



A Systemic Approach to social media and pre-adolescents through thinking skills education

Dear reader,

Welcome to a special edition of our ASAP newsletter, dedicated entirely to the pioneering journey of the **Collaborative Editorial Board** (CEB) at our beloved school in Bresso, Milan (Italy).

As we unfold the pages of ASAP project, we invite you to dive deep into the heart of an experimental activity (the CEB) that it is shaping our understanding of the relation between pre-adolescents and social media.

From its inception (Feb. 2023) to its flourishing evolution (now the CEB is at its *3rd edition*) the CEB has been a testament to what can be achieved when young minds are listened and given voices: to ask, explain, test and comment about social media.

Through interviews, articles, video and reflections, we'll share how ASAP CEB has set a precedent in digital literacy education by fostering critical thinking and transversal skills.

Enjoy this newsletter and see you with the next one!



What is the ASAP Collaborative Editorial Board?

The ASAP Collaborative Editorial Board is one of the main body of the project. It engages school kids especially, but also teachers and partners, leveraging on their (technical e non technical) digital skills to broaden their understanding of digital and social media World.

Its main objective is to take kids **behind the scenes of digital and social media production** and **make them aware** of how the media realm works. Through collaboration and discussion, the group works together to develop ideas and create content that is engaging, informative, and relevant to their peers on the topic of digital and social media. The kids in the group also receive guidance and mentorship from adult experts in the field of digital media and education.

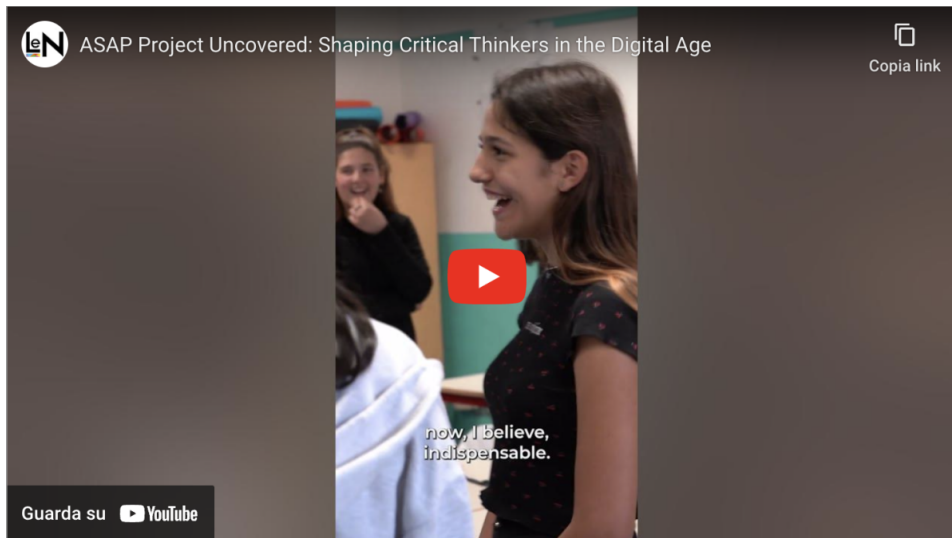
The collaborative approach allows the junior editor create content that is more meaningful and effective for kids themselves. It also empowers young people to take an active role in shaping the conversation around digital and social media use, and in developing their skills (learning by doing).

Photo: first group of CEB 2023



Shaping Critical Thinkers in the Digital Age: watch the video on YouTube

In our latest video, we take you inside the school of Bresso, where the ASAP project's Collaborative Editorial Board is actively engaged in redefining educational approaches through digital literacy. This project, part workshop and part laboratory, focuses on equipping students with critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration skills essential for using social media, but also for their future. As stated by the school teachers, by integrating digital tools into the learning process, the initiative aims to transform students' approach to digital media from fear to empowerment, highlighting the positive potential of these technologies. Click on the video below to watch it!



Alessio, Age 11: Contributing to the Social Vocabulary



by Alessio C.

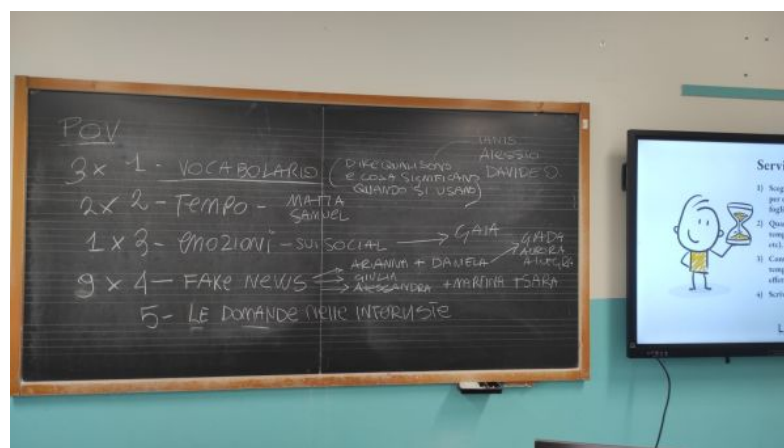
Language is a living entity, a collection of words that shapes our expressions and interactions. Imagine a world without words - it would be devoid of the colorful tapestry that language weaves. Alessio, an 11-year-old with a keen eye for language's evolution, has made a noteworthy contribution to the discussion about how language transforms through generations and digital landscapes. Let's delve into his insightful article that explores the phenomenon of the "social media vocabulary."

Unlocking the Social Network Vocabulary: Alessio's Exploration

In his article, Alessio delves into the intricate world of vocabulary, where words hold the power to shape cultures and histories. He illustrates how every language possesses its unique vocabulary, and over time, this vocabulary expands, much like the Italian language's delightful addition of "petaloso," meaning "full of petals."

Alessio touches upon an essential aspect: language's intimate connection with a people's history. Italian, for instance, traces its roots back to the 14th century and has evolved hand in hand with historical and societal contexts.

The young author doesn't stop at historical origins; he zooms into the present. Alessio identifies the catalysts behind language's ever-evolving nature. He acknowledges the influence of modern tools like smartphones, which have redefined how we communicate. Words morph or give way to others, under the sway of trends and influencers, especially on platforms like social media. Alessio's understanding of the dynamic nature of language is commendable, as he points out how communication transforms over time.



Alessio introduces readers to a fascinating concept - the creation of words.

He explains that when individuals invent words and these inventions seep into everyday conversations, they become part of the vocabulary. But the young linguist doesn't stop there. He navigates the digital age's terrain, revealing the existence of a "social vocabulary." This vocabulary contains words that originated on social platforms or gained popularity through them. Alessio's keen observation highlights words like "user" and "pov," terms now widely recognized among social media users.

The article also touches upon the varied spectrum of meanings words hold. Alessio dissects how words can bear positive or negative connotations. For instance, "LOL" encapsulates the joyful exclamation

of "laughing out loud," while other expressions allow users to voice their opinions, like the simple act of leaving a "like."

Drawing parallels with the world of gaming, Alessio **brings in gaming terms** that have transcended their origins to join mainstream language. Phrases like "GG" (Good Game), "Laggare" (derived from "Lag," referring to delays), and "noob" (a variant of "newbie," denoting a beginner) are now part of everyday conversations.

Alessio's article paints a vivid picture of how language is not merely a tool for communication; it's a living entity that adapts, grows, and evolves with time and technology. His insights into the social vocabulary offer a glimpse into the linguistic shifts that future generations are sure to witness.

The original article, authored by the insightful 11-year-old Alessio, showcases his profound understanding of language's transformative power in the digital age. You can read it [here](#) in Italian.



Unlocking the World of online slangs

In today's digital age, language has taken on a new form of evolution. Unveiling the Code: examples, translations, and definitions The online realm is a treasure trove of linguistic innovation. Let's take a closer look at some common online slangs, unraveling their meanings and shedding light on their usage according to Sara C. an Italian 12-year-old girl who wrote the following examples during the Collaborative Editorial Board in Bresso School, year 2023.

[Read more here](#)



Building Emotions with LEGO Bricks

Navigating the emotional landscape of social media can be a rollercoaster for middle school children. In an innovative approach to address this, during our CEB activities our partner, Pepita Onlus, introduced an activity that blends creativity with emotional learning. Using LEGO bricks, children were invited to construct characters that reflect their identities and explore the complex feelings they navigate while engaging with social media. This hands-on activity offered a unique way for our junior editor to articulate and share their diverse experiences, fostering a supportive space for open discussion and self-expression.

[Read more here](#)

5 TIPS from ASAP Junior Editors

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3. Cercare la stessa notizia su siti 100% affidabili.
4. Non aprire tutte le notizie che ti arrivano sul telefono.
5. Attenzione a dove e come spendi i soldi (ti potrebbero truffare)

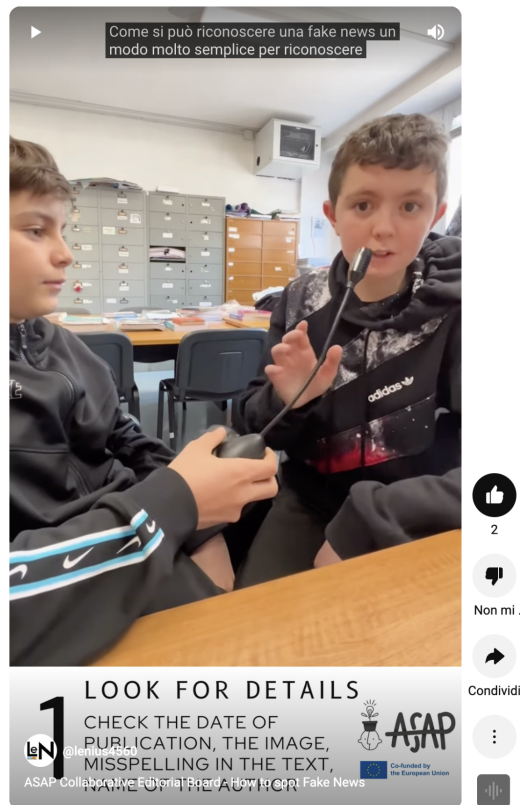
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Click here to watch some of our video from ASAP Junior Editor



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