

March 2009

SPECIAL EVENTS AND REMINDERS

Come visit the RBIS booth at the Kid Expo on March 28th and 29th. The Kid Expo promises to be two fun-filled days for kids and parents alike.

Ms. Hannah, our science teacher, and Ms. Adrienne, our librarian will travel to inner Mongolia in early April to plant the trees that our students (and their parents!) helped to fund.

RBIS's annual Earth Day celebration will be Saturday, April 25 at the Shanghai zoo.

地球日 Earth Day 上海
Shanghai



April 25, 2009
Shanghai Zoo

Principal's Message

Walk this way towards a better world!

This month's walk-a-thon was a huge success! Each class received a clue to start them on their journey through the zoo. RBIS specials teachers dressed in animal costumes were stationed throughout the zoo, ready to give additional clues to the students. As you can imagine, the children were thrilled to see their teachers in disguise, and were especially excited to discover Mr. Michael perched on a tree branch as a looming black vulture. At the end of their walk, Ms. Hannah and I greeted the students and congratulated each class for raising money for our Mongolia tree-planting project. Children received plant to remind them of the special day and their contributions to making the world a better place. Due to fundraising efforts like the walk-a-thon, we were able to raise enough money to plant 1,333 trees in Mongolia!

I would like to congratulate Ms. Kay's class for raising money to plant the most trees in Mongolia. They will have a pizza party after the holiday to celebrate planting 110 trees in Mongolia. Way to go Ms. Kay's class!

Earth Day Man

We are happy to announce our very first Earth Day mascot, Earth Day Man! Deciding on a mascot was not an easy task, so we asked the students at RBIS to give us ideas for our new

hero. Classes were encouraged to design and explain how their mascots reflected the ideas of Earth Day. After collecting all the magnificent mascots, classes in pre-k through 5th grade voted on their favorite character. Our new mascot, Earth Day Man (EDM) was announced at our tree raising pep assembly earlier this month. Congratulations to Ms. Ande's class for creating Earth Day Man, a new superhero dedicated to healing our planet! In the weeks leading up to Earth Day he will make special appearances in classes and he will ask students questions and facts about environmental issues. To view photos of the first sighting of EDM, visit our website at www.rbischina.org.



Website Communication

As we become more environmentally conscious, we would like to reduce the number of paper copies by posting important communications on our school website. Starting in April, my monthly newsletter will be posted on our website and archived in Newsletters Highlights which also includes additional information about our educational programs written by our coordinators and specials (continues on next page...)

(Principal's Message continued...)

teachers. I encourage you to frequently visit our website at www.rbischina.org for significant information about our school community.

Building Projects

Over the spring holiday we will expand our library, and we are very excited about the new design! During the next few months we will create a new library space designed to inspire those who enter to embark on a reading adventure! Younger students will have a unique area in which to explore storytelling. Older students can expect to have a space dedicated to developing their research skills. Come find a new favorite book in the RBIS library!

Have an enjoyable spring holiday. See you back in April!

Rebecca Zipprich
Principal
Rainbow Bridge International School

Early Childhood

This month the early childhood classes completed their class books from their book study project. They are absolutely fabulous! If you take a visit to the library, there is a special shelf displaying the books made by each class. Miss Adrienne has also been reading the books to the classes during their library time, much to their delight!

Another exciting event this month was the walk-a-thon to raise money for trees in Mongolia. The early childhood classes embarked on an adventure in the zoo, looking for clues that would lead them to the big china map, the ostrich, the peacocks, the flamingos and finally to the big grass area for a race to the finish where they received a prize from Ms Hannah and Ms Trixie.

A big thank you to Ms Hannah and Ms Trixie for working so hard and making this event so special for the children.

In preparation for Earth Day, the early childhood classes will be exploring some exciting projects this coming month.

The Toddler/Early Years topic is water. They will be exploring animals in the ocean and the different uses of water e.g. drinking, washing. For Earth Day they will be making a sculpture from recycled materials representing their topic water!

The preschool classes will be exploring the idea that "Many plants are used as food for us and animals." Their project will focus on:

- Fruit and vegetables we eat.
- Where and how fruit and vegetables grow.
- Why it is important to eat fruit and vegetables.
- Plants that animals eat.

They will also be creating a sculpture for Earth Day from recycled materials that depicts healthy and unhealthy foods!

The pre-kindergarten class's projects will focus their inquiry on the idea that "People interact with, use and value the environment in different ways." Their project will involve looking at:

- Local natural environment.
- Human use of the environment.
- Actions that benefit or harm the environment.

For Earth Day they will be making dramatic play furniture from recycled materials.

I look forward to seeing the class creations for Earth Day and the interesting ideas and knowledge that will come from next month's topics.

Linda Mathews
Early Childhood Coordinator

Elementary

This month kindergarten has been exploring the various parts of the ocean. They have studied the properties of saltwater as well as the water cycle. While each class studies a specific part of the ocean, they are preparing to turn their individual classrooms into museums where they will be the docents for other students and parents. Should be a fun day! The next part of their exploration will be thinking about the ways people use the resources of the ocean.

The first grade classes are looking at ‘Habitats Around the World’ for their next topic of inquiry. They will be looking closely at various habitats and finding out how each piece (animal, insect or plant) is a necessary element of the whole. This is an important concept and different groups will focus on a few different areas to be ‘experts’ in. They will then share what they have learned with the other class. The final project will be their very first research report!

Second grade classes are exploring the specific scientific characteristics of plants and insects and the role each plays in their ecosystems. They will be learning more about lifecycles and delve into why and how plants make up the foundation of the food chain. Each class has also gotten their very own ant farm. The students have reported some interesting things so far... Some have noted that “the queen just stands around while everyone else works!” And that the ants have made some strange designs that look a lot like the letters. James suggested might be the start of an attempt to write the word “HELP!” We’ll have to see if that idea pans out...

Third grade classes have been investigating the structure of living things and how the structure of an individual living thing helps it to function and survive within its environment. They began by looking at distinct ecosystems and the conditions within those systems and will now be looking more closely at individual life forms. Madison

shared a biome she made of the Great Barrier Reef with Mr. Mark’s class because they have been learning all about coral reefs for their unit of inquiry. It was a splendid presentation, and the kindergarteners really loved the way she turned a shoebox into an underwater scene. Third grade will end the unit by trying to determine what humans can do to best share these environments with each other and nature.

Our 4/5 multiage class are exploring mineral resources. They have started to look at the Earth’s cycles, specifically the rock cycle, and want to understand how this functions. They will then begin examining ways that mineral resources are a source of economic development. By the end of the unit they will consider how mineral resources are shared as well as how they could be shared among the world.

Bill Hall
Elementary Curriculum
Coordinator

Specials

Music

As flowers start to bloom and the green grass starts to grow, spring has come. In early childhood music, we learn more about playing with rhythms through nursery rhymes about spring particularly the one titled "Green and Blue." We talked about flowers popping everywhere as they go ‘boing!, boing!, boing!’. We also had fun playing and making music with the tambourines in the play-along-jam activity. In this activity, kids actively participate and experience being a musician in their own way. Some of them even dance along with the music to add up the fun and excitement while
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playing with the instrument. Singing "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" let the children experience a swaying mood because of the triple meter. We also substituted "Bonnie" to whatever words the kids may suggest, and they are all so excited to sing with it too.

Our Pre-K classes have been learning to express emotion through sound and symbolic notation. The kindergarteners have gotten started on the music for the Wizard of Oz; they're getting very excited! Ask your kindergartener to sing parts of their song for you! They have also been testing their memory as they try to remember short rhythms and melodies in preparation for material that will be covered in first grade. The elementary school kids are working steadily through the recorder belts! I've had at least one student come to the music room every day because they were so excited to test on their next song!

Also, heads up for Earth Day Choir! They're going to put an amazing concert on during Earth Day, and also during the Festival of the Arts, including guest performances by Ms. Michelle on the cello and some of the elementary students on their recorders. They're even bigger and better than last year!

Mr. Michael and Mr. Glenn

Art

The children's sculptures are finished, painted and ready for display! Look out for them and other selected artworks at our Festival of the Arts coming May 7th! Our next project still has the students exploring the realm of 3D, but this time we are solely using recyclable or discarded materials in support of the upcoming Earth Day celebration! Since Rainbow Bridge is highlighting the human impact on Earth and environment this year, the world's fragile ecosystems and human addiction to plastic materials has become the Art Studio's focus.

Toddlers to 3 year olds listened to fun stories about insects, played like they're insects, and now started making recycled insect sculptures. Children from Pre K to 1st grade began their recycled, plastic bottle fish sculptures this past month. They first spent time examining the anatomy of fish and what they need in order to survive in the ocean (i.e., gills, scales, fins, etc.). Then we discussed special adaptations that help fish thrive in their particular environments (i.e. lights, teeth, bright colors, special designs). The students are now in the process of designing their unique fish according what their needs are and what part of the ocean they live in. Second grade has been given a special opportunity to become part of RBIS history! They are in the process of designing and creating a recycled plastic bottle cap mosaic for the pathway around the school's mosaic garden. Look for it during our Earth Day celebration on April 25th. 3rd through 5th grade are using the traditional art form of the totem pole to create their recyclable sculpture. Each child is creating a piece of the totem pole out of plastic and found materials. Their individual sculptures will be stacked once finished creating a classroom totem pole in honor of Earth Day!

Mr. Alex and Mr. Romel

P.E.

This past month in physical education has been a busy one for the Elementary students. They worked on their evolution of dance performance that we will be performing on Earth Day. It is looking great and the children are having a great time dancing and moving to the music. The preschool students worked on their throwing and kicking. This next month, the preschoolers will be playing with the parachute and developing their movement skills along with recognizing colors and numbers through games played with the parachute. The kindergarten to first grade will be starting their soccer unit and second grade to sixth grade will get the chance to use their creativity to create their own games and activities.

Mr. Brandon

Computers

The month of March in the computer lab has been very busy with the early years students drawing pictures of their favourite animals and thus having their first contact with their tablets. They had a lot of fun discovering how they could use their pens to draw in any colour or width they wished.

The elementary students have been learning about word processors by writing poems and stories at the same time practicing their typing skills. These are both important skills for our students and these lessons encourage their love for literature and reading.

Ms. Silvia

Photo Gallery



"We sold the most TREES!"



After school guitar class rocks!



Busting a move in gym.

