



**WAT**

**NEWSLETTER**  
**World Academy of Tirana**  
Montessori & IB PYP Programme

“Early years” - Montessori Method

**Toddlers and Infants** pg 1,2

**Casa Class** pg 3,4



IB PYP Programme

**Pre - Elementary Class** pg 5

**IB - PYP 1-5 Grades Class** pg 6, 7,8



International  
Baccalaureate



**My school. My happiness.**

## Dear Parents,

This is the first newsletter for this year and I'm glad to be the teacher in the toddlers' class once again. I believe and I'm quite positive that this will be a good year for all of us.

Before I start writing about the things we did this month, I want to thank the parents who were supportive and patient with their child's transition to school. This month we have been getting to know each other. We also started with simple lessons/materials that remind the children of home.

Further I have explained the program planned for toddlers. Our first and most important program is the use of Montessori materials.

This period of time includes presentations of materials, songs, books, arts and crafts, language, and music. Children are free to use them all day but some of them, particularly in the afternoon, decide to do different activities. Every Wednesday children have music with Mr. Balazs. On Fridays, apart from Montessori materials, they do cooking activities as well.



Three afternoons a week, the children will work with weekly themes plus Montessori materials. Two afternoons a week, they work with a class theme. A theme will last 2 weeks.

## Themes:

Colors, Numbers, Shapes, Weather, Fruits, Transportation, Winter, Snow, Animals, New years week.

Please note that the afternoon themes will include a book of coloring pages for each theme which the children will do only at school. Then when they are finished, they will take it home. Activities will also include a lot of talking and games depending on the theme. Books, language cards, language objects, and songs connect the 2 week theme with the Montessori program.

Kind Regards  
Ms. Nertila



## Note:

We're planning a "Montessori at home" workshop for parents. This training will help you to implement Montessori techniques and methods at home. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please let us know by the end of this week, Friday, October 7, 2011, by E-mail: [info@worldacademyoftirana.com](mailto:info@worldacademyoftirana.com), tel.: 04 24 44 014 or 04 24 44 336

## Dear Parents,

I am glad to share some news and information that has happened so far in the Casa class. First, I would like to talk about our daily routine and the plans for the rest of this year.

The first four weeks were to get the new children to adapt to the new environment of the classroom and ensure the continuity of those who have been part of the Casa class so far.

In the mornings the children arrive between 8 and 9. They usually have free options to choose an activity or help around the classroom. From 9 they have snack or work with different Montessori materials in different areas of the classroom. The new kids have had to learn the rules of the classroom and feel comfortable in their brand new environment. They are getting more and more familiar with simple materials but can start learning mathematical concepts through different materials.



For those who are over four years old, there is more emphasis on numbers and the alphabet. They are also allowed to choose any other materials or take part in different activities that's taking place in the classroom.

However, at the same time, in addition to the Montessori materials, everybody can listen to stories, paint at the art corner or do activities that enhance their fine-motor skills or just have fun.

At 10:45 we have circle time where we learn and sing songs, and talk about various topics of the world around us. We also talk about the basic rules of the classroom and the school that we all have to obey.



We go out and enjoy the fresh air where the children can play freely or take part in directed activities. They can even meet and socialize with children from the elementary school. We have lunch at 12:15, and then we go to the playroom upstairs. There is also a possibility to have an afternoon nap for those who need it.

At 2, we go downstairs and have snack. Besides finishing work from the morning session, there is still a chance to work with Montessori materials or do projects. The projects either follow the children's interest or a scheduled programme about the four seasons.

There are different topics that we discuss and talk about during circle time. These topics vary every week. We also learn songs that accompany the different topics. The following topics will be covered until end of the first term.



**Topics:** colours, four seasons, animals around the house, animals in the woods, animals of Africa, planet earth, continents, Europe, Africa, Asia, America, Australia, Antarctica, holidays, Christmas

Thank you for reading the newsletter and I wish for all of us a happy school year.

Kind regards,

Mr. Balázs

# Pre - Elementary Class



## Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Pre-Elementary class! Now that we are four weeks into the school year, we are making new friends and busy learning. Here is some of what we are doing!

Every morning, we have calendar, where we learn about days of the week, months of the year, weather, and more. We have a lot of great songs and dances that go with our calendar time, so don't be surprised if your student comes home singing some new songs.

We are also learning all of the letters of the alphabet, their names, and the sounds they make. I will give students letter sounds, and have them put them together to make words.



In math, we are learning to count all of the numbers up to 30. We are also learning even and odd numbers, counting by tallies, place value, colors, and counting backwards.

We are also learning the appropriate use of scissors, glue, markers, and crayons. I am also teaching students the importance of making good choices. We often talk about differences in good and bad choices through reading many books and real life situations.

The coming week, I would like to start our 'Star Student', where one student will be featured every week. It is a great way to get to know everyone in our class; their favorite things, their family, culture, background, etc. When it is your student's week, I will send home a letter about things they may be asked to bring to school, such as pictures, artifacts, food!

I am very open to meeting with parents during my office hours. So if you would like to talk about the program or your student's progress, don't hesitate to schedule an appointment with me.

It's been a great first month of school; let's have an even better second one!!

Kind Regards,  
Ms. Sara



## Dear Parents,

This month is first grade, we have been doing assessment. Every day we practice our phonics and learn about the letters of the alphabet.

In math we are practicing counting, tallying and we just started to learn graphing. We are looking forward to finding all of the different things that we can graph.

In reading we are working on sight words and on our phonological awareness. We just learned about nouns and then we will learn about adjectives and verbs too.

And as usual we are practicing using our English as much as possible. First grade is looking forward to a great end of the month!

Kind Regards,  
Ms. Amanda



## Dear Parents,

We have begun our first Unit of Inquiry, Where we are in Place and Time. The students will be learning about migration and its effects on indigenous populations. More specifically, we will be focusing on map skills and about the lives of the pioneers and the regions in which they settled. Students will also be learning about different Native American tribes and how their lives were affected by the arrival of the pioneers.

This week, students will be learning about landforms and will continue working on their Book of Maps.

Reading – Students will begin using questioning strategies to help when they are reading.

Writing – We made heart maps to see what things are close to our hearts. These are great tools to use in the future when we decide what to write about. The first writing topic will be writing a personal narrative.

Spelling – This week’s spelling words are:

Pitch, drink, swim, life, while, I, my, light, buy, eye, which, find, why, kind, try, colonist, climate.

Students will have activities throughout the week to help them remember how to spell these words. Please see my page at [spellingcity.com](http://spellingcity.com) for more games and activities.

Grammar – We are still learning about nouns and sentences. Students will play many games and do activities to help reinforce what they are learning.

Math – This is our last week learning about place value. It has been a lot of fun. We will play some fun games and have a test at the end on Thursday to finish up the unit.

Art – The students really enjoyed last week’s activities with lines. This week, they will learn about cubism.

Kind Regards,

Ms. Channery

\* Please visit my website for weekly updates <http://readingzfun.com>



# IB - PYP 4th, 5th Grade Class

## Dear Parents,

Welcome to Ms.Veta's 4th/5th grade class at World Academy of Tirana.

I'm looking forward to a great school year. The IB (International Baccalaureate) PYP program is a big part of what we do and how we learn at WAT.

We will practice using the Learner Profiles and learn how Attitudes affect everything we do. With time and practice, we will learn to incorporate these principles into our lives.

We will do many hands-on activities in math, science, and social studies. We will study but have fun, too.

Parents, your help and encouragement are very much appreciated during your child's journey through 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Thank you

Ms. Veta

\* Please visit my website for weekly updates: [www.vnakai.com](http://www.vnakai.com)



### Notes :



We would like to welcome our new teacher, Elmaz Poshka, from the United States, is an experienced elementary school teacher. She will be teaching 3rd grade. .



Please note that there will be no school on October 19th. This holiday is Mother Theresa's Day.



Teacher's office hours are every Wednesdays, between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. Should you wish to schedule a meeting with your child's teacher, please email the teacher or call the school to make an appointment.

