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## The Franconian International School

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**The Fall-Autumn Break** will take place next week from 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October. School will resume on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Happy and safe Fall-Autumn Break to Everyone!**  
**See you in November.**

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

The start of our school year has run so smoothly and it's hard to believe that we have completed the first nine weeks of the school year already. At this point I would like to thank all of the students, families, faculty and staff for making it a great start to the school year during our first eight weeks. My best wishes to all of you for the one week fall break, whether you are staying in Germany or travelling to another country.

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### ***Parent Teacher Conferences***

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this past week, a great majority of the parents (and many of the students) attended conferences with the classroom and subject teachers. From all reports, they were highly successful, with much information coming from both parents and teachers, which will only benefit the children in the next part of our school year. We see the student, parent and teachers as partners in the learning process. The regular conferences are just one of the building blocks which we use to further the education of the children here at FIS - all children need a positive and supportive partnership between home and school.

We, the FIS team, would like to thank all the parents who attended. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to make contact with your child's teachers at any time to discuss any questions you might have related to your child's progress or some aspect of the academic programme. Please make a point of contacting us as soon as you have a concern, as many issues can often be resolved quickly by clear communication of standards and expectations. For academic issues, please contact the subject or homeroom/class teacher in the first instance.

Parents please note that we have also scheduled Parent -Teacher Conferences to be held at the close of our third academic quarter.

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## ***Parent Survey Results from June 2009***

The results from the FIS Parent Survey from School Year 08-09 have been compiled and are attached to this newsletter. In general there was only a small representation of the school community that took part in the survey (22%). The results showed strong support for the job the school is doing specifically in the area of academics. The top scores as marked by the respondents were quality of teaching, accessibility of technology, classroom learning environment, teacher concern for each student as an individual and effectiveness of the library. Areas of concern with the lowest scores on the survey were the school lunch service, After School Activity Program, homepage, and encouraging parents to actively support the school. The results of the survey, including comments extracted from the various different responses are attached for FIS parents to this newsletter mailing.

### ***Goodbye...***

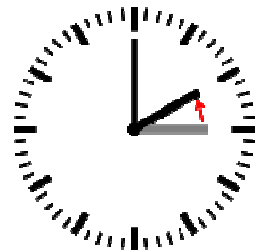
To the **Cox** family – Courtney (8TR), Kurt (5FW) and Tye (3JS) will be sadly missed by their friends at the FIS, as they head back to the USA. Thanks also to Tina Cox, our outgoing PTO President, whose contributions to the FIS have not gone unmarked. We also say goodbye to the **Hirai** family – Sotaro (6DM) leaves us for school back in Japan. All the best for your future learning, and keep in touch!

### ***And Welcome***

To the Khan family – Rida started this week in K5W. Welcome to the FIS!

### ***Change your clocks***

Spring forward and fall back as the adage goes. In the wee hours of the morning on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October, it will once again be time to move your clocks back from daylight saving to standard time. At 3:00 (am), clocks are moved back to 2:00am.



### ***Photos @ FIS***

Individual and class photos will be taken in the **first week back from break on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November** by D.i.g.i.t.@.l Schulfotografie. Processing time will be approximately two-three weeks, after which the pictures will be given to the students on a purchase or return option. If any families would like to have a special sibling sitting for brothers and sisters, please advise the Office at [info@the-fis.de](mailto:info@the-fis.de) or [petra.malessa@the-fis.de](mailto:petra.malessa@the-fis.de) by no later than **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**, and we will schedule this as well.

### ***FIS Philosophy and Objectives***

Transparency, cooperation and collaboration are the order of each and every day at the FIS. Teachers and students work in a mutually beneficial learning environment, with no academic secrets to success.

The school's Philosophy and Objectives make our learning community at the FIS unique. They are what we work and live by; and tell the world what the Franconian International School stands for. We have 37 nations represented under one roof here at the FIS and we are all united in one common purpose – educating our children in a caring, cooperative environment. We reprint our Philosophy and Objectives for you below:

## **FIS Philosophy and Objectives**

The Franconian International School educates students in an international environment according to high academic standards. It provides an atmosphere respectful of diverse cultures and promotes responsible global citizenship in the spirit of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The school is committed to promoting international and intercultural experiences for its students and maintaining its good reputation as an association.

The FIS serves primarily the international community of the Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg in northern Bavaria. Local students are also an important part of the learning community. The FIS encourages parents to actively support the school and the education of their children.

The school offers challenging programs in academics, information technology, sports and fine arts. At the FIS education goes beyond the acquisition of knowledge. It encourages curiosity and creativity. It stresses inquiry and self-discovery, the development and strengthening of individual talents, and the appreciation of democratic structures. It fosters open-mindedness, respect and sensitivity toward the feelings of others, and the development of a sense of fairness and integrity. The FIS aims to develop active and engaged life-long learners who exhibit effective communication and critical thinking skills.

The Franconian International School:

Educates students from all over the world regardless of race, sex, religion, nationality, or ethnic background, and helps them to reach their fullest potential intellectually, socially, and physically.

Provides highly qualified, motivated, caring teachers who support the school's philosophy and objectives.

Offers a structured program based on a curriculum which ensures that the students acquire the skills and techniques necessary to cope with the challenges of the future.

Provides appropriate resources in a safe, challenging, adaptable and supportive environment in which the student is an active participant.

Builds a team atmosphere, in which students, teachers, parents and administrators are partners in the learning and growing process.

Promotes a positive and reciprocal relationship with the host nation at the local, regional and national levels, which takes advantage of the educational opportunities of living in Germany and Europe.

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## ***Kindergarten and Elementary School Assembly***

We had our second Kindergarten and Elementary School Assembly for the year this week with some wonderful singing and some interesting presentations. The assembly ran very smoothly thanks to our very professional hosts Robert Windesheim and Fritz Eismann from Grade 4. The Kiga 5 classes sang their Halloween finger-puppet song beautifully. We laughed and applauded the Kiga 3 class as they sang and danced on the stage. The Grade 2 ESL children recited their autumn poems, and the ECO club (one of our After School Activity groups) reminded us about the importance of recycling paper. A special thanks to our two musical soloists, Alexandra Raab and Shihi Inui, who entertained us on the piano. The next assembly will be towards the end of November. The exact date will be announced in the Newsletter soon.

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### **Sport @ FIS - Senior Boys' Soccer**

On Wednesday afternoon during the Parent/Teacher conference, the FIS Senior Boys Soccer team was involved in a knockout cup competition against two Erlangen gymnasium teams. In the past we have not fared too well but on this occasion we did much better, drawing one game and just losing the other by a single goal. Both games could easily have been won and all of the boys performed admirably. Damien Lewke captained the team and gave excellent leadership to the other players. Cedric Wiegel was solid in goal and Yannick Lawler and Ben Eckersley were dominant in defence. In midfield Alex Czech and Caspian Lewke distributed the ball wisely to the front players. Four substitutes were on the team and all made appearances in both matches. Well done team!

Ian Armstrong, Coach

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### **New Playground Equipment @ FIS**

The new playground has been completed. We have five new pieces of climbing and swinging equipment that has been installed on the grassy field outside the Art and Music rooms. We are just waiting for the TÜV safety inspectors to give us the "Green Light" before the children are allowed to play on the equipment. It will then be available to all members of the school community.

The Elementary School teachers have developed some new rules for the new equipment and Mr Newton will be taking the children out during sports lessons to go over the rules with the children. The rules will be promoting the values of respecting, sharing and co-operating with each other – which are values we like to promote not just in the classrooms but also in the playground. Thanks to the ever-helpful PTO for their contribution towards funding for the new playground equipment.

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### **Winter Season**

As the Grade 2 ESL students told us in their poems in Assembly, the leaves are turning golden brown and the chilly season is upon us. So it's time to think about bringing a warm coat for play times. The **Kindergarten, Elementary and Middle School classes always go outside for recess time** unless it's pouring with rain, so all students should be well prepared for the cooler weather. Please remember to clearly label all jackets and items of clothing so that lost items can easily find their owner.

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### **Halloween**

Today, and indeed all of this week, we have been having Halloween fun at the FIS with ghosts, ghouls, vampires, princesses, faeries, witches and vampires all over the place. We had pumpkin carving, dressing up, and a surprise Trick or Treat. Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered to help with carving pumpkins, and a big thank you to the PTO and to all the parents who lent a helping hand for decorating the auditorium and also for organising the Trunk or Treating. The party and the pumpkin carving were wonderful and every one had a super time!

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### **Current Affairs @ FIS**

The Business & Management Classes in the High School would appreciate donations of current affairs magazines or journals (preferably in English) which students can use to research their IB projects. The students need to be able to analyse data from a range of different sources to get a more balanced view of the issues.

We already have *The Economist*. Thanks also to the **Lewke** family who have recently donated a subscription to the *Wall Street Journal*. We would appreciate journals such as the *Financial Times*, *The Ecologist*, *New Internationalist*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *London Review of Books*, *New Yorker* or any other broadsheet journal or magazine. Please contact Steven Fogarty [Steven.Fogarty@the-fis.de](mailto:Steven.Fogarty@the-fis.de) if you would like to help.

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## ***Toastmasters Youth Leadership Programme @ FIS***

Dear FIS Families,

The local Toastmasters Club is offering FIS students the opportunity to participate in a Youth Leadership Programme. The programme will focus on

- Developing communication and leadership skills,
- Techniques to overcome nervousness when speaking,
- Guidelines for presenting logical and convincing ideas, and
- Listening carefully and offering helpful advice.

The workshops will be interactive and students will have the opportunity to run sessions as part of the workshops. At this stage the programme is targeted at Grade 11s and 12s but Grade 9s and 10s will be welcome if spaces are available. Participation in the programme will count towards CAS (Community, Action and Service) hours for students.

The workshops will commence on either Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> of November for 8 weeks. They will run from 4pm to approximately 5.30pm. (To be confirmed). If you are interested in participating please contact [phillip.bird@the-fis.de](mailto:phillip.bird@the-fis.de) as soon as possible.

Thank you to Ms Whiting for coordination with Toastmasters, and for initiating the idea to invite Toastmasters to run the Youth Leadership Programme at the FIS.

Phillip Bird, Head of English

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### ***11<sup>th</sup> November is coming - St. Martin's Day***

Our PTO Event Committee has again organised the program. The celebration this year will significantly resemble last year's celebration. We will start the event off with a play about St. Martin. Following the play will be the symbolic sharing of the "Gänse"-bread. Then the lantern march will start. Traditionally this is guided by "St. Martin" on his horse and everyone sings the traditional St. Martin's Day songs accompanied by volunteer guitar players.

Please note that **Kindergarten children will not be making lanterns** in school this year for the Martins parade. Those wishing to carry a lantern in the lantern walk can either buy their lanterns themselves or take the opportunity over the break next week to get really creative and make their own at home.

We are looking for someone with a **horse to guide this parade** and we are looking for **guitar players**. Please contact the PTO Event Committee at [edonze23@hotmail.com](mailto:edonze23@hotmail.com) if you would like to help us make this evening even more memorable for the children and parents.

Many thanks in advance for your help!

PTO Event Committee

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### ***Signing in***

For the safety and security of the whole FIS community, we would like to remind families of the need for **all adults in the building to sign in at the Reception Desk** and **wear a visitor's badge**. The only exception to this is if they are briefly entering the school at drop off or pick-up time to drop off or pick up a child. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

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### ***Contact Details – do we know where you are?***

With the new school year, one of the things which may have been overlooked is advising the Office of changes to your contact details. We may need to be able to contact you urgently. Please let us know if there are any changes to your contact details. Please feel free to check

with the Office (or by email to [info@the-fis.de](mailto:info@the-fis.de)) to make sure the contact information we have for you is correct.

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### ***Pick ups***

**Elementary School** parents who are **picking their children up at the end of the school day** are asked to do so **at 15:40** from the duty staff member **in the Cafeteria**. They need to be signed off so that we can be sure we know where your children are. Please also remind your children that they need to wait for you in the cafeteria. If parents or carers cannot avoid being early, please **wait for your child/ren in the Cafeteria**. Younger children of waiting parents are most welcome to play outside in the playground, with appropriate parental supervision. Children are not allowed to run or play in the Aula while waiting – their noise disturbs other students still working – High School is not dismissed until 15:40 on Fridays – and they could hurt themselves or damage expensive equipment there.

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### ***Health @ FIS***

**Fifth Disease** There have been no reported cases of Fifth Disease (also called Slap Cheek or Slapped Cheek or correctly, erythema infectiosum) in the school this week. Many thanks to the community for your cooperation.

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### ***FIS Yearbook 2008-09***

The yearbook 08-09 has arrived hot off the presses from the printers. Your children have been handed their copies this week. If you didn't order your copy last school year, you can still buy one at the Office for only €20 – while stocks last!

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**Thank You** - To the 'red car' for your prompt attention to my notice in the newsletter. Calie Amini

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### ***FIS Toddler Group***

The FIS Toddler Group is open to all families with children aged 0 – ca. 3 years old. We meet on Thursday mornings from 9:00 – 10:45 in the Music room (room no. 1.59). Please remember to sign in and out at the main Reception.

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### ***Yoga/Pilates***

Lynn Walton will be teaching a YOGA/Pilates class on Wednesdays at 8:45 starting after break in addition to the Friday Pilates class. Contact Lynn for further info @ [lynnalec@aol.com](mailto:lynnalec@aol.com).

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### **Golf**

FIS Community members are welcome to come to play golf every Wednesday at 10:30, followed by a relaxing lunch afterwards. Beginners welcome. E-mail Linda Eviston [reiki@energy-healing.eu](mailto:reiki@energy-healing.eu)

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### **WANTED - HOUSE FOR RENT**

Family of 5 moving from Belgium in the first week of January 2010, looking for a property to rent or buy, which has a minimum of 4 bedrooms, in the Herzogenaurach or Erlangen areas.  
Please contact: 0162 259 8177.

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### **PTO**

The next PTO Board meeting will be on 4<sup>th</sup> November, and from 8:45 to 9:00 parents will be invited to join the beginning of the meeting to get updated or ask questions.

For any questions please contact us at [pto@the-fis.de](mailto:pto@the-fis.de).



## First Week Back @ The FIS – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 15:45 – 16:45 ASAP</li> <li>➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CP-CE</li> <li>➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CM2</li> </ul>
Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Volleyball, Girls Practice</li> </ul>
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 08:45 PTO Board Meeting</li> <li>➤ 08:45 – 9:45 Yoga / Pilates classes, Gym</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 16:45 ASAP</li> <li>➤ 15:50 – 16:50 French school, CM1</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Basketball Junior Girls practice</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Soccer Senior Boys practice</li> </ul>
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 8:45 – 10:45 Toddler Group, ES Music Room (1.59)</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 16:45 ASAP</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 16:45 MUN, Grade 12 Home Room</li> <li>➤ 15:45 – 17:00 Soccer, Junior Boys practice</li> </ul>
Friday	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 08:45 – 09:45 Pilates classes, Gym</li> </ul>

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**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](mailto: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](http://www.the-fis.de)) a day or two after publication and will remain there until the end of the school year.

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**Coming up:            Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November – St Martin's Day Celebrations**

And what is happening @ FIS on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> December? (Too late for Thanksgiving and too early for Hogmanay.....)