



Welcome to a great School Year



Einschulung for our 1st Graders in August, Photo: Peter Usbeck

The level of activity at our building site in the Könnertitzstraße, 47 continues at a feverish pitch as the many different groups of workmen strive diligently to complete the building on time, as indeed they must, for the schedule of the move is now immutable. We are confident that we will be moving back into a fine building that is commensurate with the excellent education that we seek to provide for your children.

Allow me here on your behalf to thank the Board of Governors for the vast amount of private time that they have invested in organising this quantum jump in quality of the physical plant. We as a staff are confident that we will be able to make good use of it.

At Leipzig International School we facilitate as wide a range of experiences for our children as possible within the structural and financial limits of our organization.

At the start of a new school year for the benefit of the many new parents and students I would like to review briefly the established principles of the school and examine how we are developing.

Principle 1. Relationships

Best teaching and learning occurs when teachers know their students well as individuals.

We continue to have small class sizes taught by interested and enthusiastic teachers.

Principle 2. High expectations

While it is easy to have high expectations for each student, – like in the high jump where raising the bar is easy, the challenge is one of helping everyone over the bar is the hard part and that is what we are all committed to trying to achieve.

Principle 3. International Focus

To take advantage of the fact that we now have well over 30 nationalities in our student body and enable our students to see the world from a variety of perspectives. As the International Baccalaureate expresses it in their philosophy statement: »A successful IB student is a critical and compassionate thinker, an informed participant in local and world affairs who values the shared humanity that binds all people together while respecting the variety of cultures and attitudes that makes for the richness of life.« *To make more use of this nationality resource is one of the goals for this year.(continues on p. 2)*

Grade 1 – a new phase of life begins with a »Zuckertüte«

On August 15th, 2007 a festive looking group of people assembled outside of our interim building in Löbauerstrasse. Almost 50 boys and girls from 11 different countries – carrying huge beautiful cones, Zuckertüten, started a lifelong learning adventure in grade 1.



Under a brilliant sky, warm sunshine, lovely flowers (thanks to the Engler family) and Ms. Schilling's musical accompaniment, they were welcomed by the Headmaster, Mr. Michael Webster. Ms. Savage explained the 'homework' for the parents – where they had to buy all those pens, pencils and Hefte needed. Then the students' names were called out and they followed their class room teachers Ms. Hall, Ms. Savage and Ms. Tasber to Seipelweg where they will spend their first weeks of grade 1 before we move back..



While the students enjoyed a short session in their classrooms and a walk through the school their parents were busy writing down and drawing wishes and thoughts for their child's school life. A little reception in the garden – organised by Mrs. Fahrenkamp – gave parents a chance to chat to other parents.

In the meantime, all the children have settled in well and enjoy this new phase in their lives.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR EVENTS COMING UP

Thursday, 13th September at 18:00 curriculum evening for Primary School (grade 1-5) – information about the years programme.

Sunday, 16th September at 13:00 Highland games at Schloß Machern – this year Ms Amy Caldwell and Mrs. E. Annus will be presenting »Carnival of the animals« with the Primary drama group.

1st to 19th October school holiday break

1st to 12th October Pre-school will operate in the Seipelweg. Hort will also operate, for those who have registered for it with the school office, as requested by 31st August. It will also take place in the Seipelweg.

1st November at 10:00 opening ceremony in the multi-purpose hall of the new school. There will be tours of the building after the ceremony during which you will be able to see us in action as we teach with the doors open!

15th November Secondary school Parent-Teacher meetings – this year we will be operating a scheduled meeting for you with the teachers that you would like to meet, or who have requested to meet with you.

22nd November Primary school Parent-Teacher meeting in the primary school

News – stamps-for-leipzig

Every Tuesday Mrs. Webster's office is the meeting place of some highly devoted mothers who come to count and cut stamps. We are very grateful for this wonderful assistance – have you ever considered to join? Why not – it is a lot of fun!

In the meantime, the Schaubek Verlag who produces albums for stamps, coins and so on donated 7 kilos of stamps to us. UHU, the glue company, is now supporting us, too. They produce glue to stick things onto something but also solvents to undo this – which is particularly interesting for us.

The *Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques* has invited LIS students to be participating on 28th September in the Rathaus. During our autumn break, the Messe has invited us to participate in the trade fair Modell, Hobby, Spiel. We will have our own stand and start putting stamps on boards displaying Christian Bär's (grade 12) mosaic. Students and parents willing to participate for a few hours each day, will receive free entrance tickets.

We are very grateful to the continued enthusiasm and support of our students, the stamp club and teachers, in particular Ms. Jackson and Mr. Lewis.

(continues from p. 1) **Principle 4. Common values**

We imbue students with humanist values, helping them to find the meaning of daily life, to feel connected to other individuals and their community – past, present and future- and to feel responsible for the consequences of their actions.

In the Secondary section we have developed in 6,7 and 8 a course in Citizenship – the 5 C's namely Consideration, Communication, Co-operation, Courtesy and Commitment are emphasised throughout the Secondary School – and PSHE (Physical, Social and Health Education)

In the Primary school we are emphasising the profile of the type of student we are working towards and have introduced the Cambridge International Schools Primary Programme for grades 1 through 5 (details of which will follow in a later article from the Primary School Principal)

Principle 5. Further development of processes and effective systems

To be aware of the necessity to modify certain systems, in a growing and dynamic school, in order to help those who come to learn and come to work at LIS.

Here for example in our new facility we will be able to have a regular assembly programme once again in both sections of the school – something that we accomplished so well before we had to move to the limiting »interim« facilities. We will also have a much better computer facility in the new building, the details of which will constitute a special article in the next issue of the »LIS Observer«

Because of the importance of an effective communication system allow me to outline the major established ways in which we accomplish it at LIS.

Schools are often described as loosely coupled systems – the systems being the constituents, namely children-staff-parents-Board-Parent Association and the external authorities. In order to facilitate the necessary flow of information we use various methods including:

- a) **The LIS Observer.** The purpose of this type of newsletter is:
 - to inform the LIS community about the achievements and accomplishments of its members.
 - to communicate to the community news of past and future events.
 - to inform the community about the educational developments at the school.
 - to assist community members in their communication with each other and in future editions provide some classified advertising.
- b) When **specific concerns** or questions about your child occur you take up the matter with the individual teacher concerned, in certain circumstances it may be necessary for the appropriate Head of Department (in the Secondary section) or section leader Mr. Scheepens for the Secondary section, Ms. Fuller for the Primary section and Mrs. Parker for the Pre-school, to become involved, they may in turn refer the solution of any problem to myself. Questions of a general nature are usually referred directly to me.
- c) During the course of the year there are **numerous parent evenings** for each section of the school and of course well-publicised information meetings to explain various aspects of the schools functions and programmes.
- d) Your Parents Association and the Board will in our new building be able to call specific meetings that will normally be held in the Auditorium (on the third floor of the renovated building)
- e) Specific information flow on a daily basis comes often through and to the school office, for example if your child is in Pre-school or grades I through 10 and is absent from school for good reason would you kindly notify the school of this absence, either in writing if known in advance, or by phone on the day of the absence. The school secretary rings the parents of all unexcused absent children immediately following the completion of the registration process, as a security check.

From the School Office: Please, inform us immediately about any change in address, phone number etc. via phone 0341-4210574 or e-mail admin@intschool-leipzig.com. Thank You.

A thank you to all the volunteers of the past school year

Many parents have already become active volunteers last year helping in numerous ways – working in the library, accompanying children to swimming lessons, Sommerfest helpers and more. Thank you to everyone who has helped in the past! More help is always welcome in any of these areas; simply contact the school administration or one of your parents' representatives.

Finally, I would like to make you aware that this year enrolment is now at 425 consisting of 83 Pre-schoolers, 210 students in grade 1 through 5 and 128 students in grades 6 through 12.

Incidentally I would like to stress that there is no class in the school with more than 20 students in it, expansion of student numbers is desirable in order that we can supply an even richer environment for your children to grow up in and at the same time have economy of scale. We also have over 35 different nationalities represented! *Michael J. Webster, Headmaster*

Pre-School News

Depending on how to count, we will have either only four more weeks of teaching time or 6 more weeks of plain being in our little Pre-school in Schönefeld.

Amazing how fast the time went and if we think back, how smooth the transition was from one school to the other. The children weren't bothered at all, the teachers made the best out of every situation and the parents were great support helping to make the building suitable for us.

Also the new children have settled in nicely with their new teachers and made friends amongst their peers. You might still find some sad children in Pre-school 1, but within one to two weeks, they will also learn to let the parents go with a smile on their faces.

Big move or not, we will have a full program in Pre-school with many fun celebrations and important dates to mark your calendar with. We always need parents help to make these days a success and hope you will be able to share some of your precious time with the children and us.

8 th November	2007	at 6:00pm	Lantern walk
6 th December	2007	in the morning	St. Nicolas
13 th December	2007	at lunchtime	Christmas lunch
5 th February	2008	in the morning	Carnival
13 th March	2008	in the morning	Easter egg hunt
April	2008	(look for sign-up sheets)	Children – Parents Conference
23 rd April	2008	in the afternoon	Spring show
29 th May	2008	in the morning	Sports day

We are all really happy with our groups, with lovely children and wonderful parents. I'm sure we will have a great year. *With best regards Katrin Parker, Pre-School Principal*

Primary School News

Welcome to the start of what will be an exciting year! As well as the change of location facing us as we prepare to move back into our fully refurbished building, there are also changes happening 'behind the scenes' at Leipzig International Primary School.

There will be more information to come throughout the year about these changes, which include;

- Confirmation of our affiliation to the Cambridge International Primary Programme (A curriculum framework which supports and strengthens our current programmes).
- The introduction of a House System - Yes, just like in Harry Potter! With this new system we aim to increase sense of belonging, team spirit and sportsmanship. Look out for more information about the houses and the brand new captains of Mandela House, de Coubertin House, da Vinci House and Curie House, as well as for information about upcoming 'house' events.

For more information about these things and for the chance to get to know more about the curricula followed, about the materials used and just what goes on each and every school day at LIS primary, we invite you to attend our **curriculum evening on Thursday, September 13th at 18:00**. We look forward to seeing you there. *Kirsty Fuller, Primary School Principal*

The first day in the new school 22nd October 2007

On this day: **The Secondary section** will go directly to the Auditorium at 8.20, and then the Homeroom teachers will take students to their respective homerooms. Following which tours of the building new ground rules relating to the building etc. will be explained.

The Primary school children on arrival will go straight to their classrooms, Grade 1 classes of Ms. H. Hall and Ms. M. Tasber go to their ground floor classrooms, Grade 2 and 3 to the level 1 classrooms, Grade 4 and 5 to their level 2 classrooms. *The Primary school will meet in the Auditorium for an assembly after morning break.*

The Pre-schoolers go straight to their class-rooms on the ground floor.

Please remember that there is no parking available for parents at the new facility, the »hotel type« drop-off on the right hand side of the facility is of limited capacity and may well not be finished by the time we start back to school.

LIS's GIANT STAMP MOSAIC at the MODELS-HOBBIES-GAMES TRADE FAIR

The Giant Stamp Mosaic is making its first public appearance at this years Models-Hobbies-Games Trade Fair. Representatives of the Leipzig Trade Fair are offering LIS a display area to help gain publicity for its 100m² Stamp Mosaic. The Stamps for Leipzig and the Giant Stamp Mosaic are both LIS projects to raise money to buy new books for the school library.

Your help is greatly needed in order to make this event come true. At least four students and one supervising adult are needed at the stand at all times. All members of the LIS community are being asked to check their schedules and volunteer time between 10:00-18:00 on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of October.

Not only will you have the pleasure of representing LIS by introducing Leipzig to the soon to be *Largest Stamp Mosaic in the World*, but students and one guardian will have free admission to the trade fair on the day you volunteer time at the stand. An event showing our gratitude is also in the works. Students have been given sheets to mark all the time slots that you would be willing to volunteer. Let us know as soon as possible so that we can secure a space at the trade fair in October.



Stuck at LIS

Magd Matlob, an IB Art student who graduated in 2006, is back at LIS and trying his best to get the students involved in the Giant Stamp Mosaic Club. Inspiring people to get involved has always been one of his strong character traits. He has rounded up several dedicated students but needs more.

Anyone interested, students and parents alike, may come and join in on the fun. The club meets on Tuesdays and Fridays from 13:40 -14:10 in the LIS art room. We need people to sort the stamps into color groups, draw the design onto boards, glue the stamps onto boards, organize the Models-Hobbies-Games Trade-fair (12.10.-14.10.2007), run the Models-Hobbies-Games Trade-fair stand, help assembling the Giant Stamp Mosaic, and get the mosaic into the Guinness Book of World Records.

So come find out what you have been missing. Let's keep Magd smiling! *Steve Lewis, Art Dept.*

»But I've already been introduced in the May issue of the LIS Observer«, I said. »Well, that's a long time ago and we have many new parents arrive over the summer«, was the response and I cannot argue with that.



Let me tell you then, what originally made me want to become a teacher.

When I was 16 years old I obtained a (partial) scholarship to attend a United World College in Canada, doing the final two years of secondary school there and obtaining an IB Diploma that was already much like it is today. My subject list included no English. I thought speaking it all day long was enough English for me (no offence to the English teachers, hopefully). I did do Spanish B higher level and I'll never forget our Spanish teacher, Maria Elena, who maintained that all literature was always about love. To our objections that there was lots of literature about war, bloodshed and evil, she would reply that to write about the absence of love was also to write about love. I thought »come on, that is too easy«, but I remembered it anyway. At Pearson College the key words were international understanding, consideration and peace. »This place is full of doves / The flurry of wings is deafening« wrote one of our English teachers in our year book. I found it exciting that he would dare to question the Ethos of the School... In physics we had a French Canadian teacher who once, after having filled the board with calculations about gravitational orbits, looked at us with twinkling eyes and said: »maybe we're not stuck on thiiiiis planuut aftur all...«. In my mind, I was off into space. Perhaps more importantly than the lessons themselves was the fact that teachers and students had contact with each other outside of the classroom, too. I went camping and canoeing with a number of teachers – and fellow students, of course.

Public Examination Results May 2007

During May 2007 students in grade 10 and 12 sat the IGCSE examinations and the IB diploma respectively. The results of their efforts were published in July (IB) and August (IGCSE). The IB students have now received their official IB Diplomas and Certificates and later, in the Autumn, grade 11 students who sat the IGCSE examinations at LIS in May will be presented with their official IGCSE certificates in a special assembly.

IB Diploma results

Candidates obtain scores from 1-7 in 6 subjects with 4 being the passing grade. Up to 3 bonus points are added to this for the combined performance on the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge. Theoretically one could therefore obtain anywhere between 6 and 45 points, with 24 points being the minimum number required (amongst other things) for the Diploma to be awarded.

Out of our 12 diploma candidates, three candidates missed the diploma by one point while 9 obtained the full diploma. Seven of these obtained Bilingual Diploma's since the students did both German and English as Language A.

Number of diploma and retake candidates	12
Number of candidates that obtained the full diploma	9
LIS 2007 average full diploma candidate score	31
LIS 2007 range of full diploma candidate scores	23 – 38
LIS 2007 average subject score (bonus points excluded)	4.94

Excellent results were obtained by Rejane Velten (38 points, bilingual diploma) and Stefanie Böhm (37 points, bilingual diploma). Congratulations to them and all the other successful candidates!

IGCSE results

Candidates obtain scores on a scale A*-A-B-C-D-E-F-G, all of which are passing grades. Candidates who fail an examination are given a U (unclassified). We had 17 students sitting exams this year. They all did 8 or 9 subjects, with a pass rate of 100%. All students received the International Certificate of Education (ICE) which is awarded to candidates who pass examinations in at least 7 subjects. The ICE diploma is awarded with the qualification Pass, Merit or Distinction.

The following students received their ICE Diploma with Distinction:

Jana Huck	2 x A*, 4 x A, 2 x B	ICE Distinction
Luba Bohad	2 x A*, 3 x A, 1 x B, 1 x C, 1 x D	ICE Distinction
Lucas Busch	1 x A*, 6 x A, 1 x C	ICE Distinction
Lisa Riedel	1 x A*, 4 x A, 2 x B, 1 x C	ICE Distinction
Elena Velten	5 x A*, 1 x A, 3 x B	ICE Distinction
Sabine Wagner	4 x A*, 3 x A, 1 x C, 1 x D	ICE Distinction

We are very proud of these and of all the other successful candidates.

Roel Scheepens, Secondary School Principal

After attending Pearson College I had decided on what I wanted to do with my life: after having had some really good teachers, I wanted to become one myself.

And later on, after I had finished my physics degree and my teaching qualifications, I did become a teacher and at some point I became a full time principal, without any teaching duties. I actually liked both teaching and management, and so I am very happy being principal and

teacher at the same time here at LIS. I was a little nervous about picking up the teaching again but I'm glad I did. I know what my favourite teacher at Pearson College would say. »Admin is basically really boring stuff and people should not get paid more for doing that. Teaching is much more important.«

I cannot argue with that, either...

Roel Scheepens, Secondary School Principal