



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely summer and autumn break with your families. We've enjoyed welcoming you and your children back to school. It's been a great start to the new term and already more than two months have passed since the fantastic Summer Programme's final day. Some students are still talking about it!

So first, let's go back a little bit and enjoy some sweet and fun(ny) pictures of the days when it was still hot and sunny and school seemed so very far away...

Then, August 29, we welcomed our new first graders with a big celebration for their first day in school. All those little boys and girls were so excited and their parents so very proud. Again, a huge welcome to all the families who have recently joined our school. It's been lovely to meet

you and your children! They did fantastic in their first two months in the BCS and the class teachers, Ms Vanden Dool and Ms Lowe, are really happy with their new classes.

What would Berlin Cosmopolitan School be without it's fantastic Afternoon Programme! Many dedicated and creative teachers planned a huge variety of clubs to offer all students enough choices for having great fun after their regular lessons. We decided to introduce here some new as well as already known clubs on a regular basis. In this edition we present the Kendama, the Arts & Crafts and the Happy Club. We hope you enjoy discovering them.

The BCS Newsletter Team

SUMMER VACATION PROGRAMME

Long walks in nature, trips to museums and farms, lake and water fun, creative projects ranging from land art to mosaic pot designs and fashion, picnics in parks... just a few of the wonderful things BCS students joining the Summer Vacation Programme got involved with, taking advantage of both the green space of beautiful Berlin and the numerous talents the fantastic Afternoon Teachers had to offer.





FIRST GRADE WELCOME CEREMONY

Pling, pling, pling – They rang the bell !

This year's enrollment was an unforgettable and exciting experience for all the new students, their parents and the teachers as well as for School Principal Mrs. and Mr. Wende – also because their son was one of those little guests of honor.

The ceremony started musically. A choir of Secondary students enchanted the audience instantly with their beautiful voices. Afterwards, Ms Wende, Mr. Johnson, Head of Primary and Mr. McCooty welcomed the newest members of the BCS community and spoke about the first graders exciting life in school.

Then, one by one, the students were called out. Each of them had to go up the stage and ring the bell – a very important tradition to become a member of BCS Primary School. Happy and excited, they gathered together with their new classmates and teachers, Ms. Vanden Dool and Ms. Lowe. All of them with sunflowers in their little hands.

While the parents and relatives took picture after picture the new students already presented their first poem. All listeners were, of course, very much delighted. Then another photo session followed. It's a big moment for a child and needs to be captured for eternity after all!

At the end of the ceremony the new BCS students left the assembly hall collectively. Their proud parents awaited them outside in the school courtyard, in their arms carrying colorful school cornets (in German „Schultüte“ or „Zuckertüte“ as a traditional gift for the very first school day) filled with sweets and little presents for their happy sons and daughters.

The first day in school was already over. The life in school had just started ...





TIME OUT WITH KENDAMA

No screen, no internet, no pushing buttons and lots of students are still going wild for it. Not possible? Oh yes, it is! Thanks to Kendama – a traditional Japanese toy consisting of a wooden handle, a ball and a string. So simple, so small, so good. It fits easily into a back pocket, but has a huge variety of tricks to offer. And even more advantages: Kendama stimulates the hand-eye-coordination as well as the general concentration. And of course it is a lot of fun to play!

From this school year on Afternoon Teacher Mr. Denecke offers „Kendama Club“ during the Afternoon Programme. There, the students get a chance to learn about the grand works from each other and they can dive into the world of Kendama with more experienced players as well as professionals. Previous knowledge is not required, curiosity is sufficient!

As said, a Kendama looks deceptively simple. The ken in Kendama refers to the body of the toy, which is made of wood or plastic. It has a big and a smaller cup plus another small one on the bottom called a base. A ball (*tama*) is attached with a string. The goal is to swing the ball into a cup, or have it land on a spike on top of the ken. That sounds pretty easy, but mastering the Kendama takes plenty of practice and needs lots of patience.





The Kendama's origins are uncertain, but the toy resembles France's Bilboquet, which dates to the 1500s. The modern version with its multiple cups debuted in Japan near the turn of the 20th century. In 1975 the Japan Kendama Association was founded to establish rules and standardize the size of Kendamas.

The Kendama club at BCS started brilliantly and still, after more than two months, many students try to improve their skills with this wooden toy – and not just during club time. Martin Denecke seems excited while talking about the club and the students getting better and better. „It's very popular within the skater scene“, he also says, and so he started to play around with it about two years ago. Then he took Kendama to school and „some students were soon showing a big interest in it“, he says. „Nowadays some of my students are way better than I am“, Mr. Denecke mentions enthusiastically. „You will never stop learning new tricks“.

To the question what he thinks is so good about Kendama Mr. Denecke says: „Just for a while the students are busy with something else other than computers, cell phones and the internet,“ which he appreciates a lot. „It's all about fun, practicing at your own pace and learning from others. And there's not much competition going on“ which is a „good thing“, emphasizes Mr. Denecke. And from seeing all the students, loving to play every single breaktime with this simple wooden toy, they seem to prove him right.



One principle of being happy is relaxation and stress management. Therefore Alex Warzecha and her club members made yummy face-masks, peeling, massages and hairstyling. And OH YES, they felt super relaxed and happy!

HAPPY CLUB



The answer to the question “What do you want to be when you grow up?” is so simple: “I want to be HAPPY!”. There is a science about how to be a happy and healthy person. According to Dr. Roger Walsh, there are 8 principles that need to be followed in order to be happy.

These 8 things are: Exercise, diet and nutrition, spending time in the nature, contribution and service, relationships, recreation, relaxation and stress management, and a religious or spiritual involvement.

Ms. Warzecha and her club members have already worked on four of them:

- 1) Spending time in nature: The club members went to a park, played awareness games and different games of catch.
- 2) Diet and nutrition: They baked vital cookies and made green smoothies
- 3) Relaxation and Stress Management: We made facial masks out of honey, almonds and yoghurt.
- 4) Recreation: The members just had a good

time drinking tea, eating cookies and making cards for people they wanted to make happy.

Now, Alexandra Warzecha is planning on visiting a Senior Citizen’s home with the members, to do a little performance there, because making someone happy makes oneself even happier!



ARTS&CRAFTS CLUB

BELOW : The club members went to the nearby cemetery to collect chestnuts, acorns and leaves to make wonderful art projects out of the natural material



This club is open for all kids that like to do arts and crafts. They can choose to join in different projects, including seasonal and thematic projects, such as lantern crafts, creating Christmas cards creating, or kite building as well as learning new skills like knitting, printing or creating collages. Ms Schirmer, Ms Hildebrandt and Ms Warzecha are always there to help all the little constructors, who are in the need of instructions. In the last few weeks they made chestnut figures, friendship bracelets, Autumn and Halloween decoration and a lot more creative objects.



COSMO news

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THANKS TO GÜLBAHAR SAMAVAT, ADRIAN JANKOWSKI, ALEX WARZECHA, MARTIN DENECKE FOR THEIR SUPPORT WITH TEXTS, PICTURES AND INFORMATION.