



**First News
Decemberber 2013**



Dear Parents,

We hope you had a wonderful winter break and are happy to be back to Budapest and First Steps!

Our Teaching and Support Teams did an amazing job preparing our Little One's Christmas and Hanukkah Shows. We would like to thank their hard work and the great support from our Families! We hope you enjoyed the performances and got some life long memories.

After the Holidays we're back and start the new year with our first official Parent—Teacher Meetings. We invite all our Parents to come in for a one-on-one meeting with their Class Teacher(s). During the meeting you'll have a chance to look at your Child's Portfolio and if you bring a Pendrive, we are very happy to make a copy for you!

Also January is the time for our International Week—it's been a blast last year and we would like to ask you again to come in and share your culture and traditions with us. Your contribution is highly appreciated.

Check Out Our Important Notes on Page 14!

Kind regards,
The First Steps and Kids' Kiosk Team





Happy Hedgehogs



Dear Parents,

This month a new little hedgehog Leila joined us. She is a lovely little girl and settling down just fine.

This month we celebrated 3 little Hedgehogs' birthdays. Beni turned 3 in December and Arthur and our new Hedgehog Leila turned 2. Happy Birthday to all of them!!!!



In December we celebrated Santa and Christmas with great joy. On 6th December Santa Clause visited our class and surprised the little ones with a lovely little bag with full of goodness. The children sang a couple of songs for Santa and had some photos taken with him as well which you have already seen. Surprisingly nobody got scared, they were just so amazed at seeing Santa!

After 6th December we prepared ourselves for Christmas. We made lots of holiday crafts such as hand printed Christmas trees, paper stockings, paper Santa's face, and lots of snowflakes which we put on our windows. All the children were excited about decorating our classroom for the Christmas show. Everybody wanted to get lots of present for Christmas so all Hedgehogs behaved really well during





We had our Christmas show on 23rd December. Every Hedgehog did their best not to cry when they saw mummy or daddy. They were wearing a snowflake headband and they were sitting in a row. They sang Christmas songs with bells and shakers. Must say they did brilliant!!!!

Thank you very much to the parents who could manage to come to see our show. Of course lots of children were already travelling by that time, but I am sure they sang our songs to mummy and daddy too over Christmas.

Happy New Year to all and we are looking forward to seeing you in 2014!!!!

This month songs:

We wish you a very Christmas
Jingle bells
Snowflakes, Snowflakes Turn Around





Friendly Frogs



Dear Parents,



Happy New Year to all our families! We hope you had a great break.

The Friendly Frogs were kept very busy in December, making plenty of festive crafts and practising songs and rhymes for the Christmas show. We were very proud of our frogs who all managed to have real fun joining in the show 'See the little Reindeer's Sleeping' was particularly enthusiastic! Thanks to Attila who kindly played the guitar for us, his music lessons are always looked forward to. Santa's visit was also enjoyed and raised a lot of excitement in the classroom. The class sang some festive songs for him and were sweetly rewarded!

We are hoping to have some snow in January. Please do label all clothing to save missing items. Gloves attached to



a string is a very useful way to reduce the children's misplaced gloves.





Our next topic is 'How we Express Ourselves'. We will be introducing and sharing ideas on feelings and emotions, naming how we are feeling and learning how to express ourselves appropriately.



Friday's we will be swimming again.

Please note that we leave early to go to the pool at Bogar utca so please make sure your child has arrived by 9am on Friday's.

A new teacher Orsi will join our group mid-January. She has lots of experience and most recently has been working in a Montessori bi-lingual Kindergarten. She is also the wife of Kristian who works at Bogar Utca! She will be with the class all day. Bori will be with the class in the afternoons as Mary continues to work till 1pm. We are very much looking forward to working with her.



Best wishes,

Mary and Bori





Clever Owls



The last Clever Owl newsletter of 2013.

December 2013.

Dear Parents,

This month was a short month but a very intensive one.

Any time we could set aside from the usual lessons such as swimming, ballet etc, it was mostly about practicing for the big event, the Christmas Show. It was a bit difficult with all the sicknesses going around as winter entered, but at the end the Owls did very well, well done :)

Last week before the winter break, there was no other lessons just practice, making Christmas decorations for our class and the "show room" and making presents for the parents to show their appreciation and love.





The Owls particularly enjoyed making presents, like the ginger bread, and they made beautiful snow flakes, which really improved their motor skills. We hope they proudly decorated the Xmas trees at home.



We all hope that everybody had a Joyful Christmas Holiday and wish you a Wonderful New Year.

Suzy and Attila





Butterflies



Dear Parents,
December was very busy despite being such a short month. The Butterflies' main focus for the whole month was their Xmas show: Christmasosaurus! We all hope you enjoyed it, as it was no small feat to put it all together and learn all those songs! They included four none English songs, one dance and one drama/rap piece - something they have never done before (the dance was excluded in the final version of the show, but the Butterflies did practice it a lot!) They worked very hard to perform to their best ability. When the Butterflies were not practicing songs, they decorated the classroom with snowflakes, made gingerbread cookies, did their banner presentations (which we could finally do as we got all the banners in) and enjoyed Christmas music.



On Friday the 6th of December a jolly man dressed in red with a long white beard visited the Butterflies and brought them goody bags full of yummy things to eat. The Butterflies sang Santa a song in return and Christmas photos were taken around the Christmas tree. Shortly after Santa's visit, Freya and Tamlyn the two Christmas nisse (erm, gnomes, but they insist on being called by their Danish name....baffles me!) arrived making a big mess and putting out demands to be fed rice pudding or else, they would make a mess for the Butterflies everyday!





Naturally, the Butterflies were very excited and made sure they remembered to feed them after snack and the first thing any Butterfly did when they arrived in the classroom in the morning was to check if the nisse had eaten their food. With their best efforts the Butterflies



managed to avoid nisse chaos, and mostly Freya and Tamlyn sat quietly on our Christmas tree, observing the Butterflies as they rehearsed for their shows.

After all the hard work the Butterflies put into Christmasosaurus, they deserved a special trip to the Xmas market outside the Basilica where they got to drink a nice hot chocolate and enjoy the Christmas atmosphere. During January, we have our traditional International Week, and once again we would like to invite you to visit our class with a short presentation about your home country. Our focus this time will be on foods from different countries.

Our next Unit is titled Making Sense of it, and among other things the children will be learning about Personal Safety. As well as learning about road safety, stranger danger and much more, we will be recapping our fire safety theme from last Summer and for this we would like you all to provide us with the address at which your child lives - the place he or she knows as home, mother's full name and telephone number. Please write it down for us on the sheet provided for this purpose in the classroom. We are asking for this as last year during this activity we found that our class list did not contain the correct address in every case, and well, that does confuse us and the children too. We do not wish to teach them the wrong address.





Please remember to check if your child has everything they need for the next half year: change of clothes, toothbrush and paste, outdoor clothes, jujitsu clothes (something comfortable to be active in), pencil cases etc. And last but not least, big Birthday wishes to



Lola and Lilla as both girls turned six in December. We would like to say a big thank you to Lilla and her family for providing the Butterflies with our Christmas tree again this year! It was a beautiful little tree and the Butterflies had good fun decorating it and Freya and Tamlyn left a note saying "thank you, it was a cosy home for us". Also, thank you to Szonja for the decorations you brought in from home, and thank you Geri for offering to share your golden electric candles for the show, sadly we did not need them in the end as we plucked up our courage and dared to use real lit candles!

We wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to teaching the Butterflies in 2014 too.



Kenneth and Cikra





Grasshoppers



Dear Parents

Thank you all so much for coming to our Christmas Show on December 18th! We are sure you were all very proud of the Grasshoppers' part and their performance in the show. They have all worked very hard, daily practising singing Christmas songs not only in English but also in Japanese, Polish, Jewish and Hungarian! Andi and I are very grateful for our presents aswell, thank you once again.

December 6th was a very special day for the Grasshoppers! They all have a visit from a very special person: Santa! Each child got to sit in Santa's lap and have his or her picture taken with him. Please keep in mind that our very own photographer (Kenneth) also took some wonderful photos of the children. If you have not seen these pictures on Facebook, please let me know and I will email it to you or put it onto your USB.



We spent the last few weeks preparing for the show and making decorations for the classrooms along with presents for moms and dads so we haven't been following the regular schedule, which we will start as of January 6th (Martial Arts, Swimming, Ballet, Yoga, Puppetry and Friday Trips).



Please make sure you bring a change of clothes for your grasshopper, along with their winter outdoor wear too. Also a bottle where they can refill water for themselves during the day (please only fill them with water not juice or tea because the grasshoppers cant wash the bottles).

On our last day we went to the Christmas market and enjoyed our snacks and each Grasshopper got to buy their own hot chocolate and enjoy it while looking at little christmas shops. We also went to Kenneth's place for a bathroom break and the kids got to see where he lives. The trip was a wonderful way to end the 2013 school year!

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous Happy New Year!

See you all in 2014!

Judit and Andi



FOR PARENTS—FOR PARENTS—FOR PARENTS

Dear Parents,

We are offering an interior design course in First Steps starting in January 2014. It is aimed at beginners and does not require any previous knowledge. The entire course consists of 11 weekly classes, 2 hours each.

We will have presentations, exercises, a workshop developing your own project, discussions, 3D computer aided design and field trips.

The schedule is not completely fixed yet but classes will probably be held on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 9 to 11 AM.

For more info and registration contact Anna at anna@annazeibig.com or call 06 30 8508269!

Informal meeting - more like a friendly get together than a lecture
Lots of fun, no stress, 100% interior design

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to Interior Design
 2. Space planning and Furnishing
 3. Colours
 4. Light
 5. Bathrooms
 6. Surface Finishing and Materials
 7. Kitchens
 8. Styles and decoration
 9. Planning a renovation
 10. Finalize your own project!
- + 1. Gems of Budapest:
the city with a designer's eye – excursion

**interior
design
course**



Price: 49.000 HUF/person

Location: First Steps Budapest 1026 Bimbó út 194.

Registration and information:
anna@annazeibig.com or 06308508269

www.annazeibig.com
www.facebook.com/interiordesigncourse



INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2014

We are celebrating our Diverse Cultural Background at First Steps between 20-24th of January

Please share your country's traditions and flavours with us!
For further information contact your Child's Teachers.



Please Sign Up for an appointment with your Child's Teacher

Nursery Groups: January 13-24
Pre-K and K Groups: January 27—February 07

We are looking forward seeing you there!



Valentine's Day 2014

On Friday, 14th of February Please wear something Red and/or Pink for the day.