



# Ganja International School

## newsletter, September-November 2009

### Secondary school

One of the big changes for GIS this year has been that our oldest children have started Year 7. This marks the start of secondary school in the UK – and creates a lot of new challenges for GIS. Secondary school requires more specialized teachers and more facilities and resources, for example for science. Year 7 children have commented that lessons have got quite a bit more difficult.



### French

French is part of the curriculum for Year 7 in the UK. Rovlana Heydarova has joined us as a French teacher. She started studying French at middle school and then did a degree in French at Ganja State University. There were two French staff in the faculty and faculty of Strasburg University came to conduct exams. Rovlana hasn't been to France herself, but would love to visit – especially Paris. There are only three children in Year 7 but they are making good progress and enjoying the lessons.

### Director's perspective

On the 23rd November year 7 class gave Mr. Simon an interview. He was asked many questions:

(1) Do you enjoy being a director?

No, not very much.\*

(2) What has been your best holiday?

The one in Sri-lanka

(3) What is your actual job here?

Teaching maths, science and ICT, taking care of the business side of GIS

(4) Why did you start GIS?

It was first Trond's idea – because we wanted a place for foreign children to study. But then we found that Azeri children also wanted to study here.

(5) Would you like to change the name of the school?

Yes I would like to call it 'Sparks' because children are like little sparks.

(6) How did you become director?

We own it so we get to choose who becomes director and we chose ourselves.

*\*Editor's comment: I gave this answer at a time when there were a lot of problems! I don't always feel like that.*

Two children in Year 7 looking at some cells through the microscope. Microscopes and other science equipment were donated by LabAid, a UK charity. Below, GIS children on an outing to Xan Bagi, a park in the centre of Ganja.

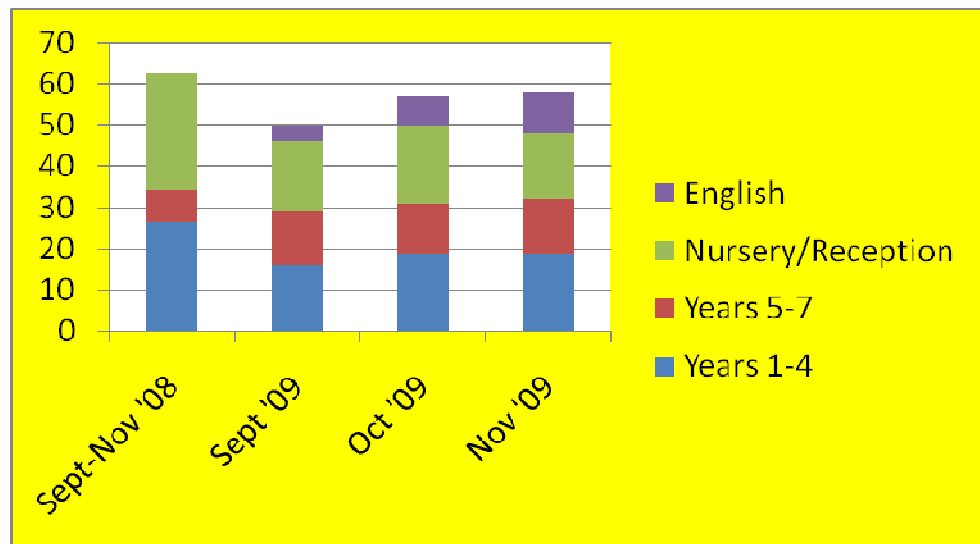


### Winter's coming!

Last year we put a central-heating system in. That helped us stay warm. Unfortunately it had no gas supply so we had to run it on diesel, which made it expensive. This year however we're making good progress towards getting a gas supply. We had to move the boiler to an outhouse, which we've done. Next, we have to get the gas department's permission. That is well on the way. After that, permissions from a couple of other departments and then finally, we'll be able to get the gas piped in.

## Results

Compared to last year the number of children is slightly down. This is certainly the result of being denied a license. The effect has been most severe for the nursery and reception classes. We cannot now have the children for the whole day which is what most parents want. In addition we cannot present ourselves as a school but only as 'preparatory courses'. We have started offering an English course and that has helped to make up the difference. Over the first three months of this academic year numbers have risen slightly. This can be seen on the graph below.



At the end of November GIS had about USD 3,800 in funds. Almost all of this is in a deposit account as we are trying to save up for next summer. That is not a bad place to be. We have reduced costs to 30% or more below the average level last academic year. But we still cannot completely cover our costs. We expect a shortfall this year of USD 5-6,000. Most of this will occur during December, January and February when we have to pay for heating, and in the summer, when our income goes down. So if you are not feeling the effect of the global crisis too badly and would like to help us out, that would be very welcome. Any gifts in the UK can be given through "Azerbaijan Education", 9 Cornfield Road, Birmingham B31 2EA. A tax credit is given. Azerbaijan Education is a UK charity established in 2007. <http://web.onetel.com/~azed/>



Years 4 and 5 prepare to cook something...

"Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November!" For non-British readers, on November 5<sup>th</sup> every year the English celebrate Guy Fawkes' attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament. GIS also had a pumpkin for Halloween and a special presentation for Thanksgiving.



Newsletter editor: [simon@ganja-international-school.org](mailto:simon@ganja-international-school.org)