



Accredited by CIS & NEASC

The Franconian International School

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FIS Association General Assembly

The Annual General Assembly of the FIS Association (Verein) which took place last Monday 23rd November was attended by a group of interested parents and friends of FIS. Many thanks to those who braved the wet to support this very important aspect of our school. The meeting heard the annual report from the Board of Directors on the status of the school. The audited financial statements from 08-09 and the budget for school year 09-10 were also presented to and accepted by the meeting, as were small changes to the By-Laws of the Association. The minutes of the meeting will be sent to all members of the FIS Association in the next week.

Our Board of Directors comprises 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 are parents of FIS students, representing the parent body. The Board has been a very active group during the past year, as the task of confirming the organization and financing a new school building has been a combined effort between school administration and the Board. 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 DAI
Treasurer	Mr. Marcel van Leeuwen - parent
	Mr. Johannes Schmidt - Siemens
	Mr. Michael Ahlers - parent
	Ms. Suna Gülgönen-Wilhelm - parent
	Mr. Matthias Malessa - adidas
	Mr. Andrew Walker - parent
	Mrs. Tanja Weiss - parent

News from the Board

Bringing the FIS community closer together was a major part of the last Board of Directors' meeting on November 10 and also on the sidelines of the General Assembly meeting last Monday. How do we preserve as much of the small school spirit as possible now we have grown into a medium-sized school? A big part of the answer lies with the PTO, who gave a

status presentation to the last Board meeting. It was encouraging to see how much drive and initiative the newly-elected PTO board has already generated. And it also was clear that the answer to knitting a closer community lies within each and every one of us. We can and should not rely on institutions, but work at it as individuals. Fortunately, the PTO is there to help channel our energies, and we would like to ask for your support in helping design and carry out PTO activities. A further topic we wanted to touch on in this newsletter is the report of our external auditor on last year's finances. Details of the report and this year's budget were presented and approved at the General Assembly. The auditor's report demonstrated that we are both on solid ground financially, and also have the right mechanisms and processes to make sure this remains the case. As the hard facts of the school's health are well in order, let's put more focus on improving some of the soft factors.

The Franconian International School as a builder of global citizenship

A primary purpose of all schools, perhaps especially international schools, is to be builders of a community. The FIS is very well placed to do this. In school everyone shares a defined space and a common purpose. In school people come together frequently and know what it is that they have to accomplish. It is obvious upon minimal reflection that successful schools are a joint enterprise.

Owing to changing family patterns and the pressures on a sense of community outside the school, the world of the school can provide a healing metaphor for its participants. What should we expect from such communities in miniature, little globes unto themselves? Much has been written, talked and thought about this. However, at its fundamentals it is quite simple:

- communities cooperate and try not to confront;
- communities discourage rampant individualism;
- communities encourage team work and team building;
- communities stigmatise instant gratification.

Let us translate this into some practical questions that show how the FIS community might bond and bridge:

Do we create opportunities for our students where those who might be gay can speak openly with fellow students who come from cultures or faiths where homosexuality remains taboo? More generally, do we consciously create opportunities for the many minorities in our community to tell and share their story. (Cooperation not confrontation).

Do we try to infuse the predominantly western-centric focus in most international schools, wherever they happen to be located, with eastern thinking and values? (Discouraging rampant individualism).

Do we use sport, and other forms of exercise and learning, to learn how to work with others or how to compete against others? (Teamwork and team building).

Do we encourage students to take risks, to challenge themselves, to do things that they do not immediately like, to struggle with difficulty? (Tackling the culture of instant gratification).

Community service goes a considerable way to addressing these questions. Community service as a central part of the education of young people is seen less and less as innovative and experimental and more and more as indispensable. Why is this so? It is largely because

of our growing global connections and the growing understanding and appreciation within educational communities of this trend.

As you may know with the [Community, Action, Service](#) (CAS) programme at the FIS (projects such as our Romanian project and our Bookbridge project in Mongolia which will be launched on **Monday 30th November** at our HS/MS Assembly), it will not be possible to graduate from the FIS unless substantial community service work has been undertaken throughout all four years of High School. This will also help guard against us becoming a gated community, through the engagement of students in CAS projects in the wider community, such as helping out at a refugee centre or working in a youth centre with disadvantaged children.

Another overriding impulse for promoting community service at the FIS: genuine community service builds in the heart a feeling for, and a knowledge of, human interdependence. Without this there can be no sense of community, no understanding of global connections, no real global citizenship.

In a world that becomes more and more compact, how do we educate our students to inherit the earth? Prep for university and college is fine, but prep for the planet is finer. Global citizenship and global ethics have a core place in all that we do. So what does a global citizen look like? What passport does he carry? What clothing does she wear? A check list for a global citizen would have to include the following:

- *Global appreciation*, both in the sense of valuing the whole planet and also wishing to see it appreciated in value for its inhabitants;
- Taking *sustainable development* one step beyond where the concept now seems to be stuck and thinking and talking about sustainable living;
- Being *epistemologically nomadic*; which means not being fixed on any one knowledge system or way of knowing the world. One inestimable value of the IB's Theory of Knowledge course is that it promotes this;
- *Multi-lingualism and multicultural literacy*, preferably many languages and many cultures that are not cognate in any way. Differences remain one of the best educators for international mindedness. Unlikeness always unhinges us a little and so opens the door that is necessary for entering the other spaces of other people;
- A preparedness to take on, and to try to champion, *a cause from a country culturally foreign and far away and seriously different from one's own*. At the FIS we are compelled by the foreign and difficult, not the nearby and easy. Such an approach and attitude is also promoted in our Model United Nations programme;
- *A projectile imagination* that moves beyond boundaries. This is a form of active empathy;
- *A preparedness to build a new agenda with radical thoughts about a global sense of community*.

It is difficult to look forward with any accuracy. However, as reflected in our Philosophy and Objectives, the FIS cherishes these values of global citizenship. Hopefully our graduates from the FIS will be cited as early seedbeds for the viable growth and sustainable propagation of the idea of global citizenship.

From the Principal of the High School, Dr Liam Browne

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-StraÙe**. The FIS has been in contact with the respective authorities in Erlangen regarding the traffic situation on Marie Curie Str. regarding alternatives. At this time and in the future, 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 their work. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep the members of our community safe.

Sport @ FIS

Junior Girls' Basketball

In the next exciting installment of the Erlangen City Championships, the Junior Girls' Basketball teams will be meeting head to head in a thrilling final at our very own FIS gym next Wednesday **2nd December at 16:00**. Who will go on to represent the FIS (and Erlangen) at the regionals? Be the first to find out – come and support our teams!

Junior Girls' Volleyball

Earlier this week the FIS Junior Girl's Team 1 played the Junior Girl's Team 2 in the Erlangen City Finals. It was an exciting and well-played match that ended with Team 1 winning and becoming 2009-10 Junior Volleyball City Champions.

It was great to see the gym balcony so full of supporters! Thanks everyone for the cheers and fanfare! The girls will now travel to Uffenheim to play in the regional final on 7th December.

Go FIS go!

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. Should inclement weather strike, look for an SMS on your cell phone or refer to the FIS website at 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.

School Photos

The school photos have arrived and were distributed to the students today, Friday, 27th November. They are available on a purchase or return option. The cost per package is €20 and €2 per sibling photo. Purchase of partial packages is not possible. If you wish to buy the package please send in €20 in an envelope **marked with your child's name and grade "school photos"** by **Friday, 4th December**. If you do not wish to purchase the photos the entire package should be returned no later than **Friday, 4th December**. Extra copies can be ordered only through the photographer, Digital Schulfotografie, directly on 089/85601-113.



World AIDS Day – Buy Your Red Ribbon @ FIS

1st December, 2009 is [World Aids Day](#). Students in Grade 11 will be selling Red Ribbons for €0.50 at lunch time on 30th November and before school on 1st December. Everyone is invited to show their understanding and support by wearing their ribbon on 1st December. Thank you in advance for your support.

Judy Bradley, Grade 11JB Homeroom teacher

HS/MS Assembly

Monday 30th November 08:40-09:20 – come and hear the presentation on the Bookbridge Project – the FIS building a library in Mongolia.

Middle School & High School Winter Celebration Thursday 3rd December 7:00pm, Aula

Don't miss the school year's most exciting, inspiring and entertaining event so far! Families are invited to the Middle School and High School Winter Celebration – a formal concert of music and drama items to be performed next **Thursday 3rd December** from **7.00-9.00pm** (19.00-21.00h) in the **Aula**. This concert will feature Middle School and High School students in drama skits, class bands, vocal ensembles, piano and vocal solos, percussion ensembles, jazz band, dance/movement works, improvised music and drama acts and more! Please be seated no later than 6.45pm. Admission is free and refreshments during interval and garderobe services will be available for a small donation.



Kindergarten & Elementary School Christmas Play Thursday 10th December, 9:00am, Aula



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 10th 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.

WANTED

The FIS seeks an enthusiastic **teacher assistant** (TA) for the Kindergarten on a Mini-job Basis (up to €400 per month). We are looking a flexible person who can join our Grade 3 class on a part-time basis. The candidate must be able to speak fluent English and have a valid work permit for Germany.

Please send a letter of application and C.V. to Kathleen Gründig, Kathleen.gruendig@the-fis.de. For queries relating to the position, please contact Mr Lawler.

Thank You to the sewing ladies

A BIG **thanks** to the ladies who worked so hard this week to sew the curtains for the back wall of the stage. Mrs Evelyn Hempel co-ordinated and worked hard on this task and her team included a number of our teachers and some parents - Bettina Müller, Slawa Wrzesniewska, Celia Andrews, Roohee Heyl and Sabine Bolz. You will see the curtains when you attend one or both of the upcoming Winter Celebrations.

Ms Panagakis, HOD, Music

PTO Announcements & Events

Open Meeting

Contact

Uniform Sale

Christmas Performance catering

Original signed DFB German National Football Team items on Silent Auction

Don't miss the Open PTO meeting 3rd Dec @ 9:00 in the FIS Conference Room

Does your child have difficulty learning? Or do you think your child might be bored in school? Every student learns differently, due to age, experience, surroundings, personal development and personal preference. The teachers and staff at the FIS might not have all the answers, but they can help. Deb Obermanns would like to give you an insight into the work of the Student Support Services Department at the FIS. Furthermore, she will give a short review about the types of learning characteristics in children including learning disabilities as well as gifted traits.

Please join us for Ms Obermanns' lecture, coffee & cookies, and an update about the current PTO work at the school. At the end of the meeting there will be a Q&A session with Petra Niemczyk, Head of Administration. After the formal meeting the PTO will be selling uniforms.

Program

- Welcome
- Deb Obermanns:
"Student Support Services & Identifying Learner Profiles"
- Update about current PTO topics (i.e. International Fair)
- Q&A with Petra Niemczyk
- Uniform Sale

We appreciate your support and hope to see you on Thursday morning.

PTO Contact Details

Your PTO is currently working on an update of everyone's contact details for the PTO Contact List (Many thanks to Roohee Hey!), so if you would like to be included in all future mailouts, or if your contact details have changed since you last told us, please send your updated details to pto@the-fis.de.

Uniforms, Uniforms, Get your School Uniforms.

Warm hoodies and long sleeves available again! We have stocked up on uniforms. After the open Q&A session at the Open PTO meeting on 3rd December, we will sell uniforms. If you cannot make it, don't worry, please be sure to check your child's bag in the next few days for an Order Form. You may also print the attached Order Form if you want to. Please return your completed form along with the appropriate amount in a sealed envelope labeled "PTO-Uniforms" to the FIS front Office by Monday 7th December. The PTO thanks you for your support.

MS/HS Winter Celebration – Catering – We need your help!

Lebkuchen, Weihnachtsstollen, Gluehwein, and a stunning performance - that sounds much like Christmas @ the FIS. While our children are giving their best to entertain you, the PTO is doing its best to cater for you. In the interval break we will have some drinks and baked Christmas goods, available for a small fee for fundraising purposes.

We will have Stollen and Lebkuchen but we would also like to offer some homemade cookies and cakes for a small fee. Therefore, we would like to ask your help in **donating YOUR baked specialties**. If you would like to help with this, please let us know by emailing to pto@the-fis.de or fill out the form that your children will be bringing home over the next few days. In order to have the refreshments run smoothly and be able to serve everybody in the 20 minute break, we could use some **helpers** – no experience necessary! Please get in touch with us if you are willing to help: d.banasch@gmx.de.

Homemade goodies should be brought to school the morning of 3rd December.

Silent Auction @ 3rd December MS/HS Winter Celebration

Football/Soccer Fans, Movie Buffs, Art Collectors and Spa Enjoyers watch out for the **Silent Auction** at our MS/HS Winter Celebration.

Exclusive DFB German National Team Collection

Fine Adidas goodies for football/soccer fans

A mini Champion League Ball, a DFB Football, signed by the German National Team (a collectors' item), wrapped in an original National Team Jersey with all players' original signatures.

Sponsored by adidas

American Movie Entertainment A bowl of Popcorn, American candies, DVDs "Up" & "17 Again"

Victoria's Secret Berry Kiss bath supplies for a relaxing spa evening

Yahtzee-Chutes-Monopoly and more A tower of fun American games for the whole family

Artworks By local Artists

And much more! All profits from the Silent Auction and the refreshments will finance the PTO's work regarding upcoming events at the FIS.

We appreciate your support & generosity!

Your PTO Board

UNESCO Run for Kids - FORMAXX Nikolauf – 6th December

On Sunday 6th 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.feuerlein@formaxx.ag or 09131-9898-500.

Christmas Jewellery Sale

You are warmly invited to Karine Chaveriat's and Bettina Wiegel's clearance sale on **Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December** between 2.00pm and 6.00pm in Großenseebach, Neue Straße 7. Prices will be massively reduced and the Christmas cookies should be delicious. Please see attachment.

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. For info, contact: Andrei Marza andreijen@yahoo.com.

Australiss invites FIS families and friends to its **Christmas Market**. The Christmas Market will be open from today, **Friday 27th November** from 5pm until 8pm and **Saturday 28th 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**

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. 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) a day or two after publication and will remain there until the end of the school year.

Annual Christmas Pantomime Fun in English

Theatre 13 is to present its annual Christmas Pantomime, **Babes in the Wood**, *The Story of Hansel and Gretel*, over the weekend of 4th to 6th December in Nuremberg and Uttenreuth. Tickets are € 9,00 or € 7,00. For more information about this traditional family entertainment, please see attachment or contact: Uttenreuth, Helen Heron: 09131/ 52443 or email: hsheron@gmx.de, and for Nürnberg, Jenny Schloetter: 0911/602476 or jac.schloetter@lau-net.de.


Next Week @ FIS

Monday	30 th Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 08:40 – 09:20 HS/MS Assembly – Bookbridge Presentation ➤ 15:45 – 16:45 ASAP ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Basketball, Junior & Senior Boys practice ➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CP-CE ➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CM2
Tuesday	1 st Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Girl scouts regular meeting ➤ 14:45 Volleyball Practice - Junior Girls
Wednesday	2 nd Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 08:45 – 09:45 Pilates classes, Gym ➤ 15:45 – 16:45 ASAP ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Soccer, Senior Boys practice ➤ 16:00 Basketball, Erlangen Championships (Junior Girls) ➤ 15:35 – 16:35 French school, Decouverte 1 ➤ 15:35 – 16:35 French school, Decouverte 2 ➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CM1 ➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, College
Thursday	3 rd Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 08:45 – 10:45 Toddler Group, ES Music Room (1.59) ➤ 09:00 PTO Meeting, Aula ➤ 15:45 – 16:45 ASAP ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Soccer, Junior Boys practice ➤ 19:00 MS/HS Winter Celebration
Friday	4 th Dec	<p>Grade 10 German Oral Exams</p> <p>School Photo money due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 08:45 – 09:45 Pilates classes, Gym

Coming up:

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