

QSI International School of Skopje Weekly News



Ilindenska BB, Reon 39A, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia

E-mail: Skopje@qsi.org Phone: 389-2-306-7678

Website: www.qsi.org



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The 2008-09 School Year is off to an awesome start!



I cannot express how delighted my wife and I are about being in Skopje. We arrived in early August and we have been enthralled with the hospitality of the entire school community: students, parents, and staff. Of course, we have to mention the beauty of the city with the wonderful outdoor restaurants and coffee bistros.

The new teachers and staff: Sondra and Michael Teeter, Charles and Marianne Strozewski, Debby Tower, Virginia Radford, Daniela Tomovska, and Beti Siljanoska are a wonderful addition to our returning group. We have all worked hard to get to know each other and everyone has done a marvelous job in preparing their rooms for the children. Our first two days of school were exciting as the children greeted their friends and teachers after a long summer holiday. New students quickly made friends and have adjusted to their school and culture. Teachers and students during the second week of school quickly started to dive into their text books and the Essential Units of our QSI Performance Oriented Mastery Learning Curriculum. As I walk around the school and visit the classrooms, everyone seems to be working hard on their activities and lessons.

I must admit that learning over 115 student names is a difficult task, but I do think that I can now recognize 75 percent of the children and call them by name. A few more weeks and I should remember them all. I am slowly starting on parents names as well.

As we start our second complete week, I know I will get to meet more of the school community, but I am already very excited at our school start-up and the enthusiasm of everyone. Thank you all for helping us feel comfortable and relaxed.

University of Cambridge IGCSE Program

This past spring several of our teachers began the process of becoming certified in the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (Cambridge IGCSE Program). Students between the ages of 14 and 16 years old taking courses taught by teachers certified in IGCSE Program are better prepared for academic success and entry into universities worldwide. Teachers at QSI International School of Skopje that have completed the certification process include Ivana Gribovski, Christian Adam, Julija Adam, Daniela Jankuloska, Mary Demmy, Vadah Kayali, and Marga Jovanovska. We have received word that Ms Ivana, Ms Julija, Ms Daniela, and Ms Mary have received their diplomas. We are sure that the others' certification and diplomas will follow. This work and their dedication are a testament to their commitment to our secondary students.

International Youth Center

The International Youth Center (IYS) is a local organization, which aims to meet the needs of young people. Their primary purpose is to provide opportunities for children to participate in sports programs. Their activities and athletic programs include: swimming, basketball, soccer, hiking, skiing, etc. They can be contacted at 075877728, ask for Risto.

Adventures in Level 14 Language Arts -- Ms. Mary

What do you see when you look at a work of art? Can you capture its spirit and communicate its power in your own words? Can you take inspiration from an image and weave a story from the threads of ideas it produces?

Did You Know? The world's largest soap bubble was as long as four school buses.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

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These were the two challenges I posed to my Level 14 Writing Class on a field trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Skopje at the end of our first full week of class.

The hope, that exposure to great art will produce more great art. To be continued...



Weekly Bulletin Items

- During our first week of school we sent home some important papers. Many of you have already completed and returned them to school. Thank you for completing them! If you have not completed them yet please do so as soon as possible as we need them to update our records especially for the Emergency Contact information.

- After School Activities will be starting on 15 September; an informational letter will be sent home this week, which will provide you with the information you need to know and the choices that the children will be able to choose from this term. Additional Activities may be added later.
- The trampoline that is on the grassy playground area does not belong to the school. It belongs to the cafeteria that caters our lunches and is used by them for their birthday parties. We have announced that the trampoline will not be used during school hours, as it is very dangerous. I have asked the Cafeteria owner to remove the trampoline as soon as possible because of the liability issues.

“There can be hope only for a society which acts as one big family, not as many separate ones.”

~ Anwar Sadat ~

Important Dates



- 8 Sep** - Macedonian Independence Day; No School
- 9 Sep** - PTO Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- 19 Sep** - Community Time 8:25 a.m. Recurring Event on Friday's.
- 19 Sep** - Book Sale; Fun Friday; Parent Orientation
- 21 Sep** - World Peace Day
- 25 Sep** - Open Stage 6:30 p.m.
- 2-3 Oct** - Teacher Professional Development; No School
- 7 Oct** - PTO Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- 10 Oct** - Fun Friday 3:30 p.m.
- 21 Oct** - 1st Quintile Ends
- 23 Oct** - Status Reports Go Home

How Would You Change Your Life?

Many of us live our lives based on a daily routine and seldom do we think of something special to change that pattern. We are driven by the job, and the daily task that we need to accomplish for a salary, promotion, enhanced opportunities. Maybe before we reach that 85 year old mark we should check our list of priorities and do some of the “fun” things we so often take for granted. Nadine Stair’s words of wisdom may help us adjust what we consider to be most important in our lives!

I Would Pick More Daisies! Don Herold (Adapted)

From <http://www.inspirationpeak.com/cgi-bin/stories.cgi?record=42>

When the late Nadine Stair of Louisville, Kentucky, was 85 years old, she was asked what she would do if she had her life to live over again.

"I'd make more mistakes next time," she said. "I'd relax. I would limber up. I would be sillier than I have been on this trip. I would take fewer things seriously. I would take more chances. I would climb more mountains and swim more rivers. I would eat more ice cream and fewer beans. I would perhaps have more actual troubles, but I'd have fewer imaginary ones.

"You see, I'm one of those people who live sensibly and sanely hour after hour, day after day. Oh, I've had my moments, and if I had to do it over again, I'd have more of them. In fact, I'd try to have nothing else; just moments, one after another, instead of living so many years ahead of each day. I've been one of those persons who never goes anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, and a raincoat. If I had to do it over again, I would travel lighter than I have.

"If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would go to more dances. I would ride more merry-go-rounds and I would pick more daisies."

