

February 2009

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND REMINDERS

**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**-  
Watch the broad cast of  
"Cultural Matters"  
featuring Ms. Hannah  
and RBIS students

**Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>**-  
Walk-a-Thon: Join us for  
our Tree Fundraising  
Walk-a-thon! Classes  
leave for the walk-a-thon  
at different times  
throughout the day, so  
please ask your child's  
teacher when they will  
participate in this event.

**Wednesday, March  
25<sup>th</sup>** Elementary progress  
reports sent home.

**March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**-  
**Kid Expo:** This event  
will feature fun activities  
for kids and information  
on local business that  
cater to children and  
family interests. To  
register for a free  
entrance to the Kid Expo  
got to our website at:  
[www.rbischina.org](http://www.rbischina.org) or  
visit:  
[www.kidexposh.com](http://www.kidexposh.com).

**Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>** -  
Festival of the Arts has  
been rescheduled for May  
7<sup>th</sup>.

## Principal's Message

Welcome new RBIS teachers to  
Shanghai!

February has been an exciting  
month at RBIS! Earlier this  
Month, our coordinators and I  
traveled back to the States to  
hire a spectacular group of new  
teachers for the 2009-2010  
school year. We are happy to  
introduce the new teachers in  
this month's newsletter with a  
brief description of their  
teaching experience and the  
position they will teach. They  
have all expressed great  
excitement in joining our school  
community!

**Ms. Quinne- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Teacher:** Ms. Quinne is from  
Madison, Wisconsin and has a  
Bachelors degree in Education.  
She has taught elementary  
students for the past five years.  
*"I cherish the opportunity to  
share ownership of the  
classroom with my student and  
scaffold the curriculum so that  
they take control over their  
own learning. Developing  
independence is a critical  
aspect of learning, especially in  
the younger grades."*

**Ms. Amy-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Teacher:** Ms. Amy is from  
Chicago, Illinois and has a  
Masters degree in Reading  
instruction. She has taught  
elementary students in Texas  
and Chicago, IL over the past  
five years. *"In order to compete,  
children must acquire global  
skills and a tolerance for  
diversity. The more I have  
traveled, the deeper*

*understanding I have gained for  
other cultures, and the more  
empathetic I have become for  
individuals' positions in global  
affairs. I believe teachers largely  
enhance curriculum when they  
share personal experiences."*

**Ms. Rose-Reading Specialist:**  
Ms. Rose is from Minnesota and  
has a bachelor in Education with  
certification as a reading  
specialist and TEFL English as a  
Foreign Language. She has taught  
in Minnesota, Alaska, and Japan  
over the past twenty years. *"I am  
an adventurous person and  
enjoy learning about other  
cultures through first hand  
experiences. I want to teach  
overseas to expand my world  
and share my experience with  
children from other countries."*

**Mr. Josh-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher:**  
Mr. Josh is from Madison,  
Wisconsin and has a Masters  
degree in Secondary Education.  
He has been a middle school  
teacher for over four years. *"I  
believe my greatest strength as  
an educator is my ability to  
connect with students of all ages.  
I'm very good at building  
appropriate, respectful  
relationships with kids that allow  
us to be partners in the education  
process."*

**Ms. Anne-Elementary  
Coordinator:** Ms. Anne comes  
to us from Chicago, Illinois and  
has a Masters in Education. She  
has been teaching elementary  
students for over five years in the  
Chicago public school system and  
*(continues on next page...)*

*(Principal's Message continued...)*

has also taught in Africa. "As an educator, I am dedicated to helping others help themselves; I believe that education is an extension of oneself to help facilitate thought, action and reflection impacting the world we live in. As an educator, I facilitate my students' exploration, discovery, and discussion of the world and their perspective of it."

We are very fortunate to have a large number of returning teachers next school year. Together we will continue to nurture a community of learners who have a love of learning.

#### Thank you Korean parents!

This month the Korean families donated RMB 1,000 to buy new books for our library. Thank you Korean parents for thoughtful donation. We are very grateful for your generous contribution in fostering literacy at RBIS!

#### Earth Day Cultural Village

Calling all parents! We need volunteers to help create Cultural Villages for our Earth Day celebration. Cultural Villages are tents organized by parents, which represent your country and ways your county is actively involved in addressing environmental issues. At present, we have

parents working on the following Cultural Villages:

#### **Korea, Japan, America, Norway, Australia, and Germany**

We would love to have even more countries represented, so if you are interested in learning more about this unique opportunity, please contact me at [rebeccazippirch@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccazippirch@gmail.com).

#### ICS Tree Planting

International Channel Shanghai (ICS), a local English television station, will feature RBIS students and our science teacher Hannah in an upcoming episode of their talk show "Culture Matters." The show will include an interview with Hannah about our fundraising and tree-planting efforts at RBIS, as well as a student from Shanghai American School who is raising money for the 1 Million Tree Project with his swim team. Three students from RBIS will also be shown planting a tree in the Zoo with a few television personalities from ICS. The show will air on Thursday, March 12 (National Tree Planting Day) at 7:30 pm. All televisions with local Shanghai channels should receive the ICS channel in their homes. If you are unable to access the channel on your television, the episode can also be seen online, by visiting <http://virtualreview.org/chin>

[a/zoom/678958/culture-matters-on-international-channel-shanghai](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC678958/culture-matters-on-international-channel-shanghai).

Thanks to all of our parents who have contributed to our tree planting efforts so far. Have a happy National Tree Planting Day!

#### Ordering RBIS Yearbooks

A school yearbook contains a memorable collection of photographs of children and special events at RBIS. If you are interested in ordering a yearbook, please contact Ms. Ande at [ande799@gmail.com](mailto:ande799@gmail.com).

#### In the News

An article featuring RBIS's efforts to help improve the environment and plant more trees in Mongolia can be found in the current issue of City Weekend's Parents and Kids magazine. The article states that we are more than half way towards our goal! Young environmentalists from Ms. Kay's 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom are featured in a photograph next to the article. Pick up the current issue and check it out!

Enjoy the marvelous month of March!

Rebecca Zipprich  
Principal  
Rainbow Bridge International School

## Early Childhood

The early childhood classrooms have been busy this past month with a "book study" topic. Each classroom has chosen a book, author, or genre to study in-depth, particularly focusing on literacy concepts. The culmination of the topic will result in a class book being donated to the library! Both teachers and students have been inspired by their book projects, and the wealth of ideas, knowledge and creativity put into their masterpieces has been amazing to see. *(continues on next page...)*

*(Early Childhood continued...)*

After studying water for some weeks, Ms. Christy and Ms. Isabelle's PA class decided to study the book *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni, a story about a little fish in the big ocean. As part of their project, they investigated creative ways to make Swimmy. They retold the story with puppets they made and explored swimming in the ocean through dramatic play.



Ms. Nora and Ms Marilyn's PF class decided to focus on the book *The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and The Big Hungry Bear* by Don and Audrey Wood. To inspire interest in the story, Ms Nora built a scene from the book, an enormous tree in the classroom with a kitchen inside. This was very exciting for the children. They explored story telling and role play, and each week their understanding and interest in the book extended their dramatic play!

Mr. Andrew and Ms. Lisa's PKC class read the pigeon books by Mo Willems (*The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!*). Their project really focused on getting to know the characters of the story. They had in-depth discussions about character traits, created different ways of representing the characters through painting, collage and drawing. They then took their knowledge of the characters and created their own stories.



The projects will be finished in the next couple of weeks. To see the early childhood books on display please visit the library!

Linda Mathews  
Early Childhood  
Coordinator

## Elementary

The elementary school has had another very busy and productive month.

Kindergarten began and finished a transportation unit. They began by discussing what they already knew about different modes of transportation and then explored some new areas. One child in Ms. Cassandra's class wondered why the noses of airplanes were always pointy, and another wondered about the different materials ships were made from. The students also learned some fun poems about vehicles and wrote about their favorite kinds of travel.

Our first graders have been reading traditional stories. They are examining the structure of famous stories that have stood the test of time by charting the beginning, middle and end. They have also been discussing the extra 'moral' element that many of these stories contain. The students are currently getting ready to create their own 'traditional' story to explain a natural phenomenon and teach a lesson. Should be some fun reads!

Second grade are right in the midst of studying communities. They have been learning about social

contracts, such as social rules and laws, while also examining the physical elements that distinguish villages, towns and cities from one another. Currently there are three teams of 'civil engineers' from both classes working together to make a scale model of one of these. Their last individual step will be to imagine they are mayors of the village, town or city and create a list of laws, along with the rationale behind the laws.

Third grade completed their 'Space and Earth Connections' unit. Using hands on experiments, the students  
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*(Elementary continued...)*  
were able to examine how sunlight hits the Earth and Moon, as well as explain the relationship the sun has on our seasons. The classes were also able to visit the science museum to see the Space Exhibit. Each student also conducted an independent investigation about a planet that was not covered in the unit and then presented their learning to the rest of the class. Some of the students were very disappointed to learn the unit wouldn't last

the rest of the year, however the next unit of inquiry promises some thrills as well...

Our 4/5 multiage class are in the middle of a thought provoking unit. They are looking at and debating the notion of heroes and villains. What are the qualities of a hero? Can one person's hero be another person's villain? Are heroes and villains the result of global events? As they explore various perspectives, they will also create a story or comic book

about a superhero to share with the rest of the class.

March should be another wonderful month of learning. We'll keep our fingers crossed for the warmer weather and expect to spend more time in the zoo conducting environmental research across all grade levels!

Bill Hall  
Elementary Curriculum  
Coordinator

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## Specials

### Music

The secret's out! If you're the parent of a second through fifth grade student, then you probably know by now that my mystery wall display was for the new recorder program in music class. The program is called Recorder Karate, and students have been hard at work this month putting their musical knowledge to use as they work their way toward black belt! In this unit, students are developing their music reading ability, as well as becoming comfortable with performing by themselves.



February saw us putting musical creativity to the Kindergarten and first grade classrooms. Students are composing music using fill in the bubble sheets, and using their songs on different instruments to discover their timbre and see how that changes the sound of their piece.

Pre-K has been exploring their movement to music by dancing with scarves. They are asked to respond through dance to what they hear, and then guided into discovering their own movements. They have also been putting the concept of high and low

sounds to use by putting the bars of the xylophone back in the appropriate spot.

Also, RBIS will once again be offering an Earth Day Choir! It will be open to all students grades K-5<sup>th</sup>. They will be performing on Earth Day Shanghai as well as at the Spring Festival of the Arts. There will be more detailed information coming home this month about it.

February was a month filled with new learning for the early years in music. We have been learning rhythm and beats through singing songs with clapping and using unpitched instruments, such as shakers and sticks. The kids were able to follow the beat of the song using the steady beat through movements like walking and swaying with the scarves. It's a fun way for the kids making variations of the beat such as making it fast and slow, thus learning the tempo.

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(Music continued...)

The kids had a lot of fun moving and dancing with scarves singing the "Merry-go-round" song and walking in a beat using the egg shakers singing their 'heys' and 'na nas' from the native American song "Hey Ya Na".

Mr. Michael and Mr. Glenn

## Art

Young artists in RBIS's art studio spent the month of February in... the THIRD DIMENSION (cue *Twilight Zone* theme music now)! The past month we focused on the basic principals of sculpture. We learned and discussed 2D vs. 3D, space and volume, dynamic vs. static, and the relationship between subject and medium. Currently, the elementary students and the preschool students are working on a collective tree sculpture made entirely from discarded paper and cardboard boxes. They are essentially taking what was once a beautiful tree (that has been cut up, processed, sold, used and thrown away) and bringing it back to life again. The students enjoy each week coming into the art room and watching their recycled tree grow.

RBIS students also had the chance to make, and work with, homemade clay. The first week, the children explored the process of making clay from ingredients found in their very own kitchen (see recipe below). After the clay was mixed, they each took a piece and practiced forming the gooey material into shapes, objects, and animals. The second week, the students worked with wire armatures. By bending the wires the students activated their sculpture and created a sense of movement in their art. They then molded the clay around the 'skeleton' creating life-like animals, imaginary creatures, strange looking people, and human-like cyborgs.



### Homemade Clay

- 2 Cups Flour
- 1 Cup Salt
- 1 Cup Water
- 1 1/2 tbsps  
Vegetable Oil
- Wax Paper
- Paint
- 1 Mixing Bowl
- Cookie Sheet

1. Mix the salt and flour together in the mixing bowl.
2. Slowly add the water and oil to the bowl and mix together until you get a smooth consistency.
3. Tear off a large piece of wax paper and pull off a chunk of the dough.
4. Shape the dough into any design that you want; use your imagination! Just try not to make the shapes too thick.
5. Place your creations on a cookie sheet and cook in an oven at 250 degrees for about 45 minutes-1 hour.
6. When they are done, remove from the oven and set aside to cool.
7. You can then paint the objects if desired.

Mr. Alex and Mr. Romel

## P.E.

February has been a very busy month for the students in Physical Education. The early childhood worked on their throwing and catching skills and will be moving on the rhythm and dance. The elementary students finished a walking challenge where they had to walk for five minutes at a fast pace. Congratulations to the 1st grade who walked a total of 13.3 miles in 15 minutes. The elementary classes will also be moving on the rhythm and dance and will be working on a special dance for the next few classes.

Mr. Brandon

## Computers

In this month's computer classes, early childhood students have been improving their ability to use the mouse while, at the same time, reinforcing their knowledge acquired in class by playing with several games involving their favorite characters, shapes and letters.

Meanwhile, some of the elementary students have been engaged in making a model of the solar system drawn with the help of their computers. The elementary students have also made their own Lantern Festival lanterns coloring them with their computer and printing them out.

Ms. Silvia

## Photo Gallery



*Dressing up as Swimmy.*



*Recorder Kung Fu!*



*Future television personalities!*