



BERLIN BRANDENBURG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

THE KALEIDOSCOPE

No 13 _ 2 December 2011

CALENDAR DATES

Thursday, 1 December	AIDS Day Musical Theatre Benefit "One Song Glory" at 7 pm in the Kammerspiele Kleinmachnow
Wednesday, 7 December	MS Winter Concert from 1.15-2.45 pm in the Sports Hall
Thursday, 8 December	ES Winter Concert at 1 pm in the Sports Hall
Friday, 9 December	HS Horror Themed Winter Dance "Nightmare before Christmas" from 7 – 11 pm in the Heizhaus
Thursday, 15 December	EC Winter Celebration at 8.30 am in the Heizhaus
Thursday, 15 December	MS House Party from 6 – 9 pm
Friday, 16 December	Last Day of School (Early Dismissal at 11.30 am)
Wednesday, 4 January 2012	First Day of School

OPENING HOURS – SPORTS SHOP

Thursday, 8 December	11 am – 2 pm
Thursday, 15 December	1 – 3 pm

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF BBIS

Dear parents, students, teachers and staff,

We learned this week that Thomas Schädler will be leaving BBIS after serving a long and successful tenure as director. We are grateful for his seven years of service to the BBIS community. Under the directorship of Thomas Schädler BBIS experienced many positive developments which brought all of us as closer to achieving the goals of our Master Plan. From 2005 until today, the BBIS student body grew from 400 to 700, BBIS teacher and staff numbers doubled almost to 150, and the BBIS balance sheet total increased from € 2.8 to over € 23 million. This increase reflects another important development for BBIS: We are all the proud owner of the Seeberg Campus!

This announcement is to inform you that the Board of BBIS will be meeting next Friday to determine the necessary process for the appointment of a new director under whose leadership we will reach the next exciting level of BBIS' development. The Board will decide upon the next steps for establishing a proper process to select the right successor for Thomas with the input of all BBIS constituencies. The Board will update you regularly about our progress.

Sincerely yours,

The Board of BBIS

Chr. Dahms (Chair), Dr. H. Andreas, J. v. Habsburg, J. H. Simons, Dr. F. H. Walter-von Gierke

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Richard Bartlett, High School Principal

INVITATION TO THE HIGH SCHOOL WINTER DANCE

**Nightmare before
Christmas
Last Fear of the
Year**

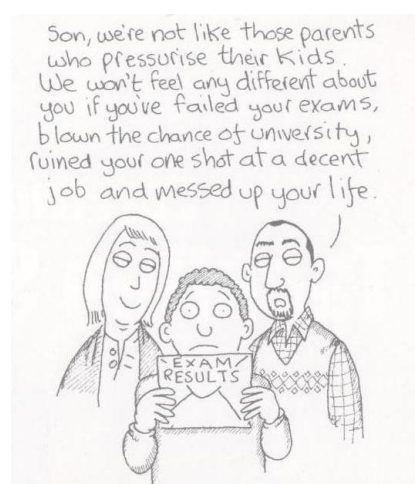
*Join us December 9th for a thrilling dance
organized by the High School Student Council*

High School Students only
Friday, December 9th, 2016
7:00 pm to 11:00 pm
€5 per ticket or €7 at the door
Snacks and drinks provided

Don't miss it!

BERLIN
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INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

IT IS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR



The word examination does not always fill our hearts with joy! For the parents of grade 11 & 12 students, it's also another season coming up... mock exam season! We are very aware that during this time your families' lives maybe a bit like a roller coaster and we would advise you all to spend a little time each day, especially in the month of January, to take care of yourselves and each other. Over the next few weeks we will be delivering workshops on exam preparation and handing out a guide for all grade 11 & 12 students involved in mock exams. This article includes some extracts from that guide that you may find useful. We hope that it will help you to help your child to cope better during this demanding period and we look forward to supporting your family in any way we can, in order that your child can perform to the best of their abilities, as they come one

step closer to completing grade 12! In 2011 we plan to hold a second exam preparation workshop for grade 12, to further prepare grade 12 students for the actual exams in May 2011.

Advice for Parents – Exams

- Give encouragement, not pressure.
- Give support, not criticism.
- Make it easier for your child to study.
- Keep things in perspective.
- Get advice from the School Counsellors or the IB Diploma Programme Coordinator if you're worried.

Advice for your children – Exams

Pamper yourself

- Remember it's important to eat and sleep well.
- Put yourself first, it is an important time for you – talk to your family about how they can make studying a little easier for you, eg. By agreeing times when you can have your own space, when they will try to be a little quieter around the house and when you'd rather not be disturbed (except perhaps for the occasional treat such as a drink or snack).

Prepare for the big day

Check...

- Have a good breakfast if you can.
- Give yourself plenty of time to get to the exam room.
- Make sure you know where the exam is being held
- Take everything you will need – extra pens, water, tissues – anything else?
- Go to the toilet before the exam starts!
- If you feel really anxious, breathe slowly and deeply while waiting for the exam to start.
- Pace yourself

Read the instructions – ask the teacher or invigilator if anything seems unclear – DON'T PANIC!

- Read all of the questions, twice if necessary, and give yourself time to answer those questions you are required to do.

- Plan how much time you'll need for each question. If you're stuck on a question, go on to the next. You can always come back to the unfinished one later.
- If you're really stuck, try to have an intelligent guess anyway.
- Leave time to read through and check your answers before the exam finishes.

Perform as well as you can

- YOU'RE YOU, so you can only do the best that you can on the day.
- Knowing that you've done your best on the day may help you overcome feelings of letting anyone down.
- Don't go through answers afterwards with your friends if it is only going to make you more worried,
- Try to put the last exam out of your mind and look ahead to the next one – you can't go back and change things.

Phew!

- Exams over? Pat yourself on the back – it's time to relax and forget about them.
- If you did well – congratulations!

BUT...

Remember, there's life beyond exam results. Disappointing results are not the end of the world – even if it does feel that way at the time. Remember, there'll be lots of other opportunities to express yourself and succeed later in life.

Don't hesitate to come and speak with one of us if you have any further questions, concerns, or if you your child needs any help. All Grade 11 and 12 mock exam students will be given priority by the School Counselling and School Psychology Department during mock exam time, so please encourage your child to take advantage of this offer!

We wish your children every success in their mock exams in January 2011.

Seasons Greetings,

Mr. Steve Gregory
Middle & High School Counsellor
Student Support Services
Tel. 033203 8036 320
Room 3115
Email steven.gregory@bbis.de

Mrs. Leslie Kamphausen
College & Careers Counsellor
Student Support Services
Tel. 033203 8036 311
Room 2404
Email leslie.kamphausen@bbis.de

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Michaela Jung, Middle School Principal

GRADE 8 STUDENTS VISITING ST. JOSEF'S HOSPITAL

Last Friday, our 8th grade students were very lucky to be able to visit St. Josef's Hospital in Potsdam, where they continued their Science lessons with the help of doctors and nurses. In their current unit, they had researched how microbes affect our lives, and during the visit they had the chance to find out more about this topic.

At St. Josef's Hospital, our students experienced how hand disinfection using UV light works. They had casts put on, saw the surgery, CT, MRT and X-ray rooms and observed e-coli and other bacteria growing in Petri dishes. Many thanks to Dr. Laun and the staff at St. Josef's Hospital for making this excellent learning experience possible.



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

NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Camille Du Aime, Elementary School Principal

Next Thursday at 13:00 Grade 1-5 will gather in the sports hall for the Winter Concert. This year the children will be singing songs from around the world with Grade 1 focusing on Europe, Grade 2 on South America and the Caribbean, Grade 3 on North America, Grade 4 on Asia and Grade 5 on Africa. This whirlwind trip should be entertaining and a great way for all of us to be exposed to world music!

After last spring's concert I included a survey in the Kaleidoscope soliciting parent feedback about how to improve the concerts. Only 14 people responded, but of them 65% felt that there was too much talking and movement in the audience during the show. One question specifically asked about toddlers and babies disrupting the concert and there was a broader range of opinions about that with

50% disagreeing that it's a problem and 50% agreeing that it's a problem. One write-in response suggested that we provide a babysitting service so that younger siblings don't have to sit through the whole concert. I'm looking into that option, but I have concerns that it will cause more audience movement with parents going to check on their kids or vice versa.

45% of respondents felt that the sound system needed to be improved. I'm glad to announce that since the last concert, the PTA has generously funded the purchase of new choir microphones and for this concert, the soloist microphones will still be set up from the MS performance the previous day, so hopefully they will be in good working order!

I think that we can all agree that out of respect for the performers, it is important that:

- Audience members arrive on time
- Turn off their phones (they can be picked up by the wireless microphones which would broadcast any conversation during the concert!)
- Stay for the whole concert
- Keep their young children seated with them and step outside if they are being disruptive



Grade I and EC5 preparing for their concerts

Finally one question asked what role concerts play in a child's education at BBIS. One parent responded very eloquently so I am including their whole response:

"They are very important in giving each child the opportunity to perform and feel good about it. As such, they build self-confidence and esteem. Also they expose the children to wide varieties of music styles through experience which is the best way to learn. They give an opportunity to make music together, showing both the harmonic possibilities of accompanied melodies and the positive social aspects to making music. They also teach the students to respect their peers and listen (patiently) to their performances."

What most parents valued about the concerts was that they are an opportunity for students to take risks and provide individual students moments to shine and show initiative. There are sure to be many of special moment next Thursday, and I look forward to sharing them with you!

The PTA out did themselves this week with a wonderful Holiday Bazaar! Kids and classrooms are looking very festive!



Ms JH's Grade 4 is tackling one of BBIS' biggest challenges... what to do with all the lost and found items! They are sorting through all the stuff, photographing it to put on the virtual lost and found website and calculating the approximate worth of the total! I think we will be amazed how much valuable clothing are left lying around. You'll be glad to know that the laptop that was in the pile has been returned to its rightful owner!



Finally a little feedback from the Move-a-Thon event that took place during International Week. Despite this event coming just one month after the walk for the Wild, our generous parents (you!) sponsored their kids to the tune of 3000€! This means we will be able to donate 1500€ to the St. Marienkirche Soup kitchen in Berlin and 1500€ to the Dare to Dream camp for children orphaned by AIDS in South Africa. THANK YOU!

Upcoming Events in the Elementary School

Dec 7 Principal's Coffee Morning at 8:10 am in Camille's office
Dec 8 ES School Winter Concert at 1 pm in the sports hall
Dec 15 EC Winter Celebration at 8:30 am in the Heizhaus

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

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES NEWS

Dr. Christina Limbird, Head of Student Support Services

CONNECTEDNESS IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Dear Parents,

Thanks to those of you who came to the Connectedness discussion earlier this month and for the many parents who have given us such rich and valuable feedback about the project!

I am now looking for a small group of people to serve as an implementation team to enhance the levels of connectedness at the school. The team will consist of a couple parent representatives, a couple teachers, an administrator, a counsellor, and possibly a few students as advisors. We will only meet 2-3 times to push forward some of the recommendations from the report and some original ideas of the group.

If you are interested in joining the team, please send me an email: christina.limbird@bbis.de by 10 December.

Since we aim to have a small and efficient working group, I will not be able to take more than 2-4 parents, so please understand that I will be selecting the group to ensure the most diverse team possible (nationality, mother/father, children's ages, etc.) and not everyone who volunteers will be able to participate. The first meeting will be in early January and the timing will depend on the group's needs.

Looking forward to [connecting](#) with you!!

Christina Limbird

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

LINK TO THE PTA NEWSLETTER

<http://www.bbisd.com/community/parent-teacher-association/pta-newsletter/>

MYP PROJECT IN RECOGNITION AND AWARENESS OF AIDS

“Satin Breeze” is the name of the art installation I have created for my MYP Personal Project in recognition and awareness of AIDS for National AIDS Day on 1 December 2011. My question was: “How can I design and create an art installation using fabric based on the ideas of artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude?”

In my project, the red satin ribbon has been used as a symbol for the awareness of AIDS. “Satin Breeze” was constructed in the middle of a large area of the “Seeberg” in order to force people to observe and think about it. The fabric has been sewn with fishing line to secure it at the top but not at the bottom of each tree, which allows the wind to catch and blow, forming graceful ripples in the fabric.



By catching gusts of wind, the fabric makes the wind visible. Like the wind, AIDS is all around us but is often invisible and forgotten. Particularly for us as a younger generation, AIDS will be around us all our lives. AIDS brings tremendous suffering for those who test HIV positive. The idea of “Satin Breeze” was to also create a soothing, peaceful effect while recognizing the reality of AIDS.

This project only has a few days left, so I hope you get a chance to see it and join me in a quiet thought for the victims of AIDS.

Madi J.

10th grade student

REQUEST FROM A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

I would like to ask you if you have any toys in good condition which you could give me for my personal project. My goal is to build a bridge for children in need in Germany. I want to achieve this goal by giving them a winter celebration that they will remember. [To do this I will collect toys in good condition, wrap them up and make it personal for each child in the home.](#) You can leave the

toys either in the Reception (Blue Box) or in Sharon Vandersteen's room 3412 (Project room) in House 3 on the 4th floor.

Thank you very much.

Leonie L.
Grade 10 student

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: MS WINTER CONCERT ON 7 DECEMBER

This year's theme of Middle School Winter Concert is: Winter Holiday from Around the World. We will have an international exhibition on the topic made by MS students' research along with lovely songs by instruments/singing, and international food.

Panni Kovacs
MS Music teacher



WINTER COAT DRIVE

Do you have **old toys and jackets** at home that you don't use anymore?

Over 2.5 million German children live below the poverty line. The **Human Rights Club** is supporting an initiative by the "Die Kinderprojekt-Arche" in seeking toy and coat donations for children who are struggling from socio-economic problems.

"Die Arche" is a support organization located in several parts of Germany. They protect children from exploitation and keep them safe and healthy through meal plans and support networks.



For the next month (until 12 December), there will be boxes situated around the entrances and exits of houses two and three. We ask for your help in donating clothes to keep the children warm and to give them something nice for the holiday season. Please have a look around your house for these necessities.



We are very grateful for any donations!

Human Rights Club

BERLIN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC PROJECT 2012



Choirs, Orchestras and Jazz Ensembles from BBIS, BIS, BBIS, ISVA, and Nelson Mandela School

Do not miss this memorable music event [on 18 March 2012 at 17.00 right here at BBIS!](#)

Panni Kovacs
BIMP Coordinator

„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 ICT Department