

ASB NEWSLETTER

General Section



Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert is a long standing tradition at ASB. Every student, every teacher, every parent has attended at least one Christmas concert. Some have even attended to more than twenty Christmas Concerts. What began as a small idea to share songs with the community is now an event that takes a whole day, and involves all of Lower School. A moment filled with songs and stories of other cultures and countries. Every concert is different, every year we meet new people, every year the children learn and enjoy new songs. This year was no exception: the sixth graders opened up the concert as they

have always done, and then we embarked on a magical trip, filled with songs, poems and plays; all performed by Lower School students. We encourage you to join us next year for another great adventure in company of the youngest in the school.

Beatriz Crespo
(Grade 11)

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Cancer Awareness Day

On February 4th, two students from grade 12 (Miren López and Sarah de la Mata) organized a Cancer Awareness Day as their CAS initiated project. The project is the final CAS project in which students have to organize and carry out their own project. This idea took months of planning, and whole afternoons making cancer ribbons, and baking biscuits and cookies for the Bake Sale.

This Bake Sale, which also took place on February 4th, was a project for the 11th and 12th graders, so that students taking part could count it for their CAS. They asked for help to create posters to advertise the sale, as well as to help bake

cookies, cakes, biscuits ... or whatever they wanted to cook. The sale was a great success and won over €600 in one day. This money will be donated to a foundation for cancer research.

Elena Lamana (Grade 12)



Costumes and Chocolate

A month ago, we celebrated a "chocolatada" in the school. Carnival was celebrated during the same day, this way we celebrated two events on the same day. It was mostly an activity for younger children from Lower School, but everyone could participate and dress up.



From the moment I got on the bus there were already many kids dressed up as fairies, princesses and other costumes. It was a loud day at school, with many students from different grades getting to be

with each other, celebrate carnival and drink chocolate in the afternoon. I would say this last activity was the most expected by the kids. I did not participate, but most of them had a great time. Many parents also came to share some sweets with the children.

At the end of the day, I just hope none of the students went overboard eating chocolate. I am sure everyone had a wonderful time, not only the kids, but also the parents.

César San Sebastián (Grade 12)

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Transport

Currently, Ms. Emma's kindergarten class is learning about the different types of transportation for their unit of inquiry "How We Organize Ourselves." The kindergarteners learn by using transportation toys. They also have different role plays in which they sometimes get a chance to go on many "trips to the Moon" in a rocket ship. To further understand transportation, the kids are helping in planning a field trip to the "Puente Colgante" and to do this, they must think about what kind of transportation they would use to get there, such as a school bus, the metro, and a boat. The children also discussed how they come to school each day, why they come to school using that type of transportation method and why one does not come to school by plane or hot air balloon. Finally, Ms. Emma stated that the children "love the transportation unit!"

Alessandra Spadaro (Grade 9)

Winter

Who wouldn't enjoy a class with the Nursery students? As the teachers show them how to play with ice, the youngest students at ASB explore and develop their creative and personal skills. Just after the warm winter break, these children came to class ready to learn, and they explored their learning through ice. Painting it, adding salt, melting it and freezing it again, they discovered the world in new directions. The various experiments they did with ice helped them develop their motor and coordination skills, as well as their language development. Their imagination helped them come up with new ideas which they used to make beautiful works of art with just the simple natural elements of ice, water, heat, and salt. They have learned that nothing is black or white, and that they can explore the world in so many ways with just a touch of creativity and imagination.



Carmen Rita Gomeza (Grade 11)



Just Playing

A few weeks ago, Kindergarten wrote a poem (displayed in the hallway by their classroom), inspired by Anita Wadley's "Just Playing". After reading her poem, which speaks out about the importance of play in a child's life, they brainstormed together to write their own poem about what they do at school: "play". The poem shows that play is key in a child's development, and that the things they create and discover while experimenting and playing with blocks, sticks, water, paint, bugs, dolls, or whatever they use to express their ideas, foster their intellectual growth.

At ASB, Kindergarten teachers play a sort of "medler in the middle," setting up motivating objects in the classroom which the children then interact with and learn from. In this way, their environment is a teacher in itself: The children make inquiries, then use their imaginations to develop ideas, innovate and discover. What may seem like simple play from the outside is actually a great learning process for each child in class. As the last lines in the poem say, "children's work is to play!"

Alexandra Kypta (Grade 10)

LOWER SCHOOL

Mental Multiplication

Recently, the students from fifth grade have been working on mental multiplication skills and strategies. Through several methods, they are learning to multiply faster and more efficiently. Multiplication is an extremely important skill for their future, and once they know it well, they will use it on a daily basis. Moreover, knowing shortcuts to multiplications will hopefully allow them to save large amounts of time during examinations. For example, a method the fifth graders used to multiply by eight was the following: Instead of multiplying a big number by eight in your head, it is easier to double the number three times. For instance, what is 42 times 8? Well, you simply do $42 \times 2 = 84$, then $84 \times 2 = 168$ and finally $168 \times 2 = 336$. This is only one of the many simple ways to multiply numbers mentally, which as I said before, will come in handy in the future.

Jaime Machimbarrena (Grade 12)



Strawberries and DNA

Not so long ago, the 4th grade class went to visit real functioning lab in Genetadi at the Parque Tecnológico of Zamudio. The class went on this great trip to help them fully understand genetics, since they are currently learning genetics with Mr. Borja. As they were there, they were able to extract DNA from a strawberry as well as take some of their classmate's DNA and view it under a microscope. They were also able to see different types of rocks and minerals as well as animal DNA by looking through a very potent microscope, this was to prepare them for their upcoming unit called "Rocks and Minerals". Along with Mr. Borja the 4th Grade class was accompanied by Ms. Elvira and they had a blast. Over all, the 4th Grade class had a wonderful experience and they were even able to take home their strawberry DNA, so they were able to show off to everyone that they were little Scientists to be.

Angelica Spadaro (Grade 9)

Home Sweet Home



These past weeks, the young first graders have done several activities and investigations concerning the transdisciplinary theme 'Where we are in Space'. Having looked at the different

kinds of shelter that humans build around us, the first graders have compared different homes and evaluate their suitability as human shelters. Moreover, they have looked at how human shelters have changed through time and how technological advances have made life at home increasingly comfortable. Parents could also get involved in these activities by many means, which include sharing any objects that could contribute to the students' learning process, or by talking to the whole class about their lives at home and how these have changed over time. The students were very excited about this topic and showed great interest in their learning process.

Jon Araluze (Grade 12)

Change Begins from Below: Sharing our Planet

Our 3rd graders have been busy this past semester with environmental practices and study. Their journey started with the study of ecosystems and the interrelation of the elements within it. They learned about the importance of an ecological balance for all species and habitats. But most importantly, they have become aware of the effect that the most intelligent and destructive species, human kind. This is a contemporary world-scale problem which is being faced by parliaments and even classrooms. We are all aware of the increasing rate of global warming and the mass-scale extinctions that our industrial activities are causing, and unfortunately, where this will lead to if no change is made. As the 3rd graders learned these facts they devised their own plan of action, and a new project was born. For

their inquiry unit, they have carried out research and created graphs regarding the different types of snacks in Lower School. They will now reflect and propose how to reduce snack waste and optimize the collection of recyclable waste in the playground. This will lead to further research in how the consumption of a particular resource or material affects the other living beings in our environment, with the purpose of raising awareness.

Ivan Mihajlovic (Grade 12)



UPPER SCHOOL

DECA's Evolution

The ASB young entrepreneurs club has grown over the past three years. The first year, six students went to the event. Unfortunately, they were not successful as they came back empty handed. However, they have all said it was a wonderful and enriching experience. They went to Atlanta and the flight took ten hours. One can only imagine how exhausted they arrived. They went directly to the hotel. They spent three days in Atlanta, but the last day they visited the town. The next year the number of people that signed up for DECA doubled. Twelve people signed up and they turned out to be more successful than the previous year as experience had taught them to spend more time on preparation. Last year's trip was destined for Miami, they had the opportunity to get to know the city as well as taking part in this annual event. They spent five days enjoying the weather, beaches and having great time. Another three days were spent at Orlando where the DECA event was taking place. Sure enough, Jorge García won a medal for the event and an article was dedicated to him in "El Correo", one of the most popular newspaper in the Basque Country. This year the number of people who have signed up for the club has tripled the initial amount. They are now getting prepare for the event, this year it is scheduled to be in Nashville, Tennessee. The ASB community wishes them well!

Rodrigo Martínez (Grade 11)



Palestine: One Side of the Coin

The Arab-Israeli conflict is a source of many diplomatic disputes between nations nowadays. The Palestinian struggle is currently taking up plenty of newspaper space under the 'International Politics' tab. Amnesty International's 2016 report on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (their words, not mine) claims that Israeli military forces have illegally detained and killed Palestinian civilians who protested the military occupation. These reports are just facts to most of us. That is, until this past 24th of February. The Upper School students from 9th to 12th grade had the opportunity to be audience to a speech delivered by the Palestinian ambassador in Madrid, Mr. Musa Amer Odeh. The speaker explained the struggles of the Palestinian people to the students and teachers who attended. His speech brought the facts that we have all been hearing about to life, sharing his personal experiences of the Palestinian struggle. Students felt privileged to have the opportunity to learn about the conflict from a key political figure representing Palestine. We would like to extend our gratitude to thank Mr. Amer Odeh for taking the time to talk to us, and to Mr. Howard and Mrs. Franco for organizing this event. Next month, students will have the opportunity to understand the other side of the coin as an Israeli representative has been invited to speak.

Ian García (Grade 12)

MUN

The American School of Bilbao has sent two Model United Nations teams abroad so far, the first to Dublin and the second to London. For those of you who may not be familiar with Model United Nations events, they involve students from all around the world coming together to debate current global issues, just as the United Nations does. It is a great opportunity for students to develop their debating and public speaking skills and meet people of diverse backgrounds. Colegio Ayalde has also sent students to participate in MUN conferences, and having them so nearby, ASB decided it would be a brilliant opportunity for the two schools to meet and set up a small MUN conference so that students, both veterans and newbies, could brush up their debating skills. On January 23rd, many of ASB's MUN delegates made the trip to Colegio Ayalde to participate in a small, mock MUN conference. Students from both schools had been put together to form delegations for various member states, and had prepared clauses and resolutions on two topics: hydraulic fracturing and terrorism. Throughout the morning, these two topics were debated, with clauses being added together to form one resolution for each topic. The experienced delegates helped and taught the newer students, who did extremely well for their first time! Every ASB student got up and participated in the debate, an achievement which is not to be played down. In the afternoon, parents of both ASB and Ayalde students came in to watch the General Assembly debate, where both resolutions were debated in their entirety. The highlight of the day came about when one of France's ASB delegates stepped up to the podium and delivered a brilliant wind-up speech on combating terrorism, garnering the applause of everybody present. All delegates performed excellently, and are now aptly equipped to go on to achieve stardom at international conferences. The students of ASB would like to thank the MUN advisors, Mr. Howard and Ms. Franco, and Colegio Ayalde for their hard work in making this event happen! In fact, the event was so successful that both schools are planning on collaborating to organize a proper international MUN conference right here in Bilbao. We'll keep you up to date on these exciting plans!

Nolan Young (Grade 11)

Congratulations Ainhoa!

Back in October, Ms. Kat introduced the Upper School to The "Scholastic Art and Writing Award", which identifies young and talented artists and rewards their creative work. These awards have several categories, from ceramics and glass to video games in the artistic section, and novel writing or dramatic scripts in writing. The ASB is very proud to have Ainhoa Santos, an aspiring young writer in 11th grade, as a student, as she has won the "Silver Key" or second award submitted to the "short story" category. Originally intended for an English assignment, "The Things They Carry" is a profound and ingenious piece on what authors carry. This stream of consciousness text provides any reader with an insight into authors, how they all differ from each other and yet in their minds carry similar worries, thoughts and ways of looking at life. As I read it for the first time, I didn't know what to expect exactly. It certainly surprised me, and made me look at authors from a completely different and new angle. Let's all congratulate Ainhoa, and I sincerely recommend that if you have the time, read her short story since you will be awed by her words.

Carmen Rita Gomeza (Grade 11)

Student Council

During the second academic term, the Student Council has got down to work with new projects and activities to provide the students a better school experience. "January was a great month for the Student Council. All representatives arrived fresh and motivated from Christmas break. We had plenty of things to do" tells Borja Vicinay, President of the Student Council. During the weekly meetings every Friday, all the class representatives and members of the SC have been organizing an International Week that will take place at school after the Easter break. The students will be able to participate in debates, sport competitions and artistic activities, just to name a few. This week will serve to relax and enjoy before the last challenges faced before summer. In addition, the Student Council is also working in collaboration with the school staff on other projects such as allowing the students to be able to print at school or having an IBDP room.

Claudia Hernandez (Grade 12)

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

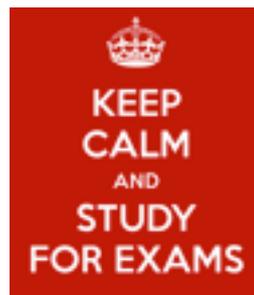
Ski Trip

In March, both IB courses went to ski in Astún. On Friday, we went from Bilbao to Villanua, the town where the hotel was located, at about five in the afternoon and arrived about 10 pm as there was heavy traffic. When we arrived at the hotel, we left all bags in the room and went down to have dinner, and after dinner we went directly to sleep as the next day we had to wake up at 7 AM. The next day, we all woke up feeling sleepy, but we really wanted to go skiing. We took the bus about 8:30 AM and headed to Astún. Arriving there, we each got a pass for two days and went to get the rental skis, boots and all the material we needed. When we had everything, we split into three groups by levels: Beginners, intermediate and advanced and everyone in their group skied with a monitor until 13:00 as it was time for lunch, when we finished eating, we had free time until 16:30, as it is the time when the station closes and then we returned to the hotel. When we arrived at the hotel, we all showered and got ready for a tour in Jaca, which is a city that is located near the hotel. After the tour, we returned to the hotel for dinner and go to sleep. Again, the next day we also had to get up early to ski, we had the same schedule than on Saturday, although we could not ski till the end and only skied until 15:00 as we had to leave early to go back to Bilbao. We arrived about 21:00, because again the traffic was very heavy and arrived later than expected. For all of us, it had been a very good experience as we all had a great time together in the field trip, which was something we had been waiting for a long time.

Carlos Sanchez (Grade 11)



Exam Countdown!



The countdown for the second IB promotion has already begun and students have started their review sessions in most classes. All, or most, IAs have been completed, Extended Essay and TOK is out of the way and seniors are now concentrating on getting

everything ready for the final exams starting on May 2nd. In order to remind the students that the exams are approaching, a wonderful countdown clock has been placed near the office which has definitely created mixed feelings among the senior class. Since the IB students are a few months away from their finals, most have started to create their own reviews for their classes and staying after school to start review sessions with their teachers. Most classes, like Spanish and English A have started working on past exam papers as a mean to familiarise themselves with the exams. However, even though finals are what most people are taking about, CAS is also a very important component of the IB which students are also wrapping up. For the most part, the senior class is eager to get everything done. Good luck seniors!

Naroa Quintana (Grade 12)

CAS

Walk for Leukemia

"Walk for Leukemia" is a CAS project created by two senior students that aims to support and raise awareness of the fight against Leukemia. The school has suffered losses at the hands of this disease and we wanted to act against it. In order to do so, we organized a walk that will take place on Sunday March 13th, 2016 at 11.30AM in Berango. The event consisted of walking around Berango to support the cause. In order to fully support our fight against this disease, we paired up with "Cruces" and "Fundación Josep Carreras". The donations that were raised with the sale of bows on the day of the march will be sent to "Fundación Josep Carreras".
Naroa Quintana (Grade 12)



What happens after ASB?

As one of the first IB graduates from the American School of Bilbao, I was one of the "lucky" 18 students to serve as lab rats on a first-time-performed experiment: the International Baccalaureate. I feel proud and grateful to have been part of this crazy rollercoaster ride, which had a lot of ups and downs, but that ultimately reached the end goal: receiving the diploma! Since the beginning of this academic year, I am located in Maastricht, the Netherlands. I started my bachelor studies in interdisciplinary Arts (iArts), an international, innovative program which combines the study of different disciplines with the practice of diverse artistic forms. The main fields we focus on are culture, science, society and entrepreneurship, while researching and understanding the impact they have on art (and vice versa). We investigate, analyze and translate academic research into works of artistic nature. This bachelor gives me the chance to study different interests of mine, like psychology, cultural theory and visual arts, all at once. I consider iArts as the starting point for figuring out what my strengths and weaknesses are in the artistic scene but also in the world generally, to realize where I stand and where I can go from here. I must say that studying the IB had a great impact on my working methodology. Quite frequently, I find myself using IB "terminology" and methods of analysis in my current studies. One of the reasons I chose iArts was because of the "similarities" to IB visual arts course: in visual arts, the focus was on the process of creating a concept and a work, and not necessarily on the final product itself. I enjoyed this course particularly because it needed additional knowledge from other courses, like history, to be fully engaged and committed to the developing projects and final works that you had to do for the class. As a result of this, I wanted to continue improving these acquired skills further, hence the reason I am studying iArts. IB has influenced my life in many ways, and it will probably influence, if it hasn't already, current IB students. So, for all you students fighting to finish IB once and for all: I can assure you better and happier times will come! Hang in there!

Konstantina Katsikari

ASB alumni (IB graduate 2015)



Credits

Writers

Carmen Rita Gomeza

Sara Jata

Angelica Spadaro

Catalina Amann

Beatriz Crespo

Claudia Hernandez

Ian García

Ivan Mihajlovic

Borja Esteban

Alessandra Spadaro

Angelica Spadaro

Ian Garcia

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