



Photo: A. Russwurm

Yr. 6 trip to the world of the ancient Greeks (Greek Workshop - a detailed report will follow in our yearbook)

Dear Readers of DSLive,

I am excited about the topic of this current DSLive issue, „DSL International“, since my goal for the school is keeping our German roots alive while introducing a more international approach. Why? Our 800 students come from 27 nations, with diverse ethnic backgrounds, different religions, and various family constellations. But all speak German, celebrate St. Martin and Christmas, sing Advent songs and most of them like sausages and football. We want to prepare these students for their future at international universities and global companies. I am convinced that DSL students will have an advantage when it comes to job hunting, because they can provide the German language know-how in any international team. To help them to profit from these opportunities, we want to provide an increasingly bilingual, i.e. international education. The double qualification of German Abitur and International Baccalaureate is an ideal representation of the path we have taken. Being bilingual is not only a matter of language. By knowing another language, we gain insights into different ways of thinking and perceiving, we learn to accept and respect each other. Respect and tolerance are indispensable for a successful future in a globalised world. Therefore, I would like to wish you: **Frohe Weihnachten! Merry Christmas! Joyeux Noël! Feliz Navidad! God Jul!**

Yours sincerely,
Marie-Luise Balkenhol, Headmistress

Dear DSLive Readers,

It is wonderful that the children at DSL are very happy together with people of all different nationalities. Most of them have lived in one or more foreign countries already. Our Primary School pupils are always keen to support the exchange programme with various English schools, where they can find new friends and share new experiences. One example was a crafts workshop on 3rd November 2011, where children in year 2 met with pupils from St. Andrew's With St. Richard's School to make lanterns for the St. Martin's celebration. The English children then also came to visit their hosts here at the school on the evening on 11th November, and let their lanterns shine. On 15th November, class 4c and Mrs. Wienken visited the Lycee Français in South Kensington (see report). Meanwhile, class 4a, led by Mrs. Wisotzka, is keeping close contact with our neighbours at the Russell School. During the Primary School assembly, pupils of the Russell School will sing a German Christmas song. There are also plans for exchange visits during classes. Since our children have lived in so many countries, they also have very interesting things to tell about the various Christmas customs they know. Never a dull moment at the DSL! All that remains for me is to wish all Primary School pupils and their parents a very merry and relaxing Christmas time.

Antje Kretschmann, Head of Primary School

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- 14 Christmas Performance
Kiga/ Pre-School
Forum, 9am-10am
English Theatre yr. 5,6
Forum, 4pm
Yr. 4, Rose Theatre
- 15 Christmas Assembly
Primary School,
Forum, 8:30am
Yr. 5, Rose Theatre
- 16 Last day of school
Cafeteria, clubs as
normal
Busses at 3:45pm

January

- 9 Back to school
- 14 ‚Jugend musiziert‘,
Forum
- 20 Training Day yr. 5
- 21 New Year's Reception
- 23 Final Grades
Conference yr. 5-11
No afternoon lessons
or clubs
Busses at 2pm
- 25 Assembly yr. 11, 12
- 27 Breakfast with the
‚Friends‘, Cafeteria
- 27 Reports for yr. 3-11
No school for yr. 12
School ends 1:40pm
Busses at 1:40pm
- 30 Abitur exams - Day 1

February

- 1 Abitur exams - Day 2
- 3 Abitur exams - Day 3
- 6 Abitur exams - Day 4
- 8 Abitur exams - Day 5
- 13-17 Work experience yr.10

20-24 Half term

- 28 Exam yr. 10
Maths GYM

Please regularly check the DSL
webpage
www.dslondon.org.uk
for updates

The DSLive Team
wishes all readers a

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
2012**



FRIENDS OF DOUGLAS HOUSE
Förderverein der Deutschen Schule London

The atmospheric Christmas Fair, which took place on the 26th of November 2011, was a charming and successful prelude to the holiday season. In advance, more than 800 candles, 100 kg of decorative material and loads of fir sprigs had been turned into beautiful handmade wreaths and bouquets. Christmassy Arts and Craft articles, culinary treats and a selection of amusements proved very popular again. All proceeds will finance school projects. Thank you to the numerous helpers and visitors. We wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and would like to invite you to the traditional New Years Breakfast, taking place on the 27th January 2012, starting at 9.30am, in the Cafeteria.

Dear DSL Community,

We are getting closer to the end of the calendar year, and whilst we happily anticipate the festive season, it is also time to reflect on the last year. 2011 was an important year for the DSL, our first Abi/IB class started their journey to their qualifications and on the school premises we can witness the progress of the Primary School new build. We are very happy about the positive reactions we receive from the German Embassy as well as from companies willing to support our objectives. Our heartfelt thank you goes out to all parents who contribute to our school, may their involvement be by donating their time and work or financially - 2011 has been a very positive year and will be remembered for this!

Wishing you a lovely and relaxing Christmas holiday.

Lynda Funke, Chair

NAMASTE International Kinderhaus

Over the years the Kindergarten and Pre-School have become more and more culturally diverse. Our children come from a broad range of countries including Switzerland, India, China, Australia, Japan, Denmark, Portugal, Iran and the USA (to name but a few!). As early childhood educators we need to understand that teaching successfully means learning about the cultures of our children and transmitting to them this knowledge. Our goals are to: recognize the value and contribution of each individual child; teach children to respect other cultures as well as their own; to assist children to function successfully in a multicultural society; increase children's opportunities to talk and play with diverse children and to encourage children to experience in



Diwali in our Kinderhaus

positive ways both their own differences as culturally diverse people as well as their similarities as human beings. This task is greatly helped by the generous time and commitment of our parents who bring some of their culture into our classrooms; for example in October we celebrated Diwali and in November Thanksgiving. Further, each February our project 'Around the World in 5 Days' sees every classroom turned into a different country, where children can learn about those countries, sample foods, hear stories, try out crafts and sing songs. Without a doubt, our multicultural children add an immensely enriching flavour to our daily routine and make our setting so very special. We couldn't ask for a better way to prepare our children for an increasingly diverse society!

Jutta Hepworth, Kinderhaus

St. Martin

The German St. Martin song describes Martin riding "through snow and wind". This year our lantern procession led the participants not through the a.m. snowy and windy conditions but right around the new Primary School construction site. With their teachers our Kinderhaus pupils and the Primary School years 1 and 2 as well as their visiting peers from St Andrew's With St. Richard's School had learned their songs by heart. The weather was the best we have seen on this day for years, the Martin's bread „geese" smelled and tasted lovely and the lanterns shone brightly. Everybody who missed the "real horse" will be pleased to hear that already a horse has been booked for 2012! Thank you so very much to the pupils of classes 4a and 4c who beautifully staged St Martin's story using a wooden horse. I would also like to thank Bob Barter and his band as well as the Friends of Douglas House for the catering. After this year's event had to



Together we created lanterns

be adapted to the circumstances, we certainly look forward to an especially nice St. Martin's celebration in 2012!

Getting involved at the DSL

The support the school receives by volunteers is essential. Without their dedication the school could not be as bright, inspiring and diversified a place as it is and we would miss out on many of the most popular events, too. This spirit of loyalty is showcased by people such as Silvia and Florian Bollen. These parents of former DSL pupils, continue their involvement at the DSL even after their children have gone. When asked about their motivation to do so, Silvia explained: "The German School is our home. This is where all of our friends are." Lynda Funke, Chair of the DSL Board, expounds, "The numerous people who regularly dedicate their time and



GRUEZI busy Swiss volunteers

energy to our school continue to greatly inspire me. There are too many to name individually, yet each of them plays an enormous role in creating and strengthening our community. A heartfelt thank you to all!"

NEW! Pupils' Magazine: "SZ Reborn" to be published soon!

After some years without a pupils' magazine we look forward to the publication of "sz reborn" featuring interviews with teachers, pupils and builders, something about the new build, poems and stories written by pupils and more. If you, too, want to find out about the secret behind Mr. Kadan's bow ties, make sure you get your copy for as little as £1!

Big WOW and the Olympic torch

Several DSL pupils "carried the torch" for our school at the yearly Big WoW (Walk once a Week) event at the Meadlands School on October 20th. For the past 3 years, schools from all over London have participated in the Big WoW initiative, which aims at encouraging physical activity, improving security around



Olympics 2012 - here we come

schools and developing awareness for environmental issues. This morning was especially exciting because an historic Olympic torch (dating back to 1948!) was passed over by pupils from Hounslow via Richmond to Kingston. John Greatrex, an athlete who took part in the 1970 Commonwealth Games, offered the children an insight on the idea of the Olympic torch and the upcoming Olympic games.

HEI From Oslo to London

Last summer we moved from Oslo to London with our children (3, 12 and 15 years old). The German School Oslo, where the children went for three years, is a small school with about 250 pupils; it felt comprehensible and familiar. The school is right in the centre of Oslo, which holds both advantages and disadvantages. Public transport is fantastic, but finding a parking space proves impossible. The biggest disadvantage of the DSO is that there are no sports facilities or green space. Our children enjoyed being at the school. Because of its size, everybody knew each other and making friends was easy. The DSL in comparison is quite different. Our children are happy that they can cycle to school, they like the fantastic sports facilities –indoors and outdoors– and having lunch in the cafeteria.

A disadvantage is the size of this school and that classes are big. The children do find it more difficult to integrate and make friends. But in general, they are settling down well and look forward to the years to come here in London.

Harnys Family

BUONGIORNO Visitors from Milan

Currently DSL year 10 is hosting 4 visitors from the German School Milan (DSM). They were kind enough to tell us what they are particularly fond of at the respective schools, DSL and DSM: "One of the highlights of our school, the DSM is the very close knit relation between pupils and teachers. The school is bigger, with more pupils and a bigger building. We really miss our Cafeteria. Some of DSL's advantages overwhelmed us: the class rooms are very well equipped, the school technology, the vast amount of activities (Nikolaus-sale, ISSA, etc.), the open-minded and hospitable pupils and last but not least the sport facilities."



Marta, Federico, Isotta and Leandra, all yr. 10

HELLO Abitur in London - University in Nottingham

University, new faces, new city and all of this far away from home - the beginning of my university career saw me rather nervous. Realizing, however, that my fellow students were in the same boat certainly had a calming effect. 2 months later I feel very well established here at Nottingham University. The Campus Park is inviting to take wonderful walks. Numerous societies (from theater and "Quidditch Soc" to the "Bell Ringing Society") offer a nice compensation for the time spent in lectures and classes or working on papers. After being educated



Louisa in Nottingham

in the German school system I had to take up the challenge of speaking and writing English now - was this a disadvantage? Until now this is not the case. The DSL successfully equipped me with sufficient English skills as well as the needed ability to learn and read up independently. Thus, I would like to encourage everybody who considers studying in England to go ahead and apply. *Louisa Morrison, Abi 2011*, has a German mother, an English father and spent many childhood years in Cairo.

BONJOUR A trip to the Lycée Français

Class 4c spent a day with their French peers of the Lycée Français in Kensington. After meeting their partners, the children started off with a trail through the Natural History Museum and then proceeded to the Lycée. One of the

highlights there was when both French and German pupils joined together to sing French, German and English songs. First friendships have been established and the children look forward to meeting



French-German friendship

again at the DSL next summer. 4c's detailed report will be published in the yearbook.

BOM DIA "Gap Year" - Report from Brasil: Caring for children with cancer

Following my "Abitur" in May 2011, I decided to take a "Gap Year" between finishing at the DSL and beginning my studies at University. I have just returned home for Christmas from Brasil, where I have been working for three months for a special organisation (nacci.org.br) which cares for very poor children who are stricken with cancer. It was extremely emotionally moving. On the one hand, it was wrenching to experience the tragedy of this horrible illness and the depths of this poverty. On the other hand, it was so heartwarming to be able to contribute to improving the daily lives of these children. The unimaginably enormous gap between poor and rich was aggravated by the impression that a large part of the upper class reacts without any respect towards these people and their dignity. "Our problems" are so trivial that they are not even worth mentioning in relation to these people's problems. In the second part of my Gap year, I will be doing two internships in preparation of my studies. As I have already had such intensively interesting and precious life experiences during these months, I am very thankful that I have decided to take a "Gap year". *Julius Schönfeld, Abi 2011*

DSLaktiv takes up blogging!

The dates for our activities in 2012 have been decided upon: DSLaktiv Run will take place on March 30th and please look forward to our Charity Dinner on June 23rd. Soon you will hear more about our next creative project which is called "Pictures for People in Poverty". We are happy to announce we have our own blog now: www.dslaktiv.blogspot.com. We are very much looking forward to the upcoming projects and hope for energetic support. Wishing you a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2012. dslaktiv@dslondon.org.uk

Your questions answered: the IB

Our IB/Abi pioneers are well at work and all members of the school community keep their fingers crossed for them! Amongst other experts, Eva Micheler (Chair of Governance Committee, former

Chair of the IB Committee) kindly agreed to regularly answer questions regarding the IB handed in by parents. This sequel will start with 2 questions:

DSLive: Which status does the IB diploma have within English universities, especially in comparison to the Abitur?

Dr. Micheler: In England, the IB diploma is far more established than the Abitur. Thus, when it comes to the acceptance process, the appraisal of applicants with an IB is fundamentally clearer for the universities - an advantage when applying.

DSLive: An admissions tutor for the LSE (London School of Economics) you have profound experience regarding the application process. Will universities recognise the fact that a DSL IB graduate will hold a double qualification? How will this be acknowledged?

Dr. Micheler: Universities are strictly obliged to equally apply their admission criteria to each student alike. I tend to think though that applicants who fulfill the criteria and hold a double qualification will have an advantage when it comes to being compared with candidates showing an IB diploma only.

German Schools Abroad will take regional standardised final exam in the future

One of the aims of German education politics is the standardisation of the Abitur exams. This shall apply for each of the German federal states as well as for exams taken at German schools abroad. Several of those schools took part in the development of the regional Abitur, with 4 DSL teachers being involved in this process from the first day on. They covered the four subjects German (Dr. Merzhäuser), History (Mr. Urban), Physics (Mr. Wahls) and Biology (Mr. Binder). In November 2011, a final conference took part in Paris, during which 7 committees, each of them working on 1 specific subject, successfully developed the respective regional curricula. These are the guidelines for the standardised Abitur exams which will be held at all schools of Region 12 in the compound of German schools abroad (amongst others comprising German schools in Den Haag, Brussels, Moscow, Paris and, of course, London) as of school year 2013/14. This means that in the future in addition to the IB, the school faces the standardised Abitur, a challenge we meet with great confidence. Finally, let me mention the benefits the new final exam offers: it standardises the curricula and the exams of all schools in a region. Furthermore, grading will be more objective and a comparison of final exams will be easier. For further information on this topic, please refer to the following webpage by the German educational body: <http://www.kmk.org/bildung-schule/auslandsschulwesen>

Dirk Binder

DSL sports teams play in ISSA Tournaments

The DSL has been a member of ISSA, the International Schools' Sport Association, for 25 years. That is something we can justifiably be proud of! Currently there

At home we speak
German and ...



RUSSIAN

на русском языке
(Sophia, 3b & Anastasia, 5b)



SWEDISH

"Vi pratar både tyska
och svenska hemma".
(Eric, 3b & Louise, 4b)



ARABIC

في المنزل نحن نتكلم العربي والألماني
(Leila, 11a)

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are five (year 9 – 12) DSL teams competing throughout the year in ISSA tournaments: Boys Football, Girls Football, Boys Volleyball, Girls Volleyball, and Boys Basketball. In November, three of our teams competed in tournaments in and around London. November 3-5th, Coach Reinhard Meyer cheered on the DSL Boys football team at the tournament hosted by International School London. The boys played well and finished a respectable 6th place. The Girls Volleyball team, coached by Jörg Friedrich Schmöckl, played at ACS Egham and placed 7th. Many thanks to Pia Law and Lea Heusler for stepping in to support the team, when their coach fell ill. Last, but certainly not least, the DSL hosted the Boys Volleyball tournament, in which our team, coached by Lena Krämer, got 4th place – well done! Hosting an event is an enormous amount of work, for which Arzu Gebser, Head of Sports Department, should be



Let the games begin

amply lauded and deeply appreciated. At this tournament, all coaches, referees, helpers and players were warmly cared for by six mothers of our players. With the support of Michaela Lacher, they were able to provide sandwiches, hot and cold drinks and snacks, even though the sports complex was not really set up for catering. Special thanks to the ladies: Broer, Hartmann, Liebig, Speis, Spriess and Sauer! All the tournaments were, as Reinhard Meyer said, 'very intense, emotional and insightful'. The passionate efforts of the players as well as the sports teachers' and parents' achievements in organizing these events deserve recognition, and could do with a few more spectators in future! Visit www.dslondon.org.uk for further tournament information.

Musical Recitals, 23. and 30.11.2011

Again our pupils impressively exhibited their musical skills as well as the wide range of music played at the school, reaching from classic to pop. "The Secondary School's recital (23.11.) this time had a focus on music for violins, but nevertheless we also enjoyed brilliant contributions by singers, pianists and guitar players", says Florian Wellner, Head of the Music department. On 30.11.2011, the Primary School followed with a very entertaining and uplifting evening with a variety of instruments to be heard: trumpet and drums received their fair share of applause as well as recorder, piano or violin performances.

Parents' Representatives

The new heads of the parents' representatives, for the first time ever a quartet, took up their work 2 months ago. They offer an efficient and practicable approach to the concerns of all yeargroups' parents and pupils. The four aim to react and communicate in a situation-oriented and transparent way during the current school year 2011/12. They look forward to a constructive collaboration with everybody in the DSL community. Elternbeirat@dslondon.org.uk

Thank you, "Booked Up"!

DSL has participated in the "booked up" event for some years now. "Booked Up" is



We love books

an organisation dedicated to increasing or maintaining the pleasure of reading in young people by the means of donating a book of their own choice to each pupil in year 7. The organisation is sponsored by the "Department of Education" and unfortunately is constantly under threat of vanishing due to funding problems. We are very pleased it worked out again for this year! The list the pupils can choose from is comprehensive: there are funny and scary books, some encourage discussions and deeper reflections whilst others provide factual knowledge. Even joke compilations and comics are on the offer for the not so keen on reading. All those books are great! Some pupils thought it would be cool not to join and did not order a book. They may have felt a bit remorse on the day the books were distributed to their friends. I would like to encourage swapping books! "Booked Up" are especially interested in hearing from the young readers. Prizes can be won! Please take a look at the webpage: www.bookedup.org.uk

Barbara Johannis



Yummy: the SV Nikolaus event. A detailed report will be available in the yearbook.

Bicycle Training:

The Borough of Richmond currently offers bicycle training lessons for adults and children (individual lessons, 2 hours costs only £5). Please refer to the following webpage for further information: http://www.richmond.gov.uk/1-2-1_cycling_adults_and_children

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

German Classes will be available for non-German speakers on the DSL school premises soon. They will take place on Wednesday evenings, 7:30pm, in room 14 and 15, starting January 11, 2012. For further information please contact Silvia Hohmann, E-Mail: shmilano@web.de.

Changes in the Administration

As well as Christa Müller-Waterman, Hannah Boeynaems (DSL Receptionist) will be missed in the future! After 8 years at the DSL she looks forward to her ever so well deserved retirement, which will allow her to spend a lot of time with her little granddaughter. We wish her all the best!

dslive

DSL Mini-
Knigge
„We are nice to
each other!“

