

NEWSLETTER

4th Edition 2016

Welcome

Dear students, parents and friends of Deutsche Schule Melbourne, this year has come to an end. We feel like the days have just flown by. Probably because we had so many events, of which I would like to give you a small glimpse right now. You will find some interesting articles about them on the following pages.

It all started straight after the holidays: For the first time, our future preppies came to school for one of their Transition Days. They met their buddies and together, they explored numbers, letters and of course, the school grounds. Together with Bridgid and Kerri from Froebel, as well as Frau Tkalcec and intern Kelly, the preppies managed to settle in really well. On their last Orientation Day, they already seemed to be little pros and knew their way around.

We were also lucky enough that Ms Dr Prinz, the new



ambassador, found some time in her busy schedule to visit us. She was very excited and enjoyed her day at

the DSM, visiting classes and having interesting conversations. We hope to welcome Ms Ambassador again soon.

Our student representative council was also busy this term: They initiated our Pyjama Day. For that, not only all students, but also the teachers arrived at school in pyjamas, some in quite interesting ones, one Friday morning in November. We started the day with a bit of cosy reading time. After that, we all enjoyed a healthy, yummy breakfast. And although everyone brought daytime clothes, many decided to stay in Pjs for the entire day.

Not long after, our Christmas Market took place. Who ever thought that last year broke records, got taught better: around 3000 people visited DSM this year to indulge in German and international food, get



one or the other Christmas present or to simply enjoy the entertainment. This big success was only possible thanks to our amazing parent association who planned out every detail and followed through perfectly. All the time and effort was worth it. A big thank you to everyone involved!

During the last week of school, two more big events were held. Before we were able to end the year with a great show, we had to farewell our Year 6 students. I don't want to end on a teary note, because an end also means a new beginning and we wish you, our brand-new alumni, only the very best on



your journey into the world and we always look forward to seeing you again.

All that is left to say, is to wish you a good time reading this newsletter and also wonderful, relaxing holidays, a merry Christmas and a great start into the new year.

B. Ressel

Bernice Ressel
Principal

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Pyjama Day

Dates for Term 1, 2018

January

- Monday, 30.01.17** Term 1 begins
- Wednesday, 01.02.17** 'Schultüten basteln' for Preps (prep parents only) (7pm)
- Friday, 03.02.17** Preps start 10am to 12pm
**Please note there will be no school for Preps on the first Wednesdays of term 1 for 6 weeks. The first Wednesday of school will be on 22nd March 2017.*

February

- Tuesday, 7.02.17** Parent information evening for all parents (7pm)
- Saturday, 18.02.17** Welcome BBQ for new prep parents by PA (1pm-3pm)
- Friday, 24.02.17** Carnival celebrations by PA, class teachers to attend (5.30pm-8pm)

March

- Saturday, 4.03.17** Working Bee #1 (9am-1pm)
- Thursday, 16.03.17** Athletics Day
- Friday, 17.03.17** Professional Development Day – Pupil free day
- Monday, 13.03.17** Labor Day - Public Holiday
- Tuesday, 14.03.17** Parent Evening: Social & Emotional Learning
- Wednesday, 22.03.17** First Wednesday for Foundation Year students
- Saturday, 25.03.17** Open Day #1 (10am to 12.30pm) – all students
- Wednesday, 29.03.17** Annual General Meeting (AGM) (6.00pm to 7.30pm)
- Mon to Fri, 27-31.03.17** Parent-Teacher Conference
- Friday, 31.03.17** Back Up Athletics Day
- Friday, 31.03.17** Last Day of Term 1

School Update

DSM Enrolments

The board has amended the current enrolment policy in regards to enrolment cut-off dates for students commencing in the Foundation Year at DSM. Under the original policy, children had to be five years of age as of 1 January of the Foundation Year. The cut-off date had been set to reflect the increased maturity that was required of children in a bilingual school setting. Earlier in the year the cut-off date was amended to 30. April for children that were attending the Froebel Early Learning Centre (in recognition that they were already immersed in a bilingual program) and passed a school readiness assessment conducted by DSM. The policy has now been further broadened so that all children born from 1 January to 30 April can take part in the DSM readiness assessment.

Parent Satisfaction Survey

At the end of term 3 DSM conducted their annual parent satisfaction survey. We are pleased that the survey revealed a high and increasing degree of satisfaction with the way the school is being run and the teaching of the children. We are particularly pleased that there were such strong parent ratings in the key areas of the bilingual program, teacher skills, student respect for each other and individual student progress. Most important of all, 100% of the parents said that they strongly either strongly agree or agree that their children enjoy going to school.



Visit of the Nikolaus



Prep class at their choir practise

DSM library

The school library has gained significantly in size over the last months! Over 600 new books in German, English and now also in French (many with audio) have been added to the school's library resources. To accommodate these new additions the library has grown into the Multi-Purpose room and more shelving was acquired. To complete the upgrades a new library software was introduced that allows students to search the library database and make bookings from the comfort of their home via the DSM website. This parent initiative has been funded from the proceeds from the 2015 Christmas Market.

Singapore Conference

Board Chairs, Principals and Business Managers of German Schools Abroad in the South Asia region have for the first time come together to discuss successful and future-orientated school management for German Schools Abroad. The focus of the conference was the co-operation between Board, Principals and Business Managers as a prerequisite for systemic school development and quality management. The conference gave DSM many ideas, provided opportunities for exchange between schools and strengthened existing partnerships.

Scientists in Schools Program

This term, we had a special visitor from the Scientists in Schools program. Rick Williamson (www.noticesomething.com) visited our Year 3/4s and carried out some mind-blowing experiments with the students. Look what they had to say:



Sophie:

Have you ever wondered about what happens in science? Well, on Tuesday, a scientist came to our school named Rick. He comes from the CSIRO and he showed us a few things. First of all, he told us the three steps of figuring something out:

1. notice,
2. guess,
3. test.

He told us that the tyres have got little patterns on them so that cars can drive through water and not slip. And that is just what nature does. He also told us that when something starts moving then it will usually not stop! So that he could prove it, he got a big ice block and a mirror and he slid the ice block on the mirror and it didn't stop until someone stopped it! He showed us so many other things too, it was amazing!



Vy:

We've been going to Science with Rick and we have been learning about gravity, friction, nature, electricity, forces, velocity and magnetism. My favourite thing that we have



done so far is the magnetism because I like using magnets. When we were with Rick, we watched a video of a feather and a very heavy ball drop with no air and they landed at the same time.

Felix:

I learnt about gravity, electrons, friction and that there are four different forces. Rick taught us about nature too. And velocity. At the end we could ask questions. I asked what a Higgs boson is. He said it was when you smash two forces together and that creates a Higgs boson.

Brian:

We did science with Rick and he's from CSIRO! Here are the main things: 1. notice, 2. guess, 3. test. He told us that science is real! And science describes nature. He told us about forces. Here are the ones I remember: gravity, magnets. I learned that electricity can go through metal. Velocity is a mix between speed and direction. We did a LOT of experiments. We even got to push a block of ice on a board!



DSD Program

The DSD I exam was passed by all DSM students.

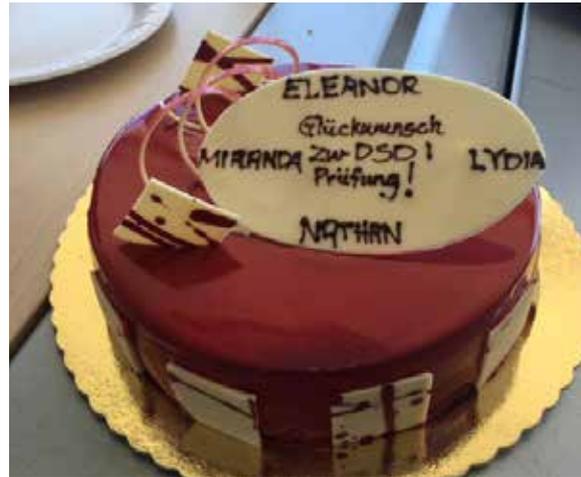


Students of the DSD I program have had a successful year. In term 3, students of grade 8 took the first DSD I exam that was held at the DSM. Finally, in term 4, we received the marked exams back from Germany, which we had been waiting for feverously. And the fantastic news were that all Year 8 students had passed successfully. We certainly are all very proud, because the students needed a lot of ambition and motivation.

The DSD I exam consisted of four parts: Listening, Reading, as well as an oral and a written section. On a Wednesday in August, the three parts that required writing, were tested. This took quite a long time; three and a half hours to be exact, and therefore was a great achievement that required good concentration skills. The oral exams took place on a different day and were mastered very well. But not only the Year 8s sat a test. The Year 7s gave their best as well and took an international schools comparison examination, which is seen as the preparation for next year's DSD I exam.

Because of all these exams, we had a lot of reasons to celebrate. We enjoyed a lesson with a great cake and confirmed that learning German in the afternoons can be fun and also delicious.

In term 4, we then mainly talked about Cornelia Funke's "Ink Heart" and created small presentations about it.



You can see that our DSD year has been an eventful one and we are already looking forward to next year, which will be equally as exciting.

The current Year 6 students will join our DSD I program next year, therefore a new DSD I group will start. For the first time, we will also offer a DSD II program for the Year 9 students with the aim of preparing them for the DSD II exam, which will most likely be sat in Year 10.

Christina Remshardt
Deputy Principal and DSD Coordinator

Board Members

Florian Dehne
(Chairman of the board)

Volker Ankenbrand

Penny Fairbank

Bernd Kalinna

Paul Southwick

Ai-Lyn Tang

Eleanor Williams

Editorial

Stefanie Dietrich
Lena McCowan

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Living Egg Program



Much to the joy of students and staff, eleven eggs were delivered to our school by Living Eggs during the second week of term 4. The eggs had already been pre-brooded, so that the chicks hatched in the following two days. On day 3, we were already able to take them out of their incubator and spent a lot of time with them.

For ten days, we watched them grow and change. In their classes, the students learnt about topics like growth cycles of different animals as well as life and keeping of hens. It was a very exciting time for all of us!



DSM students' film

On Thursday, October 20, half of the Blue Dragons class went to ACMI Melbourne with our teacher Mandana Vogt to see their self-made film presented on the big screen. "Gut gegen schlecht" was one of 23 German films around the topic "When I grow up" and it won the 3rd price in the Early Years Category. Congratulations, Blue Dragons!



Jump Rope for Heart

Last term, we hosted the annual Jump Rope for Heart program. As usual it was a huge success. Look at the acknowledgement we received from the Heart Foundation:

'On behalf of the Heart Foundation, I am writing to express our thanks to the students, families, friends and staff of Deutsche Schule Melbourne for participating in the Heart Foundation Jump Rope for Heart program in 2016. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Mary Gallivan (on the right of the photo), whose efforts in co-ordinating the program greatly contributed to its success.

Critical to the success of Jump Rope for Heart is the passion, motivation and commitment of teaching staff that co-ordinate the program within the school. The commitment of staff just like Mary has a positive impact not only on the health of the students but also on the heart health of the broader community. Mary has been a true heart health champion and should be commended for the time and dedication spent facilitating Jump Rope for Heart within your school. We are most appreciative of the \$1229.30 raised by your school community.



Heart disease remains the single leading cause of death in Australia. By supporting the Heart Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart, your school community is making a positive contribution to the health of all Australians, raising much needed funds for heart research.

We trust that Jump Rope has contributed to the health of your students by encouraging healthy lifestyle behaviours and showing them the many benefits of participating in regular physical activity.

Once more, thank you for your invaluable support and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2017.'

Support the school

Membership

DSM is a not-for-profit association based on a strong membership. Members support the school by electing or being elected to the school board and participating in various school working groups. Members can also use the German/English library of DSM. Annual membership fees are \$27.50 for one person - or - \$55.00 for the whole family. The application form is attached to this newsletter.

Sponsorship

Organisations can support the school directly by entering a sponsorship agreement. Please contact our Business Manager Barbara Walsh for further details.

Donations

Deutsche Schule Melbourne operates the following gift funds that can accept your kind donations:

- DSM Scholarship Fund
- DSM Library Fund
- DSM Building Fund

You can find donation forms on our website. <http://dsm.org.au/de/ueber-uns/schulverein>
All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

DSM Christmas Market 2016



Well, what a market!

This year's Christmas Market was undoubtedly the DSM event we have ever put together; in terms of number of visitors, funds raised for the school and contributions made by members of the school community. Our team of core Christmas Market organisers consisted of 30-40 parents from Prep to Year 6 and, in all honesty, this is for me the real joy of our market. In the true spirit of Christmas, all members of the committee were passionate about making a heartfelt contribution to the festivities.



Committee email threads were brimming with ideas, encouragement and some trepidation about the number of 'likes' and shares we were receiving on Facebook. In the week leading up to the market, parents with food colour all over their fingers and icing all through their hair could be seen at the school putting the finishing touches on our gingerbread treats. At drop off, parents and grandparents arrived with tins full of freshly-baked biscuits, Stollen, gingerbread and carefully wrapped cakes. A huge thank you goes out to all the parents who baked such wonderful produce to sell on the night. Word has definitely got around about the quality of our baking, as people arrived early in order to secure their Christmas "Plätzchen" and gingerbread.





Indeed, these were sold out in a flash, closely followed by the pretzels and homemade cakes.

There was also never a dull moment for Kat on the Glühwein, the craft makers out the front, the

teachers on the crepe stall or the parent volunteers on the bar! Thank you once again to each of the parent volunteers on the night – your happy smiling faces made all the difference!

The 40+ external stallholders (selling leather goods, jewellery, clothing, illustrations, toys, shoes, pizza, Bratwurst, and much more) also returned home exhausted but with much festive cheer, and we expect to see many return next year.

The evening also marked the inaugural gig of our new school parent music troupe, who provided great music and a fun atmosphere all evening.

We're all looking forward to next year's renditions, as well as those of the school choir and our student buskers under the guidance of Tom Kelly.

On behalf of the DSM Christmas Market Committee I wish you all a wonderful festive season and look forward to many more Christmas Market adventures in 2017!

Averil Grieve
DSM Events-Committee



End of Year Celebration

On Friday 9 December we celebrated once again with the DSM End of Year Performance. This year we moved to a new location at 75 Reid St so that we could comfortably host our growing school community.

The students were very busy rehearsing throughout the term to prepare a fantastic show to dazzle their families. The students went on a musical journey throughout time to bring their music project to life. There was lots of entertainment including musical performances with cool choreography, awesome costumes, fabulous stage props, special effects and of course lots of enthusiasm.

All of our DSM actors and dancers definitely earned a well-deserved snack from the buffet provided by family and friends.

It was a wonderful and entertaining evening for everyone and we are already looking forward to next year!



Mad about Science Incursion in Grade 1

On Thursday, we had Matt (the crazy scientist) at school to do some experiments with us. We had a ball creating our own snow, making water tornadoes, collecting water from clouds and testing our senses in multiple different experiments. We broke light into its components creating rainbows, smelled the 10 different types of smells (mmhhh pungent was certainly not the class favourite) or sorted sandpaper using only our touch. All in all, a great day.



Thank you for your ongoing support. DSM wishes you a wonderful festive season and a prosperous new year 2017.



DEUTSCHE SCHULE MELBOURNE
A German English Bilingual School

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Application for Membership
Tax Invoice ABN: 52 936 931 854

Surname:

Given names:

Email:

Postal address:

Telephone:

Individual membership (\$27.50)

Family membership (\$55.00)

Signature:

I enclose a cheque for A\$
debit my (tick one)

payable to the "Deutsche Schule Melbourne." OR Please

Visa

Bankcard

Mastercard

Cardnumber: _____

Expiry date __/__/__

Cardholder name:

EFT can also be made to:

Deutsche Schule Melbourne
Bendigo Bank
BSB 633 000
Account number 129719340

Applications for membership are considered by a Committee of DSM. Successful applicants will receive a receipt and a copy of the Constitution from the Secretariat. Unsuccessful applicants will be advised and their subscription fee refunded.