



BERLIN BRANDENBURG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

THE KALEIDOSCOPE

No 5 _ 30 September 2011

CALENDAR DATES

Friday, 30 September	HS Informal Music Soirée at 7 pm in the MPR
Mon, 3 – Fri, 7 October	Autumn Break
Friday, 14 October	New Families Transition Coffee at 8.30 am in the Cafeteria
Tuesday, 18 October	ES Parent-Teacher Conferences
Friday, 21 October	Elton meets Madonna Mania Concert at 6 pm in the Heizhaus
Mon, 24 – Fri, 28 October	International Week
Wednesday, 26 October	IB Diploma Programme Parent Information Evening at 7 pm in the MPR
Monday, 31 October	Reformation Day – No School

OPENING HOURS – SPORTS SHOP

Thursday, 6 October	Autumn Break
Thursday, 13 October	11 am – 2 pm
Thursday, 20 October	1 – 3 pm
Thursday, 27 October	11 am – 2 pm

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Richard Bartlett, High School Principal

ECAs

The vast majority of High School students participate in at least one extra-curricula activity, whether sporting, dramatic, musical, or one of the many other offerings (over 30 to choose from). Many students participate in several. We are delighted that the participation rate is so high and equally delighted that our staff give so generously of their time to make these activities possible. It is very clear to me that students who engage with the school, the teachers, and their peers in this manner are not only more successful academically, but appear to benefit socially also, developing the softer skills of life that will help them in their future lives. If your child is one of the minority who do not currently enjoy the opportunities available, you might wish to encourage them to do so: the benefits are clear and it also makes school even more fun. A copy of the current ECA Handbook has been given to all students and additional copies can be collected from the office if needed.

New Teacher: Ms Marie-Christine Rivest

Marie-Christine comes from Quebec, Canada and is a native speaker of French, a language she has taught in both Vancouver and Honduras before coming to join us to teach the language in the MYP and IB Diploma programmes. Originally trained as a classical musician she switched careers to become a teacher, a decision that she does not regret. She loves working here with our enthusiastic students who seek her out at lunch and after school for additional conversation practice. Also after school, she can be found coaching volleyball and recently took our team to Frankfurt, where they were very successful. Besides its historical and cultural significance, Marie-Christine was attracted to Berlin as it gives her an opportunity to learn German. Her goal is to hold meaningful conversations within the year. Other goals are to compete in two half-marathons, and to travel within Europe.



Loss, etc

Just a reminder that if students do bring valuable items (iphones, etc) to school, we cannot take responsibility for any losses. Students should ensure such items are on their person at all times (or stored in lockers). Through assemblies, PHSE programmes, and endeavours of homeroom teachers the concepts of care and respect (including property of others) that are central to our mission are addressed. If students do lose something please remember to check Lost Property (Reception/Blue Box) where a huge array of missing items can be found.

HS and MS Information Evening

Thanks to the many parents who attended this evening: a particular benefit is the communication channels it opens between teachers and parents who now know each other much better. It certainly improves the “connectedness” of the school. Just by attending such events you are actively supporting your children. The children of parents engaged with, and understanding of, the educational process at BBIS have a clear advantage and prosper.

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 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Camille Du Aime, Elementary School Principal

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up on October 18 (no school) and you should have received an appointment time from your child's homeroom teacher by now. If you have not received a time for your conference, please let your child's homeroom teacher know as soon as possible. If you will be using the babysitting service, please send back the RSVP so that we can plan.

The principal's coffee morning on October 19 at 8:10 will be a discussion of class placement procedures with our BBIS director Thomas Schaedler present to participate in the conversation.

International Week 2011 (October 24-28) is shaping up to be an exciting community event. In the elementary school our annual Culture Rooms are always a highlight for students, teachers and parents. Our PTA meeting this week was inspirational as many parents already shared ideas for activities linked to our theme **Language: Communication—Identity—Respect**. We already have parents who have offered to organize Culture Rooms for the following countries and cultures: EU, Africa, UK/Ireland, Denmark/Sweden, Canada, USA, Japan, Latin America, European languages: mythology; European languages: Switzerland; European languages: Malta, Russia, Israel, Germany and Czech Republic. But **we need even more Culture Rooms and volunteers**. If you are interested in offering a Culture Room or in helping out, please contact Lisa Roy, staff contact (lisa.roy@bbis.de) or Carol-Ann Furminger, PTA contact (carolanfurminger@gmail.com). Other events to look forward to include: parents and students reading in their home languages; Green Day environmental clean-up; the annual BBIS Move-a-thon and of course, the International Food Buffet. More detailed information will come home after the Autumn Break.

Today was the Elementary School Student Council's first Spirit Day: **Face Paint Day**. Students across the elementary school participated with enthusiasm and creativity.





Upcoming Events in the Elementary School

- Oct 3-7 Autumn Break (No school)
- Oct 18 Parent Teacher Conferences (No school)
- Oct 19 Principal's Coffee Morning (8:10 in Camille's office); Agenda: class placement process
- Oct 14 New Families Transition Coffee Morning
- Oct 24-28 International Week
- Oct 31 Reformation Day (No school)

- Oct 10-14 will be hosted by Grades 4A and 2A

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 Student Support Services

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO LEARN ENGLISH?

The development of language and literacy in English is crucial for the success of students in IB programmes; but how long does this process actually take for students whose first language is not English?

The important difference between social English and academic English

Social English is the day-to-day language needed to interact socially with other people. Our students use these skills when they are on the sports field, in the lunch room, on the school bus, at parties and talking on the telephone. Social English is not very cognitively demanding and the language required is not specialized. Social language skills usually develop within six months to two years after arrival in the school. Students with good social English can sound very fluent and usually have a vocabulary of around three thousand words. However, they still need to develop the vocabulary and linguistic knowledge further to achieve academically.

The development of academic language is a long process and can take around five to seven years but sometimes even ten. Teachers can help learners to extend their language and literacy by setting high expectations and giving the students numerous opportunities to be involved in learner-centred activities and to interact with cognitively rich materials. Students receive EAL pull-out instruction for around two to three years at BBIS. However, after transitioning into mainstream classes, students continue to receive EAL in-class support until EAL and mainstream teachers agree that students are ready to cope fully with the academic content.

At home, parents can encourage these experiences further. “Learners who read extensively in and outside an IB programme have greater opportunities to extend their academic language and concepts than those whose reading is limited” (IB, 2008).

Our advice to parents is to:

- Provide plenty of opportunity for children to read in their home language and in English.
- Encourage the reading of fiction and non-fiction texts and provide materials in the home language to support academic learning in school.
- Be aware that students need time and continued support to acquire the academic English which is essential for their success in school.

Amanda Linton
EAL Department

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

LINK TO THE PTA NEWSLETTER

<http://www.bbis.de/community/parent-teacher-association/pta-newsletter/>

BERLIN NEW STUDENTS WALKING TOUR

On Saturday, September 17, 16 Middle and High School students toured the city centre lead by the BBIS Student Ambassadors. We spent an enjoyable afternoon with gorgeous weather seeing the sites from Hackescher Markt, past Museum Island, Gendarmen Markt, Friedrich Strasse, over to the Brandenburg Gate, and the site of the former Berlin Wall, the Holocaust Memorial, ending at Potsdamer Platz. The Student Ambassadors did a fabulous job leading the tour and giving the new students tips on: finding favourite foods (with a stop at the Chocolate Museum), which art museums must not be missed, where to buy those new autumn fashions and where to take your friends when they come over to visit you. We certainly enjoyed the day and hope our new students enjoyed the event!

BBIS Student Ambassadors and
Leslie Kamphausen and Chineme Ugbor



NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Another year means another group of enthusiastic 9th graders embark on their International Award journey. On September 7, they spent 4 periods being introduced to the Award and practicing some of the various skills required to complete it. They made hot chocolate on camping stoves, put up and dismantled tents, completed an orienteering course and also did some activities building teamwork and trust, two core values of the Award.

After receiving a great deal of interest from the 9th graders, it became evident that our planned 'Appetizer Weekend' canoe/hike in the Spreewald would go ahead. As it turned out we had magnificent interest. Over a third of the entire 9th grade signed up and were joined by seven other students from grades 10, 11 and 12.



Our start location, Groß Wasserburg, is only a short drive south east of Berlin. Once aboard our Canadian style canoes, we headed through a beautiful area. We paddled through forests, under weeping willows, navigating two old canal locks, past picturesque countryside, and into a small lake where we eventually reached our picturesque campsite – all the time bathed in “Indian Summer” sunshine.

The sun began to set, and as hunger was rife, cooking began, the results of which varied greatly, but were all devoured in no time at all. A fantastic bonfire was greatly appreciated as the setting sun gave way to a crisp clear, starry night. After toasting marshmallows and chatting by the fireside, it was time to hit the hay in our cosy tents, set up on the water’s edge.



We were told in the morning that the night had been cold. This was obvious to us; however, no one guessed that it had been as low as four degrees! Luckily, there was enough warmth in the fire to get it started without too much ado. I think we can all agree, seldom does one see such a glorious sunrise. Once we had upped camp, we set off, heading in small groups towards the small town of Märkisch-Buchholz. Despite a longish hike, carrying large packs, morale amongst the troops was high. We arrived at our destination tired, thirsty, hungry, but oh so satisfied! Enjoyment all round.

The weekend was a truly wonderful to kick off our International Award calendar.

Simon Pönisch



INVITATION TO THE FALL THEMED DANCE PARTY

Dear BBIS Parents and Staff,

The PTA would like to invite you to this year's fun social event: the [Fall Fun Party](#).

When: 5 November 2011, 8 pm – 1 am
Where: BBIS Heizhaus
What: Fall Themed Dance Party
Tickets: 25 Euro

One of the important goals of the PTA is to bring the school community together. Some of the recent events have been the Welcome Coffees and the Back to School Picnic. Now we want to bring everyone together again for a fun evening to a fall themed – Fall Fun Party.

Included in the ticket price is: BBIS' fantastic teacher band – The Pedagogws, DJ music and a snack buffet. There will also be a bar where you can buy drinks for a reasonable price.

[You can get your tickets in one of the following ways:](#)

You can contact Erika Victor in room 1109 (classroom next to the library) in House 1

You can contact Yvonne Buchholz in the Blue Box (Reception).

Tickets will be sold at every PTA event until the party.

If you do not regularly come to school, but want to buy your tickets, please contact us at mette@holmarks.net

Please bring the exact change when you buy your tickets.

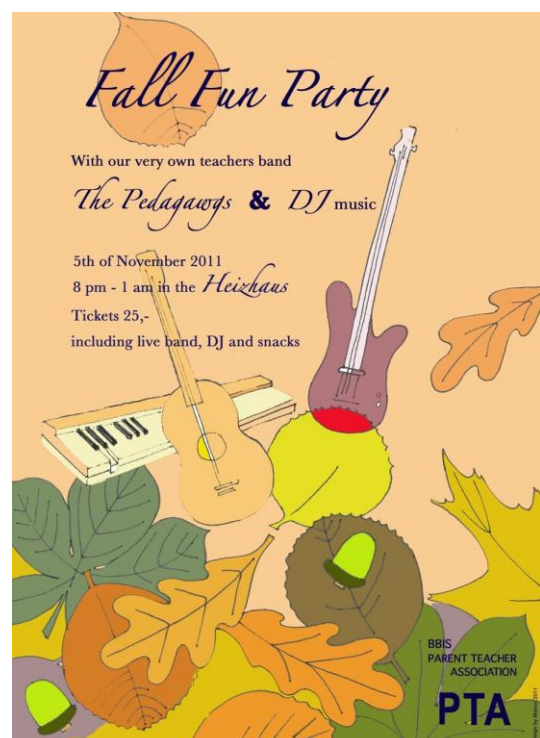
Further information about the event will also be available at the PTA notice boards in the Atriums in House 2 and 3 as well as in the weekly PTA newsletter. Please note there is only a limited amount of tickets; buy yours before someone else does!

If you have any questions about the event, please feel free to contact the Fall Fun Party committee at mette@holmarks.net

We hope to see you at the Fall Fun Party.

Kind Regards

Mette Holmark
PTA Chair



STUDENT INTERNSHIP IN THE IB CAREER-RELATED PROGRAMME

As part of their IB Career-related Certificate (or “IBCC”), eleven students in Grades 11 and 12 will be carrying out a two-week internship in November. Depending on their different interests and career goals, last year’s internships ranged from hospitality to childcare and from reporting to retail. In the past, we have been fortunate to be supported by numerous companies and organisations that provided one or more of our students with an internship place. At the moment, we are still looking for suitable internships in the following areas:

- mechanical/engineering
- real estate
- banking
- event management
- promotion/marketing/advertising
- sports management
- working with handicapped
- psychology/counselling
- medical or dental assistant, nursing
- physiotherapy

If you can offer an internship place during one of these periods...

7-18 November 2011 or
4-15 June 2012

...then please get in touch with the IBCC Coordinator!

Julia Peters
IBCC Coordinator
julia.peters@bbis.de



IBCC student interns learning getting taste of the working world

HOME LANGUAGE CORNER

We are in the process of finding more tutors and teachers to expand our programme. Please contact the Home Language coordinator, if you are interested in lessons, either at home or here at school. When writing, please be sure to include the name and age of each child, as well as the name of the homeroom teacher.

Barbara Giegerich
Home Language Coordinator
barbara.giegerich@bbis.de

BBIS YEARBOOK STILL ON SALE

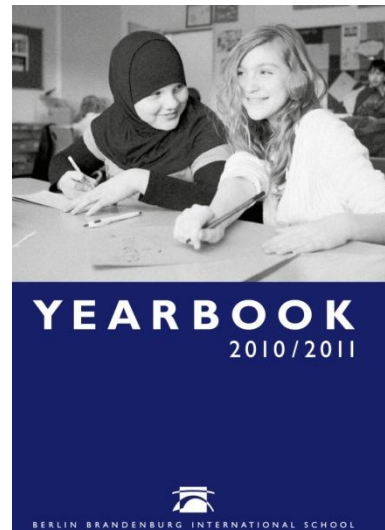
All BBIS parents still have the opportunity to purchase our latest BBIS yearbook of 2010/2011. It gives you a lively, quite detailed overview of the classes and their activities during the last school year, important whole school events, extracurricular activities and school trips.

In addition to that, it includes all members of staff, both teaching and non-teaching, with their names and pictures (without the ones who have just started working for the school this August, of course).

If you are interested in the book and would like to have a closer look at it, please ask the BBIS receptionists for a specimen copy.

The yearbook is available for **25 euros** in the Accounting/Controlling office (House 3, Level 3, Room 3317) all September and October.

Tamara Hager
PR/Marketing



CHOIR – CHOIR – CHOIR

Would you like to get together with other parents, staff members to make music together, eat a few cookies, and reenergize your soul? Than come to choir! Not limited to “only music readers”! Anyone can join from the entire BBIS community.

Time: Mondays, 3:15 to 4:30 pm
Location: Pavilion, Room 6

Hope to see many music lovers there.

Panni Kovacs
Music Teacher

„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

