

The English Link



Newsletter from the English Link Association at Le Caousou, Toulouse

November 2017
Number 9

A word from your President

I am very proud to be part of the English Link and happy that this Newsletter is able to provide parents and children updates of the Association and details of wonderful work the children have been doing with our excellent teachers Sophie, Judith, Aude and Matt. Without them and you, English Link would not exist.

At our Christmas Party, we will ask you to dip into your pockets if possible to give you the chance to win one of our prizes in the raffle. Please also bring any books/novels to sell and we will be using the proceeds to paint the English Link Library – it very much needs it!!

See you then!

Have a very happy and safe Christmas

With kind regards, Catherine Souchard

English Classes with Sophie and Judith

This year has started with the arrival of 18 new pupils in the Primary English lessons and a new English Link class opened in GS at the Maternelle.

All the primary children began the new school year making a wall display about their likes and dislikes based on their 5 senses. Mums are popular: one child likes to touch mummy's hair and another little sweetie likes to hear mummy laugh! One student though doesn't like their sister's voice and - surprisingly - a number of students don't like noisy children! Last year's healthy eating theme appears to have worked its magic with one student liking leeks and another hating hamburgers! Wet dogs and new cars are smells that aren't appreciated and they'd rather look at rainbows than dribble. No-one mentioned not looking at books though so since then, we've been hard at work!

We've been hunting for minibeasts with the CPs in the Grand Collège Park (thank you Ashun!).

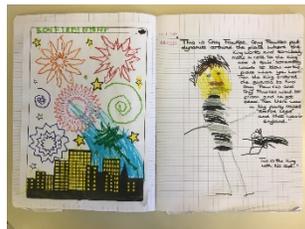
Dinosaurs no longer have any secrets for the CE1s. Did you know that the smallest dinosaur egg was only the size of a quarter? And that a T-Rex could eat 500kg of food in one mouthful?

The CE2 pupils have been working on imagining their ideal school – mermaids and mermen as teachers, walls made of sweets, racetracks in the playground, backpacks with wings and of course, no punishments!

The CM1s have started research on the different countries that make up the United Kingdom. This will culminate in a wall display and a presentation, so that nobody can ever mix up England and the UK again!

The CM2s are currently bringing Kensuke's Kingdom to life with freeze frames to rewrite the book in pictures!

New this year are the Grande Section classes! We're working through the alphabet, learning the sounds with Abby the Alligator and Nate the Newt as well as a bit of history with the story of Bonfire night!



Look out for the raffle at the English Link Christmas Party – great prizes to be won and proceeds go towards painting the English Link Library!!



Christmas Workshop

Please see recent email invite for details of our fun-packed Christmas Workshop
Wednesday 29th Nov 2017
8.45 – 11.45



Christmas Party

Join us at our annual Christmas Party at 3pm on
Sunday 3rd December 2017 at
Salle Paroissiale Saints Pierre et Paul
7 rue V. Basch, 31500 Toulouse

Silly Billy Mini Kid's Club: Monday with Judith

The name has stuck for the second year running and this year 8 lively students keep me on my toes at the beginning of the week! The highlight was definitely making Halloween headmasks: the children did a fabulous job and were very creative! Our next theme will of course be Christmas so a giant Advent calendar will be up in time to count down the days to the big man in red ☺



Do you have unwanted books in good condition?
Please bring them to the Christmas Party as we are raising money to paint the English Link Library!



Kid's Club: Thursday with Judith

Another big group this year! 13 wonderfully creative students who have invented the most fabulous board games! They have made the board, the pawns, the dice, written the rules and made boxes to keep them in! Play "Frog Throw" or "Race Action". With Christmas coming our next project will be to decorate the classroom and try some Christmas origami...

Bookworms: Friday with Judith

Bookworms is chock-a-block at storytime this year, with 12 members from CP through to CM1! The older children either listen to stories or read by themselves while the younger students give me book after book (after book after book!) to motor through and chat about. Our bookworm grows from week to week displaying what we've read. As I read, they're currently working on a Thanksgiving wall display for our American friends.



ON STAGE ! with Aude

Just before the half term break we did a scarecrow race.

When I see the picture, with children in T-shirts and shorts, it's hard to believe it was just a few weeks ago... More seriously, we are now ready to start rehearsing our play! We have been reading the script, every character has been cast, and the group will have the pleasure to perform in May: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM by William Shakespeare. A play everyone is fond of! I am sure it's going to be great!!



THE THEATRE COMPANY with Aude

Seeing a rabbit on stage is usually unheard of! But it should give you a clue ... It is white ... It is always late ... ALICE IN WONDERLAND adapted from Lewis Carroll's novel!!! This play has many very interesting characters to tackle, and we are working on the different scenes and atmospheres. We are doing improvisation work around the different characters and situations.



ENGLISH CLUB with Matt

I'm very happy to be back and starting another school year at the Caousou with many old and new faces. We began this trimester by doing some fun personality quizzes, then I got them to write their own and quiz the class, which turned out to be very amusing. They also invented games or iterations of existing ones. Some of these included versions of 'Whodunit?' mysteries, 'Time's Up', 'Guess Who?', problem solving, and group activities such as 'The Annual Marshmallow Challenge' which had been heavily requested since the start of the year, so I finally obliged. As both groups differ in age, I've tried to adapt the various activities to their interests and age group.

Finally, for the rest of this year, I plan on doing some Christmas themed activities which I hope they'll enjoy and will get them into the Christmas spirit! It's been wonderful getting to meet all the new group members, and great to see the old ones who are back again for another year.



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