

FEBRUARY 2021



WINTER ISSUE

SECTION INTERNATIONALE HIGHLIGHTS



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Letter from the Editor



Dear Parents,

In these uncertain and often isolating times, I believe that being part of a community is more important than ever, and I would like to thank the Section Internationale (SI) Executive Committee members, administrators, teachers, parent reps and volunteers for everything they have done to nourish that sense of community within SI.

Like many Section volunteers, I wear a few different hats. First of all, I am a parent: both of my children have been enrolled in SI since last fall (one in the *Grande Section* Wednesday programme and one in 6ème at Collège Pasteur). I am also a staff member: I have been working as the Wednesday Reading Assistant for primary students at Pasteur since September 2020 and—as of 2021—I am happy to be the volunteer Editor for the *Highlights* Newsletter.

As parents during Covid, it can be disappointing and even frustrating not to be able to attend holiday performances or see firsthand what is happening beyond the school gate. Hopefully the Newsletter can be one of your windows into your child's classroom. Section students (and their teachers!) have been quite busy these past few months, and we have lots to show you. So enjoy reading about—and *seeing*—some of their hard work and fun activities in the pages that follow.

Warm regards,

Magda Schmit, Newsletter Editor

*Do you have any questions or comments about the Newsletter? Please email:
mschmit@sectioninternationale.org*

A Message from the Board



What exactly do members of the Executive Committee do?

The Section Internationale Executive Committee is made up of four key positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. I have been Secretary since 2017. In this role, my primary duties have been organising the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is held every September, and planning the monthly Committee meetings.

I finalise the agenda for these Committee meetings at the monthly Executive Committee meeting, during which we discuss the forthcoming Committee meeting and other issues that have arisen since the last meeting.

In addition to my traditional Secretary role, I am also the administrator for the Section's Gmail accounts, which involves troubleshooting any technical issues that users may have, as well as managing the email database for employees and Committee members.

Et voila ! There you have it: a little inside view of the workings of the Committee. If you would like any more information, please feel free to join one of our monthly Committee meetings (upcoming dates are listed on the back page of this Newsletter).

Our Committee must have a minimum of four and a maximum of fifteen members. At the moment, there are ten Committee members. The Executive Committee positions are voted on by the Committee members during the first meeting following the AGM.

We will be in need of more Committee members who will be elected at the next Annual General Meeting in September 2021. We would like the next Committee to include a head of the Marketing Subcommittee and a head of the Events Subcommittee, as well as an administrator of the SI email accounts and website. These positions would, of course, be in addition to the Executive Committee and parent representatives.

Continued on next page

Please find other examples of volunteer opportunities, as well as contact information, listed below.

The Section cannot continue without parent volunteers, and the more volunteers we have (whether on the Committee or not), the more we will be able to accomplish for the Section.

Please consider volunteering your time for the benefit of our Section.

Lynne Mphande, Executive Committee Secretary



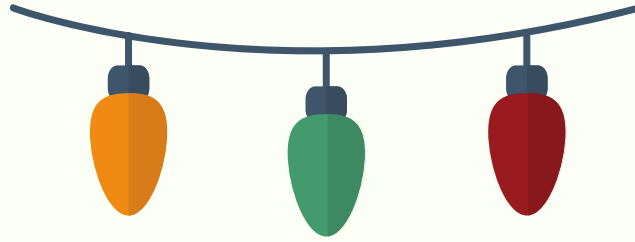
How can I get more involved?

SI is always looking for volunteers. Be it as an Executive Committee member, parent rep, Facebook group administrator or virtual game host, giving your time is vital to the Section Internationale.

Contact: vp@sectioninternationale.org



End-of-Term Festivities in Primary



Primary staff members feel lucky to be able still to teach in-person classes, despite the need for mask-wearing and endless hand washing! The students continue to motivate us, and we hope school can remain open as long as possible.

Our usual Christmas shows were obviously cancelled, but thanks to the enthusiasm of parents, we were able to have Christmas snacks, and children dressed in festive gear to add atmosphere to the last week of classes. Students were able to show us teachers their creative skills through cutting, sticking, folding, and following instructions: all valuable skills which we so often have too little time for. Most classes created something memorable to take home: look at the photos showing some of their creations!

Ruth Hasid, Primary Head Teacher



While the *Grande Section* class made snowmen from cotton pads on colorful paper bags, CE1 students crafted snowmen using rice, athletic socks, and string!

Christmas Spirit in Wednesday Primary

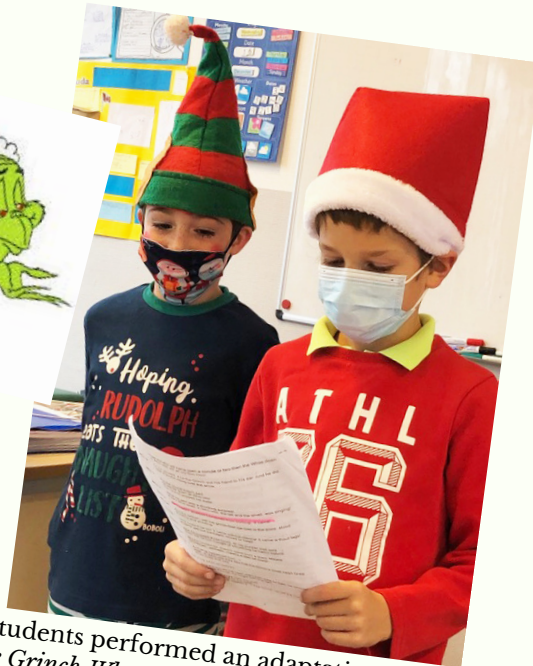


CP children made fun holiday arts and crafts.

GS children sang songs and decorated a snowy backdrop, where they posed for holiday photos.



CE1 students enjoyed donning festive hats and singing holiday favorites, like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.



CE2 students performed an adaptation of Dr. Seuss' *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* for the CP class.



CM1 students had a lot of fun posing for pictures, singing and dancing to Christmas music, and sharing some delicious Christmas treats!

Christmastime in Primary



Wednesday CM2 students had fun making some lovely Christmas decorations and a collective card about their Christmas thoughts.



The Integrated/Externé CM2 class



The Integrated/Externé CP class



CE2 students enjoyed making merry wreaths.

Anglais après la classe (AALC)



AALC students had a fun-filled December afternoon making wreaths and cards for the holidays. They also really enjoyed the winter bingo game, which included many new vocabulary terms. We finished off with chocolates and a little Christmas cartoon. A wonderful afternoon for all! *Janine Szrabronski, Primary Teacher*

Section Internationale classrooms: New equipment

Interactive boards / Book shelves

The SI classrooms in Primary Pasteur have now been equipped with interactive boards with computers. This has updated the working apparatus and teaching aids for both teachers and pupils.

Additional book shelves have also been bought to organise the many library books we have. Thank you to those families who have donated books over the past year: they are always deeply appreciated. Our classrooms are looking smarter and more modern. *Ruth Hasid, Primary Head Teacher*



PRIMARY SCHOLASTIC BOOKS



Many thanks to all parents who ordered books from the Scholastic Book catalogue in November 2020.

The students always get excited about choosing a book and waiting for it to arrive!

The school library also benefits from your orders and earnt 200€ worth of free books (*pictured below*): so a BIG thank you!

Ruth Hasid, Primary Head Teacher



Many thanks to parent volunteers who helped sort all the book orders!

Action! Collège de la Quintinye's Christmas Plays: A Commentary



Sixième students on their performance of “Good Old Santa Claus”:

As a group, we democratically chose to perform this play because the majority of us thought it was fun and we needed to have some fun! Wearing masks made everything more difficult. They muffled our voices and made it hard to breathe. As we had to perform in Room B9, it was rather boring for the spectators as it was always the same background. The best part was working together. Please note that the Santas had double trouble because they wore masks and beards!!

"Sometimes the parts were a bit boring so we spiced them up." *Thomas R.*

"It was hard with the mask, but it didn't stop us having lots of fun!" *Marine*

"We were all a bit crazy behind the scenes. We boogie danced and popped safety pins." *Thomas G.*

"The International Section show helped us to see the creative, eloquent, stylish person inside of us." *Theo*

"The Christmas show made us feel that we were really independent." *Apolline*

"It was hard being a Santa, but it turned out fine in the end." *Mark*



Cinquième students on their performance of “The Girl Who Learned to Love”:

"We based the play on *A Christmas Carol*... and Theodora's character came from the soft, sweet and crunchy cookies that Maya made." *Maya and Colette*

Although the masks were unpleasant, it helped hide the unscripted smiles."
Maya

Cinquième students, continued

"The masks hid our expressions, emotions, and personality when we were acting."
Paul

"...we had to refilm so many scenes because we couldn't hear our voices. The masks muffled all speech." *Katia*

"It was a great experience editing. We got to learn how to use more tools and editing software." *Mickael and Paul on producing the final version of the play on film*



Quatrième students on their performance
of "The Fatal Christmas":



Mayssane came up with the main idea for the play. We all discussed it and compromised to find the best version of the basic story line. Each student chose her/his own role and decided how to act it out, reflecting individual personalities (in some cases). It was a great experience, and we got to deeply discover each other's true self, although wearing a mask was a huge challenge as we couldn't see each other's expressions. But we overcame this and managed to create an artistic masterpiece!!



"I think this year was better as we filmed the play instead of performing it in front of an audience.... we [could] edit and add special effects." *Clélia*

First of all, I enjoyed being part of this play, and I liked my role in particular. I played the detective.... My purpose was to try to rescue the children and put Santa Claus on trial." *William*

Quatrième students, continued



"It was so much fun!! I especially enjoyed being a bit creepy. I would love to do it again!!" Sean

"I found the whole experience ... so much fun, and it was great to work together as a team. I preferred last year's conditions, though." Mayssane



Suzanne Ross, English Teacher at Collège de la Quintinye



Action! Pasteur Christmas Plays in 2020



This year, despite the logistical nightmare that is the coronavirus, Collège Pasteur students practiced and persevered to produce the short movies sent out during the Christmas holidays. The *sixième* class performed Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, and the *quatrième* class performed *Who Killed Rudolph?*

In particular, I would like to highlight the *cinquième* class who produced an original play inspired by the Christmas Truce during World War I. They did much of the designing and planning themselves.



Continued on next page



Despite the seemingly countless challenges we faced in recording, either due to interruption, contagious giggling, or moments when I had thought I was recording but was in fact not recording at all, they marched onward with the same motivation as they had when originally brainstorming the idea.

Below are some comments, woven together from individual student statements, about our experiences in producing and filming. It was certainly something new for everyone, and I'm proud to say that everyone rose to the challenge and succeeded. A million thanks go out to all of my students and of course their parents. Without you all, learning how to use editing software would have been for nothing!

"This year, doing the play was a great experience! It made me think that even Covid couldn't stop the learning and joy of being with friends and working together on something big."

"This year was special because we got to pick our own play. Since we were videotaping the play, it was okay if we messed up; we could redo it and make it better. Thanks to the editing, Mr. Pera was able to add soundtracks so we didn't have to sing."

"The play was fun! It felt like we were making a movie since Mr. Pera was videotaping the whole thing."

Stephen Pera, English Teacher at Collège Pasteur



Christmas Truce during World War I

2020 Troisième Christmas Plays at La Quintinye and Pasteur



The *troisième* students produced comic sketches for our Christmas show, which included an interesting situation at the dentist's, catching a burglar in a library, a chat show with two beekeepers and a mad interviewer, and an unusual exchange in a train carriage.

In December we filmed the sketches and shared them with the students' families on Google Drive. The filming part was rather stressful because in Pasteur, *surveillants* kept bursting into the classroom to speak to us (and some students kept drying up), so we had to start each sketch again about seven times. In La Quintinye, a student was in charge of filming, so I (Mrs. Rattier) personally preferred that because her camera was better than mine; we did not have many retakes at that campus, compared to Pasteur, despite what some Noisy students might think.

Thank you, *troisième* students, for all your hard work in learning the lines and for patiently filming the sketches on our rather trying film day!

**Troisième students on the upsides of filming
(versus a live performance):**



"The filming was very amusing, and repeating it several times was fun as we all got to participate in each play." *Sofia*

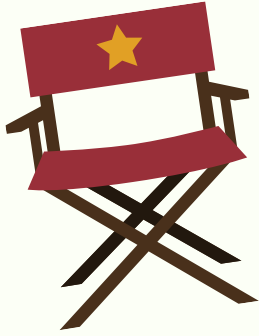
"I liked that we were able to film it because it's not fun live...." *Gabriel*

"I prefer when it is filmed because we can remake the scene for the film but not when it is live." *Benoît*

"Learning lines and sketches is something I find quite complicated and stressful, so I preferred being the 'cameraman' which was quite... exciting...." *Abigail*

"... during our rehearsals we always found a time to enjoy ourselves and laugh, which made the stress of being filmed more bearable and instead enjoyable." *Irene*

Troisième students, continued



Troisième students on the downsides of filming:



"I would have preferred to act in front of a real audience, to be able to see their reactions rather than be in front of a camera; I found it less exciting." *Manon L.*

"Acting in front of an audience is easier for me than acting in front of a camera as I can play off their reaction." *Noémie*

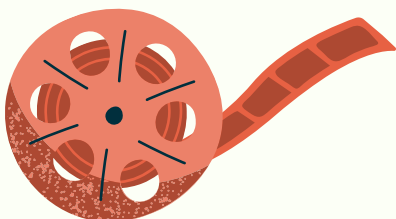
"... even if it would have been more stressful, acting in front of an audience would have been more enthralling; the satisfaction would have been greater." *Manon B.*

"The rehearsals were very fun, but the filming was stressful." *Sarah*

"It was boring since I had one line, and we went through 5,000 takes." *Raphael*

"I preferred the rehearsal part; filming is quite stressful." *Gabin*

Debbie Rattier, English Teacher at Collèges Pasteur and de la Quintinye



Shakespeare Workshops for Secondary



A Mask by Any Other Name

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, the line “Now is the winter of our discontent” from *Richard III* might seem appropriate. Always timely, several of Shakespeare’s plays provided a well-timed intermission from life’s drama during the annual workshops at the end of November.

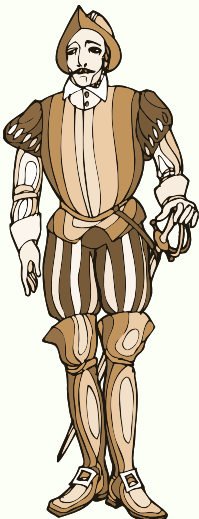
Acting companies in Elizabethan England often had to close due to outbreaks of the plague. Fortunately that was not the case for the Section Internationale this year. Conor Short, a professional actor and drama teacher, was once again able to lead the workshops in person.

Seconde students discovered *A Winter’s Tale*. *Première* students explored *Othello*, their Shakespeare text for the OIB written paper. One activity involved a friendly competition between teams to match words or phrases from Shakespeare’s script with a contemporary translation.

The *Terminale* workshop focused on *The Tempest*, their Shakespeare text for the OIB oral exam. Learning to observe and decode interpretation clues in iambic pentameter verse and punctuation increased understanding and appreciation of the text.

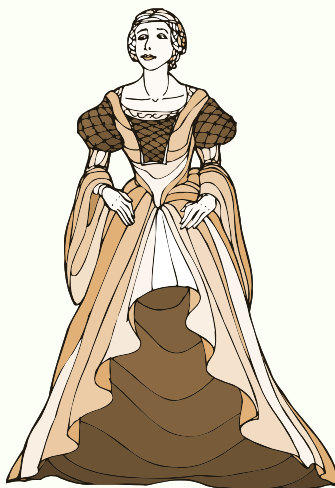
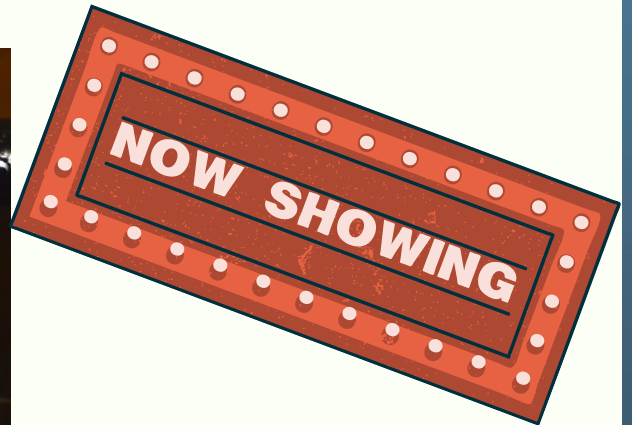
Troisième students enjoyed an introduction to *Twelfth Night*, which will be their play for IGCSE Literature. The workshops were held in room A9 of Collège de la Quintinye and the CDI of Collège Pasteur instead of the Lycée Corneille amphitheater due to the sanitary situation. Plans for a Q&A session with *lycée* Section Internationale students and a visit to the *lycée* were postponed.

Ann King, Secondary Head Teacher



The *Première* group works through interpretation possibilities for a scene from *Othello*.

Lycée Students in the Act!



SI students work through the dialogue in extracts from their Shakespeare cripts.

Top picture: Première group; two lower pictures: Terminale group.

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Webinars



With the current sanitary restrictions, we were unable to hold our usual information meetings for families who are considering the Section Internationale for their children in September 2021. Even though these meetings have been useful in the past, with relatively good attendance, we have always been unable to reach people further afield looking for schools for their children upon their return to France.

To step into the breach, the Admissions Office decided to launch the Section's first webinars. For those of you familiar with Zoom, you will know how easy it seems at the beginning ("Oh, it'll be fine..."), but there are major differences between a Zoom meeting where you can gauge the reaction of your attendees and a webinar where you basically talk to the screen with no feedback. It certainly can be a little disconcerting and adds adrenaline to the evening. I would like to thank one father from the Section, who gave me some good pointers during a telephone conversation, as he could tell how stressed I was.

The Powerpoint presentations were elaborated with the head teachers for each programme, ensuring the accuracy and thoroughness of our information. Photos of each school were shown, so as to give the families a real view of the inside of our partner schools. The sun was on our side, allowing a Mediterranean blue sky over the Groupe Scolaire Pasteur help us pretend that we benefit from a micro-climate. (This photo incidentally is now on our public Facebook page.)

We kicked off with the *Collège* Webinar on 15th December 2020 with a star performance from Mr. Bonnet, Head of the College de la Quintinye, who was very keen to show off his new headset, except that I had initially blocked his camera. A mad scramble later and he was on screen giving a passionate presentation of his *collège*, looking like a RAF pilot. Then Stephen Pera, who appeared on screen without realising that he was live, recovered with tremendous grace and went on to enthral the parents with his short film, directed and produced by a Section pupil as part of the 6ème curriculum. Our thanks go to the Mouren family for allowing us to use their homemade murder mystery (with moustache, blood and all!). Quite a start for a first event...

On 26th January 2021, we moved onto the *Lycée* Webinar during which *lycée* teachers Debbie Rattier (2nde) and Ann King (1ère and *Terminale*) were our guest stars, demystifying the *lycée* programmes and the weight of the OIB in the new reformed bac for our attendees.

Continued on next page

To finish the season, we held the Primary Webinar on Monday 1st February 2021. We were able to give a real feel for Pasteur's interior as well as the Section's designated classrooms as well as the reading schemes and different programmes we offer. Unfortunately, one of the automated links sent by Zoom on registration did not work, so we had ten families frantically trying to get hold of me by SMS or email in order to join the webinar. Once again, we do apologise if you were one of those families, and hopefully you have been able to watch the recording since. Luckily for me, that happened during the last webinar.

These information webinars allowed us to reach close to 120 families (39 registrants for *collège*; 35 for *lycée* and 40 for primary). The recordings and PowerPoint presentations for all three sessions are available for viewing on our [website](#), which widens our audience even more as families can watch at their leisure.

Kristina Abadie, Admissions Officer

ADMISSIONS AND TESTING



If you are applying for 6ème, the deadline for applications is **21st February 2021**. Pasteur Primary School (and hopefully the other French schools as well) has issued school reports for the first semester of 2020 for our Primary Wednesday candidates. Please submit your child's application if this is not already the case. If you have forgotten to include a document and have already submitted your child's dossier, please send the missing document to the Admissions office (admissions@sectioninternationale.org).

There is currently a possible change of date for the 6ème test, which has been provisionally planned for **Friday 5th March 2021**. We are extremely keen to hold these tests in person, but health restrictions may force us to change the date. Please keep the following two dates open as possible replacements: Wednesday 3rd March 2021 (afternoon from 1:30 pm-4:30 pm) and Saturday 6th March 2021 (times to be confirmed). If you are applying for 6ème, you will be informed directly by email once we have found a solution.

If you are applying for a Primary transfer or for a new sibling (all levels except 6ème), the deadline is **3rd March 2021**. The official tests are still planned for **Wednesday 17th March 2021** (morning) and once again, we will do our utmost to hold them in person. However, if worst comes to worst, and we cannot hold the official entrance tests in person, we will proceed as we did last year with Zoom and individual oral appointments. So rest assured that your child will be assessed if you have applied.



Admissions FAQ

- If you wish your child to continue next school year, **you do NOT need to reapply**. Re-enrolment is tacit (automatic) from one year to the next.
- If, for whatever reason, you do not wish your child to continue in September 2021, you must inform the Admissions Office by email by **31st March 2021**. After that date, we will assume that your child is continuing with us next year, and you will be debited the deposit at the beginning of May 2021, as per our Terms and Conditions.
- The above two points do not apply to the children currently in CM2 or 3ème, as these grades are at the end of a cycle and re-enrolment is not tacit.
- Children in CM2 must submit an application and sit the Entrance test for entry into Section Internationale 6ème at Collège Pasteur or College de la Quintinye.
- Children in 3ème must submit an application, the details for which have already been sent to the families concerned. Entry into Section Internationale 2nde at Lycée Corneille will be based on continual assessment in both French and English.

Kristina Abadie, Admissions Officer



Administrative Contact Details

Admissions: admissions@sectioninternationale.org

Operations & HR: operations@sectioninternationale.org

Accounting: accounting@sectioninternationale.org

SERVICES & EVENTS

Buying used books saves trees, money... and helps support our schools!

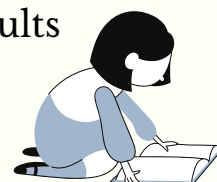
Looking for a good read this winter? Why not try the Section's new Click & Collect book service?

Without its usual social functions, the SI still has lots of used books on hand—and at only 1 euro apiece (or 50 *centimes* each for children's books), they are a great buy. Even better: all proceeds help finance projects for Section students!

You can browse the shelves, as well as contact the volunteers to arrange a pick-up, via the links below.



Please click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) to browse books for adults and [HERE](#) for children's books.



2021 Youth Writing Contest Now Accepting Entries



The Young Authors Fiction Festival 2021 is now open for submissions!
Deadline: April 1st (no fooling!).

Please click [HERE](#) for details.

YAFF is free of charge and open to all students (ages 5-18) in the greater Paris area who write in English. Questions? Contact: yaff@americanlibraryinparis.org

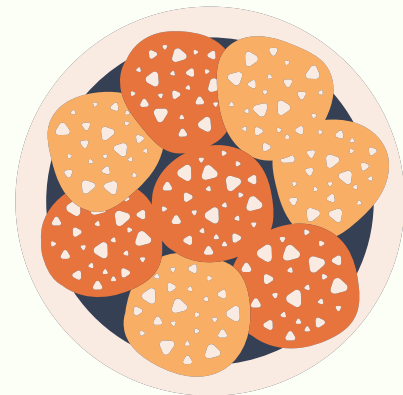
A Taste of Home

Primary Teacher Sunny Hamichi enjoys baking in her free time. She has kindly shared one of her favorite seasonal recipes with us, so that we can all savor the taste of home-baked goodness this winter.

Soft Snickerdoodle Cookies

Baking time: 10 minutes

- 1 cup (245 g) butter, at room temperature
- 1 ½ cups (300 g) sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs, large
- 2 ¾ cups (360 g) flour
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar (or lemon juice or vinegar)
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon



Directions

Preheat oven to 180°C.

Cream butter and sugar together for several minutes. (If using vanilla sugar, add it to the sugar; if using liquid vanilla extract, add to the eggs.) Add eggs, one at a time, mixing carefully after each one.

Combine flour, cream of tartar, baking soda and salt in a separate bowl.

Gradually incorporate dry ingredients into the butter mixture.

Chill dough, and chill and ungreased cookie sheet for about 10-15 minutes in the fridge. Meanwhile, mix 3-5 tablespoons sugar and 1-3 teaspoons cinnamon in a small bowl.

Scoop 1-inch (2.5-cm) globs of dough into the sugar-cinnamon mixture, and gently roll balls of dough in the sugar mixture to coat.

Place balls of dough on chilled ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 10 minutes.

After removing the cookies from the oven, let rest for 1-3 minutes (no more) before transferring them to a cooling rack. Enjoy!

Do you have a recipe you would like to submit to the Newsletter? Or is there a recipe from another SI family that you would like to share (with permission of course)? Please email it to: mschmit@sectioninternationale.org

SECTION INFORMATION

JOIN US!

Upcoming Executive Committee meetings
(8 pm via Zoom):



March 18th
April 15th
May 20th

To participate, please email:
secretary@sectioninternationale.org

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Cover art: The Magpie (1868-1869),
by Claude Monet.

How can I stay informed about Section news and activities?

In addition to reading the *Highlights* Newsletter, parents are encouraged to check the Section website and Facebook page regularly for updates. There is also a Family Facebook group* for current SI families. From virtual exercise challenges to a monthly book club**, you are sure to find a fun and safe way to connect and stay in touch with other Section parents.

*Contact: president@sectioninternationale.org

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