



DIS HAPPENINGS

DELEDDA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



EXTENDED ESSAY EXHIBITION

Congratulations to DP2 students, who, after finishing their extended essays, shared them with the school community during their interesting presentations on EE day, the 4th of December!!! And a big thank you from the supervisors and DPI students for the wonderful mentoring session! (Prof. Yael Artom)





COMMUNICATION AND NEWS

FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE :
PRE-REGISTRATION FOR THE A.Y. 2025-2026 link
<https://genoaschool.eu/admissions/>

FIRST EPISODE 'DIS & THAT' PODCAST

We're thrilled to announce the launch of something truly special: 'DIS &That', DIS Language Podcast! This isn't just any podcast—it's your gateway to exploring the world through languages, stories, and the vibrant cultural variety that makes our school so unique. Hosted by 2 DPI students, and the amazing DIS team, each episode takes on a new theme and features perspectives in the languages of our community—plus a special language spotlight!



Listen now: Podcast 'DIS & That' on Spotify _
<https://open.spotify.com/show/2FTr7q8WU0fM837sKAzCWY?si=Tn2hkmoNRRawGepQ9AGNcQ>

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AT MAGAZZINI DEL COTONE



On Sunday the 1st of December the traditional Christmas Bazaar was held at the Magazzini del Cotone. The charity event in which some DIS staff members and students participate is always well received each year. Head of School Elizabeth Coykendall Rice extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the event's success. Special recognition was given to the 'Refugees Welcome' participants and both DIS and ISG students.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR SANT'EGIDIO

During the week of December 9th to the 13th, a collection of sweets and Christmas treats took place to support the work of the Sant'Egidio community. Among their various volunteering activities and aid to those in need, during Christmas time they focus on providing underprivileged families with traditional Xmas sweets. A special thank you to all the students, their families, and the entire DIS staff for their invaluable contributions.





PRIMARY ACTIVITIES

ALL CLASSES - NATIVITY SCENE AND DECORATIONS



The magic of Christmas has arrived at the Primary School, where all the classes joined forces to create a unique and special Nativity scene, which is now complete. This project not only provided an opportunity to express creativity but also encouraged reflection on the value of Christmas traditions, both religious and cultural. Each class contributed by bringing one or more figurines or items that represent significant symbols of the Nativity. In addition, to celebrate the spirit of the upcoming festivities, the classrooms were adorned with garlands and decorations crafted by the children. A special guest also arrived in third grade: the elf Pepper Minstix!



PYP3 - CROSS-STITCH



On Monday the 25th of November, Primary 3 welcomed Mrs. Mariangela, the mother of teacher Marta. Last year, she taught the children how to sew buttons, and this year they learnt cross-stitching to create Christmas decorations. Learning embroidery develops coordination, teaches math (measuring, counting, etc.), and fosters planning and organizational skills (designing a project, planning steps, setting goals, and practicing perseverance and hope for the future). In short, it's a truly interdisciplinary activity! For the children, the pride and satisfaction in creating something themselves is invaluable. Making mistakes, correcting them, improving, starting and finishing a project, and crafting something unique helps them feel accomplished and confident. They were able to show their creations to grandparents and friends—and be proud of their work! (Prof. Marta Giannone)

PYP2 - PYP3 - PYP4 IN LIBRARY

At the end of November and throughout December, our school library transformed into a place of discovery and learning for the second, third, and fourth grades of the PYP program. On different days, students participated in activities designed to become familiar with the library space, borrowing rules, book care, and returns. They all started with an introductory tour of the library and the second graders took part in a mini treasure hunt. Divided into small groups, the children explored the collections, learning to navigate shelves and sections dedicated to their interests and ages.

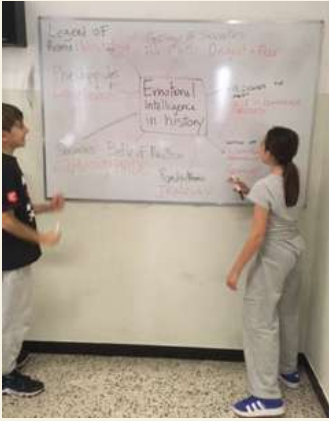
Taking inspiration from the children's stories about nightmares, shared in recent days with the teacher Marta, PYP3 was guided by the Librarian in an activity to stimulate imagination, exploring a common emotion such as fear in a positive and creative way. The Librarian read the book 'Il Paese senza Paura' and then used the story's ideas to facilitate a group discussion on how to confront personal fears. Working in groups, the students brainstormed words that symbolised the opposite of fear, and started a creative project. Each group will produce a story, poem, song, or recipe, to fight fear through creativity. These creations will be presented in the Library in the coming weeks, offering an opportunity for sharing and growth. PYP4, lead by the Librarian and Prof. Gabelli, discovered the world of literary genres through an educational quiz. Using dictionaries, the children explored definitions and characteristics of genres like science fiction, fantasy, and narrative fiction, learning to identify and appreciate their unique features. In future visits, they will further deepen their understanding of the language and terminology typical of the library, using the vocabulary.





MYP ACTIVITIES

MYP1 - TEACHING EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE THROUGH HISTORY



We are not born with emotions, emotions are learnt. The place where you mostly learn them are at home and at school. In the latter, you meet up, laugh and work with peers, but you also learn emotions by reading and studying. History, in particular, is a handbook of the most amazing and most horrible things humanity has ever done, and there is a ton to learn from it. Students were asked to link historical events with emotions. Examples include how the Battle of Salamis shows arrogance, how Socrates can be a perfect example of curiosity, how Alexander the Great shows self-confidence and how Spartan women represent determination and courage. History is not studying dates, history is learning how to be better humans. (Prof. Pierfrancesco Rolla)

MYP2 - SPANISH

With the MYP 2 students, we have launched the project 'Correspondencia Transatlántica: de Génova a Buenos Aires', a letter exchange with third-year middle school students from St. Martin in the Fields School in Buenos Aires.



On November 27th, the first letters from Argentina arrived, to which our students have already replied. The project aims to develop communication and writing skills in Spanish, foster cultural awareness of Spanish-speaking communities—particularly the Argentinian one—and promote critical thinking and intercultural competence. It also allows students to explore similarities and differences in language learning journeys, as Argentinian students study Italian as their third language. The first exchange was a success! (Prof. Antonella Nespola)

MYP3 - PARKOUR

MYP3 students are having a unique experience to deepen their studies on muscles and bones. After exploring the complex dynamics of human anatomy in class, they are now bringing this knowledge to life through Parkour.



MYP4 - THE POWER OF DREAMS



In a fun, hands-on activity, MYP4 students dove into the world of psychology and neuroscience by exploring the nature and meaning of dreams. After a lesson on how dreams have been understood and analyzed throughout history, they asked their classmates about their dreams and tried to interpret them. Using ideas from psychology about the emotional and symbolic side of dreams, along with neuroscience insights on how dreams help with memory, problem-solving, and managing emotions, the students made real-life connections to what they've been learning. (Prof. Rolla)





MYP ACTIVITIES

MYP5 - DEBATING CLUB

The Debating Club for MYP5 students has officially begun! The students have already achieved third place in Liguria by participating in a series of debates at the Science Festival. Between January and May, they will take part in national competitions, a debate at Bocconi University, and another at Palazzo Ducale as part of "La Storia in Piazza." In addition to classroom debates on topics such as national security and the conflict in Ukraine, the students attended three specialized lessons aimed at becoming excellent debaters:

1) Public Speaking: Analyzing speeches from Pericles to Obama and practicing vocal exercises; 2) Advanced Research Skills: Learning to conduct PhD-level research and identifying common biases in scientific literature; 3) Body Expression: Exploring "embodiment" techniques to use their body as a tool for communication. The third lesson was taught by Professor Leonardo Orlandini, an Italian teacher who is also a choreographer, dramatist, dance instructor, and theater critic. (Prof. Rolla and Prof. Orlandini)



MYP4 - DP2 AT TEATRO DELLA TOSSE

On Friday evening, November 29th, we went to the theater with a group of students, from MYP4 to DP2, to see 'La Signora delle Camelie' at the Teatro della Tosse. This work gave rise to one of the most intense female "stereotypes" of the 19th century, becoming the model for numerous highly successful artistic creations, including Verdi's 'La Traviata'.



Over the centuries, the impossible love between Marguerite Gautier and Armand Duval has been retold countless times, becoming perhaps the greatest modern romantic myth. However, Dumas son's novel is actually based on a true story. The students attended a performance that bridged the 19th century and the ultra-contemporary, portraying not only the heroine's anguish and nobility of spirit but also the voyeurism of a society that channels its tensions onto the body of the woman. (Prof. Irene Gagliardi)

MYP5 E DPI - EOES

Every year, students test themselves in the experimental team competition in Physics, Chemistry and Biology, applying the knowledge acquired in these disciplines. During this phase, the best group from the EOESit is selected, which is made up of three students who are experts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics respectively, and who will proceed to the next stage. Although the score obtained in the internal competition does not directly influence admission to the national competition, it is crucial that the winning team demonstrates practical skills, analytical ability and competence in processing the data collected.





DP ACTIVITIES - Focus on CAS

Tutoring provides a profound opportunity to learn, share, and grow, not only for those receiving guidance but also for the tutors themselves. This month, three of our DPI students, Ambre Konko, Matilda Banchemo, and Nicola Cabiddu, shared their reflections on their tutoring experiences.

Ambre, who is assisting students from Duchessa di Galliera in studying English, states:

'I learnt a lot of things during this experience: I learnt that everyone has a different way to study and memorize. It's important to be kind with everyone and always make sure that the person helped needs to be comfortable around me. I felt self accomplishment, helping these girls made my day.

When I told this group of girls I spoke four languages they were all astonished. During that moment I learned that I was privileged and needed to start being thankful for the education that is given to me. It was a beautiful experience, in fact I am going to continue doing it.' (Ambre Konko)



Matilda assists Prof. Ebury once a week, in the after-school program for MYP English language students:

'To be honest, when I started this service, I was really nervous. I didn't know any of the kids. I wasn't sure what kind of grammar they would be working on, or if I would be able to help them properly. So, I did my best to prepare by reviewing some English verb tenses. Fortunately, when the time came, some of my classmates were there too, which made me feel a bit more at ease.

When Mr Ebury (the English teacher) introduced us to the kids, he seemed to already take for granted we wouldn't remember some of the rules which helped me a lot as I didn't feel unprepared anymore. I was assigned to MYP3 kids, and while working with them, I realised how much it now comes naturally to speak using correct grammar which is surprising to me as I am an Italian mother tongue speaker. Due to my lack of ability to explain to the kids why they should use one tense rather than another, I was encouraged to come more prepared for next lessons as I now knew what they would be working on and was able to speak with their main English teacher and ask what they needed to study in the future. Overall, I really enjoy this kind of service as I believe trying to teach someone else is one of the best ways to learn the subject yourself. Even though grammar comes naturally, I'm still not perfect, so this activity is helpful for me as well. I also personally have fun trying to find ways to make the learning fun, so it has been a nice experience so far.' (Matilda Banchemo)

Nicola helps primary pupils in the after school program:

'At first I was dubious about my tutoring skills and was always scared that what I was doing could be wrong. Indeed, at first the children saw me as suspicious, but then I learned a great lesson: everything can be achieved with kindness. By letting them find their method and not imposing one on them, by giving them rewards for their actions and explaining concepts with familiar objects, they improved .

They even started seeing me in a different light: now they try to hug me and call me "Maestro Nicola" and I'm really proud of that title. Now I have a lot more confidence and I started to help the new tutors to understand the children to make their work easier. Tutoring makes me happier as children are full of happiness and don't worry about anything, and this feeling of peace and freedom spreads to the tutors.' (Nicola Cabiddu)



DIS HAPPENINGS is curated by Elizabeth Coykendall Rice and Monica Meriggi



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND**



HAPPY NEW YEAR