



Vancouver Westside
German School



newsletter

volume 25 * May 2012

President's Message Hart Mauritz

In my message in the fall newsletter, I told you that this year was going to be "by no means routine." Little did I know then how true that would turn out to be!

First, we are reluctantly bidding a fond farewell to our longtime School Coordinator, Isolde Winter. After 20 years with the School, most of them in the top leadership role, Isolde is retiring at the end of this year from the School. Isolde was a founding member of the Vancouver Westside German School. She has been instrumental in building and shaping the school to what it is today: a hugely successful German language services provider in Vancouver, with over 160 students at all levels from K-12, over 15 extremely qualified instructors, and an excellent reputation. It has been under Isolde's leadership that we have seen an increasing number of students perform very well in various centrally administered German exams. This enables us to successfully apply for significant grants from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. Isolde has also been very active in various German language associations and continues to serve as the President of the Canadian Association of German Language Schools (CAGLS). Please join me in showing Isolde our gratitude for such devotion to our kids' education and wishing her all the best in her well-deserved retirement. Isolde has kindly agreed to support transition of her role and responsibilities to her successor even during the next school year.

When the Board embarked on a search for a new School Principal,



Hart Mauritz
School President

we were thrilled to see so much interest from very talented and enthusiastic German educators, both internally and externally. Following a rigorous selection process, the Board unanimously decided to appoint Christine Spreter von Kreudenstein as the new School Principal. Christine comes to the Vancouver Westside German School with an excellent education and practical experience in teaching German both as a first and as a foreign language (DaF). She lives in Vancouver's West End together with her husband Thomas, Senior Scientist at Zymeworks, and their two children Finn (age 4.5) and Liam (age 2). Some of you may also remember Christine from the time when she taught at our School from 2006-08. Please join me in welcoming Christine back to our School. The Board is looking forward to working with Christine and wishes her all the best in her new leadership role. Christine and Isolde will start the transition process immediately.

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20th Birthday Bash

Finally, please come to the big birthday party: The Vancouver Westside German School is 20 years old! The kids have worked extremely hard with their teachers to prepare a special presentation at the Birthday and Year End Party at Carnarvon Elementary School on May 29th. There will be great German food and live German-style music as well as attractions for the children.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a happy summer and hope to see you all back in the next school year.



Students at year end party
May 2011

APPOINTMENT NOTICE – New School Principal

Hart Mauritz, President of the Vancouver Westside German School, is pleased to announce the appointment of Christine Spreter von Kreudenstein to the role of School Principal, effective June 1, 2012.

Ms. Spreter comes to the Vancouver Westside German School with an extensive background in the German language education sector. She studied German and English Language and Literature in Freiburg, Basel and Boston, and she has an M.A. degree and the teaching certification for German and English in secondary education (Staatsexamen für die Sekundarstufe I und II).

Christine has taught German and English at a German "Gymnasium" (high school), and she has been an instructor for German as a foreign language (DaF) at a number of prestigious institutions, including the University of British Columbia, the Goethe-Zentrum at Simon Fraser University, and Kwantlen College. The Vancouver Westside German School is familiar to her, as she taught here from 2006-2008. Christine has also very relevant experience in

coordinating and administrating DaF programs at various institutions in Germany and in the US.

The Board is delighted to have Ms. Spreter join the Vancouver Westside German School in the important leadership role of School Principal. The Board, on behalf of the members of the School Society, is looking to the Vancouver Westside German School to continue its successful delivery of German language programs and its future development in an ever-changing educational environment.

Ms. Spreter follows Ms. Isolde Winter who retires this year after 20 years of committed German language community service. Ms. Winter was a co-founder of the School, and since then has been the key contributor, in various roles, to its tremendous growth and success, over the last 10 years as the School Coordinator. The Board is very grateful of the work and contribution that Ms. Winter gave to the school during her long and loyal tenure. The Vancouver Westside German School is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1992. It offers



**Christine Spreter von Kreudenstein
School Principal
effective June 1, 2012**

a premier after-school German language program and various levels of certification. The School serves over 160 students from K-12, both with and without previous knowledge of the German language; it has over 15 extremely qualified and experienced instructors. The Vancouver Westside German School receives partial financial support from the Federal Republic of Germany through ZfA, the Central Agency for Schools Abroad. For more information please visit www.vwgs.org

School Coordinator's Report

Dear Students and Parents,

We are fast approaching the end of the school year again and can look back on some great achievements of our students. They all look forward to our year-end party where they will present a small sample of their efforts and progress they made through the year. The second term was a busy one. For a number of students it was the time to prove their achievements in various exams and it is great to see their efforts being rewarded.

We all realize that it is a big commitment both for students and parents to stay with the German language classes every week over so many years, but it is so good to see the positive results. I had the pleasure of working with a good number of students who have been

at the school for 10 years and more preparing for the highest exam level DSD II (Sprachdiplom Stufe 2). In March we welcomed Ms. Catherine Karen Roy, who took over class E 1/2 from Ms. Dali Klibadze. Congratulations to Ms. Klibadze who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl! We are also pleased that Ms. Ina Schulze-Rajabali was available to teach class G3 for Ms. Andrea Freytag who is on maternity leave.

As the end of the school year also marks my retirement from the school. I would like to thank the students, teachers and parents for their great support over the years. Being part of the Vancouver Westside German School has been a very rewarding

experience and I have been fortunate to contribute and guide the school from its very beginning over its 20 years of existence to its current highest level of enrolment and success. Good luck to Ms. Christine Spreter, who will assume the responsibilities of the principal. All the best to everyone for the future.

Mit besten Wünschen
Isolde Winter



You are cordially invited to attend the

**YEAR END &
20th ANNIVERSARY PARTY**

of the

VANCOUVER WESTSIDE GERMAN SCHOOL

Please come celebrate this special occasion with us on

Tuesday | May 29, 2012

5.00 PM until 7.30 PM

Carnarvon Elementary School Gym

A presentation by the students specially prepared for this occasion will be followed by food, games and music. Highlights include traditional German music, a soccer competition and a bouncy castle.



Vancouver Westside 
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