



Accredited by CIS & NEASC

The Franconian International School

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From our Director, Mr. Fred Runkel

At the beginning of March, the FIS will welcome four student teachers from Longwood University in the United States. We look forward to continuing our working relationship with Longwood to help them prepare future teachers for their professional career.

These four teaching candidates will be completing their university studies by doing a six week teaching practice at our school until the end of April. The student teachers will be working at varied levels in our school, and will be supervised by Ms. Whiting, Ms Bouvier, Ms Solheim and Miss Wild. Their first day at the FIS will be 8th March, and they will stay in our community until the end of April.

After School Activities @ FIS

Our popular After School Activity Program will begin once again on 1st March. The spring courses on offer will run over eleven weeks, ending on 27th May. A list of the new offerings for the second semester is attached to this newsletter. The course offerings letter does not include activities such as sports teams which have been practicing for some time or the upcoming spring drama production for which auditions are currently being held.

The spring ASAP activities are open to students **from K5 upwards**, on a space-available basis. Students from **K5, Grades One** and **Grade Two** are limited to **one** course. Students in Grade Three and above may sign up for a second or third course.

Students who sign up to participate in the ASAP are committed to the activity for the specific day of the week and for the full eleven week period of the course.

Course selections should be given to the homeroom teacher **no later than Friday 12th February**. Late enrolments in the ASAPs will not be accepted. Letters informing you about the activities into which your child has been placed will be sent home on 26th February. Please note that there is **no bus transportation** provided after the ASAP activities, and that parents are responsible for ensuring their child/ren participating in the ASAP are picked up from school on those day/s.

Registration for School Year 2010-2011

While the weather would have us believe that we are still in the depths of winter, it is already time for us to start thinking about and planning for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year. We would be grateful for an indication at this stage of how many of our students will be staying with the FIS next school year and therefore ask families to complete the attached form and return it to the school office by Friday, 26th February. For students who are re-registering, no fees are due to be paid now – this registration fee will be added to the bill for tuition for the 2010-2011 school year to be mailed in June.

For those families who have not yet returned their report card confirmation form, we would ask you to do so early next week so that the books can be closed in these areas.

Congratulations to the Junior Girls Basketball Team

Congratulations to the FIS Junior Girls Basketball Team for their 3rd place finish in the Mittelfränkisches Bezirksfinale, the Middle Franconia Regional Championship!

The Erlangen City Champions aka FIS Junior Girls Basketball Team travelled to Roth last Tuesday 2nd February to play against Nürnberg, Roth, and Ansbach in the regional championship tournament. Before the games began, the team was a bit nervous. They wondered how much taller the opponents would be and how long the opponents had been playing basketball. All but one of the FIS girls' basketball careers started back in October: Alexandra Harrison is the only returning member on the squad. The team faced a young team from Nürnberg in the first game and their nerves seemed to settle a bit especially after the first two FIS points! Those two points quickly turned to four, then six, and soon we had ten points! Tough FIS defense helped the team keep the lead throughout the game and the FIS won the first game 22-8! The win settled our nerves and the team was very excited! The team faced two older teams from Ansbach and Roth in the next two games. Although the FIS team was unevenly matched against stronger, taller and more experienced opponents, they fought hard and never gave up. FIS continued to play tough defense and score points but unfortunately lost both games. Playing against these teams gave the team a chance to see what they will look like in a year or two's time with some extra height, strength, and practice!

Here are some of the highlights from the day:

Alexandra used her experience and speed as she dribbled around many Nürnberg, Roth, and Ansbach defenders. Using her height to her advantage, Ellen Bird grabbed many rebounds and scored many points in all three games making her the top scorer of the day for the FIS. Stephanie Lebitz also used her height and strength to grab rebounds and score points for the FIS. Although Anne Fleur Koster is the youngest on the FIS team and probably the youngest on the court, she played with maturity and poise as she dribbled around many defenders and scored points for the FIS. She was a tough defender and used her athleticism and speed to steal the ball away from opponents. The other teams found it difficult to keep up with the lightning-quick Kana Kobayashi and were frustrated when she played defense against them. Kira McManus and Marie Chaveriat did not become intimidated against the taller opponents as they dribbled past defenders, stole the ball many times, and scored lay-ups. Chloe Böhm and Mary Ashton Watson played very well together often passing to each other, recording assists, making baskets, and playing tenacious defense. Due to the tournament rules, only nine players were allowed to play. Chandvi Asnani, Taylor Liedtke, Hannah Weigl, Megan McManus, Lucy Kenningley, Clara Wilhelm, Mayu Tsubata and Celina Snyders-Kolouch lead the 'Let's Go FIS Dragons, Let's Go!' and 'De-Fense!' cheers throughout the three games. The players needed the support and encouragement their cheers and high fives provided.

The coaching staff would like to thank Mr Haug for his help organizing the event, Mr Runkel and Ms Huitt for their support of FIS basketball, the front office for organizing the bus to Roth, and the fans who travelled to Roth to support the team! We would also like to thank the team - they are a great group of girls. We, as the coaches, are very impressed with how much progress the team has made since October. We are also very proud not only of their play but the FIS spirit they showed throughout the day. They cheered for each other and remained positive during all three games. They played hard and never gave up. They are champions in our eyes! Well Done Girls Basketball!!!

FIS Junior Girls Coaches

Coach Bouvier, Coach Rotherham, and Coach Obermanns

Student Drop-off and Parking on Marie-Curie-Straße

With the last three weeks of winter weather causing less than ideal driving conditions, we would like to remind parents again to be ever vigilant while dropping students off at school in the morning. Students should always get out of the car on the curb side of the street. Parents should also refrain from parking across the street, as the conditions on the street may be unsafe for the children. There are plenty of parking spots available in the FIS parking lot so that children can make their way to school safely without crossing a slippery street. We thank all of you who are dropping off in our bus zone and leaving immediately, as well as those who are using the FIS parking lot as both of these are the safest options and also allow for smooth traffic flow.

Throwing of Snow – After School

With the late winter thaws currently upon us we would ask parents who are at school for afternoon pick-up to be sure to supervise their children when they have been released from the school. The throwing of snow in any form is not allowed as it can be dangerous for people and for motorists. In this way we can all work together for the benefit and safety of our community.

Welcome!

We welcome this week to the FIS community the Fischer, Lanfredi Meguro and Nambiar Families.

Fasching

This **Friday 12th February** we will celebrate Fasching in the Kiga and Elementary School. What will the teachers be wearing this year??

It will be great to once again see our children dressed up in their colourful costumes. We will have a special Elementary School/KiGa assembly on the Friday morning where the children in these sections can show off their costumes.

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.

Fasching Break

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

Middle School Phrogram Offer

Middle School FIS students use a programming language called Phrogram in IT classes. Phrogram is used in Grades Six, Seven and Eight, and has many advanced features that go beyond the school's curriculum. The Academic version comes with tutorials and the ability to create your own executable programs. Phrogram also has online forums where students can discuss problems, look up code examples, and find other programs and games written in the Phrogram language. More information can be found at the website www.phrogram.com.

FIS students can take advantage of the license held by the school, and receive a life-time license for individual students for Phrogram Academic at home for only €13 (instead of the normal \$44.95) if 25 or more students take up this offer. If you are interested, please complete the tear-off slip on the attachment and return it to the school along with €13 in an envelope clearly marked with the name of your child by Friday 12th February. Questions and queries to doug.manning@the-fis.de.

THANK YOU – Everything's Coming up Roses

We would like to extend a huge bouquet of virtual roses to the generous people in the FIS community for their contributions to our fundraising project. You have helped raise almost €1200, which is a tremendous amount of money, and will be used for good purposes only.

Due to a minor complication in sourcing your roses we will be distributing them after Valentine's Day rather than before, on **Friday 19th February**. Could this be a record for the world's longest Valentine's ever?

Grade 7 Assembly

Grade 7 is preparing an assembly which they will present on **Thursday 25th February** in the Aula at 8.40am. Parents are welcome to attend.

Grade 10 Information Evening 11th February

We will be holding an Information Evening at 7:30 next Tuesday 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 next **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 Fundatia** 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!

6FM MS/HS Bake Sale 12th February

Grade 6FM is organizing a Bake Sale to raise money for the **Bookbridge** project. If you want to buy something "lecker" you should bring some money to school on Friday 12th February. Cakes, cookies, and delicious pancakes etc. will be available during MS/HS lunch and recess.



Reminder: This bake sale is for MS & HS students and teachers only!

Theatre @ FIS

Auditions - 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.

Costumes & Props

The Drama department is seeking costumes and props. If you have any clothes or household items you think the Drama department could use for their productions, we would gratefully accept them. Please contact Ms Panagakis if you are able to donate materials for the Drama department.

Seeking artists, artisans, designers, tailors, seamstresses, builders & painters

The Drama department is seeking **students** and **parents** to help with the upcoming school production to make sets, costumes and props. We will require your help in April and May. Please contact Ms Panagakis if you are able to donate your expertise or explore your creative side in these areas.

Lost Property

Students had until **today** to retrieve lost property from the smart new Lost Property Station opposite the door to the playground. Please don't let 'out of sight' be 'out of mind' and remind your child to be responsible for their belongings. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

Volunteer Presenters Needed

Parents, would you like to share some information about your career with FIS high school students? As the students are thinking more and more about what they will be doing after high school, we would like to bring in speakers to talk about what they do in the world of work. If you are interested and can spare about 30-40 minutes on the morning of 11th March to speak about your career, the training required, how you got your job, and what your day-to-day responsibilities and life are like on the job, please contact Ms. Bradley at 9131 940 39 256 or at judy.bradley@the-fis.de. Friends or family members who might like to present are also welcome!

BOOKS @ FIS

Have you been tracking our BookBridge project? Join the community by becoming member of our fan page on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/bookbridge/>. Feel free to tell everybody who has donated a book or is interested in our project.

Thank you for your great support - keep bringing in those books 'cos every books counts!!

Thumbs up

One of our recent FIS graduates, Declan O'Flaherty (currently studying at Oxford), is planning to take part in a charitable hitchhike from the UK to Morocco during this year's Spring break. The HITCH is an annual event with many UK university students taking part.

The charity is called LINK, web address http://www.lcdinternational.org/lcd_international/products.htm. LCD works in five African countries to improve access to quality education. They also work in Europe and the United States to raise awareness of development issues.

Declan needs at least 350 pounds (around €400) worth of sponsorship to take part. If you would like to help Declan to make a difference, please contact paolineoflaherty@earthlink.net, telephone (09131) 5331215.

Valentine's Day Buffet

The Sidhu family has an exclusive offer for the FIS Community for Valentine's Day. At 18:00 on Sunday 14th February, they are offering a Valentines Buffet at €12.50 per person - under 12's eat free. Join them at the Tadsch Mahal, Johannis Straße, Nürnberg.

PTO News

1st International Fair Meeting WED 10th Feb

The first International Fair meeting will be on **Wednesday, 10th February 2pm @ Mr. Bleck** (café across from the FIS).

Coffee Morning TUE 9th Feb

It's PCC-Time again: Parents Chat & Coffee. Come along to our Coffee Morning to meet other parents, new or established, to chat and mingle and enjoy a coffee. After drop-off at Mr. Bleck.

Fasching - FRI 12th Feb

Fasching is close, and we could use some more helpers for the KiGa and ES part. Please, contact Lynn Schaeber-Walton at lynnalec@aol.com.

Open PTO Meeting, moved to TUE 23rd Feb

Please be aware that the PTO meeting will not be on THU, Feb 11th as it is marked in the PTO calendar. Due to the Grade 10 Information evening we needed to move the Open PTO meeting to TUE Feb 23rd @ 6:30pm.

Please come and join us for an “infotaining” evening:

1. Students’ performance
2. Marsha Huitt and Liam Browne will hold a lecture about the Grading System in MS/HS
3. Q&A with Petra Niemczyk

Refreshments and cookies will be provided by the PTO.

PTO Calendar

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.

Newbies Package

English speaking doctors, shopping information, cultural advice, dos & don’ts, sports clubs to join, interesting activities to do around Franconia – should you have any recommendations for these and other information that could profit families who are new to the FIS and Germany, please let us know. We are about to update the Newbies package and would appreciate your input. Please get in contact with pto@the-fis.de.

Uniforms

If you are in the need for 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.

In general, we need some more parents for planning events as well as helping out on the actual dates. If one parent (non-working) from each family could volunteer for one event to help out the 20 “usual suspects” in the school activities, assisting, planning it will make for a great 2010.

PTO Parent Contact List

We experienced some confusion about this list. Here are some facts:

1. You do not NEED to be on it, but it’s nice if other parents can get in touch with you. And you do not need to provide all of the information that’s asked for.
2. If you want it, you need to be on it.
3. This is a project of the PTO, not the school. That means that you need to contact the PTO (pto@the-fis.de) to give and change information. If you update your information only with the school, it doesn’t reach the PTO automatically.
4. The list is an Excel-sheet, containing of several pages, listed by classes, which can be chosen at the bottom of the document.
5. For updates, please contact the pto@the-fis.de

We appreciate your support!

Your PTO Board



Next Week @ FIS

Monday	8 th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Volley-ball girls practice ➤ 15:45 – 17:15 FIS production auditions, Drama Room ➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CP-CE ➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CM2
Tuesday	9 th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Girl scouts regular meeting PTO – Parents Chat & Coffee after drop off – Mr. Bleck
Wednesday	10 th Feb	ES/KiGa Bake Sale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Basket-ball girls practice ➤ 15:45 – 17:15 FIS production auditions, Drama Room ➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Senior Boys Basketball 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 PTO – 14:00 1 st International Fair Meeting – Mr. Bleck
Thursday	11 th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 08:45 – 10:45 Toddler Group, ES Music Room ➤ 19:00 G10 Information Evening
Friday	12 th Feb	Fasching @FIS Phrogram orders due ASAP Form due MS/HS Bake Sale

Coming up: 15th & 16th Feb – NO CLASSES at the FIS
24th Feb American Colleges Overseas Fair
25th Feb – G7 Assembly

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.