



Accredited by CIS &amp; NEASC

# The Franconian International School

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## ***General Assembly Meeting***

The annual FIS General Assembly meeting will take place at 19:00 on Monday 23rd November at the FIS. All parents of current students are members and are welcome to attend. The official invitation was mailed to all members of the association last week. The General Assembly meeting takes place once every year and allows the Board of Directors to report to the Verein (the Association) on the status of the school. During the meeting, the audited financial statements from 08-09 and the approved budget for school year 09-10 will be presented to the members of the Association.

Our Board of Directors is comprised of ten members. According to our Articles of Association, five board members including the Chairman represent the associate members of the FIS Association, mostly sponsors of the school, whose donations over the past years have enabled the FIS to become a viable entity. The second group of five board members is comprised of parents of FIS students and represents the parent body. The Board has been a very active group during the past year, supporting the school through various efforts such as fund raising. The members of the FIS Board of Directors are:

Chairman	: Mr. Ralf Guntermann - Siemens
Vice-Chairman	: Dr. Thomas Lask - Kennametal
Secretary	Dr. William Sheldon – former DA Institut
Treasurer	Mr. Marcel van Leeuwen - parent
Regular Members	Mr. Michael Ahlers - parent
	: Mrs. Suna Gulgoenen-Wilhelm - parent
	Mr. Matthias Malessa - adidas
	Mr. Johannes Schmidt - Siemens
	Mr. Andrew Walker - parent
	Mrs. Tanja Weiss - parent

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## ***Winter School Closures – can we contact you?***

Please ensure that the FIS has your up-to-date cell **phone numbers** for both parents and home telephone number on file. These phone numbers should be emailed to the School Office at [info@the-fis.de](mailto:info@the-fis.de). Should inclement weather strike, look for an SMS on your cell phone or refer to the FIS website at [www.the-fis.de](http://www.the-fis.de). Information regarding an emergency school closure will be posted there in the morning, should a significant snowfall necessitate it. These numbers are also important so we can contact you as soon as possible if your child is not well at school.

## Health @ FIS

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding over our closure last week. While we are not yet through the winter season yet, we believe the week-long break has given everyone the opportunity to recover and take stock so that learning and teaching at the FIS can continue. Remember: eat well, dress for the weather, and stay healthy. Our school attendance reached 92-93% on Thursday and Friday of this week, so we are back to normalcy.

As winter continues, we remind you to maintain increased awareness of protective hygiene measures, in particular **the frequent washing of hands with soap**, regular ventilation of rooms, covering coughs and sneezes and keeping a distance from others when doing so. Please also discuss these things with your children. FIS homeroom teachers have been reminded to continue implementing the preventative measures and to talk about them with the students.

If everyone remains vigilant by keeping family members with flu symptoms at home, then we can ensure that teaching and learning continues.

For your convenience, a list of the symptoms of influenza and how they differ from common cold is produced one last time, below.

SYMPTOM	INFLUENZA	COMMON COLD
Fever	sudden onset 38°-40° and lasts 3-4 days	Rare
Headache	Usual and can be severe	Rare
Aches and pains	Usual and can be severe	Rare
Fatigue and weakness	Usual and can last 2-3 weeks or more after the acute illness	Sometimes, but mild
Debilitating fatigue	Usual, early onset can be severe	Rare
Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea	In children over 5 years	Rare
Watering of the eyes	Rare	Usual
Runny, stuffy nose	Rare	Usual
Sneezing	Rare in early stages	Usual
Sore throat	Usual	Usual
Chest discomfort	Usual and can be severe	Sometimes but mild to moderate
Complications	Respiratory failure; can worsen a current chronic condition; can be life threatening	Congestion or ear-ache
Prevention	Influenza vaccine; frequent hand-washing; cover your cough	Frequent hand-washing, cover your cough

**After School Activities** were canceled this past week as a precautionary measure because of H1N1, but will **restart on 23<sup>rd</sup> November**. The external volleyball tournaments scheduled for next week will proceed as planned.

## Safety @ FIS

You will all have noticed that **construction** has at last started at the big vacant lot **across from the school in Marie-Curie-Straße**. We encourage all members of the community to **use the rear car park** if you



are going to come into the school, as we can expect the heavy traffic of trucks and other large vehicles to continue for some time. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our children safe.

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### ***Teachers not just teaching –learning too***

The annual [European Council of International Schools](#) Conference is taking place from this Thursday to Sunday in Hamburg. As part of the FIS commitment to continuous improvement, twenty FIS teachers are attending both subject-specific and teaching skills-based workshops aligned with goals which have been set for the school, and teachers' own personal goals for professional development. On the conclusion of the conference, staff will report their learning experiences and share outcomes with other staff members through the FIS PD Newsletter and presentations.

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### ***Accreditation – what does it mean for the FIS?***

The FIS was first accredited by the [Council of International Schools](#) (CIS) and the [New England Association of Schools and Colleges](#) (NEASC) in 2005. The accreditation of the FIS High School followed in 2009. For a school to continue to hold the CIS/NEASC accredited status, it is required to submit a progress report and host a visit from representatives from each accrediting body, five years after the last full Accreditation Visit. After considering both the school's report and the submission of the Visitors' Report, the CIS/NEASC Accreditation Committee recommends whether to confirm the school's Accreditation to the end of a ten-year cycle, as is routine for long-established schools.

International schools change more frequently and rapidly than schools in national systems. The Five Year Visit, therefore, represents an important stage in assisting the school in following a consistent, continuous process of self-improvement. The Visit to the FIS will take place in late April/early May 2010 over three to four full working days and will be conducted by two Visitors, one from CIS and one from NEASC. It will monitor the school's responses over the past five years to the initial Accreditation Team Report and report on major changes which have taken place in the school's operation during this time. The Visitors will assess the school's current position relative to the Standards for Accreditation and produce a list of areas for attention upon which the school would do well to concentrate in order to maintain the process of school improvement in the period leading to the school's next full Self-Study and Accreditation Team Visit in 2015. At the beginning of November a steering committee representative of various constituencies of the school community – staff, students, parents and board members – started working on the Five Year Report. We are looking forward to preparing for the Visit over the next months and are confident that the FIS will continue to strive for academic excellence in a caring, cooperative environment.

***Petra Niemczyk, Head of Administration***

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### ***Middle School & High School Winter Celebration – 3<sup>rd</sup> December***

We hope all families will join us for this year's FIS MS/HS ***Winter Celebration*** on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** in the Aula at **7pm**. You will be treated to drama skits, virtuoso solo performances, vocal ensembles, poetry, dance and much, much more. So many of our students are looking forward to this opportunity to show the whole community their artistic talents. Admission is free and refreshments will be available at interval for a small charge. We hope you and your families will join in the celebrations by attending this wonderful event!

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### ***Welcome***

To Aditya Kalyanaraman, who has started in 2MW, and Kennedy Klein in K3M - welcome to the FIS!

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## **Food @ FIS**

Attached for your enjoyment, is our hot **lunch menu** for **December**. If you would like to be part of the FIS hot lunch programme, please contact [lunch@the-fis.de](mailto:lunch@the-fis.de) or fill out a form at Reception. Meals are in international and vegetarian options, and work out at around a very reasonable €3/day. Remember to pick up your vouchers for salads and bagels at the Reception. Bon Appétit!

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## **Sport @ FIS – Volleyball Championships**

Everyone is welcome to cheer along the FIS Volleyball teams at the City of Erlangen Finals to be held in our very own gym.

Tuesday, 24th November – City Finals: FIS Junior Girls Team 1 vs FIS Junior Girls Team 2 from 2:45.

Thursday, 26th November – City Tournament and Final: FIS Senior Girls from 1:00-3:30.

GO FIS!

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## **Upcoming High School Dates**

Please note the important upcoming dates for the High School. For your convenience, a copy of the HS Calendar is attached.

### **Grade 10**

Grade 10 first semester German oral examinations	4 <sup>th</sup> December
Grade 10 first semester examinations	9 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> December
Grade 10 first semester Spanish oral examinations	11 <sup>th</sup> January

### **Grade 12**

IB A1 English orals examinations	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> December
All CAS documentation to be completed and submitted	11 <sup>th</sup> January
All IB German (A2, B and <i>ab initio</i> ) oral examinations	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> January

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## **Kindergarten & Elementary School Christmas Play – 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Over the past few years, this annual FIS winter celebration has reflected international themes – highlighting the cultures and music of the many countries who are part of our school community. This year, based on the holiday of the nation where our school is located, the performance will be a traditional Christmas Nativity play – featuring dialogue, singing and movement – that will feature all children in the Kindergarten and Grades One to Four. For many of the children at the FIS, Christmas is an important annual occasion, which they celebrate with their families. For those children whose families do not celebrate Christmas, participation in this performance is a chance to learn about this festival. It will take place on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in the Aula**. Parents are warmly invited to the FIS 2009 Kindergarten & Elementary School Christmas Performance, and we hope you can join us for this exciting and fun event.

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## **Lost & Found**

Apart from the lost and found “station“ for clothes and smaller items in the corridor between Reception and the Cafeteria, valuable items are held in the office. If your child is missing a cell phone, i-pod, jewellery or something similar, please send them to the office to have a look in the “treasure chest”!

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### ***FIS is a Non-smoking Campus***

The FIS community should note that it is illegal for minors (those under 18) to smoke. The FIS continues to be a non-smoking campus. Students who are above the age of 18 are legally allowed to smoke in public, but not on any part of the FIS campus. For those in the community who cannot resist the urge, please do not do so anywhere on the FIS campus, or in the car park of Marie-Curie-Straße 1 across from the school.

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### ***Current Affairs @ FIS***

Many thanks to those families who have responded to our request for current affairs journals – your generosity is much appreciated. Please continue to contact us if you have an existing subscription to a broadsheet journal or magazine which you are happy to pass on to us after you have finished with it. Please contact Steven Fogarty [Steven.Fogarty@the-fis.de](mailto:Steven.Fogarty@the-fis.de) if you would like to help.

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### ***UNESCO Run for Kids - FORMAXX Nikolauf – 6<sup>th</sup> December***

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December the FIS will be the focal point for the fundraising run-a-thon for UNESCO, Run for Kids, organised on this occasion as Erlangen's first [Nikolauf](#) by local financial advisory company FORMAXX. For more information, please see the attached flyer, pick up a copy from Reception, or contact [andrea.fuerlein@formaxx.ag](mailto:andrea.fuerlein@formaxx.ag) or 09131-9898-500.

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Girl Scout Annual  
Holiday Basket Raffle  
And  
Candy Cane Sale.  
Friday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30p.m.  
Get your tickets 16<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November  
Please see attachments for further info and list of goodies!

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### ***Music @ FIS – Drum Lessons now available***

Introduction (presenting the components of a drum set), aptitude test (determining the level of the pupil), hearing test, basics (holding the sticks, position for right-handed and for left-handed pupils, chair position, adjusting the drums etc.), rhythm learning, many auditions of different drum styles, presentations of videos of famous drummers, Please contact: Andrei Marza [andrejen@yahoo.com](mailto:andrejen@yahoo.com).

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**Australiss** invites FIS families and friends to its **Christmas Market**. The Christmas Market will be open from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November from 5pm until 8pm and Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> November from 10am until 5pm. Australiss is full of new and exciting ideas for Christmas. Bernhard will be firing up the BBQ in the courtyard and the historical cellar will be filled with various jewellery, artists from as far as Düsseldorf, handmade porcelain, pottery, Christmas ideas, Christmas food, wine, chocolates, and other surprises. Come and prepare yourselves for the festive season and drink a Glühwein with us. Parking at Theaterplatz, Fuchsenwiese and Kaufland. ***Moira and Bernhard Drexler***

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**For Sale** – From cars to house-lots – please check the attachments and the notice boards near Reception.



## Next Week @ FIS

Monday	23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 15:45 – 16:45 ASAP</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Basketball, Junior &amp; Senior Boys practice</li> <li>➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CP-CE</li> <li>➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CM2</li> </ul> <p>Girl Scouts Holiday Basket ticket sales after school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 19:00 <b>FIS Association Annual General Meeting</b></li> </ul>
Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Girl scouts regular meeting</li> <li>➤ 14:45 <b>Volleyball City Finals</b> - Junior Girls</li> </ul> <p>Girl Scouts Holiday Basket ticket sales after school</p>
Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 08:45 – 09:45 Pilates classes, Gym</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 16:45 ASAP</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Basketball, Girls practice</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Soccer, Senior Boys practice</li> <li>➤ 15:35 – 16:35 French school, Decouverte</li> <li>➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CM1</li> <li>➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, College</li> </ul> <p>Girl Scouts Holiday Basket ticket sales after school</p>
Thursday	26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 8:45 – 10:45 Toddler Group, ES Music Room (1.59)</li> <li>➤ 13:00 – 15:30 <b>Volleyball City Championships</b> - Senior Girls</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 16:45 ASAP</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Soccer, Junior Boys practice</li> </ul> <p>Girl Scouts Holiday Basket ticket sales after school</p>
Friday	27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 08:45 – 09:45 Pilates classes, Gym</li> </ul> <p>Girl Scouts Holiday Basket ticket draw</p>

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**Coming up:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> December – MS/HS Winter Celebration**
- 10<sup>th</sup> December – KiGa/ES Winter Celebration**
- 11<sup>th</sup> December – Jingle Bell Rock Disco Party Grades 3 & 4**
- 16<sup>th</sup> December – Roll Up, Roll Up! Grade 1 Circus Assembly**
- 21<sup>st</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> January – Winter Break**
- 4<sup>th</sup> January – School Resumes at 8:30**

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**FIS School Newsletter** The FIS newsletter is published on a weekly basis and is emailed home each Friday. The newsletter contains items of information relating to school operations, PTO News, for-sale items placed by members of our community, and much more. Contributions to the newsletter can be emailed to the school at [info@the-fis.de](mailto:info@the-fis.de). The editor reserves the right to... edit... This newsletter and other important school information can also be found on the school's web page. Newsletters are usually placed on the web site ([www.the-fis.de](http://www.the-fis.de)) a day or two after publication and will remain there until the end of the school year.

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