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NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN SCHOOL

INNOVATION WEEKS: A NEW ERA IN TEACHING

In an inspiring display of educational advancement, our school held its highly anticipated Innovation Weeks from February to April 2024. This event saw enthusiastic participation from all departments, including the Department of Mathematics, Languages and Literature, Sciences, Innovative Technologies, Social Sciences, Creative and Performing Arts, IB Primary Years Programme, and Primary Years Georgian Programme. Over the course of this period, a total of 129 groundbreaking lessons were conducted, showcasing the innovative spirit of our educators and the transformative power of creative teaching methods.

A Collaborative Learning Experience

The central theme of Innovation Weeks was collaboration and the sharing of best practices among experienced teachers. Each department took turns conducting open classes where educators shared their cutting-edge ideas, discoveries, and innovative teaching strategies. These sessions were designed not only to impart knowledge but also to foster a culture of continuous learning and professional development among teachers.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM EACH DEPARTMENT

Department of Mathematics

Teachers introduced interactive methods to engage students in complex problem-solving. By incorporating technology to visualize mathematical concepts in real-time, the use of software like GeoGebra and interactive whiteboards transformed the learning experience, making abstract concepts more tangible and accessible for all students.

Languages and Literature Department

Innovative storytelling techniques and digital literacy tools were at the forefront. Educators explored the integration of multimedia resources to enhance language learning, while literature classes incorporated virtual reality to bring classic texts to life, offering students a truly immersive literary experience.



Department of Sciences

Science lessons featured hands-on experiments and the use of augmented reality to simulate scientific phenomena. This allowed students to conduct virtual dissections and explore the intricacies of biological systems and chemical reactions in a safe, controlled environment, enhancing their understanding and retention of complex scientific concepts.



Department of Innovative Technologies

This department led the charge with lessons on coding, robotics, and the latest advancements in artificial intelligence. Students were introduced to practical applications of technology, preparing them for the future digital landscape by equipping them with essential skills for the 21st century.

Department of Social Sciences

Teachers implemented interactive discussions and debates on contemporary issues, using digital platforms to connect with experts and students from around the world. This global perspective enriched the learning experience and broadened students' understanding of societal dynamics, fostering a more inclusive and well-rounded worldview.

IB Primary Years Programme

Focused on developing students' inquiry-based learning skills, integrating themes that encourage critical thinking and problem-solving. Lessons included collaborative projects that emphasized global citizenship and intercultural understanding. Additionally, the programme incorporated innovative use of technologies such as interactive whiteboards and educational apps to enhance the learning experience, making it more engaging and interactive for young learners.

Department of Creative and Performing Arts

Innovative approaches in music, art, and drama included the use of digital tools to compose music, create digital art, and produce virtual theater performances. These lessons highlighted the fusion of traditional arts with modern technology, allowing students to explore new creative avenues and express themselves in diverse ways.

Primary Years Georgian Programme

The programme integrated innovative technologies like digital storytelling tools and interactive educational games to make learning more engaging and effective, ensuring that students develop a strong academic foundation while appreciating their cultural heritage.

Teacher Participation and Feedback



The response from the teaching staff was overwhelmingly positive. Many teachers attended each lesson to gain valuable insights and inspiration. The open class format encouraged active participation and dialogue, allowing teachers to discuss and reflect on the innovative methods presented. This peer-to-peer learning approach not only enhanced their professional skills but also built a supportive community of educators committed to excellence.

Conclusion

The Innovation Weeks were a resounding success, marking a significant milestone in our school's journey towards educational innovation. The lessons conducted were not only innovative and interesting but also highly impactful, leaving a lasting impression on both teachers and students. As we move forward, the experiences and ideas shared during these weeks will undoubtedly continue to inspire and shape our teaching practices. Our school is proud to have hosted such a transformative event, and we look forward to continuing our tradition of excellence and innovation in education.

Nana Patsia

GREEN MINDS - BRIGHT FUTURE

European School announced the academic year 2023-2024 as a year of sustainable development to make our school greener and more environmentally friendly. Throughout the year, the school community engaged in many environmentally friendly activities:

- Energy-Light hour
- Zero Waste campaign
- Campaign for social networks Show me your green version!
- Competition for staff – Make your office greener!
- Competition for students – The greenest class!
- Tree planting activities
- Trash Art exhibitions
- Green Diet presentations
- Inviting environmental activist speaker at TEDx event



We think this initiative has much to contribute to education in general. It allows students to respect nature, culture, and society. That's why we encouraged the European School Student Parliament to demonstrate active citizenship and contribute to a more just, balanced, and sustainable world.



The Festival featured multiple informative and engaging workshops; children enjoyed a range of educational activities, including clean energy, eco-art workshops and upcycling challenges. You could also find live music, entertainment, and healthy plant-based food and drinks made in the school cafeteria with a focus on sustainable practices.

On Earth Day, April 22nd, the ES Student Parliament Vice-Chairman initiated to host an Eco Festival. The Eco festival, designed to inspire and educate individuals and families about the importance of protecting our planet and living more sustainably, brought in one space eco-friendly companies offering sustainable products and services, from clothing and accessories to wellness services.



The highlight of the event - an eco-friendly fashion show showcasing designs made by eco-activist Shoko Chachua from upcycled clothing or waste materials, was an opportunity to consider the environmental impact of the fashion industry and learn about sustainable solutions!

The event also included an award ceremony, where the Greenest Class and Greenest Office were announced. During the event, its initiator Mariam Khurodze, shared her insights with us: "We all know that climate change and environmental issues are causing massive damage to our planet, and it's time for us to take action. That's why I started an initiative called Zero Waste Week in the first semester, encouraged students, and managed to



collect over 300 kilograms of plastic at school. On Earth Day, I decided to organize something bigger and engage not only the school community but others as well. Eco Festival perfectly matched my plans. This initiative is about raising awareness about environmental issues and taking action to save our environment. Now, you might be wondering, why Eco Festival? Well, here's the thing - we can't do this alone. Climate change and environmental issues are the result of our collective greed and neglect.

It's time for us to come together and take action. So, I've invited green companies to join me in this mission. They exhibited eco-friendly products and contributed 10% of their income to the charity activity planned for the festival. Money raised through this event was sent to Nergeeti School in Imereti to plant trees in the name of three children who died because of the Eco disaster that happened in the winter.

Let's save and plant more trees and make a real difference for our planet. Together, we can create a brighter, more sustainable future for ourselves and future generations.”

School sustainable initiatives are the key to awakening environmental awareness in new generations and training human beings responsible for the future. As educators, students, parents, governments, businesses, and society, we have an essential role in making sustainable practices a reality.



Knowing that being green is an ongoing journey, at the European School, we strive to do things differently for ourselves, our children, and our business.

I invite everyone to act in favor of this cause and contribute to a better future for everyone and the planet.

Ketevan Nachkebia

YOUTH FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

On May 15, 2024, the European School hosted an impactful event titled “Youth for a Better Tomorrow,” fully organized by the Student Parliament with the assistance of European Young Ambassadors and the European Youth Parliament Georgia. This initiative aimed to raise awareness about the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), assess how Georgia meets these goals, identify existing problems, promote youth engagement, and propose potential solutions.

The event spanned approximately two and a half hours and was structured to maximize discussion and collaborative problem-solving. The first hour was dedicated to presentations from speakers from the school and partnering organizations. These speakers addressed critical issues suggested by the UN, contextualizing them within the Georgian experience.

The topics covered included:



- Access to Education in Georgia
- Environmental Sustainability in Georgia
- Social Equality in Georgia
- Georgia's Integration into the EU

Following these insightful discussions, there was a short intermission where guests could converse and socialize, and enjoy food and drinks provided outside the venue.



The second half of the event focused on solution-oriented group work. Students were encouraged to actively participate in creating strategies to tackle the issues discussed earlier. With the guidance of facilitators, the young participants collaborated enthusiastically, showcasing their potential to drive meaningful change. They proposed innovative and practical solutions, demonstrating their commitment to transforming the world into a



better place. To delve further into the details of our event, we asked the coordinator of European Young Ambassadors, Maka Sartania, a few questions. "I liked the fact that young people were given the opportunity to present their thoughts to a wide audience, to engage in discussion and intervention planning, to reflect on their civic responsibility, their own contribution, and their role in shaping a better future for the country or the world. The mentioned event was undoubtedly

successful thanks to its diverse topics and exciting format. Young people had the opportunity to see the challenges and opportunities in the country and globally from different angles, and then get involved in reducing or solving the problems around us." Finally, she said, "These kinds of events should be common." The European School concurs with her in this view and is ready to conduct similar events for our students at every opportunity and help them become responsible citizens.

David Kbilashvili

YOUTH VOICE AND DECISION-MAKING AT THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL

As the Chairperson of the European School Student Parliament, I am honored to collaborate with others to impact student lives at the ES. I am committed to supporting each student with all my strength and passion. This year has been extraordinarily productive for us, and I am proud to share that we have achieved numerous goals we set at the beginning of the election process.

Immediately following the elections we dedicated ourselves to fostering school spirit. One of our standout initiatives was creating a fan club for our basketball team. We designed eye-catching posters and displayed them throughout both buildings. Today, we proudly have 60 enthusiastic members working together every day to make this a fun and collaborative experience.

We organized an eco-competition between classes of European School. The students collected 300kg of plastic in 2 days. The collected plastic was recycled by the company "Tene".

On Friday, we revealed the winners-Georgian Program students from grade 5b. The winning class collected 41kg of plastic and faithfully competed with other classes of European School.

On the 1st of December, we hosted the fall festival. We invited students to bring home-baked goods to sell, aiming to raise funds to support Archil in his recovery after an unfortunate accident. Thanks to our collective efforts, we raised eight thousand GEL, all of which was sent to help Archil get better.



During the first semester, I and my team decided to bring change and excitement in our school uniforms. We added hoodies in various colors and designs and allowed our students to wear them every Friday and for after-school activities, to further express their style.

To cap off the semester, we organized a spectacular winter dance for our high school students. We sold tickets, played the most exciting music, and danced the night away until 10 PM. It was an unforgettable evening filled with joy, laughter, and unity. With the raised funds we bought food for underprivileged families and sent the Easter baskets to them.

Starting the second semester, we got ourselves ready for the day of love and organized the selling of heart-shaped cookies in the cafeteria. To spread even more love, our adorable little cupids, the primary grade students, joyfully handed out heart-shaped balloons, filling the school with Valentine's spirit.

At the end of Valentine's week, February 16, 2024, we organized a dance where we decorated the main hall ceiling with the hearts the parliament members worked tirelessly to create. There was loud music and the room was full of love. On Earth Day, we organized an eco-festival, invited green companies, and arranged an eco-friendly fashion show where we used recycled clothes to show off our style while trying to protect our precious planet.

Raised funds were sent to Nergeeti School to set a garden and plant trees in the name of children died due to the eco disaster happened in Imerety region. On the same day, we awarded the greenest class and the greenest office. We started working to plan a memorable talent show where we invited guests for our juries, Lela Tsurtsumia and Sofia Nizharadze. Our hosts did an amazing job entertaining and leading this event. 7th grader Avtandil Tsereteli became our winner, with his talented and original piece he played on the piano. Lastly, to finish our semester we organized Europe Day. We worked collaboratively with European Young Ambassadors and the European Youth Parliament Georgia.



The event was two and a half hours, structured to maximize both discussion and collaborative problem-solving. The first hour was dedicated to presentations from speakers from the school and partnering organizations, while the second half of the event focused on solution-oriented group work. Students were encouraged to actively participate in creating strategies to tackle the issues discussed earlier. I would say this event was the best way to finish my presidency.

I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. Our collective efforts have led to remarkable achievements, and I am deeply honored to have been part of such a dynamic and dedicated community. As part of the DP program, it was hard for me to make enough time to dedicate to my presidency but I'm happy my team helped me out and with team effort we made all this happen.



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Mariam Bezhuashvili

TRIUMPHS OF OUR STUDENTS: CELEBRATING SUCCESS STORIES

Nitsa Skhvitaridze

Student individuality is a core value at our school, and we strive to help each student flourish by developing the necessary skills and providing opportunities to showcase their unique talents. One exceptional example of this is Nitsa Skhvitaridze, whose writing career began within the walls of our school, even though her talent was evident much earlier. We are pleased to present a brief interview with this young author to share her journey to success. Who knows, she might inspire many other students along the way.

Can you tell us about the moment you had realized you wanted to be a writer? Was there a specific event or influence that sparked your passion for writing?

You know how people always ask what you want to be when you grow up? Well, my secret choice was becoming an author. Ever since I was young, I have always aspired to be a writer. In a way, little me always knew I would have a book upon one of those bookshelves. It became my passion because of all the authors who affected my perspective as a kid. They made my life so colorful and inspired me in countless ways. Therefore, I want to fulfill a similar role for others who share my understanding and interests.

The moment I truly noticed my spark for writing was a few years back when I wrote my first poem. It was shocking how naturally and effortlessly the words flowed to me. After that, more and more stories and ideas came through, which completed my book. However, what really kept my passion going was the constant wave of inspiration and support that circled me. Having the trust in myself and in my freedom with creativity is what really keeps me going.

Who has been the most significant influence in your writing career so far, and how has this person inspired or supported you in your journey?

The person to whom I owe the deepest gratitude throughout the entire journey of creating my book is my mom. I'm incredibly fortunate to not



only call her my mom but also my best friend. She was there to help me edit all of my texts, design my book cover, choose the color of the pages and fonts, and finally print my book.

However, most importantly, she emotionally supported me in so many ways and helped me achieve an outcome, which was once only a dream. In addition, I want to especially thank my teacher Nana Muker-ia, whose power of storytelling inspired my first poem. Without her heart touching story, I wouldn't have rediscovered my talent. And lastly, I would like to thank my family, teachers, and my friends who became my muses and helped me find inspiration. It's because of all of you that my book is titled "My Heart of a Home"; without your love and support, it wouldn't be complete.

What challenges did you face while pursuing your goal of becoming a writer, and how did you overcome them?

The perpetual challenge for me has always been writer's block. Simply put, it's the frustrating inability to compose anything due to a lack of inspiration. For me, sometimes sentences would effortlessly string themselves together, while at other times, my mind would feel like a blur. For long, this so-called writer's block haunted me, until I met A'Lelia Bundles. Being a writer herself, I wanted her advice on breaking free from this curse. Her answer highlighted the importance of finding inspiration or a new muse to ignite and urge the process of bringing forth your emotions on paper. Therefore, I have tried changing my environment and meeting new people in order to regain my spark for writing.

Can you describe your writing process? Do you have any particular routines or habits that help you stay productive and creative?

When it comes to writing, it is important to understand that it can be messy. There is no structured list of rules to follow. In that moment, a writer is free, whether they are in the quietest of rooms or the busiest of streets. When creativity calls, your location becomes irrelevant; writers will always find a way to keep their ideas alive. For me, personally, rain adds a soothing element to my process. I wrote my first poem during the rain, so that tradition now follows me.

How do you balance your writing with other aspects of your life, such as school, extracurricular activities, and social commitments?

Balancing hobbies as a student is indeed challenging, especially when it comes to writing. Writing requires time to find inspiration, and a busy, hectic environment can often block that possibility. However, even past a packed schedule and feeling overworked, writing can serve as a much-needed breather. I firmly believe that if you have a genuine love for something, you'll always find a way to make time for it, no matter how busy life gets.

What advice would you give to other young aspiring writers who are looking to follow a similar path? Are there any resources or strategies you found particularly helpful?



To all the little hearts who want to pursue their dreams, do not let anything or anyone stop you. Writing is a type of art that can save so much. As many might deem it insignificant, know that your words and your actions can change the course of so many things in this world.

NEWSLETTER

Your quill is your own immense source of power, so use it for good. Go towards places and people who make you feel loved, who lift your spirits and make you want to express your talent. Follow yourself, your brain, and your heart. I will be here cheering you on, I promise. Remember, you may not know me, but I sure know you and your potential!



Natalie Ghviniashvili

Achieving academic excellence, consistently participating in daily school lessons, and gaining international recognition is a remarkable feat that few manage to accomplish. Such an exceptional individual is our 11th-grade student, Natalie Ghviniashvili, who recently won the prestigious Lytham St Anne's Annual International Classics Competition. We are proud to announce that this marks the fourth consecutive year our school has secured first place in this competition. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Natalie and are delighted to share her inspiring journey to success.

Can you share your journey leading up to winning the international classics competition? What initially sparked your interest in the classics?



My interest in Classics was first sparked when I joined European School in 9th grade, although I always had an admiration for Greek Mythology it wasn't until my first Classics course in 9th grade that I began to truly appreciate the subject. Over the past three years that I have studied Classics, I have made an effort to participate in every Classics extracurricular that I could find at school, whether it be conferences, presentations, or competitions. Even for the yearly Georgia and the World Conferences I always made an effort to present research that integrated Georgia with Classics.

What specific strategies or study techniques did you find most effective in preparing for the competition?

Something I find extremely effective for those who are interested in Classics is reading every footnote and googling every foreign character or place that comes up in a piece of classic literature. There is so much more to be learned this way, and so many fascinating details one can find simply by reading or researching just a little bit more. All of this knowledge accumulates as you continue to read Classics works and soon enough you'll notice connections and recognize characters or places that were mentioned in previously studied texts. This method has always been effective for me when it came to learning Classics and is one of the reasons I feel knowledgeable about these topics in the first place.

Who or what has been your biggest source of inspiration and support throughout your preparation and participation in the competition?

My biggest source of inspiration and support when it comes to classics has always been my classics teacher Ekaterine Kobakhidze. It was in her class that my love for Classics first emerged and over the 3 years I have spent learning Classics from her there was never a single dull moment. For every Classics conference, presentation, and competition I have always looked towards her for support and supervision, and she has always been there to help me further my endeavors in Classics, providing me with insightful and new ideas regarding this fascinating subject.

How has winning this competition impacted your academic and personal life? Has it influenced your future goals or career aspirations in any way?

Winning this competition hasn't made a large difference to my personal life but in regards to my academic life, it has certainly given me confidence in my classics abilities and knowledge. Although it has not influenced my career aspirations it has definitely solidified a future goal of mine, to continue studying and learning Classics on the side even after I leave European school.

What advice would you give to other students who are passionate about the classics and aspire to compete internationally?

The main advice I would give to anyone who aspires to compete in Classics is to present something you enjoy, about a topic you are passionate about; you can't fake enthusiasm. When you research and speak about something that genuinely interests you your presentation will be more compelling. Especially in this competition your presenting skills and ability to catch the viewer's attention make such a large difference; people will be more inclined to listen to what you have to say if you, yourself are presenting in such a way that it can be seen your love for the material. The bottom line is, to be passionate about what you are doing, because it can make the difference between an uninspiring presentation and an interesting one.

Nana Mukeria

COUNSELLOR OF THE YEAR: GIORGI SICHINAVA

University and Career Counselling Office (UCCO) offers comprehensive university guidance to all three programs of the European School: The Georgian Program, International Baccalaureate DP and CP, and American School of Advanced Studies. What began with a single counsellor office in 2017 has since evolved into a unified team of professionals who successfully assist students and their families in the college and university admissions processes. UCCO aims to foster a university-going culture by equipping European School students with a proactive mindset and a diverse skill set. Based on the values of inclusivity and integrity, the mission is to create an empowered student community that will cultivate the leaders of tomorrow.

With a deep sense of pride, we are delighted to share the global recognition of the Director of the University and Career Counselling Office (UCCO), Giorgi Sichinava, who has been awarded the prestigious Counsellor of the Year – Europe Award! The Global Counsellor Awards recognises counsellors who have excelled at providing students with the tools and support to make life-changing decisions about their future studies and careers.



Can you tell us about the award?

It is a recognition from highly reputable Times Higher Education, an organisation that received 2024 King's Awards for Enterprise.

It is also a recognition from my fellow international colleagues and a reminder that the work we do is impactful.

What does the future hold for the University and Career Counselling Office (UCCO)?

University and Career Counselling Office (UCCO) is committed to the continued professional development of its team members. Two counsellors are working towards earning the College Counselling credentials developed by UCLA Extension. Furthermore, Giorgi Sichinava has received the CAP accreditation (The Times Higher Education Counsellor Accreditation Program) that recognises European School as THE Accredited Counsellor School.



Last but not least, recently UCCO introduced the Writing Workshop Leader position. By welcoming a new team member, the Office now also offers the College Essay Writing Program, aimed at strengthening the writing skills of college-bound students.

Recognising the growing importance of career preparedness for European School students, UCCO engages with globally renowned organisations like Evolve Careers to initiate future-oriented and skills-based modules.

At UCCO, we believe in sharing the expertise with the global counselling community, In June 2024 I contributed to the Mentor Year Program, designed by the International ACAC (Association for College Admission Counseling).

So, the future for UCCO looks promising and bright. We will continue to identify, develop, and cultivate talent in our students.

Gurami Ghonghadze

YOUR SCHOOL - YOUR PARTNER

Alumni programs are successful when they connect the community, former students, and the school. At the European School, we work together to keep our alumni and community actively involved. It is a priority for us. Strong connections help to make our school stronger.

One of the successful projects implemented within the memorandum of understanding signed between Skillcraft Academy and the European School on December 29th, 2023, at the Alumni Reunion is Craft Your Career.

Training center Skillcraft Academy is founded by the ES alumnus Irakli Kikoria. Irakli finished school in 2015 and continued his studies in Spain at IE University. Currently, he works at a fintech startup (Payze), where he leads the business development team. Irakli shared the details about the Craft Your Career project with us: "In November, I started a training center - Skillcraft Academy with my friend Giorgi Sartania who is a European School alumnus like myself. In the training center, we conduct various trainings in the following areas: business, law, medicine, international relations.



Besides training for working professionals, we wanted to create something for high school students as well. We identified a problem and found a way to solve it. Many high school students, when making a choice about their career path, often rely only on current trends or advice from their parents. In many cases, after choosing a certain area, students change majors because they don't like what they are studying and can no longer see themselves in the profession. Eventually, students lose time and money and may also face mental health issues. To solve this problem, we have created Craft Your Career sessions, where experienced professionals from 7 fields share their experiences and provide high school students with details about their professions. Our trainers cover the following areas:

- The importance and difficulties related to university studies
- Ways to find a job
- Employment in the local and international market
- Remuneration at different levels and types of positions
- Trends, risks, and future of the profession

As for directions, the sessions at the moment cover the following areas:

- Business
- Law
- Medicine
- Psychology
- Programming
- International relations
- Finance/Economy

We have successfully implemented this project at the European school for grade 10-12 students. After listening to the students' feedback, we realized that the sessions helped them to better understand the real-life challenges and brought them closer to choosing a profession. The project aims to allow students to compare different professions, to better shape their career path, and not to waste time and resources. We believe that we have achieved this with the project.

I would like to thank the European School for the trust, as we held the first Craft Your Career sessions in the European School, the school that we graduated many years ago.”

We wish success to Irakli and his team!

The European School recognizes the value of partnership with its alumni and encourages former students to build connections between their organizations and their Alma Mater.

Ketevan Nachkebia

EUROPEAN SCHOOL - ROAD TO EXCELLENCE!

Graduation ceremonies of the Georgian Programme, IB Diploma Programme, IB Career-related Programme, and the American School of Advanced Studies class of 2024, honored each student for achieving a twelve-year milestone in their educational journey.

The ceremony program included diploma handoffs, awarding of medals to honor students, commencement addresses from the school Director Sophio Bazadze, and the Director of the National Center for Teacher Professional Development Berika Shukakidze, valedictorian speeches, and throwing of caps in the air.



The European School has gone through another successful year.

It's not only the results - top university enrollments, full rides and tuition funding, or special scholarships that we celebrate.

We commend our students on their dedication to their goals, their love of learning, their resilience through challenges, their leadership in and out of classes, and their positions on important social issues and global events.

As leaders, scholars, and global citizens, they will be able to bring the changes they want to see in Georgia and beyond.

Class of 2024, congratulations!