#### Farewell, Madiba



Nelson Mandela died on December 5, aged 95.

For all his life, he fought against Apartheid, a system where non-white citizens were segregated from whites and did not have equal rights. After being prosecuted and sent to jail for many years, he and his followers finally won the battle for equal rights in South Africa. For this reason, he became a planetary symbol of civil rights. Nelson Mandela had regal origins and was well educated. He got a law degree in a South African University. He could see the fundamental evil of Apartheid studying law and

the rights of any human being. He became a leader in the African National Congress (ANC), an organization who wanted to change the Apartheid laws in South Africa. At the beginning, the ANC chose to adopt non-violent forms of protest, but after a while Mandela decided to change ANC's strategy. He planned to bomb certain buildings, but only the buildings. He wanted to make sure that no one would be hurt. He and his followers were classified as terrorists by the South African government and sent to prison.

Mandela spent 27 years in prison but never retreated from his principles. He wanted all people of all races to have equal rights in South Africa. His prison sentence brought international visibility to the anti-Apartheid movement. He was finally released through international pressure in 1990. Once released from prison, Nelson continued his campaign. He won the Nobel for Peace in 1990. His hard work paid off when all races were allowed to vote in the 1994 election. Nelson Mandela won the election and became president of South Africa. There were several times during the process where violence threatened to break out. Nelson was a strong force in keeping the calm and preventing a major civil war.

Maria P. e Giulia M. 3A









# JFK Assassination 50th Anniversary



It's the 21st of November 1963, the Air Force One takes off from Houston and brings the president John Fitzgerald Kennedy to Fort Worth, a small city near Dallas. His last night was spent at the Hotel Texas. The next day, while JFK was in his convertible car, passing through the crowd in a big parade, he was shot by a man named Lee Harvey Oswald.

After 50 years since his death, many people still think that the killer was probably not just Oswald but also another assassin who maybe was sent by the Russians or the CIA. Nobody

knows the right theory except Oswald, who was killed by a crazy person when he was on his way to the county hall to be interrogated. In the USA there was a recent show on NOVA which shows the real story up to now. The documentari shows two forensi scientists, a father and son, who have also discovered that the murder was planned and not a decision of the moment. In the footage of a spectator's video, you can see what really happened: you notice that there were three shooting sounds but that could also be only from two bullets. The weird part is that only one of the shots hit Kennedy. Nobody has understood until now why his neck swung backwards if he was shot from behind and above. But now scientists have found out using computer renderings that two shots hit him, both from behind. The special rifle used was Italian and it was called a "Carcano". Its bullets can stumble through two people because of their great strength. This is how the senator sitting in the front seat also got hit from behind. Oswald had bought this unusual rifle because it was very cheap. The mistery continues but science can help us learn more.

Davide C. 3A

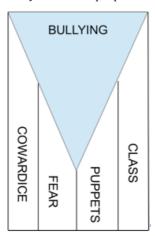
# **Bullying**

What is bullying?

Bullying is when people repeat bad actions against someone.

Bullies act this way for many reasons: for sheer malice or for revenge.

They could also have some family problems, but they don't want people to think they are weak.



This picture represents what supports bullying:

- 1. Fear is the main element of bullying because without it people will not follow the orders of the bully.
- 2. "Puppets" support these actions and convince the class to follow the bully.
- 3. The bully would like to appear brave but as a matter of fact he does not take his responsibilities.
- 4. He hides in the group that supports him.

Without these supports bullying would not exist.

Emma G., Chiara F. e Marco B. 2H

# My New Ideas To Learn English

Languages are my life!

I remember that when I was a baby I had a lot of English books with a lot of pictures.

The pictures represented animals, colours, seasons or common things of everyday life. I played games looking at the pictures, I read the words, I asked my mother or my father the right pronunciation and then I repeated it aloud.

Growing-up my love for English has become more and more strong... a real passion!

My dear teacher, my dream is to be a famous singer, you know, I love singing and (in my free time...) I often use to translate the texts of English songs.

Music means: giving emotions!

I think it's a great way to learn English. The best way! I have fun, and at the same time my vocabulary is more and more rich of new English words and idioms.

Clearly I need to look up words in the dictionary, or I surf the internet.

Two fabulous inventions!

English songs and music help me to learn pronunciation too... We know that people who have "an ear for music" can learn languages better.

My other passion is computer science and thanks to it I learned a lot of specific terms using the computer, the I-pad, the I-phone or the I-pod.

In order to use these tools, you need English, explanations, you know, are in English!!!

Going around the world is another way to know languages... meet new people and their traditions would be fantastic.

Samuele O. 2E



# A Studying Holiday Experience



Every summer, Mrs. D'Antonio and Mrs. Conti kindly organize a studying holiday in the UK which can be joined by all the students in the school who would like to. Last summer we went to Exeter, a small city in Cornwall, and we stayed in a quite big college set in the middle of the green and beautiful Cornish country seaside next to the famous Jurassic coast.

It was the second year that I was getting into this experience with my school and even this time I spent a wonderful time: the rooms were comfortable, the lessons

were interesting, the trips were amazing, fascinating and well-organized, the companionship was great of course and even the food wasn't that much "British"!

Anyway, I don't think it is so important to describe my experience while I think it would be better to explain what it has meant to me. This kind of trips mustn't be considered just a holiday but should be seen as a way to grow and to become indipendent, remaining close to your teacher but keeping your own space.

Many people have asked me if I consider this experience useful to improve my level of English. My response is overwhelmingly positive, in fact I think that a 13 year-child can't be sent abroad without the support of an experienced teacher. In any case, once there, you will inevitably improve significantly your level of English.





#### The Taste of Christmas

If you're Italian, and from Milan, the taste of Christmas is represented by the panettone. But if you're English, at Christmas you eat mince pies, Christmas pudding and gingerbread men.



Mince pies are little pastries filled with dried fruits, sugar, spices and brandy. They're really sweet and sticky, but delicious. The recipe is very ancient: more than seven centuries. People say that mince pies are Santa's favorite food, and kids leave a saucer with two or three mince pies for Santa on Christmas eve.

Christmas pudding is a kind of panettone, but dry and flavoured with cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, ginger, and other spices. English families prepare their puddings at home. Every member of the family stirs the pudding and makes a wish.





Gingerbread men are nice looking ginger biscuits with a large face and a little body. They are decorated with coloured candies and chocolate.

If you want to prepare your own mince pies, Christmas pudding and gingerbread men, you can find the recipes on the internet: look for "Xmas foods" at **britishfood.about.com**Merry and sweet Christmas!

Laura L. S. 2G

### **Christmas in London**



Christmas has always been the most magical festivity of the year. In England, most of all in London, it's full of traditions and decorations which fascinate tourists every year with news. Usually they raise three trees in three different London places. The most important is in Trafalgar Square and it is lit on the first Thursday of December from 1947. Then there is another in Covent Garden, a place which at Christmas becomes full of Christmas markets that sell handmade items. This year the theme of the decorations are big apples hanging from

the ceiling. The last tree is in front of Saint Paul's cathedral.

Near the London Eye, at Southbank there is a Christmas market which opens only at Christmas period and reminds German markets with various stalls where you can find originals Christmas presents.

A spread custom in all England is to prepare a Christmas pudding. The tradition wants it to be prepared by the all family in November and to be eaten on December 25. Inside some coins are hidden to bring luck to those who finds them.

Wandering in London's streets you can meet a lot of choirs singing Christmas carols which treat subjects about Christmas and Church.

Well, Christmas for the British is a very important festivity which is celebrated in all possible ways.

Next summer Ms D'Antonio and Ms Conti will take us to London and we are all looking forward to going there and visit all these places, it will be fantastic!

Maddalena R. & Margherita P. 3A

#### Noël en France

La fête de Noël est célébrée en manière différente suivant le pays et la région. Des régions comme l'Alsace ou des villes comme Strasbourg, Colmar ou Marseille deviennent le lieu de petits marchés de Noël, riches en lumières, sons, boutiques artisanales et décorations.

L'habitude de la famille française est celle d'apprêter la crèche de Noël, faite avec de petites statuettes d'argile (appelés santons). Elles représentent les personnages de leur pays comme par exemple le maire, le curé... La tradition a été transmise de génération en génération, depuis le XVII siècle et elle est très vivante surtout en Provence. En Provence l'atmosphère est enrichie en chantes de Noël et de milliers de lumières des flambées, faites par la souche sapin.



Les enfants aiment la figure du petit Ravi, un joyeux personnage qui avec une lampe éclaire le sentier vers la crèche. La fête de Noël à Marseille, s'enrichit des célébrations de la Foire des Santons, une grande montre de crèches de grand réalisme.

Les enfants français reçoivent les cadeaux par le Petit Jésus ou par Père Noël. Dans quelques pays (du nord), Père Noël fait visite aux enfants deux fois: le six décembre, dans le jour de Saint Nicolas et le jour de Noël. Les adultes s'échangent les cadeaux le jour de la Saint-Sylvestre. Dans d'autres parties de la France, les enfants ont l'habitude de mettre leurs souliers près de la cheminée, pour être remplis avec des fruits ou gâteaux par Père Noël.



Dans le petit village de Carpentras, toujours en Provence, il y a l'habitude d'offrir à la Vierge un vase de Roses de Jérico, une variété de plantes de la Sainte Terre. La légende narre que la Vierge Marie en voyage vers Nazareth bénît la plante avec la vie éternelle. Dans les villes de mer (par exemple à Cannes et Nice) il y a la traditionnelle pêche de Noël.

A Noël la France devient un lieu enchanté et c'est la période la plus belle pour la visiter.

Rebecca G. 2F

