

NEWSLETTER / BULLETIN D'INFORMATION

N° 1 - SEPT / OCT 2015

1^{ère} trimestre / 1st term : 2015 - 2016

The school year has got off to a great start and everyone is now fully involved in all aspects of the school curriculum including a wide variety of activities revolving around our annual school theme of "Cooperation". We do hope that all new families are now happily installed, and that new friendships are being created within the BIS community.

PTA

Our dynamic PTA under its new president, Helen Roberts-Cotterell, has got off to a flying start! Her caring manner and dynamic efficiency is much appreciated! Thank you also to everyone involved in organising school photos which will be delivered shortly. Make sure to read the minutes of the 1st PTA meeting, sent on 09.10.2015. Note that next meeting will be on **Tuesday 3rd November at 8.30**.

POSITIVE DISCIPLINE THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL

Teachers in both sections attended an informative and useful Positive Discipline conference in August aiming at developing student self-discipline, co-operation, and methods to encourage students. Strategies are already being put into place in the classroom with considerable success. Parents were also able to benefit from an evening Conference on Tuesday 6th October, given by a consultant from "Acteur de liens" (www.pedagogieparlencouragement.com) who is organising training for parents in Bordeaux at the moment. For more information, please contact: anobileau.disciplinepositive@gmail.com.

LEARNING HOW TO LEARN

Last year, BIS organised a conference on 'Learning how to Learn' which was very relevant and useful to both parents and teachers (<http://www.gestionmentale.org>). A two-day training is being held in Bordeaux on 28th & 29th October, for parents and teachers, by "Initiatives et Formations en Pédagogies" (tél: 06 05 29 43 05).

ENT – VIRTUAL LEARNING PLATFORM

ENT & VMC Workshops are being offered for parents, to facilitate your use of our "digital platform" and "Virtual Media Centre". These can be organised at your request, (please send an e-mail to: bis@bordeaux-school.com).

INTERNATIONAL FOOD DAY AT BIS

Our annual "International Tasting Day" which took place on this Tuesday was a tremendous success with dishes from all over the world. A big thank you to everyone involved! Parents were welcome to bring a traditional dish from their department/ region / country, to share with the rest of the school. A wonderful, truly international event!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER

School holidays begin at the end of the school day this Thursday, as all teachers will be involved in continuous professional development on Friday 16th October. Seven members of staff will attend workshops in Toulouse on "Creativity, Internationalism and Innovation in the classroom" on 15th and 16th October. Their classes will be covered by colleagues.

HALLOWEEN FOR EARLY LEARNING, PRIMARY AND LMS

This will be celebrated on **Friday 6th November**. Your child is invited to dress up in a Halloween costume on that day!

PRIMARY / EARLY LEARNING

This has been a superb beginning to the year, and the section is extremely happy to welcome many new pupils. The balance between French pupils and other nationalities, girls and boys, is excellent. The ratio French/ other is almost exactly 50%.

The school routine is now beginning to be well understood by all students, and everybody seems to have made great strides feeling that they belong at our school.

Our Positive Discipline has been very effective, and we use this as well the weekly School Council lessons to help the children explore more profoundly this fascinating subject.

We would like to thank all parents who were able to come to the Positive Discipline conference (see links given above).

Here are some precisions about the section that may be helpful:

- The weight of school bags: The pupils in the Green and Orange groups are invited to see the teacher at the end of school, so that the teacher can help verify that there are no unnecessary items in the bag. The pupils are able to take advantage of this until the Christmas holidays.
- Water bottles: Pupils are allowed to bring water bottles, and are authorised to drink between lessons.
- Birthdays: These are celebrated on the day in the Early Learning Section (see teachers beforehand), and on the last Tuesday of each month in the Primary Section.

Isabelle Bidalun

SECONDARY

It has been a busy start to the year. Students have settled in well and everyone has now been placed in their correct group for all subjects. (However it is possible that students may still change group during the school year.)

AWAY DAYS – MIDDLE SCHOOL

The first "Awayday" to Le Teich bird sanctuary was very successful. Students arrived on time, were well equipped and enjoyed the trip. Keep an eye out on the school blog and Facebook page for photos...

The next Awayday will take place closer to school, in Bordeaux, on **Tuesday 17th November for LMS2 & UMS and on Thursday 19th November for LMS1** (details to follow on ENT) Students will use town plans to discover the urban geography of Bordeaux and its cultural heritage.

EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Music : There has been a keen interest in individual music lessons again this year and all of Mr Jones' music slots have been filled. School band has also got off to a great start with much student participation! A concert will take place in the Spring!

There has also been much interest in the Duke of Edinburgh International Award, with all new students signing up to take part.

Cooperation : In keeping with our theme of "Cooperation", all students from LMS2 upwards will also have the opportunity to help sort food donations at the "Banque Alimentaire for a half day this Thursday, 15th October (LMS2 & UMS in the morning / IGCSE & A Level in the afternoon).

ENT

Parents should have been receiving regular "weekly e-mails" every Monday via the ENT, providing updates on their child's progress and information about upcoming events. Please contact the school if you are not receiving them.

Half term reports will be issued this week providing summaries of the progress made by students in all subjects. We are still having technical difficulties with Educhorus – the part of the ENT dedicated to student marks and reports. However, you will shortly be able to consult your child's grades (3 marks out of 20 per subject per half term).

VMC – VIRTUAL MEDIA CENTRE

VMC – The Virtual Media Centre is a part of the ENT dedicated to documentation and resources. It is a portal where students can access relevant information, documents and useful links provided by teachers for individual lessons, specific research or for general information. A new “Kiosk” section has also been added this year, where students can access online newspapers and periodicals in French, English and Spanish.

PSGS

The Personal, Social & Global skills (PSGS) programme is an opportunity for students to study and discuss contemporary socio-cultural issues, helping them to become global citizens. Students are required encouraged to debate, reflect and build projects around a variety of themes based on self-respect, respecting others and the wider world. You can find details of the programme in the “Secondary Parents Info” folder on the ENT.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

As mentioned in the presentation at the start of the year, improvements have been made in ICT and Science. The school has purchased 10 new laptops, taking the total number of laptops up to 25 for the whole school. The new science benches have arrived, providing a better working space for carrying out scientific experiments. The PTA will help to organise fund raising actions to support this project.

INTERNET CONNECTION :

We are not fully satisfied with the lack of stability of our Internet connection – even though we use fibre optic cable - and are continually looking for ways to improve it.

BREVET (FOR FRENCH SPEAKING STUDENTS ONLY)

A meeting for all parents who are interested in preparing their children for the Brevet will take place after the holidays. Everyone welcome and more details to follow shortly.

Lucinda Bergey

CALENDAR

Please remember to regularly check all dates on the website calendar at: <http://www.bordeaux-school.com/en/events>

We wish you all a super Autumn holiday!

The secretariat will stay open during the holidays.

All students are expected back from holiday on Monday, 2 November at 8.45.

Christine Cussac

Directrice

14.10.15