



"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, 18th November, 2016

FROM THE ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER



Dear

It's November, and outside we're starting to feel the chill, warning us of the coming winter! Inside, however, we are warmed by the enthusiasm and industry of our students as they get on with the business of learning. All around us we see signs in our students' work and creativity, projects and displays, exams and midterms, songs and assemblies. The parents' council has been organizing events such as the movie night for the children and the students' council helped channel students' energy into a harmless stress release through their balloon-popping event! The Modern Foreign Languages department helped us all become more globally aware by introducing the culture and traditions of the French- and Spanish-speaking worlds. Our students made us proud in Copenhagen during the MEP trip. In short, the school is buzzing with activity.

A busy school also means that we keep in mind everybody's safety and comfort. We're happy that parents and drivers have the chance to bring students directly onto campus. We ask that you exercise extreme care and courtesy when driving on campus. Please bear in mind that there are many students and teachers (as well as small animals!) moving around the school grounds; we want everyone to be able to do so happily and safely. Moving your car slowly and keeping aware of your surroundings will let us continue the practice of bringing cars into campus. From 23 November to 25 November we will enjoy a short break. We wish the Americans among us a happy Thanksgiving. All of us from all our nationalities have much to be thankful for. Personally, I am thankful for your continued support and interest in all that goes on at MEF International.

Take care,
Müfide van der Hoeven

FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL...



Greetings MEF IS community,

One of the challenges that our international community faces when moving from country to country is that our children often have to adjust to new curriculums. The PYP is an international curriculum that has been specifically created to meet the needs of educating a diverse range of students. Some parents coming from other more structured and/or linear systems can feel a little confused about the PYP as it is outside what they are used to. The following quote from the International Baccalaureate research department may help to reassure such parents that students who participate in the PYP are benefitting from the exposure.

Key findings from research on the Primary Years Programme

One of the conclusions from a global study on the practice of transdisciplinary teaching and learning (teaching and learning that transcends disciplines) in the PYP was that students who experience an integrated curriculum are as successful academically, and are often more successful, than their peers who are not taught in a transdisciplinary manner. A review of the literature also indicated that a transdisciplinary approach can help students to develop skills and values that are necessary to be successful in a globalized world, such as international-mindedness and communication and critical thinking skills (Drake et al 2015).

I have high regard for the quality of thinking, communication, creativity and self management that are outcomes present in our students as they learn in our system. The partnership between our teachers, our students and our parent community is vital in supporting your children to succeed. We are working together for the well being of our students.



PRIMARY COUNSELLING



November 18 is recognised as World Kindness Day. We celebrated that day as World Kindness/Caring Day last Friday, which was organized by our student council. We talked about it during our class meeting time. Student council members cooked some treats and packed them with appreciation notes and gave them to the primary school teachers.

Primary school has been focusing on differentiated instruction this year. Ms. Elle and I held one session last month and a second session has been held by me and Ms. Kate on differentiation instructions for students who have special education needs and students who are gifted and talented. Please visit my website for PSE news

<https://sites.google.com/a/mefis.k12.tr/student-support-team/counselor>

Pelin Uster, Primary School Counsellor

SECONDARY COUNSELLING



As the world around us is changing rapidly, we reflected on the fortunate position that students at MEFIS take in the world as they embrace the multicultural nature of our school. During our PHSE lessons we focused upon widening our understanding of our own and others' cultures in an attempt to continue building bridges between cultures.

Tracey Brereton, Secondary School Counsellor

OVERSEAS COLLEGE COUNSELLING



Students who require a scholarship to study abroad will be faced with competition. However, most universities offer scholarships, usually based on merit (GPA). For information on scholarships please see the links provided.

John Potter, Overseas College Counsellor

www.scholars4dev.com/8319/fully-funded-scholarships-international-students

www.scholars4dev.com/5642/scholarships-in-uk-for-international-students

www.scholars4dev.com/6179/scholarships-canada-international-students

www.scholars4dev.com/8647/europe-scholarships-international-students

PRIMARY SCHOOL ARTS

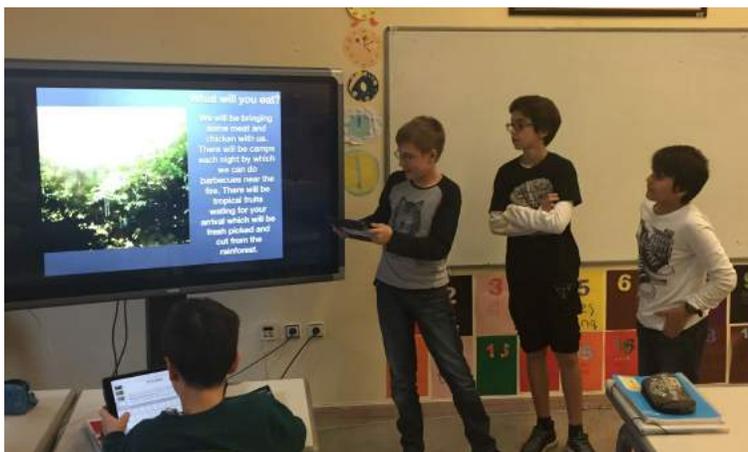
Art Around the School



The students have been creating a lot of amazing art this year. We are currently exploring value and perspective in grade 4. They have been looking at how to use the contained space within 2D art and will be learning linear perspective techniques over the next couple of weeks. Third grade has been mixing colors and seeing what they can create with the mixes. We have looked at how color is reflected light and the students are applying these concepts to their art. Op Art and patterns have been on the table for the second grade. We have been learning how when patterns are organized in certain ways this can fool the eye. In grade 1 we have seen how many cultures use art in their celebrations and have made wonderful cards this week. Kindergarten is learning about different artists from 2D to 3D and architects and more. Finally Pre kindergarten and preschool are working on learning through their imaginations in various different medias. This week we learned how colors can talk to help us create our pictures. They will continue to create more and explore through their choices and personal ideas.



THE SECONDARY SCHOOL HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT



Our sixth graders have had an exciting start to our new topic, Rainforests. We began by taking a relaxing tour into the Rainforest. Our students worked on group projects to create an Ecotour presentation. They had fun researching exotic species and animals along with the different types of food, which comes from the rainforest. Additionally, their Ecotour package had to include some Rainforest excursions and activities. We will continue learning about how to preserve our rainforests and its importance as the Earth's largest ecosystem. Because of the connections to science, social studies, and even health, the kids can easily relate to everything new we discover in the Rainforest. You'll find that your students are fascinated with almost anything they learn about the plants, people, and animals of the rainforest. More importantly, you can test their knowledge about the rainforest and will be quite impressed with all they know.



Our *fabulous* Grade 8 students have been exploring **development**, how one measures it and commonalities between countries at similar levels of development. Recently, 8A highlighted their knowledge by creating **infographics** comparing the USA and China in areas such as geography, environment, and population. Next, **globalization!**





Helping your child develop their understanding of the IB Learner Profile

The IB Programme promotes the education of the whole person, emphasizing intellectual, personal, emotional and social growth through all domains of knowledge, thus preparing children to face this ever changing world with confidence in themselves. To further enhance the learning experience, the PYP places emphasis on developing actions and attitudes along with teaching concepts and skills and ensures that the learning is relevant, engaging and challenging.

The IB Programme supports the children to become inquirers, thinkers, communicators, risk takers, and to be knowledgeable, principled, caring, open-minded, balanced and reflective.

During the month of November the Learner Profile attribute upon which we focused was ***Caring***.

When parents are consistently caring and compassionate, it's more likely that the children will be too. Children observe their parents, and other adults, for clues on how to behave. Children should be encouraged to read books/stories or watch movies that promote compassionate behaviour.

We encourage children to be caring towards each other in their language and actions. On Friday November 11 we celebrated World Kindness Day - we used the PYP profile - Caring to acknowledge ways we can be more caring towards ourselves and others in our community.



Throughout December the primary school will focus on the learner profile of being ***Principled***.

SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

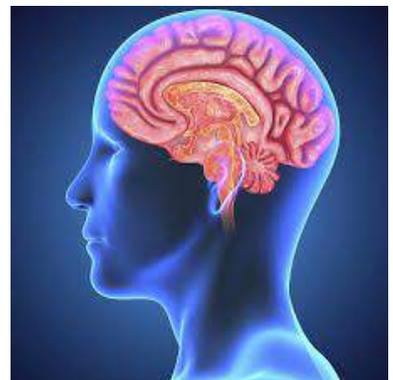


Exam Week and its implications

Exam Week 1 ran from October 31-November 4. Exam Week 2 will take place January 9-13. Hence, there are two examinations per semester. Each examination compiles 25% of the final grade for a total of 50% per semester. That is a large percentage, but it is a moot point to debate over the correctness of this system because the Turkish Ministry of Education determines the modus operandi for all schools.

The school utilizes the exam data in a multitude of ways. Firstly, the data allows the school to identify and help students who are struggling. Parents of students who fail an exam are invited for a meeting with the instructor. Additionally, teachers with such pupils design an action plan to implement.

Exam results pinpoint skills / topics that large numbers of students weren't able to consolidate fully during units of study. Future instruction is informed by reviewing the exam data. Even the validity of each examination is evaluated during the process. Finally, the examination is treated as a learning tool both in the obvious sense that preparation for the exam was a learning experience but also in the sense that teachers routinely design activities for students to review examinations. In other words, for example, students might correct the errors on the examination.



PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS



UN Day Parade
21 October
2016



SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

Check out some of the exciting learning that's been going on in the secondary school!



Mole Day! 6.02×10^{23}



Edgar Allan Poe Mystery Workshop



International HS Football Tournaments



Modern Foreign Language Week



PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Dear MEF IS community,

Thank you to everyone whose children joined us last month for our Scary Movie Night! We had just over 90 children who had a frighteningly fun time. In particular, thank you to Alison, Amy, Christine, Ewelina and Laverne for volunteering, who along with the Teacher volunteers helped us ensure the event ran smoothly!

Through your support we raised net 1,005TL, which will go towards supporting one or more of the following designated charities based on assessed needs towards the end of the school year: Project Lift, Ayazağa School, the Blind Association (Körleri Eğitim ve Kalkındırma Derneği) and the MEFIS Animal Care Club

Last week many great event ideas were put forward by parents attending our first Brainstorming Meeting; Night Under the Stars / Bosphorus Cruise, Wine & Paint night, Celebrity Chef tasting menu event, Bowling and Go Karting to name a few. As we begin to look into organizing events, collaboration with interested parent volunteers is welcome. We had a nice turnout, and we hope to continue to see more of you at our next meeting, but you can send us your ideas anytime.

DECEMBER EVENTS / MEETINGS:

- **December 5th: Grand Bazaar Holiday Shopping with Monica Fritz for Parents**
- **December 7th: PTA Executive Board Meeting, 1:30pm - 2:30pm (Small Conference Room).**
- **December 14th: Disco Night for Primary School**

* * *

A PTA's success is directly linked to the involvement and active participation of the community, so we hope you will join us at our monthly meetings and events. Your feedback and input is important to us, and we want to hear from you!

Five more vacancies remain for Parent Members on the Executive Board which we would love to fill, so please feel free to ask any one of us what it entails.

Email us at 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!

Sincerely,

Nicholas Callias
Anna Ilter
Christina Faber

Sherine Jayawickrama
Elena Sklyarskaya

MEFIS PTA Board Parent Members

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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.”

For the latest news and events check out our website:

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

MEF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

“Building Bridges between Countries and Cultures”



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