



December 9, 2009

Contents and Attachments:

Reminders, Board Meeting Summary, Host Families needed, Maskenball 2010 Invitation, Calendar November & December

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

NO SCHOOL December 11 – Parent-Teacher Conferences

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences – December 10 & 11**
Last chance to sign up: <http://www.virtualparagon.com/tcgis/conference/>
If you forgot the master password, please contact the office at 651-492-7106.
- **Calendar**
As announced at the beginning of the new school year, we switched to a new online calendar. You can either view it online to see all the details or use the overview of the two current months (this month: December and January) which is attached to every weekly Elternbrief. The online calendar can be found at www.germanschool-mn.org
Simply click on the calendar icon for the monthly overview. To view details, select the event.
- **Job Posting**
There is a new posting for full and part-time paraprofessional positions posted on our website. The application deadline is Monday, December 14th.
- **School Pictures**
Unfortunately when the link to the photos was put into the Elternbrief the link was split into two lines. This essentially broke the link into two separate links and some of you are not finding their way to the correct location. Please follow this link to view and order your child's school photos:
<http://www.monteswann.smugmug.com/>

School Closing / Inclement Weather

If school is closed due to weather we will send out an email and put a posting on our website. You may send up for text or e-mail alerts whenever school is closed by going to KSTP's regular website www.kstp.com. Click on the School Alert tab on the left side of the screen. They have a drop down menu with names of many schools. We are listed as Twin Cities German Immersion School. Follow the sign up instructions. School closings will be broadcast over the radio at WCCO 830 and on Channel 5 news. As a general guideline we will follow the lead of St. Paul Public Schools. If they are closed, we will be closed.

Box Tops for Education

A big THANKS to everyone who has been collecting Box Tops, soup labels, milk lids, etc. I just sent off the Box Tops for Education for a total of \$250. And the Campbells labels totaled 1169 points. The Kemps and Land O' Lakes milk lid programs request a minimum number before submission, so keep collecting!! (Please remember to rinse the milk lids and include the UPC symbol for Campbells.) The drop off spot is the big fabric Campbells soup can near the front entrance-use this for ALL program drop offs. For more information on any of the programs TCGIS is participating in, go to www.btfe.com (Box Tops for Education). Or www.labelsforeducation.com (Campbells soup labels). And www.kemps.com (Nickels for Schools program). And www.savefiveforschools.com (Land O'

Lakes 5 cent lid program). Feel free to contact me with any questions! Thanks, Lisa Antony-Thomas (coordinator for all aforementioned programs)

Lizabella16@gmail.com

Blue Sky Guides Are Going, Going . . .

We've got just a few Blue Sky Guides left and we'd love to see them all gone before the winter break. These coupon books feature local and sustainable stores, products, and services and are a terrific way to support the school while saving money. For those who buy gifts in December, for holidays or for appreciation, a Blue Sky Guide would make a great gift for almost anyone on your list.

If you've been thinking about picking up a Blue Sky Guide for yourself or for a friend, remember that they cost just \$20, are full of coupons to save you money every day, and give back \$10 to our school community.

Even better, if we manage to sell all our books this week so that I can close out the fundraiser by the 14th, we could win one of three great prizes offered up by the Blue Sky Guide folks, any one of which I would love to put into the Maskenball silent auction. So please, pick up your copy at the front desk before they're all gone. Just put your \$20 cash or check in the PTO payment box. Contact Kathryn Olson at kathryn.a.olson@gmail.com with questions.

Please remember to make sure your child comes to school in a warm jacket, snow pants, a hat and mittens. We go outside every day!

November Board Meeting Summary

The monthly board meeting was held on November 24th 2009. The main topics revolved around school finances and the strategic planning process.

School Finances:

Annual Audit Results

Every year an independent third party audits the school finances. A representative from MMKR (certified public accountants and independent auditor) presented the results of the annual audit to the Board. Largely, the audit showed that the school is financially stable, its financial statements are accurate, and it is adhering to accepted accounting principles. There were a couple of minor findings that need to be corrected and the board and administration have a plan in place to address all findings.

Revised 2009-2010 Budget Approved

The original budget for this year was approved last April. Because it is partially based on assumptions and projections, it is normal to revise it at this time of year when we have more accurate information. In addition, the revision takes into account things that might not have been foreseen when the budget was approved. The Finance Committee, which has been working on the revised budget all fall, presented it to the Board, which then approved it.

Strategic Plan

A representative of GVC (Graduate Volunteers Consultants) from the University of Minnesota's MBA program came to the meeting to discuss the proposed strategic planning process. The team is currently being formed and the process will begin in January and will last approximately 7 weeks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kimberly Kompel, the Parent Liaison for the Board at kimberlykompel@gmail.com or 651-414-0304.

A few good host families still needed!

Recently the Amity Committee asked for comments from current and recent host families about their own experiences. This is a sampling of what we received back in the last few days.

A year later our kids regularly mention how much they miss "our intern" and we love keeping in contact with her.

All the things I have learned about German culture by having my children attend TCGIS for three years pales in comparison to the amount I have learned by having had an intern live in my home for a few short months.

Well, my 7 year old son said as we were leaving the house one day, "Christine is a great addition to our family, isn't she, mama?" To which I replied, "well, yes she is." My son, who is an only child, adores Christine and seeks her out to share his day and visit with her. We have another dimension to our family, another positive bond in this web of life.

Our intern has been great! She helps out with homework, teaches us how to cook German dishes, and helps watch the kids. But most importantly, she hangs out with us, laughs at our jokes, and has become a part of the family. We wish she could stay much longer!


Living with Tina has been a wonderful experience for us. Maybe it's because she is very adaptable and appreciative, but we got along with her right away. It has been so nice for us to have a friendly, upbeat adult in the house, for chatting, for getting updated about my old home country, and of course, to help with things like homework or watching the kids while we go grocery shopping. It has been priceless just to be able to focus on cooking dinner and taking care of my younger daughter while Tina, a native German speaker, supports my older daughter with doing her homework. Both kids are noticeably speaking more German since Tina is living with us. I can tell how it broadens their horizons to have her in the house, and how it shows them that there is a whole new, fun and interesting world behind that big Atlantic Ocean.

The thing we worried most about, our one bathroom, turned out to be no problem at all. Since not everybody is getting up at the exact same time in the morning, or turning in at night, we are able to make this situation work. I had also been worried about not being organized enough to provide an ample, tasty dinner each and every night. Even if that happens every once in a while and we end up having scrambled eggs, peas and English muffins, Tina never made a big deal out of it, and has always been very appreciative about the meals I cook.

She is also very self-reliant and capable to take advantage of our public transportation in this city, so we rarely have to give her rides. It has been an advantage that several other interns are living close to our house, so they can hook up easily and do things together.

All in all, it has been surprisingly easy to share our house and our lives with Tina, and it seems completely normal to us now to have her here. I can wholeheartedly say that we will miss her once she is gone!

Host an Amity Intern



<u>January 2010</u>	<u>August 2010</u>
10 interns /	12 interns/
3 homes still needed	12 homes



"Shall we go?"



"I think we shall!"



Come to Maskenball!

Throw off your cares and join the
TCGIS community at the

4th annual Maskenball celebration!

Saturday, February 20, 2010
6:30 p.m. until midnight
\$45 per person



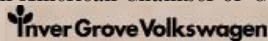
at the historic Wabasha Street Caves in St. Paul.

Masks and 1930s-era costumes are welcome!

Appetizers & Cash Bar, Silent & Live Auctions,
Dancing & Merriment, Tours of the Caves & a Few Surprises
And on stage at 9:00 p.m.: Ol' Yeller!

Tickets now on sale at www.maskenball2010.org

Thanks to our sponsors:
German American Chamber of Commerce



Brought to you by
the Twin Cities German Immersion School
Parent-Teacher Organization

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
	No School - teacher grading	7pm - Amity Intern Hosting	2:30pm - Early Release 4pm - Information Session	CANCELLED: Winter Concert		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	6pm - Technology Committee 6:30pm - PTO Meeting	6:30pm - Finance Committee	2:30pm - Early Release 5pm - Grants and External	4pm - Evening PT 6pm - Board Governance 6:30pm - Facilities Committee	No School: P-T conferences	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		6:30pm - Board meeting @	2:30pm - Early Release	7pm - Info Session for New	Community Event	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	winter break		2:30pm - Early Release		8am - Kaffeeklatsch	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	winter break		2:30pm - Early Release			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
winter break						
			2:30pm - Early Release			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	School resumes 6:30pm - PTO meeting		2:30pm - Early Release			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		6pm - Info Session for New 6:30pm - Finance Committee	2:30pm - Early Release	6:30pm - Facilities Committee		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	No School - Martin Luther		2:30pm - Early Release		8am - Kaffeeklatsch	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
2pm - Info Session for New		6:30pm - Board meeting @	2:30pm - Early Release			
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30pm - PTO meeting 7pm - Info Session for New		2:30pm - Early Release			