole mountains of food appeared in uniform, yellow, carrier bags which had been distributed throughout the school. The generosity and good-will displayed by A.S.W. parents and students was, once again, very much in evidence.



By Zofia Skoczylas
(ASW CEESA Teachers’ Rep.)

Using Rubrics Reliably - From Anglo-American School of Moscow to CEESA and beyond...

Do you use rubrics in your classroom, yet consistently find that students aren’t growing as writers? Do your students use rubrics as simply a checklist? Rubrics, although commonplace in many classrooms, can easily be misunderstood and misused by students from kindergarten to Grade 12. Rubrics not only clarify expectations for students, but they can also give clear guidance on the next steps students need for improving their work.

participated as if they were students in a classroom learning how to use the rubric to help them improve their work. They saw the process modeled as a think-aloud. Next, they scored student samples of work, justified their score and determined next steps for improvement in small groups, with partners, then independently.

As we continue to examine and refine our educational practice at Anglo-American School of Moscow, we remain committed to our vision of inspiring student learning with effective instructional strategies. We appreciate the opportunity to share a bit of learning and, in turn, collaborate with other educators. Learning from and with others in our region is what makes the CEESA conference a meaningful professional development experience.

By Jennifer Hughes – Differentiation Coach and
Nicole Ricketts – Literacy Coach/Coordinator



At CEESA 2012, Anglo-American School of Moscow’s Nicole Ricketts (Literacy Coach) and Jennifer Hughes (Differentiation Coach) addressed these questions in a session entitled, “I’ve Handed Out the Rubric... Now What?” In this interactive workshop, K-12 teachers were introduced to two simple and effective

techniques for building student understanding of a rubric rather than simply using it as an assessment tool. CEESA teachers from different schools and grade levels worked side-by-side as they represented their knowledge of a given rubric by creating visual representations. Then, through the modeling of gradual release of responsibility, teachers

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

American International School of Zagreb's Grade 1 Fieldtrip to the Croatian School Museum



The Grade 1 AISZ class along with Miss Michelle, Miss Daniela and Mrs. Kvaternik visited the Croatian School Museum in Zagreb to extend students' learning about schools long ago. In Social Studies, students had been learning and comparing schools of today to schools long ago. So this was a great opportunity to get a real feel for history.

Students enjoyed seeing the permanent exhibition of a Croatian schoolroom from one hundred years ago. Seeing the desks, teacher, students, uniforms, blackboard, slates, chalk, quill pens, ink and other interesting items gave the students a real feel for schools in the past. They commented that the schoolroom teacher looked very strict and that the students looked very serious. They were sad that only single women could be teachers in Croatia one hundred years ago.



Visiting the museum gave the children a better understanding of schools long ago and they gained an appreciation of their present school experience. The tour guide Miss Kristina spoke fluent English and did a great job explaining about Croatian schools in the past. She kept everyone's attention and presented very interesting information. The students asked many questions and were shocked and fascinated with some of her answers.

The museum also houses several displays, photographs and artifacts depicting school life. Everyone enjoyed the museum and learned a lot. Visiting the museum was very important because it gave students a better perspective about school life long ago.

By Deana Kvaternik

NOVA International Schools Science Fair

NOVA Elementary School was filled with young geologists, physicists, physiologists, kinesthesiologists, health scientists, and biologists during our Science Fair. Students enthusiastically took on these roles as a way to learn about the world. Each homeroom was turned into a living museum where these young scientists led parents and students on a journey through the human body, up the crater of an erupting volcano, along the pathway of an electric current and through a tropical rainforest. As kinesthesiologists they led games exploring balance and moving through personal and general space. Our young scientists were highly motivated to involve parents and peers in their demonstrations, presentations, songs and skits.

They took pride in their developing knowledge and enjoyed being "experts" in their field. This teaching strategy of having students take on the role of a scientist ensures active participation and encourages them to make a personal connection with the content. It causes them to see themselves as investigators and encourages future involvement and inquiry in the sciences.



(To be continued on page 11)

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

(Continued from page 10. "NOVA International Schools Science Fair")

Our Middle School Science Fair was a resounding success of innovation and technology. Students entered "The World of Amazing Machines and Delightful Devises"; where they were asked to create a new invention or replicate in a fully functioning model of one the key innovations in history. Over ninety-three students competed, with sixty-four projects. Projects ranged from Rube Goldberg Fish Feeders and Automatic Balloon Blowers to Tessela's coil and a battery powered, solar capable, full sized and functioning dune-buggy, made completely from recycled parts. Our students showed creativity and concern for the environment by building lemon powered foxhole radios and water purification systems.

Students entered "The World of Amazing Machines and Delightful Devises"

Contributing to the science fair were several high school scientists, who set up interactive stations throughout the fair. Guests and students were invited to perform experiments, experience

Traditional Capping Ceremony at Anglo-American School of Sofia

In April 2011 The Anglo-American School broke ground for its Phase III project - a new Middle School / High School building to accommodate our growing number of students.

Almost a year later, in March 2012 the AAS staff, administration and the team working on the Phase III project gathered to celebrate a milestone - the completion of the roof of the new building. Jim Urquhart, AAS Director, welcomed the guests of honor, the builders of

the school who have been toiling in a mixture of sun, snow and wind. The AAS Board Chair, Ms. Sutton welcomed the guests and shared the Board's contentment to see the Phase III project being realized. She expressed the collective hope that the new school building will contribute to the growth and learning not only of the students at the Anglo-American School, but also of the community of Pancharevo, and greater Sofia.

"We have tried to use the landscape and natural resources in the best possible way, so the new MS / HS Building can be a truly "green" project," said Ms Diantha Korzun, representing TruexCullins, the company that

phenomena, test their senses and pilot robots. The interactive chemistry station was perhaps the most popular stop along the science tour.

The science fair was attended by more than five



hundred people over the course of three hours, with groups from local schools, other international schools, local universities and of course NOVA community members. Amongst the three divisions it was a festive and exciting day, which inspired a love of inquiry in our community.

By Cindy Gold and Amanda Leavitt

"We have tried to use the landscape and natural resources in the best possible way

designed the building. "We are happy that the AAS team gave us great feedback all through the process and that everyone's vision is being realized with the help of the project management company, the chief contractor, all the subcontractors, suppliers and workers on the site," Ms Korzun added.

(To be continued on page 12)

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012



(Continued from page 11, "Traditional Capping Ceremony at Anglo-American School of Sofia")

To celebrate the team work, as the building tradition in Bulgaria duly demands, the Bulgarian flag was placed on top of the new building. Then everyone raised a glass to celebrate the occasion and wished for a successful and timely completion of the project in August 2012.

Photo Caption: Tihomir Tanev from the chief contractor "INOS" successfully places the Bulgarian Flag at the highest point of the new building.

By Svetla Stoyanova, AAS-Sofia Communications Assistant

Central Asian Basketball Classic at Tashkent International School



Central Asian Basketball Classic, or the CABC, is an international basketball competition, which was held for the first time in Tashkent in 2003. Since the beginning, it has been hosted by Tashkent International School, Tien Shan International School and Almaty

International School.



This year, the CABC was hosted in Tashkent International School and was purely student led and organized by six different student councils. The Digital, Sports, Student, Arts, Catering and Finance Councils worked together and made this event happen.

It is very great that such an event was student-run, because it reflects on the abilities of TIS students working on something big, dealing with different problems and leading the event.

This year the 4 day championship consisted of 16 teams in 4 divisions which made their way to the finals. The event was well supported by the TIS community as well as the local community. We had representatives for the Uzbek Olympic committee visit also.

Personally, I would like to thank all of the student councils for organizing such a big event, the coaches, minor officials, the school administration and all of those who came to support our teams.

By Ramin Baghisi
Sport's Council President

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

Reposted article including pictures

Spirit Banners

Everyone has seen the motivational posters with the black borders, a beautiful picture and a catch phrase or word. We have some of them around school and I am sure you do as well. Last year when we were planning a face lift on our main gym (with the new FIBA lines) we asked ourselves how we could brighten it up and increase school spirit while we were at it. Those motivational posters came to mind but we wanted more of a wow factor when people walk into our gym. We thought; let's make our own posters with our students and words that reflect our school and our athletic mission statements. What we can up with were "Spirit Banners". We picked great pictures of current students, combined them with fitting words and went as big as possible (3 meters by 2 meters big). The result has been greater than we ever imagined. We unveiled one of the banners at the end of year sports awards to get the students interest flowing and when they came back in August they were blown away. The students on the banners were ecstatic, the students not in them talk about the chance of getting on one, the staff admires their message and every new visitor to our gym says wow. Four banners hang currently (Spirit, Passion, Skill and Dedication) and two more are planned for the start of next school year. Consider making your own motivational posters or "spirit banners" to create a buzz and boost your schools spirit.



By Nick DeForest,
Assistant Director of Athletics, Activities and Events and CEESA rep



CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

ISH Running for World Vision Finland

There's a buzz in the air here in Helsinki. It's that time of year again when the whole of the Lower School comes together in aid of charity. Every year since 1996 the students and teachers of the Lower School here at the International School of Helsinki (ISH) have held a Fun Run to raise money for children less fortunate than themselves.

All students from Kindergarten to grade 5 participate and even some brave teachers run the circuit. The students have between 20 and 30 minutes to run as many 150m laps as possible. Lots of parents volunteer to help out stamping the students each time they complete a lap and the PTO provides a much-needed water station. Our school nurse joins us for the afternoon to administer any first aid that might be necessary (blister relief) and the afternoon is rounded off with ice lollies courtesy of the PTO.



The students are amazing, from the little 4-years olds in Kindergarten through to the 11-years olds in grade 5, they all show great perseverance and determination in their efforts to help poor children. On average 5,000 euros is raised and then donated to the chosen charity.

This year the money will go to various "gifts" run

by World Vision Finland. Each class voted for the gift they wanted to raise money for. These gifts include 2½ cows, clean water, mosquito nets, porridge for children and health checks (including immunizations) and will go to help children in Kenya, Uganda, India, Sri Lanka, Peru and Columbia. World Vision was chosen this year as a group of our grade 5 students are working with them for their PYP Exhibition.

By Jyri-Pekka Komonen

Looking back over 12 years at the International School of Estonia.

I came to ISE in August of 2000, accompanying my wife, Maureen, who took a position teaching international law at a local university in Tallinn. I was the "at-home-Dad," and our youngest daughter, Katie, entered the first grade 9 class at ISE. Over the span of the next 12 years I would serve as PTA President, middle school math/science teacher, upper school Principal, MYP Coordinator, university advisor, Deputy Director and now Director.

During my time at ISE the school has grown from 80 students to almost 140 and more recently back to 110. As the global economic crisis cools, modest growth is on the horizon for ISE, with 125+ students projected for next year. During those dozen years, ISE evolved from a tiny, young school into a small, confident adolescent. Grades 9-12 were added, with the first graduating class in 2004. ISE matured considerably. My time at the school evidenced the adoption of the IB PYP, MYP (later dropped) and Diploma programs. Subsequent authorization visits revealed an impressive implementation of these top international programs by a very small staff. This was capped off by ISE's full accreditation by CIS/NEASC, as the school entered the "big leagues."

And, next year, ISE will become the first school in Estonia to implement a 1-on-1 iPad program.

During all its stages, ISE has remained a close community of educational professionals who constantly create the best in international education wrapped in an environment of care and concern for a highly diverse student population. The school has seen 95% of its graduates earn the full IB diploma (most earning a bi-lingual diploma), considerably better than the 80% international average.

(To be continued on page 16)

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

(Continued from page 15, "Looking back over 12 years at International School of Estonia")

ISE's Learning Resources program has grown from nothing to one allowing the school to provide full educational services for a number of students with special learning needs. All this is made possible due to the low student/teacher ratio of 6 to 1, and the low staff turnover at ISE.

The past years have seen ISE make great strides in incorporating technology into the learning environment. Its IT resources have moved from a hodgepodge of mismatched computers to a modern, fully integrated network of Macs and PCs that provides one machine for every two students. And, next year, ISE will become the first school in Estonia to implement a 1-on-1 iPad program.

My time at ISE has been rewarding beyond measure. I have been blessed to see this young school mature and join the league of outstanding international schools around the world. I leave confident that ISE will continue to grow and to evolve as it provides the highest quality service to the international community in Tallinn.



By Don Fitzmahan

American School of Warsaw's New Director Announcement

The new Director of the American School of Warsaw is Mr. Terry Gamble. Terry has been the Elementary School Principal since 2008 and was the prior Head of the Chang Mai International School in Chang Mai, Thailand. Terry has also been an Elementary Principal at the American International School in Cairo, an assessment consultant for the Province of Alberta, Canada and a 4th grade teacher for many years.

Terry will continue the good work begun at ASW and the entire community is very pleased to welcome him as ASW's new Director.

Basketball Coaches Forum at the International School of Latvia

Athletes in Action together with the Latvian Basketball Union is organizing the **Basketball Coaches Forum on June 29-30** at the International School of Latvia this year.

The guest speakers are two NCAA Division I coaches: Tim Maloney (Baylor University) and Bob Hoffman (Mercer University). They will lead theoretical and practical sessions on **Developing Coaching Philosophy, Setting Coaching Objectives and Developing Defensive Game**. Forum organizers have put emphasis on active participation, promoting communication and best practice exchange during the forum by incorporating question and answer sessions, discussion group time and social event in the schedule.

The participation **fee is 78 EUR** and includes pick-up/ drop-off from the airport, lunches, social event, a souvenir and forum materials.

(To be continued on page 17)

CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Spring 2012

(To be continued from page 16, "Basketball Coaches Forum at the International School of Latvia")

More details can be found in the a special created **booklet** which can find on the link <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/72129873/AIA%20Forum%20Booklet.pdf>

To sign up for this forum, you should fill out a simple **online form**. This form can be found on the link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dFltUkJ6dF9udWEOSkZMdktdHN1NEE6MA#gid=0>. Or you can email the event director at: apilkevics@isl.edu.lv

Do not hesitate to contact the event director, Mr Arturs Pilkevics (apilkevics@isl.edu.lv) in case you have any questions.

By Arturs Pilkevics



BASKETBOLA TRENERU FORUMS Basketball Coaches Forum



Kad? 29. -30. jūnijs, 2012. gads
When? June 29-30, 2012

Kur? Latvijas Starptautiskā skola,
Where? International School of Latvia

Viesi – Speakers:
Timothy Maloney (Baylor, NCAA I)
Bob Hoffman (Mercer, NCAA I)

Tēmas: Treneru filosofija un mērķi
Aizsardzības vingrinājumi

Topics: Coaching philosophy
& Objectives, Defensive game

Cena: 48 Ls
Cost: 78 EUR



Piesakies šeit!



Sign up here!

Vairāk informācijas dalībnieka rokasgrāmatā: [spied šeit!](#)

More info in the event booklet: [click here!](#)