



Online sign-up for Parent-Teacher Conferences on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> will be available next week!

**February 17, 2010**

**Contents and Attachments:**  
Reminders and Announcements, Letter from the Director, Info on Culture Week, Lunch Menu March, Community Bulletin Board, Calendar February & March

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

- **CHARTER SCHOOL DAY AT THE CAPITOL – MARCH 9TH**  
The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS) is organizing a charter school lobby day at the capitol on March 9, 2010. MACS will arrange for appointments with your home district legislators as well as meetings with legislators in the areas in which the schools are located. There will also be an orientation prior to the meetings. These are challenging times for public education in Minnesota and legislators have to keep hearing that our kids are the future and to shortchange them now is penny wise and pound foolish.

Please consider joining TCGIS parents and other charter school advocates on March 9. The deadline to sign up is Feb 23 and you sign up by contacting:  
Margaret Uttke - MACS  
Membership & Communications Director  
651-789-3090 ext. 303  
[margaret@mncharterschools.org](mailto:margaret@mncharterschools.org)
- **Get Your Bids In Now--The Maskenball Online Auction Closes Thursday at 6pm!!**  
The auction will re-open at Maskenball. The opening price of each item will be its highest bid as of the close of the online auction. *If there's something you really want, Buy it Now!* Most items have a Buy it Now price of just a few dollars over the retail value. You can snag your favorite item *and* direct a few extra dollars to support our school and our kids. Any amount you pay over the retail value is a charitable deduction for tax purposes. Talk about a win-win-win!  
If you have bid in the auction but are not attending Maskenball, we will invoice you on Monday, February 22, for any items that you've won.  
Thank to everyone for bidding online. We're thrilled to have raised so much before Maskenball even starts!middle of our play area, making it safer for all. We appreciate it very much. <http://tcgispto.org/maskenball2010/auction/>

# KULTURWOCHE – CULTURE WEEK

Dear Parents,

TCGIS has made it its mission to educate children for informed and active world citizenship. We encourage our students to enrich their cultural and linguistic knowledge by becoming personally involved in international communities both here and abroad.



The incorporation of Culture Week into the curriculum has been an important component to achieve this mission. As the school grows and evolves our cultural activities will require a transformation as well. In an effort to integrate multicultural aspects directly into the TCGIS curriculum and align the activities with Minnesota standards the **program changes listed below will be implemented for 2010.**

As in the years before there will be a **Cultural Education Week** scheduled in the spring. The educational activities will culminate in individual projects intended to showcase the work the students have done on their topic. On the last day of Culture Week the students will present their work to the school community. This day is called “Project Day”. Everyone is invited to attend!

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Each grade level will have its own thematic focus and time-frame. The classroom teachers will set their own date for Culture Week and “Project Day”. This means that the project days for the individual grades will be spread out over the remainder of the school year. **Your child’s teacher will provide you with more details soon.**

Here is the thematic breakdown :

**Kg: Native Americans**

**Grade 1 China**

**Grade 2 Africa**

**Grade 3 Native Americans and early European settlers**

**Grade 4 German speaking countries**

**Grade 5: Latin America**

We invite you to share your expertise and/or artifacts you may have on the above topics with the students. If you have any questions please contact your child’s teacher.

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Dear Parents,

Thanks to those who were able to attend the State of the School. I attach an outline of topics covered that day for those who were not able to be there. The strong parent turnout was an indicator of one of our key strengths highlighted that day: parent engagement and participation. Thanks to all who bring your questions, your good ideas and your energy to helping us resolve the challenges before us.

**Staff Development Opportunities** As a staff we were grateful for time last Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> to talk about the writing goals we set for students at various levels and how we assess progress towards those goals. We studied a number of assessment systems and talked about how to adapt them for the immersion setting. The day was a great step toward unifying and aligning our expectations as students move both between grades and between languages. Staff also had an opportunity to tour the Science House together, which is a great resource for science and math curriculum materials. It is rare in the busyness of our days that we can really take the time to dig in deeper and talk about what we value and what we assess. We are grateful for this time to work together. This Wednesday, our school psychologist, Susan Kelley, will present "Effective Strategies for Special Needs Students" during our Early Release Wednesday hour. We will be talking about differentiation in general. Strategies that serve students serve students with special learning needs generally serve ALL students better.

Some important upcoming dates for the school community include:

**March 4<sup>th</sup>:** We will be a featured visit of teachers from around the country in town for the Central States Conference for Foreign Language teachers. Some of our own teachers will each also have the opportunity to attend portions of the conference. While it is hard to have substitutes in the room, we are always grateful when teachers can participate in staff development opportunities, meet other teachers share ideas and come back with new inspiration and ideas.

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** Our representative from the German government, our Fachberater, Herr Gert Wilhem will visit our school.

**March 9<sup>th</sup> Charter School Day at the Capitol.** It is certainly no secret that it is a difficult funding environment for public schools. Much of our financial fate lies in the hands of the Minnesota legislature. Charter schools become an easy scapegoat as more traditional districts vie for their share of the sparse public dollars. Minnesota Association of Charter Schools will be coordinating a day for us as parents and school staff to let our legislators know what we need to stay viable education centers. If you have any day time flexibility however, put March 9<sup>th</sup> on the calendar as a day to gather publically in witness of the power of charter schools. MACS will assist us in scheduling individual appointments with legislators for that day. MACS will provide a briefing at 9:00AM and 10:45 AM to educate us on the status of bills that impact charter school funding and policy. MACS will help coordinate visits with individual legislators. They will group constituents from different schools who live in the same district to visit with their legislator together. If you are able to attend need help registering, please leave your name with Annika or see front page of Elternbrief for more information.

Your trust in us for the education of your children is an honor.

Annika Fjelstad

# TWIN CITIES GERMAN IMMERSION SCHOOL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## TCGIS

## MENU

## March 2010

Return order form to TCGIS  
office by FEBRUARY 23 for  
March Meals & Milk

→→→→→ LUNCH \$ due 2/23 LUNCH PRICES: Regular Lunch - \$3.25, Reduced (student) - \$.40 Milk \$0.

**SERVED DAILY AT EVERY MEAL (PLANNED PORTION SIZE & APPROXIMATE NUTRIENT CONTENT)**

Fresh Green **Salad** (1 per meal) - Leafy Lettuce Blend, Caesar, Spinach Mix, **OR** Oriental (1/2 cup = 15 calories, 3 g carbohydrate, 1 g protein)

Low Fat Dressing/Dip (2 T = 45 cal, 5 g fat)

Fresh **Veggies** (1-2 per meal) - Carrots, Celery, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cucumber, **OR** Tomatoes (1/4 c = 15 cal, 3 g carb, 1 g pro)

Fresh **Fruit** (1-2 per meal) - Apple, Orange, Banana, Cantalope, Grapes, **OR** Watermelon (1/2 c = 60 cal, 15 g carb)

Variety of **Milk**, including 1% and 2%

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Date	Check for Lunch	Check for Milk Only
<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>	1		
Meatball Hoagie Potato Wedges Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Cheese Hoagie	Cheesy Breadsticks w/Marinara Sauce Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - same as above	Chicken Fajita Wrap Latin Rice Pilaf Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Cheese Quesadilla	Beef Lasagna French Bread Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Cheese Lasagna	Teriyaki Chicken Legs Roasted Potatoes & Roll Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Veggie Pita Melt	2 3 4 5 6		
<b>8th</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>12th</b>	7		
Philly Cheesesteak Baked Beans Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Cheese Sandwich	Italian Chicken Sandwich Pasta Salad Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Italian Cheese Sandwich	Multi-cheese Pita Melt Soft Breadstick Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - same as above	Swedish Meatballs Mashed Potatoes & Roll Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Vegetarian Stew	<b>NO SCHOOL TODAY *****</b>	8 9 10 11 12		
<b>15th</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>17th</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>19th</b>	13		
Spaghetti w/Meatsauce French Bread Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - w/Marinara Sauce	White Chicken Chili Corn Muffin Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Vegetarian Chili	Beef & Cheese Burrito Mexican Rice Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Bean & Cheese Burrito	Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - same as above	Beef Stroganoff w/Egg Noodles Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Alfredo Sauce	14 15 16 17 18		
<b>22nd</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>26th</b>	19		
Beef Gyro on Pita Bread Rice Pilaf Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Hummus	BBQ Chicken Sub Potato Wedges Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Cheese Sub	Macaroni & Cheese Garlic Breadstick Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - same as above	Soft Shell Beef Taco Refried Beans Salad, Veggies, Fruit, Milk V - Bean & Cheese Taco	<b>NO SCHOOL TODAY *****</b>	20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27		
					28 29 30		
					TOTAL #		
					\$ ENCLOSED		

V = Vegetarian options available each day; please indicate a "V" on order form

Note: Menus may use ingredients that contain peanut, other nut/seed, milk, egg, soybean, and other products.

MENUS SUBJECT TO INFREQUENT CHANGE BASED ON AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS



QUESTIONS? Contact the School Office @ 651-492-7106 or  
Done Right Food @ 651-702-5998 or [info@donerightfood.com](mailto:info@donerightfood.com)

Make Checks Payable to  
TCGIS

## Community Bulletin Board

"Good Deeds That Shine!"

a fundraiser for:

**Marcy Zachmeier-Ruh**

When: Monday, March 1, 2010 (3:30 - 5:30 p.m.)

Where: Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS)  
Downstairs in the Cafeteria  
1745 University Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Join us for an after-school get together and fundraiser to show your support to a friend, co-worker, teacher, and one of our school's original founders, Marcy Zachmeier-Ruh.

Enjoy after-school snacks, coffee, and social time; kids are welcome! A donation basket will be available, as well as a jewelry sale, with 90 percent of sales commissions donated towards Marcy's cancer treatments.

Silpada Designs jewelry representative Jo Nelson is hosting the event. Call her at 612-623-0079 (home) or 952-657-3181 (cel.) with questions, or to help collect pre-party orders. Thanks in advance for your generosity and support for "good deeds that shine" in Marcy's life!

Jo Nelson

Twin Cities German Immersion School

Feb 2010 (Central Time)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 2010-2011 REENROLLMENT Deadline for ordering School	1 Adult German Classes start @ 6:30pm - PTO meeting 7pm - Info Session for New	2	3 2:30pm - Early Release 2:45pm - Vienna Community	4 6:30pm - State of the School	5	6
7	8	9 6:30pm - Finance Committee	10 3rd and 4th Grade Fieldtrip to 2:30pm - Early Release	11 Fasching and Valentine's Day 6:30pm - Facilities Committee	12 No School - Teacher 6pm - Info Session for New	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Enrollment Deadline for all No School - President's Day Supply Fee due	16	17 2:30pm - Early Release 7pm - Library Committee	18 6pm - Board Governance	19	20 Maskenball @ Wabasha Street
21	22	23 6:30pm - Board meeting @	24 2:30pm - Early Release	25	26 8am - Kaffeeklatsch	27
28	1 3:30pm - Fundraiser in 6:30pm - PTO meeting	2	3 2:30pm - Early Release	4	5	6

Twin Cities German Immersion School

Mar 2010 (Central Time)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	1 3:30pm - Fundraiser in 6:30pm - PTO meeting	2	3 2:30pm - Early Release	4	5	6
7	8	9 6:30pm - Finance Committee	10 2:30pm - Early Release	11 6:30pm - Facilities Committee	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
TCGIS Clothing/Merchandise Sale						
			2:30pm - Early Release	6pm - Board Governance	Game Night PTO	
21	22	23 6:30pm - Board meeting @	24 2:30pm - Early Release	25 Parent Teacher Evening	26	27
					Grand Marais Getaway Fundraiser Trip NO SCHOOL - Parent Teacher 8am - Kaffeeklatsch	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Grand Marais Getaway	No School - Spring break					
			2:30pm - Early Release			Rummage Sale