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MEDIA RELEASE

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Bambini celebrate Italian Language Week

Students of the Italian Bilingual School and Co.As.It.'s Storytime Per Bambini celebrated **Italian Language Week (Settimana della Lingua Italiana)** that took place from 19 to 25 October 2009. The theme chosen by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2009 was "**Italian Language in Art, Science and Technology**". This theme ties in with the International Year of Astronomy, 4th Centennial of the first use of an astronomical telescope by Galileo Galilei, European Year of Creativity and Innovation, and Centennial of Nobel Prize Rita Levi Montalcini.

The Italian Bilingual School's Year 2 students were treated to a special lesson on Galileo Galilei via the school's interactive whiteboard and competed in games to test their knowledge of the Solar System. *Maestra* Silvia Onorati was impressed!

The Italian Bilingual School's Year 5 and 6 students prepared a presentation on certain aspects of the Italian language for their Friday assembly which was held for all parents, students and the **Educational Attachè to the Italian Consulate, Dott. Sergio Rapisardi**. They talked about foreign influences and words which have originated from other languages, such as Arabic and French through examples of current words and their etymology.

The class also spoke about their recent trip to Italy and their two-week experience attending a Perugian school. After the presentations, Dott. Rapisardi also observed a history lesson on World War 1 with the students.

During that week a special Storytime Per Bambini was held in the Italian Multimedia Resource Centre. Children between 2 and 7 years of age participated in a fun hour of bilingual Storytime, where they engaged in a variety of different activities. They were read a story in Italian and English, they sung songs and played games with a focus on the sun, the moon and the earth. The session concluded with an arts and crafts activity which was enjoyed by both parents and children.

Italian Language Week, which is now in its ninth year, aims to promote Italian language and culture all around the world.

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