



16th January 2009



The Wen Lin Journal

The EPC Primary Newsletter

www.taipeuropeanschool.com

Telephone: +886 2 8145 9007

Volume No: 23



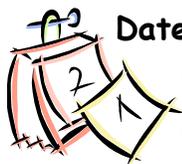
H

appy New Year to everybody in our school community! Welcome back to the start of a new term and the start of a new year.... And of course in just a week it is Chinese New Year when we will usher in the Year of the Ox.

In page 5 of this week's Wen Lin Journal Year 3 explain more about what we can expect in the Year of the Ox. Also in this edition find out about the French Section's Christmas celebrations and the German Kindergarten's trip to Wendel's Bakery; the British PTA introduce themselves and we are also running an advert for Learning Assistants.



An exciting development for all 3 sections in the EPC Campus this term is the development of a school garden. This is being led by the tribe council who paid a visit to a local garden centre this week to buy some pot plants for inside the school building and to research ideas for an outside garden. We look forward to continuing our cooperation together and inviting representatives from the infants to our Tribe Council after Chinese New Year to join us as we seek to improve our school environment.



Dates for your diary:

- Fri 23rd January Chinese New Year Celebrations
- Tues 4th / Wed 5th February British Infant Parents' Evenings
- Thurs 12th February Junior Sports Day
- Wed 18th February Sports Day Foundation Stage/PS/MS Deut. Kind.
- Thurs 19th February Sports Day Key Stage 1/ GS/CP
- Tues 24th February Carnival

British Infants



Dear Parents

Welcome back after the Christmas holiday, I hope you all enjoyed this time with your families. My husband and I certainly enjoyed our time in the North Island of New Zealand. We are already planning our return trip to the South Island next year. New Zealand is a beautiful country and well worth a visit.

I thought you might find the following dates useful:

- **Wednesday 14th January** - Reception classes to CATS Kindergarten for Chinese New Year celebrations
- **Friday 16th January** - Year 2 classes to CATS
- **Tuesday 20th January** - Year 1 classes to CATS

- **Friday 23rd January** - British Infant Section Chinese New Year celebrations and reports out to parents

- **Monday 26th - Friday 30th January** Chinese New Year Holiday
- **Tuesday 4th February 2:30 - 4:30** - Parents' Evenings
- **Wednesday 5th February 5:00 - 7:00** - Parents' Evenings

- **Week beginning Monday 9th February** - class photos

- **Wednesday 18th February Sports Day** - Nursery and Reception classes
- **Thursday 19th February Sports Day** - Year 1 and Year 2 classes

- **Tuesday 24th February** - Carnival (French Festival) - details to follow

- **Monday 2nd March to Wednesday 4th March** - Mid term holiday
- **Friday 3rd April** - break up for the Easter Break (return Monday 20th April)

These are the only dates in the diary at the moment, if new events are decided upon, I will let you know at the earliest possible time.

I look forward to another positive term working in partnership with you to meet your children's needs.

Best wishes

Ruth Martin

British Juniors



Dear Parents,

Despite the cold weather, I would like to warmly welcome you back to Taipei European School and wish you a very happy, healthy and successful New Year, 2009!

I hope you and your family enjoyed the holiday spending time together and sharing happy moments. My daughter came to visit from Wales and we had a lovely time exploring parts of Taipei and Tainan. .

I am impressed with the calm way in which the year has started and how the children have settled back into class. Last term you received your child's report which outlined new learning targets. Thank you to all of you who have returned the feedback form. Your comments and suggestions are very helpful to us and I know that we can achieve great success when we work closely together.

In our PSHE lessons this term we are focusing on 'Going for Goals'. The children are being encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and their learning and to look at ways of meeting their targets. They will be discussing the importance of knowing our own strengths and areas of improvement. The children know what I, and their teacher, expect of them and I hope they too are aware of just how much they are capable of achieving. We want them to build feelings of confidence and self-belief that what they do makes a difference. I look forward to seeing many of our children and discussing their learning with them. If possible, have a chat with your child - see if they are able to identify things they excel in, or would like to improve on.

Tribe Council Garden Project

This year we have decided to create a garden where the children will be able to learn about how plants grow and be encouraged to improve our environment. The Tribe Council visited a garden centre this week to research the cost of plants and seeds. They have purchased some beautiful indoor plants which will be placed in the Atrium for us all to enjoy. If there are any parents who are 'green-fingered' and would like to help with the project do let us know. This year the Tribe Council they will be organizing a variety of fund-raising projects and the money collected will be shared between this project and our charity 'Guide Dogs for the Blind'.



British Juniors

Chinese New Year



This very important time of the year gives us all another opportunity to take a break from work and be with family and friends. We have a range of activities planned for the children as outlined in the letter sent home yesterday. The Chinese language teachers have done a fabulous job of decorating the atrium with lanterns and paper scrolls inscribed with blessings and auspicious words for the coming year.

Music Concert

Our annual music concert will be held on Friday 27th February in the Amphitheatre at 7:00pm. The audition week begins when we return from the Chinese New Year holiday. Please encourage your child to remember to sign up on the schedule outside the music room. There are auditions for singing and instrumental pieces and the children can enter as a solo performer or in a group.

Please remember that we have an 'open-door' policy which means we welcome opportunities to discuss any concerns or celebrate successes with you. Please write a note in your child's homework diary or make an appointment to see any of us via the school office.

Have a lovely weekend and keep warm!

Kind regards

Adele Corry

Head of Junior Section



Future Dates

- **Monday 19th January** - Music lessons make-up week
- **Wednesday 21st January** - Assembly 8:10am - Mr Hoo's class
- **Friday 23rd January** - Deadline for music tuition fees
- **Monday 26th - 30th January** - School Holiday
- **Monday 2nd February** - Audition week for music concert
- **Wednesday 4th February** - Assembly 8:10am - Mrs Elrick's class
- **Monday 9th February** - School photos week
- **Thursday 12th February** - Sports Day
- **Tuesday 24th February** - Carnivale (dress-up day)
- **Friday 27th February 7:00pm** - Music Concert
- **Monday 2nd March - Wednesday 4th March** - No school
- **Wednesday 11th March** - Assembly 8:10am - Mr Palmer's class
- **Wednesday 18th March** - Assembly 8:10am - Ms Parker's class
- **Monday 23rd march - Friday 27th March** - Year 6 trip to Kuching
- **Thursday 26th March** - Year 3 day trip to Camp Taiwan
- **Friday 27th March** - Year 3 day trip to Camp Taiwan
- **Wednesday 1st April - Thursday 2nd April** - Year 4 trip to Camp Taiwan

British Juniors

Happy New Year From Year Three



As we start a new term and a new year we can look back on a fantastic first term in Year Three: the first half of the year was full of learning fun.

We found out about the brain, teeth, healthy snacks and moving toys through lots of practical activities.

We had a special action packed topic activity day where our classes were mixed up. We made an amazing contribution to the Christmas show and had a lovely Christmas party. In English we learned about reading and writing: poetry, play scripts and instructions. In maths we found out about telling time, handling data, multiplying and dividing.... and much, much more. The first term flew by in a whirl of excitement. Just take a look at the pictures on the next page to get some idea of what a busy time we had.

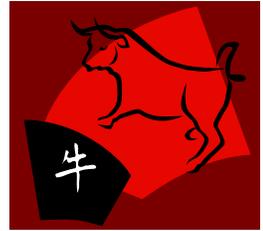
This term we are looking forward to learning about the environment and visiting Camp Taiwan. We will make other local field trips too. English and maths lessons will also be full of new experiences for us.

Now that 2009 is here Year Three are also thinking about goals for the rest of the school year. We each have goals of our own but each class also shares team goals.

The Year of the Ox

The Ox is the sign of prosperity through fortitude and hard work. We should feel a responsibility to try our best this year. No success can be achieved without conscientious efforts. This year will be successful but we must remember; if we are too lazy to sow then we can blame no one if we have nothing to reap. In an Ox year it is better to apply oneself diligently than waste time arguing because the Ox likes discipline.

This sounds like a lovely year for teachers as we should have classes full of hard working students. If everyone is going to be putting in so much effort, this should be a really successful year for students! We better get busy.....



B3MC are going to make an effort to be more prepared and organized, especially first thing in the mornings.

B3AY will try to work as an even better team than they did in term 1!

B3SH are working towards managing our time more effectively.

B3JM are hoping that each person in the class can make a positive change to the environment. Everyone in Y3 hopes to follow their example!



British Juniors



BS PTA

BS PTA Committee 2008-2009



Chairperson: Nelleke Jongebreur

I am from the Netherlands and have 2 daughters, Ellen in Year 4 and Kim in Year 7. In August 2007 I started as secretary of the PTA. I am the Chairperson since summer 2008. I sing in the International Community Choir, play tennis and started to learn golf. Before Taipei I was working as a family doctor in Holland.



Vice Chairperson: Helen Chen

I am from Taiwan. I speak Mandarin and English. I have 2 kids in the British Section (reception & nursery). I would like to help new families learn more about the BSPTA and settle in the new environment. Contact information: Mobile: 0939-119-775, MSN:



Secretary: Lyndall Taylor

Australian, 3 kids, 2 at TES: Year 3 and Year 1. Secretary of the PTA since August 2008. Interested in exploring the sites of Taiwan, reading, learning the piano and travel. I was a Primary School Teacher for 10 years before leaving the profession to start our family and I continue to be very interested in my children's education and being an active member of our school community.



Treasurer: Rebecca Earnshaw

Originally from the South of England, we moved to Taipei in January 2008. My daughter Charly (born in Texas and now in Year 5) and son Samuel (born in Ireland and in Year 7) settled quickly into the school here. As a family we enjoy cycling along the river trails, walking in the mountains, exploring the many markets and holidaying throughout South East Asia. Before moving to Taipei, I worked as a golf club accountant/administrator. I joined the PTA in early 2008 and took on the role of Treasurer in September last year.



Class Parent Rep Coordinator: Anne Jimenez-Bacconnais

Hi, I am Anne from France. We arrived in Taiwan in August 2007. I have 3 kids, 2 in TES Louise Year 6 and Pierre H3. Marine is studying in France. I joined the PTA team when I arrived, it was such a nice way to meet people and make new friends !

BS PTA

BS PTA Committee 2008-2009 (cont'd)



PSC Representative: Claire Good

My name is Claire, I am a Singaporean. Our family moved to Taipei about a year ago. I have two children, one is in TES, Year 1 and the other is in Taipei Montessori kindergarten. In addition to English, I also speak Mandarin and other dialects such as Cantonese and Hakka.



British Council Rep.: Sahar Shaikh

Photo to come.

Social Events EPC: Vasanthi Nagappan

My name is Vasanthi and I am from Malaysia. We had moved to Taiwan during summer 2007. I have two kids, Gayathrie in Year 7 and Shanker, in Year 3. I enjoy spending time at school as it keeps me in touch with my kids and their activities.



Social Events ESC: Marijke Stijne

Hi, I am Marijke Stijne. I am from the Netherlands and have been living in Taipei for more than four years. I have two older kids studying in the Netherlands, and one son, Kees (13), here in year 8.



Teacher Rep Infants: Ruth Martin



Teacher Rep Juniors: Aileen Young

This is my fourth year at TES. I used to teach Year 6 but I currently teach Year 3 which I am thoroughly enjoying. I am from Scotland where I taught Primary children of all ages and I lived in Moscow before coming to Taipei. I have always been an active member of the PTA in every school I have ever worked in, so I am really delighted to be part of the TBS PTA committee this year!

BS PTA



BS PTA Welcomes with Coffee and Salutes Class Parent Representatives

This Monday, the BS PTA welcomed all parents with coffee, tarts, toasts, and waffles. Coming in from the nippy outside air, we all appreciated hot drinks and warm atmosphere. The Chairperson, Nelleke, briefly explained the PTA's role in our school and the PTA committee structure. She invited interested parents to attend PTA monthly meetings and volunteer at events.

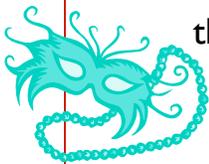
On Thursday, the BS PTA conducted a meeting of the EPC Class Parent Representatives to review the year to date. We shared ideas and experiences of being a Class Parent Rep. We also discussed how to improve links between class teachers and parents. We decided to revise the Class Parent Information Booklet to make it clearer, and



For your calendar:



Chinese Lunar New Year – We wish you and your families a Prosperous and Happy New Year 2009, Year of the Ox. To celebrate the school will close between January 26th and 30th.



Carnival 2009 at TES — EPC Carnival this year will take place on February 24th (Tuesday) between 8am and 11am. The French section organizes this event for the entire school. Children will dress up in costumes. Parents are welcome to join the fun and dress up as well. The Carnival tradition goes back to folk and religious celebrations. Italy is best known for its early Carnivals, but now many countries in Europe and throughout the world host similar forms of street masquerades. If you want to learn more about the Carnival history and forms, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnival>.

British Section



Wanted!

Part time teacher assistant/s to work with students who have special educational needs at the Yang Ming Shan campus. These hours may be done by one person or two.

Hours available: Monday 11:20-3:00, Tuesday 9:50-15:00, Wednesday: 8:10-12:40, Thursday 8:00-9:30, Friday 8:10-12:40.

Our assistants are dedicated people who work with students and staff to maximize learning for students who have difficulty with the mainstream curriculum. There are no particular qualifications required, apart from a love of learning and a desire to make a difference for our students.

If you would like to find out more information about this position please contact Ms. Diane Schultz, Special Needs Coordinator, Secondary Section, TES. dschultz@tes.tp.edu.tw

If you are interested in applying, please send a brief resume to Mr. Roger Schultz, Head of Secondary, British School, Yang Ming Shan. highschoolhead@tes.tp.edu.tw

Deutsche Sektion



Neuigkeiten aus dem Kindergarten - News from the German Kindergarten

Amongst the many interesting things that happened before the Xmas break I would like to talk about one very special event: Xmas bakery at Wendel's!

On December 15th and 16th the two groups of the German Kindergarten went to Wendel's to make Christmas cookies. One of our parents' representatives had taken the initiative to make such an activity possible.

When we arrived we were received with a very warm welcome and then we learned about safety and all the big machines. In the bakery the children were all given a huge piece of dough and then they could start to cut out the cookies in pretty shapes and after the baking they could decorate the cookies.



Section Française



Section Française

Et puis on se réunit tous ensemble pour un super goûter.

Des parents heureux, des enfants enchantés et gâtés

Des professeurs qui respirent une fois le spectacle finit

Et une ambiance de Noël magique qui nous envahit.

Sophie Lagneau

French PTA



Grand merci aux mamans de l'association de parents de la section française, qui avaient organisé, cette belle journée. Le 16 décembre, le Père Noël a apporté des cadeaux aux petits....et des places de ciné aux grands du collège.

