



Vancouver Westside  
German School



# YEAR END REVIEW

volume 32 \* July 2017



## Principal's Message

*Lidija Bakovic*

The last school year has come to an end and it is time to look back, evaluate, plan for the next year and see where we can do better.

Special thanks go out to our students and their teachers who have managed to take our year's topic, Encounter with the Unknown, make it their own and show indeed that the Unknown can be tamed, sung, had fun with.

To all those who came to our End of Year Celebration at the Vancouver Alpen Club and made it into such a boisterous affair a heartfelt

**"THANK YOU!"**



## In this issue:

Principal's Message

Changes 2017/18

President's Message

Photo Gallery:  
School year 2016-17  
at a glance



## *Class Performances*

Our kindergarten level DaZ and DaF and grade 1 level DaF students have



shown us that no matter how daunting the German letters and words may sound, they are fun to roll off the tongue. Our DaZ Junior 1 classes have enacted the spring and shown us how even native speakers can sometimes feel strange in Germany. DaZ Junior 3 have created their own poetry.

Finally, DaZ and DaF Junior 4 classes have enacted a fairy tale about venturing into the unknown and reaping benefits from this encounter.



The celebration was also a chance to showcase our senior students' audio contributions to the topic of the year, and finally, honour those who have successfully completed their DSD II exams.

**"CONGRATS!"**



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*This was my first year as your principal, and I would like to reflect on the biggest lessons I have learned as exemplified in the highlights of the past school year for me.*

*A. The success of our school starts and ends in the classroom.*

Our teachers dedicate a huge amount of time and energy to make your children's stay at our school a profitable and an enjoyable one. Apt examples of fruitful teaching efforts were for me the fairy tale dramatizations in our Junior 4 classes, the Lantern fest, the posters at the Open House event,



the overall successes our Senior students achieved in three of the exams: A1, A2 and B2/C1 exam. The B1 exam results are still pending.

For the next year, I would like to devise teaching structures and teaching supports so as to make the time spent at our school more effective and thus more fun for both our teachers and our students.



## *B. Every school is a reflection of a community.*

Vancouver Westside German School consists of dedicated group of parents, who give their time and energy, over and over again, and thus make our school into a welcoming and a warm one. Our steadfast and more than reliable library team,



who have in the past six months also taken on the task of a reading circle with our youngest students, is but one example of the community we have. Another one would be the Event Team and all the bakers



who have hosted Kaffee and Kuchen events at both locations and have collected more than \$2000 for the library needs.



## *C. The School Board is an invaluable asset.*

The guidance and the vision of our Board is an invaluable asset as they do set the parameters of our school's growth and provide stability. We do not usually think of School Board members as school volunteers, but they do in fact volunteer to serve. All our School Board members give their time, energy, and counsel to the Vancouver Westside German School without pay.

They take on the job of governing our school matters, making the best decisions they can for our students,

with the full understanding that they will receive only the satisfaction of their contribution.

Their contribution should not be understated. The volunteer efforts of the

School Board members have the potential for tremendous benefit to the VWGS school community as a whole, as well as the lives of students individually. By serving in this important governance role, School Board members lay the foundation of the future.



The School Board makes difficult decisions for the betterment of our students.

I want to thank them for advocating on behalf of our collective interests and helping me thru my first year as your principal.

## *D. Connecting with the German Community is a key point*

The learning progression of our students needs to find point of reference in the Canadian setting that we live in. Visit by a German speaking

firefighter and the dance group Schuhplattler, our project with a senior citizens' home, Radio Co-Op, and the upcoming summer



camp are examples of consciously creating avenues for our students in which they can meaningfully use their German speaking skills. To me, this is essential if our students are to deepen their intellectual and emotional investment in German. In the coming year, I would like to widen

our cooperation with various other

(educational) institutions with German connection (German

Consulate, other German schools in BC, German businesses)

to give our students everyday experience in German outside of school and their homes.



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## *Changes in 2017/18*

The upcoming school year, there will also be changes. Our Tuesday school will no longer be taking place at the Lord Kitchener Elementary School. Prince of Wales Secondary's principal and staff have been very supportive and have graciously offered to rent us space on Tuesdays too. Starting September 19th, 2017, both our streams will take place at this location.

This would give a chance to go back to the more regular timetable for our Tuesday classes: class time from 4 pm to 5:15pm, recess at 5:15pm, library and crafts/more class between 5:30 and 6pm, and finally, singing at 6pm.

Since Prince of Wales is a high school, renting space there on Tuesday comes with a caveat that we ensure the safety of our students. Hence, we will kindly ask parents to volunteer their time and do supervision in the corridors during school hours and recess.

This would amount to doing supervision duty twice to three times a year. The form has been included in the Karelo registration. Please make sure to sign up when registering your child.

For those parents, who have already registered, please go back to your registration and sign up for supervision duty.

I would like to thank you all for your dedication and your continued support. And now, enjoy your summer holidays. See you in September.



Lidija Bakovic  
*Principal,*

*Vancouver Westside German School*



## President's Message

*Meike Wernicke*

Another successful year at our German school has come to an end.

We bid good-bye to our host school Lord Kitchener and look forward to a new home for our junior classes at Prince of Wales Secondary, alongside our senior classes. We are looking forward to some fabulous collaborative events in 2017-18. The much-improved governance of our Board over the past few years means that we have

a very engaged group of parents acting as Board Members.

At next year's Annual General Meeting we will be looking for new parents to join the Board, specifically for the position of Treasurer, among other tasks. If you can bring

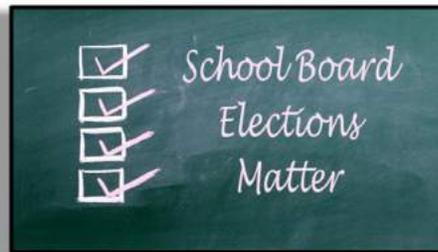
expertise in this area or would like to contribute other types of expertise and support on the Board, please don't hesitate to contact us [info@vwgs.com](mailto:info@vwgs.com). Next year's AGM will take place on Tuesday, October 10th, 2017 – mark your calendars!

Wishing you the very best for the summer holidays and looking forward to seeing you again in September!

Meike Wernicke

*President,*

*Vancouver Westside German School*



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## Photo Gallery: School Year 2016-17 at a Glance

Field Trips



Winter Performance



Easter Egg Hunt



Library/Booksale



Photobooth



“Abschiedslied”



Danke für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!