



BERLIN BRANDENBURG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# THE KALEIDOSCOPE

No 23 \_ 13 March 2009

## CALENDAR DATES

Friday, 13 March	Grade 4 Opera "The Magic Flute"
Monday, 16 to Friday, 20 March	Book Week
Tuesday, 17 March	Usborne Books - Book Order/Sale from 8 am to 4 pm
Wednesday, 18 March	Human Rights Club Auction
Thursday, 19 March	Sports Shop open from 1 to 3 pm
Monday, 23 to Friday, 27 March	La Fête de la Francophonie
Monday, 23 March	MS Trip Information Evening at 6 pm
Wednesday, 25 March	ES Principal's Coffee at 8.15 am
Wednesday, 25 March	MS Instrumental and Small Ensemble Evening at 6.30 pm in the MPR
Thursday, 26 March	Sports Shop open from 11 am to 2 pm
Thursday, 26 March	Grade 10 IB/High School Diploma Evening at 5.30 pm
Thursday, 26 March	Middle School Party at 6 pm on the MS floor
Thursday, 26 March	IB Art Show at 7 pm in the Heizhaus
Tuesday, 31 March	ES Student-Led Conferences
Wednesday, 1 April	Parent Consultation Day in the Sports Hall
Thursday, 2 & 30 April	Sports Shop open from 1 to 3 pm
Thursday, 23 April	Sports Shop open from 11 am to 2 pm

# NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Richard Bartlett, High School Principal

## Parent Consultation Day

As you know from the calendar Parent Consultation Day is on Wednesday, 1 April. Following very positive feedback about the arrangements in November it will again take place in the Sports Hall. Students will, as at previous occasions, make appointments on behalf of their parents and we are very happy if students join their parents at these meetings. When parents understand the progress of a student, both the successes and challenges, it forms an excellent basis from which to support your child in his/her school career and is thus an excellent investment of your time. I would urge you to attend this event if at all possible.

## Grade 12 Spirit Week



Visitors to the school could not have helped noticing our 12th graders this week. As a light relief from the ongoing stress of IB exam preparation they decided to dress in a different style each day this week. The plans for each day were kept secret and their surprise appearance caused many smiles throughout the school.

## Trip Meetings

In the past week we have had trip meetings for grade 9 Outward Bound to the river Elbe, grade 11 Physics to Amsterdam, and grade 10 to London. Thanks to the parents who attended these meetings as good communication and mutual understanding of purpose of such trips contributes greatly to the success of such programmes. Thanks also to the teachers who take the time to arrange these trips for the students. It is, as you can imagine, a lot of work.

## Continuing to Learn

30 employees of the BBIS community are spending today, this weekend, and some days in their summer vacation on a training course here at the school. The focus of the course (which is run by the Institute of Education in London) is on developing the leadership skills needed for heads of departments or sections. In a growing school such as ours such opportunities are very important to ensure that we not only grow bigger as a school, but better. I am delighted that the maximum number of participants possible are giving up their time and making the effort to learn and grow in the same way as we encourage our students to. That our faculty and staff take their jobs so seriously is testament to their professional approach to working at BBIS. As many High School teachers are involved in this you may find that your child had a substitute teacher for one or more of their classes today. I hope you agree that it was for a worthwhile reason.

### 2009 GISST Varsity Girls Basketball Tournament: Advance Notice

We are proud to be the GISST basketball tournament on Friday, 27 and Saturday, 28 March. This is only possible because of the efforts of our PE department, the Housing Coordinator Ms Audrey Schneider, and the families who agreed to host the visiting students. Thanks to all of these.

We are entering an A and a B team in this 10 team tournament. Our first games are at 1.00 pm on Friday (both teams) in the Sports Hall against Hannover and BIS.

At 3.40 pm we play against Leipzig and Frankfurt. On Saturday games begin at 9.00 am and the tournament finishes at 3.30 pm. Come and cheer our teams on!

If you have comments, questions or suggestions concerning the High School please contact me on 033203 8036-0, email [richard.bartlett@bbis.de](mailto:richard.bartlett@bbis.de), or just drop in.

## NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ben Kestner, Middle School Principal

### Trip Information Evening and Permission Slips

A reminder that the trip information evening will be on Monday, 23 March at 6 pm. This is an opportunity for you to meet the chaperones on the trip and ask questions. I have also sent out by email and in the capable hands of your son or daughter, the trip information sheets and permission slips. Please sign these and try to get them back to your son or daughter's homeroom teacher as soon as possible. More detailed information will be given at and after the information evening.

### Middle School Party

The next Middle School party will be on Thursday, 26 March at 6pm. It will be held on the Middle School floor. There are two other events at BBIS that evening. One is the grade 10 IB information evening in the Multi-Purpose Room and the IB art show at 7 pm in the Heizhaus. This could be a great opportunity to drop your son or daughter off for a party and then visit the IB art show. Your son or daughter may also attend the art show, but would have to be accompanied by an adult.

### Instrumental Concert

There will be an informal concert for students who learn instruments at BBIS on Thursday, 2 April at 15:15 in the Multi-purpose Room. This is a great opportunity for our students to perform. Please come along and support if you can.

### Ben Kestner's Blog

A reminder that you can read about my current thoughts on education matters on my blog: [www.benkestner.wordpress.com](http://www.benkestner.wordpress.com). If you have any comments or questions concerning the Middle School please contact me on 033203 8036-768, email [ben.kestner@bbis.de](mailto:ben.kestner@bbis.de) , or just drop in.

# NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Camille Du Aime, Elementary School Principal

In October, the grade 4 students took a standardized test called the [International Schools' Assessment \(ISA\)](#) which is prepared by the Australian Council for International Research (ACER). BBIS has been administering this test for four years now as a means of gathering information about our school and comparing it to similar international schools. The results have arrived and I invite any parents who are interested in seeing their child's report to set up an appointment with me, so that I can explain how to interpret them. It is important to keep in mind that these kinds of tests provide a snapshot of a student at that moment in time, whereas assessment practices at BBIS are embedded in our instruction so that as we continuously receive information about a child's learning, we can respond with the best teaching for that child. Since there is such a delay between the time students take the test, and when we receive the results, we don't find it a very useful assessment tool at an individual basis. At best the ACER tests provide us with a group profile and perhaps some patterns over time that will help us reflect on our programme. For this reason, we analyze how students do to see if there are any messages for the school on a wider basis.

The overall conclusion is that BBIS 4th graders are performing within the average range compared to other "like" schools in all categories that are tested: reading, writing and math. This result has been consistent across the years that the school has participated in this test. This year, the organization compared us to "like schools" in group 2 i.e. "schools that have between 26% and 40% of students from an English speaking background. In previous years we were placed in group 1 which has "25% or less students from an English speaking background". This may have affected our results when we compare across years and may not have been the correct placement as we calculated that we have 19% English background students.

Our students scored higher on the exposition/argument writing task than on the narrative/fiction writing task. We are pleased that our students do well in this, as it demonstrates an ability to organize their thoughts and express a point of view clearly. This may reflect our school's emphasis on critical thinking and inquiry, as well as the number of opportunities students have to write essays and persuasive letters.

Our reading scores were lower on the average than our writing or math scores. This may be an area that we will want to devote more class time to. Last year we adopted *Strategies That Work*, which is a text that helps make explicit the kind of thinking good readers do as they interact with the meaning of the book. This supports all teachers as they provide reading instruction. Our purchase over the summer of hundreds of books for each class library is also likely to have a positive effect in terms of providing attractive books to tempt even reluctant readers.

One area that we want to watch is that this year's grade 4 boys performed lower than girls in reading and writing. This was not true in previous years and may reflect this particular group of students rather than be a factor influenced by the school. However, we will monitor this to see if it develops into a trend.

Our math scores were average and a question by question analysis did not elicit any helpful conclusions. It was important to note that individual scores in math showed great variance. This indicates that students who have the ability are supported and extended by our programme and are therefore able to excel. Students who struggle with the subject are getting the support they need through differentiation and our student support services.

When analyzing the results we believe it is important to keep in mind that being compared to “like schools” does not control all the factors that make this a fair test. One important area is the amount of time that schools devote to preparing for this kind of test. At BBIS we don’t spend any time taking practice tests, doing similar problems in preparation or using the test’s standards in preparing our lesson plans. Some schools do all of the above, which gives their students an advantage on the test. We feel that it is more important to follow our own curriculum which we have developed within the guidelines of the PYP. We would be happy if we out-performed other schools, but this is not of enough importance to take time away from our true mission which is to offer our students “a challenging, comprehensive education within a diverse, respectful, caring and encouraging community of learners, enabling them to develop the skills necessary to achieve their full potential”. I welcome any questions you may have about this.

Next week is [Book Week](#) which will culminate with a book character parade on Friday. Please help your child choose a character from a book (movie characters OK if the book came out first!). Please also have them bring the book (or a print out of the cover) to school with them as we will share these. There are also two opportunities to buy books next week. On Tuesday parents can buy from the Usborne book display between 8:00-15:00. On Wednesday and Thursday the Story Time booksellers will be set up between 10:00 and 15:00 and each class will have a chance to go and browse. You can either send in money with your child (an average book costs around 5 Euros) or ask your child to put their choice(s) on reserve so you can look at it later and confirm their choice.

The [grade 4 “The Magic Flute” productions](#) (as adapted and written by Brent Lund Bruning) were fabulous! Congratulations to both casts and to the teachers for supporting their students so they were able to deliver such dramatic and musically pleasing performances!

#### Upcoming Events in the Elementary School:

Mon – Fri, March 16-20	Book Week
Fri, March 20	Book Character Parade
Tue, March 24	EC 5 Musical performances (for EC 5 parents only)
Wed, March 25	Principal’s Coffee (8:15 in my office)
Tue, March 31	Student Led Conferences (10:00-17:00) – <a href="#">No School</a>

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me on 033203 8036-125, email [camille.duaine@bbis.de](mailto:camille.duaine@bbis.de) or simply drop by my office for a visit. Parents are always welcome!

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES NEWS

Dr. Christina Limbird, Head of Department

### CAREER DAY - 4 MARCH 2009

Student Support Services organized a Career Day on Wednesday, March 4 during the school day for High School students. We invited professionals from the community to lead small round-table discussions with students, discussing the details of their professions. Our guests represented the following professions: Law, Business, Medicine, Interior Design, Journalism, International Relations, Architecture, Art & Design, Fashion Design and Science/Research. Informative and inspiring presentations and discussions took place in the format of workshops in the BBIS High School classrooms.

The students were given the opportunity to ask individual questions about professional training, university study and future job situation, in order to gain a sense of the real life situation in these professional areas.

Hopefully, participation in the workshops helped assist the students in acquiring a view into work life and deciding on career orientation. All students in grades 9-12 were able to participate in Career Day.

The participation of the administration, many teachers and the support of the PTA and the administrative assistants helped make the event a success.

Leslie Silverman Kamphausen  
College Counsellor

## FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

### March 2009

March 31:

Universities and colleges should aim to have sent decisions on all applications received by January 15.  
[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

SAT registration deadline for May 2 test (JFK)

### May 2009

May 2:

SAT reasoning and subject test at JFK School

May 5:

Outstanding replies from applicants declined by default where the last decision from universities and colleges was received by 31 March (except those living overseas and Extra). [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

May 5:

SAT registration deadline for June 6 test (JFK)

May 9:

Outstanding decisions from universities and colleges on applications received by 15 January are rejected by default. [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

### June 2009

June 6:

SAT reasoning and subject test at JFK School

June 15:

Contact the JFK School if your child is interested in taking the October 2009 PSAT/NMSQT. Reservations should be made by latest August 2008 with Mr Blount at JFK School or by contacting Ms Kamphausen at [leslie.kamphausen@bbis.de](mailto:leslie.kamphausen@bbis.de)

June 30:

Last date for receipt of applications for immediate consideration. Those received after this date held for clearing. [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

Please see Mrs Kamphausen in Room 2404 if you need any other information  
(Hours: Mon/Wed 8.30-14.30, Fri 9.00-12.30) or send an email to [leslie.kamphausen@bbis.de](mailto:leslie.kamphausen@bbis.de)

# BOARDING SCHOOL NEWS

Whitney Sterling, Head of Boarding

[We have been up and running for 6 months!](#)

We are delighted to report that all our students have managed the transition from their lives in their home countries to being members of BBIS Boarding School. The students can be proud of their favourable school reports and of the fact that they have managed life and school in Berlin and Brandenburg so wonderfully. With spring around the corner we are looking forward to enjoying our courtyard together during longer daylight hours.

[A request for help: A place to stay during spring break for two Korean boys and a possible two week internship for each of the boys](#)

Two of our Korean boys (17 and 18 years old) could use your help. Unfortunately, we were informed this week that the place they were going to stay at during the April break will not be available. Their lives would be very enriched if BBIS families could take them in during spring break from Friday, April 3, to Sunday, April 19, 2009. In addition they would benefit greatly if they could complete a short two week "Practicum" at a doctors office or a hospital. Both of the boys are planning to study medicine. If you can offer something or if you have any suggestions, please send me an e-mail at: [whitney.sterling@bbis.de](mailto:whitney.sterling@bbis.de) or call me at: 0178 8036 020.

R. Whitney Sterling  
Head of Boarding School

## SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

[LINK TO THE PTA NEWSLETTER](#)

<http://www.bbis.de/content/new-events/index2.htm>

### ECA PROGRAMME — TERM 3

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

I hereby would like to inform you about the [Extracurricular Activity \(ECA\) programme for term 3](#) at BBIS. Our staff members have been busy thinking and creating new activities for our student body. All this information will be put together into the ECA booklet term 3.

The programme looks very exciting and especially with the days getting longer and warmer, we will be able to start using the outdoor facilities again. I therefore hope that your son/daughter will find something of interest within our programme during this term.

#### [Registration](#)

In the past some students have not gone through our system of signing up. In these cases activity leaders were just contacted or students just showed up at the start of the activity. I would like to stress upon the importance of using our sign up procedure. This way we can allocate places fairly and more importantly, we then know which children are on campus and where they are. Even if your activity continues from term 2, it is important that you use the registration sign up form. Each form should be signed by a parent/guardian.

### Important dates

ECA booklet to the students	Friday, March 20
Deadline for registration	Wednesday, March 25
ECA allocation to students	Wednesday, April 1
Start of term 3 activities	Monday, April 20

It is our aim to provide a programme that suits the needs of our students body and so if you have a great idea for an after school activity, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Joost Langendonck  
ECA Coordinator  
Email: [joost.langendonck@bbis.de](mailto:joost.langendonck@bbis.de)

### BOOK WEEK PROGRAMME – 16 – 20 March

#### Monday, 16 March

DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)  
Puppet Show for EC (Abigail) & Grade I (Kerrigan & Rico)

#### Tuesday, 17 March

DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)  
Usborne Book seller (for parents only)

#### Wednesday, 18 March

DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)  
Storytime Books (Elementary classes)  
Puppet Show for EC (Jane, Katie) & Grade I (Elly)

#### Thursday, 19 March

Storytime Books (Elementary classes): Each class has booked a time to visit the display. Children can purchase books themselves or they ask for them to be put aside for their parents to check later on. The booksellers will reserve them for a day.

#### Friday, 20 March

Book Parade: Children and staff are asked to dress up as a storybook character. There will be a parade around the school, in and out of classrooms, perhaps even the MS/HS. Students should bring a copy or printout of the book where the character came from.



### HUMAN RIGHTS CLUB AUCTION

The Human Rights Club Auction is right around the corner on **March 18**. All proceeds will go to the Bolivia project and the auction will be held during High School assembly. We are asking for donations for items to auction off. Here are some ideas: Art, Music, Books, Cakes and baked goods, Lessons (music, language, dance, yoga...). Anything really – that you think would sell! If you plan to bring a cake/baked goods please send an email to Jenn Wood: [jenn.wood@bbis.de](mailto:jenn.wood@bbis.de). Please bring all donations to room 2418.

The Human Rights Club

## NEWS FROM THE FRENCH TEACHERS

The French department is organizing “La Fête de la Francophonie” for the first year. It’s a worldwide celebration of the French-speaking world.

It will take place from the **23 March to the 27 March** with different events all week long. Indeed, we are planning on sending some French learners to teach elementary kids, there will be exhibitions of students’ works, a pétanque tournament, bake sales, musical events etc. We would also like to have a fashion show or exhibition about costumes from different countries in which French is the home language.

For that we would need different outfits. So if you have some and are willing to lend them for this special event, please contact the French department. Your “beau geste” will be sincerely appreciated. We will take great care of your belongings and return them right after the show/exhibition.

Soazig Purenne and Julien Le Sourd  
[soazig.purenne@bbis.de](mailto:soazig.purenne@bbis.de) & [julien.lesourd@bbis.de](mailto:julien.lesourd@bbis.de)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL AND SMALL ENSEMBLE EVENING

Middle School is organizing a first time ever Instrumental and Small Ensemble evening. It will be a fun, informal venue of sharing musical talents with each other. Come to support and enjoy the music!

When: **Wednesday, March 25, 18:30**; Where: MPR

Anna Kovacs  
MS Music Teacher

## 2009 GISST VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

This tournament is hosted by BBIS on **Friday and Saturday, 27 & 28 March**. Please come and support our girls at the tournament! We are entering an A and a B team in this 10 team tournament.

Our first game is at 13.00 on Friday (both teams) in the Sports Hall against Hannover and Berlin International School. Please feel free to bring your classes to the Sports Hall if you want. Second games are at 15.40 against Leipzig and Frankfurt. On Saturday games begin at 9.00 and the tournament finishes at 15.30. All support is welcome! Come and cheer our teams on! Refreshments are available on both days.

Steve Vandersteen  
Athletic Director

## BBIS SUMMER CAMP 2009 - 10-14 August 2009 and 17-21 August 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Visitors,

I just wanted to inform you that we are all set to receive your registration forms for the BBIS Summer Camp 2009. We have updated the website which now includes all the relevant information like general information, specific camp information, terms and conditions and a registration form.

Please go to: [http://www.bbis.de/content/bbis-community/summer\\_camp\\_site.htm](http://www.bbis.de/content/bbis-community/summer_camp_site.htm)

### Promotion:

We will now continue to promote our camps and I would like to ask you to help us to spread the word about our programme within your own community. This has worked fantastically last year and we hope it will be so again this year.

Last year several parents offered to advertise our camps within their working environment (companies and embassies for example). If this is possible for you, please contact us so we can provide you with the relevant information.

### Registration:

I am happy to tell you that the first forms have arrived and that the interest for our camps literally comes from around the world. If you have any further queries please check our website or contact me at school.

Kind regards,

Joost Langendonck  
BBIS Summer Camp Coordinator  
Email: [summercamp@bbis.de](mailto:summercamp@bbis.de)  
Phone: 033203 8036-302 (PE office)

## BBIS WORLD CHALLENGE PROGRAMME 2009/2010



BBIS World Challenge  
Invites

All High School students for the next academic year

We call upon all those of you who are adventurous, want a challenge and would like to share a life altering experience with life skills and memories gained that you will never forget.



We are delighted to announce that we are launching a very exciting school programme for students to research and then lead their own expedition to Kenya in June 2010.

A World Challenge in Kenya provides students with a huge variety of opportunities and challenges in a stunning part of the world. For the acclimatisation phase the team could consider exploring Kenya's spectacular Rift Valley, climbing the extinct volcanic peaks of Mount Longonot or the Menengai Crater and visiting the beautiful lakes of Naivasha and Nakuru, teeming with wildlife. There are a numerous parks and reserves in Kenya, home to a vast range of animals including the 'big five', and teams will have the opportunity of seeing these beautiful creatures close at hand.

The acclimatisation phase is followed by the more challenging part of the expedition; a longer trek invariably up Mount Kenya, the highest mountain in Kenya and the second highest mountain in Africa after Kilimanjaro. It is a starkly beautiful mountain with its magnificent cliffs and glaciers, tarns and alpine meadows.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact myself or Graham Maltby at the school via email or phone.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Ben Dutton  
Email: [ben.dutton@bbis.de](mailto:ben.dutton@bbis.de)  
Phone: 033203 8036-0 or -302

Graham Maltby  
[graham.maltby@bbis.de](mailto:graham.maltby@bbis.de)  
033203 8036-0 or -315

### „SAMMELDRACHE“

The school needs your old/empty printer cartridges. We need as many as we can get because each container of cartridges gives us points, and when we have enough points we trade these in for electronic equipment.

All types of cartridges are welcome. Please send your empty printer cartridges to the IT Department.

Harry Klooster  
Head of IT Department

