



B E R L I N B R A N D E N B U R G I N T E R N A T I O N A L S C H O O L

THE KALEIDOSCOPE

No 21 _ 27 February 2009

CALENDAR DATES

Fri, 27 Feb to Sun, 1 March	Senior Maths Contest in Munich
Thu, 12 & Fri, 13 March	Grade 4 Opera "The Magic Flute"
Mo, 16 to Fri, 20 March	Book Week
Tuesday, 17 March	Usborne Books - Book Order/Sale from 8 am to 4 pm
Mo, 23 to Fri, 27 March	La Fête de la Francophonie
Wednesday, 25 March	ES Principal's Coffee at 8.15 am
Wednesday, 25 March	MS Musical Soiree at 6 pm in the MPR
Thursday, 26 March	IB Information Evening
Thursday, 26 March	IB Art Show

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Richard Bartlett, High School Principal

Trip Meetings

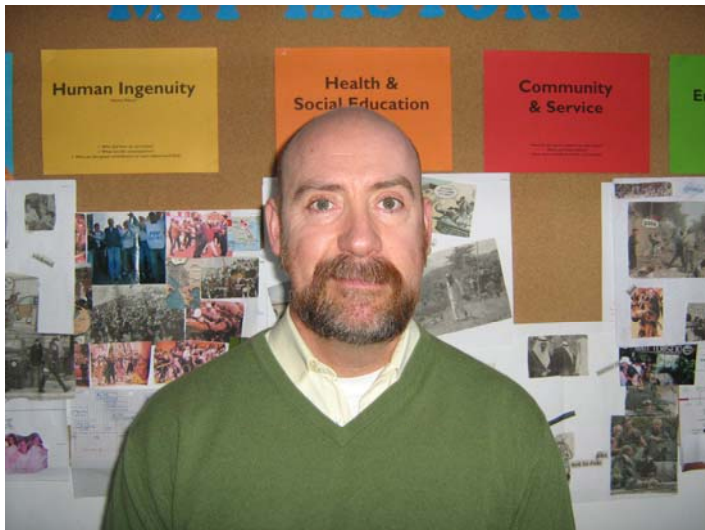
It has been a busy week in the High School with parent/student evenings sharing information about several opportunities outside of the classroom. The World Challenge trip to Kenya in the summer of 2010 attracted excited interest from those wishing to enjoy an service-orientated trip to Africa that will focus on developing leadership skills; the grade 9 trip to "Saxon Switzerland" based around the River Elbe will offer some similar leadership opportunities while climbing, rafting and organising their own cooking and sleeping arrangements. This trip is run by the experienced trainers of the world-renowned Outward Bound organisation that was founded by the educationalist Kurt Hahn and so dovetails nicely with our IB Philosophy and Learner Profile. A third meeting was held by our French department who are organising a weekend in Brussels as a highlight of the first ever "francophone week" coming later this term.

This weekend

Today and tomorrow also sees many of our students involved in out-of-school activities. High School Music and Physics students are today participating in the Berliner Philharmonie dress rehearsal and visiting the Music Instrument Museum in Berlin. This compliments the parallel work the students are doing in Music and Physics classes concerning the properties of sound. Tomorrow sees our sports teams in action as always including the Girls Basketball team visiting Dresden for the day.

New Teacher: Boyd McClymont

We are very pleased that Boyd McClymont, who has been covering History on a temporary basis, has now joined us as a full-member of the faculty. He will teach all IB Diploma and MYP History along with some Middle School English. Boyd has spent most of his teaching career in Canada, from where he hails, but has also worked previously in Germany and the Czech Republic. Boyd's passion for History is clear and it peppers his conversation. It is his clear ambition to raise the interest in the subject at BBIS and make his students understand the joys of the subject. Since coming to BBIS he tells me he has particularly enjoyed the encouraging, caring, but relaxed atmosphere that encourages good relationships and accentuates learning.



In his free-time he enjoys cycling, architecture, and electronic music: opportunities for which abound in the Berlin area and add to its attraction for him.

Boyd has moved to Berlin with his partner and intends to stay for the foreseeable future, converting as many people to the love of history as he possibly can!

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

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ben Kestner, Middle School Principal

Middle School Trips

As previously mentioned in Kaleidoscope, planning for the Middle School trip week is going ahead well. I will be planning trip information evenings for parents later on in March.

A brief reminder of the trips and times:

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.

Middle School Assembly

This week, we covered a number of issues. One of them was a follow up to the last assembly on social networking and particularly facebook. One of the most important messages to get across to students is to **never** share passwords. The document below shows the guidelines which have been discussed with students:

- Never share your password.
- Understand the privacy settings.
- Be careful about posting information that could be used to identify you or your location (telephone numbers, address etc.).
- If you feel uncomfortable with something which has been posted - speak to the person.
- Block unwanted communications.
- If someone posts a photo you don't like – speak to them.
- Tell your parents what you are doing. If they don't understand, this can lead to confrontation. Educate them to the benefits and dangers of social networking!

Think!

- Before you write a comment; think whether you would like that comment written about you.
- Unless you would be prepared to attach something in your profile on a job or school application, don't post it!

Did you know?

- That if you are under 13, you shouldn't have a facebook account. Parents have the legal right to access the information if you are under 13.

House Community Projects

Each Middle School house has started a major community project. Below is a list of their focuses:

Red:	Planting and conservation of trees on our land
Green:	Introducing the idea of using 100% paper throughout the school
Yellow:	A fundraising community project
Blue:	Saving Energy at school

Each house will set up small work groups and will present their ideas to each other.

Bus Behaviour

All Middle School students have been reminded that normal school rules apply on buses. This does not only mean as far as safety is concerned, but also the school mission especially the need to be caring, respectful and encouraging. A cross section of the school community use the bus and it is very important for the older students to act as good role models to the younger ones. I have asked students to report any misbehaviour to me immediately so that we can keep bus rides a pleasant experience for all.

Inquiry based learning

Below is a link to an article on the way some schools in the UK approach the idea of inquiry or enquiry based learning. As you know, the IBO programmes offered at our school offer many opportunities for students to discover for themselves, too.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7909648.stm>

Ben Kestner's Blog

A reminder that you can read about my current thoughts on education matters on my blog: 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 , or just drop in.

NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Camille Du Aime, Elementary School Principal

For the last two days, all the teachers in the Elementary School who are new to the PYP have been attending a workshop led by Lisa Roy and me. We have been grappling with the underlying concepts of the programme such as inquiry and international-mindedness. Understanding them is already quite complex and being able to put this understanding to work in the classroom is even harder!

For example, internationalism can be viewed at several levels. Schools that do not have an international outlook built into their philosophy, accept things as they are and reflect a cultural view that does not question existing inequities. In the West this means that they tend to teach from a white, male, upper middle class, Christian perspective. Obviously this is not desirable for an international school! However, moving from this position requires a huge paradigm shift.

When trying to become more international, many schools only add the study of surface level cultural traits (food, fun and festivals) which are often generalizations or stereotypes. This can be a lot of fun, but does not do much to promote an international outlook. For a school to really become internationally-minded, the community has to examine their own culture and become aware of their own biases. Culture is like an iceberg, in that only a small percentage is visible. Visible culture includes the music, dance, costume, food aspects but the invisible aspects of culture are the ones that really affect how open we are to each other. These include things like a culture's conception of modesty, patterns of group decision making, body language, conception of status, ideas governing parenting, understandings of time, conversational patterns, etc. These are the things that monitor our daily behaviour, thinking and emotions, but are not primarily conscious.

If discussions and explicit examination of these aspects happens in the classroom, students will become aware of their own cultural norms and be more open to those of other cultures. Through this we can celebrate our differences and make connections across various group identities. For example at our in-service in January, Mrs Levinrad gave a presentation about the cultural norms of Israelis. She analyzed historical, economic and social influences and explained their impact on a human level. The insights that teachers got from this has informed their interactions with their Israeli students and the student's parents in a very positive way.

A school which embraces true international-mindedness begins with the determination to make all aspects of the school equitable so that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential as learners. By drawing on the personal experiences of students so that we learn from each other, we can ensure that our diversity is an asset that enriches the classroom experience. At BBIS we have begun the journey!

Upcoming Events in the Elementary School:

Thu & Fri, March 12-13	Grade 4 Opera "The Magic Flute"
Mon – Fri, March 16-20	Book Week
Wed, March 25	Principal's Coffee (8:15 in my office)

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

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 or by contacting

Ms Kamphausen at 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

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>

BBIS WINTER ADVENTURE - SKI CAMP IN AUSTRIA

Dear Parents and Students,

As most of know, we have started a new initiative at BBIS this year. We are organizing holiday camps for students from grade 7 till grade 12, offering exciting travel opportunities for our international student body. Joost and Remke Langendonck have started this initiative and we aim to develop our programme in the years to come.

These trips, at this point, are focused around the great outdoors. Our philosophy focuses not just on the well-known adrenaline rush but we strongly feel that the great outdoors is an excellent tool to further educate our international students. We therefore have chosen to use the well renowned company Outward Bound (www.outwardbound.de) to run our trips in cooperation with BBIS. Team building, personal and team responsibility, physical activity and problem solving are key points during these weeks.



Our first trip has just taken place and 22 students went skiing and snow-shoeing in Baad, Austria. Three dedicated staff members, Mr Sterling, Mr Dutton and Ms Kennedy joined our students last week.

After a train ride from Berlin to Oberstdorf, the group had a short bus ride to Baad. This is the location of the Outward Bound centre. Students were quickly sorted in their rooms and introduced to staff because a lot of work was ahead of them. The first three days focused on team building as the students needed to plan their snow shoe trip of 3 days. What will you bring for food, clothing etc? How will we walk, where do we need to go? The responsibility lies with the students to reach their goal and after a lot of planning, presentations were given to explain their ideas and plan.



Amazing weather (read; a lot of snow) provided for a true adventure snow shoeing up the mountain to a 400 year old hut without any electricity. Here the students sorted their own meals, kept the place warm by making a fire and had time to socialize. The next day there was even more snow with at least half a meter of fresh powder. Going downhill was cool, great fun but not always easy. Team work was essential and the groups worked extremely well together.



The last three days offered the students the chance to go down hill skiing. Three ability groups were formed and with the powder available “it was in all a fantastic experience and certainly the most rewarding school trip that I have ever had the pleasure to go on made entirely by everyone who took part, and as a skiing novice I even came back in one piece!!!” (Ben Dutton)

We certainly hope to write to you again for the next holiday adventure.

Kind regards,

Remke and Joost Langendonck
PE Teachers

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

Dear Parents, Students and Staff Members,

I am very pleased to let you know that after a very positive and exciting Winter Camp to Austria we are now looking ahead to our Summer Camps at BBIS. After an extremely successful inaugural year, with 83 students participating, we are pleased to announce that we will return with more exciting and new camps during the last two weeks of the summer holiday.



This year our camps will be expanded with a video and a circus camp as well as a specific football and sports camp. The nice mix of activities per age group will hopefully create something of interest for your son or daughter. Not all the camps are confirmed yet but this will be finalized soon.

The camps cater for 3 different age groups and run for one week. Below you will find the schedule of the camps on offer. The sign up procedure will start in two weeks from now. More information regarding the sign up procedure will be announced through the Kaleidoscope and the school's website and will be on a first come, first served basis.

Overview of camps available this summer 2009

	5-7 years	8-11 years	12-16 years
Wk 1+2	English enrichment/ multi activities camp (confirmed)	English enrichment/ multi activities camp (confirmed)	English enrichment/ multi activities camp (confirmed)
Wk 1+2	Football/ sports camp (confirmed)	Football/ sports camp (confirmed)	Climbing/ adventure camp (to be confirmed)
Wk 1+2	Fun adventure camp (to be confirmed)	Adventure summer circus (confirmed)	Film and theatre work shop (confirmed)

General information

When: week 1: 10-14 August, week 2: 17-21 August
Camp time: 08.30 – 15.30
Where: on BBIS campus
Costs: 260 Euros per camp, per person
For whom: open to any student 5-16 years of age

For more specific information on each camp, we will update the BBIS website, under BBIS community (www.bbis.de) as well as the information notice board in House 3. Our aim is to have this done in the coming week.

Kind regards,

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

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Week – Book Sale – Usborne Books – at Home and School

Usborne Books at Home and School will support the BBIS Book Week on Tuesday, March 17 from 8:00 – 16:00 (Lower Atrium) with a book order/sale. Parents, students & staff are welcome! Usborne Publishing, UK is a leader in the field of high quality English language books and a pioneer in internet-linked resources for children. Stop by and review the great selection of fiction/non-fiction books, browse the complete catalogue and place your order. (cash payment; delivery ca. 10 days via the library). - 60% of total sales generated will benefit our school library!

INTERNET LINKED NON-FICTION....science, nature, history...

STICKER BOOKS...fairy tales...

THINGS TO DO BOOKS...fairies, mermaids...

FARMYARD TALES...with the duck...

1001 THINGS TO SPOT....bugs, wizards, fairyland, pirates...

PUZZLE ADVENTURES

PHONICS READERS / BOOKS W/CDs

FICTION IN SERIES
SPORTS & HOBBIES

Usborne Reading programme: over 150 titles for beginner readers, graded in series



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
Phone: 033203 8036-0 or -302

Graham Maltby
graham.maltby@bbis.de
033203 8036-0 or -315

NEWS FROM THE FRENCH TEACHERS

Dear Parents,

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 23rd of March to the 27th of 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.

If you have more ideas, want to volunteer to help, bake some cakes or specialities, speaking French or not, please come and join us.

Thanks you very much,

Soazig Purenne and Julien Le Sourd.

soazig.purenne@bbis.de

julien.lesourd@bbis.de

„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

