

THE KINDER NEWS

ALL ABOUT PRESCHOOL AT PAIN D'EPICE SCHOOL

MARCH-APRIL ISSUE 2025

Art, Art, Art.

Dear readers,

Welcome to the fourth edition of this year's Preschool journal.

This number covers the last two months of school. You will find the latest information about our current events and about our activities.

We hope you enjoy reading our paper as much as the team did in putting it together.

Editor, Claire LEWIS DUPORT

It's nearly Easter



Easter is around the corner....here are a few Easter creations made by the children.

March – April outings, projects, workshops (p.2-4)

The children have been involved in lots of interesting activities related to our annual theme “*Around the world*”.

Chasing rainbows with the Squirrels 1&2

Rainbows have taken over Miss Claire's preschool class — in the best way! As part of our weather and seasons unit, we've been learning all about the sky, sunshine, rain, and of course... rainbows!

To explore the colours of the rainbow, each student was invited to bring in an object that matched one of the rainbow colours. We sorted the items by colour, then worked together to glue them onto a giant rainbow shape. The result? A bright, beautiful rainbow collage that now hangs proudly in the school hall for everyone to see.

"It was so fun seeing all the different things my friends brought in!" said one child.

We've also been singing the classic song "*I Can Sing a Rainbow*", learning to match each colour with its name through music and movement.



In storytime, we read *How to Catch a Rainbow* by Naomi Jones — a playful book about a curious girl who tries to catch a rainbow. Her imagination inspired lots of conversation about how rainbows are made.

Even in **sport class**, we've kept the rainbow theme going! We've been playing a special game with balls in all the colours of the rainbow, tossing them to try and build a rainbow of our own.

With songs, stories, colours, and fun, our rainbow project has helped us learn more about the weather — and filled our days with joy and creativity.

Sports with the Squirrels 1&2

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Our Squirrels 1&2 classes enjoy 30 minutes of sports every day with Maitresse Caroline and Maitresse Martine, helping children stay active, healthy, and happy. Recently, students played an adapted version of basketball, working on coordination, teamwork, and motor skills in a fun, age-appropriate way. Sports at this age not only support physical development but also build confidence, cooperation, and a love for movement.





Exploring the World Through Art with the PKs 1&2



This photo shows students proudly creating their African masks

In our school, art isn't just about painting and drawing — it's a way to explore the world ! This term, our young artists from the Pandas/Koalas 1&2 guided by Maîtresse Ghislaine have been learning about famous art styles from different cultures and countries, discovering how creativity connects us all.

Students recently created bright, bold portraits inspired by **Andy Warhol**, turning their own photos into colorful pop art. They also took a trip to Africa — with their imaginations — by studying traditional African art and making their very own masks. Each mask was decorated with patterns and textures, helping the children learn about shapes, expression, and cultural traditions.

Through these hands-on projects, children begin to appreciate the beauty of diversity and the many ways people express themselves around the world

Pandas/Koalas 3&4 Artists Dive into Fernand Léger's World

Last week, Miss Meg's pre-k and kindergarten classes took a colorful journey into the world of modern art with a field trip to the Fernand Léger Museum in Antibes. The trip included a special workshop focused on one of Léger's vibrant works, *Divers* — a dynamic painting full of bold shapes, movement, and imagination.

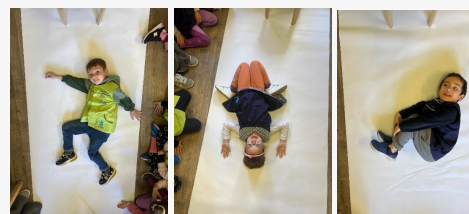
During the workshop, students explored Léger's unique style, paying special attention to how he used colour, form, and rhythm to create a feeling of people swimming and moving through space. Guided by museum educators, the children took part in hands-on activities that helped them connect with the painting in a fun and interactive way.

"The kids were fascinated by the way shapes and colours could show movement," said Miss Meg. "It was a great way to see how art tells a story without words."

Inspired by the visit, the young artists continued their creativity back at school. Using what they had learned, each child created their own artwork, echoing the style and themes of *Divers* with their own personal twist. The results were lively, imaginative, and full of energy — just like Léger's original.

Their finished pieces now decorate the classroom walls, turning the space into a mini-gallery of modern masterpieces.

This artistic adventure gave students a chance to explore not only painting and design, but also self-expression, storytelling, and the joy of making art.



Discovering the jungle with Miss Lizzie's PKs 1&2

This month, with Miss Lizzie, our P/K1&2 students have been exploring the wonders of the jungle and rainforest — a topic that sparks imagination, curiosity, and important learning!

Through stories, songs, and hands-on activities, children have been learning about the animals, plants, and sounds of these rich and colorful ecosystems. Studying the jungle helps children understand the importance of nature, biodiversity, and taking care of our planet.

To bring the topic to life, the students worked together to create a large jungle *fresque* (mural), filled with trees, vines, parrots, and more. Each child contributed their own artwork, making it a true team effort and a vibrant celebration of what they've learned.



Phonics with the Squirrels 3

As most parents already know the English teachers at EIB Pain d'Epice introduce the **Jolly Phonics** program to children as young as three, as we recognize the benefits of early exposure to phonics. With its multisensory approach — combining songs, actions, and stories — **Jolly Phonics** makes learning letter sounds fun and engaging for young learners. By starting so early, children begin to build strong foundations in reading and writing, developing confidence with sounds and letters in a playful, age-appropriate way.



*Here Miss Angelique introduces the letter W with **Jolly Phonics** — students get creative, decorating the letter with waves as they learn its sound through art and play.*

Why "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" Is More Than Just a Story

In many classrooms, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle is a favorite book — and for good reason. While it tells a simple story about a little caterpillar who eats his way through many foods, the book also offers important lessons for young learners.

The book helps children learn the days of the week by showing what the caterpillar eats each day. “It’s a fun way to remember what comes after Monday,” said one student reader.

The book also introduces basic counting and encourages healthy eating. As the caterpillar munches through fruits, cake, and pickles, children see which foods are good for their bodies — and what happens when you eat too many sweets.

One of the most exciting parts of the story is when the caterpillar builds a cocoon and transforms into a butterfly. This real-life process, called metamorphosis, introduces children to early science concepts in a simple and beautiful way.

To make the experience even more real, Miss Meg brought in live caterpillar eggs for the class to observe. Over the past few weeks, students have been carefully watching them hatch, grow, and spin cocoons. Soon, they’ll get to see butterflies emerge — just like in the book.

Illustrated with bright, colorful collage art, the book’s unique style makes it stand out. The small holes in the pages where the caterpillar eats add a playful, interactive touch.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar remains a classic among teachers and for the students, it’s a story that comes to life — not just on the page, but right in their classroom.



Setting Sail with the Theater Club: A Voyage to Magical Islands



This term, the students at our school have been whisked away on theatrical adventures to distant islands, thanks to the creativity and passion of the **Theater Club**, led by Maîtresse Caroline.

Each week, students from preschool to upper primary gathered to rehearse original plays written and directed by Maîtresse Caroline herself. Drawing inspiration from classic literature such as *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak, *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie, *The King Jellyfish* by E. Brecht, and *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson, she crafted four imaginative and age-appropriate productions — each with its own message, magic, and sense of adventure.



Behind the scenes, teamwork made the magic happen. Maîtresse Fiona masterfully managed the lighting, while Mélanie ensured that the sound enhanced every moment. HEND worked backstage coordinating props and Maîtresse Martine created smooth transitions between the scenes.



On the morning of the performances, the theater was packed — filled with parents, families, and friends, all eager to see the magic unfold. The audience responded with laughter, smiles, and enthusiastic applause as the students brought the stage to life. The clever, touching, and often hilarious texts delighted everyone in the room.

The Theater Club not only gives children the chance to act, sing, and express themselves, but also helps build confidence, cooperation, and a deep love for stories. With Maîtresse Caroline's original scripts and imaginative direction, each play became a voyage of creativity — and an unforgettable experience for the young performers and their audience alike.



Les Ecureuils



The preschoolers took the stage in *La Fable Écologique*, a charming and thoughtful story with an environmental message, teaching even the youngest actors about the importance of protecting our oceans.

Les Pandas / Koalas



Kindergarten students dived into the wild world of *L'Île aux Maximonstres*, inspired by Sendak's classic tale, bringing big emotions and bigger monsters to life with colorful costumes and boundless energy.

Koalas / CP



First-year primary students performed *Marin d'Eau Douce*, a playful and funny tale of a timid sailor finding his courage — a journey full of humor, heart, and high-seas jokes.

CP/CE1/CE2



For the older primary children, the powerful and thought-provoking *L'Enfant Sauvage* explored themes of freedom, nature, and identity, showcasing both mature storytelling and impressive performances. A special mention to Eloise Matagne Causse who literally mesmerized the audience with her brilliant interpretation.