



Accredited by CIS &amp; NEASC

---

# The Franconian International School

---

Marie-Curie-Str. 2  
91052 Erlangen  
Tel (09131) 94039-0  
Fax (09131) 94039-302  
[www.the-fis.de](http://www.the-fis.de)

Email: [info@the-fis.de](mailto:info@the-fis.de)  
Bus queries : [bus@the-fis.de](mailto:bus@the-fis.de)  
Bus Hotline : **0179/ 68 46 822**  
Lunch : [lunch@the-fis.de](mailto:lunch@the-fis.de)

---

## ***From our Director, Mr. Fred Runkel:***

The FIS is currently advertising for a new High School Principal for the coming school year 2010/2011. FIS High School Principal, Dr. Liam Browne, following five years of setting up and consolidating our FIS High School and its programs, has informed me this week that he has accepted the offer of a new position and will be moving to Brazil following the close of this school year.

The search for Dr. Browne's successor has already begun, with the position being advertised in international school job sites. I anticipate the whole search process to take six to eight weeks including on-site interviews and in the end we hope to have Dr. Browne's successor identified following the Easter break.

I would like to thank Dr. Browne for all that he has initiated and accomplished, both individually and with our FIS team collectively during the past five years. With still much to be done in the next five months as we move toward the completion of this year's curriculum and the upcoming Grade 10 and 12 exams in the spring, we all look forward to continuing to work together as a team until the close of the school year, at which time the FIS will ensure a smooth transition with a new High School Principal.

---

## ***Rethinking Homework in the Elementary School***

- Why do we give homework?
- How much homework should students be doing at home?
- What kind of homework should we be giving?
- Do the children have any say in the kind of homework we give them?
- What does the current educational research say about homework?
- Does homework in Elementary School build character or teach good study habits in preparation for the transition into Middle School?
- Should our students be free to spend their after-school hours as they choose?

These are just some of the many questions that the Elementary Teaching Team has been busy researching and discussing at our Team Meetings. As teachers, we are becoming increasingly aware that many families are struggling to juggle extra-curricular activities and homework. Some children often dread homework, regarding it as something to be gotten through or done at the end of a long school day. Is *too much* homework or the *wrong kind* of homework having a negative effect on our children's attitudes towards learning?

Over the coming days and weeks the Elementary Teaching Team will be looking at variations with the issue of homework. Don't be surprised if you find your child coming home in the next

few weeks with different kinds of homework such as reading for-pleasure, or inquiry at home into a topic of interest, or pondering over a Science topic related to their current IPC unit of study, or indeed, no homework at all.

As part of our trial period we shall be asking the children for their opinions on the homework we give them, our aim being to make each individual child become more responsible and involved in 'choosing' their own homework tasks in consultation with their teacher. After the trial period we shall, of course, provide feedback on our observations and findings. We would be grateful, therefore, if you were to send in your views, feelings and opinions on the issue of homework in the Elementary School. Please email: [glenn.lawler@the-fis.de](mailto:glenn.lawler@the-fis.de).

Please be aware that we have the best interests of the child in mind and also looking at current educational research. As always, we would like to ask for your support, understanding and, above all, your patience with this exciting new venture.

---

### ***Re-registration for School Year 2010-2011***

Thank you very much to those families who have already returned the Re-registration Form for the coming 2010-11 school year which was attached to last week's newsletter. For your convenience, we attach it again, and would be grateful for an indication from members of the community at this stage if they intend to stay with the FIS next school year. We would appreciate the forms by Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> 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 school year 2010-2011 which will be mailed in June.

---

### ***BREAKING NEWS!!! Grade 7 Assembly***

Grade 7 has discovered the secret to eternal life and will be sharing their findings for the first and only time on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 8:45 in the Aula. Special guests, crime-busting, and much more are waiting for you! You don't want to miss the spectacular seven's as they entertain and delight the Middle School and their families. BE EARLY - limited seating available.

---

### ***Student Drop-off and Parking on Marie-Curie-Strasse***

With the last four 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 may be able to 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 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 and Farewell...***

We say goodbye this week to the Bell family, and welcome the Kumar Family. Best of luck with your learning, wherever in the world you might be!

---

## ***Fasching***

Many thanks to all the parents who came and helped to make Fasching@the-FIS such a fantastic festival. We saw some amazing costumes and were stunned by the dancing pirates we have on staff!

## ***Fasching Break***

Please remember there will be **no classes at the FIS** next Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February for the Fasching long weekend. Have a safe and happy long weekend. There will be no FIS newsletter next week.

---

## ***Music @ FIS***

### **Instrumental Music lessons**

Students interested in undertaking private instrumental lessons should see the attached flier from the MusiCeum Music School. Lessons are offered in a range of instruments and may be arranged by telephoning the number shown on the flier.

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](mailto:andreijen@yahoo.com).

---

## ***Charity @ FIS***

The **KG and ES bake sale** taught everyone a lot about making money – and gave Grade 2 students plenty of opportunity to practice their manners and their mathematics. We think they made over €500 for our orphanage in Romania.

Thinking of the tummies in HS and MS which might have missed out on the opportunity to purchase some of the delights on Wednesday, 6FM had their own cake sale today and have raised quite a lot of money in the face of stiff competition from the loads of Fasching treats, and which they will put towards the purchase of books for our Mongolian Bookbridge project.

And don't forget to **bring in your Pfandflaschen** – bottles for which you paid a deposit in the purchase price – for 9AC's Pfand 4 Food project for the Erlanger Tafel.

Thank you for your contributions and keep up the great work, everyone!

---

## ***Thank You!***

We would like to thank Moira Drexler for thinking of us, and being so generous with both her time and efforts. You may have spotted her hauling many items into the school, and as a result we are now in receipt of a very generous donation of fabric, still-life props, cushions, and paper. Grade Two already have plans for the fabric with their 'fashion' work, and Grade One are now spoilt for choice with fabrics with which to furnish their 'homes' in their forthcoming studies. We all look forward to being creative with these new resources!

***Art Department.***

---

## ***Theatre @ FIS***

### ***Costumes & Props FIS School Production 2010***

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.

---

### ***American Colleges Overseas Fair***

Don't forget the **American Colleges Overseas Fair** is on again at the FIS, on Wednesday evening, **24<sup>th</sup> 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

### ***Volunteer Presenters Needed***

Parents, would you like to share some information about your career with the 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 March 11 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](mailto: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](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 [paulineoflaherty@earthlink.net](mailto:paulineoflaherty@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 14<sup>th</sup> 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**

**International Fair Meeting**  
**Fasching**  
**Open PTO Meeting**  
**Newbies package**

**PTO Calendar**  
**Uniforms**  
**PTO Parents Contact List**

Dear Parents and Teachers,

### **International Fair Meeting**

We apologize for the inconvenience of having to cancel the meeting short-noticed. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2pm @ FIS Conference Room (1<sup>st</sup> floor)**.

### **Fasching - FRI Feb 12<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you to everybody who helped at this event!

### **Open PTO Meeting, TUE Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Our next Open PTO meeting will take place on TUE Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30pm. Refreshments and cookies will be provided by the PTO. 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 "Assessment: Changing The Way We Think"
3. Q&A with Petra Niemczyk

### **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](mailto:pto@the-fis.de).

### **Newbies Package**

English speaking doctors, shopping information, cultural advice, dos & donts, 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](mailto:pto@the-fis.de).

### **Uniforms**

If you are in the need for uniforms, please contact [pto@the-fis.de](mailto: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 would need some more parents for planning events as well as helping out on the actual dates. So far there are always the 20 “usual suspects” that are very engaged in the school activities, assisting, 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 year 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](mailto: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](mailto:pto@the-fis.de)

### **Open PTO Meeting, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb**

Please be aware that the PTO meeting will not be on THU, Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 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.

We appreciate your support!

Your PTO Board



**Next Two Weeks @ FIS**

Monday	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Rosenmontag – NO CLASSES</b>
--------	----------------------	---------------------------------

Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Faschingsdienstag/Shrove Tuesday – NO CLASSES</b>
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<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	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 08:45 – 10:45 Toddler Group, ES Music Room</li> <li>PTO – 14:00 1<sup>st</sup> International Fair Meeting, Conference Room</li> <li>Rose delivery day</li> </ul>
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	<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	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Girl scouts regular meeting</li> <li>PTO -- 18:30 Open Meeting</li> </ul>
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<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> <li>➤ 18:00 – 19:30 American Colleges Overseas Fair</li> </ul>
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 08:45 -- G7 Assembly</li> </ul>
Friday	26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	

---

**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.