

I grew up in Sydney.

Where did your passion for art come from?

I started drawing when I was very young, and at 20 I studied painting, visual arts, drawing, and printmaking.

What brought you to Italy?

I came to Italy about a year ago because my daughter married an Italian and I decided to come and live with her (my dad was Slovenian and my favourite place in Slovenia is Lake Blid)

Name two of your favourite artists.

Oh gosh, I have many, but among them are Bonnard and Botticelli.

Name two of your favourite modern artists.

I love Andy Goldsworthy and Anselm Kiefer, who is still alive, by the way.

What do you think of Florence?

I absolutely love Florence, I love that the city is very small yet very big, and I can walk everywhere. I also love the art and the paintings.

How long have you been teaching at Blyth Academy Florence?

I began teaching here at the start of Term 3.

What are your first impressions?

I enjoy being here - the students are extremely talented and never stop surprising me. So far, we have been drawing with shapes and we will start with watercolor next, and I look forward to teaching them how to paint!

Last question, how is your Italian coming along?

Hahaha, that's an interesting question!! I love the language, I'm trying very hard to learn it, slowly but surely, and I hope to master it!



BAF starts a Student Council with a Florentine twist

By Mr. D. Melchior

Blyth Academy Florence officially has a student council, and it has been called the *Signoria*. In Florence, the *Signoria* was traditionally and historically the

governing council of the city. It took on the responsibilities of city maintenance, activities/events, and advocacy for the population - just as this group of students plans to do for their school.

There are currently nine students sitting on the council, but everyone is welcome to join! During meetings, students have the opportunity to help better the school community, such as fixing the common room, planning spirit days (read about our first Spirit Day below), or developing green initiatives for the school. One major initiative the *Signoria* is taking on is the implementation of proper waste disposal throughout the school, bringing in recycling and organic waste bins. The staff and students of Blyth Academy Florence are eagerly waiting to see what else the *Signoria* is cooking.

Blyth Academy Florence's First Spirit Day!

By Mr. D. Melchior

On March 8th, students and staff participated in an exciting first-ever Spirit Day with the theme

"Twins, Teachers, and Inspirational Women". Students dressed up inspired by their teachers or influential women (for International Women's Day). Houses participated in a school-wide scavenger hunt, lip-sync battle, and quizzes related to the Spirit Day theme.



Celebrating Chinese New Year

The whole school joined in celebrating Chinese New Year on the 16th February. Everybody enjoyed a delicious Chinese lunch thanks to the Liao family.

In the Chinese zodiac, 2018 is the year of the dog. The dog represents intelligence and fidelity.

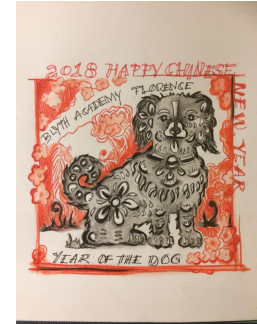


Image by Sonya Hotko



Student Spotlight: Isabel H. Grade 12

I am so lucky to be studying in Florence. I live in a small city near Toronto, Ontario, and I have been waiting for an opportunity to expand my view of the world for as long as I can remember. Blyth Academy Florence is giving me that opportunity.

I won my term in Florence through an essay writing and video contest in May of 2017, which I learned about through my job as a Blyth Summers student representative. I am so happy to be in a city that I love, learning about the world. I come from the Ontario public school system, and of the four schools I have been to

in the last four years, studying abroad with Blyth has been the best for me. I learn so much more about the world when I travel for school, and I find that the things I value most are what I learn while studying abroad.

Blyth Florence is a wonderful school, with kind and thoughtful teachers. The student council here accomplishes more than any student council I have seen at the other schools I have been to, because the students are cared about and their opinions are valued. I love having the ability to go out and explore the city, and feel surrounded by the history of Florence.

When I leave Florence, I'm going to miss my friends and teachers. It will be so different to go back home, a drastic change compared to living with nine other people. I will be taking next year off to travel and work - I am graduating a year early, so I will be too young to go to university right away. When I do go away again for school, I'll be able to use the independence living in residence has taught me, while studying Art or English at a school outside of my hometown.

Re-enrolment for 2018/19

A reminder that the re-enrolment process for the next academic year, 2018/19, has begun. Please be sure to confirm your child's place at Blyth Academy Florence for next year as soon as possible.

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