



## »Post aus aller Welt«



During the trade fair »Touristik & Caravaning« on November 24<sup>th</sup>, members of our Primary Choir with Ms Bell, Ms Caldwell and Ms Gardner sang seasonal songs from all over the world on the Radio PSR stage. The *Wochenkurier* had invited us to be present when they awarded people who had written to them from their holidays. They had cut out the stamps and presented them to us in a huge box. – By now we must be close to almost 2 million stamps in total!

## Celebration of integration

This joint event was organized by the Soroptimist International Club Leipzig and the LIS in order to support »Bunte Gärten«, a refugee integration project by BRÜCKEN-SCHLAG: The aim of that evening was to raise money, especially for the children, to give them a cheerful festive season.

The turn out was more than expected on that windy, rainy Thursday night, but in spite of hundreds of flyers distributed in the neighbourhood hardly any neighbour came to see our school. However, the response to the guided tours through the school building was very good, the grade 11 students received full praise for their expert and kind guidance.

Before the programme started, everybody had a good dip into the delicious exotic hot food from Afghanistan and a sip or two of the Glühwein. The mainly Asian bazaar had fine presents on offer.

The program started with a speech by the chairwoman of the Soroptimist International Club Leipzig, Frau Dr. Reingard Wittekind, followed by music played on the instrument Rubaba, a kind of Usbecian banjo. The musician Ari Babachanov, dressed in his colourful native coat and hat, was a brilliant player and played one piece after the other.

Frau Kropp-Horn, Bunte Gärten co-ordinator, introduced the project and interviewed a few families, especially children. The eye opening stories were sad and made clear that these refugees have to fear for their lives if they go back to their home countries.

The LIS programme that followed was a welcome juxtaposition with the Latin-American dance performance by Mats Hasche and Jana Huck, ...elegant, skillful, beautiful... and the students' interviews: Rikako from Japan, grade 8, and Christine from Kenia, grade 10, were brave enough to come forward and talk about their first impressions and problems in Germany. The tango, danced by Mats and Jana led to the final highlight of this evening: Marie Hartung sang her own RAP song and received a long heartfelt applause.

Grade 11 students have to be congratulated on their effort to make this evening a success. They feel it has been a good experience and it should be repeated. (We raised 350 Euros)

Gisela Selbach, CAS-Co-ordinator

## STILL LOOKING FOR A CHRISTMAS PRESENT?



Mr. Roeseler from Deutsche Bank in Leipzig has been very supportive of our stamp project. When he saw the mosaic, he came up with the idea of having a Visa/Mastercard with Christian Bär's motif on it, Deutsche Bank paying for having it produced and insured and the Euro 30 it costs will go directly to LIS as a donation.



### If that isn't a fantastic Christmas present?!

You do not have to be a customer of Deutsche Bank either – for more information simply call them (0341 120-0) or the school (Mrs. Webster 0341 33755816).

Die »Stamps for Leipzig«-Motivkarte ist da. Sie ist ab sofort über einen Antrag (der auch im Sekretariat der LIS) zu erhalten. Dieses Formular kann per e-mail: [mike.roeseler@db.com](mailto:mike.roeseler@db.com) oder per Post an: Deutsche Bank, Investment & Finanz Center Leipzig-Mitte, Mike Röseler, Martin-Luther-Ring 2, 04109 Leipzig gesandt werden.

I thoroughly enjoyed all those seven years I was able to contribute to the development of our school. Looking back, it was an exciting time – moving from Ratzelstrasse to Könnertstrasse felt like arriving in a palace (obviously after considerable renovations had taken place). My first year of 'making LIS known to a wider audience' (this was my job description), I spent working from an elegant little office at the Leipziger Messe thanks to Hans Werner Reinhard, our Chairman of the LIS Förderverein at the time. He also introduced me to many important people and made sure that most of my evenings were taken care of.

In no time at all, I came to know an incredible number of people and listened to amazing stories about people's life, life as a 'Pendler' between Ossi and Wessi Land and life in the DDR.

Having been a teacher for most of my life, I eventually felt cut off at the Messe from 'real life' – I missed that special atmosphere you only find in schools – in classrooms and especially in staff rooms.

In 2002, the year Herr Lehmann joined LIS, I moved into a former wash room, something like Ali Baba's den. Whoever wanted to find out about LIS and put his/her child in our school had to go through this office, being told what a wonderful education international schools offer – and ours in particular – because of our programs and methods and our uniquely dedicated staff. When we (the Websters) joined LIS, there were only around 75 students attending – now we count around 450 with more to come because of our splendid facilities.

The school enters a new phase in its development. New people with new ideas will join. I am deeply grateful to have experienced an exciting and highly enjoyable phase characterized by improvisation and adventure. I am deeply grateful to the staff, parents and friends of the school who enriched my life for seven great years. I am deeply grateful to Chris Smith for hiring me, to Hans Werner Reinhard's and Gaby Kirchhof's continuous support.

There comes a time in life when you realize that you will not have another 30, 40, 50 years to do all those things you always still planned to do – traveling, reading tons of books, listening to music, meeting friends ... As I am still part of the worldwide Organization of the International Baccalaureate, I will not entirely lead a life of leisure – whatever that is. I wish the school well for the future and thank you all.

*Yours, Annemarie Webster*

most of us will have very special and personal memories of the first part of the school year 2007-08. It has been a particularly exciting period having started off in the interim building and quickly getting into top gear, followed by another start in the new building – getting the systems all working again (some are still being finalised as I write) and getting back into top gear!

As I mentioned at the *recent parents' meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>* in the Auditorium, we are now in a position to hold parents' meetings to inform you more fully about the specific aspects of the schools programmes in each of the three school sections. For those of you who were not able to attend the meeting allow me briefly to review the various areas covered.

The *Board of Governors*, in particular the *Chairperson Christopher Smith* was thanked for its vision and hard work involved over the last four years in providing the school with this new facility.

The *development of the school* in terms of numbers of students was reviewed, we will have by the end of the year 115 students in the Pre-school, 215 in the Primary section and 129 in the Secondary section, bringing the grand total to 459. This is an expansion on the previous year's total of some 50 students and we anticipate a similar growth for the year 2008/09. This further expansion can be fairly comfortably accommodated within our new facilities.

As you are aware we now have light, bright and colourful classrooms, interactive white boards with all teachers having their own laptop, a new Multipurpose Sports facility, a modernised Auditorium, a new Music room and Music practice rooms, a new very spacious Art room, three new Science laboratories and associated prep rooms and two new fully equipped Computer rooms.

### What still has to be done?

- The final version of the security system has still to be installed and tested.
- The school playground is nearing completion as is the parents' drive in and drop off at the south entrance to the school (this should be operational between 8:00 and 9:00 each morning – by the time you are reading this article)
- The outside playground for the Kindergarten (in front of the Hort rooms) is almost complete, and finally the larger outside play area for the Kindergarten will be started in the New Year.

I will keep you informed of these further developments in future articles.

### There will be a few staff changes in the New year 2008

LEAVING – Good bye, Adios, Sayonara, Tschüss, Arrivederci, Au revoir, Toot Ziens, Farewell, Hej da, An Nyeong, See ya, Doswidanja – aber Auf Wiedersehen!

- **Herr Lehmann**, our original Hausmeister since August 2002, went into retirement in November at 65 – he has been a super, loyal person to the school and we wish him well. **Herr Schönberg** is his replacement.
- **Juliet Jotcham** who has been a wonderful Hort and teaching assistant during the last 2 years returns to England to study. **David Luther** will replace Juliet Jotcham as a teacher assistant and Hort person.
- **Katrin Parker**, having served the school for the last 5 years, starts her maternity leave in January – in all probability for a whole year i.e. returns in January 2009. Katrin has done a great job, has developed the Pre-school team and led the Kindergarten for the last 5 years, has overseen its expansion from 2 to 7 class sections. **Kristina Wolf** will be the Kindergarten leader during Katrin's absence
- **Annemarie Webster** leaves the employment of the school as of the end of December to go into retirement having had a successful career in international education for almost forty years – the last seven at LIS. She will undoubtedly continue her involvement with education on a broader and deeper level. Her recent title of Registrar and Public Relations person covered many diverse areas. During her time at the school she produced our first data base, took on the production of the »LIS Observer« and developed it to its present standard (together with Gaby Kirchhof – whom I would also like to thank here), interviewed many parents and children and was for many the link between them and the school, fund raising initiatives (Stamp project and »buy a building brick« project – and overall begging for support – moral and fiscal), and generally being our contact with the »Welt da draußen«. I would particularly like to thank her for her continuous support and for fulfilling her main task of making Leipzig International School known to the population of Leipzig.



Mr Lehmann and Mrs Webster

## Starting in January will be

- **Alex Burghardt** as our Computer Systems manager. He comes to us from the Max Planck Institute here in Leipzig, to take us to the next level in computer development as well as to maintain and improve our present system, develop the web-site, and train us in more effective computer use and much more!
- **Anke Friedrich** who joins the Pre-school team as a qualified Kindergarten/Erzieher and as an excellent speaker of English
- **Daria Madej** as the new Registrar and Public Relations person, who comes to us with experience in business in the PR area and replaces **Annemarie Webster**.

Also I would like to thank **Gaby Kirchof** and the **Parent Association** for the support that they have given the school and their children thus far in the school year – it is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank two library volunteers – **Kimberly Price** and **Deborah Curtis** who helped to pack the old library, set it up in its new location and now help to supervise it – great job!

Finally I would like to wish you all the seasons greetings and a successful New Year.

*Kind regards, Michael J. Webster, Headmaster*

## Secondary School News



»**Growing up in Egypt and Germany**« – this was the theme of an educational project that our German teacher Susanne Schleif developed last year at her previous (German-language) school in Cairo, Egypt. There, she set up an internet class-partnership project in which grade 7 students from Germany and Egypt asked each other questions and told each other about favourite films, books, hobbies, computer games, etc.

The project was nominated in a yearly contest for innovative education in Germany, called »**Unterricht Innovativ**«. Out of 78 nominations, 7 projects were selected for an award, and this turned out to be one of the winners: Susanne Schleif was given the special award for young teachers. The 2007 awards ceremony took place Friday, November 2d, in Berlin. See if you can spot her in the picture? (She is wearing a scarf.) Congratulations Susanne!

This year, Susanne Schleif and Gisela Selbach have joined forces to plan a project about »Denglish« – English turned into German and/or German turned into English – a theme which certainly is very pertinent to our situation at LIS. The project will be properly embedded in the curriculum, it will provide links across subjects, and it will provide good opportunities for creative and self-organized learning. The final products are likely to take on a variety of forms such as a newspaper article, a short film, a website or a podcast.

I wish our German teachers the success that they deserve and I look forward to nominating their new project for the 2008 contest! *Roel Scheepens, Secondary School Principal.*

**DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007** The Pre-School had a surprise visitor on December 6<sup>th</sup>. *Can you guess who?* Well, here are a few hints. He has rosy cheeks, twinkling eyes and he wears a fabulous red suit with white fur trim. Yes, that is correct folks. We got to meet **Saint Nicholas**. As Saint Nicholas and Frau Heinz walked down the corridor jingling the Christmas bells, there began a flurry of activity. There were little people scampering in and out of classrooms, bursts of laughter, whispers and shouts of glee. Saint Nicholas had a busy morning as he visited with each of the Pre-School classes making time to chit-chat, hand out treat boxes and sing a song or two with the children. The children were pleased as punch at having met the man himself.

This day could not have been possible without the efforts of many parents. All of the Pre-School teachers would like to say a special thank you to all of the parents who put forth an extra effort to ensure that the children had such a memorable day. *Happy Holidays from the PS3 team!*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR EVENTS COMING UP

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** PS Christmas party 11:30-12:30 (PA organised) and Primary School Christmas party 12:30-13:30 in the Cafeteria  
**December 13<sup>th</sup>** Primary Parent/Teacher meetings in the evening

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** 2y Christmas Ball in the Aula from 19:00 until 23:00

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** Decoration of the Auditorium for the service on 16<sup>th</sup>

**December 16<sup>th</sup>** English Church Christmas Service at 19:00 (Auditorium)

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** 14:00 – PS 3 and grade 1 Performances in the Auditorium

**December 19<sup>th</sup>** 13:45 – Drama performances g2 – g5 in MPH

**December 21<sup>st</sup>** Final all school assembly at 14:00 to 15:00 – contributions from each school section.

Saying goodbyes, well wishing and singing.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008** 20:30 – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of our »LIS Sommerfest 2008« team (Kesselhaus, HolbeinstraÙe 29)

**SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK** 21<sup>st</sup> Dec until 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. **PRE-SCHOOL (KG) BREAK** 24<sup>th</sup> Dec until 5<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Parents please note – there is only a half day of school on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008** this is because there is In service training for teachers at a conference in Hanover at which 33 members of staff will attend.

## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS . .

We are very grateful to the **Decker family** and their contacts to the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. The »Kinder- und Jugendabteilung« receives more copies from publishers than they need and regularly pass books on to non-profit organizations like us.

The Deckers hired a van, drove to Berlin and came back with 10 boxes full of wonderful books in English, German, French and Spanish. **Mr. Hayward's grade 5** helped unpacking the boxes. The students would have happily stayed all day in the library reading.



The extended essays are in for this years IB Diploma candidates. Emotions from fatigue (the »last minute.com« brigade), to relief (to be finally rid of it) to satisfaction (I did my best and its good) to sadness (my baby, it's finished...). The range of essays this year is a reflection of personal, local and international interests – the diversity of this grade 12. Here is a selection of titles to give you a flavour:

**English A1** The functionary purpose and structure of dystopia in *We* by Yevgeny Zamyatin and *Anthem* by Ayn Rand. **English A2** What is the impact of print media on the representation of gender?

**German A1** Inwiefern sind die Figuren in ausgewählten Werken Erich Kästners Repräsentanten verschiedener Gesellschaftsschichten und moralischer Ansichten? | Mittel der Schicksalsbewältigung – Ein literarischer Vergleich zwischen *Wüstenblume* (Waris Dirie) und *Feuerherz* (Senait G. Mehari).

**History** What impact did Edward VIII's abdication have on the British monarchy between 1936 -1946? | To what extent can the Japanese Emperor be held responsible for the Japanese role in the outbreak of the Pacific War. | What significance did the Battle of the Alamo of 1836 have in the Texas Revolution (1835-1836)?

**Chemistry** Evaluation of the efficiency of synthesis of Esters using Acetic Anhydride by changing the catalyst and increasing the volume of the limiting reagent.

**Physics** Comparison of Computer Tomography (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans of human bodies and eggs.

**Art** An investigation into Michael Fischer Art and the impact of his work on Leipzig.

The Extended Essay is a core component of the IB Diploma. Starting in November of Grade 11 and finishing in Early December of Grade 12 – the Extended Essay is a bridge within the IB Diploma to university. A 4,000 word independent piece academic research and writing on a topic of personal choice. But you are not alone – a supervisor will guide you through refining your research question, the research process and writing. Grade 11 are now looking in the libraries of Leipzig, surfs up on the worldwide web, and supervisors stalked on the learning experience that is the Extended Essay.

Mark Collier, IB Coordinator

We are very grateful to PRICE WATERHOUSE COOPERS for printing this issue and Ms KIRCHHOF for the layout and graphic design.

administration	board	parents	students
pre-school	primary school	secondary school	
new building	events	Colour scheme – every colour represents a section of our school.	



### LIS Art in Borsdorf

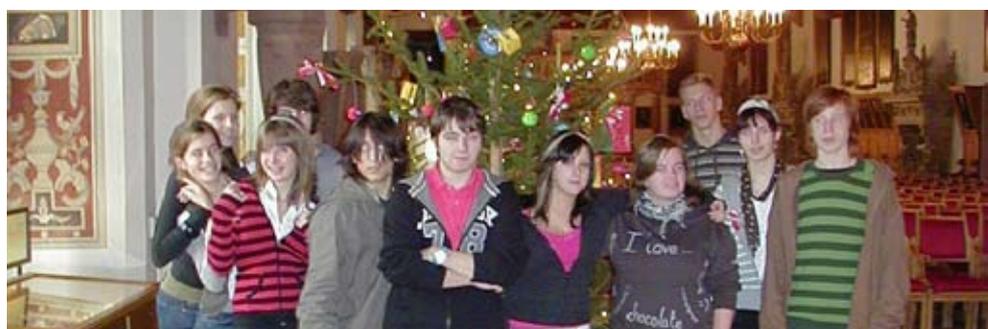
Congratulations go out to Christian Baer for organizing the art exhibition at the city hall in Borsdorf. Christian arranged to show his work along side that of Nora Lampeter, a fellow IB Art student and Steve Lewis, his LIS art teacher. The opening reception which took place in November was very well attended.

During the reception locals from Borsdorf, family, friends, and LIS students and staff were introduced to the three artists by means of a question and answer session led by a member of the Panitzsch Art Society. The evening offered a very unique opportunity to hear about and see the art being produced at LIS. **The show runs until December 21<sup>st</sup> and can be visited during business hours. (Tel. 034291 4140)**

### Remembering Girls' Rights at Christmas

Grade nine did a great job putting together beautiful informative Christmas tree decorations which are being used in Leipzig's Old City Hall. The tree has been decorated in connection with the current exhibition »Weil wir Maedchen sind...(Because we are girls...)« which focuses on girls' rights. To show appreciation, the students were given a very special tour of the show. Kristina Hampton wrote this about the experience:

»For the past month, grade 9 has been working on a project for girls' rights. The idea emerged – ironically- from a visit to the torture museum on a class trip. We went to the Altes Rathaus, and after our tour (rather gruesome, as you can imagine), our guide asked us if we were interested in raising awareness for girls' rights, and we agreed. So during a few art lessons (poor Mr. Lewis!) we made lots of decorations for a Christmas tree in the Rathaus. We made little dice and wrote a girl's right on each of them, we made little strips of card with hopeful messages engraved on them, and we also painted lots of spheres in Christmassy colours, just to get into the mood!



So on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, we took our load to the Rathaus and hung them all on the Christmas tree there, so if you are interested, please go and take a quick look! After having decorated the tree, the guide took us on a tour about girls' rights. It was very eye-opening, and I strongly recommend taking the tour. One place in the tour, however, may not be the best place for young children or people easily 'grossed out', as it shows female circumcision...including the tools (can lids, broken glass shards and sometimes nails...all unsterilized!). The tour was set up as if in a girls' school, home or workplace in India, Africa, and lots of other third world countries. We learned about how much work the women do, how much danger it puts you in to be female and living there, and how little work the men do! We were able to tattoo ourselves like the girls do, listen to a typical lesson, and also try and carry 10-20kg of water on our heads! It really makes you feel as if you are there, and hopefully after the tour you can empathise with these poor deprived women! Overall the class visit was very successful and we had a good time.« **The exhibition at the Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig runs until February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Steve Lewis**

**Announcements** Included in this issue is the final Calendar for 2008 / 09 school year that has been approved by the Board • Application forms for a reduction of school fees for the school year 2008 / 09(subject to annual review) will be sent out to all those who are in receipt of such reductions, at the beginning of January and must be returned to the Business Office by 22<sup>nd</sup> February at the latest in order that they can be considered by the Board of Governors.