



# German School News

March 2007  
Issue 1

## The Year Starts with Frühstück

Welcome back.

It's good to see you all, new and familiar faces.

The Annual German breakfast and AGM is on the 17 March. This includes a short welcome speech, food, coffee, and more food. It is the traditional start to the year, in which the parents can meet each other and the Committee. Parents are encouraged to bring a plate of something delicious for breakfast, which will be digested as we and learn more about the running of the school. Speaking of which...

## The Annual General Meeting

Straight after the breakfast, we will be holding the annual General Meeting, and electing committee members for the year. The school cannot function without a parents committee. Several positions will be open, including the presidency. It is very important that there is a functioning committee or else the school cannot operate. Parents don't need previous experience in these roles - just need to be enthusiastic and care about the school. We are also very keen to get parents on the committee who are teachers, so we can add that perspective to the committee. We are very keen to get parents on the general committee without specific roles.

(... attached you will find a description of some of the fun and not very frightening things you can do to help your school...)

## Enrolments

Just as a reminder, the enrolments forms are now due. And pretty soon we'll be urging you to pay fees or otherwise we can't pay the teachers!

## Student classes

As the teachers get an idea of the most appropriate class for your child, there may still be some students reassigned to different classes.

## Gold St Primary School

The German Saturday School only rents class rooms from Gold Street Primary School and have no ties to them. Although the teachers are responsible for supervising the students in their classes, we would ask that parents discuss with their children the importance of respecting the fact that we are renting these rooms and that the rooms actually belong to the teachers at Gold Street.

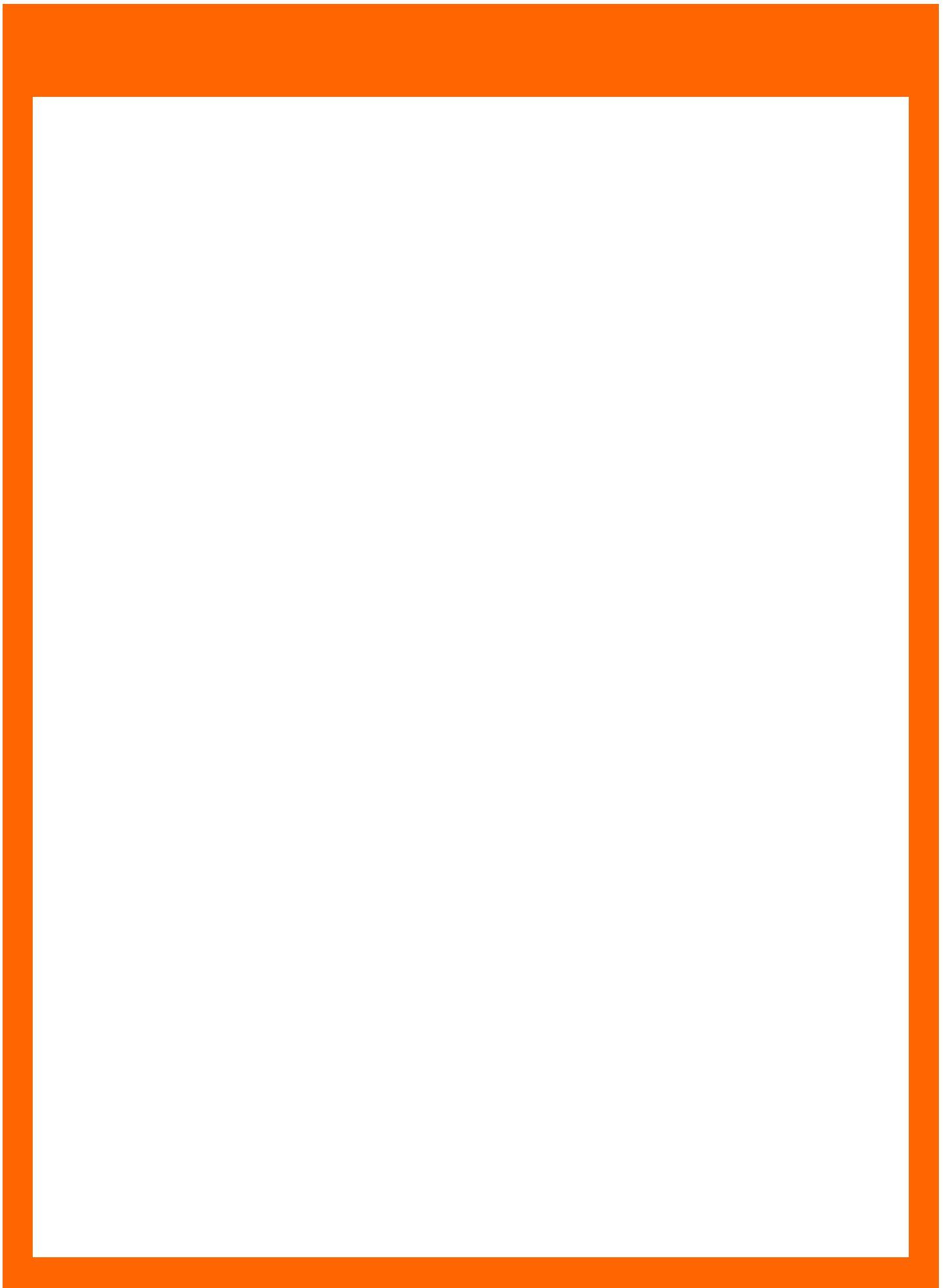
It is important that the children don't move or interfere with anything in the rooms while they are there on Saturdays. We get complaints from the Gold Street School Principal on Monday mornings and don't want to have a continuing bad relationship with the school, or worse still, get our lease terminated.

The German Saturday School

(c/o Clifton Hill Primary School)

185 Gold St, Clifton Hill 3068 Melway Ref 44D2 - enter via Page St

[www.GermanSchoolMelbourne.org.au](http://www.GermanSchoolMelbourne.org.au)



## Everything you have ever wanted to know, but were too afraid to ask....

### The facts.

As usual, at the upcoming AGM, we'll be accepting nominations for all committee positions. Most of all however we need people just to attend our meetings and add their experiences to assist in running the school.

The committee meets roughly once a month from 9.30a.m to around 11a.m. Its fine if you cannot make every meeting, or be there for a whole meeting.

### The hard sell.

The more parents' perspectives, contributions, ideas and help we get, the better the school runs and the experience is enhanced for all of our children.

The meetings are really informal; we always have great coffee, something nice to munch on and a lot of laughs! You don't need any experience with committees and you don't need to be a native German speaker.

More importantly, the school cannot operate without a functioning committee, so if there is no parent committee the school cannot remain open.

### The Roles.

#### General Committee Member

We need people who are willing to discuss ideas of how to best run a school such as ours and muck in and help out from time to time. The more people who volunteer to help run the school, the less work must be done by each of us. Please don't be shy. After all, it's for your kids too.

#### President & Vice President

Working together these two roles include: Chairing the regular meetings, liaising between parents, teachers, day school, and government bodies etc, coordinating the planning of school events, overseeing the administrative aspects and generally helping out in a hands-on way.

#### Treasurer

Responsible for tracking all incoming and outgoing funds, payment of salaries and invoices, banking and fiscal reporting. Will need own calculator.

#### Secretary

Records and distributes minutes of each meeting and distributes the Meeting Agenda. Responsible for checking emails sent to the school, forwarding notices to committee members and/or parents via email. Assists president in record keeping and correspondence.

#### Cashier

Is responsible for collecting and collating of school fees, and assists in registering students.

#### Newsletter Editor

The Editor is responsible for the drafting, production and distribution of the school newsletter, and for the inclusion of any good jokes in German.

#### Public Officer

This role covers any dealings with Consumer Affairs.

#### Website Coordinator

Responsible for monitoring and updating the website and responsible for maintaining the electronic mailing lists.

## The Warm and Fuzzy Section.

Real life committee members tell you why they have enjoyed working for the school over the past year

### President- Michelle Springall

I came into this role with no previous experience on committees, I'd been out of the work force in Australia for several years, I am not a native German speaker and my daughter had only been at the school for less than a year (amazing I got the job really !) I have learnt so many things in this position, from so many people - it's been a great experience.

It's personally given me a lot of confidence and new- found skills from a professional point of view. It has always been a team effort from the whole committee. It's been incredibly rewarding to be part of a team that I know has made a really huge positive contribution to the successful running of the school in the past year and I have enjoyed so many laughs along the way!

### Cashier - Ann Kemeny

I have been doing this role for a few years now and everyone looks the other way when I come chasing them for fees!! But I am always so friendly about it!!

I first arrived at the school with just one of my three children who are all here now, on the first Saturday lesson in 2000. Just as my son was welcomed into the class by his teacher, so one of the committee members immediately made me feel welcome. I sat in the staff room with other parents, and very quickly decided to become involved.

Being on the committee has been a wonderful way to meet new people, discover connections and further our interests in Germany. The meetings are fun; we are all busy, so we share out the maintaining tasks and understand each other's pressures; we have more than enough time for laughter and coffee and cake, and we still get lots done.

Please pop your head in the room on a Saturday morning and join in for some coffee or a chat (German, English, and any variation in between!) If you don't know anyone, it will be a matter of a few seconds only before you do!

### Secretary - Jocelyn Ng

I have had this role only in the past year but have been a committee member before this. I guess you can tell from the name that I'm not German. My daughter was born in Munich and we lived there till she was almost ten. She was practically a native speaker, even with a slight Bavarian accent. We didn't want her to lose it that's why she's in this school. In Germany, I used to say, "Mein Deutsch ist immer noch schlecht." Now, it has probably gone from bad to worse. But it does help to hear it every now and then....

As secretary, the main task is to take the minutes of the committee meetings. I never fail to have someone, usually Michelle (as president), fill in my question marks. Among all the organizations and people whose names get tossed around during the meeting, the one I like best is that Multicultural Commissioner. What's his name? Sounds quite like Romanoff but his name ends in "iw"! And then there's AGTV, which doesn't have anything to do with TV.... Anyway, I just make sure I file things properly (electronically especially) because if it's not in my head, at least I can search for it!

### Newsletter Editor - Michael Gibson

I was only in this for the coffee and cake - and there is a lot of it. Especially at the AGM, and the Open Day.

Mostly I do the work from home, with the Secretary and President sending me text by email. Then I edit it, insert libelous material and unsubstantiated rumours and distribute it once a month. This leaves me free to drink more coffee and eat more cake on Saturdays.

I started just wanting to help, but along the way have made some friends and enjoyed myself enormously. Whether you do this job, or another job on the Committee, you will too.

### General Committee Member - Doris Niesen-Baruta

My children have been attending German Saturday School since 2003 and I have been a General Committee Member since 2004. I have found it a wonderful way to meet people and feel a part of our little German community. As it was the first committee with which I was ever involved,

I have acquired an understanding of committee structure and workings, gained a lot of confidence and met a lot of people, all with interesting and varying German connections. It has also been personally satisfying to assist with the administration of our school as well as help organise the wonderful social activities such as the Parents Breakfast, Open Day and the Christmas Party.

We are all parents, with varying backgrounds but with the common interest of wanting our children to experience the German language and culture. I see joining the committee as an opportunity for us, the parents, to join a team, have fun and make a difference.