

International School of Estonia

IB Diploma Newsletter



September 2003

English A1

Through poetry and short non-fiction excerpts, the students are looking at literary devices to see how they are used to enhance meaning and create tone. They wrote their first commentary and a reflection essay before moving into our first longer piece of reading, "Our Town," by Thornton Wilder.

ART

Grade 12 students have followed their own inspirations and created oil paintings. They will visit some exhibitions during the next two weeks.

History

Higher Level

Grade 11 - Students are completing the first unit on the First World War this month, and have scheduled a seminar and test for the last week of September.

Grade 12 - Students are investigating and debating the motives of Hitler's foreign policy prior to the Second World War.

English A2

As part of our study of the non-fiction novel, *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote, we are exploring the controversies surrounding capital punishment. Why do polls show that 70% of Americans support it, whereas the EU condemns the practice? Within the English-speaking world, much debate surrounds the issue. We will start our first Comparative Commentary on 22 September, as well as our first Individual Orals, as practice for the official IB exams to be administered to grade 11 next year.

English B

Students are working on character sketches through a series of short stories. Outlines, the essay format and commentary are the skills being emphasized most as they write one paper each week.

French B

11 – The aim of the grade 11 French curriculum is to familiarize students with the IB test format and content through a wide choice of activities and themes. We have just completed a unit on news in brief and sports reports.

12 – Students are learning how to recognize and use the vocabulary associated with newspaper sports reports and they are reviewing narrative past events.

Theory of Knowledge

Grade 11 - Students are becoming acquainted with the various controversies associated with knowledge and truth in all fields of study.

Grade 12 - Students have learned about the various types of logical fallacies and will give their first presentations on September 15.

Chemistry

Year 11

The first year of IB Diploma chemistry has begun with two topics. The first is a short unit on Atomic Theory, learning about the atom and the different atomic sub-components. The second topic is Stoichiometry, which is a fancy word for looking at chemistry recipes. Students will use a variety of mathematical skills to predict and calculate the amounts of substances involved in chemical reactions.

Year 12

Students have started the year with the topic of Redox reactions. This is looking more into 'WHY' reactions occur, and predicting which substances will do what. Soon students will move onto the topic of organic chemistry.

Diploma News

Dear parents,

Our students have gotten off to a great start this year in the IB Diploma program. I would like you to know that if you have any questions about the program or about the progress of your child, please do not hesitate to give me a call. My mobile number is 056609882.

The other hat that I wear at the school is that of college counselor. My job is to help your child sort out the process of deciding what she/he is going to do upon graduating from the International School of Estonia. Our grade 12 students are busy filling out college applications, and our grade 11 students are continuing with the research process as they 'check out' schools they find interesting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,
Randy Eplin
Diploma Coordinator
College Counselor

I. T.

In grade 11 and 12, the IT class is organized to best serve the students of these classes. Basic "survival skills" for essay writing and formatting, lab reports, and other written work are discussed at the beginning of every class. The students are then free to work on their choice of assignments for their various classes, and should come prepared to do so.

German

11ab initio students are learning greetings, numbers, how to introduce oneself and other people. They will read short texts about people having different professions.

11B has just completed a unit about people – introducing them and describing them, reading Tucholsky's curriculum vitae and writing their own. The next topic is about cities with various activities.

12B students are learning traits for describing people.

Upcoming Dates

Senior Research Project

October 1st - Clean draft due to supervisors.

October 30th - Senior Research Project due Turn in two copies to the Diploma Coordinator

CAS

Creativity – Action – Service

Mondays and Fridays are especially energetic for our grade 11 and 12 students. The first 'Action' activity has been Touch Rugby. It was an interesting time as students had to fight the natural, and American influenced, tendency to throw the ball forward and to run forward. However, as we are now into our 3-week, students have improved both their fitness and skill levels. Students have also been working on rugby tactics.

The upcoming "Action" activity for October is Self Defence. Students will learn some basic techniques for protection.

The senior schedule for Mondays allows the students to participate in CAS activities outside of the school environment. At the moment students are organising the activities they will be doing. This is a good opportunity to complete Service activities.