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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Liebe Eltern, dear parents,

We're already well into the school year, and things are beginning to settle. Teachers and students are getting back into their routines, library hours and 'Musik with tic' (junior classes) are in full swing again, and management and staff are preparing for our first big junior class event, the 'Laternenfest', on November 12th (more details below). We are very happy to welcome 34 new students at our school, who have joined various classes, from kindergarten to grade 10.

On October 2nd, our ZfA representative, Andreas Meckes (ZfA Edmonton), visited our school and was impressed by the lessons he observed and the

conversations he had with teachers, assistants and students. He was joined by the Deputy Consul General (German Consulate General Vancouver), Birgit Densch, for a small DSD 1 ceremony, where last year's candidates received their diplomas. Congratulations and well done!

Wishing you all a great fall season,
Ute Steves
Principal



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear VWGS Family:

I'm happy to report that we had a successful AGM this year and that you have a new board of committed parent volunteers. Anja Slusarzick-Seibt, Uwe Gesierich and myself (Tracey Dye) have agreed to stay on for another year to help maintain consistency and provide context for our new board members. Alicia Williams Young, Claudia Baerwolff, and Steven Seewald have joined us

for the first time and are enthusiastically taking on the challenge of learning what's involved with the management of the school. BC Society deadlines, CRA reporting obligations, how to deal with a stolen computer: it's a lot to take in with the start of a new school year and the heady force of our Fall schedules.

As a small piece of business, our stalwart volunteer librarian, Barbara Dalpke will be moving on at the end of this school year. I don't need to tell you how essential the library has been to sustaining our students' interest in German through their interests in reading. Anyone interested in helping us to sustain this invaluable resource, please contact Barbara (libraryvwgs@gmail.com) to learn what's involved and possibly shadow her during the school year.

I'd like to welcome our teachers to the new school year and want to thank Lidija Bakovic, Vincent Franklin, Radi Khalili, Anne Horst, Andrea Mechler, Dorothee Leesing, Jana Hagspiel, Marlen Jacob, and Andrea Freytag for their ongoing investment in the education of our children. I'd also like to welcome Sophia Weber, Christina Gilhuber, Andrea Dahlmann-Resing, and Dali Klibadze to the VWGS family. I hope that you will all enjoy your time with us and find enrichment from your colleagues and students. We've already had a visit from the Western Canadian Sprachfachberater, Andreas Meckes who was very impressed with your diverse teaching styles and how effectively you are engaging the help of your teaching assistants.

We are so fortunate to have Ute Steves setting our course for the coming school year. During this year's Parent Information Night, she was able to provide a concise overview of the diverse German language backgrounds that comprise our community and how the VWGS is designed to help everyone succeed. I had parents approach me who said they learned invaluable information about what's involved in helping our kids succeed, and that this should continue as an important reminder/introduction for each school year. She and Susanne Freitag are essential to guiding us toward the future. I feel very honored to be working with all of you.

Kind regards,
Tracey Dye
2019/2020 VWGS President

MEET OUR TEACHERS & STUDENTS



Hello everyone!

My name is **Marlen Jacob** and I am the teacher of this year's DaZ Junior 2 and the DaZ Senior 1 class. I have been teaching at the Vancouver Westside German School for the last 5 years. I have a Bachelor Degree in Pre-Primary and Primary Education and I have been teaching in different Elementary School settings in Switzerland before coming to Canada. In my spare time I enjoy traveling, hiking, running, biking and beekeeping.



DaZ Junior 2

The children of the DaZ Junior 2 class are very curious, active and motivated to learn. It is a pleasure working with them. Next to our regular curriculum we are involved in different activities. "You are more than one" is the topic of the school year and we started by exploring who we are and what we like. Every other week we are meeting with our partner class, the DaF Junior 2 to sing and prepare for the Christmas Market. It is nice to see how the kids are starting to warm up to each other.

Soon we will be getting ready for our yearly St. Martins parade. For this occasion we will build our own lanterns.

Improving the reading skills of the children will be a major priority this year since we will be participating in a reading competition organized by the Loewe-Verlag.



DaZ Senior 1

Our DaZ Senior 1 class is, with 7 students, the smallest class size I have ever taught. I am excited that this little group is full of smart and fun students. We will have plenty of time to get ready to improve our language skills and to

reach an A2 level by next school year.

This year we are celebrating the 30th anniversary "Fall of the Berlin Wall". This will be our main topic until December since the students showed a lot of interest in it. We already had the chance to listen to a presentation and now we are reading the book "Fritzi war dabei" in class to learn more about this critical time in German history.

We will also work on our spelling skills since we will be taking part in a Spelling Bee organized by the General Consulate.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OUR SCHOOL

• Laternenfest/St. Martin

When

Tuesday, November 12th, from 5:15 pm to 6:30 pm

Where

Cafeteria Prince of Wales Secondary School

We warmly invite you and your families (siblings, grandparents, etc.) to join us for our Laternenfest (St. Martin's Festivities).

Andy's German Bakehaus will be baking "Weckmänner" for us (YUM!) and those will be available to pre-order until Sunday, November 10th, 2 pm. All proceeds of this fundraising sale will go directly to the Vancouver Westside German School to support its ongoing projects.

Please note: All of our students will be getting a Weckmann from the school for free. So you only need to order if you want extra Weckmänner. Weckmänner are \$3.00 each. To preorder your extra "Weckmänner", please click [here](#).

• Laternenfest/St. Martin Schedule

4:15-5:00 pm: lessons

5:15 pm: Meeting in the cafeteria

5:20 pm: start of the lantern procession in this order:

DaZ Junior 2 / DaF Junior 2 / DaZ Junior 3 / DaF Junior 3

DaZ Junior 4 / DaF Junior 4

DaZ Junior / DaZ Junior 1 / DaF Junior 1

• Kaffee and Kuchen Event

When

Tuesday, November 12th, from 4:45 pm to 6:30 pm

Where

Cafeteria of Prince of Wales Secondary School

Everybody is welcome to warm up with coffee and cake/cookies before and during our Laternenfest!

We are looking forward to donations of cakes, cookies or other baked goods (NO NUTS PLEASE!). We are also looking for volunteers who help out with setting up tables, handing out baked goods and cleaning up. Please contact orgavwgs@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

• **Book Sale**

When

Tuesday, November 12th, from 4:45 pm to 6:30 pm

Where

Cafeteria of Prince of Wales Secondary School

We have an amazing selection of German books for all ages waiting for you! Sale is by donation, so please drop by, browse and maybe find a great birthday or Christmas present. All proceeds will go directly to the Vancouver Westside German School to support its ongoing projects.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

• **Drop-off & Pick-up on Tuesdays**

Please drop off your child/children in the cafeteria before classes start. If you arrive early when picking up your child or staying around during class time on Tuesdays, please be so kind to stay outside the hallways. Pick up for kindergarten to Junior 2 classes will be in the cafeteria, pick up for Junior 3 and 4 is by the front entrance. Teachers will take the children to the respective pick-up location, so please wait there and make sure to sign your child out with the teacher before you leave. Thank you for your cooperation!

• **Pick-up on Wednesdays**

Please make sure to pick up your child at the front entrance of the school. All students will be coming to the front entrance when classes are over (teachers will take the younger classes there for dismissal). The engineer staff will already have cleaned the corridors on the ground floor, and with the fall weather coming in, they would have to do it all again after pick-up. Thank you

for your cooperation!

- **Past events at VWGS: Raw food chef Boris Lauser visited our school**



Raw food chef Boris Lauser visited VWGS and cooked delicious food with some of our classes. The students more than loved the spaghetti bolognese with Brazil nut parmesan and the dessert, a raw cocoa mousse. A big "Thank You" to Boris Lauser and the German Consulate for making this event possible.

- **Past events at VWGS: Susanne Freitag's lecture on the German unification**

As part of the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the fall of the (Berlin) Wall, our administrator Susanne Freitag gave a lecture to some of our classes about life in the GDR and her family leaving the country via "Ausreiseantrag" (GDR exit request) before the Wall came down. The students found the lecture very interesting and received deep insights into life in a divided Germany. A senior and a junior class have decided to delve deeper into the topic and to read a continuing classroom reading.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

For detailed information, please visit our **School Calendar**. This is a great opportunity to see and check what's going on at VWGS.

- **November 12th, 2019:** St. Martin celebration (Laternenfest) with Coffee & Cake
 - **November 27th, 2019:** DSD II Exam Written Portion
 - **December 3rd, 2019:** St. Nikolaus
 - **December 11th, 2019:** Future (with German) Fair
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **St. Martin Laternenfest at St. Mark's Church**

Come and join this year's St. Martin lantern procession, followed by a Potluck at St. Mark's Church. They will meet in the basement of St. Mark's Church and then go from there with the lanterns around the block. Please bring lanterns and be ready to sing. Song sheets are provided.

When

Sunday, November 10, 2019 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Where

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1573 East 18th Avenue, Vancouver

- **30th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall: Reception & A Panel Discussion with UBC Faculty and Contemporary Witnesses**

This year, it has been 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. On this occasion, the Consulate General of Germany organizes a reception and a panel discussion with eyewitness in collaboration with the University of British Columbia. Be transported back in time when the eyewitnesses are sharing memories of their lives at a time when the wall still existed.

When

Thursday, November 14, 2019 from 11:45 am to 1:45 pm

Where University of British Columbia, Institute for European Studies (Room 120), 1588 West Mall, Vancouver

- **Christmas Fest at the German-Canadian Care Home**

The German-Canadian Care Home invites you to their annual Christmas Fest.

German food, books, crafts, baking, vendors and Glühwein await you at this fundraising event. Also, a raffle and a live auction are going to take place at this free event.

When

Saturday, November 16, 2019 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Where

German-Canadian Care Home, 2010 Harrison Dr, Vancouver

• **Annual Christmas European Festival**

The Stanley Park Pavilion will be transformed into a European Christmas Festival for one day only, and the best part is this family-friendly event is totally free to check out.

When

Saturday, November 16, 2019 from 11 am to 4 pm

Where

"Stanley Park Pavilion" downtown, 610 Pipeline Rd, Vancouver

• **80's Dance Party November Ballroom Dance**

Visit the Alpenclub for an evening of ballroom dancing with a 80s Dance party theme. Like always the Colin and Don Band will be playing classic tunes as well as a few new numbers. More info [here](#).

When

Saturday, November 23, 7:30 to 11:30 pm

Where

Vancouver Alpen Club (Ballroom), 4875 Victoria Dr, Vancouver

Members: \$10

Non-members: \$15

• **Vancouver Christmas Market**

A beloved holiday tradition for locals and visitors alike, the Vancouver Christmas Market features more than 80 huts of authentic German sweets, treats, and treasures. Experience the signature yuletide celebration at its expansive seaside site at Jack Poole Plaza ~ home of the Olympic Cauldron. More info [here](#).

When

Wednesday, November 20 - Tuesday, December 24, 2019

Where

Jack Poole Plaza, 1055 Canada Place, Vancouver
Buy tickets [here](#).

KEEP UP THE GERMAN

Here is a selection of useful links:

Janoschs Traumstunde - Watch this famous cartoon series for children based on stories by the German illustrator, children's book author and writer Janosch

Feuerwehrmann Sam - YouTube channel with videos of fireman Sam in German language

TheGermanProject - Free beginner's German lessons with audio

Get Germanized - Learn German proverbs and idioms and how real Germans in Germany talk

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