



BERLIN BRANDENBURG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

THE KALEIDOSCOPE

No 24 _ 19 March 2010

CALENDAR DATES

Saturday, 20 March	Malteser First Aid Course (Part 1) from 9 am – 4 pm in the Project Room (House 3/Level 4)
Tuesday, 23 March	ES Student-Led Conferences
Wednesday, 24 March	Malteser First Aid Course (Part 2) from 8 am – 3 pm in the Project Room (House 3/Level 4)
Wednesday, 24 March	MS/HS Parent-Teacher Conferences from 10 am – 6 pm in the Sports Hall
Wednesday, 24 March	Grade 11 Physics Trip Week Meeting for parents at 6 pm in the Physics Lab
Thursday, 25 March	MYP Grade 10 Personal Project Exhibition for Parents in the Sports Hall (6.00 – 8.30 pm)
Friday, 26 March	MYP Grade 10 Personal Project Exhibition for Students and BBIS Community in the Sports Hall (8.20 am – 2.10 pm)
Mon, 29 March – Fri, 9 April	Spring Break – No School
Thursday, 15 April	Drama <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> at 6 pm in the Heizhaus
Thursday, 15 April	MS Camp Parent Information Evening at 7 pm in the MPR
Thu, 29 & Fri, 30 April	Musical Mania
Mon, 3 – Fri, 7 May	Trip Week

OPENING HOURS – SPORTS SHOP

Thursday, 25 March	11 am – 2 pm
Thursday, 15 April	1 pm – 3 pm
Thursday, 22 April	11 am – 2 pm
Thursday, 29 April	1 pm – 3 pm

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Richard Bartlett, High School Principal

Art Exhibition



One of Charlotte Gross's creations

The 2010 Art Exhibition has been a great source of education and pleasure over the past several years and this year was no exception: the official opening took place yesterday evening and was very well attended with over 100 guests enjoying snacks as they talked with the artists about the work on display. The students in the Middle and Elementary Schools also took turns to visit the exhibition yesterday.

Berlin and around

As a school we are very fortunate to be so well placed: a great capital city at the centre of Europe. We always try and use this as an educational resource, and talking with teachers recently I became even more aware of how we utilize possibilities in the High School across the entire range of subjects. Examples include:

The [International Award group](#) engaging with the Berliner Tafel for community service; the [MUN group](#) at John F. Kennedy School for the annual conferences; [PE classes](#) at the local ice-rink; [German classes](#) visiting Wittenberg as part of their studies of the Reformation, or Potsdam to inform their "Towns and Cities" unit; [French classes](#) visiting the French Institute; [History](#) tours of "Red Berlin", the Stasi Museum, and various other excursions; [Economics](#) inviting speakers from various embassies to speak on economic issues with our students; [English teachers](#) accompanying students to various drama productions including performances in English; [Art students](#) meeting and have conversations with Berlin-based artists of international renown; [HS Diploma students](#) visiting the Bundestag and various hotels to see how they work; [Aktion Tagwerk group members](#) joining over twenty local companies to volunteer their efforts for a day; [Music](#) utilizing the great orchestral opportunities such

as the Philharmonic Orchestra, Music instrument Museum, jazz concerts, and co-operating with embassies such as the Indonesian who offer a Gamelan workshop; [Science](#) connecting with centres for space research, nutrition, and climate as well as local coal mines, farms and factories, and a whole lot more! These are only a sample of our engagement this school year. If you have other suggestions as to how we can meaningfully enrich our current curriculum we would be delighted to hear from you.

[On Campus after School](#)

We love having your children at school and we love having them remain after school to take part in an ECA or study in the library, but please note that in the interests of safety and security, students on the campus after school must be taking part in an official ECA, or be under the supervision of a teacher who has agreed to be responsible for them.

[Important Dates for your Diary](#)

The 24th March 1000-18.00 is the Middle and High School Parent Consultation Day. You will receive a letter and further information in the next few days, but we very much encourage you to attend this day as your children are best supported by clear communication and information being shared between school and home. We also encourage you to bring your children with you as participants in this.

The following evening, 25th March, also in the Sports Hall, will be the MYP Project Exhibition where our 10th grade students display and explain the projects they have been independently working on this year. The variety of ideas and the ingenuity and skills of our students always make this a fascinating event!

If you have comments, 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

[Amis in AMIS](#)

This year, 2010, the Junior Orchestra Festival AMIS (Association for Music in International Schools) took place in the American School in London. Children from all over the world came to London to spend three days playing music together as one whole team. Students came from Singapore, Japan, Frankfurt, Berlin, China and a lot more countries.

[7th grader Dieuwke Smit Sibinga](#) was selected to play in this prestigious festival and her account of her experiences follows:

We had the chance to meet other international musical children. We were able to enjoy playing music together, learn from other people and share our musical talents. The pieces we played were all very varied because they came from very different parts in the world, for example there was a 'Japanese Folk Song' and a piece called 'African Accents' and many more different pieces.

On Thursday and Friday the 24th - 25th all the students came together in the theatre of the American School of London and practiced from 8:00 till 15:00. Sometimes we practiced with the

whole orchestra and sometimes we played in sections, so that the violins, violas, cellos and bases all practiced separately with the section coaches. After the whole day of playing music our hosts picked us up from the school and we would go back to our hosting family and have a free afternoon of resting and 'of course' practicing our instruments for Saturday. Saturday morning we went to visit the London transport museum in Covent Garden. After that very exciting and fun tour we went back with the bus to the school and practiced till 17:00. We then quickly ate our dinner, changed into our concert clothes, put on some make-up, did our hair and then got our instruments tuned.



19:00!!! The concert begins. We walk in, take our instruments and sit down ready to play. When the conductor comes in we all stand up, she bows, we sit down and the music can begin.

After the concert all children go back to their hosts to have a good night sleep. The next day we thanked our hosts and gave them a small souvenir. Some children had a twelve hour flight ahead of them and some enjoyed to go and walk in London for a while.

I think this festival was a fantastic opportunity to meet other musicians and have fun and play together.

Dieuwke Smit Sibinga (grade 7c)



“Nature is the greatest teacher of all” – Kurt Hahn, (1886-1974) Founder of Outward Bound
The Middle School Camp 2010 - Mecklenburg Lake District

As the countdown begins to the first ever BBIS whole Middle School Camp/Jamboree, I thought as Camp Leader that I would take this time to give you an insight into our preparations and to make a couple of requests. By now you should have all received my letter and a copy of the parent agreement form, plus the equipment list, if you have not had these, please let me know.



With 150+ students from grades 6-8 in tents for 5 days in the Mecklenburg Lake District, the logistics for this event are proving to be interesting! We are fortunate that a large part of the programme is being coordinated and delivered by Outward Bound Germany e.V. under the direction of their Programme Director for International Schools, Mr Ingo Stapperfenne (Please take a look at www.outwardbound.de). Outward Bound are bringing 14 professionally qualified, English speaking instructors with them, including Ingo, to help run the daytime and expedition programme for us. Their

programme includes some really exciting opportunities for our students such as: Canadian canoeing, raft building, dragon boat racing, sailing, high ropes course, native Indian woodcraft and much more. Mr Kestner and I have also put together our team of 14 teachers from BBIS, so in total we have 28 adults accompanying our students, which gives a very reassuring student/adult ratio of 5:1, the number of adults will also mean that we can offer a very diverse and broad programme, which will hopefully offer something to everyone.

Last Tuesday, Mr Kestner, Mrs Cordes (our Camp Evening Programme Coordinator) and I went to visit the site again in the Mecklenburg Lake District and met with campsite manager and Outward Bound staff in order to discuss site layout and to finalize our preparations. If you would like to take a look at the campsite, please check out the website: www.haveltourist.de it is also in English, click on the section for Havelberge Camping and Holiday resort on Woblitzsee. The camp site is a 5 star camping and holiday resort with several national and international environmental and quality standards awards.

If your son or daughter is planning to bring their own 2-3 person tent with them to sleep in, could you please make this clear on your reply slip or send me an email and let me know what size tent it is (2 person minimum or 3 person maximum). **You do not need to go out and buy a tent**, as these will be provided, but if your family does go camping, then students have the option to bring their own small light weight tent with them, I will be doing this too.

As a member of the UK's Scout Association since 1979, I know that outdoor education has much to offer our students and that significant opportunities for learning are available beyond the classroom. Teamwork and cooperation, leadership, independence and self reliance are some of the core skills, which we will be looking to foster on the camp. The area where we are camping is part of the Mueritz National Park, an area of outstanding natural beauty, with this in mind the teachers, Mr Kestner and I have taken the step of **not** allowing any electronic devices (Mobile phones, MP3 players, iPods etc), except for cameras (but not combined camera/mobile phones) during the camp. This decision has been partly made due to my past experience and also comes at the request of Outward Bound. Phone and iPods frequently impact upon and detract from the outdoor experience and these items frequently get damaged and lost and often spoil opportunities for young people to

truly experience nature and open space. I sincerely hope that you will help me to ensure that this rule is observed and not permit your son or daughter to bring such items with them. Whilst some students feel that this request is unreasonable and I will continue to help them to understand my perspective on this issue, but again from my past experience of organizing camps and expeditions over 20 years, I think that some of these young people will thank me at the end of the week for enabling them to experience 5 days of life without gadgets.

If you have any questions about the Camp, please note that I will also be available next Wednesday (24/03/10) during the Parent/Teacher Conference day to meet with parents to answer any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come over and see me if I am free, otherwise I look forward to seeing parents at the [Middle School Camp Parent Information Evening, on Thursday, 15th April at 7pm in the MPR.](#)

Finally, please remember to return your signed and completed parent agreement forms [asap](#), as this will help me and my team with our planning.

Steve Gregory
MS Camp Leader/MS Counsellor
Email steven.gregory@bbis.de
Tel. 033203 8036 320
Room 3115 House 3

[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

As many know, the first half of this week we welcomed [two evaluators from the International Baccalaureate Organization](#). The visit and evaluation is organized around the IB standards which include standards about: Philosophy, International mindedness, Organization, Written curriculum, Planning, Teaching, Assessing, Role of the Student and PYP Exhibition. For two and a half days our visitors met with groups of teachers, students, parents and members of the board, visited classrooms and observed teaching and learning; looked at samples of student work and asked many, many questions of all involved. On Wednesday, the Elementary School had the pleasure of receiving an initial report from the IB evaluation team. For an hour and a half they shared with us their observations, commendations and recommendations, which will come as a written report within the next six weeks.

They felt that the self-study that we conducted in preparation for the visit showed that we had gone through a process of authentic reflection and that our perception of our own strengths and weaknesses was accurate. Therefore the team will be recommending to the IB office that we be judged as meeting all the standards. They had two main recommendations of areas that the school should work on:

- that we develop the action component of the school and make it a more integral part of the curriculum
- that we ensure that all the essential elements of the PYP framework (student profile, attitudes, concepts etc...) be used explicitly to structure learning

They also commended us for many aspects of the elementary school.

- Our commitment to the philosophy and practices of the PYP
- The openness, enthusiasm and collaborative spirit of the staff
- Our commitment to improving the areas we identified as needing development: Library/Media Center and ICT, ESL/SN support
- Our curriculum review process which ensures that we look at what and how we teach in a systematic manner, taking into account the vertical articulation

The visiting team also spoke at length about how impressed they were with the parents who attended the feedback session. They couldn't get over how supportive of the school you were and how knowledgeable about the program. Finally, they said the students that they met during the visit were a credit to the school as they exemplified the learner profile in many different ways.

We feel proud of this supportive evaluation and look forward to using their recommendations to continue to make BBIS the school that we want it to be. Congratulations to the entire staff, the students, the parents and the board, all of whom were recognized by the evaluators as being vital aspects of our successful learning community.

THANK YOU very much to the students, parents and board members who directly participated in this important visit by taking the time to share your thoughts and opinions so openly.

When we receive the written report we will be able to share more detail about the specific commendations and recommendations.

Upcoming Events in the Elementary School

March 23	Student-Led Conferences (NO SCHOOL)
March 24	Grade 3 Trip Week Parent meeting at 6.15 pm
March 25	Grade 4 Trip Week Parent meeting at 3 pm
March 25	Grade 1 Trip Week Parent meeting at 3.15 pm
April 15	Grade 2 Trip Week Parent meeting at 5 pm
April 21	Principal's Coffee Morning at 8:10 am
April 26	Discussion group about Cyber Safety at 3:15 pm

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!

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

LINK TO THE PTA NEWSLETTER

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

ROMEO AND JULIET COMING TO A HEIZHAUS NEAR YOU ...

The Grade 8 production of *Romeo and Juliet* at BBIS is [Thursday, 15 April](#). You are invited to join the school community in celebrating the hard work of the students. We are sure you will enjoy the creative approach the students are taking with the play.

Each Grade 8 Drama class is performing a portion of the play while the other Grade 8 Drama classes also perform different portions.

In one evening you will see *Romeo and Juliet* set in New York City, the jungle and in Las Vegas. You will also see many Grade 8 students take on the role of Romeo, Mercutio, etc. It is truly exciting to see the collaborative efforts of the students come together to create an enjoyable student-directed performance. We hope you can attend!

Dates and times to know:

Middle School Performance for assembly on Thursday, 15 April in the Heizhaus

Parent and BBIS Community Performance on Thursday, 15 April at 18.00 in the Heizhaus

Thanks for your support of the Arts at BBIS,

Alyssa Passey

Grade 8-9 Drama Teacher

MS & HS STUDENT AMBASSADORS – NEW RECRUITS NEEDED

The BBIS Ambassadors are recruiting new members! If you are interested in meeting new people, making new friends and welcoming new members to our community, please see Ms. Kamphausen in room 2404 or Mr. Gregory in room 3115 to collect a sign-up sheet. [Deadline for applications is Monday, 22nd March](#). A free Ambassadors t-shirt is included!

Steve Gregory

Middle/High School Counsellor

PSHE Coordinator

Student Support Services

THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD AT BBIS

In January 2010 the International Award programme was launched at BBIS. The Award is an exciting self-development programme available to all 14 to 25 year olds. It began in the United Kingdom in 1956 as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the Programme has now spread to 126 countries. Over 6 million young people worldwide have taken up the Award challenge.



The German Award *Das Internationale Jugendprogramm* has been rather close to the UK's Duke of Edinburgh's Award from its very beginnings in 1993. Like the Award programme, the German Award's motto "There is more in you than you think!" originates from Kurt Hahn.

There are three separate Awards – **Bronze**, **Silver** and **Gold** with different minimum starting ages and periods of participation.

Service

- Bronze: at least 15 hours, spread over 3 months
- Silver: at least 30 hours, spread over 6 months
- Gold: at least 60 hours, spread over 12 months

Expeditions

- Bronze (Expedition): 2 days, with a minimum of 6 hours of planned activity each day
- Silver (Expedition or Exploration): 3 days, with a minimum of 7 hours of planned activity each day
- Gold (Expedition, Exploration or Adventurous Project): 4 days, with a minimum of 8 hours of planned activity each day

Skills

- Bronze: minimum period 6 months
- Silver: a minimum period 12 months (Bronze Award Holder: 6 months)
- Gold: minimum period 18 months (Silver Award Holder: 12 months)

Physical Recreation

- Bronze: minimum period 3 months
- Silver: a minimum period 4 months
- Gold: minimum period 5 months

Residential Project (additional requirement for the Gold Award)

- 5 days and 4 nights

In the Service, Skills and Physical Recreation Sections, the minimum time requirements are expressed in months, during which there should be regular commitment averaging at least one hour a week.

The Award is about individual challenge, not about reaching specific standards set by someone else. Students design their own Award Programme, set their own goals, and record their own progress. The only person they compete against is themselves, by challenging their own beliefs about what they can achieve. The International Award is a non academic qualification that shares similarities with the CAS component of the IB. It is well renowned around the world and is a valuable addition to any job or University application.

In December 2009 all Grade 9 students took part in a 'Taster' session where they experienced a variety of activities relevant to the International Award such as how to read a map, put up a tent, cook on a camping stove and pack a back pack. From January onwards Miss Johnson, Mr Gregory, Miss Adams and Miss Hinton have offered an ECA every Monday afterschool to provide guidance assist with the process and provide training for the expeditions.

During the Grade 9 trip week in May all students will complete a 'practice canoeing expedition' and those wishing to achieve their BRONZE AWARD have also planned the final assessed expedition in June.



As the INTERNATIONAL AWARD continues to grow at BBIS we look forward to more students being involved in the future.

Lisa Johnson
International Award Leader

BBIS SUMMER CAMP 2010

We would like to invite your child to join the BBIS Summer Camp for the summer of 2010. Our camps are back during the last two weeks of the summer break, from 9th-13th and 16th-20th of August 2010.

Apart from our fun and sporting Camps our English Enrichment Camp offers your child a great opportunity to brush up their English Language in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere before they return to school. New this year in our program is a nutritious hot lunch, which will be served daily in our brand new school canteen. We also offer a new, exciting camp: Climbing & Sports Camp where students will be learning the basic climbing and abseiling skills on our very own climbing wall.

Our highly professional, English speaking staff will provide an educational but fun filled Summer Camp on our very own campus. Students from both BBIS and the local community are welcome to join our Camps from the age of 5 until 16.

The following camps are available and students registration is taken on a first come, first serve basis.

English Enrichment & Activities Camp	5-7 yrs – week 1 5-7 yrs – week 2	8-11 yrs – week 1 8-11 yrs – week 2	12-16 yrs – week 1 12-16 yrs – week 2
Fun Games Camp	5-7 yrs – week 1 5-7 yrs – week 2		

Football & Sports Camp		8-11 yrs – week 1 8-11 yrs – week 2	
Adventurous Circus Camp		8-11 yrs – week 1 8-11 yrs – week 2	
Climbing & Sports Camp (max 12 participants)			10-16 yrs – week 1 10-16 yrs – week 2

For detailed information about each camp and for the registration form please have a look at our web page http://www.bbis.de/content/bbis-community/summer_camp_site.htm

For more information please contact Joost Langendonck or Remke Langendonck at remke.langendonck@bbis.de

Joost Langendonck
Summer Camp Coordinator

Remke Laonck
Summer Camp Assistant

„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

