



THE KALEIDOSCOPE

No 18 _ 30 January 2009

CALENDAR DATES

Friday, 30 January	ES Report Cards go home
Saturday, 31 January	Berlin Walking Tour for new MS/HS students
Thursday, 5 February	Sports Shop open from 1 to 3 pm
Wednesday, 11 February	Elementary PYP Open Morning from 8 to 10.15 am
Wednesday, 11 February	Informal Musical Soirée
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 MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ben Kestner, Middle School Principal

Reports

Teachers are busy writing report cards at the moment. The report cards at BBIS offer a huge amount of information and feedback on how your son or daughter is doing at school. The information is divided into three sections: attitudes, academics progress and teacher's comments. The attitudes section is divided into six categories: presentation, organization, completion of assignments, participation, behaviour and effort. I always explain to students that the 'attitudes' section is the most important. If a student is trying hard and is putting everything they can into achieving their full potential then that is the best they can do. Please discuss this at home too, because I sometimes worry that some students focus too much on the grade.

Ben Kestner's Blog

I have a public blog where I write down my thoughts about education. It also contains links to interesting articles which I come across and current thoughts and ideas in education. If you have time, you are welcome to visit it.

<http://benkestner.wordpress.com/>

Seeing the School Nurse

Our fulltime school nurse, Beate Deckelmann deals with many medical issues at school each day. If a Middle School student feels that they need to see the nurse, then they must come and see me or Mandy Drescher first, unless it is an emergency. Please do not arrange travel plans home for your children without making sure the school knows about it.

Trips

A reminder of the dates of the school trips this year:

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 9th of May.

More information will follow shortly.

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

[Elementary report cards](#) are coming home today. The teachers have worked hard to put into words what they know about your child. If after reading the report and discussing it with your child, you have some questions, the teachers welcome a chance to meet with you. Just call or send an e-mail to set up a convenient time. Below are some pointers that may help you discuss the reports with your child.

Nine Tips for Talking with Kids about their Report Card

1. If you think you might be upset by something in the report card, read the report card yourself, before sharing it with your child. If there is something upsetting, don't start the conversation before you are calm.
2. Sit down and review the report together. Make sure that there are no distractions so you can focus on one another and the conversation.
3. Start with empathetic and positive comments. Highlight something positive about the report card or about your own impressions of your child.
4. Help your child concentrate on their own progress, think about the things that they can do now that they couldn't do at the beginning of the year. Discourage any comparison to other students or siblings.
5. Emphasize the effort they have put in. This helps them believe that they can affect the outcome next time.
6. Keep the pressure off. We are more efficient and can focus on what really matters when we are relaxed, not stressed.
7. Listen to your child. Recognize your child's struggles. School can be tough. It is helpful to students to know that someone is listening to their concerns and complaints.
8. End with a plan. Be optimistic and identify any next steps before you leave the table.
9. Keep it in context. Remember that this report card is but a single snapshot of a child's progress up to this point—it's not the complete picture of a child's potential and there is still plenty of time to make necessary changes.

Grade 3 put on a wonderful art show yesterday and today. After studying various artists and trying out their techniques, each student chose one artist to focus on and researched them. They wrote a report on the life of the artist and copied their favourite painting. Yesterday they created a “living museum” by dressing up as their artist and were then available for in character “interviews” while displaying their portfolio, process journal and essay. A big thanks goes to Erika Victor, Katy Kennedy and Shona Sarkar (the grade 3 teachers), Beate Chudy (the Art teacher), Amanda Linton and Kate Curry (the ESL teachers) as well as Brent (the music teacher) for their support of the students in this process.



We have begun planning the [Elementary PYP Open Morning](#) which will highlight how we differentiate instruction to suit the needs of the students. Please note that the day was previously advertised as February 12th but it has now been changed to February 11th from 8:00-10:15. We will begin in the MPR with a presentation about what differentiation means in the classroom. Then there will be an hour during which parents are invited to go to all the Elementary classrooms to see the range of activities that routinely go on. Parents are strongly encouraged to go not only to their own child’s class or even grade, but also to look at classes at different levels to see how the same strategies are consistent (and yet different) based on the developmental needs of the students. We will then gather in the MPR for a question and answer session with all the teachers to process what was observed. We hope to see you there!

Because of the change of date for the Open Day, the Principal’s Coffee morning is now changed to Wednesday, February 25th at 8:15. If you can’t wait that long, drop by for a chat any time! Wishing you a relaxing weekend. Come to the Sports Hall on Saturday to watch some MS basketball games!

Upcoming Events in the Elementary School:

Fri, Jan 30	Report Cards go home
Wed, Feb 11	Elementary PYP Open Morning (parents visit classes)
Mo-Fri, Feb 16-20	Vacation
Wed, Feb 25	Principal’s Coffee (8:15 in her 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

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>

YOUR HELP NEEDED

We are still looking for BBIS families to host for **one night, on Friday 27 March**. BBIS are hosting the GISST Varsity Girls Basketball tournament on Friday-Saturday 27-28 March.

We have to house **70 girls for one night**, nothing fancy; sleeping bags on sofas are ok! Normally we like to house in 2's or 3's.

For more information please contact Christine Hatakka (christine.hatakka@gmx.net) or Hannele Rintanen (hannele.rintanen@t-online.de). Or contact me in school (stephen.vandersteen@bbis.de)

Your help is much appreciated.

Regards,

Steve Vandersteen
Athletic Director
Tel.: 033203 8036-302

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

E-mail: tamara.hager@bbis.de

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

