



BERLIN BRANDENBURG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

THE KALEIDOSCOPE

No 16 _ 16 January 2009

CALENDAR DATES

Monday, 12 to Tuesday, 20 January	Mock Exams Grade 12
Thursday, 22 January	Sports Shop open from 1 to 3 pm
Thursday, 29 January	Sports Shop open from 11 am to 2 pm
Friday, 30 January	ES Report Cards go home
Thursday, 5 February	Sports Shop open from 1 to 3 pm
Wednesday, 11 January	ES Principal's Coffee at 8.15 am
Wednesday, 11 February	Informal Musical Soirée
Thursday, 12 February	ES Open Day from 8 to 10 am
Thursday, 12 February	Sports Shop open from 11 am to 2 pm
Friday, 13 February	MS/HS Report Cards go home
Mo, 16 to Fri, 20 February	February Break – No School

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Richard Bartlett, High School Principal

Homework

Homework is set in most schools and students are accustomed to this. Its purpose is to supplement the work students do in school, not replace it. Particularly in the IB Diploma years the amount of work that has to be covered requires that students need to do additional work outside of the classroom. The homework set should be limited to that which is needed to be done and should still allow for a good study/life balance. Because homework should not be set “automatically”, but rather when it is needed we do not have a homework timetable that describes exactly which subjects will have homework on a particular day. Also much homework is associated with long-term projects so flexibility is required. The Student Handbook explains the current guidelines.

Homework will be assigned in accordance with individual student needs and classroom goals. In grades 9 and 10, this increases to 20 minutes. In grades 11 and 12 no particular amount is specified but the requirements of the courses need to be met. Homework diaries are issued to students in grades 9-12. Parents are asked to check these diaries regularly and at the homeroom teacher's request sign them on a weekly basis.

If you as a parent feel that your child is getting either too much or too little homework please encourage them to keep a record of the time spent in their homework diary, and then bring it to the homeroom teacher or me. We want students to remember: homework is important, but not as important as a healthy, balanced life!

Assemblies: an Invitation

Every two weeks the High School has an assembly. Our assemblies are an important feature of our school's life. They act as one of the main ways by which we create our positive reflective ethos and promote the values of our mission and that of the IBO. I am grateful to all colleagues, who take turns in providing the focus of the assembly each week and who make a positive contribution to them. In fact, all colleagues make a tremendous contribution through their presence and active participation that serves as a positive role model. Assemblies contain information, entertainment, and a shared experience in which students very often take a leading role. They are also often a lot of fun.

If you would like to attend such an assembly please let me know and I will ensure that there is space for you in the hall.

If you have comments or questions or suggestions concerning the High School please contact me on 033203 80 360, email richard.bartlett@bbis.de or just drop in.

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ben Kestner, Middle School Principal

The Learning Environment

It is very important that all students feel that they can learn and discover at school within an encouraging and respectful environment. In the Middle School, we have come up with a document which outlines the behaviours we would like to see in class. This document was put together by teachers and students. All students have a version of this in their planners. Here is an excerpt. The full document can be found on the website.

Students can help themselves and others to reach their full potential in class by:

- Arriving to class on time in a positive frame of mind
- Making sure you have the correct equipment ready for class
- Entering the learning environment respectfully and settling down quickly
- Respecting and encouraging others in class
- Being supportive and caring to others
- Giving others time to speak and listening carefully
- Using supplies, materials and tools sensibly and safely
- Cleaning up and leaving the class as others would like to find it
- Leaving the class sensibly and safely

School Trips

I sent out an email to all Middle School parents giving information about the school trip dates in May. In order to avoid clashes of dates I would like to give you the exact dates of the trips.

Grade 6 will be going to Bamberg in Germany from Monday 4th to Friday 8th of May.

Grade 7 will be going to Amsterdam from Monday 4th to Friday 8th of May.

Grade 8 will be going to Croatia from Tuesday 5th to Saturday the 9th of May.

We have already starting booking accommodation and travel and the staff chaperone teams are also being put together. As always, I will keep you informed of progress in planning so that you can have input and comments as we go along. We will of course be having information evenings for you and I will let you know the dates of these as soon as possible.

If you have any comments or questions concerning the Middle School please contact me on 033203 8036-768, email ben.kestner@bbis.de, or just drop in.

NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Camille Du Aime, Elementary School Principal

We've been busy this week making big [picture plans for the 2009-2010 year](#). At this point we are planning to add another section of Gr. 4, but otherwise be stable. There are several openings so I'm busy reading CVs and interviewing people. Lots of prospective parents are coming for tours of the campus as well. If you have a sibling that you are planning to start at BBIS next year, please make sure you speak with Teresa Reichelt so she knows to hold a space!

Many of our teachers have [Professional Development opportunities](#) coming up. There is the AGIS conference in Hannover, at which only German International Schools attend, so it is a great chance to network and meet people who are working in similar schools. The sessions are organized by teachers for teachers (BBIS teachers are offering 10 different sessions) which makes this a very practical conference. Later in February the Elementary School teachers who are new to the PYP will do a two day in-service called "Making the PYP Happen". These teachers had several introductory mornings before school started but now that they know their students they can really grapple with some of the meatier aspects of the programme. Finally, in mid-March the staff who hold positions of responsibility (Heads of Dept, Grade Level Coordinator, etc.) have an opportunity to participate in a workshop designed for "Middle Leaders". The schools commitment to on-going professional development results in better teachers who are motivated and informed about current practices. It's also a big drawing card when we are trying to attract new staff.

Three Ways to Help the School

These professional development sessions sometimes require teachers to miss some of their class times so we need [substitute teachers](#). If you are interested in being a substitute teacher, please contact Felice or the Human Resources Department (Simone Seglitz or Uta Collingwood) to find out what kinds of documents are needed. A teaching credential is not required, but tax cards, proof of health insurance etc. is needed. If you don't want to go through all of that, but would be willing to volunteer on an occasional basis, just let Felice know. It's sometimes a struggle finding appropriate cover.

Many parents use e-mail to get important messages to their child's homeroom teacher. This system works very well except for two instances:

1. If the teacher is absent, no one checks their in-box. For this reason, could you please add Felice as a recipient on any message you send which involves a change of normal routine.
2. You can't count on E-mails sent after 12:00 getting read before 3:00. If you have a late message that involves a change of transport, please don't rely on e-mail and call instead.

Felice calls each home if the child is absent and the Homeroom teacher doesn't know why. However, sometimes the child arrives at school after the attendance has been sent to the office. Please, if your child arrives late (after 8:05) have them go directly to Felice's office to check in. Thank you!

Only three parents showed up for the Principal's coffee on Friday, but we had some interesting discussions. Most of them had even read the article I attached last week! The next Coffee will be at 8:15 on Wednesday, February 11th. Hope to see you then, if not before.

Upcoming Events in the Elementary School:

Fri, Jan 30	Report Cards go home
Thu, Feb 12	Open Day (parents visit classes)
Wed, Feb 11	Principal's Coffee (8:15 in her office)
Mo-Fri, Feb 16-20	Vacation

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me on 033203 8036-125, email 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

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

January 2009

January 24:

SAT reasoning and subject test at JFK School

February 2009

Mid-year reports due for most American universities March 2009

March 2009

March 4

Career Day at BBIS

March 31:

Universities and colleges should aim to have sent decisions on all applications received by January 15.

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

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

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.

June 30:

Last date for receipt of applications for immediate consideration. Those received after this date held for clearing. 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

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

LINK TO THE PTA NEWSLETTER

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

ADVERTISEMENT/DONATION FOR BBIS YEARBOOK 2008/2009

The Yearbook team is currently working on this year's edition of our BBIS Yearbook.

As the Yearbook is being read by the entire school community and also by new families arriving in Berlin, it is an excellent opportunity to place your [advertisement](#) in the Yearbook and thus make your company or services known to a wider public. If you are interested in placing an ad in the yearbook you are very welcome to do so.

If you would like to support the printing of the coming Yearbook by making a [donation](#) you are very welcome to do so, too. As in previous years, donations are announced in the Yearbook. You will receive a donation receipt for your tax-return.

If you place an ad or make a donation you will get the Yearbook free of charge. Please contact me by phone (033203 8036-184) or by email (tamara.hager@bbis.de) if you have any questions or comments.

BBIS Yearbook Ad -Technical Data

Print submissions:	PDF, TIFF, EPS
Pictures:	Minimum resolution 300 dpi
Printing colours:	CMYK/Euroscale
Data media:	CD-ROM, DVD
E-mail transmission:	Up to 10 MB maximum

Formats and Prices

Whole page: 750 EUR*

a) 1/1 portrait 190 x 280 mm within type area

b) 1/1 portrait with bleed: 210 x 297 mm + 2 mm trim on all sides

Half page landscape: 400 EUR*

a) 1/2 landscape 190 x 140 mm within type area

b) 1/2 landscape with bleed: 210 x 148 mm + 2 mm trim on all sides

Quarter page portrait: 200 EUR*

a) 1/4 portrait 90 x 140 mm within type area

b) 1/4 portrait with bleed: 105 x 148 mm + 2 mm trim on all sides

* All prices exclusive of value added tax

Send to

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Phone: 033203 8036-184

Fax: 033203 8036-121

Deadline for submission: 15 April 2009

Tamara Hager
PR, Marketing, Fundraising

„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

