



To: Amanda Hughes, Heather Bell, James Petrie  
Cc: Luisa Tristán

Dear all,

Thanks for the meeting of today. From our end we found it a very fruitful encounter and we are looking forward to building a strong relationship to consolidate the fundamental discussed triangle consisting of school, students and parents.

As shared today we have several ideas that we would love to share with you all and some are described below. More to follow but wanted to honor our commitment of sending these to you tonight so you could take advantage of the meetings you are holding this week.

Monthly related activities:

September

- Newcomers welcoming activity: our initial thought was a BBQ day at the school campus(es) in which we could organize based on years, languages, or even campuses welcoming teams that would be able to meet and greet the families, introduce the kids to their new future friends one week in advance so the first day doesn't become so awkward and their teachers. A chance to interact in a relaxed way for which we would be happy to help with every aspect from the grill to the first aid and everything in between. We would like to take the chance to use this encounter to incorporate some local flavor and tell what the diada is about given the fact that we would be a couple of days before it.
- Parents/Teachers meeting, class visit, etc.
- Book and uniform exchange fair. This is an experience some of us have done in other countries. All families with uniforms they want to dispose of or exchange bring those a couple of days in advance. Each piece has the same price for instance. The team receiving the uniforms makes sure the families giving the uniforms get a coupon per piece (eg 5 or 10 euros a piece for instance). The team of volunteers sort all clothing from size and the day of the fair the ones that brought the clothes before get a priority "check in" to acquire the pieces they need in exchange for the same amount. ergo, if I would donate 3 skirts size 8 I would get 5 euro coupon per skirt, which I could then go in a get 3 skirts (or other elements) size 10 if available and exchange my coupons. the rest of the parents can come after those with priority coupons are done (or get different viewing times) and buy at the 5 euro fee the rest of the clothes for sale. this way the parents that brought clothes but had not been able to find their next size would redeem their coupons for the money paid for their sold clothes. These funds they could use to buy the uniforms at the current wholesaler. Those parents that simply want to donate the clothes and therefore no longer want any funding in return (for which we would all be eternally thankful) can decide to donate those funds for the next charity event for instance. Same concept can be applied with books and those books that are not bought or sold can be donated to the school's library.
- its kids cancer month. A tough one. Unfortunately we have families that have had to deal with such a terrible experience and are still able to be positive and in many cases also thankful to specific institutions, hospitals, etc. it would be a suggestion to organize a fundraising event (eg parents quiz night for instance?) to get a fun activity for both integration, and a good cause. We would be happy to help with sponsors and prizes and also with the organization and the benefits of such a night can be later on brought by a group of kids on behalf of the school to the foundations chosen as beneficiaries. (this is a sort of event that could be repeated for different occasions and cover social responsibility as well as commitment and depending on the cause kids of different ages could be more or less involved depending on the impact of it).

October

- not very Spanish, nor English but then again... Halloween comes to town. Costumes parade with prizes (eg, all kids need to use recycled materials to do their own costumes, could work alone or in teams, to relate the topic to the environment, as a learning link to something that might not have much to do with anything but a commercial activity in many countries but that still drives kids crazy) or could be linked to any other topic being discussed within the curriculum by then.
- Castanyada is the local festivity which can be also a link, and maybe a story teller around a fire camp or a linked activity to enjoy it.

November:

- the beginning of the campaign to collect toys and clothes to prepare for the Xmas season so we have enough time to sort out toys to be destined to different ages, or clothes to be sent to different charities and the teams that will help with these deliveries during the previous days to Xmas and New Year's eve. Involvement and commitment.

#### December

- Parents/Teacher follow up meeting in case this was not yet planned.
- Xmas carols choir (we have volunteers to teach and to get places for practice so kids and parents could then prepare from English songs to villancicos and perform)
- Xmas fair in which each country represented at school could prepare a stand like the Xmas markets with any traditional stuff from their countries, and with cultural performances, educational differences which make us unique. All profits from any sale from items to food and drinks to be donated to a different charity. Kids could research and debate about which charities are the best and why and get voted so they can also get compromised with it.

#### January

- Food bank, we have many of us being volunteers within the red cross and caritas. it might be a good chance that for instance part of the non perishable foods purchased for the season could be brought in a donated too.
- Team planning of activities for the older kids for June to give enough time for them to expressed their wishes and see if they could be aligned to the ones from the teaching staff.

#### February

- joint Carnaval activities to integrate the local ties

#### March

- Maybe move the international fair day to March to take advantage of better temperatures and further inclusion of new countries.
- Women's rights, human rights, rights in general. Respect. Anti bullying workshop activities to complement those that the school will implement and to maintain the awareness levels so kids, parents and teachers can all work together towards eradicating it. We have several volunteers to take on this.

#### April

- Saint Jordi, good chance to bring in not only the book fair, but also some of the parents within our group would love to be story tellers of the tale as the opening of the book fair. Rose campaign for funding too.
- Easter. Egg hunting activity. We had in the past a lovely experience renting a Macia and having a Saturday activity for kids and parents that started with "hunting zones" were eggs were hidden and kids needed to collect them in the period of 30 mins for instance. All eggs found go into a basket. Its team work. The more they get the better it is in the end for them all as they get divided in the amount of kids that participate. Then a tour around the Macia with animals, a learning about eggs in general (chicken farm) and then egg painting contest and a joint lunch for parents and kids before the eggs get distributed and sugar levels can kick in ;-)). it doesn't need to be in a Macia, it can be the school or any other place but the experience has been lovely and worth repeating based on the kids happiness.

#### May

- potentially getting organized for A level exams (we have several places in which if weather conditions are anticipated to be bad we could already assist with arrangements)

#### June

- Verbena and Sant Joan, link with the local traditions activity
- Mad Hatter Tea party activities to be also extended to Castelldefels
- Graduation (taking into consideration the sensitivities around the local festivities for it not not coincide).

The above is not a taxative one, but it reflects some of the ideas split by month so they could be tackled more efficiently.

There are many more, its a bit late so apologies but I wont remember them all now, however many parents have requested better understanding related to the curriculum given and what will be given when because kids arrive to exams having to study subjects not touched during school hours, so maybe good if some transparency on this could be shared during the parents/teachers meetings so its understood what to be expected.

It has been mentioned before but the exchange of the teachers contact info and the guidelines of what is to be discussed within the one to one communication so this can be properly used and not abused for the benefit of all.

Re using of certain books and a book bank in general that would be opened for donations all year long and for which kids from both campuses could benefit so once a quarter for instance kids from Sitges could visit the library of Castelldefels to borrow books if this last one is bigger or an online catalog that unifies both so kids could order a book in the library irrespective of the campuses and get the book within a week time to enjoy reading. The story telling is something that generates a lot of love for reading and might be a great way to have an engagement for those little ones learning and the early years to get confident and maybe helping out a parent or two with the selection of stories they love which will allow them also to shine.

On books, maybe a good time to review the use of bite size or recommended webs for kids to also exercise online like many other schools worldwide do.

Bring your parent to school day: kids could bring a parent to school to talk about some special project or career or event that would inspire other kids (and parents!) to do the same.

Parents nights, where different cultural events are sponsored by parents and school, such as chats or presentations about security, self defense, how to handle cyber kids and exposure to the www, corporate social responsibility, etc

The creation of the alumni group to expand and carry the BSB flag out and about and have a social link in the world where they can go to if in need or for advise or as a link to potential international careers, etc. So Alumni can develop also into career development and job assistance too after university. A pool of talents that have a common origin.

Debate coaching so kids get prepared to speak in public offered by a talented mom who is an expert on the field.

Movie night debate which could bring documentaries from around the world touching on subjects that have to do with certain aspects of our school and kids life that would be worth reflecting on together, etc.

What can I say, much more but I have to call it a night or I won't be able to wake up in a couple of hours.

We will work on the minutes of the meeting and circulate as promised during this week. We will then post this on the [bsbparents.com](http://bsbparents.com) site. We would appreciate if the information related to the language courses can be re sent to us so we can upload such on our web and cooperate with spreading the good initiative which we believe it will be also great if its expanded into Castelldefels.

We are looking forward to hearing from you on this after your SLT meetings so we can then jointly work on the first activity and create and re create something wonderful for the whole BSB community.

Best regards,

Leila on behalf of the Group of Families from the British School Barcelona