



BCA Newsletter

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ADVENTURE & ENVIRONMENT

An adventure may be defined as “a journey with the outcome uncertain”. Although it would be nice to travel to distant countries and into the wild, adventures can also happen everyday in the classroom or in the school grounds.


When a teacher tries a new idea in the classroom, they are being adventurous, because they don't know how exactly it will work out (although likely they will have a good idea that it will be a success, based on what they have read and learned from other educators). When a student takes on a challenge and steps out of their comfort zone (mentally or physically), they too are being adventurous.

Learning takes place in the adventure zone. A journey by a child into this ‘zone’ requires careful planning: the teacher breaks the activity into component parts to make it more understandable and accessible, models strategies for solving the problem, and encourages and supports the learner. An inquiry or project-based approach can promote adventurous learning, stimulating natural curiosity and excitement. Open-ended questioning and classroom discussion promotes adventures of the mind. Students experience a high level of autonomy in the activity, but discreetly supported or ‘scaffolded’ by the teacher. The adventure must also be differentiated: an adventure for some may be regarded as a ‘walk in the park’ for others.

Work is continuing by our Green group towards recognition as an Eco-school. A few weeks ago, many students were involved in a clean up of the forest and picnic area next to the school: it is now immaculate after the removal of several kilos of trash from careless visitors. Our Secondary Gardening Club has also been busy planting bulbs, ready for the spring, and learning about soil and plants. Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes all have Outdoor Learning as a weekly fixture on the timetable, and a staff professional learning group is moving this forwards.

In this Newsletter you will see examples of how BCA encourages a spirit of adventure, both in the classroom and through the outdoor learning programme, which is quickly growing. In this way, learning is accelerated through personal challenges.

With the first round of parent-teacher conferences behind us, and seven intense weeks of learning completed, I would like to congratulate all students and staff on their efforts and achievements thus far this year. I also thank parents for their continuous support of our shared mission, and as partners in ensuring the best possible education for the children. I wish everyone a restful half term holiday.


Mr Harry Lock
Principal



Christmas Charity Fair. Saturday 3rd December 10:00-14:00 at BCA

Our plans are advancing for this seasonal event, and we hope to include:

Live Music - Arts and Crafts - Cookie decoration workshop - Magic show - Football or Basketball match - Raffle- Children's forest walk - Bouncy Castle Drawing and Painting - Refreshments. Other ideas will be added. If you would like to offer your help or expertise with any of these activities, or can offer an additional activity, please contact gema.sanz@bcandorra.com. We will also need volunteers to help with decorating the school and with the refreshments.

There will be an entrance fee, after which the activities will all be free of charge. Tickets will be sold online in advance- details in the week commencing 7th November. All proceeds from the event will go to our two partner charities ([UNICEF Andorra](#) and [Patronat Dames de Meritxell](#)), with whom we are co-planning the event. The official programme will be sent to you in November.



Skating Success

Two of our Senior students recently participated in an international ice figure skating competition, *Trophee Des Violettes 2022*, on the 22nd-23rd of October. This competition was held at Patinoire Alex Jany ice ring in Toulouse, France.

They won first position and third position respectively in their category.

Congratulations!



Nursery students had an amazing time in La Granja!

We were looking for natural creatures throughout the forest, then the children learned about farm animals, and in the afternoon the children enjoyed jumping in the trampolines and face-painting.

What an adventurous trip!





Children from Year 1 developed their teamwork skills whilst they prepared castles in different groups.

There were many things to organise and get prepared. They used pretend money to buy materials (in Mrs Lock's shop), then gathered some equipment and materials and put it all together to create a magic Recycled Castle.



Kingfishers' took their learning to Africa where they painted beautiful Savannas, transforming their classroom environment.



Peacocks used natural materials from the forest to create some of their key learning vocabulary, whilst Hawks went outside to learn about light in their Science lessons; they also learned about the Greek battle strategies and the phalanx formation.



The Secondary 'Adventure Club' is going from strength to strength and encourages students to be explorers once a week.

They take advantage of our mountain surroundings and they practice their adventurer abilities: map reading using a compass.

Next up will be shelter-building and camp cooking.



Falcons' class had a practical Science lesson to learn about the human digestive system. They will not forget the steps with this practical class!



The Year 10 and 11 Geography students have been learning about the Rivers, in particular three points of a river and the means by which to calculate the cross-sectional area, velocity and discharge. We recently went on a trip together to the Tordera River, a 55 km long river with its source at Montseny Massif. Students engaged in a number of activities to gather data, starting in Parc Natural del Montseny. Students can be seen using measuring tapes and rulers to gather data on the width and depth of the river (bankfull and present flow), ranging poles and stopwatches to measure the velocity using floats and flowmeters to measure depth and recording their findings.

Students also used clinometers to measure the gradient of the river and took bedload samples to compare to other sites along the river. It was an immensely fun experience and a great excursion for BCA.



This week at BCA, all students from Nursery to Year 11 have been participating within a whole-school physical challenge. The challenge is to collectively walk the distance from BCA to Barcelona and all the way back again.



A total of 402km!

Every 530m lap completed within the school grounds by each student will be added to the school total! This timely challenge comes at the end of a Health-Related Fitness unit where secondary school students have been learning all about the body and the importance of daily physical activity.



So far all students have thrown themselves into the physical challenge, completing laps with a smile on their face during breaktime and PE lessons.

The whole school has already covered the distance to Barcelona and are well on their way to achieving the goal of 402km.

Some students have completed over 20 laps [10 km] and at this rate the end is in sight before Thursday, the last day of the challenge.

Excellent job!

