



DECEMBER 2024

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ANGLOPHONE SECTION

# NEWSBITE



## Thanks for a Spooktacular Party!

Ms Bellanca, Head of Primary writes: The Primary Halloween Party was a great success this year! The CP children from all language sections came together in the morning to enjoy spooky games. After school, the real party began! The snack table was heaped with scary snacks. The creativity of our students was on display in the cake baking contest and pumpkin carving display, bringing an extra touch of Halloween magic to the event!

This wonderful event wouldn't have been possible without our amazing team of parents, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly. We're incredibly grateful for their hard work and support—it truly makes the event enjoyable for all!



## ● Poetry Slam Competition Success!

Huge congratulations to **Bo Ginger Black (2<sup>o</sup>A)** and **Camille Gauvrit (2<sup>o</sup>D)**, who placed 3rd in the Senior School category at the recent Poetry Slam Competition, which was held recently at the International School of Lyon.

Bo and Camille impressed the audience with their original poem, which they wrote and performed in front of a large crowd. Their outstanding achievement is a testament to their hard work





# Message from the Head of Section

Dear Parents,

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to reflect on this busy period at school and share my encouragements with everyone. In particular, our Lycée students - supported as always by their teachers - have diligently been working and preparing for their upcoming mock and real BFI, Bac and iGCSE exams. These coming months will be tough but I know that this mammoth task will be rewarded. Indeed many of you have begun to catch a glimpse of life after CSI which brings with it so much promise and excitement! We have seen and supported many of you in your university applications as you take this important step toward your future. I have seen too what that is likely to look like, with so many of you engaged in the process of organising ILYMUN and displaying the qualities, attitudes and maturity that will set you in good stead.

In college our students and teachers are busy too. Extra-curricular activities are going full throttle, with the creative writing, college MUN and drama clubs continuing to flourish. I hope to see some college students taking part in the Youth Conference at ILYMUN in March. We are all also looking forward to our Geme trip to the Grotte Chauvet on Friday this week. Photos to come in the next edition of Newsbite! Primary have also had their fair share of business and spookiness too as you will discover throughout this edition of Newsbite. We are excited to share details about a new initiative being introduced in our Primary Anglophone classes. I am very excited too about the launch of the myHappyMind program to support students develop positive skills and habits which the primary team will be introducing soon.

Thank you as always to the volunteers who have helped in building the festive spirit at the CSI ! Events like the Christmas market bring joy and a sense of community to our school - despite the chilly temperatures! It's heartening to see parent-volunteers and students alike contributing to the warmth and excitement of the season.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday period filled with peace and happiness.

Warm regards,  
Simon Herd  
Head of the Anglophone Section



## 5° Calligraphy Workshop: the Pillars of Islam

Mr. Geary's 5ème class recently enjoyed a hands-on approach to history while exploring 'The Pillars of Islam.' To enrich their understanding, they invited Ms. Malika Scotto, a teacher from the Arab Section, to introduce them to the art of Arabic calligraphy. Under her guidance, the students learned about the beauty and tradition of this ancient art form. They even tried their hand at creating their own handwritten masterpieces, blending history and creativity in a single lesson.





# Snippets from Primary

Our **CM1** students are thoroughly enjoying their exploration of sea monsters and mythical creatures. They've delved into fascinating legends, including the Kraken and the Loch Ness Monster, sparking their imaginations.

Building on these mythical tales, the students unleashed their creativity by designing their very own mythical creatures. They brought their creations to life with captivating backstories, detailing the origins and adventures of these fantastical beings. It's been an exciting and inspiring journey into the world of myths and legends!



This term, the **CE2s** have been captivated by *The Story of the Blue Planet*—a thought-provoking tale about friendship, making good choices, and caring for others and the world around us. Inspired by the story, they crafted imaginative tales about their own perfect planets.

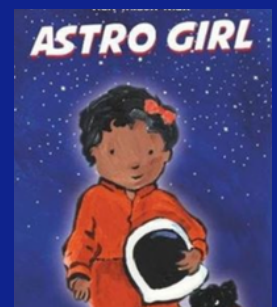
More recently, they have explored a diverse range of poems and enjoyed performing selected pieces. This has been a fantastic opportunity for group collaboration and for building confidence when speaking in front of a supportive audience.

In **CM2**, we have been reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar, a thought-provoking and engaging read. The intricate plot of the story has opened up discussions about the civil rights movement in America and its profound impact on the characters' lives.

We've also explored themes of loyalty and friendship, reflecting on what these values mean and how they are beautifully portrayed through the relationships between the characters. It's been a wonderful opportunity to connect literature with deeper lessons about history and human connections.

In **CP**, the children have been working hard to develop their phonics skills. They have now learned and revised over 25 different sounds, making steady progress in their early reading journey.

As part of their learning, the children have explored a variety of topics linked to our core stories. These have included *Handa's Surprise*, which introduced them to life in Africa, and *Astro Girl*, where they learned all about space. These stories have sparked curiosity and provided a rich context for learning.





## Message from the **APESA Board**

Dear Parents,

December is upon us, and we hope the first months of the school year have been smooth for you and your families. Here on the APESA Board, we've been delighted to welcome four new members: Sarah Hofmann, Valentine Marfaing, Aidan Synott, and Esther Wick. We also bid a heartfelt farewell to several others who have served the Board with dedication over the years. Lara Bonucci, Audrey Davidenkoff, Jenni Holder, and Sébastien de Longeaux have each made lasting contributions to the Anglophone Section at CSI, and we extend our deepest gratitude to them for their hard work and passion.

We are also pleased to announce a new chapter for the Board. Hugo Locussol has been voted in as President of APESA, succeeding Lara Bonucci after her many impactful years in this role.

The start of the school year has not been without its challenges. Many of you are aware of the heartbreaking loss of our dear friend and colleague, Elsa Labrosse. Elsa was a cornerstone of the Anglophone Section—beloved by staff, students, and the Board alike. Her warmth, kindness, and tireless dedication made a profound impact on everyone she touched. Our thoughts remain with her daughters and Elsa will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

We're happy to share some of the initiatives we've been working on, such as advancing on our Strategic Development Plan, including AI training for teachers, updated IT equipment for students, and much more. We're also moving ahead with our first fundraising activities and a logo redesign project to support our outreach efforts. These are just a few of the many projects on the Board, and we'll continue to keep you updated on these and more in the coming months.

Finally, we want to remind you that, like you, everyone on the APESA Board is a parent of an Anglophone student at CSI. We're here to support you, so please don't hesitate to reach out to [apesa.president@gmail.com](mailto:apesa.president@gmail.com) with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

We encourage you to get involved and connect with the community! Join a WhatsApp group (class, social, entrepreneur, etc.) by asking a fellow parent or Board member. Don't miss the monthly coffee mornings hosted by Anglophone Section parents or the pétanque evenings returning this spring.

As the year draws to a close, we extend our warmest wishes to you and your families for a joyful, peaceful, and heartwarming holiday season.

With kind regards,  
Trish Nagy Travieso, Vice President

On behalf of the APESA Board



**Trish Nagy Travieso**  
APESA Vice-President



**Hugo Locussol**  
APESA President



# Supporting the Anglophone Section Community

The Anglophone Section volunteers play a vital role in our community. They dedicate their time to organising a variety of social and community events that foster connection and mutual support. Whether it's coffee mornings, potluck lunches, family picnics, or Christmas Markets, our volunteers are tirelessly working behind the scenes to support the Section community - while also enjoying themselves!

We are always looking for parents to join our active and growing **volunteer committee**. If you enjoy organising or hosting events please feel free to contact us at [volunteering@csianglo.org](mailto:volunteering@csianglo.org).



## Upcoming Events for Parents

**Coffee Morning & Book Sale:** Tuesday  
7 January, 9-11am @ CSI Lyon

**Apéro / Games Evening:** 30 January,  
details TBC.

**Coffee Morning:** Wednesday 5  
February, Chinese New Year theme,  
hosted by Valerie Lacroix

**Coffee Morning:** Monday 10 March,  
hosted by Nora Barendson



**Christmas Market Volunteers**

Thanks once again to our **Christmas Market** volunteers, led by Keiko Synnott, who organised a lovely stall for the Anglophone Section. The children were very excited to spend their pocket money on sweet treats, decorations and gift items and over €400 was raised, which will be put towards future Section events.

Thanks also to parents who donated items to sell, and to Lara Kastner for hosting a festive potluck lunch and cookie decorating session at her home.



**Christmas Cookie Decorating**



# ILYMUN 2024: Democracy and Security in a World of Conflict

ILYMUN (the International Lyon Model United Nations conference) is organised each year by students in the Anglophone Section, working with their counterparts at the International School of Lyon (ISL).

As always, we are reaching out to our wonderful community and inviting you to support our students. There are lots of ways to get involved:

- You might be able to host some visiting students during the conference: we'll be contacting families by email soon about this.
- We are always on the lookout for potential guest speakers who are able to inspire and educate the delegates during the conference.
- Sponsoring the conference is a great way to help support the event.

Please [click here to read the first ILYMUN newsletter](#) and to find out more about how you can support this important event. You can also check out the ILYMUN webpage [www.ilymun.org](http://www.ilymun.org).



## International University Fair 2024

On 6 November, representatives from over thirty different institutions of further and higher education from across the world gathered in the petit gymnase at the CSI to participate in our second International University Fair. Organised jointly by the Anglophone Section and SRT Fairs, the event opened up opportunities for our lycée students to explore their post-bac options to study in English. Representatives from well-renowned institutions including University of Exeter and London Metropolitan University (UK), Universities of Groningen and Twente (Netherlands) and EMLyon (France) joined a diverse range of smaller institutions to connect directly with students.

The event was opened up to other schools in Lyon which offer either the baccalauréat français international (BFI) or other English-language courses of study. Around 150 visiting students and their teachers travelled to CSI from across the Lyon area to participate: this was also a great opportunity for some local networking, and inspiring for all the students who took part.