



Accredited by CIS & NEASC

The Franconian International School

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From our Director, Mr. Fred Runkel: The first semester report cards were distributed to the students this afternoon. Report cards are one of most important tools which teachers use, along with Parent-Teacher Conferences, to convey a statement of the students' progress to the parents of those students. The reports present an assessment of your child's achievement during the course of the semester along with suggestions by the teachers for future improvement.

The FIS reports contain an achievement key to tell parents how the children have progressed in each subject during the first semester here at the FIS. Additionally, a second key, called teacher observations, allows classroom and subject teachers the opportunity to comment on key learning areas for each subject.

The Middle/High School reports are different from the Elementary School reports and have an achievement key paralleling that of the IB. Additionally, the teachers' comments are put down largely in narrative form so that each teacher has the opportunity to highlight an individual child's successes, and make suggestions for improvement.

Included with the report cards is a note from the school, asking parents to confirm receipt of the reports. Parents, please complete the form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher by Wednesday, February 3. The report card itself does not have to be returned to the school.

Any parents who have questions regarding our reporting system, the achievement scores or comments for any particular subject should feel free to contact the appropriate teacher(s) to set up a conference.

Excused / Unexcused Absences The FIS report cards also differentiate between excused and unexcused absences. What is an excused absence? An excused absence is one in which the student is ill and cannot attend school, thereby being excused by either his parents and/or by the attending physician. An excused absence can also take the form of a bereavement leave or other type of leave where the family needs to attend to personal affairs. These absences from school are excused by German law which guides our school operation.

Unexcused absences are ones in which the 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 opposition to a child's right to attend school and receive an education. We at the FIS appreciate the parents who recognize the importance of their children keeping up with class work and who see to it that if the family is away for an extended trip that the children keep up with their learning. Absences such as these have been and will be recorded as unexcused.

2010-2011 Fee Schedule The new fee schedule for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year is attached to this Newsletter, along with an explanatory letter. Please feel free to contact the school should you have any questions.

2010-2011 Calendar For those observant people who noticed the typo in the calendar for the upcoming school year, congratulations! Please replace the copy you have with the attached.

Fasching



On **Friday 12th 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.

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.

Fasching Break

There will be **no classes at the FIS** on Monday 15th February and Tuesday 16th February for the long Fasching weekend.

News from the Board

From the Board

A large part of the Board of Directors meeting this last Tuesday centred around strategic planning for the school, not least the question of capacity. Already many classes have waiting lists for students that would like to enroll, which is pleasing in terms of school development, but unfortunate for the individuals affected. Current projections have the number of students exceeding the 500 mark by the start of the next school year, which is close to full capacity. The Board will in the near future spend a day meeting to discuss the next steps for the school and developing plans for the future.

Another agenda item we wanted to report on is the appointment of Board of Directors member William Sheldon as Chairman of the FIS *Kuratorium*. The Kuratorium consist of prominent local citizens with strong links to local and state authorities, politics and business. Another important body of the school's organizational structure is the "Freundeskreis", chaired by Heinrich von Pierer, that collects donations to the tune of EUR 120,000 yearly from the metropolitan region of Nuremberg and northern Bavaria. This money is vital to the well-being of the school, and is instrumental in enabling our children to be educated in such wonderful facilities.

We look forward to continuing to serve the members of the FIS community to build a strong future for our school.

Farewell

We say goodbye this week to the Blucher Family - Lola and Owen a returning to the United States, and to the Straszim Family – Lydia and Sina are heading to Finland. All the best for their future learning from your friends at the FIS.

Grade 10 Information Evening 11th February

We will be holding an Information Evening at 7:30 on 11th 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.

KG and ES Bake Sale 10th February

As part of their current **IPC** unit on '**Money and Trade**', Second Grade will be hosting a '**KG and ES Bake Sale**' for all students in the Kindergarten and Elementary School on **Wednesday, 10th February 2010** between **09.00 and 12.30** close to the Aula and the PE Department. Funds raised will help the children in the **Innocenti Foundatia** Orphanage in Romania.

The cakes will cost: **50 cents, 70 cents, 85 cents** or **€1**. The Second Graders will be the 'Shopkeepers' and we will have many Grade 2 Parents as 'Shopkeepers' Assistants', to help with the counting of money and the giving and receiving of change. Should there be any cakes left to sell, **MS and HS students** are also invited to come along and buy between **12.15 and 12.30**.



Grade 2 students look forward to seeing **you** there!

AUDITIONS for the FIS SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2010

Auditions for the **FIS School Production 2010** will take place on **Monday 8th February from 15.45-17.15** and **Wednesday 10th February from 15.45-17.15** in the Drama Room. The play, a comedy called "BAKLAVIA" by contemporary American playwright, D. M. Bocaz-Larson, is set in a Greek pastry shop. When the owners of the shop are informed that they haven't paid their taxes and are in trouble with the government they decide to start a revolution and form a new country. This hilarious play will be rehearsed on Mondays after school and it will be performed in late May/early June. Please see Ms Panagakis for further details.

From the Counsellor, Judy Bradley

Grade 12 Update

You may be wondering what Grade 12 students are planning in regards to higher education. Here is a brief update of what they currently have in mind:

Jordan Brown - Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
 Jacqueline Eviston-Putsch - English Literature in the UK.
 Victoria Hertel - Gap Year.
 Jonathan Kirkham - Gap Year working, and then a UK Health Access Course.
 Christopher Kühlthau - Gap Year before studying Business Management.
 Anja Mengin - dual degree with a German company.
 Christian Nicksch - International Relations at university in the U.S.
 Karen O'Brien - an art portfolio course with a view to studying Art in Iceland.
 Mahin Redlin - Business at university in the UK.
 Carolyn Schaper - Language Academy in Erlangen.
 Ben Scheidt - Gap Year working and travelling before applying to university.
 Max Seyler - half a year Gap then apply to University in October.
 Julius Sigmund - Gap Year.
 Briony Smith - History in the UK.
 Yang Yao - Engineering in the UK or Economics in the U.S.

Maximilian Zagel - Physical Education at university in the UK.

Watch for further news in the Spring.

American Colleges Overseas Fair

Don't forget the **American Colleges Overseas Fair** is on again at the FIS, on Wednesday evening, 24th February, from 6:00-7:30. To save you the hassle of travelling all over the world, representatives from a number of universities will be attending our very own fair at the FIS. Parents, families, students and other community members are welcome to attend. Don't miss:

The American University of Paris
 American InterContinental University, London
 Hult International Business School, London
 Jacobs University Bremen
 Touro College Berlin
 Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus
 Vesalius College Brussels
 Webster University Leiden or Vienna

Career Day-Volunteer Presenters Needed

Career Day will be on **11th 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 about sharing their occupations, experiences and educational path with students. Please ask you colleagues or friends if they would like to discuss the possibility of joining FIS Career Day.

BOOKS @ FIS

Dear FIS **BookBridge** Family,

now it is even easier to become a fan of our project and join the worldwide BookBridge community by becoming member of our fan page on Facebook. The direct url is

<http://www.facebook.com/bookbridge/>

Feel free to communicate it to everybody who has donated a book or is interested in our project.

Thank you for your great support!

A big THANK YOU

We would like to thank the **Drexler** family for the wonderful collection of Australian-themed books which they donated to the library during the Australian Assembly on Tuesday. The collection is made up of picture books, stories and non-fiction books and is a magnificent addition to the FIS library. The library team are busy cataloguing them so that they can go on display in the main library next week. There have been lots of giggles and laughter during library lessons this week as the Elementary & Kiga students hear the story of Edward the Emu! Yeek! Thank you Moira, Bernhard, Lukas and Alkira!

If other families within the FIS community would like to donate a collection of books from a particular country or continent, please contact Elaine Smith or Teresa Rotherham. In addition to our growing collection of German books, we also have books in Spanish, Dutch and French. We are always on the look out for books in the mother tongues of FIS students and would welcome any suggestions or donations! If you would like further information about the types of books we are looking for please pop into the library (after 3.35pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays), give us a ring or email elaine.smith@the-fis.de.

Australia Day KiGa/ES Assembly

An entertaining and informative assembly for Australia Day was held on Wednesday for the KiGa and ES children. A lively event, it featured Australian songs, a traditional Australian dance performed by Grade 3, "Botany Bay" sung by 2CA, an interesting didgeridoo presentation by Lukas and Alkira Drexler, Zoe Coles and Max Monahan teaching the whole assembly to speak "Strine" and pronounce many aboriginal place names. The Grade 4 students prepared a wonderful Powerpoint slide show for the opening of the assembly and all students sang and danced to "Tie me kangaroo down, sport" for the finale. Thanks to the Aussie families who helped with this "true-blue" occasion.



They're back.....Head Lice in the Elementary School

Parents may have heard of a few instances of head lice in students at school. The good news is that the worst thing you can catch from head lice is....more head lice! Head lice are equal-opportunity parasites which do not respect socio-economic or class distinctions, and do not mind whether hair is clean or dirty. Head lice are most commonly acquired by direct head-to-head contact as they can neither fly nor jump. Two sites with sensible advice and practical information and which parents might like to consult are:

<http://www.jcu.edu.au/school/phtm/PHTM/hlice/hlinfo1.htm> &
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>.

Repeated below for your information, the FIS Head Lice Policy.

In the case of active head lice or an initial diagnosis of nits which have not yet been treated:

1. Upon diagnosis of active head lice, the student will be removed from class. The parents will be notified and asked to come and collect their child.
2. Should the parents not be able to collect the child, he/she will stay in an area where the probability of further infestation is significantly reduced
3. The parents of the infested child will be asked to see a physician with their child
4. The child may be readmitted to the school only with a doctor's attest stating that the child has been treated and may return to school
5. The school informs all parents in the respective class and school section that a case of head lice has turned up and to examine their children for lice or nits. Should the parents then discover an infestation at home, the school should be notified and the family should consult their physician before sending their child back to school.
6. A second treatment should be administered 8 days after the initial treatment to ensure any surviving eggs which may have then hatched are eradicated
7. The school will check the child for head lice upon his/her return to school

Don't forget – French Lunch is on in February

The French mums are very pleased to inform everyone who is interested in speaking or improving their French language skills that the next "French Lunch" is scheduled on Friday the 5th of February!

It will take place in Esscafe, Konrad-Zuse Strasse 18 (very near the school) at 12:00.

We kindly ask interested people to contact Christine Manzon (0151 58 87 04 52 or manzon.christine@hotmail.com) before 3rd of February to book a table. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

PTO News

WANTED: Helping Hands & Heads

Newbies package	PTO Calendar
Fasching	Uniforms
FIS Flohmarkt	International Fair

Dear Parents and Teachers,

Newbies Package

Living in a different country can be an exciting but also a frightening experience. To give incoming families a positive launch in Germany, we would like to produce a Newbies package. This should include English-speaking doctors and shopping information, cultural advice, dos & don'ts, as well as things to see and do, information about the school, etc. Just some information to make getting around easier. There is a draft, but the information would need to be updated and completed. We are looking for a person who would like to take on the challenge. Interested? Please get in contact with pto@the-fis.de.

Fasching (12th February)

Fasching is crawling up on us and we could use some more help for the planning and execution of this event. KiGa/ES preps are pretty much set, but we could use some more input for MS and HS. Please, contact Lynn Schaber-Walton at lynnalec@aol.com if you are interested in helping on the day and/or have some more amazing ideas.

FIS Flohmarkt / Flea Market (8th May)

Soon it will be spring, and some will get that itch to throw out things they don't want anymore. BUT, maybe somebody else does: Someone's trash can be someone else's treasure! Get your bits and pieces together, to sell it at the FIS Flohmarkt. Should you also be interested in helping to plan this event, please contact rsmh08@yahoo.com.

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.

Uniforms

If you are in the need of uniforms, please contact pto@the-fis.de and we can send you an order form or we arrange a date for a feel-and-touch appointment.

International Fair (24th April)

We are very proud to present the first FIS International Fair this year on 24th April 2010! On this fun-filled day, you will have the opportunity to proudly present and introduce your country and customs to the FIS community. You will also be able to sample specialties from various countries!

The FIS fosters open-mindedness, respect and sensitivity toward the feelings of others and provides an atmosphere respectful of diverse cultures and promotes responsible global citizenship. The identity of the individual cultures is much appreciated and important to our community as well.

As parents of FIS students, we have a special responsibility to promote the awareness of diverse cultures as well as our own. Therefore, we would like to call upon you to get together with other FIS parents that are from the same country (or region if there are not enough parents from your country) and form a "Country-Group" to represent your country at our International Spring Fair.

We are currently in the process of coordinating this event. For the organization it is important for you (country-group) to name one representative who we can communicate with directly.

This is a positive step toward creating an international community, and also introducing and having direct contact persons for each nation/region.

We need you (countries) to make this event a success!! We look forward to the filled out form below from your country representative by the 4th February. If you have any questions, please feel free to write an email to pto@the-fis.de.

We appreciate your support!

Your PTO Board



Next Week @ FIS

Monday	1 st Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Volley-ball girls practice ➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CP-CE ➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CM2
Tuesday	2 nd Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Girl scouts regular meeting Basket-ball girls play the region final in Roth
Wednesday	3 rd Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Basket-ball girls practice ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Senior Boys Basket-Ball practice ➤ 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	4 th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 08:45 – 10:45 Toddler Group, ES Music Room ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Basket-ball girls practice
Friday	5 th Feb	

Coming up: 10th Feb – ES/KiGa Bake Sale
11th Feb – G10 Information Evening
12th Feb – Fasching @FIS

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