

They kill good trees to put out bad newspapers.
-James G. Watt, quoted in Newsweek, 1982

Newspapers: dead trees with information smeared on them.
-Horizon, "Electronic Frontier"

Ecole-Logical Newspaperletter

15th November 2008

Welcome to the Ecole-Logical newspaper! This newspaper is a compilation of articles, art, poetry, and photographs from various classes that take part of the Ecole-Logical project. They all are environmentally themed and lovely. The contents within come from a sacred place deep in the author's heart and soul. Please take a few minutes out of your busy life to read and reflect on this newspaper. We hope that you enjoy this paper more than you enjoy a swift kick in the butt!

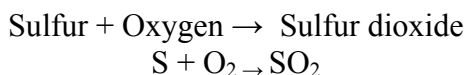


Willkommen zur Ecole-Logischen Zeitung. Diese Zeitung ist eine Zusammensetzung von Artikeln, Kunst, Töpfen und Fotos von verschiedenen Klassen, die beim Ecole-Loischem Projekt mitmachen. Das Thema von allen ist Umwelt, sie sind alle lieblich. Die Artikel und die Kunst kommen von tief innen der Seele und des Herzens des Autoren. Bitte nehmt ein paar Minuten von eurem beschäftigtem Leben um diese Zeitung zu lesen. Wir hoffen das ihr diese Zeitung mehr genießt als einen sanften Tritt in den Hintern.

Article from KC's Chemistry Class

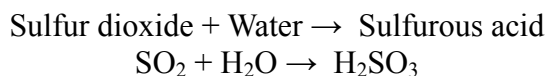
By Chloe and Colin

In chemistry with KC, our class has learned about and experimented with sulfur (S_8) and Sulfur dioxide (SO_2). Our first experience with Sulfur dioxide was a stinky one. We burned yellow sulfur powder which then bonded with the oxygen in the air in a synthesis reaction:

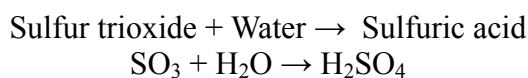
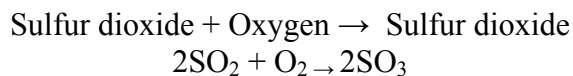


The new compound was a whitish-gray smoke that had a biting smell that attacked the nose and wafted into the Geheebhaus hall!

We later learned from our class's ecology projects that Sulfur dioxide is a poisonous, harmful substance that contributes to acid rain. Sulfur dioxide combines with rainwater to form Sulfurous acid:



To test the pH (acidity level) of this compound, we wet a pH test strip and dropped it into a jar of Sulfur dioxide gas. The strip immediately turned red, signifying it is an extremely acidic chemical - and very damaging to the environment. Sulfur dioxide can also further oxidize in the air to make Sulfur trioxide (SO_3) resulting in sulfuric acid, which is even more strongly acidic!



Sulfur dioxide is common in our atmosphere because it is a by-product of coal burning. Sulfur is present in coal deposits and so is burned along with the coal in power plants.

Addition from KC: The students in our class each chose an ecology issue to report on. The subjects chosen for these reports were: Global Warming, Acid Rain, Persistent Organic Pollutants, Photochemical Smog, Atomic Bombs & Radiation, Agent Orange, and Gasoline. The written reports will be hanging on a pin-board on Parents' Day.

Reis – Eine Krise?

Reis – jedermann kennt ihn und isst fast tagtäglich ohne Bedenken und ohne Hintergedanken von diesem Süßgras-Getreide. Doch bis wir den Reis auf unseren Tellern genießen können, ist schon viel Wasser den Rhein hinunter geflossen, beziehungsweise auf den Reisfeldern vergossen worden.

Die PrimarschülerInnen der Ecole haben sich auf die Spuren des Reises gemacht. Sie haben sich nicht nur mit den süßen Seiten dieses Getreides auseinandergesetzt, sondern auch die kritischeren Punkte im Reisbau unter die Lupe genommen.

Wenn sie mehr über dieses Subjekt wissen wollen können sie die Zeitung von der Primarschule lesen.

The Tour of the Eleven Cities,

Emily van Rheenen

”10 minutes till we start, get ready on the ice. It is a cold day so put on enough warm clothing!” Indeed it was cold. One could feel the frost to the bone, and fingers starting to get numb. It had been temperatures below zero all month long. Even though the frost and the cold, the excitement was immense. There was a strong longing for the end of the day from skaters before the start line. And throats ready to be used and hands to be smacked together till they would turn out red, from the other side of the line. It was a “one of a kind day” since these events didn't occur as much as they would have to these past years.

“ 2 minutes!” screamed the gray haired figure packed in 4 layers of winter clothing, holding a microphone in one hand and a cup of hot tea in the other. Buttons were tightened, gloves were slipped on and winter hats were adjusted so one could see the lights showing the road into the dark.

Finally the clock had reached 5, and the little gun was held up high. “ready, set, GO!” loud bells were rang and people were starting to get those voices going. As three million people watched on TV or standing right beside them, the 17,000 silhouettes gently skated off into the dark.

The rest of the day passed by with the rest of the population betting on certain skaters, looking at their backgrounds taking polls just like with the American president election or just talking about the tour. It was one of the days filled with the most anxiousness and secret or open hoping for those skaters going through the toughest of championships held in Holland after the Olympics. The one who won was the national hero and never to be forgotten in fairytale. The one who participated and completed the tour was the village hero.

The finish line approached as the people were getting more anxious, the coffee and soup cups were shaking in the spectators hands, either from the frost or from the relatives of the possible winners.

Three men approached, one with a slight jump compared to the others. As the rest also started to tremble because of this neck a neck race, the pressure on the three possible winners rose. Number 135 still had a slight jump to the others although number 142 seem to be catching up. Number 1735 seemed to be perfectly happy not fighting over the first or even the second place. He seemed to be exhausted. Number 135 and 142 still couldn't seem to have figured out who was going to win, until about a 100 meters before the finishing line, number 135 for the last time took a sprint and almost seemed to be skating away from a bomb. The speed that number 135 had provided after 16 hours of skating and only a few breaks was incredible. This was the second time number 135 could walk up onto the stage and carefully step up onto the “first place” stand. For years to come he was our country hero.

He won twice and for now, till somebody beats him to it, he will stay this way. Nobody can beat him to it now because we did not have a race like this since 1986. There is not enough cold winter days to freeze in the amount of small lakes and rivers to provide us with a playing field for the skaters. 200 kilometers a day, 200 kilometers of frozen wide streams and small canals that will carry about 18,000 skaters if we will be able to ever have this great tradition again.

Poetry and Art

By Jakob Diss

We were once feared. This never really pleased me. I enjoyed the feeling of footsteps. I enjoyed the music they played. They respected me and I respected them. But soon, more and more came. They didn't care how I felt. They abused what I gave them, forcing me to give more than I wanted, giving nothing back. So I stopped talking to those who only take and decided to help those who saw me for who I was. Those who asked for my help.

I am still alive.



Quotes!!

For 200 years we've been conquering Nature. Now we're beating it to death.

-Tom McMillan, quoted in Francesca Lyman, The Greenhouse Trap, 1990

If civilization has risen from the Stone Age, it can rise again from the Wastepaper Age.

-Jacques Barzun, The House of Intellect, 1959

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

-Native American Proverb

Ecole d'Humanité, 5./6. Dezember 2008,
19:30 im Grossen Saal

Essences

By Französische Theaterstück/French
Theater

- Makrokosmos
(Weltgeschichte)

Essence 1 : Das Wesentliche, die innerste Natur, das „du bist“ im Pindarsatz „werde der du bist“, das „Ego Eimi“ des Johannes Evangeliums. 1854: Geburt des Dichters Arthur Rimbaud in Charleville (Ardennes) 1870: Rimbaud destilliert die französische Sprache und schreibt die 5 Sonette aus denen unser Theaterstück entstanden ist.

1886: Erste Publikation von „Illuminations“ die Quintessence der Poesie Rimbauds, ohne das Wissen des Dichters, der seit 1874 kein Wort mehr geschrieben hat und seit dem in Afrika Waffen verkauft. Essence 2: Benzin, ein Destillat von Erdöl.

1854: Erste moderne Erdölbohrung in Europa.

1854: Der Pole Ignacy Lukasiewicz

destilliert zum ersten Mal Rohöl und gewinnt daraus Benzin.

1886: Wilhelm Daimler und Karl Benz bauen die ersten Autos mit Benzinmotoren.

In unserem Theaterstück sucht Vitalie die erste, ewige Essence während Basoil nach der zweiten, vergänglichen Essence sucht.

- Mikrokosmos (die Geschichte die in unserem Kurs entstanden ist)

Der junge Arthur Rimbaud hat einen Traum. Er will Dichter werden. „Je serai poète!“ sagt er worauf seine Mutter nur antwortet: „Non, tu seras garagiste!“, denn die Zukunft liegt nicht in der Poesie, sondern im neu entdeckten Benzin. Seine Mutter zwingt ihn seine Träume zu schlucken „ravale tes rêves“ und eine seiner Fäuste schliesst sich und er kann sie nicht mehr öffnen. «Je m'en allais les poings (Fäuste) dans mes poches crevées.» Das Muster, Träume schlucken zu müssen und Fäuste zu ballen, die man nicht mehr öffnen kann, nimmt schon seit 1870 seinen Lauf. Heute 2008 haben die Schwestern, Vitalie und Isabelle, zwei Krisen zu bewältigen, eine innere: nach vier Generationen dieses Muster zu brechen und eine äussere: etwas zu unternehmen, wenn in der Tankstelle ihres Vaters das Benzin ausgeht.

- Die Zahl 5 (die vollkommene Zahl)

Unser Weg zur Essenz führt uns durch 5 Sonette von Rimbaud: Ma Bohème, Rêvé pour l'Hiver,

Oraison du soir, Le buffet und schliesslich Voyelles. Dieses 5. Gedicht, das hermetischste, kommt direkt von den Sternen; es ist der Klang der Sterne „mes étoiles au ciel avait un doux froufrou et je les écoutais“ Meine Sterne im Himmel machten ein sanftes Geräusch und ich hörte ihnen zu. (Ma Bohème)

Übrigens kommt das Wort „Sonett“ aus dem lateinischen sonus= Klang. Voyelles vereint Klang mit Farbe und Makrokosmos mit Mikrokosmos. Der Stern aus dem der Klang entsteht hat fünf Zacken und ist damit ein Pentagramm. Das Symbol für die Menschwerdung. Die fünf Spitzen stehen für beide Füße, beide Hände (Fäuste) und für den Kopf. Voyelles ist das fünfte Gedicht, die fünfte Essenz, die Quintessenz die, die Kraft und Kreativität gibt eine neue Energiequelle zu finden oder eine alte wieder zu entdecken, wenn uns das Benzin ausgeht. Die Quintessenz gibt uns das „I have a dream“ von Martin Luther King und das „Yes, we can“ von Barack Obama.

PS: Ich hätte die letzte Fünf beinahe vergessen: wir führen am 5. Dezember das erste Mal auf.

Creative Writing from the Ecole-Logical Class

By Nick Shaw

It is hard to receive a gift. Christmas is coming soon and I find it easy to pick, wrap, and give presents. But, once I start opening up with my name on it, I don't know how to react. My body shrivels and breathe is sucked away. I can't comfortably say "Thank You." We are surrounded by gifts everyday. God created this beautiful playground called nature. It's a personal gift she gave us, and we don't know how to react to such a gift. So, out of confusion, we tear it down. We replace it with things we are comfortable with: roads, malls, houses, parking lots; places where we can blend in with others. Because nature puts emphasis on every small, lovely characteristic; it holds everything and everyone in light, and this is a scary thing to have happen to yourself. We are made nervous by our own beauty being pointed out. So, we hide. We have been hiding too well for such a long time that we don't know what we are hiding from. Not everyone hides though. Many environmentalists cry out when the trees are chopped down, because they see the beauty of 'self' in nature. The only way to preserve what is left, is by having more people see their own beauty within nature. To be able to receive a gift from Her.

By Marisa Miller

A flowing river has always been a symbol of life because one starts at the mouth of the river and as time continuously passes by, you keep floating down that river. Some parts may be choppy and you may lose control and get pulled under, but if you are strong you can learn to swim with the current in order to keep yourself from sinking. In a way, that is what I am learning in Megan's class.

In our day and age, we have mistreated this lovely planet on which we reside. Many are trying to hide from this fact, but the time has come when hiding is no longer an option. We must stand up and face the mistakes we have made so that we can preserve what we are so lucky to have so that the human race can continue to thrive for generations after us. Before Megan's class, global warming was a big issue in my mind, but I felt too small and insignificant and thought that I could do nothing to change it. Since then, I've learned that just one person can make all the difference. We're like a million puzzle pieces and in the end it does all add up because without just one of those pieces, the puzzle cannot be complete.

I've learned much of the science of global warming and about renewable energy sources and such, but the most important thing I've learned from Megan's class is that out of the billions of people we share our planet with, it only takes one.

By Vasco Lam Brissolese

“Why did I join Megan's class? Again?!?” I ask myself. Well the answer is simple, climate change and its eventual consequences are inevitable, so the best thing to do is to begin preparing for the worst-case-scenario (honestly, I can't tell you what worst-case-scenario would be like, we can just imagine, but I know it can't be pleasant, if the world is pushed to its extremes it will eventually crumble). And in this class that is what we are doing - or beginning to do – preparing. We are preparing the Ecole; and we are preparing ourselves for what the future of the climate crisis holds.

The class did not turn out exactly as I had imagined it to be when we had to choose courses. But all the same, I learned to enjoy it. I was hoping for more hands on work, like implementing energy-efficient light bulbs or adding insulation to houses. But that does not mean that what we are doing now is useless. On the contrary, I feel that it is extremely important despite being less exciting than being secured to a building while fixing solar panels on the building.

In the beginning of this course period I felt that it would just be an ordinary environmental studies class. Not at all what Megan promised the class would be when she convinced me to join her class. But as we progressed we finally were able to start 'doing' something.

Our first significant step was the Energy Audit of Haus Sandra. Together with Greenpeace expert Lukas Fleischli we thoroughly observed and noted down the different energy uses of Haus Sandra. From light bulbs to heating systems and insulation thickness. The reason for this was to prepare a report on order to convince certain people – meaning, of course, the Ecole Leadership and the Ecole Foundation – to finance our project in order to make Haus Sandra more efficient and more 'green.'

Our second main focus so far has been to raise awareness throughout the school. Telling people, not the usual 'blah blah' of global warming, but rather of who we are, what we do and what they can do to help. And hopefully we will be able to get support around the school from both students and teachers (or as the ecole calls them, 'Mitarbeiters').

I am looking forward to what this project will become. I think it has great potential to help the Ecole become more, as the title says, Ecole-logical. However I am disappointed that I will probably not be able to join this course again as I will have to do some independent studies. But I will give my support to the project in general, but most of all to the Haus Sandra project because I think if that project succeeds it would be a huge step forward for the project overall.

Environmental Wordsearch

T R E E S U E R T R Y N B W S
R N M P O L L U T E A R T H N
F F E A A T C R L C N W B G D
A Q K M B S Y Z U U W A J P B
A W D L N U C S W D L T L J K
Y K W A P O E O S E E E Z P S
L E C S D L R F D R H R U M E
I C X P T L E I N Q C M S S W
E U T T D R M G V C E T U M S
N K O J C N O H D N V F B P D
K B R Q W E P R R S E T N J G
V O C W L N F F U R P H G K W

BOTTLES	CANS	EARTH	ENVIRONMENT	HELP
PLANET	POLLUTE	RECYCLE	REDUCE	REFUSE
REUSE	TRY	TREES	WATER	WORLD

Come to our Eco-Logical Brainstorming Session
Dinner (6:40) – 7:45
Yummy food will be provided!
Thursday Nov. 27th

Your time to make a difference
or
at least talking about making a difference.

