

THE ISO GAZETTE #5

December 2020





PASTILA PENTRU NEXTGEN

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



“The real voyage of discovery consists, not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”

Marcel Proust

2020 has been quite a different year than what was everybody expecting. The ongoing pandemic crisis has changed all our lives and how we see, plan and act. I think it is a fair comment to say that it has at least made us realize what is really important in our lives. With such a great threat at our health, we are all trying to focus on the positive and to overcome these difficult times.

As stated in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, safety needs are one of our basic needs at the bottom of the hierarchy. This hierarchy is reflective of the ultimate goal within the ISO community, in supporting the children to achieve their full potential including creative activities. As our ultimate goal also within the ISO community we have the goal of achieving one's full potential including creative activities. Considering the current environment I think one can easily find an excuse to drop the top goal, claiming that while we do not have the basic needs covered, it is hardly possible to achieve anything else.

I believe this has been the challenge which we are facing as a community. No matter what else is going on, our ultimate aim has been to create the safe and secure environment for our children so that they can focus on their goal of achieving their full potential. Just like any other challenge, this one has not been an easy one.

Our staff members have been quickly adapting to the new conditions and rethinking the way in which they teach. This I believe is valuable role modelling for our students and something which they will always remember. Our parents' support and flexibility have also been key to keep the things rolling during these times.

The focus point of all these changes and events are the students, who, as I observe, are doing a much better job than us adults! Their natural ability to learn and to adapt to situations are functioning as much as possible.

As a school, we have been thinking outside the box to come up with alternative safe solutions to keep the educational activities going at the highest possible level, it is a fact that there have been different obstacles aiming to prevent us doing this. On behalf of our school I can reassure you that we never stop looking for alternatives and hopefully after this break we will be soon able to meet again.

Until that time, I wish you a healthy and a happy new year with your beloved ones. Hoping to see brighter days in 2021 in which we will be able connect more, and physically.

Happy holidays!

EXPLORING AND LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

During our autumn term, we worked really hard to improve our life skills: we made new friends, had so much fun interacting and playing alongside them. We learnt how to share and take turns, how to be kind to our friends and adults and how to line up when getting ready for snack or lunch time. Our table manners are now exemplary and we have also practiced taking our shoes and coats off and putting them back on.



During our story times, we have improved our communication skills and our vocabulary, joining in with actions and vocalizations in stories including "The Gingerbread Man" and "We're Going on a Bear Hunt".

We loved our soft start every morning, when we listened and danced on our favourite songs and rhymes, like "Five Little Monkeys" or "Five Little Ducks".

We even began to sound out and recognise letters, including the initial for our own name!



Furthermore, we have become so much better at counting, sorting objects and recognising shapes in our environment. We have also improved our skills for painting, cutting and sticking, building with blocks and role play, especially when using puppets from stories. Cooking, dancing, making puzzles and so many more things were also enjoyed.

Through lots of fun challenges and activities, we have practiced our fine and gross motor skills, as well as developing our self esteem and confidence to express our feelings, wishes and needs.



We now understand the world around us much better, as we experimented with our senses. We looked at the weather and explored what we could see in our environment. Last, but not least, we learned how to stay healthy, including eating healthy food and personal hygiene.

Overall, we have had such an amazing term and we look forward to much more to come in the next term!



FESTIVALS IN DINOSAURS CLASS



This Autumn Term the EYFS Dinosaurs Class worked very hard, both in the classroom and online, participating in lots of creative and fun activities.

The topic for Autumn 2 at International School of Oradea was Festivals and our lovely students discovered many interesting things about different celebrations, such as Autumn Festival, Diwali-The Celebration of Lights, Anti bullying Week and Odd Sock Day, Thanksgiving Day, The Romanian National Day, Christmas, different birthdays and name days celebrations, our Winter Festivity.

For the Autumn Festival we took part in a taste test and bravely tried different autumn fruit and vegetables, whilst blindfolded. Then we observed the signs of autumn outside. On our journey we collected some objects including leaves, acorns, dried fruit, mushrooms, pine cones, conkers, sticks and pebbles and made some autumn wind chimes using them.

For Diwali we discussed the meaning of the celebration of lights and painted amazing Diwali rangolis. We wrote and decorated cards for some of our students' birthdays and name days, as well as listening to stories about birthday parties. We decorated or created special cakes using lego pieces.



We involved our families in the Anti bullying week event, Odd Sock Day. We wore odd socks to highlight that although we are all different, we are all special.

On 26th November, we celebrated Thanksgiving Day. We read the story of The First Thanksgiving Day and we found out where the turkey's name came from. We learnt how to draw a turkey using shapes. We painted one thing we were being thankful for and these included: our families, being healthy and our toys. EY students also wrote nice captions for the turkey they created out of playdough.

We also celebrated The Romanian National Day. We all wore the colours of the Romanian flag: blue-yellow-red or the traditional Romanian blouse, "ie" and got involved into creative and colourful activities. We wrote and drew the reason we love Romania, we created the Romanian flag out of toys, clothes or different objects around us. We enjoyed the flavours of the Romanian National Day with a coloured and healthy smoothie, and decorated it in the flag's colours using blueberries for blue, bananas or oranges for yellow and strawberries or apples for red. In case you want to try it, we will share the smoothie recipe with you.

Christmas was another festival that we learned about. We rehearsed our Winter Festivity online-The Gingerbread Man. We made the masks for our character, learned winter songs, participated in the Reindeer Hokey Pokey challenge and learned about charity. Together with our parents we decorated and filled a shoebox, offered by ISO to the children in need.

We enjoyed celebrating and learning about festivals!



THE SILLY SOUP GAMES A FUNNY WAY TO LEARN FAST

BY MS. CARMEN UNGUR-BREHOI

Teaching early phonics is a challenging task, especially to very early ages, e.g. 2-3 years old. That's why teachers use many fun games to attract and involve students easier.

We teach synthetic phonics through a 6 phase programme. In Phase 1 our focus is on teaching different types of sounds, including those of musical instruments, alliteration (stinky soft sock, big brown bear...) and rhyming words. In Phases 2 - 5, we teach phonemes (letter sounds) made with one or more letters both for reading and writing.

One of the most loved phonics games is the **Silly Soup game**, which can be played in a multitude of ways. Parents and children can also play this game at home. All you need is a large bowl, a spoon and lots of... imagination. After we add the ingredients (the specific phoneme/s (sounds) we are teaching or revising), we have to stir and to sing this song:

**"I'm making lots of silly soup
I'm making soup that's silly.
I'm going to cook it in the fridge
To make it nice and chilly!
In goes a... a... a...
I add some ... and a..."**

When utilising this game to teach rhyming words, we add objects and/pictures to the bowl and encourage the children find and match the pairs that sound the same, e.g.

**bat-hat-cat-rat,
car-star-jar,
fox-box-socks,
fan-van-can.**



When in class, the children usually sit in a circle on the carpet or around the table. They can choose either the objects-ingredients for the soup or pass the bowl around and stir in the soup. They all sing the funny song during the activity.

This game supports the development of the following Communication and Language skills in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum:

- they can listen with increasing attention and recall (30-50 months)
- they can join in with repeated refrains and anticipate key phrases in rhymes and stories (Communication and Language, 30-50 months)
- can maintain attention, concentrate and sit quietly during appropriate activity (Communication and Language, 40-60 months).

The Silly Soup game also helps children to recognise rhythm in spoken words and will enjoy rhyming and rhythmic activities (Literacy, 30-50 months). The game encourages children to explore and to use different media and materials, by encouraging that children

- feel the textures of the objects used, e.g. toys, soft toys, objects in the classroom or home, cards, etc.
- select relevant resources from a pile or can find them, in a familiar area.

The children learning to sing a familiar song also helps them to meet an objective in Expressive Arts and Design, 30-50 months; as well as for children to continue a rhyming string (Literacy, 40-60 months) and build a repertoire of songs and dances (Expressive Arts and Design).



THE SILLY SOUP GAMES A FUNNY WAY TO LEARN FAST

BY MS. CARMEN UNGUR-BREHOI

We play the Silly Soup game with specific sounds (Phase 2 and Phase 3) and use ingredients that start with a specific initial phoneme (sound). For example, if we had learned the phoneme “t” and letter name (grapheme), we would use words like “**tiger**”, “**truck**”, “**tree**”, “**table**”, “**tissue**”, “**television**”, “**tomato**”, “**train**”, “**tablet**”. In this way the children will be able to say the initial sound in words and will segment the sounds and then blend them together (Literacy, 40-60 months).

Later on, when the children recognise all the Phase 2-3 phonemes and graphemes, we can play the Alphabet Silly Soup, when we order and link sound to letters, matching different objects with the letters of the alphabet (Literacy, 40-60 months).

The Silly Soup game can be used also for **PSED activities** (when we talk about feelings or senses, we can mime the happy, sad, angry, bored faces and add them in the Magical Silly Soup) and **Numeracy activities**, where we can use number names and number language spontaneously, recite numbers in order (Mathematics, 30-50 months), count out up to six objects from a larger group or learn and use shapes appropriately for tasks (Mathematics, 40-60 months). For example, we add one dog, two elephants, three lions, four tigers... or one circle, two squares, three rectangles, four stars, etc.



Sometimes we use the seasonal version of this game. For example, in autumn we may use ingredients like an acorn, conker, leaf, stick, autumn animals, scarf, hat, raincoat, umbrella; and in the summer we may use ice cream, sun, deck chair, bucket, spade, sun lotion, beach ball. This supports children to develop an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time (Understanding of the World, 30-50 months)

When we learn the new vocabulary of the new topic, a themed Silly Soup is more than welcome, because every child wants to be the chef. During our topic of Festivals, we used a cake, birthday invitation, pumpkin, turkey, lantern, Romanian flag, Christmas tree, as suggestions for familiar and new events including a birthday party, wedding, autumn festival, Thanksgiving Day, Diwali, Romanian National Day and Christmas. Through this young students are able to talk about the things that they have observed (Understanding of the World, 30-50 months). This also allows them to look closely at the similarities, differences, patterns and change (Understanding of the World, 40-60 months).

The Silly Soup is a fun activity that can be played with KS1 children during Phonics or Topic activities, but also as an icebreaker or introduction activity for KS2 pupils. Try it at home and you will enjoy it as a family activity!



KS1

BY MS. EMMA

In KS1 we have had a brilliant start to the year. We were so happy and excited to be back at school. We began the year by getting to know each other and developing our friendships. We participated in circle times and games in order to get to know each other better. We participated in discussions and completed activities about what it means to be a good friend.

This term we have been finding out about how to become good learners. This has involved the children understanding and keeping the Golden Rules so that they can work together in a safe, secure and enjoyable environment. Our Golden Rules are to help develop the children's personal and social skills, as they learn to acknowledge and respect the thoughts and feelings of others. Children are encouraged to listen carefully, always have kind hands and feet, share and take care of each other as well as their belongings to support the development of independence throughout the year.

We had lovely weather and have had a lot of fun exploring the Outdoor Area. We even grew our own vegetables from seed for our first Science topic. We planted the seeds and prepared the garden bed. Once the seedlings were ready we transferred them to the garden. We tried to grow



radishes, turnips and cauliflower. We got to try some of the radishes and they were yummy. While outdoors we also took note of the changes in the seasons by observing how a particular tree had changed each month.

In English we have been developing our phonics skills and improving our reading and writing. We created our own books related to the Mo Willems, Pigeon book series. This was a great beginning to story writing as we learnt we can express a lot of meaning in a few words. We first, developed a story line, corrected our work and then made our books with the final draft.

We look forward to more fun learning and throughout the upcoming terms.



THE ROAR OF THE LEVITATING LIONS

September 2020 saw a group of excited KS2 children come together to form the Levitating Lions. Their name came from democratic conversations to create a class name which was both alliterative and based on nature.

The Lions have learned about non-chronological reports, fractions, decimals, story writing, magnets, the digestive system, the Carpathian Mountains, charity, festivals and so much more. In the middle of this term's PSHE, was Anti-bullying week (16th - 20th November) with the title and theme **United Against Bullying**. As ever, the children were very involved and produced a range of work related to it. This includes posters and a video montage, which can be seen on ISO social media.

In cross-curricular English and PSHE, some of the children wrote about anti-bullying whilst developing their writing skills. Their focus was on paragraphs, an introduction, headings, subheadings, subordinate and main clauses, as well as including facts and detail to create a substantial report. For the children to improve their writing, they also needed to self evaluate their writing regularly to check for KS2 expected features and the specific features of a non-chronological report (including those listed above). They worked very hard and here is an amalgamated report using [slightly edited] excerpts from the final reports.

Anti Bullying Week

What You Need To Know About Bullying

Anti bullying week is the week in which we celebrate anti bullying as well as odd socks day. This report will be about anti bullying. Anti bullying

week is a week [in] which people unite to stop rude bullying. We each need to [do] our important part [to stop] bullying.

On 16th to 20th November it's anti bullying week. This year's theme is United Against Bullying.

Anti bullying week is a week [where] we encourage bullies to stop bullying. It makes people feel petrified, tearful and upset. One interesting fact about this is Odd Socks Day.

What is bullying?

Bullying is [the] use of force to abuse aggressively, dominate or intimidate. People say mean words or do hurtful things. This often repeated. Bullying happens when somebody is so bad with others.

Bullying is pushing and pulling. [It] can be physical, emotional or [on the] internet. It is repeated [many] times.

There are 3 types of bullying:

1. Physical

The first type of bullying is physical. Physical bullying is when a bully takes or hurts someone. For example, every morning a bully comes and takes kids lunch money from them. The bully threatens the kid that he is going to punch them if he/she doesn't give them the money. Some kids just give it to them because they are scared.

2. Social bullying

The next type of bullying is social bullying. Social bullying is when a bully writes or says horrible things about you. For instance a bully might text something during class that says, "Jake

meet me at the park after school immediately.” or “She’s so ugly she also doesn’t have friends.”

3. Verbal bullying

The last type of bullying is verbal. Verbal is when someone is playing and someone else wants to play with them and the bully says he/she can’t play.



What is Odd Socks Day?

To help bullying stop on the 16th November we have odd socks day. It is not good to bully because people will hate you. On Odd Socks day we wear different socks to show that we are unique. This symbolises that we are all different and unique. We celebrate that we are equal but unique. We should wear odd socks because that means we are all different but can be together.

What does Anti-Bullying week do to stop bullying?

Anti bullying week is the week which all bullies should be kind from now on. Anti bullying week encourages bullies to stop bullying and to be good friends. [It] helps them to be happy together.

Facts and bullying situations

Did you know that at my old school my teacher

was yelling at us every day[?] Did you know that yelling is kind of bullying if you repeat it every day[?] If someone bullies[,] you can tell a teacher or an adult or you can go away from them. Bullying might happen in any kind of place[,] for example[, a] park[, at a] wedding[, everywhere.

What do people think about bullying?

90% of all the people of the ENORMOUS world want to stop bullying[,] but that sadly means the bullies[,] that are 10%[,] do not want [to stop it]!

I think it is bad[,] my mother thinks it is bad[,] In fact my whole family thinks it is bad!

So we should unite against bullying. We can do this by coming together [and] then bring bullying to an end! Bullying is rude[,] so please don’t

BULLY!!!

Thank you to all of the KS2 authors who have formed this report.

As well as an abundance of hard work, Levitating Lions have had lots of fun and been roaring with laughter. Here are some of their favourite moments:

After a great public performance of their assembly in the amphitheatre at Cetatea in October, the Levitating Lions ended the term with their second performance of the year **The Show Must Go On(Online)**. The show was written by the Levitating Lions and Directed by Ms Evelina and Ms Ebony.

It has been a fabulous first term and watch this space for more adventures.

MIHAI NEȘU INTERVIEW

BY MAX

Max: Hello, my name is Max and I love football; I am the International School of Oradea's chief Newspaper and I would like to take you an interview and to publish in the School Newspaper. I know you were a great football player. When you discovered your passion for football and when you start to play football?

Mihai: Hi Max and thank you for your invitation. I hope that my answer will be very useful for your teammates and your colleagues. I discovered my passion for football when I was 3 years old and I start to play football when I was 10 years old. I was playing football to the youngest team of FC BIHOR and I started to play very seriously football when I was 14 years old and I decided that I want to become a professional football player.

Max: Where did you play football?

Mihai: I start to play football at FC BIHOR since I was 15 till 18 years old. After this, I start to play football at STEAUA BUCUREȘTI for 8 years and when I was 26, I went in Holland to play for Utrecht for 4 years, where in the last year of contract I was injured. I was also nominalized to play football for Romanian National Team for 8 times.



Max: Can you tell me what are the most important things for kids to succeed in life?

Mihai: I think it is very important for kids to believe in God and to pray before sleep and to ask to help you in your life and in the difficult moments, because when you have a dream you have also difficult moments, but if you believe and you work hard to achieve your results and consolidate your talent you will achieve your dreams. Also, in your life you have to be very useful and friendly with everybody and this will give you happiness and success in your life.

Max: I know that you are involved now in a Charity project, called Mihai Nesu Foundation. Can you tell me more please about this project? What are you doing there?

Mihai: I opened the Mihai Neșu Foundation in 2014 and it is meant to help children with disabilities. We have a rehabilitation center in Oradea and we try to give the possibility for a lot of children to make therapies and basic costs, to have the chance for a better and healthier life. Now our new project has the purpose to help more children and to have more facilities for recoveries and therapies; It is a project at a value of 3.5 Million Euro and we are working hard to make this dream come true.

Max: Yes, it is a nice project and you are doing a great job and I will be happy to help, also. Now, in the end, I would like to ask you to say some words for my colleagues from International School of Oradea.

Mihai: Hi to all your colleagues and if your colleagues speak so nice English like you this means that all of you are very smart kids and I wish you to be healthy, to learn very well in school, to listen the teacher's lessons and to listens the parents – they

always want for you all the best, they are the best friends and listen their advice. I really hope that all of you will grow nice and happy and you will be very helpful where the life will send you.

Max: Thank you very much for the interview and I wish you all the best!

Mihai: Thank you for the invitation, Max.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY BY CHILDREN

CHARITY WEEK BY CHILDREN

Charity Week at ISO

Some of the children in KS2, have chosen to write about our charity week, which was from Monday 7th - Friday 11th December 2020.

Alex (Y5) tells us that:

ISO will make boxes, where they will put toys, clothes, money and maybe food. They will put on jumpers and I will do the same thing. I am very happy to make the box because it will help poor people.

All the best to everybody.

Ana (Y3) adds:

What is Christmas Jumper Day?

It is a day where people wear Christmas jumpers all day long.

Why do people celebrate Christmas Jumper Day?

People celebrate it to save peoples lives.

Shoobox campaign

They get a showbox (or any kind) and decorate it with flowers, wrapping paper, snowflakes made from paper and the tape.

Inside the box, they put clothes, presents and toys. They give them to poor people.

ISO helps charities on Christmas Jumper Day like all people and next Christmas Jumper Day they do the same.

This December, ISO alongside the Lumina community across the country, has supported families in need and education, through the Donate a Book! Donate a Laptop or PC! Campaign. Thanks to the generosity of parents and the local community we collected 57 books, 1 laptop, 1 tablet and 1 mobile phone.

For the Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day, the ISO community not only supported it by looking festive, but by donating to the local and international branches of the organisation.

Finally Sarah (Y3) would like to share that:

"I love teachers and the fact that they teach us about Charity week."



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
ORADEA



Christmas Jumper Day



DONATE A BOOK, DONATE A LAPTOP, IPAD OR PC! GIVE KNOWLEDGE!



Period

2nd November- 18th December 2020

Description

The **“Donate a book! Donate a laptop, ipad or PC! Give knowledge!”** campaign is organised by the Lumina Educational institutions and supported by all of the Lumina Schools across the country and the CEL and sports clubs in Lumina. It’s purpose was to collect 10,000 books and 1000 devices which would be donated to libraries in rural areas where children have difficult access to books and to online education.

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the project is to collect 10,000 books and 1000 devices which will be donated to the libraries during the winter holiday in December.

Who am I Donating to?

The beneficiaries of this project are students from rural schools, where the school or village libraries do not have appropriate books for children and libraries in the region.

Campaign unfolding?

The campaign will run for almost a month in all Lumina Schools in the country, as well as at the Sports Clubs and CEL. Each child will be encouraged to bring at least one book to support the campaign, as will the staff in Lumina Schools.

At the school’s entrances there will be a large cardboard box with the campaign logo on it, for the books will be collected. We carry out this campaign every year, being an educational campaign in accordance with the values and principles of the Lumina Schools.

CAMPANIA

DONEAZĂ O CARTE! DONEAZĂ UN LAPTOP, TABLETĂ SAU PC!

DĂRUIEȘTE CUNOAȘTERE!

PERIOADA

02.11.2020 – 01.12.2020



DONAȚIILE ÎN BANI POT FI FĂCUTE ÎN CONTUL

IBAN RO17 RNCB 0082 0320 2983 0001

CU MENȚIUNEA CAMPANIA „DONEAZĂ O CARTE!

DONEAZĂ UN LAPTOP, TABLETĂ SAU PC! DĂRUIEȘTE CUNOAȘTERE! ”



LUMINA
Instituția de învățământ
Educațională



FUNDAȚIA
LUMINA
Instituția de învățământ



FUNDAȚIA
TUNA



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
BUCHAREST



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
ORADEA



ȘCOALA
SPECTRUM



FORMING AN ONLINE PANDEMIC COMMUNITY

BY MS. CARMEN ALEXA

Over the years, people who have been able to observe what is happening around them have easily noticed that the challenges that come from tense situations can lead to productive actions. This can be clearly observed in 2020, as the challenge is higher than it has ever been.

Yet still solutions were found. Good ideas were found. More productive connections were created. More focused and more involved communities appeared - especially in the online environment.

What we have also done

Together with Anca Popa and International School of Oradea, we laid the foundation of an online community "The Pill for the Next Generation - Pastila pentru NextGen". Since June 2020, when we first launched it, the community has grown and we hope that it is now visible among the other online communities. The community is centered on education, development, support, harmony and challenges, but these belonging to the offline reality, but with solutions that can be found in the online environment.

I could write that it was an easy path that I have crossed these last few months, trying to make this community grow, but I

would lie to myself and to all of you. It was a hard task to complete, but that was the beauty of it. It was hard to overcome, but it gave me great satisfaction.

Good communication and teamwork were the keys to the unknown challenges!

The achievements so far in Pastila pentru NextGen

- Bringing together wonderful people, that have all contributed to the growth of the community - we now have 1,1 k members
- Offering relevant content for the concepts that were the base of this community
- Creating collaborations with special individuals
- Bringing a micro contribution in the change needed in education

We hope to be able to reach the physical community in the near future

We had plans in this direction, but the pandemic situation gave us some troubles in this regard. So, we have taken 2020's challenge and kept the activity strictly online. And we have adapted!



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
ORADEA

1. PLAY-BASED APPROACH



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

2. BRITISH STYLE EDUCATION



3. CREATIVE LESSONS



THE ISO GAZETTE #5

December 2020



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