



February 3, 2010

Contents and Attachments:

Reminders and Announcements, Letter from the Director, New Amity Interns, January Board Meeting Summary, Information on Valentine's Day Fasching / Karneval, Maskenball, Calendar February & March

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Don't miss the State of the School Address on Thursday, February 4th at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria!
- **No School Days:**
FRIDAY, Feb. 12 – NO SCHOOL – Staff Development Day
The state requires specific non-instructional days devoted to teacher training on specific topics
MONDAY, Feb. 15 – NO SCHOOL – President's Day
- **A call for help from the Facility Committee!**
We have been given permission from our landlord to take down the free standing address sign located in the middle of our outside playarea. We are looking for volunteers with the 'know how' to take it down for us. The landlord will be responsible for disposal of the sign. If you or somebody you know can help us out please contact the Facility Committee Chair, Kimberly Kompel at kimberlykompel@gmail.com or Sharon at school at info@germanschool-mn.org or 651-492-7106. We appreciate your help in making the play area a safer place for our kids.

The school is in need of Kleenex and white multipurpose copy paper. Please consider donating these items.

February 3, 2010

Dear Parents,

State of the School I will look forward to seeing you for the State of the School Address on Thursday, February 4th at 6:30. You will hear reports from Kim Kompel, parent liaison to the Board, Debra Haessly, board treasurer and Leslie Watson, head of the PTO. We will also look forward answering questions that you have for us.

Amity Interns We are pleased to welcome the new Amity aides who arrived for Orientation this Monday. They are already being integrated into their new classrooms. Please make sure to welcome them as you are able. I extend a particular appreciation to the Amity committee, Mary-Fred Bausman-Watkins, Nicole Grenz, Kate Wagner, Andrea Zibble, Molly Foster, Darcy Rindelaub for their incredible efforts in taking on all the logistics that it takes to get these new interns placed in classrooms and homes. Thank you also to each of the host families. Your assistance contributes so much to the life of each classroom and to the school as a whole.

5th grade Staffing Frau Zachmeier, 5th grade German teacher, has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. The tests and treatment required will necessarily be her priority for the coming months. Herr Goetzman who is a student teacher in his final semester before licensing has been serving as her substitute. To provide maximum continuity for the students he will take over German instruction in 5th grade, under the mentorship of Claudia Hermann, our 4th grade teacher from last year. Frau Zachmeier will be assisting with other tasks. Please welcome Herr Goetzman officially to our teaching staff.

Supply Fee Scholarship Fund We appreciate the generosity of parents who have asked about contributing to a scholarship fund to assist in the payment of the \$50.00 per student supply fee announced in a previous Elternbrief. The supply fee is intended to cover the cost of consumable materials used within school many of which are special ordered from Germany and could not be picked up parents locally.

Please request a form at the front desk to be filled out for payment of the supply fee. On this form you may request 1)partial scholarship assistance 2)offer to contribute to a scholarship fund or 3)request an installment plan for payment of the supply fee. If you are unable to pay this fee by February 15th, please make sure to request scholarship or the installment plan. We would of course prefer not need to request this payment from you. The board made this decision in an effort to find creative ways to continue to provide maximum quality programming within an extremely tight budget.

Thanks to all you do to support this school!

Annika Fjelstad
Director
Twin Cities German Immersion School
afjelstad@germanschool-mn.org
651-492-7106

TCGIS Amity Interns Spring 2009/2010

**Benjamin Stierle –
Science/Math/Phy Ed**



Julia Scheuss - 1b & Art



Xenia Kramer – 3a



Christine Adam – 1a & Art



Ines Fehlinger – 2b & 4



Stefanie Zapf - Kindergarten B



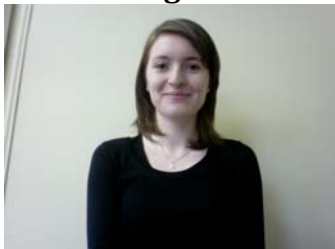
Sabine Holstein – 3b



Ariane Racz - Kindergarten A



Stefanie Bogner – 2a & 2b



Christoph Heuhnergath – Phy Ed



January Board Meeting Summary

The monthly board meeting was held on January 26th 2010. The main topic was the 2010/2011 budget process. The board did not take any official actions at this meeting.

Financial Oversight

The Board Treasurer indicated that the Finance Committee is beginning the budget process for the next academic year. The next budget will be especially challenging due to the State's current 27% holdback and the fact that the large FLAP grant the school has had for the last three years will be ending. In addition, the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools is recommending that all charter schools plan for the case that the current holdback will not be repaid in full this year and that the holdback will be repeated for next year. The current budget will not be supported under these financial conditions. The Finance Committee will be going through the current 2010/2011 budget projection line by line and working on several different budget scenarios and was requesting guidance from the Board as to what priorities are for the school. The Board brainstormed several options that the Finance Committee will then attach costs to so that the options can be evaluated in relation to their effect on the overall budget. The Board indicated the Finance Committee should bring back budget options that do not include deficit spending. The Board also discussed developing a survey to gather community input to help the Board in evaluating priorities during the budget process.

Director Evaluation

The Board is directly responsible for the evaluation of the Director. A survey to the different stakeholders of the school (parent community, the Board, the staff, etc.) will be part of the evaluation process. The survey is currently under development and will be brought back to the Board at its February meeting before being sent out.

Strategic Plan

The Board was updated that the Strategic Planning process should be starting soon. Several school representatives met with the team of Graduate Volunteer Consultants from the University of Minnesota, which will be heading the strategic plan and discussed general objectives of the plan. The team will be getting back to the school soon with a specific project scope and process which then can be communicated to the wider school community.

School Board Nominations

The Board also discussed that the call for nominations to the board will begin in February. Three board members will be elected at the school's annual meeting on May 20th. The Board generally discussed skills that would be beneficial to the Board as a whole, such as experience in the following fields: elementary or middle school education, marketing, human resources, legal, and financial. It was also agreed that a diversity of perspectives and experience is valued.

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.



Valentine's Day & Fasching Celebration on February 11

Dear Parents,

Valentine's Day (Feb. 14) is actually on a Sunday this year, and Fasching is Tues, Feb. 16, right after the long weekend. Therefore, **TCGIS will celebrate BOTH Valentine's Day and Fasching on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11.** What does this mean for families?

VALENTINE'S DAY - Because TCGIS is an American school, we DO celebrate Valentine's Day. Each classroom teacher will inform parents via the Class Letters how their class will celebrate within the curricular structure for their grade level.

General school guidelines: Children are allowed to bring valentines or treats for their classmates. Class lists are available at the front desk for those who choose to do this. However, NO treats will be consumed at school. Children will bring their Valentine's bag home so parents can monitor their treat consumption.

FASCHING – Because German culture is important at TCGIS, we also celebrate Fasching. The closest American holiday would be Mardi Gras; more details about the regional variations of this celebration follow. Each classroom teacher will also inform parents via the Class Letters how their class will celebrate within the curricular structure for their grade level.

General school guidelines: Children can wear costumes to school, as long as their faces are not covered. (It's perfectly OK to recycle your Halloween costume!) Gruesome monster costumes or those depicting blood, violence, etc. are not allowed. No props of any kind are allowed at school due to safety concerns. Please ensure that your child can comfortably wear his/her costume all day long.

Thank you & enjoy the long weekend!



Fastnacht / Karneval – Cultural Information

Germans call the pre-Lenten Carnival season **die närrische Saison** ("the foolish season") or **die fünfte Jahreszeit** ("the fifth season"). **Fastnacht** or **Karneval** is a "movable feast" that depends on the date of Easter (*Ostern*). In 2009 **Fastnacht** falls on February 5 (**Faschingsdienstag**). The official start of the **Fasching** season is the 11th day of the 11th month (Nov. 11). That gives the Carnival guilds (**Zünfte**) approximately three months to organize each year's events (Carnival balls, parades, royalty, etc.) leading up to the big bash in the week before Ash Wednesday (**Aschermittwoch**), when the Lenten season (**die Fastenzeit**) begins.

Almost all of the regions and cities across the southern part of the German-speaking world (and the rest of Europe) celebrate **Karneval** in a big way. Some of Germany's best known celebrations are held in Cologne (*Köln*), Mainz, Munich (*München*) and Rottweil. But Cologne's **Karneval** is not really the same as Munich's **Fasching**. Germanic Carnival celebrations vary from region to region, sometimes even taking place at different times! (The **Fasnacht** event in Basel, Switzerland happens a week after most other Carnivals.) The main event of **Karneval in Köln** is the parade on **Rosenmontag** (Rose Monday). Further south in Bavaria and Austria, the culmination of **Fasching** takes place on Shrove Tuesday (**Faschingsdienstag**), like Mardi Gras in New Orleans. These and other differences reflect the long history and local traditions of the celebration, and they are also seen in the language.

Carnival or Mardi Gras goes by many names in German, depending on the region and dialect: **Karneval** (Rhineland, former Roman settlements), **Fasching** (Austria, Bavaria, Berlin), **Fastnacht** (Baden, Switzerland), **Fosnat** (Franconia) or **Fasnet** (Swabia). Whether it's **Fasching** or **Karneval**, it is a time to let off steam and live it up before the Lenten period that once called for fasting (**die Fastenzeit**). It is this fasting tradition that gave the celebration its **Fastnacht** name ("night before fasting"). In the 15th and 16th centuries, amusing plays known as **Fastnacht-spiele** were performed during the pre-Lenten season. Today there are elaborate parades (*Umzüge*) in all the large and small communities where **Fasching** is celebrated. Floats and marchers displaying large caricature heads often lampoon regional and national politicians. Another part of the celebration involves Carnival royalty (princes, princesses) and a sort of "counter-government" during the season. The Rhineland *Rosenmontagumzug* is an event broadcast each year on German television, similar to the Macy's Thanksgiving parade in New York. It features colorful floats with caricatured figures mocking local and national politicians and other personalities or events.

(Information source: <http://german.about.com/library/weekly/aa020501a.htm>)



Maskenball Herald



February 20, 2010

"A different language is a different vision of life." — Federico Fellini

Ticket Deadline is February 14.

Order online or by dropping a check in the PTO box. You can also pick up your tickets at the Maskenball table before or after the State of the School address on Thursday, February 4.

Get Ready to Bid!

Online bidding opens Friday, Feb. 5. Our auction catalog is now online at www.maskenball2010.org. Donations still accepted—contact Rebecca Johnson, rjohnson@gmail.com.



Wall of Wine Donations

You can still donate a bottle to our Wall of Wine, which will be a featured raffle item at Maskenball. Drop off at the Maskenball table at the State of the School meeting on Feb. 4. Tickets for the raffle will be \$10 each, available at Maskenball. Only 100 will be sold!

Staff Getaway Raffle - Tickets on sale next week!

For just \$2, buy a chance for a TCGIS staff member to win a 2-night getaway to New Ulm's Deutsche Strasse B&B. Details in the online auction catalog, under "Only at Maskenball."

Thanks to our Sponsors:



German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest Inc. Minnesota Chapter



MovingToMinnesota.com
Beth Richardson
651-646-2100



Park Midway Bank

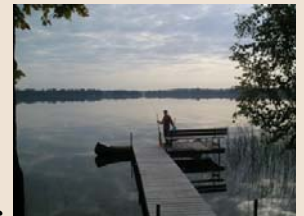
This Week's featured Auction Items:

#402. Four tickets to see the Minnesota RollerGirls.



If you've never been to a RollerGirls bout, here's your chance to experience firsthand the hard-rolling, rough-and-tumble action of the Twin Cities' original all-female, amateur flat-track roller derby league. The winning bidder will receive a voucher good for 4 tickets to a home bout on March 6 or April 3. Donated by the Minnesota RollerGirls.

#806. Live Auction #3: Cabin Stay at the Northern JEM



Plan your summer getaway now! Up for bidding in our Maskenball Live Auction will be a 3-day/2-night stay at the Northern JEM cabin, located on Trout Lake, south of Grand Rapids, MN - under 3 hours from St. Paul. Trout Lake is a pristine, 1800-acre lake with excellent fishing, swimming, canoeing, boating and wild-life observing opportunities. Donated by Nick and Linda Michel.

See more auction listings at www.maskenball2010.org.



Dance the Night Away at Maskenball!!!

www.maskenball2010.org

The Balboa originated in a large ballroom on Balboa Island in southern California during the 1930s. The Balboa is built on smooth, tight footwork and is ideal for fast tempos. It is also very adaptable and can be performed to slow music as well. It's common belief that when the ballrooms began getting so overcrowded, this dance naturally evolved since there was literally no place to swing out your partner. The dance takes on a cartoon like quality, close together, with lots of footwork, although the feet hardly leave the floor. The upper body remains still and the dance doesn't travel much around the room. At one time it was popular up and down the west coast, from Seattle to southern California. Incidentally, the Balboa is the dance done by the popular cartoon character *Popeye*.

The Big Apple was a popular group dance that was primarily done in a circular format. Its origins can be traced to a Southern club called The Big Apple where dancers gathered to hear the big bands that came through town. The dance moves fast and is another standard for the true Lindy Hop enthusiast.

Jitterbug Stroll The Jitterbug Stroll is a line dance based on early jazz steps tracing back to the swing era. It was created specifically for Lindy Hoppers and was choreographed by the extraordinary dancer Ryan Francois who is credited with the choreography in "Swing Kids", and "Malcolm X". Woodchoppers Ball was the tune chosen by Ryan himself for this dance.

The Lindy Hop Considered the *Grand Daddy* of Swing and named after Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic in 1927, the Lindy Hop evolved in Harlem ballrooms such as the famous *Savoy* in the late 1920's. It is most recognizable for its low to the ground, whirly and bouncy style. It was danced to big band music and was characterized by "breakaways" in which partners in a couple separated and improvised steps individually. "Shorty" George Snowden invented the "breakaway" but had to give up dancing in 1938 because he had pounded his feet shapeless. Later called the "Jitterbug", it exploded in popularity across the country throughout 1930-1950. The Lindy Hop owes much to African American influence, particularly Charleston, Jazz and Tap steps. In 1943, Life Magazine characterized Lindy Hop as "America's National Folk Dance."

St. Louis Shag This unique dance can be traced back to St. Louis. Sherry Lawson (known as the Queen of the St. Louis Shag) describes it as a dance with a bouncy step that swivels in and out very much like the Charleston. It has patterns with kicks and jumps, patterns that are traditional, dating back more than twenty-five years. The St. Louis Shag, like the Balboa, is described as a non-swing dance. Also like the Balboa, the Shag is done to very fast music: 165 beats per minute and faster. The other related dance native to St. Louis is called Imperial Swing. So called because it was nurtured in the Imperial Dance Club on Florescent Street in St. Louis, it is a variant of east coast swing with a six-count step which includes eight-count steps similar to the Lindy. Furthermore, the Saint Louis Shag is more of a Speed dominated/ Competition shag, which is different than the Collegiate, Carolina and Murray Shags.

Collegiate Shag The collegiate Shag was huge in the early 1920's and predates the Lindy Hop. It's a fast moving dance, upright and originally danced to Ragtime. It is popular today with swing dancers from Southern California to Washington DC. The Collegiate Shag originated in the South (New Orleans) and has been known at times as the "Flea Hop". There were many Intercollegiate Dance Contests held in NYC in the 1920s-1930's which held a "Shag Division. It is basically a Slow-Slow-Quick-Quick, similar to the "belly roll" of the Carolina Shag but a lot faster. The lead holds the follower very closely with very fast feet (stomping) movements, and a few body moves. The Murray Shag (Arthur Murray) may have influenced the "Balboa". The Movie *Swing, Swing, Swing* has a good musical short of this dance. The 1937 and 1938 Harvest moon ball featured a Collegiate Shag Division.

The Shim Sham is a line dance based on early jazz/tap dance steps. Lindy Hoppers have taken this original Tap Routine and made it their own. The dance is divided into 10 musical phrases with specific steps such as; the Shim Sham, the Cross Over, the Tacky Annie, and the Half-Break. These steps are repeated and then followed by Boogie Backs, Boogie Forwards, and Shorty George steps, after which you grab the nearest person and dance until the song is finished.

The Trunky Doo is another line dance which dates back to the early Thirties, however this one was created by the Lindy Hoppers themselves. It has a more challenging and complex set of patterns.

<http://www.savoycentral.org/classoverview.html>

<http://www.dance-town.com/dance-history.htm>

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 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	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 6:30pm - PTO meeting	2	3 2:30pm - Early Release	4	5	6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	1 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 Grand Marais Getaway Fundraiser Trip NO SCHOOL - Parent Teacher 8am - Kaffeeklatsch	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Grand Marais Getaway	No School - Spring break					
			2:30pm - Early Release			Rummage Sale