



Accredited by CIS &amp; NEASC

# The Franconian International School

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## ***End of Semester Reports***

The teachers are busy at the moment preparing report cards for the First Semester. The reports will be sent home on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January with your child as long as the school has no record of unpaid accounts owing. We have made some slight modifications and additions to the Kindergarten and the Elementary School reports. A letter explaining the changes will accompany those reports.

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## ***Kindergarten and Elementary News from Principal Glenn Lawler***

### ***Hawaii***

On Wednesday this week the FIS turned into an international airport as the students in Grade One took off to Hawaii. The different parts of the school were turned into an airport, boarding area, an aeroplane and Hawaii itself. From the looks on the grade one students' faces at the end of their wonderful experience, all the efforts put in by staff and parents was very much appreciated - and no jet lag...

The Hawaii trip and the IPC unit on Holidays is a fun and motivating way for some fantastic learning to occur in the areas of geography, science, art, and history.



### ***Airport Weather Station Visit***

Today the Grade 4 students in 4BL had the opportunity of visiting the Weather Station at Nürnberg Airport. The visit was in conjunction with their IPC topic. The children were admitted inside the restricted airport area to visit the weather station that is used to give information to incoming and outgoing pilots. The various instruments used to measure the weather were shown and explained to the students. They also had a bus tour of the hangars and runway areas.

### ***Aussie Assembly***

Australia's national holiday, Australia Day, is coming up on 26<sup>th</sup> January. Our January Assembly will have a little Aussie theme with a few songs about gum trees, koalas, and kangaroos and a good ol' bush dance. Parents are most welcome to attend. The assembly will be in the Aula the day after Australia Day on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 9:00 am**.

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## ***Fasching***

On **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February** we will celebrate Fasching in the Kiga and Elementary School. Fasching (or Carnival) season is a traditional German time of festivity and merry making. Fasching, which can be traced to medieval times, reaches its climax in big street processions with elaborately decorated floats, usually on Rosenmontag. We remind the community that there will be **no classes** at the FIS on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Rosenmontag** and **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Faschingsdienstag**.

It will be great to see our children dressed up in their colourful costumes. We will have an Elementary School/KiGa assembly on the Friday morning for the children can show off their costumes. Please see the upcoming newsletters for more information on the Fasching celebrations.

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### ***Information Evening 11<sup>th</sup> February – Grade 10 Families***

We will be holding an Information Evening at 7:30 on 11<sup>th</sup> February in the Aula to explain the programmes families can expect in Grades 11 and 12. While not compulsory, it is highly recommended that all Grade 10 parents and students attend.

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### ***From the Counselor***

**PSAT results** are in and the FIS students who sat for this test have been given their reports, their test booklets, and explanation paper about how to read them. If you have any questions or would like to meet regarding the PSAT results, please let me know. We congratulate **Steven Harrison, Jessica Lebitz and Jackie Streker**, who met the requirements to enter the 2011 National Merit Scholarship (NMSC) program. More information about the NMSC can be found on [www.nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php](http://www.nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php).

Mark your calendars for **24<sup>th</sup> February**, when American Colleges Overseas will be on campus from 6:30pm for a **College Information Evening**. Universities with campuses in Europe are often a good option for some students. I look forward to an informative evening for parents and students.

### ***Career Day-Volunteer Presenters Needed***

Career Day will be on **11<sup>th</sup> March** this year. Last years Career Day was a successful event because of the participation of the presenters. Parents are encouraged to contact me [judy.bradley@the-fis.de](mailto:judy.bradley@the-fis.de) about sharing their occupations, experiences and educational path with students. Please ask your colleagues or friends if they would like to discuss the possibility of joining FIS Career Day.

**Judy Bradley, Counsellor**

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### ***Hello & Goodbye...***

A warm welcome to those families who have joined the FIS community over the week: the Jamieson family's Megan (Grade 5), Alissa (Grade 3) and Sean (K5), and the Wu family - Annie also joined Grade 5 on Thursday.

Goodbye and good luck to the Walters family – Jeremy and Rebecca will be resuming their studies in the USA. All the best for your future studies.

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### ***Early dismissal on 21<sup>st</sup> January – will you be on the bus??***

As 21<sup>st</sup> January is a half day, we expect that many students will be picked up by a family member instead of riding the FIS bus home. If you know in advance that you are going to pick up your child that day, please send an email to [bus@the-fis.de](mailto:bus@the-fis.de) by Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January to enable us to plan ahead. Thank you very much for your cooperation!

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## **Morning Traffic on Marie Curie Straße**

With the high traffic on Marie-Curie-Straße, we ask parents who are bringing their children to be especially vigilant. The recent snowfall has caused extra traffic congestion in our street. The students should exit the car on the sidewalk side of the road if possible, as the large number of vehicles, including busses and construction vehicles, have made passing difficult. Parents should also remember to pull up as far as possible in the bus zone to allow cars behind them an easy access to the drop off zone as well. For parents who wish to come into the school building, please use one of the ample spaces in our parking lot. In this way we can provide a safe and smooth drop off routine for all.

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## **BOOKBRIDGE**

Did you know that a certain Grade 5 class had already collected over a hundred books for the Bookbridge project – by Tuesday! How is your class going?? Let the entrepreneurs among you go wild and see what you can do – how many cheap second hand books can be bought on line for the least amount of postage? remember you only have until April!



## **Absences**

**If your child/ren will not be coming to school on a given day**, parents or guardians need to inform the Office on [info@the-fis.de](mailto:info@the-fis.de) or 09131 940 390 by 8:45 on the day of the absence. If we do not have written advice of and explanation for an absence, a student's file will be marked with an 'unexcused absence'.

An **unexcused absence** is when a family takes their child(ren) out of school to either extend a vacation or take a separate vacation, resulting in one or more school days being missed. In Germany these absences are in contravention to a child's right to attend school and receive an education, and parents can be fined in certain circumstances. Absences such as these have been and will be recorded as unexcused according to German law. An **excused absence** is one in which the student is ill and cannot attend school, and is excused by either the parent/s and/or by a medical professional. An excused absence can also take the form of bereavement leave or leave to allow a family to attend to other personal affairs. These absences from school are excused by the German law which guides our school's operation.

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## **Valentine's Day Roses – Fundraising @ FIS**

As Valentine's Day is coming up soon, we have been thinking of another fundraiser in the form of selling roses as a sign of friendship and love. At the bottom of this newsletter is an order form to fill out. These roses can be sent to anybody in the school body, meaning teachers and students. The students can send them to each other and to their teachers if they feel they would like to light up somebody else's day.

### **Important Dates:**

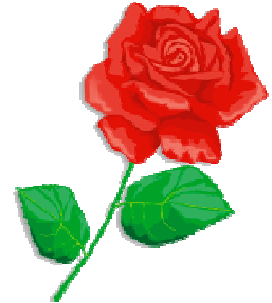
29<sup>th</sup> January: final day to turn in order forms and money!!  
 12<sup>th</sup> February: in the Elementary and Middle Schools the teachers will hand out the roses, and in High School some Grade 11 students will go around passing them out at the end of the day.

**Costs:**

One rose will be sold for **2 €**, of which at least 1€ will go towards the fundraising project for our Grade 11 class for our end of the year trip to an orphanage.

**Ordering:**

Each student will get an order form from their class or home-room teachers. There is also an order-form at the end of the Newsletter for you to print out. As mentioned above, we need to have them returned to us by the latest by **29<sup>th</sup> January**. For us, it would be easiest for you to turn in the **money and the order form in an envelope** with your **child's name** on it to their class or home-room teacher, who will hand it to us.



Thank you for your cooperation, and we are looking forward to some great results for this fundraiser!

*Julia Griem and Caroline Dimaczek, Grade 11 Students*

**8 year old Benjamin wants to learn English**

We are looking for a native speaker to help our 8 year old son Benjamin to learn English. He has some basic knowledge. Benjamin is a friendly little boy, very communicative and easy to handle. Please contact: Dr. Gerold Schuler (mobile 0172 8400 566 or e-mail [gerold.schuler@uk-erlangen.de](mailto:gerold.schuler@uk-erlangen.de))

**PTO News**

**WANTED: People Power and Brain Power**  
**International Fair, Fasching, Flohmarkt**  
**PTO Calendar**  
**Uniforms**

Dear Parents and Teachers,

Welcome back to school.

A new year has started and we are already planning a lot of projects. Have a look if you might like to join them. We would need some more parents for planning the events as well as helping out on the actual events. So far there are always the 20 "usual suspects" who are very engaged in the school activities, helping out, planning and are unfortunately getting worn out. If just one parent (non-working) from each family could volunteer for one event, we would have enough help to make it a very successful 2010.

**Fasching (February)**

Urgent: Fasching is almost on our doorstep and we could use some more help for the planning and execution of this event. Please, contact Erin at [edonze23@hotmail.com](mailto:edonze23@hotmail.com) if you are interested to help and/or have some amazing ideas.

**International Fair (planned for April)**

The PTO is planning an International Fair in April. Please contact us at [pto@the-fis.de](mailto:pto@the-fis.de) if you are interested to plan, to help, or if you have and want to execute some ideas.

### FIS Flohmarkt / Flea Market (May)

We are also looking for some interested people in planning the flea market. Please, contact roohee@t-online.de

### PTO Calendar

Although it seems quite a long time until the next school year will start, we are planning it already! We formed a workgroup to work on the new calendar/family agenda for next year. If you like to get creative on paper and like to organize things, please feel welcome to join the **PTO Calendar Work Force** by sending an email to [pto@the-fis.de](mailto:pto@the-fis.de).

### Uniforms

If you are in the need for uniforms, please contact us at [pto@thefis.de](mailto:pto@thefis.de) and we can send you an order form or we arrange a date for a feel-and-touch appointment.

We appreciate your support!

Your PTO Board



### Next Week @ FIS

Monday	18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Volley-ball girls practice</li> <li>➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CP-CE</li> <li>➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CM2</li> </ul>
Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Girl scouts regular meeting</li> </ul>
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Basket-ball girls practice</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Senior Boys Basket-Ball practice</li> <li>➤ 15:35 – 16:35 French school, Decouverte 1</li> <li>➤ 15:35 – 16:35 French school, Decouverte 2</li> <li>➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CM1</li> <li>➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, College</li> </ul>
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	<b>11:50 Early dismissal</b>
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	<b>Report Preparation Day/PTO Ski Weekend – No Classes</b>

**Coming up: 28-29 Jan – IB German Oral Exams**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Feb – G10 Information Evening**

**FIS School Newsletter** The FIS newsletter is published on a weekly basis and is emailed home each **Friday**. Contributions to the newsletter should be emailed to the school at [info@the-fis.de](mailto:info@the-fis.de) by **Wednesday**. The newsletter contains items of information relating to school operations, PTO News, for-sale items placed by members of our community, and much more. 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.

***FIS Rose Order Form***





***FIS Valentine's Day Rose ORDER FORM – Print more pages if you need to! Due 29/01/2010***

To: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Valentine's Day Greetings: *choose and circle one if you would like it with your rose*

- Happy Valentine's Day!
- Thank You for being a Great Friend!
- I love you!

To: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

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