



"MEF IS offers a stimulating education programme that strives to meet the individual learning needs of its students. The school provides equality in opportunities, so that each child is guided to discover and develop intellectual, creative, social and physical potentials. In doing so, the school endeavours to empower its students with a life-long passion for learning. Students are encouraged to become confident, balanced and socially responsible individuals who will contribute positively to local and global communities."

# NEWSLETTER

Friday, 16th December, 2016

## FROM THE ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER



Dear Community Members,

By the time you are reading this newsletter, the school will be out and hopefully you will be on your way to a fun, relaxing holiday. Holiday times are special occasions to spend with family and friends, to travel and see new places, and to extend our good will to those in need of it.

Our students have worked hard and learned a lot right up to this well deserved holiday time. However much we want our students to have time for themselves, please spare time to reflect on their progress together and to encourage them to read.

Something remarkable about this year's calendar is that Christmas and New Year's Day overlap with Hanukkah. I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my very best wishes to those who celebrate these holidays.

It is my humble wish that this coming new year will bring prosperity and especially peace to the world.

I wish all of you a pleasant, safe journey if you are travelling, lots of quality time with your loved ones and I'm looking forward to seeing you back at school on 2 January 2017.

Best Regards,  
Müfide van der Hoeven

## FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL...



As the primary school principal it is my privilege to be able to walk the halls and visit classrooms to observe and interact with teachers and students. It is one of the favourite parts of my job. I am so impressed with the quality of instruction that takes place in classes everyday, and I really enjoy being able to ask students what they are learning and have them so eager to share their understanding with me. Every six weeks or so our students engage with a new unit of inquiry and follow the process of grappling with new information, asking thoughtful questions, pursuing answers and thinking critically about what they have found. These are vital skills for learning, and our students are eager to learn and improve. Our fabulous winter concerts were an example of the creativity and joy that our students are capable of, and I was delighted to see the enjoyment on their faces as they performed. We are all ready for our winter break!



Thank you Ms Crystal for the amazing winter concerts.

Thank you custodians and parents for Teacher Appreciation day.



As you take time out to celebrate this winter season I wish for you all happiness and warmth of friendship, family time and good food. Safe travels wherever you are heading, even if it just across town. Merry Christmas to all who celebrate and Happy New Year, Mutlu Yillar.

## FROM THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL...



Winter is upon us here in Istanbul and at this time of the year there is a great deal of activity in the Secondary School. We had our Winter Concert and Art Program last night and I would like to congratulate our students and Mr. Ben and Ms. Rima on a great success. It is always a pleasure to witness the creativity of our students and congratulate them on their successes.

In addition, we have our Winter Break and this is an excellent time for all of us to focus on what matters the most: family and friends. These relationships greatly define us and the opportunity to reconnect and to relax, regardless of whether we are celebrating any holidays or not, is most welcome as we near the end of the first semester. As a school, we have decided to limit the amount of homework we assign over the break and I would encourage all of our families to take this time, to the extent possible for each of you, to enjoy the company of your loved ones.

We are almost at the halfway mark for the year, as difficult as it is to believe, and before we know it June will be upon us. January is traditionally a time when we set New Year's resolutions in North America and so I have been thinking about what I would like to focus on for the year. There are many areas where I could improve and so I will not bore you with too many resolutions: however, the one that comes to mind most readily is to enjoy each day and find, even amid challenges, something that will enrich my life and make me a wiser and a more ethical and compassionate person.

My best wishes to all of you for a relaxing and enjoyable time with families and friends over the break. May 2017 bring you greater peace and happiness to our world.

Yours,

JDW

<http://ikoniumstudio.blogspot.com.tr/2012/02/snow-and-felt-in-istanbul.html>



## PRIMARY COUNSELLING



Each month, one Learner Profile has been recognized and promoted. Last month it was Caring, this month it is Principled. Student Council has just led an assembly on Being Principled and has reminded students about the school expectations and making good choices. Important international dates and celebrations have been announced and posters have been displayed on the entrance floor bulletin board. It was Children's Rights Day in November 20.

You can follow monthly PSE plans on my website; <https://sites.google.com/a/mefis.k12.tr/student-support-team/web-links>

**Pelin Uster - usterp@mefis.k12.tr**

## SECONDARY COUNSELLING



Our middle school students have been reflecting upon the benefits and challenges of being a 'third culture kid' a term coined in the 1950's by John & Ruth Useem. The overall conclusion our students came to was that living in a culture that is not their own brings many benefits, and the challenges are what connect our diverse community. It is our intention to further enhance our global mindedness and cultural understanding, something that is essential in our world today

## OVERSEAS COLLEGE COUNSELLING



***To what extent should parents be involved in university planning?*** In view parents fund their child's tertiary education, it is understandable they want to be involved. However, it is the student who should be in charge of the application process. When the student is at university there will be no parent, counsellor or consultant. *An indicator of a student's readiness for post-secondary education is the ability to complete college applications.* The links provided are from the Common App and UCAS. <http://www.commonapp.org/parents> <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/ucas-undergraduate-parents-and-guardians>

## PRIMARY SCHOOL MUSIC

### Musical Events



So last week saw the Primary School Concerts. The concerts are my most favourite part of the school year. When I see the children all on stage together performing I am so proud! What wonderful soloists we had in Brune and Louis. Also how lovely to see our scottish and spanish groups lead by Miss Sarah and Miss Valeria. I would like to give a special thankyou to Mr Simon our lightings manager and Miss Kate our stage manager.

Thank you so much parents for coming to watch and for preparing such wonderful costumes for the children, they all looked fantastic!



We also saw the ECC concert last week! And what a show they gave us. Our smallest children were fantastic in their imagination concert! Thanks to all teachers of the ECC and Mr Christopher for helping to make such a brilliant show!

I wish you all a happy safe holidays and look forward to seeing you in the new year.



# THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Grade 4 visited the secondary school to use our chemistry lab!



Grade 10 experiment testing the acidity of different substances in the chemistry lab.



This year we opened our renovated biology lab. Students and teachers are enjoying the new facility.



Grade 10  
Plant  
Biology



IB1  
Physics



IB1  
Biology



# PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

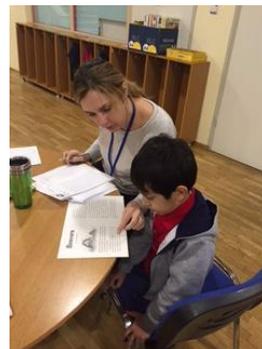


As we are approaching holiday time the teachers are busy assessing and writing reports about your children. This is an ongoing and integral part of what we do as professionals and very important piece in the communication process with parents. Assessment is not only about a product but the process. Assessment is ongoing and meaningful and helps us to design lessons that are able to support and stretch a child's learning.

The IB PYP states, 'Assessment is integral to all teaching and learning. It is central to the PYP goal of thoughtfully and effectively guiding students through the five essential elements of learning: the acquisition of knowledge, the understanding of concepts, the mastering of skills, the development of attitudes and the decision to take action. The prime objective of assessment in the PYP is to provide feedback on the learning process.'

There are many ways to share information about student learning progress and at MEFIS we use a variety - end of unit shares, Portfolios, Parent Teacher meetings, Student Led Conferences and Reports. While these are formal times of sharing, teachers are more than happy to meet with parents at any time of the year to discuss learning progress and other issues that may arise that could impede the learning process. Please do not hesitate to contact your homeroom or specialist teachers if you would like to discuss something.

On January 27, we would like to offer to parents a 'Learning about the PYP' session where you can have the opportunity to ask questions and participate in a workshop to deepen your understanding of the curriculum. Looking forward to seeing you then.





## Revision for the holidays and into the future

With Exam Week 2 set for January 9-13, students should commence preparation for examinations in the near future.

All students have the ability academically to thrive. A pupil with average abilities may even score higher than a student with a higher capacity under set conditions. Why does such a situation occur? Study habits make all of the difference, as revising consistently throughout an extended period positively impacts a student as opposed to cramming at the end.

Consequently, calculated study habits are paramount. For externally examined courses (e.g. Checkpoint, IGCSE, and IBDP), however, students should revise for the entire course, which can last from two to three years. Firstly, students should take into account the learning objectives. How might I learn these points? What are the long-term goals needed to reach these objectives? Long-term goals per course and the path that will allow a student to reach his/her aims should be considered. Dividing long-term goals into specific actions is recommended. Thereafter, study charts focusing on smaller durations should be compiled. Students should revise a minimal of a couple of hours each evening following school and longer over weekends and holidays beginning and ending at regular times earlier rather than later. Sleep, diet and exercise should be prioritized. All subject areas should be revised multiple times each week. It is also recommended students take regular breaks to maximize concentration.

To summarize, students should revise skills and topics over a long period of time several times per week; take regular breaks to maximize levels of concentration; chart which subjects have been studied, studying each subject several times per week; utilize a variety of study methods to learn more (e.g. rewrite notes, highlight notes, solve problems, use flashcards); practice exam-style questions; and see the teacher if needed.



# PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS



# SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

Our students and teachers have been quite busy with presentations, sports events, concerts, exhibitions and so much more!

## Winter Music Concert

*When We Sing...*



## Art Exhibition



## All Star Event



# PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Dear MEF IS Community,

We closed out the year with the Primary School Disco Night this past Wednesday, which was a hit us parents and teachers!).

Thank you to all the parent and teacher volunteers who assisted us in making the night a success! In particular to Jojo, for her superb DJ skills, taking all the requests and keeping everyone's feet moving and to Eda, for volunteering to assist with the face painting!



Check out our [Facebook](#) Group for more pictures!

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## JANUARY EVENTS / MEETINGS:

- **January 4: PTA Executive Board Meeting, 1:30pm–2:30pm, (Small Conference Hall)**
- **January 19: Film Night for the Primary School**

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We would also like to welcome Jooyoung Hwang, and Eunyoung Ye who recently joined the PTA! Two more vacancies remain!

Email us at [pta@mefis.k12.tr](mailto:pta@mefis.k12.tr) with any questions / suggestions and join our "[MEF IS-Istanbul PTA Community](#)" Group on Facebook, where you can also receive PTA news, updates and pictures of our recent and past events!

Wishing you all an enjoyable, restful winter break and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Nicholas Callias (2A)

Anna Ilter (6B, 10A)

Christina Faber (KB)

Jooyoung Hwang (PKB)

Sherine Jayawickrama (3A, 6B)

Elena Sklyarskaya (KA)

Eunyoung Ye (KA, 3)

MEFIS PTA Board Parent Members

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For the latest news and events check out our website or social media pages:



<http://www.mefis.k12.tr>



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## MEF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

“Building Bridges between Countries and Cultures”

