



## Fertig! Fini! Terminato! Listo! Completed! Koniec!



**Mission Impossible? The Final Stamping Saturday** On Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> we met for the fourth and final stamping. After 4 hours of gluing, having press photos, interviews and eating pizza – we have successfully finished the »Mission Impossible«. At 2 o'clock the board Nr. 100 was done. Fertig! Fini! Terminato! Listo! Completed! Koniec! **A big thank you to all of you coming on Saturdays and helping with this project. To all of LIS students, parents and teachers devoting their weekend time and working with us.**

As Steve Lewis and I took over this project in January there were many voices claiming that this mosaic would never be finished or suggesting that we should »hire a couple of outside helpers«. LIS proved something different: we are a strong community being able to work together for a common purpose.

The next step is to find a buyer for the whole mosaic. If you, dear parents of LIS, have good ideas of companies interested in having our mosaic for a good price, please let me know (0341 33755818). We plan to have a media event and Guinness Book's representative, hopefully recognising the world's record, in Mid June. *Daria Madej, PR and School Registrar*

## Recent developments

**News – and looking forward to the next school year.** During the course of the school year enrolment has risen gradually from a starting position of 420 in August to 462 in March and in all probability we will be planning for 500 students when we re-open in August. Indeed we have only 4 places still open in grade 1 and we will for the first time have three grade 5 classes. This brings the Primary school to its maximum number of 15 classes in total i.e. three classes at each grade level. In the secondary section in grade 7 we already have a waiting list.

The hiring of the extra staff necessary to accommodate this planned expansion is almost complete and as usual I will be introducing the new staff to you in a future »OBSERVER« article.

As well as teaching your children our current staff has been involved in further training during the course of this academic year for example ❖ The AGIS (Association of German International Schools) Hanover conference was attended by 33 members of staff – they found it both edifying and enjoyable. ❖ Laptop training and Promethean Interactive white – board training for all staff is ongoing ❖ At a Brain Gym conference, four teachers attended an important ESL Conference > *read more overleaf, page 2*

Come and support the LIS Mini-Marathon Team on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00

at the Fakultät Sportwissenschaft (Jahnallee 59). A total of 40 LIS runners in grades 1-4 will run in relay races against 24 other schools in Leipzig, and we would appreciate your support! Last year's teams did very well and our team looks even stronger this year.



Order your LIS T-Shirt via e-mail: [lisp@t-online.de](mailto:lisp@t-online.de).



Michael J. Webster, Headmaster

## Piano for parents Wednesdays and Fridays

### The lessons have just started!

After the successful lecture introduction »Playing piano at grown up age« (on February 21<sup>st</sup>), a subsidiary of Blüthner Piano School has now been opened at LIS.

Parents and teachers of LIS will have the opportunity to play on a **brand-new piano** recently provided by the Blüthner Manufactory to Leipzig International School.

Whether you are 20 or 80, whether you want to play traditional classical music, jazz, boogie-woogie or simply your favourite songs... competent teachers adapt themselves to your style wishes and invite you to take a sophisticated break in life. Try out our beginners method!

All interested parents and friends are welcome to visit the **new »Blüthner Room« (404)**! Make an appointment by contacting Mrs. Daria Madej at any time at the LIS (Hort Building, Room H11) or Ms. Anna-Maria Maak, Head of Blüthner Piano School, by sending an email to: [info@bluethner-klavierschule.de](mailto:info@bluethner-klavierschule.de) or call 0177 7541855. We are looking forward seeing you and answering all your questions.



*Don't forget: Music isn't just learning notes and playing them, you learn notes to play to the music of your soul.*

> *continues from page 1* in Geneva and 1y German teachers conference at Bonn International School. ❖ The secondary school principal, Roel Scheepens and the IT Coordinator, Alex Burkhardt attended the Betts computer conference in London in order to research the current educational trends in both computers, programmes and computer based Management information systems. ❖ The International Award – training the trainers – Gisela Selbach and Mattie Jackson both completed a course which will enable us to act as a centre in Leipzig for this award from August 2008 onwards ❖ German courses for new teaching staff. ❖ English courses for the Bookkeeper and the Hausmeisters. ❖ Still planned for this year is First Aide training for all staff but with specific emphasis on Pre-school and Primary staff.

**Next years priorities** for staff training are ESL courses (English as a Second Language) in the mainstream classroom – this will be in-house training taught by our new ESL specialist Patience Montgomery. Training in the use of the new Management Information System (that will be introduced in 2008/09) will also take place in school and be taught by our own IT specialists supplemented with e-learning experiences.

## New events and educational initiatives from the staff and students this year have included

❖ Grade 4 – collecting paper for recycling in each classroom. ❖ The 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be participating in a school camp to Diemitz (just north of Berlin) from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June to Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June. The »ability to problem solve and to communicate« is the theme of this trip and it will allow a review of the concepts taught during the year and is a fun and memorable way of finishing the school year. ❖ The »house system« in the primary section is developing really well and now includes a sports programme at lunch-time this was also extended to include our first and very successful cross country event organized by Chad Hayward. ❖ Primary and Secondary schools took part in a Mathathletics/Mathathon competition during the entire day of March 5<sup>th</sup>. ❖ The secondary school movie night took place on March 5<sup>th</sup> care was taken with the rating of the films. ❖ Secondary school students – collecting old telephones for OXFAM ❖ Student Yearbook – the first one of its type it is being co-coordinated by two teachers Rebecca Collier and Mattie Jackson and will appear at the end of the school year – watch this space for a more detailed report in a future issue. ❖ IB Students all have to do a cooperative project as part of their Science course – they all were able to report to other students at a special event organized for the first time in our new Auditorium – the Science as always enjoyable was all the more so in the improved surroundings. ❖ Theory of Knowledge presentations were held in our new Auditorium – the new improved facilities contributed to an even more informative and entertaining event. ❖ IB-Art-Diploma students also showed their work at a Vernissage on level 4 on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**Now looking forward to the next academic year 2008/09** – the planned development will continue (this is consistent with the »Development plan of Jan2006« that has been reviewed by both the Board of Governors and the teaching staff.)

### The major agreed improvements to the educational programme are summarised below.

❖ A Management Information System will be in operation – it will provide many improvements that will be described in the next LIS OBSERVER. ❖ The Web-site will be further refined. ❖ A Geography course for IGCSE will be started in grade 9. ❖ The house system will be further refined and expanded ❖ Trips for each of the three school sections will also be refined and expanded. ❖ We will be joining the German International Schools Sports Tournament organisation (GISST) so that our teams (to be organised) can



> *continues from page 2* participate in tournaments with similar sized schools that are in this organisation -planning for 08/09 has started and further information will be coming in the LIS OBSERVER. ❖ The International Awards programme will be introduced, in the first instance for Secondary school students. ❖ The Hort programme will improve further as we welcome a new Hort leader. ❖ Patience Montgomery will be our full time ESL teacher and organiser for both the Primary and Secondary sections. ❖ An extra 50% music teacher has been hired. ❖ The Development plan /Strategic plan will be further refined and published.

As far as the facilities are concerned, the security system is in operation and functioning as we would like it in a building housing both a Kindergarten and a school – the present system provides the necessary middle path between parental wishes of total security and parental wishes of total free access. It will be refined I am sure.

The outside facilities will be completed and the grass grown in the right places by the time the new school year starts. Extra furniture and white boards and computers that will be needed for the extra classes and classrooms next year will be ordered in good time for a smooth start to the school year.



## Events past

February 4,5 and 6 respectively were the Faschings celebrations in the Pre, Primary and Secondary sections. March 9<sup>th</sup> **last year (2007)** – Richtfest at 12.00 at the building site – we have come a long way since then! ❖ March 12<sup>th</sup> **last year (2007)** –The schools information meeting took place in the Renaissance hotel at which the educational development was explained. The Chairman of the Board of Governors explained to parents the new fee structure for 2007/08 (the meeting was attended by about 30 parents). ❖ March 12<sup>th</sup> **this year (2008)** the Parents Association has its first, own meeting in the Auditorium. Up until this meeting all such meetings was a part of the Schools meeting – this will be the case in future and both the PA and the Board will have a slot.

## Other News items

❖ A new version of our Web-site will be on line as of 3<sup>rd</sup> week in April 08 (a German version will appear at a later date) have a good look particularly if you wish to have answers to some of the questions raised at the recent LISPA meeting. ❖ A presentation by the Secondary principal Roel Scheepens »Moving into the secondary school« was held for primary school parents. ❖ English conversational group has started to meet on Thursdays from 5.00 to 6.00 in room 401 it is organised by a US citizen – Sharon Self – it is free of charge – simply turn up and talk if you are interested. ❖ Rami Al Meklefs success with piano playing – he earned first prize in his year group in the competition »Jugend musiziert« – CONGRATULATIONS!. ❖ PS3 art – a painting produced by them with Mr Moreno (Artist) – an article was in the LVZ with a colour photograph. ❖ A Blütner music room on level 4 of the school has been founded – it contains a Blütner piano that is on loan to the school and is used by the Blütner music school during the school day and early evening for lessons given to children and our parents. ❖ The final licking of the Stamps took place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April – many thanks to Daria Madej for organising this and the associated PR. ❖ The results of the Acer testing of grades 3,5,7,9 that took place in February will be shared with teachers and parents just as soon as they become available – this will probably occur in May. ❖ The Association of Leipzig Business Ladies visited LIS where they had breakfast and a tour of the facilities – this influential group were obviously greatly impressed both with the facilities and the actual school that they saw in normal operation!

**»Hier muß mann noch einmal Kind sein« – they were heard to say. I agree!**

Michael J. Webster, Headmaster

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR EVENTS COMING UP

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** is a National holiday **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** is a school/pre-school holiday (Governors day)

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** IB examinations start also the IGCSE examinations take place during this month – external exams finish on 25<sup>th</sup> (approx)

**May 8<sup>th</sup>and 9<sup>th</sup>** we will be hosting a conference of all the Headmasters and Business Managers of all the International schools in Germany

**May 16<sup>th</sup>** Primary sports day

**May 24<sup>th</sup>** Whit Monday – a National holiday

**May 29<sup>th</sup>** Graduation 14.00 until 15.30 at school

**May 31<sup>st</sup>** – Graduation ball 2008 at 19.00 in the Ballsaal (MPH) at school



**June 7<sup>th</sup> – Sommerfest at school!**



**June 19<sup>th</sup> 19.30, 20<sup>th</sup> 19.30 and 21<sup>st</sup> 14.00 and 19.30 performances of »The Importance of Being Earnest«** – a LIS High School Drama Production (page 9)

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** final day of school for school children

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** last day of term for teachers (normal day for Kindergarten)

**July 24<sup>th</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup>** Pre-school and Hort are both closed for the two-week period.

**The next issue of LIS OBSERVER** will be published in June 2008. Please send your articles/pictures until 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008 by e-mail: [d.madej@intschool-leipzig.com](mailto:d.madej@intschool-leipzig.com).

*We are very grateful to PRICE WATERHOUSE COOPERS for printing this issue and Ms KIRCHHOF for the layout and graphic design. Photos of this issue by the authors, Mr. Usbeck, Westend and others.*

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

Seit letztem Schuljahr haben Lehramtsstudenten der Universität Leipzig die Möglichkeit, bei uns ehrenamtlich ihre eigenen Nachmittagsaktivitäten zu organisieren und umzusetzen.

Dieses Angebot wurde schon rege genutzt. So hatten wir bereits Bastelnachmittage, AG »Kunterbuntes Allesbuch«, Flötenunterricht, Mitarbeit bei den Theaterinszenierungen, Hausaufgabenbetreuung, Unterstützung beim Sommerfest, sowie Mitarbeit im GSL-Kids-Club.

Diese Studenten sind sehr engagiert und können sich durch die Umsetzung ihrer eigenen Ideen im Umgang mit den Kindern ausprobieren. So lernen sie mehr, als wenn sie nur hospitieren würden. Unsere Kinder haben viel Spaß mit ihnen und erleben abwechslungsreiche Nachmittagsaktivitäten.

In Absprache mit dem Praktikumsbüro der Universität Leipzig wird diese Form der semesterbegleitenden Praktika als Orientierungspraktikum für die Studenten anerkannt.

Momentan haben wir das Angebot, auf dem Gelände der Erziehungswissenschaftlichen Fakultät in der Karl-Heine-Straße mit Hilfe von Studenten einen **Schulgarten** nutzen zu können. Wer hätte Lust mitzumachen?

**Frau Werndl** (Primary German) steht gerne als **Ansprechpartner** für Fragen zu dieser Form der Kooperation sowie **für Interessenten an einer Schulgarten-AG** zur Verfügung.

This is the first Letter from the Board. There will be more, on a regular basis. You may ask why there haven't been letters from the Board before. Well, quite frankly, the time demands on the Board members have been extreme in the last four to five years (the Board members discharge their responsibilities in their free time) so that dialogue with parents and other stakeholders has not been the first priority. But we also admit that we have not had our ears close enough to the ground, and have not recognised how much demand there is from our stakeholders to receive information directly from us. So now is a good time to start a regular flow of information.

This being the first letter, it would turn out to be pretty long if we covered all the issues that might be of interest to you. So instead, we'll just deal with a couple of subjects which are particularly topical. We'll cover more in the next Letter.

From a commercial and legal point of view, many of the issues we currently face continue to be dominated by the results of a state audit which the School was subjected to in the years 2003 to 2005. This audit – only the second state audit of a school ever conducted in post-war Germany – was led by an official who was clearly antagonistic to the idea of private schools. The final report of the audit has never been delivered to us but we have received it through other official channels. One of its conclusions is that there is no justification for the State of Saxony to support the School with public grants. The reason given is that there are few foreign investors in the Leipzig region and that there is therefore no public interest in the existence of an International School in Leipzig. We disagree, and fortunately the State of Saxony and other major stakeholders disagree.

The Board has spent an immense amount of time over the past 3 years dealing with the outcome of the audit, replying to requests for information and conducting negotiations with tax authorities and state ministries. One of the issues concerned the fact that the grants given by the state government in respect of each child at the school (ranging from Euro 2.700 to Euro 3.600 p.a.) must be reduced Euro for Euro by the amount by which school fees exceed a fixed amount of approximately Euro 1.065 p.a. The audit argued that all of the amounts payable in respect of your children's schooling (school fee, Educational Services Fee, Administration Fee, Investment Benefaction) qualify as school fees for this purpose. If this argument had been accepted at face value, we would not have been entitled to state grants at all. We would have had to refund all the grants we had received in past years and for the future we would have had to increase fees to compensate for the loss of those grants. However, we were able to negotiate an acceptable compromise. Firstly, it was accepted that the Investment Benefaction did not count as school fees at all and need not therefore be taken into account. Secondly, the remaining amounts of fees in excess of the fixed amount per annum, namely the Educational Services Supplement (ESS) and the Administration Fee, could be re-characterised as donations, on condition that the parents who had paid them gave their written agreement. This is the process known in German as »Umwidmung«. Provided we get the acceptance of all the parents to this process, we will not have to refund any of the grants to the State. Hopefully, we will soon receive all the necessary confirmations from the parents although the confirmations are not being returned as quickly as we would like. Thirdly, we were able to convince the state authorities to change the law in such a way that the level of our school fees no longer affects the amount of the grant which we are entitled to receive. The revision of the law came into force with effect from this school year and will solve this major problem. It does also contain some other changes relating to the admission of children whose parents are not so well situated, so once again we are spending a significant amount of time dealing with these as well. More about this in our next letter.

Turning to a different topic, you have all noted that the school has now returned to its new and newly refurbished premises. On the whole, parents and teachers and children seem to be very pleased with the new school – particularly those that did not know – or had forgotten – what the old premises used to be like. Of course, there are always people who criticise this, that or the other aspect, and to be honest, there are things that the Board, with hindsight, more time and more money, might have done differently. But bearing in mind that the planning for the whole project had to be completed within a space of 3 weeks in November and December 2003 in order to secure > **read more on page 5**

## NEW: Ballet lessons for children from PS3 to Grade 3 by the ballet master



**Daniel Otevel** is the ballet master of the Leipzig Ballet at the Opera in our city and now coming to visit us at LIS!

The young LIS students, age 5 to 8, are all welcome to join Daniel's free try-out pre-ballet classes in May. The dates are as follows: 13.05 Tuesday, 21.05 Wednesday and 27.05 Tuesday at 3 p.m in Hort building.

The lessons take 60 minutes each. If you are interested please contact Daniel himself: 0176 62175690 or otevel.d@hotmail.com. The number of students will be limited.

> *continues from page 4* government funding, we think we have done reasonably well in the circumstances. As with many building projects and especially those concerning refurbishment of old buildings, there are cost overruns and we are currently discussing with building contractors, architects and the authorities responsible for approving state grants what overruns are justified and what additional grants will be available. We do not expect that there will be any significant additional liabilities to be borne by the school, or that there will be any effect on school fees arising from the cost of financing the new school premises. Hopefully, parents will appreciate that the Board is particularly proud of having invested some Euro 14 million in our new premises and equipment without having had to raise fees to pay for the investment. We are less enthusiastic about our success in raising sponsorship and other donations to help finance the building. This is an area where we think that parents can play an important role in the future.



On the educational front, Michael Webster has completed the recruitment of additional and replacement teaching staff for next year. We expect enrollment to rise from 420 in August 2007 to some 480 in August 2008. Additional staff have been recruited in the areas of German, English as a Foreign Language, Music and After-School Activities. We continue to intensify teacher training, currently with a special emphasis on the use of technology in the classroom. School Principals will be receiving additional time allocations in which to dispense their duties. Altogether, we are well set to cater for the future development of the school's educational curriculum and for the expected increase in numbers of pupils.

There is a lot more to talk about, but these Letters need to be kept concise, as we know you are all busy. Our next letter will follow in the Observer in June.

We wish you a good remaining school year and look forward to a closer dialogue with you in the future.

*Kind regards Elke Urban . Christopher Smith  
(Chairpersons of the Board of Governors)*

**»Und alles nur weil Giesela die Sprache der Menschenkinder verstehen moechte...«**

## GSL Kids Club – Spielend Deutsch lernen



Kennst du GieSeLa, Georg und Superdickerchen? Noch nicht? Dann komm doch mal beim GSL Kids Club vorbei. Jeden Donnerstag ab 15.00 Uhr hast du die Möglichkeit diese verrückten Charaktere kennen zu lernen.

**Nur wer Spaß am Lernen hat, wird auch den erwünschten Erfolg erzielen:** Erste Fremdsprachenkenntnisse spielend erproben und mit Gleichaltrigen aus vielen verschiedenen Nationen zu kommunizieren ist das Ziel dieser after-school-activity. Demzufolge werden die Kinder mit viel Spaß und ganz behutsam an die Deutsche Sprache herangeführt, so dass das »Lernen« fast nebenher geschieht.

**Was Hänschen nicht lernt, lernt Hans nimmermehr:** Dies trifft beim Fremdspracherwerb zwar nur bedingt zu, dennoch gilt als erwiesen: je früher eine Fremdsprache erlernt wird, desto besser und tiefer wird sie verankert. Aus diesem Grund sollten Kinder so zeitig und oft wie möglich mit Deutsch als Fremdsprache in Berührung gebracht werden.

**Giraffe, Affe und Nilferd:** Diese ungleichen Freunde begeben sich auf eine Reise, um nach einer geheimnisvollen GSL-Frucht zu suchen. Nach deren Verzehr soll man im Stande sein die Menschensprache zu verstehen. Endlich mit den Kinder reden, die täglich vor den Käfigen im Zoo stehen und jede Menge zu berichten haben; das ist der große Traum der Tiere.

Die drei Hauptfiguren, welche von den Kindern eigens konzipiert wurden, erleben ständig neue Geschichten, die zur Erweiterung des Wortschatzes und zur Verbesserung der Aussprache beitragen sollen. Grammatik wird, in Themen eingebettet, sanft vermittelt.

Im Kids Club wird angepasstes Material in Form von Handpuppen und Spielzeug bis hin zu verschiedensten Basteleien und Spielen verwendet. Die Figuren werden in unterschiedlichen Situationen malerisch festgehalten.  
*Katja Jacobi (Primary German) & Nadine Priesterjahn (Teacher in training)*

**»And all this happened because GiSeLa wants to understand the language of the little human beings...«**

## GSL-Kids Club – learning German playfully

Do you know GiSeLa, George and Superdickerchen? Not yet? Then visit us at the GSL-Kids Club. You've got the chance to get to know these crazy characters every Thursday at 3 pm.

**Only those who enjoy learning will achieve the desired outcome:** Testing your first foreign language competences playfully and communicating with peers from other countries is the aim of this after-school-activity. As a result the kids are introduced to the German language in a fun way while learning.

**Was Hänschen nicht lernt, lernt Hans nimmermehr – You can't teach an old dog new tricks:** It is proven that the sooner a foreign language is learned the better it will be memorized. For this reason the kids should be confronted with German as a foreign language at an early stage and as often as possible.

**Giraffe, monkey and hippo:** These unlike friends go on a journey to search for the secret GSL-fruit. After the consumption of that fruit the animals should be able to understand the language of the human beings. Finally being able to talk to the kids who stand in front of the cages everyday and who have to report a lot of interesting stories: that is the big dream of the animals.

The three heroes the kids have designed on their own experience repeatedly new adventures which should add to the enlargement of the active vocabulary and to the improvement of the articulation. Embedded in different topics the German grammar will be imparted carefully.



At the Kids Club we use well adapted working supplies in form of hand puppets and other toys including self made handicrafts. The figures and their experiences are captured on paintings.

*Katja Jacobi (GSL Teacher) & Nadine Priesterjahn (Teacher in training)*

## PE summer season in the secondary school

In response to a letter from the LISPA representatives and after consultation with the PE department I have decided that we will have a Summer season from 1 April – 30 September and a Winter season from 1 October – 31 March. During the summer season students have to bring outdoor gear, during winter season they have to bring indoor gear. Of course it would be very useful if students could keep a pair of indoor shoes at school for those occasions, but this is no longer compulsory. The new requirement reads:



**Students are required to wear the following PE uniform to every PE class:**

WINTER SEASON (1 October – 31 March):

- ❖ White sport shirt
- ❖ Blue or black sport shorts or sport trousers (no jeans)
- ❖ Clean indoor running shoes with non-marking soles.

These shoes must not be worn outside.

During the winter season we will no longer plan any activities requiring outdoor running shoes.

SUMMER SEASON (1 April – 30 September):

- ❖ White sport shirt
- ❖ Blue or black sport shorts or sport trousers (no jeans)
- ❖ Outdoor running shoes
- ❖ Jacket or sweater in case of cold weather

It is recommended that students leave their indoor running shoes in their lockers during the summer season as a back-up. In case of heavy rain during the summer season PE will take place indoors. On those occasions, students without proper indoor shoes will be allowed to walk on socks or barefoot.

*Roel Scheepens, Secondary School Principal*

## Examination season in the secondary school

As every year, April marks the end of regular classes for grades 10 and 12 as they get ready for their examinations in May/June.

**Grade 12** has its last official school day on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, with first examinations in IB English paper 1 on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The last exam for grade 12 will be IB Physics paper 3 on Wednesday, May 23<sup>d</sup>. Grade 12 students will be required to come into school for a graduation practice on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. There may be more preparation sessions and generally speaking grade 12 students have to be ready to come into school any day until graduation. Graduation itself will take place on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, from 14.00 – 15.30 h, in the auditorium. **Grade 10** has its last official school day on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> (originally the calendar read April 25<sup>th</sup> but we changed this in September 2007) with first examinations in First Language German, First Language French and First Language Dutch on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> (Whit Monday!). The last exam for grade 10 will be Foreign Language German on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Grade 10 students who have not organized their work experience from 16-20 June (see elsewhere in this LIS Observer) are required to be in school during that week. All grade 10 students are required to attend the last school week from 23-26 June.

After the end of official lessons students are free to stay at home to prepare for their examinations. However, they can choose to come to school and to continue attending classes. Teachers will still be available to help students during the regular lesson time and often at different times, as well.

Individual arrangements will be worked out for those grade 10 students who are not sitting the IGCSE examinations. **We wish all of our examination candidates success!**

*Roel Scheepens, Secondary School Principal*



## Trip days in the secondary school

**October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008**, will be two trip days in the secondary school. Here are the plans and the contact persons:

Class 2008 – 2009	Contact person for trips October 2008	Trip description
6MJ	Mattie Jackson	Local day trips
6DL	Danielle Lebel	Local day trips
7SKS	Susanne Schleif	Overnight / further away
8CG	Chris Gillett	Local day trips
8AS	Aisha Al Sanhoury	Local day trips
9RB	Reingart Böhmer	Overnight / further away
10RC	Becky Collier	Local day trips
11FE	Fiona Eels	Overnight / further away
12JS	Justin Sands	Overnight / further away (academic trip to Nürnberg)

The cost for the local day trips should not exceed Euro 50 per student. The target cost for the overnight / further away trips is Euro 150. We will try to keep the cost for the overnight / further away trips as close to that target as we can. We have deliberately chosen to alternate between years in order to spread the costs for parents. Grade 12 will do an overnight / further away trip because they missed out on one this year. In future years, they will do an on-campus academic activity.

**We welcome parental involvement!** If parents would like to get involved in the preparation and/or the trips themselves, please let me know or talk to the contact person directly.

*Roel Scheepens, Secondary School Principal*

# New grades in grade 6-10

In grades 6 – 10 we already used letter grades that corresponded to the IGCSE system and we have now decided to strengthen this link. This means that the report card grade options will be expanded with an A\* at the top and with a G at the bottom. There is also the option of including a U if there is no positive achievement to report at all.

The **letter grade A\*** will be a grade to recognise the best students within the A-band. It is a way to recognise and celebrate outstanding talent. The **letter grade C** continues to mean that the student has demonstrated good, solid performance that meets our expectations. Students that score C's or better are doing well and we would expect them to do well later on in the IB programme in grade 11/12. This is a point that often needs explaining to parents and students who may have come from systems where a C indicated nothing more than a minimum pass.

Not so in the IGCSE system, not so at LIS. Here, the **letter grade E** represents the minimum passing grade. The **letter grade G** indicates a level of performance that clearly does not meet the minimum requirements. It is still, however, an indication of some positive achievement.

The conversion to High School grades and grade points follows the recommended conversion table taken from the Cambridge International Examinations Board.

LIS attainment grade descriptors and conversion table 6-10

Descriptor	LIS grade (IGCSE scale)	US High School grade equivalent	Grade Point
Excellent	<b>A, A*</b>	A	4.0
Very good	<b>B</b>	A-	3.7
Good	<b>C</b>	B	3.0
Satisfactory	<b>D</b>	C+	2.3
Mediocre	<b>E</b>	C	2.0
Poor	<b>F</b>	D+	1.3
Very poor	<b>G</b>	D	1.0
Ungraded	<b>U</b>	F	0

I hope this conversion chart will help answer some of your questions regarding the meaning of letter grades.

*Roel Scheepens, Secondary School Principal*



# Inter-house Cross Country

**On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** the Primary School held its first ever Inter-house Cross Country. It was a glorious day for it, with the sun shining, but it was not too hot. All the children ran through the Clara-Zetkin Park, running different distances depending on their age, with the Grade 5s running the furthest, about 2 kilometres. It was fantastic to see all the competitors doing their absolute best to help their house be victorious.

The final scores were very close, with de Coubertin only just beating da Vinci to be the first ever champions! Curie was third, with Mandela fourth. There were a lot of very impressive performances, with a lot of determination and heart being required to get them across the finish line in the best possible position. You can see below the top three place getters in each race, but it is important to remember that everyone who competed and finished helped their house. It was also fantastic to see so many pupils cheering on their fellow team members. Thank you to the Parents Association for helping out by providing the runners with much needed water out on the course.

The **House System colors** are green for »Mandela!«, blue for »Curie!«, red for »de Coubertin!« or yellow for »da Vinci!«.

Girls		Boys	
<b>Grade 1</b>			
1. Marah Hawelka	de Coubertin	1. Tomas Rubiano	da Vinci
2. Lea Baschleben	Curie	2. Leo Kreutzer	Mandela
3. Clara Tutschkus	Curie	3. Vincent Weber	da Vinci
<b>Grade 2</b>			
1. Lara Frank	Mandela	1. Naod Mekonnen	da Vinci
2. Supreet Sandhu	da Vinci	2. Johann Schmalbruch	de Coubertin
3. Ilka Schwarzer	Curie	3. Alex Gärtner	de Coubertin
<b>Grade 3</b>			
1. Clarissa Tkatzik	Mandela	1. Hauke Schnepel	de Coubertin
2. Hayley Turner	da Vinci	2. Aaron Falke	de Coubertin
3. Juliane Schubert	Curie	3. Theo Schön	Curie
<b>Grade 4</b>			
1. Jil Weber	da Vinci	1. Thomas Godts	Curie
2. Pauline Pokoy	da Vinci	2. Silvio Salmhofer	de Coubertin
3. Katharina Yacoub	da Vinci	3. Anton Vogt	da Vinci
<b>Grade 5</b>			
1. Lena Rössler	de Coubertin	1. Rami Al Meklef	Curie
2. Pia Stodal	Mandela	2. Eric Runge	de Coubertin
3. Tanja Scheiber	Curie	2. Daniel Warmuth	Curie



Marah Hawelka (de Coubertin) and Lea Baschleben (Curie) sprint towards the line.



Grade 3 boys cheering with enthusiasm!

From the School Office: Please, inform us immediately about any change in address, phone number etc. via phone 0341 3375580 or e-mail [admin@intschool-leipzig.com](mailto:admin@intschool-leipzig.com). Thank You.

## Inter-house Basketball

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** saw the conclusion to an incredibly exciting basketball tournament. All the games were played in an excellent spirit with nearly every game going down to the wire, with either team capable of victory right up until the final seconds, with one game even going into extra-time. It has been great to see all the house captains leadership skills continue to improve throughout the tournament.



All eyes are on the ball as Otto Schmalbruch takes a long shot.

It was a brilliant piece of tactical leadership by Curie captains Rami Al Meklef and Anne List which proved decisive in what turned out to be their crucial clash with the then undefeated de Coubertin. They noticed how important de Coubertin's Silvio Salmhofer was to his team's attack, and put him under massive defensive pressure. De Coubertin showed they were more than a one player team, by taking an early lead, but Curie fought back, to have the scores equal at full time. In extra-time, Anne List made the clutch play and scored the winning basket. If Curie thought they had the title wrapped up, Mandela had other ideas, as they made Curie fight hard again. Mandela were impressive in attack, but a few close misses proved costly, as Curie, like all champion teams do, scored goals when it really mattered. This close victory, along with their earlier defeat of da Vinci left them undefeated and the inaugural inter-house basketball champions. Well done to all of the Curie players, it really was a team effort which lead to your success. The leading scorers of the tournament were Silvio Salmhofer (de Coubertin) 20 points, Juli Revelle (da Vinci) 8 points and Pia Stodal (Mandela) 6 points. The Most Valuable Player of the tournament was Silvio Salmhofer. He scored plenty of points, worked hard in defence and was always looking for a player in better position in attack.

All the players who took part can be proud of their efforts, a lot of heart and impressive skills were displayed all through the tournament. A special thank you must go to all the supporters who came and created an electric atmosphere at all of the games! *Chad Hayward*

# What has LISPA been doing lately? ■

After 7 years in Leipzig and happily involved in the school community it is a pleasure to see it grow and develop, just like our children do. LIS is a great place to educate our children and it is visibly an important element in the city's structure, no doubt about it! Now our beautiful new building is also a landmark for Schleussig and the development that the street experiences with interesting shops and original places to meet are a clear sign of the positive impact in the community that LIS has made. At this point there is a good occasion also to say a big thank you to the school administration, the Board of Governors and all teachers for their extraordinarily work through last time.

LISPA has done the same and all its members have been very busy working for the School and getting the parent community involved and engaged as well which was very clear on the general meeting held on march 12<sup>th</sup> in the comfortable School Aula.

With a record attendance of over 150 parents many topics were explained, some projects and work groups were approved, planned and organized as well.

As **Ralf Gloede** (LISPA vice president) explained at the beginning «Committed parents have come together in an interest group seeking more collaboration with the school authorities. They will draw up proposals as to how LISPA could help with specific school issues. In this meeting, members of this group will introduce themselves, the topics they are focusing on, and ask for the parents' collaboration.»

We could listen to **Sybille Meier-Klodt**, and then **Gaby Kirchof** (LISPA president), explaining the organization and structure of the school units (Trägerverein, Förderverein, Business office, School sections etc) and the fact that all parents are members of LISPA, information which is important and sometimes not well known by parents, especially new ones.

Gaby also explained that LISPA sees the school as a community project, where the parents should have a stronger voice and be able to participate in certain decisions. In this outlook the new LISPA initiative for more participation has formed three work groups which are in addition to the groups already in place (catering, Sommerfest, field trips, etc.). All parents are invited to participate in these new groups: Strategy, Finances, Operations whose speakers are: **Patrik Fahrenkamp**, who presented the work group »Strategy« aimed at discussing concept, standards and structure of the school. Contact for this group: [strategy@lispa.de](mailto:strategy@lispa.de). **Andreas Hipp** presented the group »Finances« and its contact is: [finance@lispa.de](mailto:finance@lispa.de). Finally **Axel Braun** (and **Antje Heinz**) explained »Operations«, covering aspects like security and health and school building, technical equipment, traffic situation which always are interesting topics and whose contact address is: [operations@lispa.de](mailto:operations@lispa.de).

After the presentation and questions, a final statement was made: We would like to organize the parents in work groups to maximize the efficiency of single individuals. LISPA does not represent the opinion of single parents or groups, but that of all parents. Therefore, it is especially important that as many parents as possible participate. It is still time to send an email and join!



Besides this General Meeting LISPA is getting busy organizing our traditional **Sommerfest** which goes this year under the motto **LISI ADE...** you will be getting information and sign-up letter very soon but be aware it is going to be a super event so save June 7<sup>th</sup> date in your family planner now! *Ximena Herrera de Correa, LISPA*

## EDUCATION GOES ONLINE

After the move to the new building LIS is also starting a brand-new website. It is one part of an online platform for students, parents and teachers that will be implemented within the next months.

With the new version of the website not only the design has changed, but also the content was updated and supplemented. Furthermore the new structure makes it easier to find the desired information.

To illustrate the facets of education at LIS the web pages contain many new photos. Parents who do not want to have their children's photos published can contact the school registrar Daria Madej.

From the technical point of view the redesigned online presence is based on Typo3, a high-end open source content management system. It allows the school to keep the web pages up-to-date and to publish information online in a short time period. Of course every member of LIS community is welcome to provide news, photos or recommendations, because a good website is always in progress.

Finally we would like to thank Gaby Kirchof from LISPA and confuture Innovationssysteme GmbH (our web hosting company) for their great support during the rapid re-development of the LIS website. And now enjoy your visit at [www.intschool-leipzig.com](http://www.intschool-leipzig.com)! *Alex Burkhardt*



# The Importance of Being Earnest

**The Importance of Being Earnest** was originally staged by Oscar Wilde in London, in 1895. It is a hilarious look at fun, games, and dubious ethics among the British upper crust. You'll meet a cast of interesting characters, including Algernon Moncrieff, Jack Worthing, Lady Bracknell, Algernon's cousin Gwendolyn and the beautiful Cecily. The comical twists of the plot will keep you laughing as you discover the answers to such questions as: Just who is in love with whom? How will Lady Bracknell handle the matter of her daughter Gwendolyn's suitors? What's the truth about Jack's mysterious heritage? And, just who is »Earnest«?

Come and enjoy a riotous evening of theatrical fun as LIS students from grades 9-12, under the direction of Liz Hampton, present 4 performances of **The Importance of Being Earnest** on **June 19<sup>th</sup> (19.30), 20<sup>th</sup> (19.30) and 21<sup>st</sup> (14.00 and 19.30)**. Tickets will go on sale on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Still needed are various *props (Requisiten)* to help create the atmosphere of a Victorian home. Especially welcome would be a pretty china tea set with sugar bowl, a silver-plated or brass bowl big enough to hold muffins, an old-fashioned coat stand, a dressing room screen, a standing mirror, old period rugs, a large leather »Gladstone« or doctor's bag, an old-fashioned pram, a leather-bound diary, and old-fashioned round wire glasses without the lenses. Other Victorian period items such as knick-knacks, bookends, pictures to hang on the walls, etc. would also be appreciated. All props will be kept in a locked room and returned to their owners promptly after the play is over. If you can loan any of these items to the school for the play, please contact Martha Sanches at 0341 4790110.

If you don't have any props to loan but would like to make a **cash donation** to enable the purchase of props, you may either give the money to Liz Hampton or make a donation to: **LIS-Earnest-High School Drama Production, Commerzbank Leipzig, Kto./Acct 201 700 200, BLZ 860 400 00.**

**Advertisers** are being sought for the programme (*Programmheft*). Advertisements can be purchased for Euro 20. In addition, personal »Best Wishes to the Cast from. . .« can be bought for a Euro 5 donation. If you would like to purchase advertising space or express your support for the cast, please contact Cynthia Moellenhoff at 0341 3503639 or [cdyre\\_moellenhoff@yahoo.com](mailto:cdyre_moellenhoff@yahoo.com). We hope that all LIS parents and friends will come out to **enjoy** this unique dramatic experience and to show their appreciation for the **hard work and dedication** that the student actors and backstage crew, along with their director and many other teachers and parents, have given! *Cynthia Moellenhoff*



Dear Parents,

We are pleased to note an increasing interest of parents in becoming members of the support association of the School »Förderverein für die Leipzig International School e.V.« and would welcome applications to join from all parents.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please ask in business office of the School for »Aufnahmeantrag«. Note that the English version is a free translation of the application form in German. For legal reasons, only applications in German that are fully completed can be processed. The direct debit authorisation (Einzugsermächtigung) is a requirement for application.

After processing the applications we will immediately confirm your memberships. Membership itself is expected to start from 1 August 2008 after the financial statements of the association for 2007 have been audited and the current tax audit has been completed.

For your information the articles of the Förderverein are attached. Please don't hesitate to contact us at [foerderverein@intschool-leipzig.com](mailto:foerderverein@intschool-leipzig.com) if you have any questions.

Kind regards Birgit Thalhammer, Heinrich Röhrs

Förderverein für die Leipzig International e.V., Könnertstr. 47, 04229 Leipzig/Germany

E-mail: [foerderverein@intschool-leipzig.com](mailto:foerderverein@intschool-leipzig.com)

## End-of-year assessment in the secondary school

June 2-6 is marked in the calendar as the week of end-of-year tests for the secondary school, and they will be for grade 9 and 11. In grade 9 and 11 students are half way through a two-year course and they need to get a sense of what the final examination will be like. This is the main reason for keeping the end-of-year test week in grades 9 and 11.

However, we have moved away from a pure examination week for grades 6-8. The driving force behind these changes is the wish to maintain a regular school rhythm from the first until the last day of the school year as far as possible. We discuss student progress on a regular basis throughout the year and we already know who is coping and who is not. End-of-year examinations have very little added value in that respect. They do make it harder for teachers and students alike to keep going afterwards: when the exams are over everyone feels that the year is »over«, with still another three weeks to go!

Of course there will have to be tests in Lower Secondary. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will therefore have a period of two weeks, from June 2-13, with one test per day, every first double lesson in the homeroom. They will then have regular classes for the rest of the day. Apart from the tests there will not be any other homework for students during these two weeks. There will be time during the school day to review the next day's test.

We feel that it is better for teachers and students in grades 6-8 to stick to the regular school day including music, art, PE and other practical activities. We expect that sticking to the regular school day will help to keep the regular rhythm going until the summer holidays, rather than collapsing after the end-of-year tests.

All end-of-year tests in June 2008 will count towards the second semester grade with a weight of two regular tests or assessments. In June 2009, the end-of-year tests in grades 6 and 7 will become smaller in scope and duration and will count toward the second semester with a weight of one regular test.

*Roel Scheepens, Secondary School Principal*

**Please submit all outstanding Re-Dedication (Umwidmungserklärungen) until 17<sup>th</sup> April. Many thanks!**



Die Buchmesse in Leipzig war auch dieses Jahr ein Magnet für Verlage, Autoren, Leser sowie für die GSL Studenten der Klassenstufen 8, 9 und 10.

Um unsere Schüler zu ermutigen, sich eingehender mit der Welt der Bücher zu beschäftigen, bewarben wir uns zur 1. Schüler-Bücher-Rallye, welche von der Leipziger Buchmesse in Kooperation mit dem Ernst Klett Verlag organisiert wurde. Unterstützt wurde das Projekt vom Mitteldeutschen Rundfunk (MDR), dem Carlsen Verlag, dem S. Fischer Taschenbuchverlag, dem Spiegel Verlag, der Verlagsgruppe Random House, um nur einige zu nennen. Aus rund 700 Bewerbungen um einen der begehrten Startplätze wurde die LIS mit ihren GSL Studenten auf Startnummer 13 gewählt. So traten unsere Schüler am 14. März um 12.00 Uhr am Stand des Ernst Klett Verlages ihre Rallye an, um ihr Recherchevermögen unter Beweis stellen zu können. Die Rallye bestand aus 6 einzelnen Boxenstopps und stellte an das Team eine Vielzahl von Anforderungen. So mussten literarische Kenntnisse eingebracht, knifflige Fragen gelöst, akustische Überraschungen gedeutet und verzwickte Aufgaben bewältigt werden. Hierbei ging es jedoch nicht um Geschwindigkeit, sondern um die genaue Beantwortung der Fragen und um den strukturierten Einblick in das Messegesehen. Jedes Etappenziel war mit dem Besuch an einem anderen Messestand verbunden. Das GSL Team stürmte förmlich die Stände der Verlage und schöpfte alle Möglichkeiten aus, um an die zur Beantwortung der Fragen benötigten Informationen zu gelangen. Natürlich gab es immer fachkundige Unterstützung vor Ort, welche nur auf deutsch gestellte Anfragen reagierte. Aus allen Antworten ergab sich das Lösungswort LETTER. Am Ziel der Rallye wurden wir zwar nicht für einen der attraktiven Hauptgewinne ausgelost, jedoch gab es zwei riesige Taschen voll mit aktuellen Büchern, Mangas und Atlanten. Als Trostpries versprach uns der Geschäftsführer des Klett Verlagshauses in Leipzig, Herr Poker, zwei Klassensätze frei wählbarer Lehrwerke für das Fach German as a Second Language.

Unsere Teamverantwortliche war Hanna, welche für die schriftliche Fixierung der Antworten

## Art Department News

**Grade 10** has been busy completing their two 10 hour IGCSE Art Exams up in the main art room on the fourth floor. During their work on paper one, the room was cluttered with chocolate bars, paintbrushes in jars, toys in boxes, and pictures of people sitting on carpets or talking on cell phones! Now for paper two students are exploring topics such as »In the night,« »Compression«, or »A secret place.« The students will be able to show off their work on April 17<sup>th</sup> during the Pastoral Lesson (12:35-13:20) in the art room. Then it will be packed and sent off for evaluation.



Stefanie Sanches



Rebecca Bergmann



Sophia Bodendieck

Congratulations! Our four grade 12 IB Art students put on a great show that was well received during their closing reception on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks go out to Franzi Luppa, David Berger, Tanja Henkel, and Christian Bähr for all their hard work over the two years and during this exhibition, to all of those grade 11 and 12 students who helped organize the reception, and all of you who made it out to celebrate with them.

**Grade 12 IB Art Students** LIS has been given the unique opportunity to host a visiting artist workshop that has been organized by the Leipzig art association/art space called the *Delikatessenhaus*. Their aim is to debate the contemporary arts and the general sponsorship of artistic statements in society. Our participation was requested for a new intercultural and international art project which the *Delikatessenhaus* team created in close cooperation with the Slovenian artists Nika Oblak and Primoz Novak, the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig (GfzK). Young art students are asked to copy famous artworks of noted international artists.

The Slovenian artists Oblak and Novak will be exhibiting their collaborative work at the *Delikatessenhaus* from March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (viewing times are on Wed., Thurs., and Sat. from 14:00-17:00). During the week of April 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> the artists will be working with 15 selected LIS secondary students from grades 6-8 on the topic »Brand new art.« The results of the student work will be displayed at LIS and a selection of work will be displayed in connection with the Oblak and Novak exhibition entitled »Saatchi Collection« at the *Delikatessenhaus* on April 19<sup>th</sup> when the artists will be giving an artist talk about their work and the project at 15:00. Then at 17:00 there will be a reception for the students' work completed during the »Brand new art« project. Everyone is invited to attend this talk and/or the reception in order to see our students' work and meet the artists. *Steve Lewis*



*The Box (Video Installation of Nika Oblak and Primoz Novak)*

zuständig war. Unser Streckenexperte Nikolay führte die Gruppe zielsicher zu den einzelnen Stationen durch die verschiedenen Messehallen. Für die Recherche und die Beantwortung der Stationsfragen engagierten sich außerdem aus Klasse 8 Rikako, Aaron, Mathilde, Nathalie und Axel, aus Klasse 9 Noemie und Christine aus Klasse 10. Während unseres Survivaltrainings durch den Bücherjungle trafen wir auf skurrile Mangawesen, Bücherwürmer, eine Spezies, die allein durch das Zusammenfügen von Buchstaben und Sätzen überleben kann und andere merkwürdige Gestalten. Unser Ausflug in die Welt der Bücher war ein interessantes Erlebnis voll mit Spaß und Action. Wir freuen uns alle auf die nächste Schüler-Rallye 2009! *GSL 8., 9. und 10. Klasse, Katja Jacobi und Cornelia Werndl*