



**April 14, 2010**

**Contents and Attachments:**

Reminders and Announcements, Letter from the Director, Board Election Process, Calendar April & May

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Elternbrief deadline for articles and announcements is  
Monday mornings 9 AM.**

• **Welcome Frau Eufinger!**

It's an exciting season as the pieces of the staffing puzzle for next fall begin to come together. This week I am delighted to introduce you to Esther Eufinger who will serve as our Kindergarten next year. Esther is an experienced Kindergarten teacher who has served as the English teacher in a Waldorf Kindergarten in Germany most recently. She first came and visited the school several years ago and retained an interest in someday coming back to join us. She will move here with her two sons, the youngest of whom will join our 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Esther is here this week and many people have had a chance to meet her. The timing is impeccable in that she can welcome the new Kindergarten students and parents at the Open Houses that we have scheduled this week!

• **We are looking for volunteers to serve on the TCGIS Board!**

The deadline for **SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS** is fast approaching. All nominations are due on **Friday April 16<sup>th</sup>**. Please consider volunteering for a board position or take the time to recommend someone who you think would be willing to support the school in this way. The School Board election will be held Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup>. Three seats on the board will be up for election.

More information and application materials are available on the TCGIS website. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Board Secretary Kimberly Kompel at [kimberlykompel@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlykompel@gmail.com) or at 651-414-0304.

• **Attention 3rd Grade Parents:**

The recorders that were ordered have arrived and we are very excited to begin recorder instruction in the 3rd grade music classes this week! For those students who have their recorders at home, please bring them to school as soon as possible. If anyone needs information about buying a recorder, please see the e-mail sent via the classroom teachers. Finally, if you have not already ordered the Recorder Karate Book and set of belts, the students are receiving more information in class this about this as well. Thank you!

Dear Families,

April 14, 2010

**Thank you!** The danger of Thanks yours of course is that there are so many contributors to our community and the ways you all show your generosity so diverse that it is impossible to properly acknowledge the contributions of all those who make us what we are. Some people have very public and visible roles and others are quiet organizers and inspirers who make their difference in subtle, unseen ways. With that caveat, I do want to give thanks this week to the Library Committee for rallying to keep our beautiful, precious library organized, inventoried and well-managed. A grand thanks to Holly Wiste for all the hours she has put in and insight she has shared to do this job. As Holly finds time to focus on other areas of her life, others organizing to fill the big shoes that Holly left behind. In particular thanks to Sylvia Oxenham, Silke Moeller, Kelly Huxmann, Heidi Zimmermann, Sue Burke Westacott, April and Tim Pearson, Janet Lenius, and Kimberly Feilmeyer who came in over break to inventory and organize materials. I

**Thanks to our Authorizer, the Germanic American Institute** There have been headlines in the news recently about charter schools struggling because of losing sponsorship from their school districts. THIS SITUATION DOES NOT APPLY TO US. The charter schools that are affected have school districts or the Minnesota Department of Education as their sponsors and are spending time and effort locating new sponsors, since their original ones are no longer able to provide that service. We are very grateful to have the Germanic American Institute as our authorizer. They take their job extraordinarily seriously and are very thorough and consistent in their support for us. Our authorizer is a stabilizing force for us.

**Conflict Resolution and Discipline** It is important to note that conflict resolution is not instead of discipline, but rather complementary to it. Discipline ensures there are consequences for those who break rules and hurt or intimidate others. Conflict Resolution 1) makes plans to prevent future problems and 2) allows all perspectives to be heard and 3) empower those who are victimized to speak up on their own behalf. Some situations call only for conflict resolution, some only for discipline and some for both. Either Frau Wunsch or I are available each lunch hour to provide conflict resolution.

**What to do about consistent aggressive behavior** Every child has a right to feel safe at Twin Cities German Immersion School. Please empower and support your student in making sure that adults know about situations which aren't right so that we are able to intervene as promptly as possible. If your child is not feeling safe, it is vital that your child ask for help from any adult who works here. These adults are responsible to provide effective intervention. If your child reports that situations are not being addressed, please contact me personally so that we can brainstorm an action plan. Every community member feeling safe and heard is a high priority.

**The Legislative and Financial Context in which we Work** I have found Parents United to be a Good Source of Information for understanding how to support Education on a Statewide Level. They are holding a summit on April 26<sup>th</sup> which may be an excellent source of information. I paste information from their flyer below for those who may be interested.

I continued to be impressed and supported by the vast amount of time, love, effort, knowledge and insight and energy from so many people that sustains us as a school community. Thank you for your part.

Annika Fjelstad  
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### *Parents United*

*In the last few years, expectations for Minnesota's students and schools have dramatically increased. As a state, are we willing to do what it takes to succeed?*

#### **Monday morning, April 26: What Will It Take?**

- **Governor Pawlenty's Legacy for Minnesota's Schools**, Lori Grivna, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Pawlenty
- **College for All – Really?** Kent Pekel, College Readiness Consortium, U of M
- **The New Majority**, Eleanor Coleman, Ed.D., Coleman Consulting Services, LLC (Retired, Minneapolis Public Schools)
- **Why November Matters**, Steve Kelley, Director, Center for Science, Technology & Public Policy, Humphrey Institute
- **School Finance 101**, optional afternoon session

An event by parents and for parents, our **8th annual Parent Leadership Summit** is a great opportunity to learn, network, commiserate and re-charge. Cost for the day is just \$20, and that includes breakfast, lunch, programs and materials. [Complete information](#) is available at our website, including links for online or mail-in registration. Don't delay – register today!

*The mission of Parents United is to create and support a statewide, grassroots organization of concerned and informed parents and citizens committed to quality public education. Believing that racial, economic and social equity can only be achieved if kids have the level playing field that excellent schools provide, Parents United supplies parents the tools, skills and information necessary to create lasting change.*

# 2010 TCGIS Board Election

The election for the three open seats on the TCGIS Board will be held this year on:

**Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

The election will be run differently than in years past. This year TCGIS voters will be able to cast their votes during an election day instead of at an annual meeting. All parents or legal guardians and staff members are eligible to vote in the election and have one vote each. Previously each family had only one vote but with the passage of a new law, each eligible voter will be able to cast a ballot.

The proxy vote process that was initiated last year will still be available, allowing people to cast votes in proxy for somebody else as long as the required form is completed. More information on the proxy voting process can be found on the TCGIS website.

On **May 20<sup>th</sup>**, the ballot box will be open at the school during the following times:

- At drop off – 7:45am to 9:00am
- At lunch – 11:00am to 12:30pm
- At pick up – 3:00pm – 6:00pm

At 6:00pm the ballot box will be closed and all votes counted. If you are unsure whether you are an eligible voter or not, please check with Sharon Willson at the school.

Information about the candidates running will be available soon. The deadline for nominations is Friday April 16, 2010.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Grand Marais Getaway	No School - Spring break					
	3:45pm - Staff Meeting		2:30pm - Early Release			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No School - Spring break		New After-School Activities	New Choir Session begins	6:30pm - Facilities Committee		
	3:45pm - Staff Meeting	6:30pm - PTO meeting	2:30pm - Early Release			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	3:45pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - SpEd Advisory	6:30pm - Finance Committee	2:30pm - Early Release	6pm - Cancelled: Governance	School Board Nominations 10am - Congresswoman	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	3:45pm - Staff Meeting	MCA 3rd/4th/5th Reading		Earth Day	4th & 5th Grade Field Trip to	
			2:30pm - Early Release	Officer Friendly Visit 9:00am	8am - Kaffeeklatsch	
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	Parents United - Parent	MCA 3rd/4th/5th Math				
	3:45pm - Staff Meeting	6:30pm - Board meeting @	2:30pm - Early Release			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	Parents United - Parent 3:45pm - Staff Meeting	MCA 3rd/4th/5th Math 6:30pm - Board meeting @	2:30pm - Early Release			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	3:45pm - Staff Meeting 4:30pm - MAIN 6:30pm - PTO meeting		2:30pm - Early Release			Cancelled: PTO - Tanz in den
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	3:45pm - Staff Meeting	MCA Science 6:30pm - Finance Committee	2:30pm - Early Release	6:30pm - Facilities Committee		Education in a Global
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	3:45pm - Staff Meeting		2:30pm - Early Release	2nd Grade Field Trip Annual Meeting/Board 6pm - Board Governance		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	3:45pm - Staff Meeting	6:30pm - Board meeting @	2:30pm - Early Release		8am - Kaffeeklatsch	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	No School - Memorial Day 3:45pm - Staff Meeting		2:30pm - Early Release	4th & 5th Grade Field Trip to		