

International School of Estonia

Grade 7-10 Newsletter



September 2003

English

7/8 What are our talents and gifts? Where in the “real world” can these talents and gifts reach fulfillment? Along with a grammar review, these are questions we are exploring through literature and writing. We’ve also started weekly spelling tests and are reading the novel, *The Midwife’s Apprentice*, which takes place in the era studied in Social Studies, our own Tallinn’s Golden Era, the Middle Ages.

9/10 We’re reviewing grammar and reading short stories, such as “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.” We’ve written a Mitty-like daydream, and now we’ll write a Mitty “Self Portrait with an Attitude.” In October we’ll do research as we start career exploration (9) and historical research (10). Oh, yes, we also are learning weekly vocabulary in preparation for becoming sophisticated, alert readers of challenging literature.

German

Grade 6 – We have just completed the topic *animals in the zoo*, and we will soon start a new topic: *animals and the circus*.

Grade 7 – We will soon complete the topic *Who are you?* Among other things we have learned means of transport and how to write letters and postcards. Our next topic will be *playing and having fun*. It includes free time activities, likes, dislikes etc.

Grade 9 – is learning how to use the phone in German, inviting people to a party, expressing good wishes, and discussing gift ideas.

Grade 10 – is learning about cultural activities and sights, how to ask for, make and respond to suggestions. They will get to know the cuisine of Germany and other countries and read ethnic literature.

French

Grade 6 – Students are learning how to ask and answer the main questions used to start a conversation. We also focused on writing those. The objective is to be able to write a first letter to our pen pals in Paris.

Grade 9 – We have completed the unit on greeting people and socializing. Students learned how to ask simple questions and how to answer them.

Grade 10 – We will soon complete a review on narrative past events.

Mathematics

Grade 7 – We have been reviewing fractions and decimals. Our assessment will be this week. Our next topic will probably be probability.

Grade 8 – After a review of exponents, we studied sequences and matrices. We will have a test on 25/9.

History

Grade 7/8 - The ISE 2003 census is a work in process in our unit on population study. Students have worked hard to gather all the information needed. They are now using the data for calculations and graphs.

Grade 9 - Students are currently studying Dante’s *Divine Comedy* as an example of emerging vernacular literature. Writing in Dante’s poetry form, and links with ancient cultures are included.

Grade 10 - Students began the year studying the political spectrum and its various ideologies. We are currently investigating the historical origins of 19th century class divisions and the consequences of class conflict.

Cultural History

Grade 9 - Students are researching, sorting, and organizing information on medieval Tallinn. This study of buildings, monuments, and Middle Age masterpieces is linked with the History curriculum. Oral presentation skills will be studied and implemented, starting this week.

Grade 10 - Students are taking a close look at romanticism in paintings. They are studying the background, which led to its emergence in the history of Art. They will become familiar with the best-known romantic paintings.

Science

Grades 7/8 – We are currently studying atoms, elements and chemical bonds. Each week we discuss science in the news. We had our first HAWAII question this week. Ask your child about this one.

Year 9 - Students began the year with the topic of heredity and how all species of life are created. We have looked at the definition of 'life' and will soon move into the more detailed work of genetics. Here students will look at chromosomes and why we look the way we look.

Year 10 - Students began the year with a unit on forces, particularly projectile motion. This was interrupted to complete a chemistry experiment that was weather dependent. Students made a piece of paper from grass, and to ensure that we didn't have snow-covered grass, we started the experiment early. Following this 3-day experiment, students will return to forces and look at collisions.

Technology

In **grades 7-10**, we have been examining the Design Cycle and its various components: Investigate, Plan, Create and Evaluate.

A two-week "mini-project" has been assigned for all classes, and is due on Sept. 22 for **grades 7/8**, and on Sept. 25 for **grades 9/10**.

Details of these projects are available on the school website at:

<http://www.online.ee/~iese/technology.htm>

Grade 9 - Students have learned perspective drawing. If the weather is fine we go outside and draw sketches of the school.

Grade 10 – The main theme at the moment is photography, and there is a long-term project going on. Students should take pictures from their home window. The deadline is the 27th of November.

All MYP Art students make notes throughout the whole artwork process using their Developmental Workbooks.

MYP News

If you could explore any topic, your "grand passion," what would it be? That's what the Grade 10's are preparing to do through their Personal Projects. In March they will present their projects to the school community and parents.

To prepare all students in grades 6 through 10, for this adventure, we will be focussing on the Areas of Interaction on 9 October, for new and returning students.

Students and parents alike need to remember that the MYP curriculum emphasizes creative thought, inquiry, and inquisitive attitudes. Through this approach, students can achieve better on exams and in life beyond the classroom. However, attendance is crucial for this kind of learning, as are regular study habits. Ignoring this will lead to disappointment later in the semester. Therefore, reap the full awards of the program!

Music

Grade 6: CARTOON PROJECT - Working in a group, we set the text, music and create the sound effects for a cartoon, and present it to the audience. On the 15th of September we were at the REAL sound studio – Film Audio. Each of us will make notes in his/her developmental workbook throughout the whole process. The presentation will be on the 20th of October.

Grade 7/8: RADIO PLAY - Working in our group, we will write the script and the sound effects for a radio play – *Midwife's Apprentice*. This project will be a combined effort of both Music and English classes. Each of us will make notes in his/her developmental workbook throughout the whole process. In **English** classes we will read the book and write the script for the radio play. In **Music** classes we will explore the sound effects of different radio plays. We will also create the script and the sound effects for the radio play. The presentation will be on the 21st of October.

Special thanks to Ms. Maren and Mdm. Fuzier for planning a wonderful field trip to South Estonia, and to Mr. Fuzier for chaperoning.