

# BITE-SIZED VERONESE

*November 2016-Number 2*

## **ROSITA DE BORTOLI AT THE TOP OF VERONESE**

*After a probation year, now Ms De Bortoli has been appointed Headmistress at our Upper Secondary School.*

From the beginning of the school year our Institute "A. Veronese" has a new Headmistress: forty-three-year-old Rosita De Bortoli, who graduated in Literature and Art.

"It's a considerable effort", the new Principal declares, who was previously principal in an "Istituto Comprensivo" with a completely different organization. As a former pupil, she obviously has emotional ties to the school, and returning as the Principal is an absolutely great achievement. As a young student, she knew that she would come back to this school, if not as the principal, at least as a teacher. "The main goal of my mandate – she states – is to set up a close relationship with the students, something which I considered important when I was a student myself". Principal De Bortoli has also declared that the strength of the Institute is the "open" dialogue established between teachers and students, who are considered as people, not numbers. On the other hand, the Institute's weakness, something which Ms De Bortoli is working on, is the attitude of some teachers towards the changes imposed by new generation of students.

"You should enjoy your time at school and be proud of this Institute", this is her advice, "trying to create a peaceful and better atmosphere and trying to live one's life at school as an opportunity to build one's own future."

With regard to the Reform on School approved by the Italian government, her general opinion is not a positive one. "It started with good intentions – says Principal De Bortoli – but for those who work at school, it has proved to be just an illusion. As an example, have a glance at the teacher hiring programme which was supposed to solve the unemployed supply teacher problem and which in the end brought chaos with some schools spending months without teachers."



**Camilla Gallina , Alessia Dametto , Riccardo Trolesee**

## **New year, new ideas for the News, the School Newsletter and ...much more!**

*The activities of the "Veronese informa" reinvent themselves*

This year, like every year, the newsletter and the students' News include many innovative ideas. In addition to the traditional features, there's also the current affairs corner and a new feature called "parliamone" ("let's discuss it"). It's a way to be actively involved in school life.

There's a box at the reception, where every student can post questions, ask for advice on particular issues or they can suggest some new themes to talk about. Every question, piece of advice and topic that is suitable to discuss, will be debated and taken care of through our channels of information even keeping anonymity, if so required. The News episodes are back on the web, but only for students over eighteen. Anything involving under eighteens will only be broadcast at school on CCTV mode. The Newsletter in English will be dealt with in the afternoon Translation Workshop Club. Finally, the Journalism Course will be more practical and workshop-like than in previous years. The reference teachers involved in these activities are: Laura Bon, Barbara Caiulo, Arturo Ricciardi, Roberta Vugarda and the journalism expert Sergio Zanellato.

***Anna Zorzetto and Alessia Dametto***



### Italian people to the polls

#### **EITHER YES OR NO, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS TO CAST YOUR VOTE**

*A plea from an eighteen-year-old student on the referendum of December 4th.*



“Voters are any male or female citizen over eighteen”. That is one of the messages of our Constitution, described by some as ‘the most beautiful Constitution on Earth’. I would like to ask my peers, but also to those who are older and more experienced than I am to cast their vote, no matter whether the result of the Constitutional Referendum is a “yes” or a “no”. What’s important is to consciously exert our right and power to vote. A vote which will define the future of our country, which is currently limping along. Our right to vote is an achievement which was fought over for centuries, and to which the concept of equality among men and women and different social classes is deeply connected. Nowadays, however, it seems as if people do not care about this right, often ignoring it. People leave to others the opportunity to decide upon the future of our own Republic, which is the most important public organization.

*Lorenzo Genovese*

### **PEER TUTORING, “STUDENTS AS TEACHERS”**

*...And there is also a students’ “help desk” for the English language.*

After a successful few years of the Peer tutoring project, even this year it is going to be continued by Mrs Francesca Cecchin. This project involves students becoming tutors for students in need. There will be some classrooms available during the early afternoon where students selected by their teacher will be assisted by “tutor students”.

This will enable students experiencing some problems with their schoolwork, to get help and hopefully improve. Every teacher can organise their own *help desk* on students’ demand, where topics explained in class are revised. Starting this year, there will be an English language workshop, held by an English teacher, Mrs. Vugarda. It is open every Monday from 12 to 1 pm for the first two-year groups and every Tuesday from 1:30 to 2:30 pm for the remaining groups. Every student can book a lesson at the school reception and, either individually or with a group of classmates, they will have the chance of revising a range of topics from Grammar to Literature.

*Laura Dal Zotto e Alessia Gatto*



## THEATRE IN ENGLISH RETURNS!

On stage, with a pinch of imagination, the novels of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century come alive.

Theatre in English! The Second Act. Also this year, our school will bring to life theatre in English, with an original script written and produced by John Bleasdale. Last year's play was "Shakespeare in HELLywood", which told the story of Shakespeare who finds himself shipwrecked in Hollywood. But this time, time and place is different: the story in fact unfolds in a Paris cabaret where characters from different famous novels of the 19<sup>th</sup> century meet, such as Bertha Mason, Dracula, Jane Eyre, Rochester, Dorian Gray and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Famous characters from famous novels will be the main focus in this new play.

A lot of students from the whole school participated in last year's play, as an activity which inspired students of different ages to express their talent and enthusiasm for drama.

The auditions for this new play will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December; we still don't know the details so we'll keep you informed. Will it be a success like the first one? Well, we hope so.

**Patrizia Drozdovska**



## SPORT IN THE LIMELIGHT: YOGA, WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

...and muscle toning

This year, our school's Physical Education Department offers three extra-curricular activities starting from the first term, aiming at improving the well-being of all the students: Yoga, women's football and muscle toning.

Yoga and women's football are available on Tuesdays from 1.30 to 2.45 pm, while muscle toning is available on Thursday morning from 7.30 to 7.50 am. "Yoga, - PE teacher Mrs Cristina Musumeci tells us - is an activity which connects mind and body; you'll learn how to meditate, to raise body awareness and to free your mind of stress, worry and fear"; emotions which are far too familiar especially to us students.

In addition to gain contact with the inner self, yoga ensures muscle elasticity, avoids problems with joints and articulations, eases blood circulation and vital energy flow.

Another activity is the women's football, which is valued by the PE teacher as extremely important for girls. "The peculiar characteristics of many female students - says the teacher - make football a sport they can play and train while having fun. Furthermore, there is a high percentage of girls in our institute and our goal is to create a competitive team. Not to mention the importance of overthrowing an old stereotype claiming that football is a "male only" sport.

Last but not least, the muscle toning aims at learning how to loosen muscles and relax body joints before everyday activities.

The Youth Sports Club has various goals: making up teams taking part in championships held in the Province of Treviso, in the Students' Council and in the students' championships such as volleyball, basketball or five-a-side football teams.

Above all, the teachers from the Sports Club are always open to propose further ideas aiming at improving the students' well-being.

**Alice Bleasdale**



## ALBERTO'S CORNER

### NOT TO BE MISSED....

#### A December rich in History and Art

The range of cultural events offered in our territory in December is undoubtedly one of the most varied in the area - a variety of themes are dealt with, from the Great War to Art. We would especially love to suggest the "Martedì in Villa" events, taking place every Tuesday in Villa Onigo in Trevignano. In particular, two events stand out among the others: Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday December 27<sup>th</sup> will present debates dealing with Iran and World War I. These are two completely different events taking place at the well-known villa with the support and recognition of the Rotary Club.

To Treviso next, where two important series of conferences dealing with current affairs will take place. These conferences, entitled "La Geografia serve a fare la guerra?" (Is geography needed to make war?) examine all the characteristics defining great wars of the past and present in relation to geography and territory. We'd like to highlight an event which will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6 pm at the Fondazione Benetton (Bonben area) where a historian who's also a cinema expert will hold a conference about the First World War in our area, through cinema and films. Last but not least, in the spotlight is another Art event taking place in Treviso. The exhibition dedicated to the well-known Irish painter Francis Bacon is really kicking off now. He lived in the 20<sup>th</sup> century becoming one of the most important artists of his time. The exhibition, held in *Casa dei Carraresi*, is bound to become an extraordinary occasion to get in touch with the works of art of an artist who is often underestimated, in spite of his indisputable talent for investigating and representing human psyche.

**Alberto Carrer**



## THE READING CORNER by SABINA

### "L'ARTE DI ESSERE FRAGILI" by Alessandro D'Avenia

#### The latest enchantment is a book about Leopardi

I've always been fascinated by the bittersweet taste, a mixture of sweet and sour, which characterizes writers from the past and present, and I've always desired to understand its hidden secret. Because one needs courage to face a blank page, one needs an infinite and undefined passion, with which few are endowed. In order to become a writer, one has to be gifted: it is a fascinating and bitter gift, because words are similar to double-edge swords. Often hurting those who write them while extracting the words that are imprisoned in one's heart, is extremely painful. However, once those words have been pulled out, they are able to enchant those who read them and to heal the invisible wounds of man's soul.

Alessandro D'Avenia has captured my attention among them all. In fact, he has saved my life. I've discovered him by chance, when his name was on the summer reading list. In the frailty of my youth, D'Avenia awakened a fire which had been extinguished by a chilling pain, simultaneously answering questions I didn't know I was seeking.

I was mesmerized by his use of words, never randomly or ordinarily written. He "nurses" every sentence as if it were a facet of a great and precious diamond which shines from within. That's why I started to write e-mails to him: at first they were brief and concise. Then I started to ask him more challenging questions: I wanted to figure out which secrets he hides, what urges him to write or rather to nestle pieces of his soul in his books, without even knowing if someone would ever notice. An answer arrived when I least expected it. With sweet and heartfelt words, he promised me he would reveal his secret to me in a book he was writing thanks to a special friend who figured out the gift of writing even better than he does now: Giacomo Leopardi. The book by D'Avenia, entitled "L'arte di essere fragili" was published on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

It was, in his own words, "a book which was not at all easy to write" and, I may suggest, not at all easy to read. In the letters he addresses to Giacomo, Alessandro manages to encompass all the questions we continuously ask ourselves. Questions which do not have simple answers - on the contrary- they are questions which, like a compass, can guide our whole life, provided that we disclose them.

The secret of the writers is their frailty, which they tackle by grabbing on to the words which save them, and, quite inadvertently, save us too, showing us the way to happiness.

**Sabina Butnaru**

