Inside I.C.

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Concert Pianist Returns to Alma Mater

International pianist Billy EIDI (IC '73) received a commemorative plaque from a grateful IC community at the conclusion of a well-attended piano concert at AUB's majestic Assembly Hall. The program was introduced by the IC CHOIR who performed beautifully under the guidance of Randa Sabbah, Head of Music at IC. Billy's classmates and other members of the audience flocked to greet and congratulate him when the concert ended with a stunning piece by Falla.

In Randa's own words,"It was an honor for our choirs to be able to sing accompanied by a famous concert pianist such as Billy Eidy. He was impressed by the improvement of the music department at IC and was very pleased with the readiness of our students and their musicality. The IC students were stunned by his modesty and generosity as he performed both for us and for the public.

Our Middle school students sang: Les Berceaux, a poem by Sully Prudhomme and music by Gabriel Faure. Then the secondary joined with Cantique of Jean Racine – again to the music of Gabriel Faure. Last but not least came the Laudate Dominum by Mozart featuring two soloists: Khalil Chahine and Yasmina Abou Samra. Thank you Virtuoso Billy Eidy for this unique experience."■

Media Literacy in Action: "Believe it or not!"

Students of grade 9 / 4ème attended a session on the spread of "Fake News" conducted by Ms. Katia Aranji. The session which was held during the advisory session aimed at raising awareness about fake news and how easily it can be created and spread. Students were given tips on how to check the credibility of news and were encouraged to always verify before they share anything. The session was a platform for students to think about the media that surround them and share their own insights too! ■

Tomber en écriture comme on tombe amoureux...

En ce mois de février, la classe de 6e A, à Ain Aar a voulu célébrer l'amour à sa façon. C'est à la bibliothèque du Collège que parents et élèves se sont retrouvés pour conter fleurette et écrire leurs « tendres bêtises à faire quand on est amoureux/amoureuse ». Au départ, une interrogation: pourquoi tombe-t-on amoureux ? L'amour fait-il mal ? Tombe-t-on amoureux comme on tombe malade ? Pour y répondre, il a fallu remonter aux sources, interroger Dame Etymologie et découvrir qu'on ne peut préméditer l'amour comme on ne peut le faire avec la maladie... L'amour nous tombe dessus tout simplement sans crier gare ! Quant aux parents, ils ont écrit, d'abord avec étonnement, puis avec plaisir, des textes émouvants

où ils se sont remémorés leur jeunesse et leurs tendres bêtises d'amoureux. Avec leurs enfants, ils ont écrit l'amour qui les unit et ont célébré – en écriture – l'amour autrement... Tel Obélix, tombé dans la marmite du druide, parents et élèves sont tombés dans celle de l'écriture... ils ne peuvent en sortir que plus forts! ■

Grandir

« Grandir » est le mot clé de cette unité de recherche travaillée à la Grande section durant ce mois. Les activités sont nombreuses et accompagnent cette croissance. En sport, les enfants ont eux-mêmes décidé des ateliers et des compétitions qu'ils voulaient organiser. Un remue-méninge les a aidés à partager les idées, en groupe. Ensuite, ils ont établi un plan de travail qui sera utilisé plus tard comme référence. L'ambiance qui régnait était très positive puisque chacun était très enthousiaste à l'idée de traduire ses pensées dans la réalité. Une fois que l'organisation était bien claire, les élèves ont partagé le travail avec leurs camarades et sont passés à l'application. Transportés par leur entrain et leur fierté, les groupes jaune et vert ont organisé des ateliers. Tout s'est bien déroulé dans le calme et la bonne humeur.■

January Outreach Workshops

In spite of the cold weather, the ERC Outreach Workshops on January 28 were successful! The Educational Resources Center sponsored 14 workshops held at the Ras Beirut campus and attended by 184 teachers from 53 private and public schools around Lebanon. The workshops, conducted in the three languages covered math, educational technology, art, library science, languages, drama, visible thinking, assessment, and teaching methodologies. Participating teachers found the information helpful as they explored new educational trends, creative teaching strategies, and tools, as well as new approaches and practical applications to use with their students. Teachers found the activities very helpful when applying them to classroom situations to motivate their students and create positive learning environments.■

Beyrouth/ Singapour

En 4th, nous avons eu le plaisir d'établir une correspondance en français avec des élèves de l'école complémentaire à l'Ecole Américaine de Singapour (SAS). Pour la majorité d'entre eux, ce fut la première fois qu'ils recevaient des lettres postées d'un pays lointain sans passer par le biais d'internet. Cette expérience permet la découverte de la diversité et des différences tout en trouvant des points communs. Nos élèves sont ravis d'apprendre que leur correspondant parle malaisien ou mandarin en plus de l'anglais ou de l'espagnol, qu'il apprécie le même sport collectif ou qu'il joue le même jeu vidéo. Ils se réjouissent tout autant de faire découvrir à leurs correspondants la culture libanaise en partageant des photos de leur village natal, d'un plat typiquement libanais, ou en étant assez fiers de découvrir que le Liban est 14,5 fois plus grand que Singapour. Les élèves de SAS ont étudié la géographie et le climat du Liban comme unité en français langue étrangère et ont filmé des annonces météo sur youtube pour notre plus grand plaisir !■

Trust for Sustainable Living 2017 International Schools Essay Competition

It is with pleasure that we announce the excellent results the Ain Aar Middle School students achieved in the international writing competition organized by the Trust for Sustainable Living in Oxford, UK. Students from around the world were invited to write open letters to the newly-elected UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, outlining their ideas for practical climate action.

Yasmine Tohme in 3eme B was declared a finalist, and Leticia Koundakjian, and Alicia Mary Iskandarian from grade 8, and Linda Maalouf from grade 7 received honorable mentions in the global essay competition and debate. ■

The King

Mr. Ziad Abi Chaker was invited by the Grade2/CE1 community at Ain Aar to further inquire into the ways we can reduce and recycle waste in Lebanon. Mr. Abi Chaker is a multi-disciplinary engineer who, for years, has had a special relationship with garbage. He was recently dubbed as the "Garbage king of Beirut". During his visit to IC, he introduced the learners to different recycling facilities available in Lebanon. The students were impressed and packed with curiosity. They inquired about the plastic, carton, and glass recycling plants. The learners were also interested in the lamp and the pieces of eco-boards that Mr. Abi Chaker brought with him. They are 100% made of recycled materials. Mr. Abi Chaker produces eco-boards made from nylon bags, which can be used to make walls, benches, and long lasting machines. He also discovered a way to turn those eco-boards into green walls.

The Grade 2/CE1 community is currently collaborating with him by collecting nylon bags (supermarket bags) juice, and milk boxes. This project will be running throughout the year. All are welcome to pitch in. In return, we will be saving Lebanon from a heap load of trash and Mr. Abi Chaker will donate a green wall to the IC Ain Aar community.■

Lebanon's Great Heritage

Nothing beats an exciting hands-on experience to enrich learning. The magic of a field trip isn't just the break in routine but also the adventure that opens up students' minds to new things and fortifies the concepts that they tackled in their classroom. On the 2nd of February, the Ain Aar Grade 3 students along with CE2 visited the National Museum of Beirut to explore different periods of culture and heritage. While observing many of the artifacts and listening to the information given by the tour guide, the students made the connection between their unit of inquiry "How We Express Ourselves" and their culture. ■

Les architectes de demain!

« Notre tour touchera peut-être le ciel !» disent-ils. En Moyenne Section C à Ain Aar, c'est la folie des blocs. Construire des tours est devenu un rituel pour les élèves de la MSC. Passe-moi un cube par ici, s'il te plaît, un rectangle par là, on s'y croirait vraiment ! En collaboration et avec beaucoup de créativité et d'imagination, voilà le résultat de plusieurs manipulations et de diverses discussions. Vers un but clair et précis et sans baisser les bras, les apprenants investigateurs et sensés continuent d'agrandir de plus en plus leur tour. « Elle va tomber !» dit –elle en criant, « Agrandissons d'en bas » proposent les autres. Quoi de mieux que de tisser des liens autour des blocs !■

Qu'il fait bon d'apprendre en PSA !!

Regardez qui voilà! Des chefs? Des goûteurs? Des aventuriers? Des élèves de la PSA ! Friands de bonnes choses et d'apprentissage, les apprenants de la Petite Section A à Ain Aar ont trouvé la façon de joindre ces deux passions au cours d'une séance de cuisine animée. Armés de fouets, d'esprits chercheurs et d'émerveillement, les apprenants ont fait fondre la poudre qui a teinté l'eau chaude et a rempli la classe d'une odeur délicieuse. Quelle merveille ce liquide qui se transforme en solide dansant ! Les fous rires et les « mmm » fusent en classe. Tout autour de nous des bouches rouges, des langues rouges et des yeux étincelants. ■

Célébrons !

Il n'y a pas de meilleure façon de découvrir l'esprit d'un pays qu'à travers ses différentes fêtes. Fierté, histoire, gastronomie et traditions, tout y était présent!

Une ambiance particulière a régné durant la célébration : des chansons, des danses et des saynètes furent préparées en cette occasion afin de mettre en valeur le patrimoine culturel des pays des quatre coins du monde.

Dans le cadre du second thème organisateur « Comment nous nous exprimons », les élèves du CP de Ras Beyrouth ont mené des recherches autour des festivités célébrées à travers le monde et ont manifesté une attitude positive et une ouverture d'esprit vis-à-vis des différentes cultures mondiales.

Bercés par les plus belles mélodies d'antan, parents, éducateurs et apprenants ont fredonné les gais refrains d'autrefois en se laissant emporter par le flot de la créativité et l'imagination.... C'était un éblouissant spectacle à vous couper le souffle !■

Rotary Water Filtration Presentation

The Grade 3 / CE2 water filtration project is taking on more and more exciting elements as the years' progress! Now, Ras Beirut and Ain Aar students have joined hands in offering to help several public schools gain access to clean drinking water. The latest element seen in the Irani Auditorium was the showcase of the Rotary Club's work and specific information on what the action of those students can really achieve for the social good of many schools and communities in the country. After the presentation, the students were happy to be put together for discussions and other fun activities. Indeed, so excited were the Ain Aar students that they invited their counterparts up to their school for another future next element.■

IC Students, Karate champions!

During the "Open Lebanese Tournament 2017" Shinkyokushin Ka Karate held at Oyama Sports Center, IC students excelled. Leila Uwayda (CM2A) and Leith Uwayda (CE2A) won first place in their category after several rounds and eliminations. They were awarded the gold medal.Congratulations to all who participated!■

Patrimoine culturel

Le mois passé, nous, les classes de CE2 de Ras Beyrouth, avons eu la chance de visiter le principal musée archéologique du Liban: le musée national de Beyrouth.■

MACAM Field Trip

My class and I went on a field trip to MACAM near Byblos. It is the museum of modern and contemporary art.

We had a tour and saw two types of art, modern and contemporary.

Many of the pieces depicted times of struggle in Lebanon and the Middle East. MACAM used to be a factory that made school supplies. They even have some of the machines on display as part of the art! As part of the experience, we learned how to make Mandela paintings from objects in nature and we sculpted with clay.

I hope you learned a bit about MACAM. Yasmina A, 4A

Music Lesson

Teaching music theory is a challenge because students usually find it boring. Mrs. Randa Sabbah realized that the best way to instil musical concepts in the minds of her students was to get them to teach one another. While looking for ways to make younger students interested in concepts and finding ways to make it interesting, she taught them how to write a lesson plan about tempo, beat, and rhythm that begins with an engaging introduction; how to stimulate everyone; and making all the concepts visual and hands on

"My secondary school students enjoyed teaching the lesson to the 6th graders, and the younger ones were elated especially that the conclusion of the lesson was a hip-hop dance that included all the rhythmic concepts they had just learned. Peer teaching is one of the best ways to learn and educate!"■

Substance Abuse Issues

The advisory program, in coordination with the parents' committee, organized a panel discussion on substance abuse for Grade 10 students. Psychiatrist Dr. Fadi Maalouf talked about substance abuse: types of drugs and their effects. Judge Mr. Bilal Badr informed the students about the verdicts if someone gets caught possessing or using drugs. Colonel Ghassan Chamseddine explained the procedure the police follow if someone gets caught possessing or using drugs. Finally, Um El Nour featured testimonials from personal experience.■

1ère ES community service project: Mission de Vie

The 1ère ES students visited Mission de Vie and met with the elderly, helped them with their breakfast, listened to their stories, danced and sang all together. Later, they attended a presentation about the NGO's mission. During a short break, they shared a snack with the kids, played with them and entertained them. They spent the last two hours working: cleaning the rooms, folding the laundry and dispatching food boxes. ■

1ère B community service project: food drive and elderly visit

The 1ère B students organized a food drive in the secondary school. They visited the classes, explaining their initiative and encouraging students and teachers to donate as much food as possible. On a Saturday they visited with the youth of Order of Malta the elderly in their homes, offered them bags of food provisions then went back to the NGO'S center and helped in dispatching and sorting the food items. ■

College fair

On February 16th a US college fair visited our IC campus. All the middle and high school students had the opportunity to talk with the college representatives from the 13 universities. That same evening, several of the college admission professionals returned to campus to speak with parents and students about applying to the US. ■

Visit to USEK

College counselors Josette Eid and Randa Azkoul Soubaih spent a memorable day at the Université du Saint Esprit a Kaslik (USEK). Mr. Nassib Azzi, who had visited the IC Counseling Office, was responsible for giving Mrs. Azkoul and Mrs. Eid an all-inclusive tour of USEK campus. They toured all USEK labs, which included engineering, chemical, bio-medical, biology, and industrial labs. In addition, they visited the library (with open and closed stacks, digital labs, and more), museum, and student facilities. The Orientation Office uses state-of-the-art electronic devices and offers several pro bono services for schools all around Lebanon. One of them is a career/personality test, which begins in Grade 10 and is followed up on until the students leave school. They also welcome students from various schools to attend a day of classes in whatever fields that might interest them.

Mrs. Azkoul and Mrs. Eid were impressed by how eco-friendly the campus is. Everyone uses the recycling bins, the campus is spotless, and they have their own Go-Green Recycling plant. They are working towards becoming a zero-waste campus. This project is spearheaded by a committee of five dedicated professors.

What drew Mrs. Azkoul and Mrs. Eid attention was the electric shuttle car (with zip-down plastic sides for rainy trips) for commuting through the campus and from the student car parking lot nearby.

They also met with the chairs and deans of all the faculties; Letters, Architecture, Law, Engineering, Biology, and last but not least Vice President for Community Life, Fr. Talal Hachem.

USEK is a student-centered place with boarding for female students, an extensive cafeteria, green spaces and a sea view. Last but not least, it is a university that "cherishes its history and tradition, yet integrates modernity to keep abreast of contemporary developments."■

Samer Kobeissi, Des Choux et des Idées

Ce n'est pas tous les jours qu'un chef pâtissier, ayant fait ses classes à l'hôtel Georges 5 à Paris, s'adresse aux élèves des classes terminales pour leur parler de son expérience personnelle et de changement de carrière.

« Après quatre longues années d'études de génie, puis l'obtention d'un MBA, je me suis retrouvé pris dans un engrenage duquel je ne pouvais plus m'extraire. Je me sentais pris au piège et j'ai quitté le Liban pour aller travailler dans les pays du Golfe. Ce n'est que quand j'ai voulu occuper mes longs week-end que j'ai découvert ma passion pour la pâtisserie. »

De par son intervention, Samer a voulu faire profiter les élèves de l'I.C. et leur communiquer un précieux message : N'ayez pas peur de prendre des risques et n'hésitez pas à sauter le pas, surtout quand il s'agit de vivre heureux !»

A l'issue de cette séance, plusieurs élèves ont eu la chance de lui parler et lui ont promis de le contacter pour passer une journée dans ce qu'il appelle « son labo » ! ■

Theatre Journey to Moscow

For the fourth consecutive year, twenty-tree Grade 12 theatre students from the International Baccalaureate and the French Baccalaureate programs accompanied by three members of the drama department took part in a Theatre Educational Program at one of the most prestigious theatre academies in the world, the Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT). Our students attended three acting classes, two movement classes, two voice classes and one theatre class conducted by the master teachers of the academy. In addition, our students had the chance to visit one of the most important scenography museums, the David Borovski Museum, and to attend four theatre performances, "19.14," "Eugene Onegin," "Othello," and "Late Love," in four of the main theatres in Moscow, and to take part in a cultural city tour of Moscow. This trip offered our students the opportunity to explore different acting methods/ directing styles, and is going to be extremely beneficial for them during their official theatre presentations/portfolios.

The students who took part in this program are: Catherine Choumali, Estelle Raphael, Malek Bsat, YasminaTaher, Karim Hafez, Fouad Khalifa, Karim Dana, Joseph Mourad, Karim Rizkallah, Karim Dahrouge, Maher Abdel Samad, Paul Edde, Nour Bakhos, Nour Eid, Pierre Matta, Sarah El Fil and Sarine Tutunjian, Bethany Nasrallah, Karen Abdallah, Riam El Hakim, Ziad Hawa, Farid Millet and Adam Ouayda

Thank you for chaperoning this event Riad Chirazi (Head), Julien Boutros, Nisrine Abi Samra and MXAT representative Milia Ayache.■

LITERARY CAFE: IC Writers at Work

Over 40 talented writers came to the LMC for another successful literary café - and record attendance! Students read poems, reflections, and stories. The session kicked off with a creative writing assignment: Mrs. Mourani gave the writers prompts, paper, and pencils and asked them to write. No stopping till she called time.

Some writers managed to complete a text and even read it out during the literary café!

The others kept their pieces to develop - and maybe even polish enough to enter in the creative writing competition that will be held next month! (details to follow)

Many thanks to gracious organizer Silvana Bartlett for her initiative and efficient hosting of the event, and to faculty members Randa Azkoul Soubaih, Bruce Bartlett, and Jared Rock for their enthusiastic support and constant presence at these events.■

Jeu et Ombre

Les élèves de la Grande Section à Ain Aar ont inauguré le nouveau terrain de football à leur manière. Ils se sont défoulés en courant, en sautant... Ils ont pu joindre l'utile à l'agréable en jouant aussi avec leurs ombres.■

AMIS Senior Honor Choir in Abu Dhabi

Khalil Chahine, Mary Anne Der Kaloustian, Afif Fakhreddine, Eva Malik, and Tamara Raad were among the 800 who auditioned for the Association for Music in International Schools concert in the UAE, and from among whom 220 were chosen. Our singers went to Abu Dhabi knowing their music well and the AMIS conductor worked on shades of sounds, perfecting every little note and making the voices into one harmonious tapestry.

"Khalil Chahine has been accepted to participate in the past 4 senior years. There were only three among the 220 persons who had such a distinction. He received an honorable mention and was awarded a distinguished AMIS pin for that achievement," said a proud Randa Sabbah.■

Sharing Personal Journals

Sharing the Personal Journal is fun and essential for language development. It encourages two-way communication and allows children to learn to express their thoughts and emotions. This activity enhances the students' self-esteem and supports their social, emotional and language development.■

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