



22nd April 2016

Dear Parents,

Today I would like to give you some updates with regards to upcoming events and development of the school.

- Our pupils wrote the **Cambridge Checkpoints** and the **Maths Competence Test for class 3** (benchmark test for Thuringia) this week. The only test remaining is the German Competence Test for class 3. As soon as the results are out, I will display them on our movable pin wall.
- This year as well, during the **last but one week of school** some pupils are going to take the **A1 and A2 German Language Tests**. These tests are for children who are learning German as a foreign or as a second language in our school.
- In connection with this, I would like to mention the **National German Cultural Festival at the Goethe Institute on Friday, 29.4.2016**. Pupils in classes 3-9 who are learning German as a Foreign Language will be performing at the festival to demonstrate their proficiency in German. The topic for this year is: “Don’t be a chicken, mind the environment” – the German version is translated: “Sei kann Frosch und achte auf die Umwelt”.
The group is hoping to win a prize with a poem which they are going present as a play and in music – let’s hope for the best!

- Since **Monday, the 2nd of May 2016 is a public holiday**, we are going to make an exception and have **our Monday ritual on Tuesday, the 3rd of May** – you are warmly invited to participate in the event!
- This year our **Project Week starts on Tuesday, the 3rd of May and ends on Monday, the 9th of May 2016**. The topic is “50 reasons for the GSIS” – there are 5 groups in all each with a different creative approach to the topic.

We would be glad to have parents who would like to support the work in any of the groups. There are some more details concerning the individual groups to be found on our movable pin wall and you can indicate what you would like to do. Thank you very much!

- In the past the GSIS already had some contact with the **Institution Chance for Children**, which is a street children project in Accra under the leadership of a Swiss lady, Daniela Rüdüsüli (www.chance-for-children.org). This year on our teachers’ excursion we were able to get an impression of the work being done by this organization and we decided to revive the contact and build on it in such a way that it will be rewarding for our pupils.

It should be a guided interaction with children and youth from different social and cultural backgrounds, with the aim of learning from one another and also of recognizing the similarities and the things they share in common.

A first planning meeting has already taken place between the GSIS and CFC. Together we have decided to have a first encounter between the pupils and organize a fitness parcours on our compound. The plan is for the pupils to have some games and sports and to compete in mixed groups on **Wednesday, the 11th of May 2016 from 3 p.m.– 5 p.m.** 15 children aged between 9-14 years are going to come from CFC and from the GSIS 15, children in class 5 and above are going to participate in the event.

Mr. Hoffmann and Mr. Tetteh are organizing the sports event that afternoon and it would be good if you could enable your child in class 5 and above to take part. For the pupils who are going to participate in the event more detailed information will follow in another letter later.

- For the **2016/ 2017 academic year**, a **Time for Talents course** has been planned for **classes 5-10**, in that course pupils are going to be involved in the planning of the future cooperation with CfC.

Just as for all the other Time for Talents-courses, a short description of the course will be presented at the appropriate time.

- **Headword-next academic year:** As is the case every year we are once again going to say good-bye to some nursery and kindergarten children, some pupils and some teachers at the end of the 2015/ 2016 academic year.

- **In kindergarten** we are going to open an additional group and so we are going to employ a new German- and a new English-speaking kindergarten teacher.

The kindergarten team has increased in number with **Anna Fischer-Krayer** (Certified kindergarten teacher) and **Rebecca Quarde** (holder of EYFS-certificate), who has taught in in England for several years following the British National Curriculum.

Nina Amstadt will be going on maternity leave starting from August 2016 – till the beginning of the year 2017. In order to ensure continuity for the nursery children in the coming 2016/2017 academic year we are going to employ another German kindergarten/nursery teacher as maternity cover.

- **In school** Ms. Rieke, Ms. Rose and Mr. Schwarz are returning to Germany. A new addition to our team is **Jasmin Bashale** (Junior High school teacher for German and English – **taking over classes 3/4**), **Mareike van Eerd** (High school teacher for Mathematics and German – **will be taking classes 5/6**). Both are tenured teachers and have taken leave off from their work in Germany for the duration of their contract with the GSIS. I am especially happy, that **Susanne Adamek** (Primary school teacher for English, German, Mathematics and Art – **is taking over classes 1/2**) as she has extended her contract for an additional year. Also **Joana Piper** (Primary and secondary school teacher for English and German as a Foreign Language) is going to work more hours.

I will display the personal profile of the new teachers on the notice board in the coming days.

Those remaining in the teaching team are **Jörn Hoffmann. He is taking classes 7-10.**

In the English Stream **Tori Dzandza** will continue as class teacher for classes 1/2 **Joanna Klu** will be taking **classes 3/4** and **Oko Tetteh will continue class teacher for classes 5-10.**

- Fortunately admission to our school is still highly on demand – there are already waiting lists for the nursery, kindergarten and bereits classes 1-4 for the 2016/ 2017 academic year.

- Our **50-years celebration** is drawing closer.

In the meantime you have received the official invitation to our anniversary celebration.

At this point I would like to warmly welcome you once again and I would be delighted if you could reserve that entire weekend for the festivities in the school. The preparations are in full swing, it is going to be an interesting Open Day, and certainly the run on Saturday morning is going to be an eventful one, the evening programme at the Golden Tulip will have lots of variety on the agenda. A number of alumni have already confirmed their participation. I am especially glad that the **founder of the school, Marianne Boletter** will be travelling **from Kenya** to join in the anniversary celebrations.

Tickets for the ball can be purchased in Faustina's office.

- However, before that our **solar plant** and our new **Chemistry lab** will have to be inaugurated in a befitting manner. The inauguration will take place in cooperation with the German Embassy. The actual date has not yet been scheduled. I will get back to you again as soon as the schedule for that day has been fixed.

Last but not least I would already like to mention **one important event** going to take place in school during 2016/ 2017 academic year.

- For the first time a so-called **Bund-Länder-Inspektion** (School inspection) of the GSIS will be taking place from the **10th to the 14th of October 2016**. A team of inspectors from Germany will be inspecting the quality of school development processes of the school. There will be meetings with the head of school, school board, teachers, other members of staff and parents. Concepts will be evaluated and lessons are going to be observed. I will invite you to **an information meeting with more details concerning the inspection** at the beginning of the new academic year.

As usual I am available and you can please contact me in case you have any questions!

Wishing you all a nice and relaxing weekend!

Best regards,

