



BCA Newsletter

N° 30 / 22 December 2022



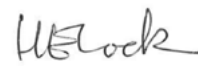


We reach the end of term with as much action, thought and enthusiasm in the classroom as we started with back in September. Students and staff have given it their all. I would like to recognise the high quality of the Early Years and Primary Christmas performances which have all just taken place, bringing joy to our hearts. Once more, I also celebrate the success of the recent Christmas Fair, which would not have been possible without the generous support and inspiration of our parent volunteers and sponsors.

A look back through our [newsletter archive](#) is a nice reminder of the many achievements over recent months, at the individual, class and whole school level. There have been challenges along the way, of course: being a student, an educator or a parent are continuously difficult and continuously rewarding roles.

In the news stories that follow, you will see that our commitment to authentic, meaningful and diverse learning experiences, and to student wellbeing and the wellbeing of others, continues, aligned with our motto that BCA is a school “where happy children learn best”.

This is the last issue of our newsletter for the calendar year 2022. We wish all members of our BCA community a safe, happy and healthy holiday and look forward to seeing you all on January 9th, 2023.


Mr Harry Lock
Principal





Food bank

Many thanks to everyone for the donations to the annual Creu Roja 'Recollida d'Aliments'. Under the Christmas Tree at BCA, and ready for distribution to those in need, is a collection of food and other household items.



Reminders

1. Sweets and chewing gum are not permitted at school. Recently a number of students have brought lollipops to school; these are not allowed. These restrictions are for health reasons and to prevent littering.

2. Infectious diseases (including COVID)

Please continue to be cautious when deciding whether to send your child to school if they are unwell, or recovering. The guidance from the Ministry of Health is as follows:

WHEN SHOULD A CHILD BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED FROM NURSERY OR SCHOOL?

- *If they have a fever (over 38°C) and for 24 hours after it has passed, without the use of temperature-reducing medication.*
- *If they cannot carry out school activities as they usually do or require more care at school than they usually receive, because of the acute illness, especially if it can reduce attention to the rest of the students. For example, if the*



child is tired, has nausea, is vomiting, has diarrhoea, has difficulty breathing, is constantly crying, complaining, in pain, or has some other symptom that indicates an illness more serious and acute, even if it is not an infectious disease.

Source: Ministeri de Salut, November 2022, “Malalties infeccioses a les escoles i escoles bressol: Criteris de no assistència temporal”

3. Unauthorised absences

An important reminder that 100% attendance is expected for all students, and that this becomes an obligation for children of legal school-age (Year 2 and above).

We ask parents to limit their child's absences from school to the [BCA vacation schedule](#), the only exceptions being for medical reasons, study-related absence, or unfortunate and urgent family circumstances. All other absences are marked on the school record as unauthorised.

If there are special circumstances, parents should write a letter of request to the Principal.

Compared to the UK, here in Andorra the statutory school year is 3 weeks shorter, so we cannot afford to lose instructional time.

4. Reports

The mid-year reports for all students are being prepared by teachers and will be published via the Parent Portal on Monday 30th January, 17:00.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY NEXT TERM

Tuesday 17th January, 09:00-10:00

Parent workshop on “The family: the first school of emotional intelligence for our children”

Noemí García de Marina, who works as a ‘Family and School Coach: emotional intelligence’, and who is also a BCA parent, will give the presentation. The aim is to develop understanding around Emotional Intelligence and using it to support children’s development and wellbeing.

For Primary & Secondary parents: please register your attendance in advance with admin@bcandorra.com

Thursday 19th January, 17:15-19:00

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme information evening for Year 11 students and parents

There will be an IB information evening for other secondary parents in 2023.

No need to register in advance.

Tuesday 31st January, 17:15-19:00

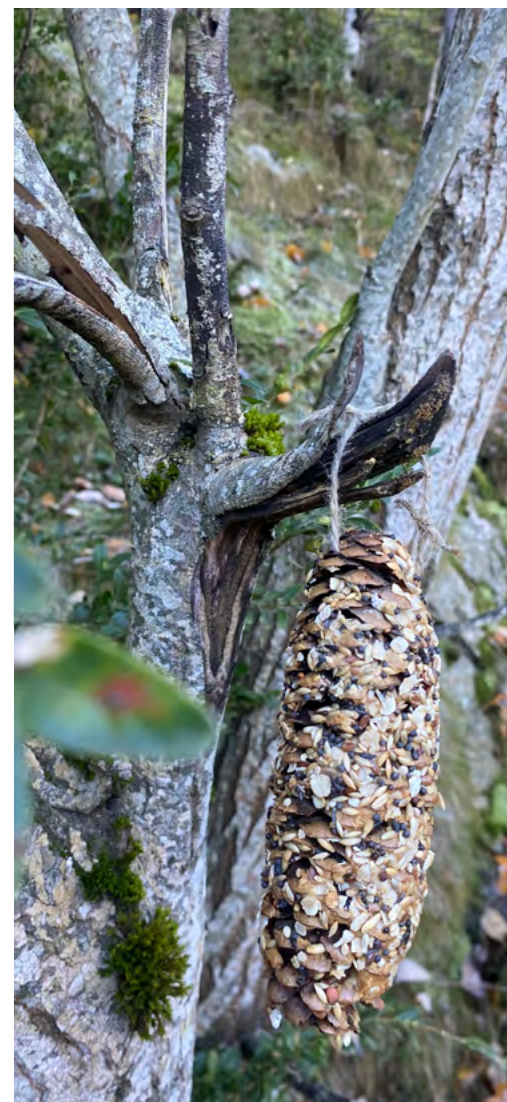
IGCSE information evening for Year 9 students and parents

No need to register in advance.



Cygnets' Class had a lovely morning with their families, making bird feeders and taking them to the forest for the birds to use. It was great to see the children share their learning with their parents and how happy everyone was.

Thank you parents for coming!







OWLS, ROBINS AND SECONDARY PLAY AND LEARN TOGETHER

Secondary students went to Year 1 and 2 classes for an hour one afternoon, to help the students with their Christmas decorations, and other activities.





Each day in December, with their Advent Activity calendar, the Robins have been learning through festive fun, showing kindness, mindfulness and supporting our local community! Some of these Advent activities so far have included writing kind notes to loved ones, charity toy donations, baking cookies and a visit to the Casa Pirail to sing, dance, read stories and spread Christmas cheer with elderly residents of Andorra!







BCA NEWS REPORT

Kingfishers created a BCA News report featuring some of the learning from their continents topic. Children worked in small groups to write their own scripts and practised performing. After watching some news reports to get inspiration and adding some humour of their own, they produced a fantastic episode for 'BCA NEWS'! We hope you enjoy it, it is available:



DISNEY DECORATION

Kingfishers have been talking about what reminds them of Christmas, and Disney seems to be very popular! In their Art lesson, they created these amazing Disney characters. Which is your favourite?





Eagles' class have been working on some Christmas 'STEM' challenges. STEM-based education ('**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **M**athematics') teaches children more than scientific and mathematical concepts. They focus on hands-on learning with real-work applications developing a variety of skill sets, including creativity, problem solving and resilience. The children studied chromatography, which is a technique to separate mixtures, to make beautiful Christmas decorations, and they undertook a challenge to see who could make the longest paper chain using only three pieces of coloured paper. Great job!





BCA is really grateful for those families who helped the Food Bank, once again.
Big or small, every donation you make helps others.

Thank you for your continued support.



Year 7 Humanities have been engaging in a hustings to determine the next king of England after the death of Edward the Confessor. William, Duke of Normandy, Harald Hardrada of Norway and Harold Godwinson of England were all represented by Condors students.

The royal candidates presented their cases before the class, giving the reasons they should be allowed to rule, and the weaknesses of their opponents. They were supported by their fellow classmates with posters, banners and chants of support for their candidate. In the end the best candidate was put to a vote and Harald Hardrada won, only for his crown to be taken by Harold Godwinson.

Condors will continue to study what happened next at the Battle of Stamford Bridge.





Falcons students have been writing an explanatory text about the seven parishes of Andorra. After learning about the characteristics of this type of text and spending a few sessions writing the texts, each group presented their work to their classmates. We have been able to learn many interesting facts about our country.

