



EASTER EDITION

The Top Rock

THE ALTEA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



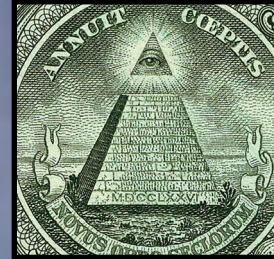
Read all about the ski trip!

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Want to know more about Class 8's project?

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Conspiracy theory fan?

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New Sports Court By Rosie Mann

This year the school has a new sports environment for the students to use during their break time. The court has already been built, now it just needs painting. This is a great new feature for the school to bring students closer. The court includes basketball hoops and football goals, but it can be used to play whichever sport they decide. We hope you all enjoy this new addition to the school, as students have been using it for a couple of weeks already and they think it is amazing!

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AIS Clubs

By María Victoria Santos

The Altea International School has a large range of subjects and opportunities for its students. What people may not be aware of is that we also have after-school clubs.

If you are a person who enjoys music, acting or art you may be interested in joining one of the following clubs.

The Rap Club is dedicated to those who have rhythm flowing throughout their veins. The class lasts for an hour and five minutes every Wednesday from 3:15 until 4:20. This time is perfect for students who wish to compose their own lyrics and music all within the school's environment.

Somos Gos

By Kimberly Olsen Birt

Recently, Mariola and Olga from "Somos Gos" visited us to tell us all about their association. Their aim is to teach people how to look after their pets, return lost animals to their owners, rescue animals in need and try to find homes for animals who don't have one.

Mariola and Olga brought some of their own dogs and some dogs that they have for adoption to help explain what "Somos Gos" is all about. Most of the dogs they have are Greyhounds. These dogs are especially at risk as they have often been used for hunting and racing. Once they are no longer useful, they are often abandoned.

Most of their rescues happen when people contact them for help. This association is a whole group of animal lovers that will do whatever they can to help out an animal in need. They explained how important it is to know how to look after a pet and also all the

Are you a person who wishes to explore different sides of yourself and temporarily become part of another world? We introduce to you to Drama class. This club opens its doors every Thursday from 3:15 until 4:25 with our Spanish teacher Christianne.

Our belief is that art is a form of expressing yourself. Therefore, the Art Club is a place for anybody who would like to explore their creativity, while improving their drawing and painting skills with the help of the teacher Vicky. This club is open from 3:05 to 4:05 every Monday.

Everyone is welcome to come and try out these great after-school clubs.

There are no limits to what you can achieve!

ways that their association helps animals and how we can help too. They also use their dogs for therapy with children, and have even done yoga workshops with them!

They also collaborate with other animal rescue associations and hold adoption fairs where the animals are presented to the public. They are currently looking for a home for a Vietnamese pig, a baby goat and a hedgehog among many others!



Mariola also helps people who are having difficulty with their dogs. A common mistake many of us make is that we treat our puppy as if it were a baby or a child. This can cause confusion for the dog and lead it to learn antisocial behavior which makes both it and its owners suffer! Mostly it is not the animal at fault, rather the way it has been treated.

We really enjoyed the visit and loved having the dogs walk around amongst us during the assembly.



AIS Squad

By Facundo M. C. and Richard van Aalst

The AIS International School opened its doors in September 2012, since then, a family was created. Every year people come and go, but everyone leaves their mark. We have interviewed some of the new members of the school's staff: Emma, Tommy and Mandy.

Emma came to Spain in 1993. She had 3 language schools in Logroño (La Rioja) where she used to teach people working in Coffee, General Motors and Tobacco factories. As you know, Emma spends time helping less fortunate people or people having a rough time, she took part in a program called "Youth for Europe 3." This program's purpose was to get disadvantaged young people together from different countries within Europe. She was in charge of the Spanish group and took them to England, Italy and Greece. She also travelled to Italy and England with physically and mentally disabled young people.



Mandy has also had an interesting life before becoming a teacher. What some might not know is her love for horses. Where does that passion come from? She thinks that this comes from her father, who also loved horses and being outside with them. She finds that they are beautiful creatures.

Finally, we also spoke with our most recent teacher, Tommy. He has had many jobs, even his own business, of voice installation, data networks and fibre optics. Tommy is also a football lover. He has played in all kinds of levels, even as an international player for Northern Ireland. He was even paid as a semi-professional footballer. Although back then, it was barely enough to buy a new pair of boots. Tommy is also an animal lover. He spends most of his free time taking care of animals. In the past, he has rescued dogs, birds, rabbits and anything else he could.



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This is what some students had to say about the new sports courts.

"Playing down on the court is more comfortable and safe. We injure ourselves less and it makes it feel like we are playing an official game.

It makes patio time much better and more fun.

Our PE lessons are better as now we can play basketball and other games which before we could not do."

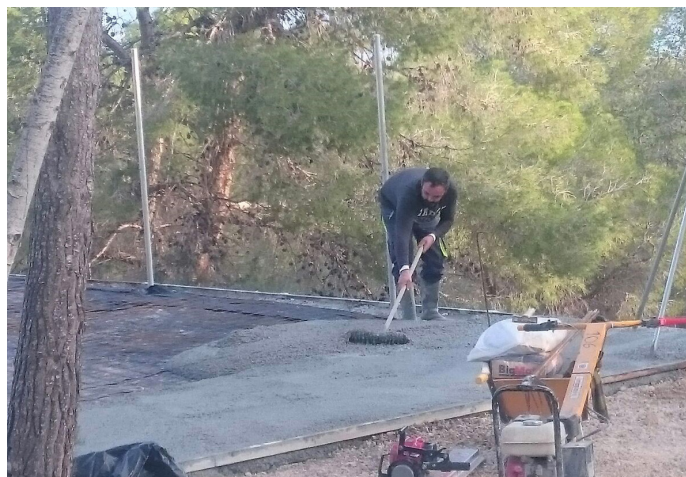
- Ronald Stradling

"I love to go down to the basketball court because we can play a variety of different games there such as basketball, football and handball. We also like to mix the rules up between the different games and invent new ones.

This means that students have more options of what they can do at break and during their PE lessons

Both boys and girls go down to the court, there are no problems with that at all."

- Julie Jaegers



The new courts under construction



Class 8 Project

One of the principles in the Waldorf School is to educate young people so that, on the one hand, they can bring to the fore in the right way the whole of their human potential, and, on the other hand, what they need to enable them to take their proper place in the world.

Rudolf Steiner, A Modern Art of Education, Lecture of August 15, 1923



Each year, the Class 8 students have to complete an individual project. Their form teacher this year, Susan Felton, has given us some useful hints for next year's students.

What advice would you give to next year's students?

Start on your project as soon as possible is the secret to success. You may come across unforeseen difficulties and have to make adjustments so that would give you the time to resolve any problems without undue stress.

Another tip would be to have a definite plan and to keep a journal. Your choice of mentor is also equally important – so make sure you pick the right person!

How should I go about choosing a mentor?

That will largely depend on your project. You need the right person who has the right expertise, someone who is willing to give up a lot of their free time. For example; if you are doing a construction project, you may need to speak to an architect or someone who is skilled in woodwork.

What would you consider to be a successful project?

A successful project should be based on your personal interests. It should be something in which you can develop a new skill and something that requires effort and perseverance. The end result is important, but so is the journey which we hope you enjoy!



Persuasive Writing Techniques

By Alba Zaragoza (Class 9)

In Class 9 we have recently been reading and studying a book called “Animal Farm”. This story is based on the Russian Revolution but is explained by the use of an allegory using animals. All of them chosen by the author (George Orwell) with care, making this story feel closer to the real life battle.



In this story you can really appreciate what the leaders (in this case the pigs) use as persuasive techniques. There are lots of persuasive techniques used in speeches, on propaganda, on television... Persuasive techniques are used to persuade the people who watch or listen to a TV ad for example. Now days these techniques are used pretty much in all political speeches. Some techniques are as follows:

Rhetorical questions: These make the person think about the question they have been asked, whilst being given the answer to it at the same time.

List of three: It intensifies the point that the one giving the speech is giving. If you put three adjectives together, it will stay in the mind of the person hearing that speech.

Use of pronouns: By doing this, the person talking involves everyone into the same cause. This way it looks like everyone is equal and it makes you feel part of a group.

Statistics and facts: If you use them everything you say will seem real. “It has been proven by Science”... If someone said that or gave you a percentage, you would believe that person.

Imperatives and hyperboles: This instructs you to do something which will seem urgent. If someone uses this who is “above you”, like your boss or teachers,

people most likely will obey without thinking. Hyperboles (exaggerations) will intensify their point.

Opinions, emotive imagery and anecdotes: These suggest ideas to the people listening or reading. The one selling you the “product” use words to create sad or happy images in your head, so it makes you empathise with the position of the one giving the speech.

The most important thing is to realize when these techniques are being used and to make up your mind about the question by yourself without being influenced by someone else.

Below is an example of these techniques being used by Cheran, Class 9 who is trying to persuade us that Homework is not a positive thing for the students.

WHAT USE IS HOMEWORK?

Do you remember doing homework as a child? Were those good times? Didn't you want to play outside with your friends? I think homework is boring, terrible and a disgraceful waste of our valuable time. We simply can't continue like this!

We as a group need to stop this and organize a nationwide ban. I went out on the street to ask people what they thought of homework - 86% of the people asked said homework was a terrible waste of time. Scientists have proven that you don't actually learn anything by doing it! It is simply a waste of time and energy. People said that sitting doing homework actually felt like a form of torture; nevertheless it is still given out worldwide every day. Students sit in their rooms crying because of homework. It is a disgrace to human society.

When I was younger; I would sit at my desk and try to do my homework. The only thing the teacher would get on the paper the next day, were the tracks of my own tears. Millions of children stay up late and are tired the next day and unable to concentrate. We can't continue like this! Sign the petition to ban homework today!



Alba and Cheran, Class 9

Class 11 Speaks Out!

Should Children Listen to Explicit Music? Opinion piece by Daniel Traub

Throughout the years, as we evolve as human beings, we constantly advance in many different areas and aspects of our lives. One could say that these advances can sometimes be seen more like regressions. This of course depends on whose opinion you are asking. With just under 8 Billion people on earth there are constantly new opinions about new topics.

A hot topic of debate which has caused many a heated intergenerational dispute is music that is popular amongst teenagers. Mostly this music is either in the genre of Pop, Hip Hop or Hispanic Reggaeton. All of these genres rely heavily on the artists and their social media presence which can be borderline acceptable as regards language, violence and often misogyny. We all know that we as teenagers spend an excessive amount of our lives online. The problem with this is that many of these artists are not positive role models for young people who are trying to find their own identity.

A lot of these artists especially in Hip Hop and Reggaeton, talk about 3 themes in their songs: drugs, money and sexual relationships. Some artists have written great poems about love, greed and excess (Kendrick Lamar, Logic) the problem is that for every good, high quality hip hop song there is, there is also an endless amount of low quality music made by artists such as Lil Pump or Migos etc.



Kendrick Lamar

This music tends to be more successful due to two reasons. Firstly the song is catchier, both rhythmically and melodically, and secondly; the words are easier to sing along to. The artists gain greater social media presence and their content has greater “shock value” thus increasing their fame amongst youngsters.

The dilemma is; how does one distinguish the good from the bad? It is comparable to trying to find the difference between for example, the highly acclaimed film “Pulp Fiction” and the one bought in a gas station for two euros. At the end of the day, I believe that “pop” is mostly low-quality industry music that is not really harmful to our youth. The two genres that are more dangerous for young teens, are Reggaeton and Hip Hop.

Listening to Reggaeton for example, can be very deceptive on Spotify and Apple music. This is because although the warning sticker for explicit language is not present, the insinuations within the language used, are spectacular. Hip Hop is easier to censure since most Hip Hop has the banner “explicit” on it. However, by filtering all Hip Hop in this way, one is at the risk of losing some very high quality music. In my opinion, it is very important for every parent to



do their homework and listen to the music that their children are listening to.

As with all issues with teenagers, talking about this with an open mind is always a positive step forward. Sooner or later, their children will stumble upon this music and it is hoped that in this way, with this information, they will have the maturity to be able to resort to their own norms and values and be able to listen to it without being totally sucked in by any negative messages within the lyrics.



Should We Have a Dress Code?

Opinion piece by Estel Rovira

Dress codes, like everything else, consist of many positive and negative elements.

I assume that people know that you cannot show up to school dressed in a distracting or provocative way. This is due to the fact that schools are a learning environment.



I found out that girls cannot wear sleeveless tops because our underwear is showing. When our bra straps and shoulders are showing, it is considered 'distract-

ing' for our fellow students. But tell me, how are we supposed to survive in May with the hot Mediterranean weather?

I must say, before imposing the dress code on us, nobody had found my dressing choices distracting. The only people who did were teachers. This made me very uncomfortable since I dress for myself and not for others.

Depending on the students' age, the dress code could or could not be helpful. Do you think that students from Class 6 should have a dress code? Do they also get distracted by seeing the skin of their classmates?

Despite the school dress code mentioning both boys and girls, girls are the ones who suffer the most. This is due to the fact that boys do not wear a bra and do not have any bra strap to show.

Thus, dress codes are usually sexist. Now, I'm not accusing the school of discriminating against women or young girls. Instead, I'm acknowledging the fact that we live in a sexist society.

I've established that we should reduce dress codes and discuss them with students. This is in order for it to be a reasonable agreement between school staff and their pupils. This way, students will respect as well as understand the reasons behind having a dress code.

And From Class 9... Microrrelatos

By Class 9

Here are the two Microrrelatos written by Class 9. Each week they all had to write one in their Spanish class with Christianne and then they voted for the ones they liked the most.

Justo cuando pensé que todo había acabado, me miró y me mató. Fue una sensación peculiar a la vez placentera. Caía desde el precipicio de la cordura al abismo de la locura. Alrededor del dolor, los recuerdos de mi miserable vida aparecían, llenos de pena, tristeza y terror. Y así como llegaban, desaparecían, volvían otra vez - y me dañaban con certeza para que nunca olvidara el asesinato de su amada.

Nicolas Lenz Class 9

La depresión terminó y la sangre cayo de sus ojos mirándome con la culpa de todo. Justo cuando pensé que todo había acabado, me miró y me mató.

Brooke Mason Class 9

CONSPIRACY THEORIES

By Rosie Mann

The School Cats Are Spying On Us!

Attention cat people! There's a burgeoning theory around the school that begs reckoning. The school cats may, in fact, be spies from another planet sent to report their findings back to their mothership.

Where's the proof you ask? First, let me lay out all the evidence and then let you decide for yourself.

First of all, there is no documentation before ancient Egypt that even mentions the existence of cats. Another factor you should take into account is the fact that in ancient Egypt, they were even worshipped as gifts from the gods. Coincidence? I don't think so.

Now, not all this conspiracy theory is speculation. I actually researched every bit of the internet that was relevant to this topic. I even turned to science to see if I could truly prove that cats are unusual creatures we know nothing about.

I contacted Dr Ken Simpson, of Monon Animal Hospital, to find out his thoughts on the matter. Although he was baffled by the idea of our cats being spies; he did however, admit that Science finds it hard to understand a cat's purr. He said "the physiology remains a slight enigma." So, the one only way we know how cats communicate, scientists don't understand? Don't you think that's a bit sketchy?

Moving on, have you ever thought about how all things that come out of cats are absolutely unnatural. Hairballs are disgusting. And the smell they give off when finishing their business? With that alone people should know they're not from this earth.

The final thing I will mention is that cats survive situations that any earthbound animal would be sure to perish in. How can a cat fall out of a four-story building backwards, and land on its feet? This surely suggests that alien cats have anti-gravity properties.

Now you can believe what you want- but you have to admit that all this is pretty creepy!

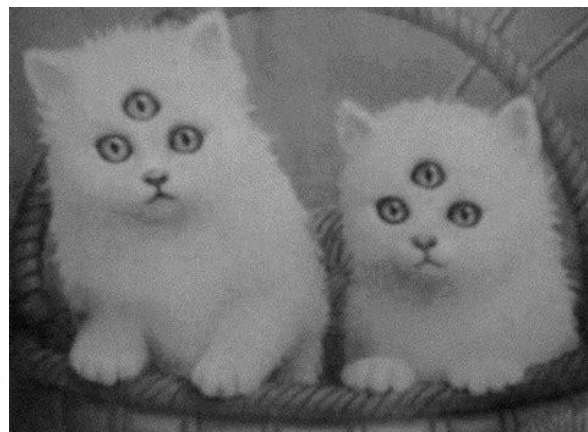


Nigel is Vanilla Ice and I Can Prove It!

Remember Vanilla Ice's controversial 1990 hit, "Ice Ice Baby"? Doesn't his face vaguely remind you of someone we all know and love? That's right. His face seems almost identical to Nigel's!

Now as most of his students know, Nigel, or shall I say Robert Van Wrinkle (aka Vanilla Ice), is a karaoke lover. Therefore, Robert was unable to keep his love for music and singing a secret. Another interesting factor to take into account is, Nigel is never seen wearing anything warmer than a shirt. Don't you think that hints that he's always ice cold?

Furthermore, everyone knows that Nigel talks with an unusual accent. You see, that is his American accent breaking through his excuse for a good English accent. If I haven't convinced you yet, stop and think for a moment; Have I ever seen Vanilla Ice and Nigel Aspey in the same room together? Exactly. With that said, you now know that they're the same person.



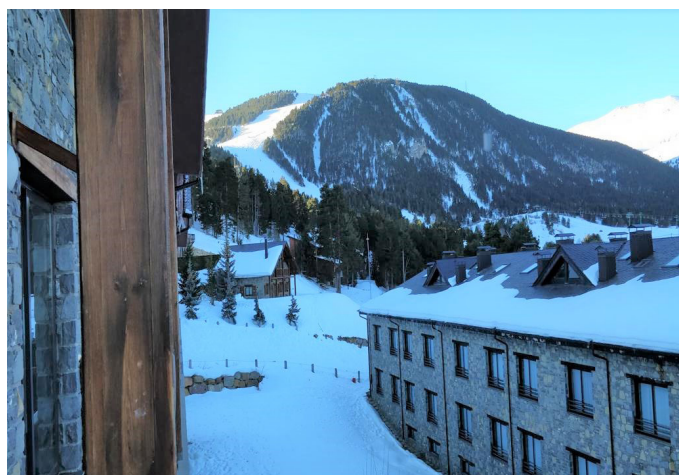
Ski Trip

By Pablo Gulias

The departure from the meeting point was at 7:00 in the morning. After approximately 6 hours in the bus and a couple stops, we arrived to what was going to be our home for the next 5 days: La Molina, a ski resort in the Pyrenees mountains of Catalonia. We were then guided into the hotel, where we were given a welcome speech followed by the do's and don'ts, the facilities and the activities available for us to do inside the premises. There was also a schedule with the meal-times, skiing classes and other activities.

The next day we were woken up at 7:00 so we had enough time to have breakfast and get ready for the skiing classes which started at 9:30 every day for 2 hours. After that we had free time to enjoy the white slopes until lunch, at 12:30 and then more free time until the slopes closed at 17:00. The dinner was at 19:45 and I spent most of the time until then lying in bed, exhausted from the day. All meals were in a buffet style and the quality of food in the hotel was not the same standard as the rest of the things on offer in my opinion. Having said that, the location of the resort was very convenient for accessing the slopes at only a couple of minutes from the hotel and with amazing views of the snow-capped mountain range. There was also a local supermarket as well as some other local stores.

Although we had good weather most of the days, we had strong snowy winds on one of the days and sleet the next day. This left the slopes covered in a layer of



ice, turning the surface of the slope into an icy road.

Apart from some minor issues, the overall experience at La Molina was awesome. I had time to enjoy myself as well as having a great time with my mates. I am really looking forward for next year's trip to continue improving my snowboarding skills and being able to enjoy the mountainous landscape.



Art GCSE

By Anastasia Medvedenko

The school's GCSE Art students are preparing themselves for their final exam, which will be taking place in the middle of May. To accomplish the purpose given, they will have to overcome many difficulties to reach their final project. So, they had to take a mock exam which lasted for six hours. The theme they were given was "Possessions". Each student developed a different sub-theme and worked on it for four weeks. To carry out their ideas, they had to work hard by copying the original artist's artwork and develop their own response.

Maria Palacios, an Art GCSE student, reproduced the following paintings. As one can appreciate, she has used the style of the artist, Iris Scott. This aided her when making her response, by using the artist's style and technique of finger painting. She related to the theme "Possessions" in how humans take animals as their possession. To make her purpose more evident, she added something made by humans to each painting. In this case, the object added was the fishbowl.



These paintings are Iris Knaak's. This student's project idea was to portray stereotypes and to show how they define people. Thus, in her final piece, she decided to reflect two different human states. On one hand, there is a poor woman. On the other, a rich woman with a beautiful dress.



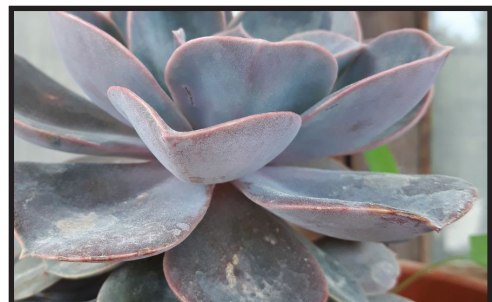
This is Xana van der Schuit's final project, which illustrates a beautiful ballerina. This symbolizes a hidden possession, as she wants to dance at night when nobody can see her. Xana did her final piece with acrylic paints, using a normal paintbrush and a palette knife. This took her at least 4 to 5 hours to finish.

WHERE'S KERMIT



Up Close and Personal

Where in the school can you find these things?



THE FROG?



Why didn't you do your homework, Trey?

Here are some excuses you can use. Scientifically proven to work 100% of the time.

