

Winter 2014

# Açı Pulse

Issue No. 2

# Açı Pulse

## Welcome to our latest issue!

The second issue of Açı Pulse 2013-14 has a different look than usual. We felt it was necessary to present the articles in the artistic way the students wrote them, so there are plenty of pictures, colorful backgrounds and other goodies. The students have worked hard to produce this issue, and we are thrilled with the results. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

*Gülcan İsmail, Tolunay Aktanır and John Dugan*

*Açı Pulse Staff Advisors*

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## In This Issue

School News.....	3
English Week Special.....	5
Arts & Entertainment.....	9
Lifestyles.....	10
Sports.....	13

# School News

## Racing through an interview with Kerim Gürçay

By Erim Habib and Serena Bilmen  
*Açı Pulse Reporters*

### **What is your full job title?**

Well, actually I am one of the founders of the school.

### **What do you think about 4 + 4 + 4?**

I don't think there is much difference between 4+4+4 and 8+4 so it's basically the same thing- they only split up the school.

### **What do you think about the new SBS system?**

First of all, I'm sorry for you guys if you go to prep courses because it just takes too much time out of your life and you have the rights to live your childhood.

### **How did you become involved with Açı schools?**

I used to teach before Açı. One day the other founders and I came together, discussed and dreamt of a school where students enjoyed being in the community.

### **What is different in Açı's education system compared to other schools in Turkey?**

We have respect for students in their abilities. We don't press the students to be good in everything and the atmosphere of the school makes the kid happy.

### **How is Açı planning to fit all the incoming high school students to the high school campus?**

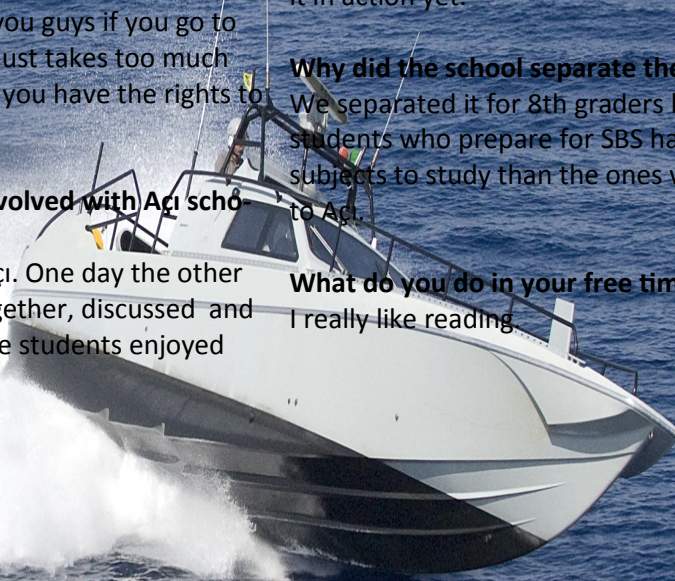
We have a dream about a sort of boarding school for high schoolers. Like within a huge land with houses, faculty houses, swimming pool, tracking fields and stuff. We haven't put it in action yet.

### **Why did the school separate the campuses?**

We separated it for 8th graders because the students who prepare for SBS have different subjects to study than the ones who continue to Açı.

### **What do you do in your free time?**

I really like reading.



# School News

## Interview with former *Survivor* castaway Cevher Pekçiçek

By Ömer Uğural and Emre Pinto

*Açı Pulse Reporters*

Q: Why did you enter the competition (*Survivor*) ?

A: To be known, famous and to be a superstar.

Q: What did you have to do to enter the competition?

A: I applied to Acunmedia and they chose me because I have a different style and different skills.

Q: How was the feeling of racing with famous people?

A: I was also a little famous before the competition. They were really good guys. They didn't have egos and we understood each other easily.

Q: How did your life change after survivor?

A: I met different people. I became friends with some



famous people and the people who raced with me at *Survivor*. Everybody started respecting me and I was known in Turkey but I don't like to be famous just a little.

Q: How was the feeling of knowing that all Turkey is watching you?

A: It's so emotional and it gives you motivation.

Q: How did you feel when you saw your family after a long time?

A: It was a good emotion. I dreamt of them and it really challenged me.

Q: What are you doing now?

A: I'm studying electric engineering at university. It's a hard department and I need to study every day.

It's so emotional and it gives you motivation.

I became friends with some famous people and the people who raced with me at *Survivor*.

# English Week

## Talking to Ms. Emily about English Week

By Deniz Hakman and Elay Sungur  
*Açı Pulse Reporters*

As students remember, Açı had a special English Week again this year. A lot of people enjoyed it, and we thought it would be nice to interview Ms. Emily, the Global Connections teacher and also the leader of the preparation for English Week. Here were her answers:

Q: What was the process of preparing for English Week?

A: First we asked the Global Connections club what they wanted to do, and then the club students got to sign up to be in charge of the different activities. The people who were in charge of the activities spent three weeks preparing for English Week. We asked for volunteers from the 5th and 6th grades, and also asked for volunteers from 7th grade who weren't in Global Connections. The 7th graders who were in charge of the groups planned their meeting days and got ready for whatever

activity they were planning. The students did nearly all the work.

Q: Can you tell us more about the KGBV School in India?

A: It's in Southern India. It is a school for girls who wouldn't otherwise get an education. It's funded by the organization ODAM, which also does work with agriculture (help the land be more fertile). The group also works with older women who are too old to go to school, by teaching them new skills to help them support their families and communities.

Q: How much money did you raise to give to the school?

A: The students raised enough money to renovate a classroom.

Q: What were the activities that people liked the most in English Week?

A: A lot of people were interested in karaoke, and many people queued in the lines for our cake-bake sale and world food. We also had a lot of competitors in the scavenger hunt



activity.

Q: What did you have the most fun doing?

A: I loved the origami with Yavuz. He taught me how to make a flower out of origami paper, and we used recycled paper to help the environment.

Q: Could you tell us more about the 7 Trees For My City campaign?

A: The name of the organization refers to the number of trees that are killed as resources for each person every year. This organization tries to replace as many of those as possible.

Q: What else would you want as an activity in English Week?

A: It could have been fun to play croquet outside if the weather was nicer.



# English Week

## Pulse reporters rank their favourite events

### English Quiz

During the morning chat on 20 February, the 7th graders and the 8th graders on Bahçeköy campus went to the Theater Hall and took part in a quiz about English Language and Culture. The first team was just seventh graders, made up of Ege Arnel, Ömer İlbak and Sinan Süner. The second team was all eighth graders, featuring Enis Dorlevi, Sinan Gölhan and Ege Karadere.

There were lots of questions, about flags, English speaking countries and even some bonus questions, like dancing for 30 seconds. It was really fun to watch.

Throughout English Week, there were really fun and interesting activities to join. The activities were well organized by volunteer students and our English teachers.

— Aksel Berk



### Cookie Corner

This year during English Week, we did a lot of cool things. My favourite thing overall, was the cookie cor-



ner.

The cookie corner was a stand that was set at the entrance of the school. In this activity we had to either answer questions or riddles about the English language. After we answered them correctly, we would choose from two types of treats: a cookie man or a chocolate brownie. All the treats were very delicious, but my favourite one was the cookie man.

The cookie corner also helped us learn vocabulary words and expand our grammar skills by teaching new things from the riddles and questions. Another good thing was that the cookie corner also entertained us, because we were able to watch other students answer questions and learn things from other people.

Overall, I think this was a great week and I wish I had tried all of the activities.

— Alp Altınok

### English Week

Recently we celebrated English Week at Açı. During



this week, we had lots of different activities. For example, we had all our morning chats together, painted t-shirts and bags, bought cakes from the bake sale, had a competition with the English game “Free Rice”, and even had a cookie corner.

The Cookie Corner lasted for two days. In this activity we got brownies and gingerbread man cookies by answering questions correct or completing a tongue twister. It was really fun and the cookies were delicious. Lots of students joined this activity.

We had a Food Culture activity during one garden break. We made posters by drawing our favourite food, or the strangest thing we had ever eaten. After

we gave our posters to our English teachers, we got bread with vegemite and cornflakes with honey called “Honey Joys”.

— Bengisu Baysal



### World Food

During English Week, at garden time, the Global Connections club sold world food to benefit the KGBV School in India. English teachers made the food and there were scenes from England, cheese

**Continued on Page 7**

# English Week

## Açı Pulse reporters on their favourite activities



### Continued from Page 6

and olive bread rolls from North Cyprus, apple pie from the U.S, cheese borek from Turkey and much more.

Students paid for the food, and it was very tasty. It was good for the students too, because students got to eat a nice snack and have fun.

— Emre Aslan Pinto

### Morning Chats

During morning chat on 19 February, we watched a



video about nature. It was about a boy that pollutes nature, eats animals, and makes piano parts from elephants' ivory.

He was not a bad boy. We all do the same things as he does, but the video showed us what kind of disgusting things we do. We all learned that we must to stop polluting the environment and killing animals. We have to stop cutting down trees. At the end of the video aliens came and punished the boy in same the way he punished nature.

— Morel İleri

### Karaoke

During English Week, in the garden times there were lots of fun activities like 'Guess How Many in the Jar', Bake Sale and



World Food. One activity that was a lot of fun was Karaoke.

For Karaoke, we could choose the songs that we wanted to sing and write them on pieces of paper, but they had to be English songs. If the song included bad words, we couldn't sing it. Karaoke was a lot of fun. It gave people a chance to show their friends that they have nice voices, and we could laugh at our friends' voices if they sounded bad.

Students from 8A Sarıyer sang YMCA, and students from grades 5, 6 and 7 did the dance. Everyone had lots of fun. I hope during English Week next year there are even more activities.

— Ömer Uğural

### Cake Bake Sale

The last day of English Week was Friday, 21 February. During morning break and lunch break there were bake sales that day. All the money raised went to the "7 Trees For My City" Project, which helps plant more trees to

make up for the ones killed by humans. Last year they planted over a thousand trees - maybe this year the number will increase even more!

Students brought in lots of different cakes, cookies and much more. All of them were very tasty. Throughout the week there were also other activities such as t-shirt painting, cap painting, the cookie corner (where you need to answer English questions or solve riddles to get a cookie), Free Rice (where you play games and answer questions to donate free rice for the needy) and some other games. Some Açı Pulse club students also took pictures of those events.



— Selin Elcheik

### Food Culture

The Food Culture activity was one of the first activities of English Week, in the 8th Grade English classroom. In the activity we made posters about interesting food cultures.

**Continued on Page 8**

**Continued from Page 7**

# English Week

## How did the Scavenger Hunt come together?

By Elay Sungur

*Açı Pulse Reporter*

A few weeks ago, Açı had a very exciting Scavenger Hunt for Grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 students as part of the English Week activities. The Açı Pulse interviewed one of the managers of the scavenger hunt, seventh grader Verda Atilla. Here are her answers:

Q: How did you prepare for the Scavenger Hunt?

A: We drew up a plan, and I made clue cards with my friends who

volunteered. It wasn't easy.

Q: Did people enjoy it?

A: I hope so.

Q: How did the scavenger hunt work?

A: Each volunteer went to a room and hid the clues, which had individual letters on them. They gave the letters to the competitors. When the competitors found all the letters to spell out a word, it gave them the last clue which led them to the prize.

Q: Who won the scavenger hunt?

A: In 5th and 6th grade, Efe inçar



and his team won the prize. In 7th and 8th grade, it was Burak Cirit and his team.

## Açı reporters on the best stuff from English Week

There was an Australian food called Crunchy, made with sugar, milk and cornflakes. I think it's nice to eat Crunchy while drinking coffee or tea. And there was bread with vegemite, which had a sour taste. We sold cookbooks that the Destination Imagination Club had prepared. There were interesting food recipes and pictures in the book.

Money earned from selling the cookbooks will be sent to the KGBV School in India. The volunteers at the Food Culture activity were Selen Uğur, Demir Özçakır, İdil Boydak and myself. The volunteers helped sell the cookbooks and prepare the posters. The posters made by the volunteers were stuck to the doors and walls of the class.

It was fun to be a volunteer for English Week. I had fun selling the cookbooks and making the posters.

— Talya Değer



English Week 2014



# Arts & Entertainment

## Açı goes behind the scenes at Zorlu Center PSM

By Teoman Özaydın, Emir Demir and Selin Seskır

*Açı Pulse Reporters*

Our Arts and Entertainment reporters spent an afternoon at Turkey's newest venue – Zorlu Performing Arts Center – where they met Mr. Raymond Swift Cullom, the General Manager, and Ms. Aslihan Evrensel, the Events Manager.

Our team set to work by asking a series of quick-fire questions for Mr. Cullom. Mr. Cullom has been in Istanbul for just over nine months and he thinks it is "great" because his kids had not been out of the USA before and he also loves İstanbul.

He had planned to become a historian and his hobby was theatre. Then he decided he liked theatre better. Later when he got married he decided he couldn't be out on the streets every time a play ended, so he started working full time.

He got interested in theater at school where there was a theater programme. He started out as an actor and has experience on Broadway. In his childhood his role models were his father and teachers. (His father said he could do whatever he wanted as a career.) Mr. Cullom's biggest project and success story to date, he claims, is

Zorlu Center PSM.

When he has some free time from his busy schedule, Mr. Cullom enjoys swimming and history.

Our team could not resist asking Mr. Cullom one burning question: Will there be teacher and student discounts at Zorlu Center PSM? "Yes, there will be student and teacher discounts," Mr. Cullom said.

When we asked Mr Cullom about next season's programmes, he remained tight-lipped and could only hint that "all the big shows will eventually come."

*Interview with Ms. Aslihan Evrensel*

**Could you tell us a little about yourself?**

I have done a lot of work in the theatre business. I studied English Literature and Theatre at the University of Essex. When I came back to Turkey, I started to work at the State Theatre. I was the assistant director. Then I came to this Office as the events salesperson.

**Tell us more about your job.**

My job here is mostly organizing the events and we have got some events that we call self-promote. This means that we organize the events ourselves as the Performing Arts Center. Then we have some rentals which means



outsiders coming here to rent the theatre. My job is mostly organizing the rental events.

**Why did you choose this job?**

I chose this job because I like art and there are a variety of shows here. I think it's a unique job to organize different shows, from dance to theatre and many other genres.

**How did you start at Zorlu?**

As I said, I was working in the state theatre and honestly, I wasn't happy there. So when I heard about this job, I applied. That's how I started.

**What makes Zorlu Centre PSM different to other theatres in Turkey?**

There are a variety of shows here. This makes us different because usually there is only one kind of show in other theatres. Also we are the first to bring Broadway musicals to Turkey.



**Do you have any projects coming up?**

We usually have projects coming up every month. We will have a project which will allow students, artists and other people who are interested in the Arts collaborate with us.



## Lifestyles

# SNOW

By Defne Genç

*Açi Pulse Reporter*

Snow is a beautiful thing. It is one of the most enjoyable qualities of winter.

Since snow is composed of ice particles, it has gaps in it that gives it a soft and fluffy texture.

Every snowflake is different, believe it or not.

Every snowflake is unique. Once it is on the ground, it starts melting and refreezing which eventually forms ice.

Things you can do when it snows:

You can go sledding, have some hot chocolate, have a snowball fight, make a snowman or snow angels or you could just watch the snow, which you can do without getting bored since it's an amazing sight.

***Fact:***

***Snow is actually 95% air.***



# Lifestyles

## A short interview with Christmas display designer Karen Angel

**By Selin Seskir and  
Serena Bilmen**

*Açı Pulse Reporters*

*Grade 7 reporters Serena and Selin conducted a Skype interview with professional Christmas display designer Karen Angel:*

**Q:** How long does it take to decorate your house for Christmas?

**A:** Approximately a week.

**Q:** How do you start decorating a tree? Do you have any special methods for which bubble goes to where?

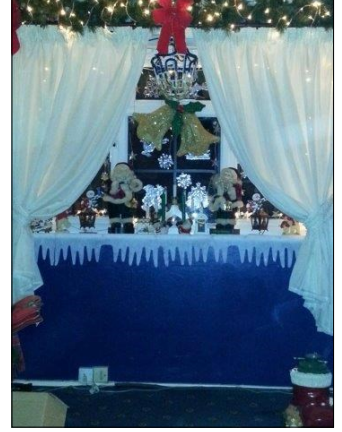
**A:** First if it's a fake tree you have to make it look like a real tree. I prefer the traditional look of red, gold and green. Yes, I have a method for the bubbles. The big bubbles go to the very bottom. The small ones go to the top.

**Q:** Would you like to do decorating as a job?

**A:** Yes, I would.

**Q:** How long have you been decorating your house for Christmas?

**A:** I have done it over 30 years and I enjoy doing it. I like the enjoyment on children's faces.



# Lifestyles

## Everything you ever wanted to know about Snapchat

By Serena Bilmen and Selin

Seskır

*Açı Pulse Reporters*

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is an application that you use to take pictures, then write stuff on the picture if you want, and send it to your friends. The snap that you send can be seen for a maximum of 10 seconds. You can either send videos or pictures.

Who invented Snapchat?

Daniel Smith, David Kravitz, Leo Noah Katz, Bobby Murphy and Evan Spiegel.

Why do people use Snapchat?

Most of the people use Snapchat because it is so fun. To send pictures to your friends of when and what you are doing is a fun thing.

Where and on what can we download Snapchat?

You can either download it from the App Store on Apple devices, and Google Play on Android. It is free.



## OUR TRIP TO MUSAFIR

By Leyla Erden and Selin İman

*Açı Pulse Contributors*



We think that everyone should go to Musafir and taste the Indian culture. It's aromatic, spicy and there is a lot of food to choose from. It's actually pretty similar to the Turkish culture but a little spicier. India is the country that has the most spices in food.

When we were at Musafir we experienced great Indian dishes such as tikka masala (a type of chicken), samosa, daal (lentil soup), naan (kind of like pide) and many more. We also had this pudding with rice and cardamom (it was kind of like sütlac but it was less watery). We also saw all the great cultural things on the walls of Musafir. The spices were so spicy we had to drink tons of water. We also interviewed the owner Mr. Imran and learned a lot about Indian culture and the restaurant. Musafir.



OUR INTERVIEW WITH MR. IMRAN

We asked Mr. Imran about the Indian cuisine and the spices. He told us that the reason Indians are used to spice is because India is very hot and this raises their body temperature which makes them used to more hot stuff. Also Mr. Imran told us that his favorite Indian dish is Biryani (which is similar to Saffron rice) because it has meat and it is very aromatic. We also learned that many famous people have visited Musafir. We are very thankful to him for letting us interview him.

# Sports

## A look at some of the world's top footballers

By **Ömer Uğural**

*Açı Pulse Reporter*

This article is about some of the best and some of my favorite football players in the world.

### Mesut Özil

Mesut Özil is a German footballer of Turkish descent. He was born on 15 October, 1988. Right now he plays for Arsenal and the German national team. He is a midfielder. He has been a national team member since 2006. Mesut has played for Schalke 04 (2006-2008), Werder Bremen (2008-2010), Real Madrid (2010-2013) and now he plays for Arsenal. Arsenal transferred him from Real Madrid for 42,5 million Euros. At the 2010 World Cup, Me-



sut won the Golden Ball Award and was chosen the best player of the tournament. He was one of the highest assist providers at the 2010 World Cup and at the Euro Cup 2008.

### Marco Reus

Marco Reus was born on 31

May 1989. He is a German footballer who plays as a winger or an attacking midfielder. He has played for Rot Weiss Ahlen (2006- 2009), Borussia Mönchengladbach (2009-2012) and now he plays for Borussia Dortmund, which is one of the best teams in Eu-

rope. His ball control ability is very good. His most successful season was in 2012-2013. In 2013 Reus was the fourth best player in Europe.

### Gareth Bale

Gareth Frank Bale is a Welsh footballer. He was born on 16 July 1989. He started his career playing in Southampton (2006-2007) as a left back. Soon he became a free-kick specialist. After that he became a left midfielder. Then he moved to Tottenham Hotspur for 7 million Euros. He is so fast, he has great crossing ability and he uses his left foot very well. He was transferred to Real Madrid in 2013 and it was the most expensive (90 million Euros) transfer in football history.

## Football Word Search

by **Ömer Uğural**

M	U	G	H	J	F	H	O	A	W
I	E	A	N	N	K	F	J	O	F
D	A	S	M	I	Y	N	R	X	R
F	L	G	U	K	W	L	A	W	U
I	A	K	G	T	D	T	A	E	R
E	N	A	B	C	O	L	F	O	W
L	E	K	U	A	P	Z	K	E	G
D	S	A	O	S	R	A	I	R	L
S	R	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L
G	A	R	E	T	H	B	A	L	E

MESUT  
 OZIL  
 GOAL  
 WORLD CUP  
 GARETH  
 BALE  
 MIDFIELD  
 LEFT WING  
 FOOTBALL  
 ARSENAL

