

Welcome from the new President

A highlight of my role this year has been to look back through the long history of the school and reflect upon its achievements and future goals. Key to this, as always, is the strength of the school community and the commitment of the children, parents, teaching staff and committee members to the teaching of the German language.

This is something that I am perhaps not so qualified in, as whilst my father is a native speaker my German skills are very rudimentary. This is not so rare for the school, and from discussions with a number of parents over the years my children have been here I am aware of a wide range of backgrounds and motivations for families attending the School.

Enrolments this year have been boosted by a number of professional couples arriving with their children from German speaking countries, and this has led to new Muttersprache classes. In addition to this I know families with one German-speaking parent, others with parents who have worked overseas, some families who speak a range of languages at home which may or may not include German, those with German-speaking grandparents, and finally a smaller number of families with roots in the German and Wendish migrations of the 1800's.

As a result of these diverse backgrounds it is natural for parents and children to have a range of different expectations and experiences of the School. I would therefore be very happy to receive feedback from parents, and you are welcome to give me a call on the number given above or email me at:
robert.gruener@optusnet.com.au

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Newsletter
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Principal: Sigrid Erdt
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President: Robert Gruener
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Weihnachtssäcke

Those of you who have attended previous German Saturday School Christmas Concerts will have seen the beautifully embroidered Christmas Sacks used by St. Nikolaus to distribute the presents. Due to the expanding number of students and classes at the school we now need more sacks. Anyone with artistic flare who would like to decorate the new sacks please let a committee member know.

Weblinks

If you've been following the story of Knut the polar bear in the Berlin Zoo you might be interested in the new movie:
<http://www.knut-und-seine-freunde.de/>

Some parents have expressed interest in hosting an exchange student from Germany. The Association of German Teachers of Victoria has some information on exchange programs:
<http://www.agtv.vic.edu.au/schexch/>

Important Dates

Internal Poetry Competition 19th July 2008
Open Day 13th September 2008
Christmas Concert 13th December 2008

Next Committee Meetings

May 10th
June 14th