

April/May 2009

SPECIAL EVENTS AND REMINDERS

May 28th and 29th -No school due to Dragon Boat Holiday

June 5th- All RBIS library books should be returned by June 5th.

**Performance week
June 1st- June 5th**

- June 1st-Toddler and Early Years Performance 10:00am
- June 2nd-Preschool Performance 10:00am
- June 3rd-Pre-Kindergarten Performance 10:00am
- June 4th- Kindergarten Performance 12:45pm
- June 5th- Elementary Performance 10:00am

June 11th-Last Day of School



Principal's Message

April and May have been eventful months at RBIS! We've celebrated the Earth, shared our artistic talents, and met an award winning author!

Earth Day

This years Earth Day was a magnificent celebration! The goal of the Earth Day event was to communicate the effects of our behaviors on our natural resources and the actions we can take to protect the Earth. Families attending the event learned from RBIS students' environmental projects, Cultural village displays of various countries "green" initiatives, and the fun activities made by utilizing recycled material.

At RBIS we realize that change needs to happen now and knowledge empowers us to change. Special events like Earth Day encourage individuals to learn more about environmental issues and the actions we can take to protect our Earth.

Thank you to all the families who participated in Cultural villages and stage performances. Your dedication to our school is greatly appreciated.

Trip to Mongolia

In April, Ms. Adrienne and Ms. Hannah traveled to Mongolia to plant trees to reduce the effects of deforestation. At a special assemble for students in pre-k through 5th grade, the tree-planting duo, presented a slide

show of their adventures in Mongolia. The students were intrigued by the vast dry landscape, the work involved in planting trees, and the differences between RBIS and school's in Mongolia. Thank you Ms. Hannah and Ms. Adrienne for showing our students that our actions can change the world!



Festival of the Arts

The Festival of the Arts embraced the beauty of creativity by showcasing the artistic talents of RBIS students. The gymnasium was transformed into an elegant gallery space with dinner theater seating available for families to view stage performances. Hundreds of works of art were on display including drawings, paintings, sculptures, and recycled art pieces. We were all very impressed by the skillful ability of our young artists!

Throughout the evening the audience was entertained by a variety of stage performances. We were amazed by the Kung Fu demonstration, touched by the RBIS choir and guitar club, ready to dance after watching the Indian performance, and inspired by the Filipino interpretive dance and Mongolia slide show. *(Principal's Message continues on next page...)*

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Mr. Bill's movie making club left us shaking in our seats with their creature feature, "The Haunted Gym," and The SugarBeats closed the evening leaving us with memories of dancing dinosaurs and grooving goldfish.

Thank you to Mr. Alex for organizing the event, the RBIS Arts committee, and all the teacher volunteers who came out to support the event. It will be a night to be remembered for many years to come.

All Exercise Together

This year Mr. Brandon organized All Children Exercise Simultaneously day (ACES). Mr. Brandon challenged student in Kindergarten through 5th grade to exercise together for a half an hour. To keep students active and motivated, he instructed students to perform dance movements and exercises to the beat of their favorite dance songs. All of the students loved the activity and he was even able to get a lot of the teachers dancing!

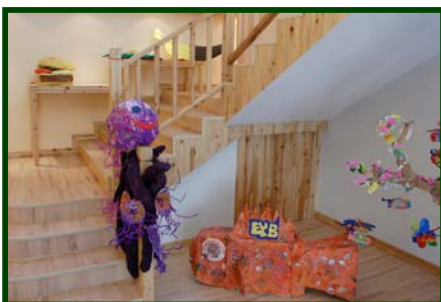
Ann McGovern Author Visit

Welcome to the wonderful world of Ann McGovern! We were all incredible excited to meet Ms. Anne Mc Govern on Wednesday, May 13th. Ann talked to us about her travels around the world and her experience becoming a writer. The students were inspired by her talent and thoroughly enjoyed listening to her read one of her famous books, Too Much Noise.

Ann McGovern lives in New York City where she continues to write children's stories. She is currently working on book about polar bears, which was inspired by her journey to Antarctica. You can learn more about Ann McGovern by visiting her website at <http://www.anmcmcgovern.com/>

Rebecca Zipprich
Principal
Rainbow Bridge International School

Early Childhood



I would like to start this newsletter by thanking all the Early Childhood Teachers and classes for their fantastic recycled contributions to Earth Day. The Early Year's and Toddler classes worked hard to make recycled sculptures. The Toddler Class made a great octopus, EYB a fabulous fish, a stunning starfish from EYA and an undersea diorama from EYC.

Our preschool classes also did a fantastic job creating a recycled sculpture, which depicted healthy food vs. not healthy food, a theme that they have been learning about. PA made a half banana half chocolate bar, PB made a huge tree with healthy food growing on one side and not so healthy food growing on the other, PC created a scale balancing healthy vs. non-healthy food, PD created a chocolate bar that was half grapes! PE made a hamburger which was half healthy, PF made a sculpture with water bottles on one side and soda cans on the other, and PG made a healthy pizza.



Pre-kindergarten wanted to show people at earth day how easy it is to create play toys for children using the recycled materials. The creation was home furniture, which was fully functional and very fun to make. The items included a vanity from PKA, a stove from PKB, a T.V from PKC, a washing machine from PKD, a side table, lamp and bed from PKE, a toilet and bath from PKF, and a sink from PKG!

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(Early Childhood continued)

These projects were part of their ongoing project, which, I talked about in last month's newsletter. The children are all thoroughly enjoying their topics. I would like to share some highlights of their learning.

PE – when asked the following questions:

After we throw away the trash why can't we just put it the mountains?

"It doesn't belong in the mountains." Stella

Or in the forest?

"The kangaroo and the bear won't want it to be there." Amalie

PKA

What is pollution?

"It is the fire that comes out of the chimneys, it smells bad." Lachlan

Why can't we drink the water at the zoo?

"It has germs." Edan

Linda Mathews
Early Childhood Curriculum
Coordinator



Elementary

This month found kindergarten singing their very own song in front of hundreds of people on Earth Day. It was called the 'Ocean Song' and was based on the structure of 'This Land Is Your Land.' Each class wrote their own verse using the information they found while researching in class. They had a great time. This month they are conducting author studies and getting ready to perform The Wizard of Oz for their end of the year performance.

The first grade classes are continuing to enjoy exploring habitats. They made some excellent dioramas illustrating what they have learned so far. The big idea they are grappling with is that all habitats are alike in that every element provided by nature is needed for the overall health of that habitat. They will

conclude this unit by writing a research report.

Second grade explored the specific scientific characteristics of plants and insects and the role each plays in their ecosystems. They learned about lifecycles and delved into why and how plants make up the foundation of the food chain. The class ant farms have not fared very well. There are only a few surviving ants left, but there are many theories floating around each class regarding why this has happened. The ant tragedy has played nicely into the notion of habitat...

Third grade have been busy with creative writing. They have published some comic books which will be available for check out in the library. They are great. The end of the year performance is coming up and the third grade will be

performing a reader's theater piece written by 3b's very own Shanshan! It's great to have so many published authors in our school!

Our 4/5 multiage class spent the month debating the ways we use mineral resources. They were asked to research the use of certain resources, and then debate the pros and cons of each way. This can be a challenge because it is far easier to pick a side and defend it than it is to defend the side you do not agree with. Happily, this critical mindset carried over to the students outside the class. Min Jun wrote an incredibly thoughtful and even handed editorial about how we could improve our own Earth Day festival in the future.

Bill Hall
Elementary Curriculum
Coordinator

Specials

Music

As the early years children learned about the waters and sea creatures, we learned a song called "She sells, Sea Shells" which is about sea shells and their different colors. Naming the colors helped the children learn basic rhythm through the sounds of words, whether it is a one-sounded word or two-sounded word (e.g. brown, gray, blue, yel-low, pur-ple, etc.). We also practiced a rhyme entitled "Ten Little Fingers". The students had fun discovering what their ten little fingers can do by closing them up tight and opening them wide and creating movement and depicting creatures. Their ideas were amazing as one student made a lion's claws and roared like a lion. Early years students are also using scarves to simulate how camels walk going up and down to the song "Camel" that has an Arabic beat. "Dance with Me" is another song being learned in music class. It is a partner song that encourages dancing together, being with friends, and creating a happy mood. Music class is full of fun-filled activities for the early years especially our musical play-along activities. Playing along to music with drums and shakers brings out the musician in everyone one of them.

Mr. Glenn

Art

The art studio at RBIS was a flurry of activity throughout April and the beginning of May. Students were finishing up their final projects and getting them gallery-ready for the Festival of the Arts--which happened on May 7th. Some even came to the art room before school to finish their recyclable sculptures or to help complete our collective, large-scale tree sculpture made entirely from discarded paper and cardboard. As a teacher, it was so nice to see the children get excited about their art and to see all their creative efforts successfully realized in their finished work.

As the Festival got closer and closer, 4th and 5th graders helped hang the show and organize the gallery space; our tree sculpture had to be transported branch by branch and assembled in the new gym. Drawings and painting were framed and sculptures were placed on pedestals—we were all impressed with the final display.

The evening of the Festival of the Arts was a huge success and the art committee would like to sincerely thank all the volunteers who helped out. Many of our students and their families showed up; I believe we had nearly 300 people attend the event! Ms. Rebecca touchingly gave each member of the parent committee an arrangement of flowers showing appreciation for their Recipes of the World cookbook, Ms. Natasha did an excellent job as the master of ceremonies--that British accent added a bit of class to the event, and all the performances were extraordinary: Mr. Romel's guitar club rocked out, Ms. Adrienne gave a lovely presentation on Mongolia, Mr. Michael's choir sang beautifully, Kung Fu were little fists of fury, the dance performed by Mr. Glenn, Ms. Sandra, et al. was wonderful, and Mr. Bill's movie-

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making club premiered their short film *The Haunted Gym* which entertained even the harshest movie critics (one toddler gave it two wet thumbs up). The Sugar Beats then closed off the evening with children dancing on stage and marching like dinosaurs.

Great work by all!
Mr. Alex and Mr. Romel

Computers

During the month of April, in RBIS's computer lab, the early childhood students have been using the computer to learn about fruits. They designed and printed out various fruits, including strawberries, apples and watermelons, and made a mobile to hang from the ceiling. Pre-K students have been dutifully practicing their phonics while playing a phonics program starring, that incorrigible little monkey, Curious George. Elementary students at all levels have been practicing their typing skills while enhancing their creativity by authoring stories on a variety of fictional and non-fictional topics.

Ms. Silvia

Photo Gallery – Earth Day



Minority dancers wowed the crowd at Earth Day



An RBIS family enjoys the sunny day.



Connie in KA won the Tree Shirt raffle!



Jonathon, in Ms. Kay's class, leaps in front of the competition in the rice sack racing activity.