



Newsletter

Robots and us

Educational robots are innovative learning tools at the European School. They have the potential to initiate far-reaching changes in education. Pepper and NAO easily create an empathetic link with students by their eye-catching appearances and humanoid behaviors. They motivate to learn by attracting students' attention, draw curiosity and stimulate interest to study.

Robots in classrooms show students that engineering and coding can be fun by making abstract knowledge concrete. Learning with robots enhances creative problem-solving skills and encourages the development of essential communication and interpersonal skills of our students.



TEDxIBEuropeanSchool

This year, the European School annual event TEDxIBEuropeanSchool was about Moving Forward. The Pandemic flipped the world upside-down. It affected all: adults, children, and youth. Our speakers – the ES students believe, our reality is about to be reconsidered, taken into our hands, and reclaimed. They suggest how to navigate through difficulties, avoid stagnation, explore new opportunities, achieve new accomplishments, and attain happiness. Keep moving forward, reinvigorate the future together with the European School TEDxers!



New Studio, New Program, and New Presenters

On World Television Day, the European School launched a new broadcast studio. ES TV keeps up with the times and constantly improves its broadcasting format and content. The newscast, known as ES News, is intended to inform students, teachers, staff, parents, and the broader community about the great things happening at the European School, interesting projects, accomplishments, innovations, and success stories.

ES News presenter Mishiko Gabaidze in his interview shares the experience gained as a news anchor.



Briefly describe your first experience as a news anchor

I will always remember the experience of being a news anchor since it was very exciting, challenging, productive, and joyful. Firstly, through this experience, I developed my skills concerning working with cameras. I was not always confident while being filmed in such a professional environment, although I have had these types of experiences in the past, and this experience truly helped me overcome this issue. I was very nervous and excited at the same time as before the shooting of the newscast. However, due to a very friendly and comforting environment, all the worry and fear went away, and I was left with all the positive emotions, leading to the production of a successful newscast.

What did you like most about being the ES News anchor?

Being the news anchor is truly a privilege for me, and the best part of it was the sense of satisfaction once the newscast was produced. Although we spent a lot of hours working on this newscast, and it wasn't easy, I can confidently say that the dedication paid off.

Mention a challenge that you faced at recording ES News. How did you manage it?

The biggest challenge in this experience was to correctly communicate verbally and through body language too. However, I was guided throughout the entire experience by the staff members and this no longer was a concern for me. They explained when to look at which cameras, at what pace I had to speak, etc. All of this helped me to also leave my fear and worries behind and proceed with the newscast itself.

What are the qualities that a news anchor needs to be effective?

In my opinion, the most important quality a news anchor should possess is effective skills of verbal communication and self-control. If an anchor has good skills of verbal communication and a sense of nonverbal communication, they will be able to deliver the message effectively to the audience and this is the most important. On the other hand, it is impossible to avoid nervousness and emotions while being a news anchor for the first time, therefore an anchor should be able to control their emotions, in order not to hinder his communication with the audience.

What do you think will make ES News popular and successful?

I think, the ES News will gain popularity and success due to its professionalism. The set was very advanced and the staff members approached this entire event in a very professional way. The overall quality of the final product was very high. Due to its high quality, I think, the audience will want to watch the newscast regularly.

We hope ES News will have hundreds of viewers, all of who take an interest in education, European School, its history, and modern life.

Student Parliament Chairman became Giorgi Geladze



Student Parliament Chairman Elections took place at the European School today, November 5th. This event enabled the ES community to bring democracy alive in the school. The election empowered students to experience the voting process firsthand and cast ballots for the official candidates running in the election. Students from grades 6-12 of all three programs (Georgian, IB, and AHS) participated in the voting process. Voting procedures that started at 9:30 a.m. and continued up until 2:00 p.m., went smoothly and no complications were recorded.

In a transparent vote-counting process, the members of the administrative team of the school and chair candidates' trustees were involved. The final results were declared at the Main Conference Hall. The student body joined the event online on the Zoom platform. The former chairman Anamaria Iakobidze addressed the candidates and wished for successful participation in the Parliament. Sophio Bazadze, the School Director announced the results and congratulated the winner. The Chairperson-elect is Giorgi Geladze.

Astrid Lindgren Week

According to UNESCO's decision, World Book Capital became Tbilisi for the year 2021. Within the program Tbilisi – World Book Capital, famous children's writer Astrid Lindgren's Week will be held at the European School.

Within Astrid Lindgren Week, the European School held several literary, enlightening, festive activities. One day, students dressed in Pippi's, Karlsson's, Emil's costumes; children's writer Vaso Guleuri from Writers' House came to meet our students; the school hosted Giorgi Kekelidze from the National Library; students displayed their paintings; the publisher's house sent its mobile library and shop – Walking Budrugana to the ES;

Ylva Festin- First Secretary at the Embassy of Sweden in Georgia addressed our students virtually; a hybrid meeting Astrid's World in Unibaken was held with the writer Irma Malacidze – the nominee of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award; guests from Sweden read Astrid Lindgren's stories.

The week aims to raise the literacy level of students and promote book reading.



Visit to the Occupation Line



Social responsibility is an essential value for the European School. There are numerous avenues the school takes to impact society positively. This time, we visited the school in Mereti - the village adjacent to the occupation line and delivered a projector, whiteboards, and books to make the learning process more effective and engaging for the local students. Recently, the European School sent a projector to Abkhazia public school #7 in Senaki. These charity activities are conducted within the National Library project Equilibrium with the support of the writer Giorgi Kekelidze.

Healthy Lifestyle

Leading a healthy lifestyle is a crucial part of every child's development. The European School inspires students to develop healthy habits they carry with them into adulthood.

In the school year 2021- 2022, the Georgian Program implemented a project aiming to promote a healthy lifestyle among students. Within this project, the Georgian Program students participated in various sports activities. They took part in fun sports games with great enthusiasm.

A guest endocrinologist talked to students about adolescent health issues and answered their questions.



During the visit of the dentist, students received information about dental care basics and the importance of oral hygiene and its daily routine for their health.

Several information sessions were held on health-related topics for the high school students. The students attended lectures on the Health Effects of Nicotine and the Health Effects of Alcohol. With a continuous effort to support students' health and wellbeing, the Georgian Program plans to hold interesting meetings and events in the future as well.

Your Stamp



Maro Makashvili - A young woman who was defending the independence of her country, a Red Cross nurse who died at the age of 19 during the Red Army invasion into Georgia, the first woman who was awarded the Georgian Order of National Hero.

In the year 2021, a postal stamp depicting Maro Makashvili's image was released within the joint campaign of the Georgia Red Cross Society and the Georgian Post. In October, the European School Georgian Program hosted the representative of the Georgia Red Cross Society. The guest held an information session for students, explained the main goal of the campaign, steps on how to become a Red Cross volunteer.

The Georgian Program students got inspired by the hero Maro Makashvili- the symbol of independent Georgia. The ES is the first school that joined the campaign #yourstamp, engaged volunteer students, and raised money for the Georgia Red Cross Society beneficiaries.

Luka Zhgenti Is Sambo Champion of Georgia

The European School student Luka Zhgenti became a winner of the Sambo Championship of Georgia in the age category of participants born in the year 2005-2006. "From age 7, I have been practicing in Judo, I have only two years of training in Sambo," - says Luka.

Luka Zhgenti will take part in European Sambo Championship in Cyprus, on December 17th.

Congratulations to Luka on his achievement! We wish him success in all future championships!



European School Students Help Children in Need

IB DP students initiated the charity event dedicated to UN World Food Day. Students cooked a meal at home and delivered it to Monk Andria's Orphan House. ES students are known for their independent initiatives and regularly demonstrate engagement in the issues of global significance, which is one of the essential learning outcomes of the CAS element of IB DP.



Multiculturalism and the PYP

As part of their Who We Are unit, grade 4 students were learning about global citizenship and how to respect others despite their differences. While investigating their second line of inquiry students learned about cultures and different countries. They inquired into different languages, religions, holidays, traditions, and food. For their summative assessment project, students were asked to share their culture with the class. Students prepared presentations about food, holidays, and famous people from their countries; they brought videos about traditional songs and dances and learned more about each other. Students not only had fun but once more understood that their differences make them unique and that being respectful is the main trait of a true IB learner.

Evaluation Visit

17-19 November marked an important event for the European School and PYP community specifically - IB PYP Remote Evaluation Visit. This evaluation visit was a chance for us to demonstrate our achievements and the teaching and learning.



Evaluation visit included meetings with parents, students, teachers, and administration. The PYP community has participated in all the preparatory events including the overview of the Assessment, Inclusion, Language and Academic Integrity, Self-Study questionnaire, collecting evidence of learning and teaching with the portfolio samples, students' assessed work, and photo and video evidence of the inquiry-based learning. The whole process demonstrated a commonality and international-mindedness of all the stakeholders of the school. They demonstrated expertise in different subject areas and readiness to always further develop.

IB DP student Luka Azhiba started to develop a web platform that unites international summer camp opportunities worldwide. This project is implemented under the CAS element of IB DP, the main goal of which is to develop an additional set of skills among students, including initiation skills and social responsibility. The student has a long-term plan to develop this project further. His goal is to continue working on it after the graduation of DP.



Literature and Creativity

During Georgian A lessons students inquired into the story *My African Grandmother* written by the Georgian writer - Mariam Tsiklauri. As part of their action, students met the author of the book and shared their opinion and impressions about the book. Grade 5 students wrote a poem together with the author using the vocabulary from the book. With the help of our music teacher, students turned the poem into a rap song and created music for the book “*My African Grandmother*”. They illustrated their favorite episodes during the art lessons. Students were inquirers and strengthened their thinking and communication skills while working on this book. The book was connected to the unit of inquiry - *Who we are*, as it invited the readers to inquire into the topics related to personal relationships, identity, and our roles and responsibilities in society. Students analyzed different perspectives and made real-life connections.

Project Byron and Georgia and Galaktion and Byron.

On November 17, Georgian and foreign students of the MYP Programme(Grades 9-10) presented presentations within the project *Byron and Georgia and Galaktion and Byron*.

The project was led by European school teachers: Rusudan Beridze and Eka Dughashvili.

The project aimed to help students become better acquainted with academic publications about the lesser-known facts on Byron’s works, particularly, the issues of Georgia being mentioned in his poetry, and the prototype of his poem *Tirza*.



Additionally, Byron’s influence on Galaktion Tabidze’s poetry was also examined.

All the above-mentioned issues were interesting in the context of intercultural dialogue and translation. The students highlighted in their presentations that each culture separately has its specificity and contrast, especially when interacting only with another culture, which is revealed in the context of intercultural dialogue and is well-reflected in fiction. The students studied all

the issues from Academician Inesa Merabishvili’s monographs. Within the the framework of the same project, the students listened to her lecture on the topic *What is new to tell you about Galaktioni?* The lecture was especially impressive and appealing for the students as the researcher herself talked about the issues they were working on. One of the main goals of learning languages and literature at the European School is to develop students’ ability to find, systematize and present scientific information. This will be facilitated by the activities carried out.

Mental Health Assembly

As the world celebrated mental health day on the 10th of October, PYP Student Council members from grade 5 prepared and conducted an assembly about this topic. They did a presentation for the PYP community and discussed the importance of mental health. Another team prepared a poster and suggested ways to maintain good mental health. Another team created an amazing video, where they acted out the part of the book, related to mental health at school. The students also installed and presented *We listen box*, where PYP students can share their thoughts, feelings, and worries.

Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning at the ES

During the first academic semester, three interdisciplinary units were created for the MYP students from grades 8, 9, and 10. Teachers from different subject groups came together to develop and execute various interesting units. Within these units, students got a chance to create impressive final products.

Grade 8 students (subjects: LA/Georgian & Drama) staged a theatrical performance in the Main Hall, using the form and style of Ancient Greek Theater, with characters and content straight from XIX century Georgian literature.

Grade 9 students (subjects: LL/English & Design) created a spectacular online blog with various sources and information they covered in English.

Grade 10 students (subjects: LA/German & Chemistry) created multilingual posters with messages about environmental issues. Let's save the planet together!

At the end of the ID teaching and learning process, students reflected on their participation and answered questions about this new type of experience. Students found themselves to be more open-minded and caring. They strengthened communication and transfer skills. "I felt my mind open up as a window, and information swirled inside, just like the IB logo", - expressed an eighth-grader. Students were proud of their final products and expressed a desire to be included



Anti-bullying Campaign

#StrongerTogether is an annual campaign from the Student Wellbeing Service. It usually takes place in the first week of November. In 2021, the MYP assembly dedicated to this event was conducted on the 4th of November as it is an International Day Against Violence and Bullying at School, including Cyberbullying.

The Campaign's idea is a visualization of the importance of positive communication and relationships with our friends, classmates, family members, etc., as well as understanding the support we are giving to each other daily and how it helps us overcome difficulties and challenges in life.

Together with MYP students, we celebrate the support which we are giving to each other, as well as the importance of healthy, positive relationships that are vital for our emotional well-being and growth.

Students dedicate special art pieces and creative posters, novels, graphics, and so much more to this event. In this regard, we are trying to reinforce positive relationships and communication at MYP, as well as encourage the development of IB Learner Profile attributes.

#StrongerTogether is not only an anti-bullying campaign but something more - the idea of peace and support which helps us build a better society!



Cooperation with Social Enterprise Mziuri

Developing our students as responsible citizens represents one of the top priorities of the European School. Cooperating with social enterprises contributes to achieving this goal. IB DP students met the founder of the Social Cafe Mziuri Ana Gogvadze, who shared her valuable experience and explained to students the importance of social responsibility and the process of transforming it into a competitive advantage.



In addition, our guest shared information about the overall role of social enterprises within society. The founder of social enterprise confirmed readiness to provide its beautiful facilities to ES students for their extra-curriculum activities. As a result, we plan to organize CAS project presentations of the DP students in Mziuri.

Migration Stories

Students inquired into the transdisciplinary theme - Where we are in place and time and explored the concept of migration and pull and push factors of migration. American High School students supported the PYP students and gave interviews about their migration stories. Grade 5 students acquired new skills and knowledge about the structure of the interview and different techniques that might be helpful when conducting an interview. They collected information about the reasons people migrate and their experiences when moving from country to country. They inquired about the way people find to assimilate and understood that changes might be difficult for people but showing respect to the culture and traditions alongside learning the language might be helpful in adaptation. The different interviews were collected into the migration stories' book created by the grade 5 students that they later donated to the PYP library.

Meeting with the Head of PR and CSR Department of Wissol Group



Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has moved from being a philosophy to a business function. Modern companies have created the position of CSR manager, whose goal is to ensure that the company balances its own and society's interests and avoids conflict of interests among stakeholders. The researches confirm that the ethical image and social responsibility of the company become increasingly important for customers, employees, and other stakeholders.

European School students met the head of the PR and CSR department of Wissol Group, which represents one of the biggest business holdings of Georgia and is the possessor of the Wendy's and Dunkin Donuts franchises. Mrs. Rusudan Kbilashvili explained to students local and international CSR practices and associated opportunities and threats for the companies. Our guest confirmed that social responsibility is becoming the key value for the brand. Hereby, the guest demonstrated the readiness of Wissol Group to cooperate with ES students in terms of their CAS projects, intending to contribute to social responsibility.

Global Ethics Day at American High School

Author of the Article: Nino Tedoradze, AHS, 10th Grade

On October 20th, 2021, within the Global Ethics Day created by the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, the American High School held a hybrid poster presentation conference Education Empowers Future Leaders: Thinking Ethically, Acting Globally. The AHS students presented themes addressing global ethical issues. The conference marked the American High School/European School on a world map of organizations celebrating Global Ethics Day.

Global Ethics Day is an annual opportunity to empower ethics through the actions of individuals and organizations. It takes place on the third Wednesday of every October. 8 students from American High School participated in this event, including me and Meri Abashidze from Vladimir Komarov Tbilisi Public School N199 of Physics and Mathematics.

During the conference, students discussed the most pressing and important ethical issues and explored global ethics.

“Through the conference and these essays by other speakers, I gained knowledge about which ethical issues or problems are being raised in the global arena today. I believe that ethics as a field should be devoted more time and resources for the new generation because it is this issue that will give us an ethical and fair society in the future”, - says Luka Zhamutashvili, AHS 11th B Grade, about this event. Luka's essay was about the unfair treatment in working and social environments.

Why did you decide to participate in this event, Luka?

Luka Mchedlidze, AHS 10th Grade: “For me, the event was very interesting and informative. First, the research for information for my essay let me understand and get to know much new factual information about global ethics, our issues with climate, many countries' economic and social problems, and much more useful information. Then, the event itself gave me a chance to listen to my fellow schoolmates' wonderful and very informative essays and presentations, which in part introduced me to some new issues and problems that humans face today and measures we should all take to fix them.” At the conference, Luka made a presentation about air pollution and global issues and how decisions affect the future.

What do you think, what should be done to grow peoples' interest in ethical issues?

Anna Danelia, AHS 9th A Grade: “I think everyone should participate in this event. However, to raise interest, this event should be more open to the public. For instance, there should be special posters in the hall or some adverts.” Ana discussed ethical dimensions of discrimination.

Why do you think this type of event is important, Shani?

Shani Licht, AHS 10th Grade: “While the school itself allows us to express ourselves and our opinions on the topics on the curriculum, this kind of conference promotes activism and raises discussions that students are passionate about and is important to the world but isn't necessarily in the curriculum.” Shani delivered a presentation on the topic “Using Ethics Globally”.

What was the path that you have made while working on your speech, and what experience have you gained?

Anka Chkhikvadze, AHS 11th A Grade: “First off, I wrote an essay about the topic, then put together a presentation, and lastly I presented it during the conference. While working on my speech a gained knowledge about many different things associated with global ethics. This experience made me think about how important global ethics are and just how strongly they can have an effect on our lives. During the conference, I listened to others' presentations, which helped me look at global ethics from a different perspective. In conclusion, I loved working on the project and think that global ethics is one of the most important things to pay attention to if we want to try and change the world for the better”. At the conference, Anka made a presentation about the importance of global ethics to empower future leaders.

What have you gained from this conference, and do you consider doing this type of activity again?

Nikoloz Khaduri, AHS 9th A Grade: “The conference dedicated to the Global Ethics Day is the first event I attended in-person. This event, in addition to allowing me to make many new, exciting senior friends, also made me more confident to attend future conferences freely. After this event I’m going to be more active in similar events, to get the same amount of fun and experience that I got on this project.” Nikoloz discussed discrimination, as the most pressing ethical issue today.

Every student agreed that they gained lots of new experience during the conference and were thrilled with the results. This conference brought lots of new ideas and hope for a better future because young students participating from all over the world means that there are people who care about our morality and future. This event is a small step which will help us with growing ethics in humanity, however, more people should join, that is why if you, the reader, haven’t participated in the global ethics day conference, maybe you could consider joining it in the upcoming year?



Summer Reading Challenge



This year the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi invited every child in Georgia to join the Embassy’s Summer Reading Challenge. American High School Students, including Nitsa Skhvitaridze and Mariam Basaran, participated in this challenge.

Nitsa Skhvitaridze(AHS student from 8th Grade): “This summer, I devoted my time to a few remarkable books: Willa of the Wood (Author: Robert Beatty), Willa of the dark hollow (Author: Robert Beatty), and I’ll give you the sun (Author: Jandy Nelson). These Three outstanding books inspired me to join the Summer Reading Challenge of the U.S.

Embassy in Tbilisi. It helped me to understand the importance and value of these meaningful novels.

I was exceedingly thankful when I received a message from the author, Robert Beatty. He replied to me with his feedback along with posting me on his Facebook Page. I am amazed and flattered that I received a reply and had communication with one of my favorite writers!”

Mariam Basaran(AHS student from 9th B Grade): “The book that I had chosen for this challenge was “The Midnight Library” by Matt Haig. Out of all the books I had read this summer, this was the one that I could connect with the most. It is focused on a character with anxiety disorder. This spectacular book not only helped me realize that others can relate to how I feel, but it has also helped me in being able to see how much stronger you come out of tough situations.”

Nitsa and Mariam received certificates signed by the U.S. Ambassador to Georgia Kelly C. Degnan. The gold-certificate winner Nitsa Skhvitaridze's happiness got doubled when she received happy birthday wishes from her favorite author Robert Beatty Books, to whom she sent the book reviews within the reading challenge. This fact encouraged not only Nitsa but others as well, all students who love to read.

U.S. President's Award

In the framework of the U.S. President's Education Awards Program, the American High School students Nikoloz Khaduri, Anna Danelia, and Anna Davitashvili received the U.S. President's Award. On October 22, 2021, certificates and pins for outstanding academic excellence in middle school were awarded to them.

Nikoloz Khaduri (9th A Grade): Receiving the U.S. President's award has been one of the most important honors of my life, which has made my self-confidence skyrocket. Success is not a set standard for every human being, we all have many different goals that make us feel successful, and no one else in this world can define what success means for you. For some people, success might mean getting a promotion, being rich, being famous, or making an impact on the world. For some, it might even mean getting a new bike. Success tastes different to everyone



and unless you work hard for it, you won't get to taste it at all. For me, success means something different than to many others. I strive to be the best everywhere by my knowledge and accomplishments. Receiving the U.S. President's award is the biggest motivation that leads me to my success. To sum it up, it is unfeasible for us to achieve success unless we work hard for it, as Vince Lombardi said: "The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary."

Anna Danelia (9th A Grade): "Since the early ages of my life, I have dreamed of making an impact on this world. I thought and still think that I was brought to this planet for a reason and that if I don't try my best and help people in any way, then what is the meaning of life? So, I started setting goals. And that motivated me to work hard, and still does. As my dreams are very serious and hard to achieve, I need the best education possible, so that's why I'm here, and that's why I want to go to the world's top university. Getting into that university is not easy too, and since I've started high school, I've always been full of work: trying to get the best grades possible, participating in as many events as possible, and doing homework and extracurricular. So, the U.S. president's award is a huge step towards my dream, and I'm very thankful for this opportunity. This award is great respect and success, and that means a lot to me. Conclusively, this award holds great importance in my life. And by my journey, I want to show people around the world, that anything is possible, and that nothing can stop them from achieving their dreams, I want to encourage people to study and work hard for their goals. So, I'm endlessly grateful, and am continuing my path towards success."

Anna Davitashvili (9th A Grade): "In my early ages, I didn't have a specific goal, so I didn't study or work hard enough. However, everything changed when I moved to this school. Here, I saw many opportunities and many different subjects which were new and very interesting for me. I still enjoy studying and exploring various engrossing topics; these subjects are the ones that inspire me to keep learning more. Additionally, I realized that having a goal is very essential. You must have something that keeps you motivated all the time. So, I set a goal to be successful and started working every day as much as I could. I know that "Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted," - David Bly. Therefore, I keep working hard and trying my best; for now, I am trying by doing extracurricular and homework, participating in many interesting events, and so on. Receiving the U.S. President's award is a huge honor for me. This award proved to me that all the struggle, difficulties, and hard work are appreciated at some point. With this award, I understood that learning is worth all of it. However, it doesn't end with this. This was a motivation and another step to success. Conclusively, I suggest to all students to keep studying, to do your best and work for everything yourself. But first of all, set a goal for which you will strive for with delight."

Re-opening of Kindergarten

At the European Kindergarten, the academic year 2021-2022 started on October 4. The Kindergarten playground was decorated with colorful balloons. Children enjoyed playing with their teachers and friends Zuzu, Minnie, Sunny, and Lu.



Global Handwashing Day



On October 15, we celebrated Global Handwashing Day at the European Kindergarten. The teachers talked about the rules of proper handwashing. The kids learned about the importance of maintaining hygiene norms for our health. Kids made some crafts about bacteria and viruses. They watched interesting videos and learned how to fight against them.



Goodbye Autumn

We celebrated the last day of autumn in our kindergarten. Kids made delicious Churchkhela. The children happily shared Churchkhela with their family members. This process was especially interesting for our foreign students.



Presentation Day

At the end of December, European Kindergarten organized an exhibition of presentations on past topics. Our children happily welcomed family members and presented their works. The rooms were decorated with Christmas artworks. A pre-recorded video was shown where the children recited New Year poems. At the end of the presentation, the kids sang New Year songs.