

GREENGATES SCHOOL



SUMMER 2004



On the Cover

Children enjoying Greengates



SUMMER 2004

Susan Mayer, Editor
Toni Hauri, Graphic Editor & Photographer

www.greengates.edu.mx
sarav@greengates.edu.mx



Reflecting Absence has two sunken shallow pools at its centre and will occupy the site of the World Trade Center's twin towers in New York. - Architect Michael Arad

CONTENTS PAGE

- Message from the Principal p 03
- Infant & Junior School
 - Pre-kinder p 04
 - Kinder p 04
 - Pre-primary p 05
 - Junior 1 p 05
 - Junior 2 p 05
 - Junior 3 p 06
 - Junior 4 p 06
 - Junior 5 p 07
 - PYP p 07
 - Music p 08
 - Infant Aquatics p 08
 - Rancho las Urracas p 08
 - EAL p 09
 - Sports p 09
 - Library p 09
 - Information Technology p 10
- S.E.P. Primaria
 - PEP p 11
 - Experiencia Compartida p 11
 - La Ruta de Hidalgo p 12
- S.E.P. Secundaria
 - Semana del Universo p 12
 - Talleres p 12
 - Exposiciones p 12
 - Conferencias p 12
- Intermediate & Senior School
 - The Intermediate School p 13
 - The Senior School p 13
 - External Examinations p 14
 - IGCSE p 14
 - IB Results 2003 p 14
 - Art Department p 14
 - CAS Activities p 16
 - Drama p 17
 - Geography Fieldtrips p 17
 - Information Technology p 18
 - Library p 19
 - Music p 19
 - The Science Department p 20
 - Biology and Environmental p 20
 - Sports p 21
- Leavers 2004
 - Infant and Junior School p 23
 - Senior School p 23

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

- by Susan Mayer

This has been a year marked by the achievements of several ex students. At the Graduation ceremony and Speech day at the end of last year the guest of honour was Dr Roberto Salinas who graduated in 1979 and who has had a distinguished career in the field of Economics, and who is currently President of the Mexico Business Forum .

During the first term news came in from the UK that the prestigious Booker prize for literature had been won by DCB Pierre, otherwise known as Peter Finlay, who was a student at Greengates in the 1970's. "Vernon God Little" was his first novel. The Man Booker prize represents the very best of contemporary fiction. One of the world's most famous literary prizes it continues to be the ultimate accolade for every fiction writer.

Early in January we heard from New York that Architect Michael Arad, who graduated in 1987, had won an international competition to design the main memorial for the victims of the attacks of 11th September.



At a more local level Malcolm Coelho's sculpture, "Walk the World" was inaugurated at the International Fair. A massive, multi-coloured steel sculpture, it symbolises a borderless planet "where all nations and cultures are represented and interconnected in unexpected ways". Malcolm, who graduated in 1985, has participated in many individual and collective exhibitions.

Actor Daniel Martinez of the class of 1988 starred in the film "Corazon de Melon" and we look forward to the release of "Carambola" hopefully later this year. (Yes, I'm a proud Mum!)



Within the school it has been another busy and successful year as you will read in this newsletter. The Infant and Junior School have made huge strides in the implementation of the Primary Years Programme of the IB and we are now looking forward to our authorisation visit in

November this year. The talents of both our PYP coordinator, Maggie Roberts, and our Diploma Coordinator, Jerry Singer have been recognised by the IB office in Buenos Aires and they have been invited to participate in workshops and inspection visits etc.

Over the summer various building projects were undertaken and as a result we now have a new six classroom block in the Senior School, the top floor of which can be converted into an examination hall, and a most attractive junior school classroom with its own terrace.

We have continued to invest heavily in IT, thanks both to parental contributions and matching funds from the school. and you will find full information as you read on.

This has been a year where an unusual number of staff have suffered the loss of a close relative and we extend our sympathy to them.

One colleague survived a dramatic accident resulting in three cranial fractures but defied the odds and made a rapid recovery

Better news has been the birth of two babies and the awarding of a Ph.D to Denise Miller.

We have also seen the birth of the Intermediate Orchestra who performed impressively in the Intermediate Musical "Oliver".



Congratulations are due to all who took part in this mega production which really was one of the major events of the year.

I would like to thank all those who have helped to make this another successful school year, colleagues, PTA and the Asociaciones de Padres de Familia.

PRE-KINDER

- by Clarissa Ortega and Wendy Jacome

We have had another full, rewarding and happy year in Pre-kinder. There were some changes in the staff; although Clarissa and Wendy continued as the PK teachers we were very happy to receive Lynne as our Aide and Olga, who was new to Greengates this year, as our hardworking Nana.

The organization of the school day continues to be highly successful with this age range and the children adapt to it with ease and confidence.

Play is at the centre of the day's activities. The role of the adult is to support, intervene and extend the play experience so that maximum learning occurs.



The day begins with a 10 minute session for the whole class with their teacher; new concepts are introduced at this time or previous learning is reviewed. Then groups of 5 children take turns working in a teacher-led session while the rest of the class explores the various activity areas. They may choose to go to the painting table, enjoy water play or go perhaps to the construction area. Other children may be engaged in role-play in the home corner. In the quiet area some will be playing a board game or looking at books while others may be investigating the latest software on the computers. The cutting and sticking table is always very popular and many works of art are produced every day.

The morning session ends with songs and preparations for lunch, which is eaten at tables on our sunny patio adjacent to the humming bird garden.

Returning from lunch, the children will sit with their teacher and participate in a whole group activity, after which the children may choose to remain indoors or to use the facilities in the garden. The children also have P.E., music and swimming classes.

This is the third year that we have explored 5 Units of Inquiry of the PYP, giving the children experience in questioning and investigating the world in which they live.

- by Frances Lond-Caulk, Eren Gonzalez and Judy Dawson

What a lot of work we have covered during the year... And we have had a great deal of fun at the same time!

Our 6 units of inquiry were all exciting: Fantastic Families, It's Showtime, Down on the Farm, Let's Explore, Sandcastles and An Octopus' Garden. This year we asked the children which PYP unit was their favourite. It was a tough decision, but the most popular was An Octopus' Garden closely followed by Fantastic Families. Throughout all of the units the children asked interesting questions to further our inquires.



We went on two day trips, both of which involved animals. In term 1 we went to visit a farm, and recently we went to Atlantis. The children were extremely well-behaved on both days. Everybody loved riding Esperanza the horse at the farm and watching the clever dolphins at Atlantis.

We would like to say two big thank-yous. Firstly to Liz Domoney for holding the fort while Judy was off having a baby. Secondly many many thanks to all of the Kinder parents for being so supportive throughout the year.



The children are all excited about the year ahead in Pre-Primary. We are sad to say goodbye to Kevin (the only child leaving us)... and wish him luck in his new school.

PRE-PRIMARY

- by Rachel Gonin, Lizzie Henshaw and Maria Creixell

The Pre-primaries have had another successful year. We have enjoyed our Units of Inquiry, especially our visitors and our trips out of school.

We visited Naucalli Park to explore the nursery during our Unit on plants. The children were given pine seedlings to plant at the park. They also learnt that the nursery provided trees for many different regions of Mexico.

For our Unit on homes, called Home Sweet Home, Derek Minton an ex Greengates senior Art Teacher had a captive audience and inspired the children by explaining how he designed and built his dream house in Mexico.



The visiting speakers we had for our Unit on holidays, Pack Your Bags, were grandparents and parents. One parent had been to Acapulco when there were only two hotels in the bay. Another parent, as a boy of nine, had a family holiday in the Amazon jungle where they were invited by the indigenous people, called Yanomamis, to dine on monkey, ants and a tea of fermented rice! We also learned from a grandmother the difference between the pyramids of Egypt and the pyramids of Mexico. The children enjoyed looking at her photographs of hieroglyphics and were amazed that the alphabet was made up of pictures. Another grandma wrote to us all the way from England and sent photographs of her holidays in the UK when she was a child. The children found it hard to believe that the first time she went on a plane was when she was 20 and that the plane had propellers!

Our Units have been enhanced by the new Literacy Hour books. We continue to encourage the children to become good readers and writers through the Literacy Hour. The maths skills in Pre-primary keep getting better with the practical activities which the Numeracy Hour provides.

The new interactive whiteboard has made learning more interesting across the curriculum. We have enjoyed exploring many websites on Cybergates.

Thank you to all our visitors and the wealth of information provided by them. Thank you to all the parents who have supported us throughout the year.

JUNIOR 1

- by Cindy Blanes

This year we have been working really hard in Junior One. We have been studying all sorts of things in our Units of Inquiry. In the first term we did lots of science work - all about our senses. Then we learnt all about stories, orchestras, photography and art in our unit called Once Upon A Time. This helped us to get ready for our play, The Lost Little Kitten. We buried rubbish and studied how it decayed as well as learning how to sort rubbish. We recycled paper on a visit to an ecology centre. At the end of the year we did lots of science experiments and learnt how electricity works. We learnt all about schools and toys from the past by asking our parents and grandparents lots of tricky questions. We have been writing and making pictures in our computer lessons too! We are all reading very hard books now and we can do very difficult addition and subtraction.

We are going to celebrate the end of Junior One by going bowling.

JUNIOR 2

- by Louise Bish

A busy and exciting year in Junior 2 is drawing to a close. It has been full of interesting events and many units of inquiry, which all have captured the children's imaginations.

We have participated in various trips, which have all been linked to the different units of inquiry. We began the year by visiting Chapultepec Zoo to study endangered animals. This enabled us to build upon the knowledge we had learnt and discovered in the classroom. Next, greatly anticipated by the Junior 2 children, was the trip to Tequisquiapan, which was preceded by our unit 'Bright lights,



Big city'. It was a memorable trip and we were greatly aided by many parent helpers and hosted by the hotel, which ensured that the needs of all the children were met. We swam in the hotel pool, compared the old and the new zocalo and visited the market. We also visited the ancient site of Tula and enjoyed looking at the ball courts and the huge Atlantes statues.

There have been many more units which the children have enjoyed hugely, including 'Every Drop Counts' where all the children became aware of the importance of water, its

JUNIOR 4

- by Carol Minton

uses and why we need to conserve it. We have been able to express ourselves artistically through the unit 'A time for celebration' and the Junior School Art Exhibition, which the children proudly produced work for based on different celebrations.

A definite highlight for the Junior two's was the production, 'The Tale of The Poor Little Wolf.' It was linked to the Fairy Tales that we had studied in Literacy and it really captured the children's imaginations. They loved singing, dancing and rose to the challenge of acting out the different fairy tales perfectly.

Well done to all the children for working very hard this year and we would like to wish them luck next year in Junior 3.

JUNIOR 3

- by Helen Willis

This year the J3's have had a very stimulating year with the PYP programme now in its second year. Linked with our unit on "Lights, Colour Action" we presented, for the first time in Greengates, a musical. It was a shadow puppet show for parents in which the children shared responsibility for every aspect of the production.



We were taken on a tour behind the scenes at Cinemex-Mundo E. There, amongst expensive state of the art equipment, we learnt how to project, cut, insert adverts and change languages on films.

During the annual residential trip to Cholula, Puebla, we conducted surveys related to amenities and public services in three settlements of different sizes. The smallest settlement had only one paved road which lead to the highway and no street lighting. We linked this information with our PYP unit, "Mapped Out."



Once again Junior 4 has had a very stimulating year inquiring into many areas of the PYP programme. We have enjoyed a visit to San Miguel Regla where we had fun taking part in difficult physical activities and learned about the people who settled in this region from other countries. This was part of our study on how colonizers adapted to their new lands. The visit to see the works of Diego Rivera in the city was a great success and underlined the importance of the influence of the background of an artist upon his work. We had a great day out to the zoo to discover more about the life of the flora and fauna of the tropical rain forests and have researched the climatic conditions of major cities in four different biomes. Our other Units of Inquiry taught us how our body works and the natural forces which affect our lives. The introduction of more IT equipment into the school has enabled the children to learn the skill of researching on the web and they use their new computer units regularly outside their classrooms. We can confidently say that their ability to download information has been of help and interest in their studies.



The Junior Fours have also had a lot of exposure to art and music. Many of them are in the school orchestra and they were the main performers in the Christmas concert. So the year has been busy and fun and we all wish the Junior 4 children good luck in Junior 5!

- by Maggie Roberts

This year was very busy and active but lots of fun. We began our year with an interesting unit of inquiry "Shocking Electricity". The children demonstrated great imagination in designing and making something that worked by electricity. We were kept busy for days! Our visit to the Technology Museum in Chapultepec helped to reinforce many of the ideas we had studied.

Another very exciting trip this year was our residential trip to Oaxaca. We quickly recovered our energy from the long journey and we certainly needed it to climb the pyramids at Monte Alban! We did plenty of shopping when we visited the local crafts people. It was also very interesting to see and learn first-hand how the things were made.



The trip to Oaxaca was our inspiration for the J5 PYP Exhibition. We worked in groups to plan and make exhibits. It was hard work designing and setting up the museum but it was well worth it when we were able to share our work with the many visitors who enjoyed the exhibits.

Although the sponsored skip was quite exhausting after several hours of jumping (and falling) it was great to be able to raise money for the children in Casa de la Sal. The children did a great job getting sponsors - and remembering to go back to collect the money.

Sports Day and Swimming Gala also encouraged us to become active. It was great to see the children participating in both events, despite being nervous in some cases.

Overall it has been an enjoyable year for all, including teachers and children and we are all looking forward to what the next year has in store for us.



- by Maggie Roberts, PYP Coordinator

Once again it has been a very busy but exciting year in terms of PYP. One of the greatest achievements this year was probably the J5 PYP Exhibition. The children planned a museum based on their residential visit to Oaxaca. There were exhibits based on the arts and crafts, the history/archaeology and tourism in the area. The children did their own research as well as planned a variety of interactive displays. It was a pleasure to see the children develop in many aspects during the process and particularly whilst they were working in the museum. The children really enjoyed the whole experience, as did many of our visitors. We are now looking forward to next year's exhibition.

In January of this year we were once again very honoured to hold several regional PYP workshops at Greengates. This enabled many of our teachers to attend training as well as share views with visiting teachers. The SEP teachers also



participated in a variety of workshops in the city. We have also been fortunate in being able to send some teachers to Argentina and Switzerland for training. We find the opportunity to talk with other teachers from across Latin



America and Europe very important as well as the training itself.

We are continuing our links with the American School Foundation in Mexico City. It is a great opportunity for teachers to visit another school and observe classes.

The children continue to develop as inquirers and are becoming far more confident asking questions and working as part of a group. The Cybergates site is an excellent resource to help children research on the Internet (a list of recommended sites is published for each unit of inquiry). Some units on the site also include the vocabulary used during the study. It would be useful if parents could talk about the meaning of



these words in their home language. We recommend that children have a dictionary in their home language to assist them with their studies at school.

If you have any queries regarding the units of inquiry that your child is studying please contact the class teacher directly. Further information regarding PYP can be found on, www.ibo.org and if you have any specific questions please feel free to email me at, maggiepyp@greengates.edu.mx.

MUSIC

- by Jim Taylor

This year has been a very busy one for the Primary Music Department. Each year group has performed in a production as well as being involved in various class music projects, many of which have related to the children's ongoing work in PYP.

At the end of the Autumn term the Infant department put on two musicals entitled 'The Rainbow Fish' (PK and K) and 'The Lost Kitten' (PP and J1), in which all the children were involved. This was followed by the Winter Concert, which involved the Choir and Orchestra providing festive music, along with the Junior Fours, who performed three short plays based on folk stories from different countries. The event was rounded off with the traditional Posada procession by the Junior Twos.



In the Spring term both the Junior Twos and Junior Threes staged their own productions. The Junior Two year group put on a musical entitled 'The Poor Little Wolf', which we wrote specifically for the children; the Junior Three year group performed a series of shadow plays based on the story poems of Dr. Seuss, along with songs written by Dr. Seuss, directly relating to their PYP class work for that term.

To conclude the Spring term, the Junior Fives presented their PYP exhibition. The musical element of this

project involved a group of children composing background music using our new music computer software, which was played during the exhibition.

This term sees our annual Theme Concert, which this year is based on songs from Broadway musicals and involves the Choir, Orchestra and the Junior Five year group. The academic year will then be rounded off with the Junior Five final assembly, where the children will be performing a series of songs and poetry, which they have written themselves.



We have also been very active this year in our extra curricular music programme. In the Autumn term we had excellent attendance for the beginner violin class. This was followed by a new beginner woodwind group which started in

January. Our Orchestra is now bigger than ever, with over a hundred children. The Orchestra, together with the Choir have worked hard with the large scale concerts we had planned for the year.

Next academic year we will be starting a new beginner violin class in September and a new woodwind group in January. The Choir and the Orchestra will of course continue and we have many more concerts and performances planned.

INFANT AQUATICS

- by Helen Willis

Pre-kinder, Kinder and Pre-primary students have all enjoyed and learnt during their aquatics classes. Stacey Mayoral and Laura Zozaya, with Helen Willis, continue to work miracles with the little ones. The first lesson for each group is always in the learner pool and by the end of the course all children will have entered the big pool confidently.

RANCHO LAS URRACAS TENTED CAMPS

- by Helen Willis

With Junior 2's and 3's in May and Junior 4's and 5's in June, Helen Willis organised two tented camps with The Victoria School in Tequisquiapan. Over 150 children shared the experiences of milking cows, learning to tie intricate knots, handling huge snakes and other reptiles, flying falcons, planting chile and tomato seedlings, horse back riding, having a try at archery, riding on hay bales behind a tractor, toasting mash-mallows over a camp fire and using a flying fox. You have to camp to find out what a flying fox is. This is our third year of the shared camp and it is rewarding to see the children from both schools recognise and

renew friendships not only with each other but with the staff too.

EAL

- by Liz Domoney

This year, as usual, some children who speak little or no English started in Greengates at the beginning of the year, while others came during the school year. They have joined EAL groups or we have started new classes to meet their needs.

Infants in Kinder and Pre-primary who are beginning to learn English have had extra help in small groups both in and out of the classroom. Many are now confident speakers and developing good literacy skills. Those who are not yet confident enough to participate fully will continue to be given help in Pre-primary.

In Junior 1 we have had a small beginners group and a larger intermediate group to offer help both to new children and to those continuing students who still need some support. We have been greatly helped by a team of mothers working in the reading room. Most children who started in the beginners group in August are now speaking confidently and are able to work in the intermediate group. We will continue to support any non-native speakers who need help in Junior 2 next year.

In Junior 2 to Junior 5, after discussion with class teachers on the best way to support each child, we have given group and individual classes to children new to English, and worked with intermediate level students both in their regular classrooms and in small groups. Some students have delayed studying Spanish until they feel confident in English and children new to English and not in the SEP Spanish programme have Social Studies every day in a small group. Good communication with supportive parents has again produced very satisfying results. Those parents not fluent in English themselves have arranged for a tutor to give their children the additional practice they need.

SPORTS

- by Jamie Johnston

Infant and Junior School students have been involved in an exciting year of varied sports activities. The year started with the ASCOPA Basketball tournament which was organized by Escuela Sierra Nevada. Most of the games were played at Sierra Nevada and our teams acquitted themselves well despite a lack of experience, earning 3rd and 4th places. Many thanks to coach Sian Draper for the great work she did to encourage team spirit and to develop the skills of our young players.

The Junior 2/3 and Junior 4/5 Swimming Galas proved to be exciting and keenly contested affairs and produced some outstanding individual and team performances. There is a great potential for the future, as exemplified by the Von Hahn sisters, who are swimming

with great success in national competition.

The inaugural Club Reforma Youth Soccer tournament provided a stiff challenge again for our relatively inexperienced teams. Victor Hugo Recinos and José Luz Parra provided the support and expertise needed and the young Greengates players enjoyed a great day out and learnt a lot from their experience. Next year we hope that our girls will also be able to compete in this tournament.

The Infant and Junior Sports Days were full of excitement. Students, teachers and parents all made outstanding contributions resulting in two great days for everyone. Once again there were some tremendous performances with new records being set by:

Long Jump:

- Geraldine Hernández
- Patricio Gomez
- Alex Alvarez
- Daniel Deakin
- Gabriel Del Salto
- Jae Rang Oh

Bean Bag Throw:

- Octavio Ortega J2
- Kevin Riley J3
- Joy Akwarandu J4

60m:

- Renata Cruz Lara

Many thanks to José Luz Parra and Donna McLaren-Moreton for organizing these two terrific events.

Thanks also to all students, teachers and parents who have contributed to a very enjoyable and successful year of Infant and Junior sport!

LIBRARY

- by Jane Alexander

2003/4 has been another innovative year for the Infant and Junior Library, with the promise of more to come.

The décor has been improved by senior school pupils during their activities week. We now have some wonderful murals depicting characters and scenes from Roald Dahl and Robert Munsch books. We have also to thank the Form 1 pupils for new colourful and artistic place marker paddles. We are hoping that this may become a yearly endeavour!

Our books and resources have benefited from the arrival of a large order from England. The arts and infant sections have had a substantial injection of new stock with the rest of the new resources being spread across all disciplines. We are very proud of the fact that we now have more than 12,500 books available to children and in excess of 5000 resources for teaching purposes. All of these are of course entered on our searchable database.

The Infant and Junior Library has two new PCs with the latest software and access to the internet, together with a new colour printer and scanner. The children are able to use these for school work and research at break times and during lessons.

Our most exciting new acquisition has been the installation of an interactive white board. This acts as a very large computer screen where teachers' and children's fingers act as the mouse. The children seem entranced by having lessons enabling them to become part of the learning process. They are finding multiplication and grammar a whole new experience! For some of the Junior Threes it has created a sense of 'being there' whilst watching and listening to child refugees explaining how it feels to live in war torn countries. The interactive board has added a new dimension to the teaching of EAL and a junior social science group has recently enjoyed a virtual trip into space.

And, into the future... we have ordered many more new resources for next year, paying particular attention to the Junior Fiction section. Watch out for more of your favourites and new releases. More PCs are planned for 2004/5 and pupil access to the library database should be available soon.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- by Stephen Whitaker

This has been an exciting year for ICT at Greengates. The schools ICT team, have been planning a series of major changes and improvements which will quickly have a major effect upon not only your child's ICT skills, but also the way they learn across the curriculum.

You may have noticed that your child had to learn a new user name and password this year. This was because the school has initiated a central server system for all students and teachers. This makes working easier as children and teachers can now log onto any computer in the school and access their work. It also means that all of our work is protected by greater security!

A number of new computer areas were developed this year. Clusters of computers were installed in the Junior blocks and large 21" monitor computers in the Infants. These areas will continue to expand next year!



At the beginning of the academic year a new software suite was purchased for the Infant and Junior School in order to improve your child's learning. We will add to this suite each year, but the core programs are now in place. One of our key teaching targets this year has been the development of touch-typing skills from Junior 2 onwards.

All of this equipment is of course useless unless we have a curriculum to exploit it. Skill targets continue to be implemented across the school. Along with the development of the PYP, ICT is being integrated into your child's

learning in every area of the curriculum. We live in a world in which computers are used in most aspects of our working lives and our children must be ready to work in this environment!



Next year we will begin the phased installation of a wireless network. This will be essential if we wish to use laptops widely at Greengates. Perhaps most exciting of all, at least 3 classrooms in the Juniors will become "electronic classrooms". This will mean that the teachers will begin to teach full-time with a laptop, projector and supporting software suite. Software and tools have now been developed in the UK and US which mean that this is not simply an alternative way to teach, but it has become a way to enhance your child's learning. Junior 5 has been chosen to pilot this new teaching method next year as this will ensure that every child passing through the Infant and Juniors will benefit from the new technology. This will be the first step in a strategy which will eventually embrace the entire Infant and Junior School.

Exciting times indeed!

S.E.P. PRIMARIA

- Armando Avellaneda U. Director Técnico S.E.P.

Las actividades que se realizan en el área SEP se han convertido en una tradición en la comunidad de Greengates.



A muy pocas semanas de haberse iniciado el curso escolar disfrutamos de una alegre “verbena popular”, para celebrar la “Independencia de México”, con la participación de

profesores, estudiantes de Jr 1 a Form 1 y padres de familia, bailes regionales tablas rítmicas, rondas infantiles y la Banda de Música y de Guerra de Guardias Presidenciales, crearon un ambiente muy emotivo.



Otra festividad del pueblo mexicano, que cada año cobra mayor relevancia, es el “Día de Muertos”. En esta ocasión la monumental ofrenda tuvo como inspiración un mural del pintor mexicano Diego Rivera con las pinturas realizadas por el departamento de arte y decorada con las coloridas artesanías mexicanas así como platillos regionales. La organización y el montaje que realizaron las asociaciones de padres de familia, fue como siempre, ¡excelente!



En el mes de noviembre el departamento de Educación Física organizó el “Field Day” evento que ofreció diversas actividades deportivas así como una variedad de juegos y entretenimiento para alumnos y padres de familia organizados por nuestros entusiastas comités de SEP; los talleristas del museo “Universum” mantuvieron el interés de chicos y grandes.

Muy pronto llegó la navidad y las asociaciones de padres de familia nuevamente nos contagiaron de esa alegría que les es característica y nos ofrecieron una espléndida posada-bazar con los deliciosos antojitos mexicanos, el tradicional ponche y un extenso surtido de productos navideños; la convivencia que se dio en esta posada nos hace sentirnos orgullosos del trabajo realizado por toda esa gente maravillosa que siempre nos apoya ¡Muchas gracias!.



P.E.P. (P.Y.P.)

En este ciclo escolar, algunos de los profesores S.E.P., se integraron a los viajes de estudio que realizan cada año nuestros niños de 2° a 5° grado y en base a la planificación establecida de común acuerdo con los profesores del área de inglés se manejaron actividades en Español y de esta manera se cumplió con la filosofía de trabajo del P.E.P. (P.Y.P.).



Una de las actividades más interesantes de las unidades de investigación fue “El museo” realizada por los estudiantes de 5° grado.

EXPERIENCIA COMPARTIDA

- Por Gena Álvarez

Tuve la grata experiencia de vivir uno de los viajes que el colegio organiza con maestros y alumnos del grupo de J5 (5° grado de Primaria). En esta ocasión, realizamos un “Periódico Escolar” como una muestra de las vivencias y los conocimientos adquiridos durante el viaje que realizamos a la

bella ciudad de Oaxaca, el pasado mes de febrero y de esta forma poder mostrar un panorama de las actividades que se llevaron a cabo durante el viaje.

Los alumnos pusieron en práctica los aspectos del programa de Español de la S.E.P., como entrevistas, resúmenes, entretenimientos, información monográfica, así como las secciones que debe llevar un periódico escolar.



También lograron desarrollar habilidades y actitudes tales como el trabajo en equipo con armonía, la expresión oral y escrita en forma correcta, la observación, la traducción de textos del idioma Inglés al Español y viceversa, y la metacognición, por nombrar las más relevantes.

Disfrutamos de momentos muy agradables de esparcimiento y convivencia, tanto con los maestros como con los alumnos y madres de familia que nos acompañaron, así como de la gran gama de oportunidades que nos ofrece el estado de Oaxaca para apreciar su rica cultura, arquitectura, artesanía, tradiciones y, por supuesto, su variada y sabrosa cocina.

La experiencia de compartir estas vivencias con mis alumnos y compañeros de trabajo fue sumamente enriquecedora para todos los que disfrutamos de este bello y bien organizado viaje a Oaxaca.

“LA RUTA DE HIDALGO”

- Profesor Raymundo Robles

La ruta de Hidalgo se ha convertido en un buen ejercicio de investigación de campo para los alumnos de sexto grado (Form 1), de varias generaciones.

En el curso que está por terminar, La ruta de Hidalgo se realizó en los primeros días de noviembre. Se contó con cerca de 60 alumnos que hicieron el tradicional recorrido que hicieron los héroes en la primera etapa de la Guerra de Independencia de México. Para los maestros que asistimos fue satisfactorio constatar la camaradería y compañerismo de los niños; las horas de diversión y el entusiasmo con que se entregaron a la investigación en museos y edificios.

Ciudades como Querétaro, San Miguel de Allende, Dolores y Guanajuato seguramente tienen un lugar especial en la memoria de nuestros estudiantes. La experiencia e información que obtuvieron en este viaje sirvieron de apoyo para la elaboración del proyecto “La Independencia de México”.

S.E.P. SECUNDARIA

- Armando Avellaneda U. Director Técnico S.E.P.

Una ceremonia más formal que la de primaria pero también muy emotiva fue la que llevaron a cabo los estudiantes de secundaria para celebrar “La Independencia de México”; las palabras que escuchamos ese día por parte de varios jóvenes, nos

conmovieron profundamente y nos hicieron sentir lo que significa “La Patria”

Este año Greengates fue sede del concurso de escoltas de la zona escolar, y nuestras estudiantes de 3° de secundaria tuvieron un desempeño brillante y aunque obtuvimos el tercer lugar, felicitamos a todas las chicas de la escolta y nuestro sincero reconocimiento al Prof. Parra, por su dedicación y esfuerzo para preparar la escolta.

“SEMANA DEL UNIVERSO”

- por Isabel Huerta

En diciembre se realizó: La Semana del Universo en la que participaron estudiantes y profesores de toda la escuela secundaria. Organizamos un programa muy interesante integrado por: talleres, conferencias, representaciones, exposiciones y trabajo artesanal.

Entre lo más destacado se llevaron a cabo las siguientes actividades:

TALLERES:

- “Comisión de la cultura huichol”.
- Elaboración de “Ojos de dios” (simbología de los cuatro puntos cardinales) impartido por un representante de la “Comisión Nacional para el desarrollo de los pueblos indígenas”.
- “La semilla, arte y color de los niños indígenas de México” (simbología de las semillas).
- “Eclipses” (por la Profa.. Carla González).

EXPOSICIONES:

- Radamuri; (ritual petición de lluvia cultura tarahumara).
- Cuento indígena “Lucia y su huipil”. Simbología.

CONFERENCIAS:

- “Cosmovisión indígena del universo” impartida por la “Comisión Nacional para el desarrollo de los pueblos indígenas”.
- “Una vista al Cielo” impartida por Carla González.

REPRESENTACIONES TEATRALES:

- Representación de un mito griego a cargo de alumnos de Form 2 (segundo de secundaria), dirigidos por el Prof. Raymundo Robles.
- “La tierra gira y se mueve”, representación teatral por alumnos de form 4 (tercero de secundaria) bajo la dirección del Prof. Eugenio Morales.

CONCURSO:

Concurso de cuento con el tema: “La luna” con la participación de estudiantes de form 3 (segundo de secundaria) Profa.. Isabel Huerta.

¡Felicitaciones a alumnos y profesores por este evento en el cual todos aprendimos mucho y tuvimos oportunidad de relacionar todas las materias de estudio de los programas SEP!



THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

- submitted by Kim Holmes, Head of Intermediate School

This year we have developed an Intermediate School student Council where the class representatives have taken responsibility for organising social events and have chaired class debates on school issues. The Mathematics department have run an Inter-House Mathematics competition for all students in Form 1,2,3 throughout the year. We raised awareness by recognizing International Women's Day with a creative writing competition that drew several entries of high quality. Teachers in the social science and language departments have taken many visits off-site to enrich their curriculum. Competitions in English creative writing have continued and Scientists have been rewarded for their effort, progress and achievements with certificates. Extended coursework has featured more frequently, thus fostering a strong work ethic and a challenging approach to study. The expansion of ICT resources and provision throughout the school has benefited the Intermediate School across the curriculum.

The Intermediate School musicians and thespians rehearsed throughout the year. Hours and hours of hard work were put in by students and teachers, supported all the way by the school administration, parents, school technicians and ground personnel. This culminated in the major production of the school year, "Oliver", which was a resounding success and most definitely the highlight of the Intermediate School calendar.

I recently asked students a simple question: what is good about the Intermediate School?

Students told me that they like learning in English, they appreciate their teachers, they enjoy going to class, they learn good values, they know that standards are high and they like the diverse international ambience of the school. Watching students find their niche in the Intermediate School, knowing that so many of them strive to achieve their best and working with colleagues who provide mind-sharpening experiences for our Form 1,2,3 students is very satisfying. We are all proud of the Intermediate School.



- Submitted by John Hill, Head of Senior School

2003-2004 was another very successful year in the Senior School. The year started with, yet again, excellent examination results at IB and IGCSE, from the summer of 2003. Currently Form 5 and Upper 6 have just completed their exams and we have high expectations of very good results. Our graduating class – the largest ever at 81 – deserve congratulations for all their hard work and all their teachers too for coping with a heavy workload and all those excuses from students who failed to meet with deadlines. This class, as usual, has achieved very good university acceptances and a hearty thanks must be given to Marcie Rodriguez, to Ana Molina and Jerry Singer. The class of 2004 were well led by their Graduation Committee and their graduation party and trip have been well organized. Congratulations should also go to the current Student Council leadership for their efforts with the Student Lounge.

The Senior School has not only enjoyed academic success. In sport, the Sports Day and CAISSA successes have helped to raise school spirit. In Drama, there were two very professional performances and another success story in the Anglo-Shakespeare competition. In Music, there was a very polished pre-Xmas concert. Unfortunately, several of our excellent musicians are graduating. In Art, we saw a superb display of IB Upper 6 Art; congratulations here should go to all the students and the Art Department. In CAS, another excellent year with many of the students making a real contribution to help those less fortunate than themselves in Community work. A successful school Newspaper has continued this year thanks to very enthusiastic teachers, editors and contributors.

In general, this year has seen the usual blend of high academic standards and excellent teaching, and a wide range of very rewarding extra-curricular activities. A fairly unique atmosphere continues at the school which is truly international, harmonious, caring and full of fun, which stands very often in stark contrast to the troubled world in which we live.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

I.G.C.S.E.

- Stephen Holmes, IGCSE Coordinator

Greengates has offered a very successful IGCSE programme to its students in Forms 4 and 5 (ages 14-16 years old) for the past 16 years. Our particular courses of study follow the International General Certificate of Secondary Education overseen by the University of Cambridge.



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE Local Examinations Syndicate

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

We currently offer a wide range of subjects covering all the major areas of study; the arts, humanities, languages, mathematics, sciences and social sciences.

This year 17 subjects are available for examination by The University of Cambridge at IGCSE level, with most students typically taking between 7 and 9 subjects.

Each year the overall pass rate achieved by Greengates students, on a per subject basis, is consistently around 80%. This is a figure of which we are justifiably proud as it compares very favourably to the worldwide figures. The success of our students on this programme can be attributed to a number of factors, not least of which are:

- Our professionally trained and competent teaching staff with many years of IGCSE level experience,
- An academically capable student body who, for the most part, are hard working, achievement oriented and well supported at home, and
- A very sound and supportive administration within the school.

Furthermore, we feel that the academic rigour of this programme stands our students in very good stead for the demands of the International Baccalaureate programme offered in the Sixth Form.

I.B. RESULTS 2003

- submitted by J.Singer

Again this year Greengates was one of the schools with the largest number of IB candidates for full diploma examination in Mexico. This year the results were extraordinary with a pass rate of 96% against the worldwide average of 82%. However, it is worth noting that



Greengates does not handpick its students for the IB Diploma Programme as other schools do and here, at Greengates, every year there are a number of students for whom we consider the Diploma a particularly challenging endeavour due to the fact that they have been studying in English for only a short period of time. The average diploma score worldwide this year was 29 and Greengates students managed an average of 31. Of particular note was the superb performance of Mayanka Mudgal who scored 42 points and was 1 of about 300 students out of 18,387 candidates to do this. As ever this pass rate is a tribute to the enormous hard work and professionalism of both IB teachers and students alike.

ART DEPARTMENT

- submitted by Ana Garcia, Head of the Art Department

For the Art Department, 2003-2004 has been a busy, rewarding academic year, full of learning experiences and stimulating activities.



Early in the first term, our senior students visited the extraordinary exhibition of photographer Josef Koudelka in Bellas Artes. Soon after, all of the IB students got a taste, some for the very first time, of international contemporary art, on our visit to the Jumex Collection. In January, however, we returned to the traditional with a raku firing workshop organized by Mrs. Anabella Millán. Ceramics students were able to learn from the experience of Barbara Weibel and Patrice Rouby, visiting ceramists from France.

We were also fortunate to have artist Malcolm Coelho give a series of talks about the making of his site-specific sculpture, Walk the World, which greets us every morning.

Later in January, the Art Department IB teachers attended an interesting Visual Arts workshop organized by the IBO and hosted by the American School, where we received positive feedback and exchanged ideas with other IB Art teachers.

Our last outing of the year was a Saturday morning tour of the museums in Chapultepec Park with form 5 and 6 students. We enjoyed the Francisco Toledo and Textile exhibitions in the Museum of Anthropology; walked along Paseo de la Reforma looking at the Virgin of Guadalupe photographs; visited the Museum of Modern Art and sculpture garden; and saw two contemporary art shows at the Tamayo Museum.

During a long break in February, the Art Department



organized an Open House for all staff. We displayed some of the students' work in various states of completion in the ceramics area, both art studios, and in the photo lab. The idea was to reproduce the experience of the "studio visit" where artwork is viewed "in process."

At the very beginning of the school year, Mrs. Shireen Cotterall had to return to Canada with her family. Graciously, Mr. Derek Minton agreed to teach her classes whilst a new teacher could be found. We have missed Mrs. Cotterall and are very grateful to Mr. Minton. Fortunately, Mr. Javier García soon joined us, contributing his experience and team spirit.



Art students and teachers have participated in different activities organized by other sectors of the school. In November, we really enjoyed painting the backdrop for the amazing Ofrenda set up by the Asociación de Padres de Familia. In so doing, our students became familiar with the work of Diego Rivera. We also participated in the making of sculptures for Mr. Bonfiglio's excellent production of Peter Shaffer's Black Comedy.

All of the intermediate (and some of the senior) artists have worked on a colourful sculpture that will be installed on the wall of the staff conference room early next term.

The month of May found us busy working on the scenery, props and programme for the Intermediate School production of Oliver!

The highlight of the year, however, was definitely the IB Art exhibition. Seventeen artists enthusiastically participated during long hours and, we can say, have become almost experts in mounting and hanging a show. The work on display was exciting and offered the viewers seventeen very different and personal points of view. Parents, teachers and friends shared a glass of wine with the artists on opening night. Many Infant, Junior, and Intermediate School teachers took their classes on a visit during the week. We thank the school administration and all the workers who helped make this exhibition possible.

A wish for luck and every success goes to all our U6 artists. We will miss them.



This year, two Greengates students have been granted scholarships by the Savannah College of Art and two more have been accepted at the UBC Art School.

This academic year, the Greengates Art Department has significantly improved its equipment: two upgraded computers, a brand new collection of books on different art topics, a slab table for ceramics, a state of the art 35mm SLR camera, and upgraded Photoshop and Illustrator software programmes for Graphic and Computer Arts.

Considering how influential and important all art-related disciplines have become, our task is to provide our students significant and realistic experiences, striving to achieve excellence in the practice of Art.

CAS ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Pip Kirkby and Sue Mann

This year we have continued most of our activities with greater involvement and also started some new ventures. This year's graduating class numbered over 80 and we had a busy time fitting everyone into programmes that suited them. As usual, a percentage of our students worked in their own communities as well as participating in school – based activities.

Our Special Olympics basketball and swimming coaches have been busy, not only coaching but also interpreting at an international bowling event and taking athletes to a metropolitan meet. At the former event our students worked with Mexican Special Olympics athletes and members of the international board of Special Olympics at Bol Coyoacan. They were congratulated on their efforts by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of the organization. At the latter event our coaches accompanied their basketball athletes to a competition at Los Galeana sports ground. Although our athletes did not get first place we were all very proud of their efforts as it was the first time they had competed. They all came away happy with their ribbons and they certainly fulfilled the Special Olympics motto "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt". Congratulations to all our volunteers and coaches.

We also participated in Habitat for Humanity building



houses, this time in the state of Morelos. This made for a long bus ride and extremely hot working conditions. The students did a great job and all survived ! We hope to work on the Jimmy Carter project in Puebla for a few days next October but hope to be working a little nearer home for most of the time.

Approximately eight students have been working once a week at Centro Colibri, which is a day centre for children who work on the street and who are being supported in their efforts to integrate into the State school system. Several students went to Oaxaca for four days to take part in a health programme for which they collected various items such as

tooth - brushes and paste. Other students attended the annual three - day CAS event in Puebla. Yet more students collected donations of food, etc., for flood victims in Michoacan state and we had a splendid collection of food, sweets, clothes and toys at Christmas. The items were distributed to the Christmas Eve street peoples event, an orphanage in the State of Mexico and Centro Colibri. Children in the school also bought presents for all the children at the centre and were extremely generous in trying to fulfil the Santa Claus wishes.

Amnesty International and Human Rights sessions took place at school and also a Red Cross CPR course was given.

Students also helped at sports events as referees and assistant coaches and yet others assisted in the junior and infant school in different capacities.

This year we again took part in the UNICEF Trick or Treat programme in which the senior students worked to raise the awareness of the younger ones of the need to help less fortunate children in our society. The students also helped to raise money for Casa de la Sal home for HIV+ children on International Aids Day and the J5 students had their annual sponsored rope jump to raise funds for the same cause.

We feel that we are gradually amplifying and improving our programme in order to encourage more students throughout the school, as well as the I.B. students, to be more sensitive to the needs of the Mexican and international communities outside our school. We still have a long way to go !

Finally, again our thanks to all the invaluable help we receive from the administration, the school workers and , of course, the teacher volunteers, without whom our programme just would not function.

On behalf of the students and all the organizations we work with, many thanks.



DRAMA

- submitted by John Bonfiglio, Head of the Drama Department

The Academic Year has seen students from all ages participating in Drama productions and competitions. In the Michaelmas Term, the Upper Sixth took on the challenges of Michael Frayn's Black Comedy, which was performed at the Anglo-Mexican Foundation as well as at the Greengates. Audience response was excellent and the actors performed admirably on every occasion.

In the Spring Term, the Lower Sixth took part in the Anglo-Mexican Foundation's Annual Shakespeare Competition, with Greengates competing as defending champions. Both Sage Figueroa and Veronica Coates performed to an excellent standard, with Veronica gaining second place overall and the prize of a weekend break in Festival Cervantino in Guanajuato. In the same term, the Fifth Form joined the Lower Sixth in staging a number of Samuel Beckett's short plays, with a number of directors taking on challenging pieces, including Omar Saer and Maddie D'Agata, who directed their first pieces with aplomb.



And so to Oliver, Gareth Hubback and Peter Ashton's magnum opus. The number of people involved with the production were too many to mention, but it proved a tremendous success and provided the Intermediate School with a fantastic opportunity to display the great talent that they have at their disposal.

GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIPS

- by Susan Mann

This was another busy year for the geography department. The Lower Sixth went on their usual trip to Patzcuaro, Michoacan with the Edron School to complete the research for their IB coursework. A large group of Form 4's went to Jungapeo to complete the coursework requirement for IGCSE. The whole of Form 3 went to Lake Iturbide for a day of environmental investigations and the whole of Form 2 went to Las Manzanillas to study rivers.

The Lower Sixth studied migration, gullies and land use patterns. They worked very well throughout and mixed well with the Edron students despite some language barriers. During the gully study we sweltered in the sun, but completed the work in record time, thanks in part to the enthusiasm of Alex Navarro. He and Fernando Ruiz were invaluable translators during the migration study, although they complained that everyone they tried to interview had already been approached by other groups. Asako produced a sketch of the gully site that was a real work of art, but unfortunately had to repeat the whole thing as what was needed was a birds-eye view.

The Form 4 trip also went by without a hitch. The hotel is being renovated this year so we had sparkling new bathrooms, a very pleasant surprise. After the river study some daring students tried to body surf the river, but found it a bit difficult due to the lack of water. We had two students, Paul Wirth and Frank Flores, who both managed to break arms just before the trip this year, but both did their best, although they were restricted to recording results on the river bank for the most part. There were more incredible Monarch butterflies this year and the reserve at El Rosario has been improved, but it is still a hard hike up to the butterflies. Johnny Salvador managed to forget his bag at the top, so he made the trip up twice, the second time at a run to avoid missing the bus! No ski-lifts yet, despite the students' suggestions.

Form 3 enjoyed a warm day looking for minibeasts and analyzing pollution levels at Lake Iturbide. Some came more than prepared for the day in combat fatigues. Their results were rather confusing as they found creatures that live in both clean and polluted water. At the end many brave souls decided a dip in the freezing water was what they needed. The teachers were content to sit back and watch this event.

Form 2 had a very enjoyable trip to Las Manzanillas. Some groups deliberately chose deep pools to do their measuring so they ended up soaked to their waists, although most of the river was only a few inches deep. One intrepid group decided to go off exploring at the end. Their punishment for disappearing was being frog-marched back to the bus at double speed, which they did so quickly that they overtook some of the stragglers despite setting off nearly twenty minutes behind.

Both the Intermediate School trips involved SEP students for the first time and therefore involved many more teachers. I would like to thank all the teachers who have

helped out this year, especially Steve Holmes who is my invaluable collaborator in our good cop-bad cop routine.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- submitted by Sherry Dowlatshahi, Head of the Computer Department

This was yet another big year for us! With the help of the IT fee and additional spending by the school, we have met a number of our objectives and feel proud of the direction our school is taking with information and communications technology.

Our computer groups across all year groups benefited this year from an overhaul of our main computer lab. With 25 new Dells and headsets, special lab management software, a scanner, a network printer, digital camera and projector, our computer classroom has transformed into a real multimedia learning space in which our students enjoy working. At break time, students fill the room working on assignments, checking email or carrying out research. Many comment that the computers at school are so much better than what they have at home!! That is certainly music to my ears.

The other main computer lab, otherwise referred to as our cross curricular technology suite, already equipped with Dell computers from our previous year purchase, also received lab management software, headsets, digital camera and two air-conditioning units. This space has been used extensively all year long by Science, French, Spanish, Geography, English, Math, Sociology, History and Art teachers. The school has invested heavily in subject specific software which in turn provides additional resources for these teachers taking their groups to use computers.

This leads us into teacher training which yet again was an important aspect of our IT plan. We had a productive three day workshop at the beginning of the school year and followed it up with a few more sessions throughout the year. Not enough time is always a factor here but on the positive side so many of our teachers are making the time and effort to improve their own skills. Overall, our teachers are feeling more confident that ever before about integrating the use of technology into their classroom experience.

The library computer suite boasts a total of 8 Dell computers. It also houses a high resolution colour network laser printer and consequently provides an important high quality and fast printing resource for students and teachers. Student projects look better than ever before!! Our wonderful library staff patiently work with anyone who needs it whether it is scanning a picture in, helping to find some information on a CD Rom or on the Internet. At the same time they have been busy all year long, working on computerizing library resources and getting ready for implementing the automated library system.

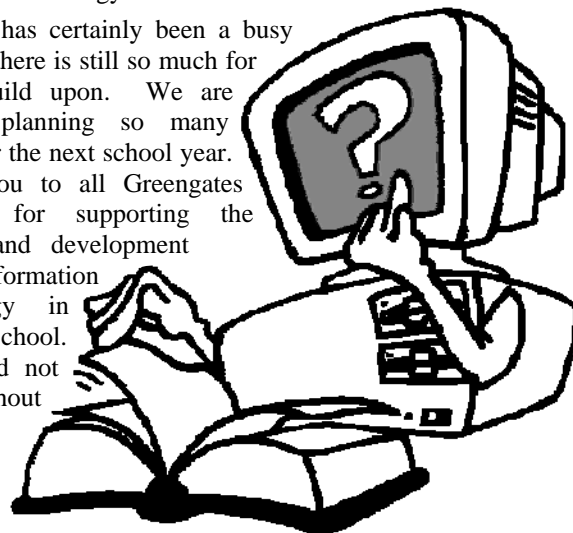
This year we also introduced our first two electronic classrooms, one in the Math Department and the other in

Biology. Both classrooms are equipped with an electronic whiteboard and projector as well as new computer, printer and Internet/network access. A video microscope was installed in the Biology room enabling projection of microscopic images onto the large screen. Students do not have to take turns looking into the microscope as much but now they get to see more images in less time! Both rooms serve as a model which we hope to replicate over the next few years. Projectors also went into one of the Geography and one of the English classrooms. The Modern Languages Division also got a projector which is used from classroom to classroom. Although these rooms are not yet fully electronic, they provide alternative spaces for teachers to use with presentation media.

One of the most important things that has impacted all students and teachers this year has been the changeover of our school network from a simple peer to peer setup to a client-server network set up by Dell Consultancy. Computer users are required to login unique IDs and custom passwords. The changeover went over quite smoothly although it has required students and teachers alike to interact with the computers differently. Now everyone is responsible for safeguarding their information and managing their network folders which they can access from any computer in the school. Our biggest problem so far has been students forgetting their passwords!!

As far as our computer classes, we have just wrapped up our first year of working with TechnoKids curriculum in our Intermediate rotations. Form One students became inspectors and created mystery stories using databases and presentation software. Form Two students became stock market investors, trading shares and recording their progress using spreadsheet software. Form Three students worked as NASA database designers preparing astronaut information for space missions using database software. In Form four we started the IGCSE Information Technology course and look forward to our first generation sitting their exam in May 2005. Our year was wrapped up with a field trip to the UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) Computing Centre where our form four computer groups were taken on a tour of the facilities where they were shown the Super Computer, a virtual reality centre, an interactive videoconference classroom as well as other innovations in computer technology.

It has certainly been a busy year but there is still so much for us to build upon. We are already planning so many things for the next school year. Thank you to all Greengates families for supporting the growth and development of information technology in our school. We could not do it without you!



LIBRARY

- by Wendy Cerdeno

Further advances were made towards automating the library – about three quarters of the books have been computerized so far.

Amongst the students, there was a dramatic increase in reading awareness and new books were awaited like “pan caliente”. Our shelving space was enlarged to house the new books received.



A very special thank you to the group of Japanese families who generously gave of their time and energy to obtain a large number of books in English on the many facets of Japanese life and culture.

A new and improved security system was installed as well as a new photocopying machine.

Topping the list for this year’s most popular books are:

- “*The Harry Potter Series*” by J.K. Rowling
- “*The Series of Unfortunate Events*” by Lemony Snicket
- “*The Dark Materials Trilogy*” by Phillip Pullman
- “*The Redwall Series*” by Brian Jacques
- “*Artemis Fowl*” by Eoin Colfer
- “*The Hobbit*” and “*The Lord of the Rings Trilogy*” by J.R.R. Tolkien
- “*The Alchemist*” by Paulo Coelho
- “*Holes*” by Louis Sachar
- “*The House of the Scorpion*” by Nancy Farmer
- “*The Nanny*” by Melissa Nathan
- “*You Don’t Know Me*” by David Klass
- “*Life of Pi*” by Yann Martel

Jacqueline Wilson, Jean Ure and Ann Brashares have proved popular new authors whose stories are about everyday children, with their everyday vulnerabilities and idiosyncrasies.

A wide variety of writers such as Michael Connelly, Nicholas Sparks and Dan Brown have come into vogue.

It is interesting to note that, following the success of the first Chinese recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature, Gao Xingjian, more books by Chinese writers are being read. “Soul Mountain” by Gao Xingjian and “Chinese Cinderella” by Adeline Yen Mah as well as books by Ha Jin have been popular in the library.

However, the most effective accomplishment over the

year was not really about increasing the library stock or providing a pleasant atmosphere for reading and study but about the students and staff who used and benefited from it.

The wealth of information available from different sources and knowing not only how to access this but to be critical consumers has made a difference not only in achievement but in fact to many lives.

Please promote reading at home, encourage talking about books and be aware of your child’s reading interests.

MUSIC

- submitted by Peter Ashton, Head of the Music Department

In September 2003 we added to the Upper School instrumental program by establishing a separate orchestra for members of the Intermediate School (forms 1-3). The senior orchestra continued to rehearse and perform as a separate entity and in December we performed a very successful concert of music by each orchestra individually and included some pieces where all the students performed together as a combined orchestra of seventy students.



In May the Intermediate school presented an excellent production of the Musical “Oliver”. All of the performers came from Forms 1-3 and presented the complete musical with twenty songs divided between soloists and choruses. The main actors and actresses all gave highly individual performances which contained many touches of humour and colourful characterisations. The “Workhouse Orphans” developed, throughout the rehearsals, into a group of ‘raucous London street children’ who presented their chorus songs with accuracy and great verve. The music for the show was provided by the Intermediate School Orchestra. Their level of improvement from the previous September was remarkable as they coped with the intricacies of being the ‘theatre orchestra’ for a full length musical.

At this time of writing we are working on the program for Speech Day which will contain a variety of music from a combined orchestra of Intermediate and Senior musicians. The vocal music will be varied (from Whitney Houston to opera) and I am sure the students will perform at their usual high standard.

THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

- submitted by Gary Worthington, Head of the Science Department

At the beginning of this year the Science Department started using the data-logging apparatus that the school has invested in. The department has eight data-logging interfaces and a collection of 32 different probes, ranging from accelerometers to turbidity sensors. This apparatus has been used to improve the understanding of students throughout the school and as we continue to gain experience with it, its use will grow. Along with the software to analyse the data students are able to monitor very fast or very slow changes. They can therefore focus on the trends and patterns that emerge rather than the process of gathering data itself. This use of ICT will enhance learning, increase awareness of the technology scientists use for processing information and prepare students for a rapidly changing situation in the real world. The installation of an interactive whiteboard in one of the laboratories and the use of two projectors has enabled the use of computers in the classroom to complement the hands-on practical work that exists through out the department. This year we are investing in more software across the department, this includes software programs to illustrate concepts and models which are not readily demonstrable in laboratory experiments because they require expensive equipment or materials that are hazardous or difficult to obtain. This year we have placed an order for a new syllabus for years one and two in the intermediate school. This Thinking Through Science course will provide an excellent grounding in the sciences including ICT skills and will complement the Thinking Science activities that are already in place in these years. Science in Greengates has never been so technical, long may it continue.

BIOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

- submitted by María Luisa Esteves Head of the Biology Department and Edie Ormerod

NEW RESOURCES:

Once more we had a successful year full of activities and improvements in our resources.

We now have a digital microscope and one digital white board. These resources with the use of the projectors have become an essential part of our lessons. We are able to motivate our students more, who in turn, learn and analyze data from experiments more efficiently.

We used the data logging in our Extended essays and the quality of the investigations has improved significantly.



Kidney dissection with an actual microscopic observation using the digital microscope

NEW TEACHER:

Elsa Lee joined our team in August 2003. She was teaching at Canterbury High School in England and is a very qualified teacher.

SEMINARS GIVEN BY OUTSIDE SPEAKERS:

Invited specialists gave conferences to the Upper Sixth IB students, on the following topics:

- 1) Desert Bighorn Sheep Conservation and Management Program.
- 2) Conservation of elephants in Sri Lanka.
- 3) Conservation and Sustainable Program of Desert Bighorn Sheep on Tiburón Island, Sinaloa México.
- 4) How does the muscle work during exercise?

FIELD TRIPS

The Turtles conservation trip (28-30 November 2004)

We went to Playa San Andrés Playa Encantada, Guerrero (20 minutes from the Acapulco airport). The students were sixth formers and we offered C.A.S. hours since they helped to clean up the beach, to collect and to hatch the turtles eggs.

In December last year the Environmental systems department (including Ms Ormerod, Mr Holmes Ms Lee and Ernesto García) took the lower 6 ES students to a lovely high altitude alpine ecosystem about 40 minutes from Greengates, the Iturbide Reservoir. In spite of its near proximity to México City the area appears to be untouched by air and water pollutants, and the students had the opportunity to relate the presence of naturally occurring pollution indicators to the area.



*The Ecology field trip to Jalcomulco, Veracruz
(17-20 June 2004)*

The essential part of the I.B. Biology and Environmental System courses for all the lower sixth students. They gain first hand experience of tropical terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, collecting and analyzing data. In reward for their hard work they will have one work-free morning during which they can go white water rafting!



*DNA50 a touring exhibition
(5 May 2004)*

We were invited by the British Council and the Universum museum at the UNAM for a exhibition celebrating 50 years of the DNA molecule discovery.



Students from the Secondary School have once again excelled in the sporting arena.

The Intermediate School has been represented by an outstanding Form 2 boy's soccer team, who placed 2nd to a semi-professional Pachuca team in the Club Reforma tournament, and some great talent for the future in the JV boys and girls Basketball, Volleyball and Soccer teams. The Form 1 Basketball team are developing a good skill base thanks to the hard work of Hazel Monk. The U14 rugby players are developing a good understanding of the game and now only lack a team to play against!

In the Senior School, the CAISSA tournament has once again provided the highlight of many athlete's seasons. Greengates teams achieved the following positions in these hard-fought tournaments:

Volley Girls 3rd & Boys 4th

Basketball 2nd & 2nd

Soccer 2nd & 2nd



It is a great shame that regional instabilities will prevent the School's participation in future CAISSA events.

In the local LICODEP league, Greengates School placed as follows:

Varsity Volleyball Boys 5th & Girls 2nd

JV Soccer Boys 5th & Girls 2nd

JV Basketball Boys 1st & Girls 1st

Sports Day again produced an excellent school spirit and some great individual performances. Congratulations to the following Record Breakers:

Alex Acosta HJ & Discus, Stefanie Brasnett HJ & Discus, Aaron Pease 800m, Hans Mayoral 65m.

The highlight of the Sports Day competition was probably the Form 5 Boys High Jump in which both Philip Valley and Alex Acosta broke the existing record, held by Philip's brother Christian, with Alex eventually winning by the slimmest of margins.



The Swimming Galas and the year-long House Tournaments have also proved to be very successful and fiercely contested.

On the Rugby field, Greengates teams have continued their domination of the National Tournaments. The Women's Rugby team became the Celaya 7-a-side Champions and the Boys U19's have had an unbeaten season, beating Tazmania, Greenhills and the Liceo Franco Mexicano in style.



The PE Department has been very fortunate to welcome Hazel Shaw, a top-class Basketball player from the UK, to the teaching staff. Her contribution throughout the School has been remarkable, in PE classes, teams and even drama events! On a sad note, we will be saying farewell to Donna McLaren-Moreton who has been with the school for three years. Thanks Donna and good luck for the future!



On the whole, it has been a very successful year for Greengates School sport and our athletes can look forward to the future with confidence. The challenge facing the school is the expansion of our local sporting competitions and nationally or internationally, the search for a viable alternative to CAISSA.

Infant / Junior School



JANE ALEXANDER - will be leaving after two years at Greengates to live in Malaga, Spain and will work on a free-lance research writing team.



JO CASTRO - will be leaving after two years at Greengates to return to London where she hopes to find work in a state school.



RACHEL COLLON - is leaving Greengates after three years to take up a position at the United World College in Singapore



DONNA MACLAREN-MORETON - is returning to the UK after three years at Greengates.



HAZEL MONK - is returning to the UK after two years at Greengates.

Senior School



LIZ ALCOCK - after three rewarding years in Mexico, at two quite distinct schools, is returning to the UK to begin an MA in screenwriting at Leeds Metropolitan University.



ALEC BEARDSSELL - is returning to the UK after two years at Greengates to take up a position at a school in Chester.



JON BONFIGLIO - is returning to the UK after two years at Greengates - he will be working at the Edinburgh International Festival over the summer and will then return to London where he will continue with his PhD and various other literary and dramatic projects.



SUE BYLES - Leaving after many years of valuable part time support to spend more time in England.



GRAEME LIDDON - is leaving Greengates after two years to take up the post of Head of English / Head of Senior Boys at a school in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



AMANDA SHEPHERD - after enjoying two years in Mexico, is moving on to new adventures in New Zealand.

GREENGATES SCHOOL

Contact Info:

Phone:
+(52) 55 53-73-00-88

Fax:
+(52) 55 53-73-07-65

E-mail:
sarav@greengates.edu.mx

Location:

Av. Circunvalación. Pte. 102
Balcones de San Mateo
Edo. de México
C.P. 53200

Mailing Address:

Greengates School S.C.
Apartado Postal 10-1112
C.P. 11002
Mexico D.F.

Website:

www.greengates.edu.mx

