The International School of Béarn's News

All newsletters are on our website: www.isbearn.com **N°4**

Thursday 12th November 2026

MARIA'S NOTES :

PRIMARY NEWS John-Mark Hanrahan

As usual, we have been pretty busy since coming back from the October holidays but before we tell you what we've been up to…
Before the holidays, the student council got together to add up how much money we raised for La Ligue Contre La Cancer when we all added a splash of pink to our uniforms in support of Octobre Rose. We're extremely proud and pleased to announce that, with 50€ donated from the PTA bake sale, in total, we raised a whopping **253.50€!!!**



To find out more about the important work that your generous donations will help fund, please follow the link: https://www.ligue-cancer.net/64-pyreneesatlantiques/adresses/pau-espace-ligue

Trips to Les Méliès cinema
Grade 5 had a very lucky start to the half term, when on the second day back, the French department took them on a trip to the cinema to watch a film adaptation of a text that they will be working on in class. They thoroughly enjoyed the film Le Corset and came back to school "ravis" about their trip!
Less than a week later, it was Grade 3's turn to sample some French culture, and they too headed off to Les Méliès with Miss Suzanne and Miss Vanessa, to watch the famous French masterpiece, *Shaun le Mouton.*











Interhouse football

Since returning to school, on Thursday and Friday lunchtimes, interhouse football has returned. The organisation for this year will be slightly different to previous years. Matches will be played on **Thursdays** at lunchtime for **Grade 4, 5 & 6** students, whilst **Grades 1, 2 & 3** will play on **Fridays.**

Even if the children have never played football before, its a great way to support their team because they win house points just for taking part! At the end of the tournament, the winning house team from 4,5,6 and 1,2,3 will win the ISB football trophy, as well as an extra trophy for their house points tracker. Last year's winners were the blue team for KS2 and the green team for KS1... let's see if they can retain their titles, or if another team will defeat them!



The first match was fantastic and was hotly contested between the red and the greens, with lots of great chances at both ends.

There was some very good defending from the reds, but it ended with a resounding victory from the greens who finished 7-1. ⚽ **A big THANKYOU to Miss Suzanne for giving up her lunch-time to organise this fun event!**

That's not by any means the only exciting things happening at lunchtimes in the ISB primary school! There are also lots of children who have been enjoying competing on Tuesday lunchtimes at Times Tables Rock Stars club, thanks to Miss Nairac; Karaoke club with Miss Heather; Monday Madness, where Miss Suzanne gets out a range of sports equipment for the children to build assault courses and play different games; and Miss Murielle and Miss Clara have also been opening the libraries too once a week, so that children can go and listen to stories, read and draw.














Enriching our Curriculum

Some of you may have received emails from your children's teachers inviting them to an enrichment workshop. Each term, the subject coordinators in the Primary school will run an 'Enrichment Workshop' for a small group of children. These 'workshops' give children opportunities to try new and varied activities that may not strictly fit into the curriculum, but that develop character, resilience and motivation, and encourage them to pursue wider goals.

Children invited to an enrichment workshop, will go off timetable and work on a special activity with the subject coordinator for an hour, half a day or even a full day in just a small group of children. There are many aims of the workshops, but some of these are:

- To boost the confidence of a child in a specific subject.
- To stretch and extend more-able pupils in a specific subject.
- To give a child a new found love of a subject etc.

If you receive an email, don't worry you don't need to do anything!

Just before the holidays, Benjamin KHORRAMI, Elie BEVILLON, Tabitha THOMSON, Blanca MENENDEZ, Yanis DAME and Rafael SANTOS were training for the next Olympic Games, trying out their sprints and longer distance running. They managed to work out their speed using a special triangular formula! (Measuring, adding, calculating and rounding, fun and laughs were all included - fabulous mathematicians). Well done to you all 😈💫🌟😁 and a BIG THANK YOU to Miss Nairac!!







Then, last Friday, some of our Grade 4 and 5 students took part in an exciting Literacy workshop all about **Storytelling!** Arthur CORVAISIER, Louis ROULANCE, Maria Paula LOPEZ JIMENEZ, Jimena ARROYO CRUZ, Sara TERAN, Kiratleen KAUR. Their aim was to discover how they can bring stories to life by using expressive voices, actions and intonation to capture an audience's imagination. They kicked things off with some fun activities, experimenting with different voices and actions to show emotions such as fear, excitement and boredom.

They then put their skills to the test as Miss Walters shared the story of *Eddie and the Gerbils*, by Michael Rosen, using plenty of expression, actions and dramatic voice changes! Next, the children worked together to sequence the story, identifying its beginning, middle and end. The children then teamed up in pairs, each taking responsibility for a section of the story and preparing to retell it in their own words. There was plenty of room for creativity, improvisation and a little dramatic flair!

Considering how little time they had to prepare, everyone did a fantastic job. It was wonderful to see the children growing in confidence, using their imaginations and having fun bringing the story to life. If you want to see their finished performance, you can check it out on TeamISB!

Thanks again to Miss Walters for this inspiring workshop!









Halloween Discos

We would like to say another big **THANK YOU** to the **Primary Student Council** and **the PTA** for organising the spooktastic discos before the holidays. As you can see from the photos, everybody had a great time dancing, eating sweets and pizza and drinking vampire blood and monster snot! There were some amazing costumes too, and as promised, the student council awarded prizes for the bast home-made costumes…See if you can guess who some the winners were below…

















All of the money raised from the sales of pizza and tickets from the disco will be donated to our chosen charity, OGFA. We'll let you know how much this is, once the student council have collected even more money, with their next fun(d)-raising idea!!! (More info to come shortly!)

OGFA

Once again, this year we are supporting the local charity **OGFA**, who works with families experiencing homelessness.

We would like to ask the **whole school** to support this initiative because we have been told that there's often a shortage of gifts for teenagers.

OGFA is a charity created in Jurançon in 1951. They offer accommodation to 1300 homeless people in and around Pau on both a temporary and permanent basis. There are many reasons why people may find themselves needing shelter ranging from women and children seeking shelter due to domestic violence to families who have had to flee their homes in other countries because of war.

For many of these families, there may be no present waiting for them on Christmas morning. Together, we would like to help make this time a little brighter.

We will be organising a **Christmas Gift Drive** and would love your support:

- **Primary pupils (Early Years –Grade 6):** Please donate a **new toy suitable for a child from birth to age 11**.
- **Secondary pupils (Year 7 and above)*:*** We are asking students to donate a gift for a child of **their own age and gender**, something they themselves would enjoy receiving.

All gifts should be **unwrapped, and brought into school by *Wednesday 9th December***. This allows the charity to match presents with the right children and families.

Please note that OGFA do not require donations of cuddly toys or items like roller skates/scooters as they have plenty of these in their centres already.

Your generosity will help ensure that every child OGFA supports has a present to open and a reason to smile on Christmas morning.

Thank you, as always, for your kindness and support.

ISB X Scholastic Book Club

There are **only 8 days left to order** from our latest **Scholastic Book Club**. Just go to https://eu-schools.scholastic.co.uk/international-school-of-bearn/digital-book-club to browse the latest books and place your order.

Every €1 you spend on this month's Book Club will earn **20¢ for our school** in Scholastic Rewards.



Feminine de pau

Following on from our great efforts for October Rose. Last Sunday, many of our amazing teachers and parents took part in a special running race held in Pau: La Feminine! This is a special race that raises money for women's cancer charities and takes place twice a year in Pau. The course is 7km long and it was lovely to see lots of the mums from ISB supporting this special cause.







Remembrance Assembly

This week we had a beautiful assembly, presented by Grade 5, all about why we were having the day off on Wednesday (November 11th).

The Grade 5 children wore poppies and bluets and began the assembly by talking about things that we try to remember e.g. people's birthdays, our spellings, our jumpers and book bags etc They reminded us that it can be hard to remember things in our busy lives, and gave us lots of ways to help us remember things, like tying a knot in a handkerchief, keeping a calendar, keeping post-its etc.

They then showed us a moving video, about some animals hiding during a conflict before explaining that a long time ago there was a big war, in which lots of people died. We now try to remember the people that fought and died in that war, and all people affected by war, in the hope that by remembering how sad it was, people will choose a better way to solve conflicts.

Grade 5 then acted out some ways that we can show care for one another, such as giving a friend a hug, helping people in trouble, being welcoming to people etc.

It really was a moving assembly, which really paid respects to importance of Remembrance Day and made us all think about Wednesday not just being a day off school, but a day to remember and reflect and to think positively about how we can behave to make the world a better place.

They finally finished the assembly with a uplifting rendition of "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" – Check out the video on TeamISB.









Certificates

There were quite a few certificates of merit awarded during the last two assemblies, to some very deserving students. Well done everyone!!!













House Points Trophy
This week it was the blue team who were triumphant in the race to earn the most house-points! Milana, the blue team House Captain came to the front to lift the sought-after trophy.



D of E Autumn Find-Its
Tom Lally, a student in the Secondary school, has organised an Autumn treasure hunt for the primary school as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award vonluntary work. Tom has hidden 5 pictures around the primary school, with house-points going to the first person from each class to spot one. This week, he came to the assembly to award Esmée (G4) a chocolate orange, for being the first person in the whole school to spot the pumpkin picture. What a lucky girl! A big THANK YOU to Tom for this fun challenge!





IMPORTANT DATES
Tuesday 17th November (0900-1030) – Science Odyssey workshop for Grade 5 at school "Mathémagique"
Wednesday 18th November (0835) – Reception Class Early Reading Workshops (All Rec parents welcome)
Monday 23rd November (0900) – PTA Meeting (All parents welcome)
Wednesday 2nd December (0915) – EYFS CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA!! (ALL EYFS parents welcome)
PTA Bake Sale (G2/9 to provide cakes)
Monday 7th December (1435) – Grade 6 assembly (All Grade 6 parents welcome)
Wednesday 9th December – Last day to donate gifts to OGFA
Pyjama Day, organised by the Primary Student Council (info to follow)
PTA Gingerbread afternoon (info to follow)
Thursday 10th December – Grades 1&2 theatre rehearsal @Espace Dantza, Pau (info to follow)
Friday 11th December (0930) – Grades 1 & 2 Christmas Show at Espace Dantza, Pau (info to follow) (ALL G1 & 2 parents welcome)
Monday 14th December (1030) – Grades 3-6 singing for the old people at Bon Pasteur Maria Consolata retirement home
Tuesday 15th December – December Reports available to parents
Grade 3-6 singing for the old people at Jardins d'Iroises retirement home

Wednesday 16th December (0915) – Grades 3-6 MUSICAL BREAKFAST (All G3-6 parents welcome)

Last day of school – School ends at 1200

Early Years have been busy creating artwork inspired by Van Gogh's famous painting "Starry Night".






In Mathematics, Early Years 1 have been learning to compare quantities using mathematical language such as more/ less/same, while Early Years 2 practised recognising numerals 0-5 and matching them to quantities.

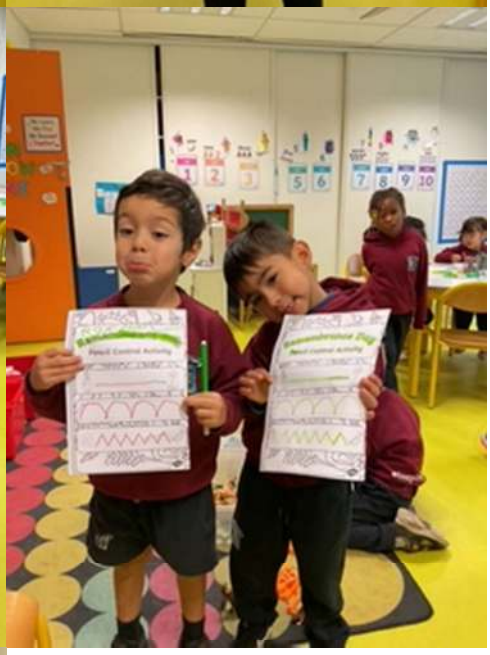




Reception children are enjoying their chosen activities after drop off time in the morning and also during Terrific Tuesday and Fantastic. They play together, build and solve problems, learn to work together, take turn and interact with each other. They learn to take control of their learning, treat things and people around them with respect, tidy up and have fun.

Well done Reception !



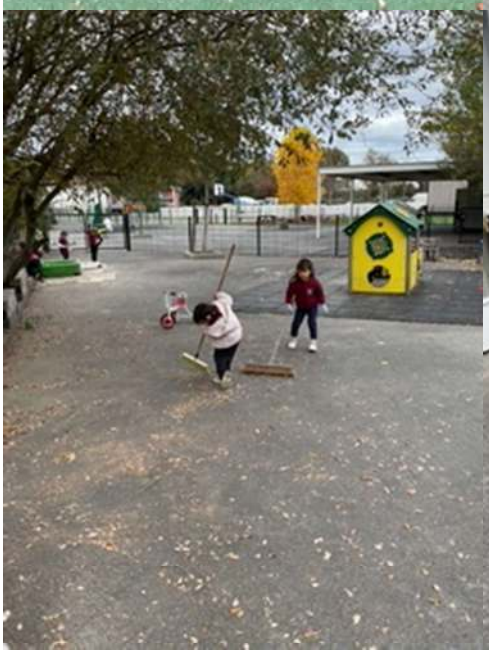











In Art, Reception had fun creating these Poppy collages.





There's been a lot of activities in **Grade 1** over the past week. Amongst other things, we've been painting recounts, getting back to role play in the pet shop, preparing poppies for Remembrance Day, finding out how others travel to school using pictograms and taking part in Miss Coco's magical Science experiment.















In Art Grade 1 painted these beautiful Poppies.











Grade 2 have been investigating the similarities and differences between seeds and bulbs in science. We have been busy preparing the garden for spring and can't wait to see what grows!











In Art Grade 2 painted Poppies









Grade 3 have been calculating fractions of numbers! It's very tricky, but we've been using cubes and our times tables facts to help us!











Grade 3 were very spoilt with a trip to the Méliès cinema this week!

À l'occasion du 11 novembre, les élèves de Grade 3 ont réalisé leur propre bleuet du souvenir, qu'ils ont soigneusement colorié et découpé avant de l'accrocher à leur uniforme scolaire. Une jolie façon de participer à cette journée de commémoration et de rendre hommage à celles et ceux qui ont donné leur vie pour la paix et la liberté.

To mark Remembrance Day on 11 November, our Grade 3 pupils created their own cornflowers of remembrance, carefully colouring and cutting them out before wearing them on their school uniforms. A lovely way to take part in this special day of remembrance and pay tribute to all those who gave their lives for peace and freedom.



In Art **Grade 4** created these Poppy sculptures.

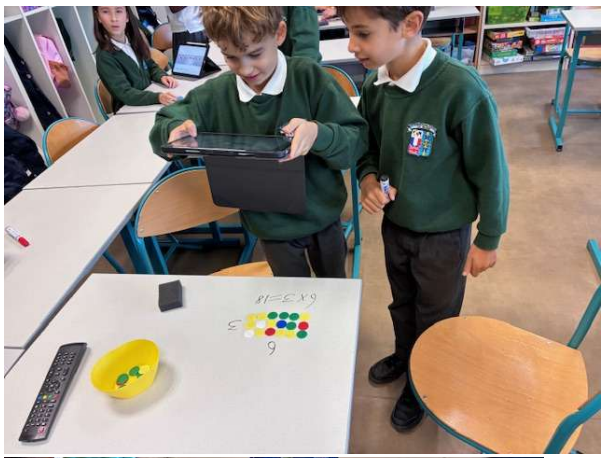


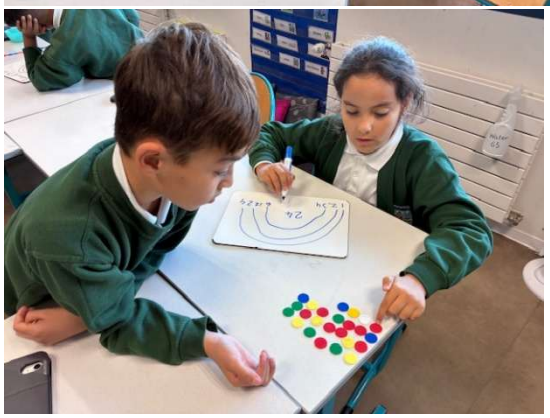




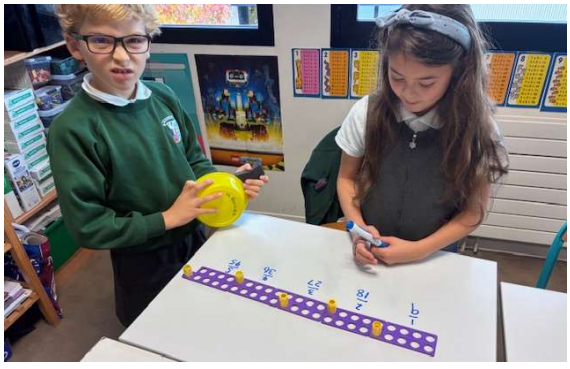
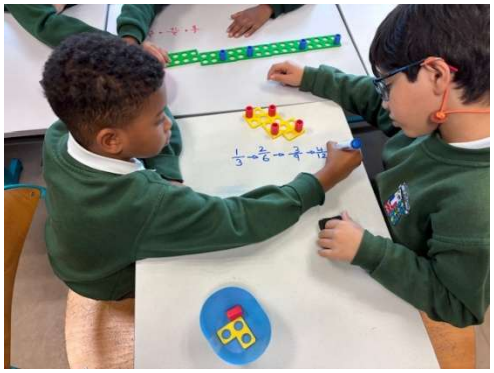


It's been all about investigating **multiples**, **divisibility**, **factors**, **products** and **fractions** this week in maths in Grade 5!







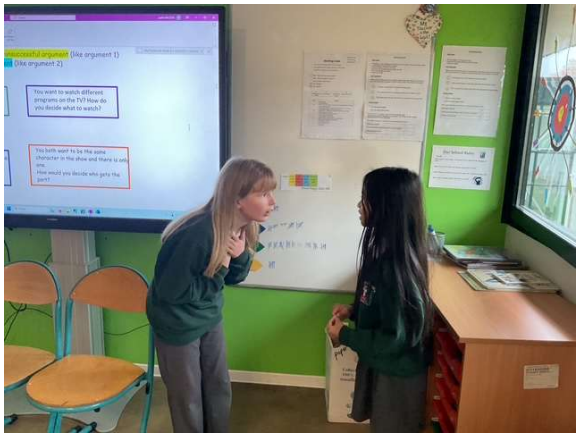
Grade 6 have been busy making blood in science, working with negative numbers in maths and role-playing successful and unsuccessful arguments in English, in preparation for our work on debating.

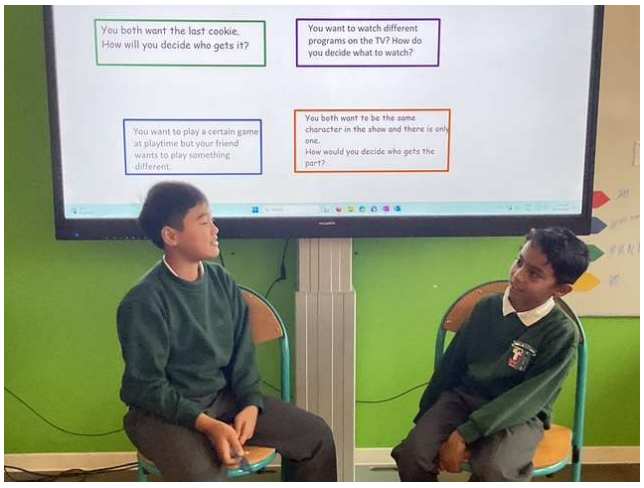


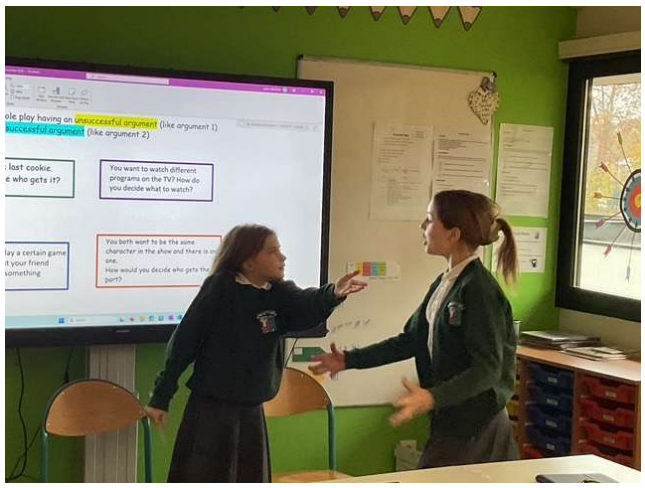



Maths






You both want the last cookie. How will you decide who gets it?
You want to watch different programs on the TV? How do you decide what to watch?
You want to play a certain game at playtime but your friend wants to play something different.
You both want to be the same character in the show and there is only one. How would you decide who gets the part?


You want to watch different programs on the TV? How do you decide what to watch?

In Art, Grade 6 created these Poppy designs using different media.



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Aujourd'hui, après une belle assemblée où nous avons eu l'occasion d'apprendre quelques moments d'Histoire sur la première guerre mondiale, avec nos professeurs de Français, nous nous sommes rassemblés pour évoquer à nouveau l'armistice du 11 novembre et le symbole de paix qu'il représente. Pour commencer, nous avons tous partagé sous formes de mots divers ce que nous évoque le mot « paix ». Ensuite, après avoir fabriqué une colombe, nous avons pu, en FLE, réécrire individuellement sur notre colombe des mots que nous avions vus concernant la paix, et en FLM, cela nous a permis de nous inspirer de ces mots pour rédiger quelques lignes évoquant des scènes ou des moments de paix. Un bon moment de partage!

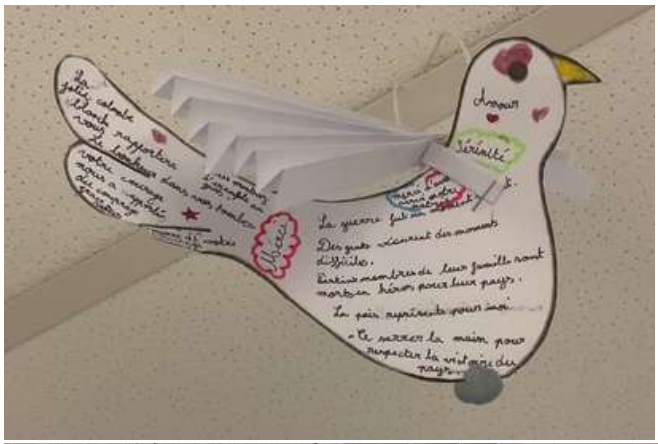


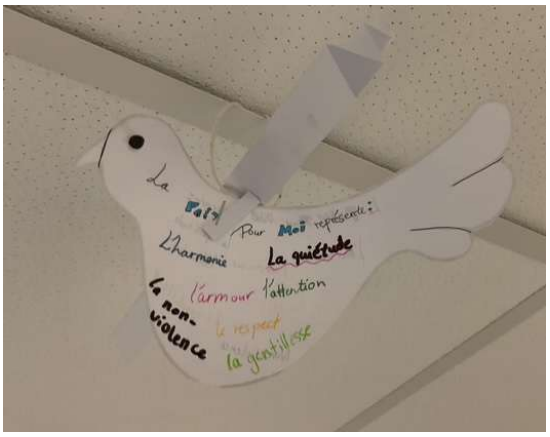


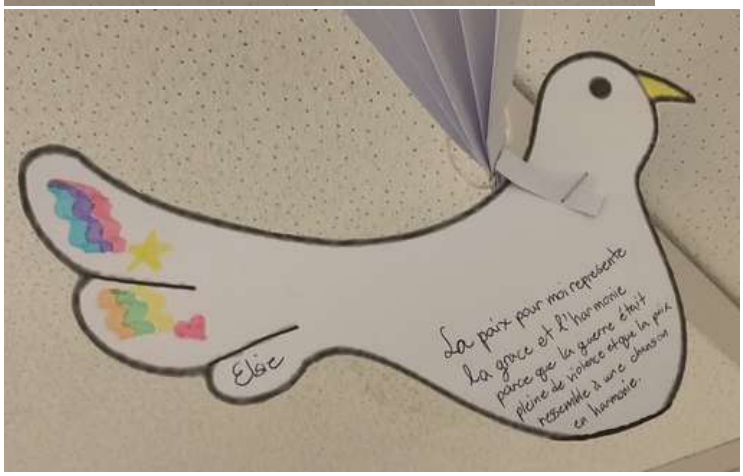


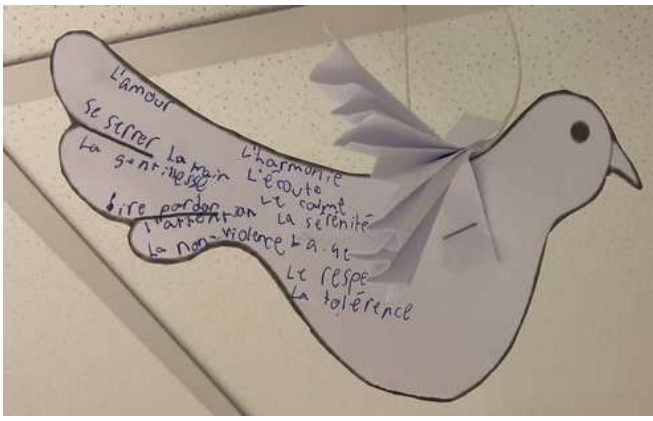


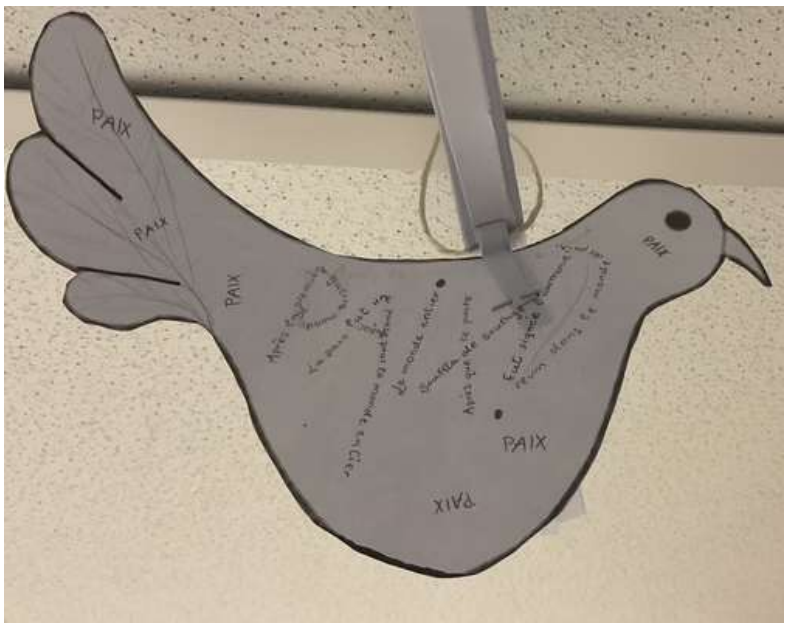



Amour
Sérénité
La guerre fait des morts
Des gens viennent des moments difficiles.
Certains membres de leur famille sont morts en guerre pour leur pays.
La paix représente pour moi
Se serrer la main pour respecter la victoire des pays


La Paix
Pour Moi représente:
L'harmonie
La quiétude
l'amour
l'attention
La non-violence
le respect
la gentillesse


Elsie
La paix pour moi représente la grace et l'harmonie parce que la guerre était pleine de violence et que la paix ressemble à une chanson en harmonie.


L'amour
Se serrer la main
L'harmonie
L'écoute
Le calme
La sérénité
La gentillesse
Faire pardon
l'attention
La non-violence
Le respe
La tolérence


PAIX
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G7 and G8 at PE/Circu











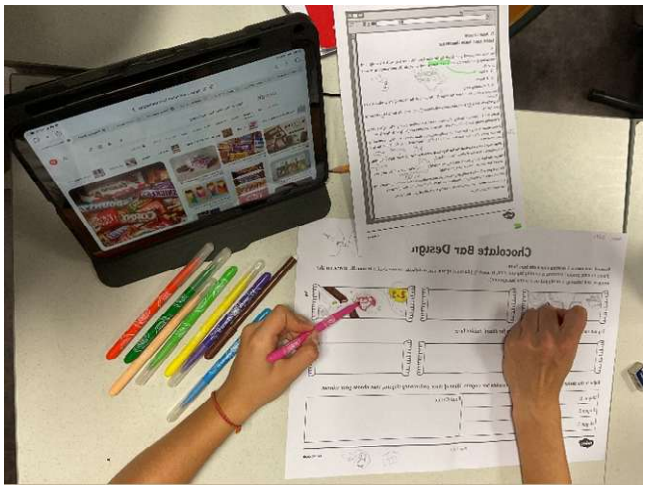


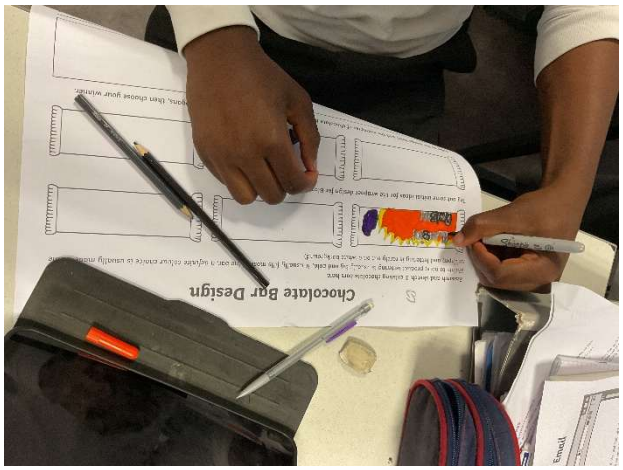


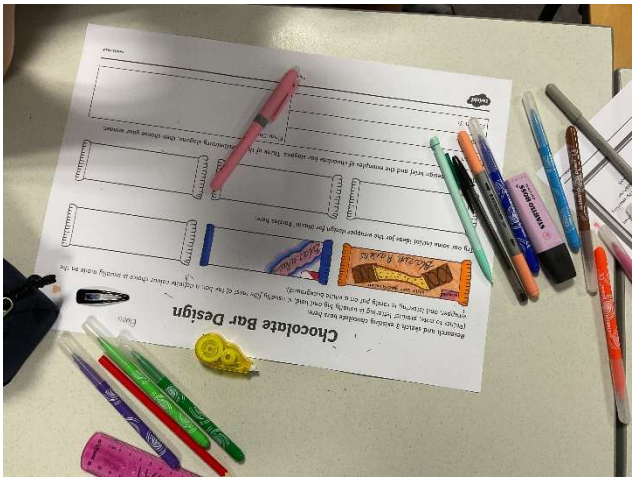


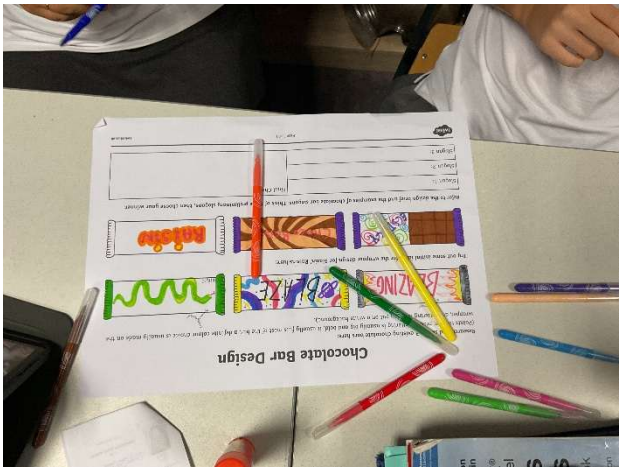


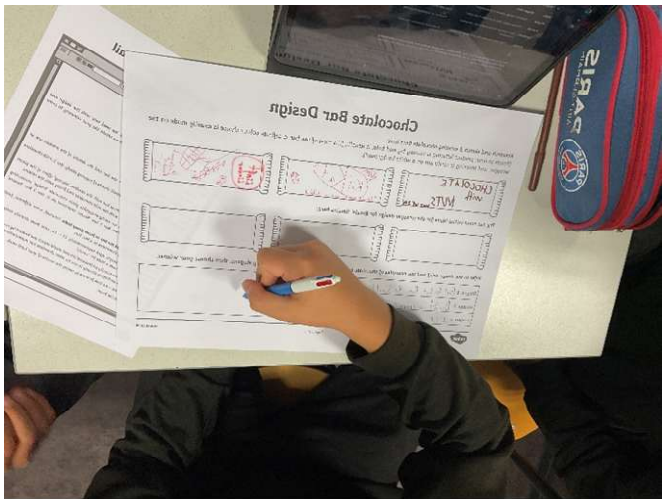
Grade 11 in Business studies - packaging and slogan for business project in progress











Grade 11 are studying homeostasis and they have done an experiment to investigate changes in body temperature over time in different conditions.



Grade 12 have been doing experiments with enzymes!









On Monday 12th October **Grade 12 Geographers** went on a field trip to study river processes and management. The trip involved measuring the changes in the physical characteristics of the Gave de Lourdios from it's source to it's confluence with The Gave d'Aspe. An excellent time was had by all!

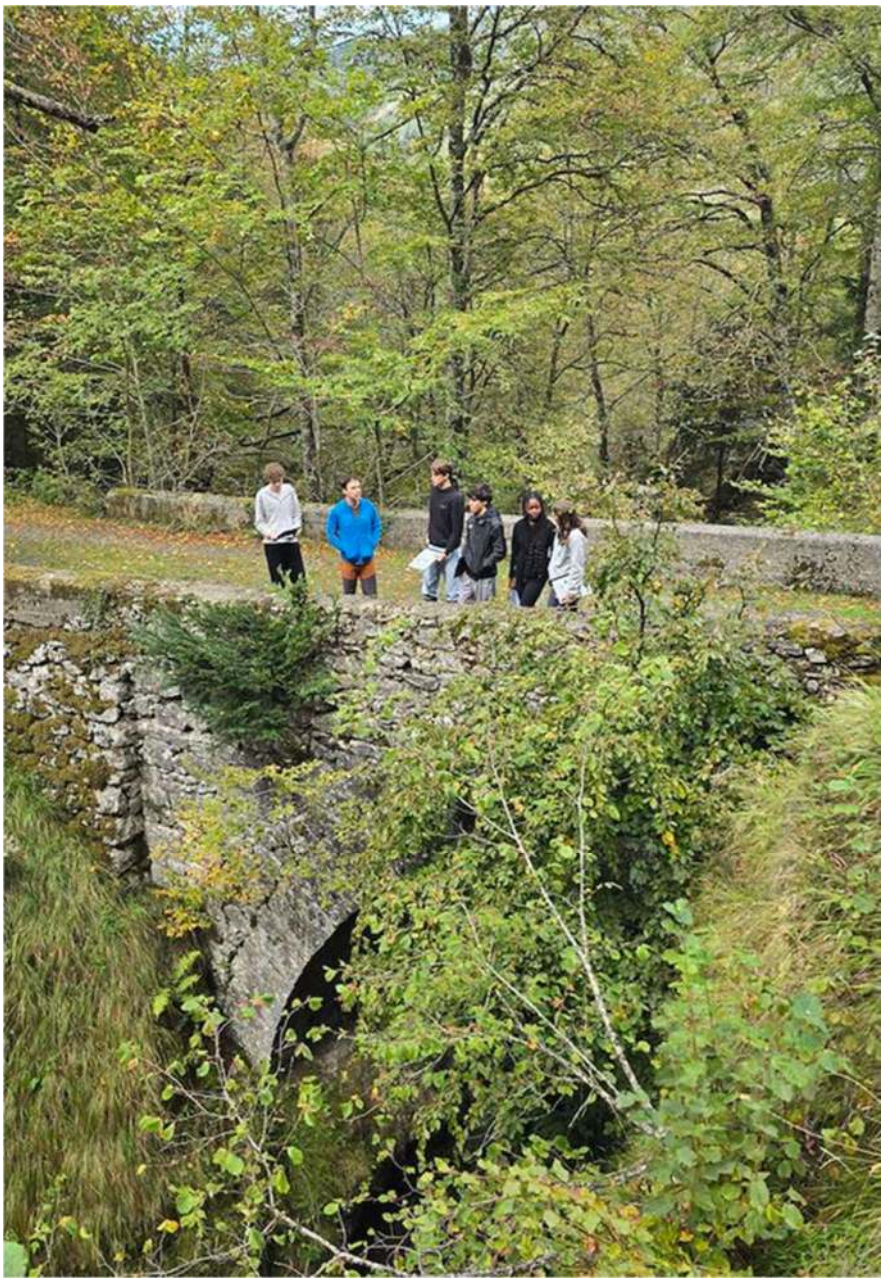












SECONDARY UPDATE Ann Byrne

G12 and G13 Parents Evening Tuesday 17 November

We hope that all of our Grade 12 and 13 parents will attend Tuesday's Parents Evening together with your son/daughter – it is important that students attend these appointments since it is their future that teachers will be giving advice upon. Bookings are online and the section below details how to make your booking if you have not already done so.

Mock Exams

Mocks for Grades 11 – 13 start on Monday 30 November and run for 2 weeks. The exam timetable can be found on your FireFly dashboard. Mock exams ARE VERY important, they give students and teachers a clear idea of any areas for improvement, they help students to pace themselves under timed exam conditions, as well as reducing anxiety by removing the fear of the unknown and making the exam situation feel much more manageable. From Friday the only homework being set for G11 – 13 will be revision focused tasks.

Parents Evenings, Exams and Report Dates for Term 1

Date	Event
17 November	G12 and 13 Parents Evening 16:00 – 17:50
29 Nov – 10 Dec	G11, 12, 13 Mock Exams
15 December	G7, 8, 9, 10 End of Term reports published

Dates for your Calendar

Date(s)	Event
16 December 12:00 finish – 03 January 2027	Christmas break

Booking Parents Evenings

Booking for all Parents Evening is through the Parent Portal. See below for details of how to make your appointment.

To book appointments:

1. Log into the Parent Portal at https://parents.isbearn.com/ and click on 'Meetings' on the menu bar
2. Next click on 'Make an Appointment' and select the subject and required appointment time.

You should have received an email with your credentials to log into the Parent Portal; your username will start with family.... @isbearn.com

If you do not have your credentials please contact either myself ann.byrne@isbearn.com or Mr Pearse james.pearse@isbearn.com

Planning Ahead – G10 Work Experience

All G10 students are encouraged to participate in 'Work Experience' or here in France you will hear this referred to as 'un stage'. Ideally students should research and approach local employers to find work experience in a field that interests them, and in which they may wish to pursue a future career; in reality it is often the parent's workplace or 'friend of the family' who offer the work placements. Regardless of how the work placement is found it offers a great experience for students to spend time in a work environment and to learn valuable skills.

Work placements should be:

- 1 – 2 weeks in duration
- **Organised for a time during school holidays**

Students/parents will need to:

- Contact Maria for a 'Convention du Stage' ahead of the work placement
- Email Ms Byrne ann.byrne@isbearn.com after the work experience with details of the dates of the placement and the employers contact details.

Grade 10 is an ideal year for students to undertake work experience and we thoroughly recommend that students take advantage of this being a 'lighter' year before exams take place; however, **it is also possible to complete work experience in the higher grades and the same criteria apply as listed above.**



Have a nice week
Très Bonne Semaine
Maria



