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MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRINCIPAL



Liebe Eltern, dear parents,

I hope you all enjoyed some relaxing and re-energizing summer holidays. This is going to be my last message from this place because ...
... I would like to introduce you to your new principal: Ute Steves, a teacher and exam coordinator extraordinaire who is now also adding a task of a principal to her very busy life. I am very happy and delighted to pass on the torch to somebody who knows the school so well and cares a lot about your children's well-being and academic success.

Have a great start into a new school year, and all the best for the future.

Lidija Bakovic
Outgoing VWGS Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Parents,

We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing summer! September is here and we will soon find ourselves taking our children back to German School!
On behalf of the entire 2018/19 Board of Directors, I'd like to thank all 2019/20 teachers, assistants and our Administration staff for everyone's involvement in preparing the next school year.

I would like to take a moment to introduce you to our new School Principal, Ute Steves, former Exam Coordinator and teacher at our school. For many years, Ute has worked for the VWGS and other language institutions. She has 25 years+ DaF, DaZ and ESL teaching experience including Examiner Certification for German Language Diplomas, International Teacher and Teacher Trainer Certificate ESL and a Canadian TESL and IELTS certification. She currently also works with immigrants and refugees teaching them English and volunteers her time as treasurer on the BCCTG Board.

We are excited to welcome Ute on board.

We are sad to see Lidija Bakovic leave our school, thank her for her commitment and dedication to the school over these past few years but wish her all the best with her future endeavors.

She will be missed among colleagues, students, parents and the Board of Directors.

I'd like to take the opportunity to remind all parents that our School cannot run without the operations of an efficient group of committed, dedicated Board Members.

I encourage everyone to consider joining the Board at the **AGM on September 17th (more information below)**, in order to secure a successful future for our school.

We are looking for motivated people to participate in the school's operations – especially people with former Board experience or experienced in the fields of accounting/finance, fundraising, event planning or with a legal background. The VWGS Board meets once a month for approximately 2 hours, overall time commitment per month is approximately 4 to 5 hours.

Please also consider attending an informational session run by our new Principal, Ute Steves, and the Board of Directors on **September 10, 2019** to learn more about the school's curriculum, parent expectations, and what is involved to be part of the 2019/20 Board of Directors. (More details below.)

The School is a volunteer run organization, dependent on capable, skilled parents leading, guiding and supporting our paid staff - the principal, our administrator and our teachers.

Lastly, enjoy the last days of summer holidays before we are heading into another busy and successful school year. **If you have not yet registered your child/ren**, please do so **here**.

Kind regards,
Patricia Tait
2018/19 VWGS President

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRINCIPAL



Liebe Eltern, dear parents,

Lidija and Patricia have already introduced me, so I would just like to add how excited I am to take over the VWGS Principal's duties as of September 1st. I've been working with the VWGS as a teacher and Exam Coordinator for the past seven years and had the pleasure to see the school grow and flourish thanks to the ongoing commitment of dedicated Board members, staff and parent volunteers. Lidija has played a vital role in the school's continuous evolution and brought about so many important changes in the past three years, and I am happy to announce that she will not leave our school completely, but will continue to teach the DSD 2 class and lead them to their final DSD exams in January 2020.

Classes will resume on September 17th and 18th, which will be especially exciting for our very new students, but there are also two important meetings for all parents to attend, so please see the more detailed information about upcoming events below.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in September! Please feel free to contact me anytime at info@vwgs.org.

Ute Steves
VWGS Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OUR SCHOOL

When signing up your child/children for German school, you also became members of the VWGS School Society, and as such, you are asked to attend two important meetings:

- **September 10th, 5:00-6:30 pm, school cafeteria: Information session**

A ***school-wide information session***, which is ***mandatory for all parents*** (old and new) to learn more about:

- The school's curriculum
- The difference between DaF and DaZ and how students are placed in the two streams
- A1 and A2 evaluations and DSD exams
- Parent involvement and expectations
- The work of the Board of Directors

You will get to meet the new Principal, the School Administrator, your child/children's teacher(s), and members of the current Board of Directors. We ask that **one parent of each family** attend the information session to ensure that everybody is well informed about the school's curriculum and its policies and to avoid any misconception or misinformation.

Please register [here](#) for the information session.

The information session will be followed by our 'Meet the Teacher' evening where teachers will inform parents in small groups about the class curriculum/focus points for this school year. Parents will get a chance to take a look at the books the students will be using and will be informed about the teacher's expectations and grading procedures for report cards.

- **September 17th, 5:00 pm (registration starts at 4:30 pm), school cafeteria: Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the VWGS Society**

The Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Vancouver Westside German School Society (the "Society") is called for and will be held:

On Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 5:00 pm (registration starts at 4:30 pm).
At: Prince of Wales Secondary School, 2250 Eddington Drive, Vancouver, BC

This is the first day of school for our junior classes. We encourage you to join us once your child/children are in their classroom. The AGM will be taking place in the school's cafeteria.

Important: At the AGM the Board of directors for the coming school year will be elected. We encourage everyone to consider joining the Board.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **First day of classes, class times and location**

September 17th, 4:15-6:30 pm:

First day of class for **Junior** classes

September 18th, 4:30-6:45 pm:

First day of class for **Senior** classes

All meetings and classes will take place at **Prince of Wales Secondary School, 2250 Eddington Drive, Vancouver, V6L 2E7.**

• **Registration for the upcoming school year**

Please be reminded that the registration for the next school year is ongoing. In case it later becomes apparent that your child can no longer attend German school, you can withdraw from school by sending us a cancellation notice. For cancellation notices up to September 6th, you will be reimbursed the school fee minus the administrative fee paid upon registration. For cancellations between September 6th and December 31st, the Vancouver Westside German School will reimburse the school fee minus a month worth of school fee (4 x \$16) per child and the administrative fee paid upon registration. For cancellations after December 31st, the school fee can no longer be reimbursed.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

For detailed information, please visit our **School Calendar**. This is a great opportunity to see and check what's going on at VWGS.

- **September 10th, 2019, 5 pm:** Information session for parents and "Meet the teacher"
 - **September 17th, 2019, 5 pm (registration starts 4:30 pm):** AGM
 - **September 17th, 2019:** First day of classes for Junior classes
 - **September 18th, 2019:** First day of classes for Senior classes
 - **September 25th, 2019:** Boris Lauser: Vegan Chef
 - **October 1st/2nd, 2019:** German unity
 - **November 26th/27th, 2019:** St. Martin celebration (Laternenfest) with Coffee & Cake
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

• **Deutsche Kindergruppe - Kids' Playgroup**

An open playgroup for children of ages 0-6, meeting on Mondays (except during holidays and public holidays). Includes a singing circle, free play and crafts for the kids, plus Kaffeeklatsch for the adults.

Parallel to the play group, they also offer a separate pre-school program for children 2-6 years of age.

When

Monday, September 9, 2019 from 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Where

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1573 East 18th Avenue, Vancouver

• **Kitsilano German Language Meetup**

Join the Vancouver German Language and Culture Meetup Group for an evening of chats and conversations in German language. The German Meetup also runs a very popular German learner's group every second Saturday of the month.

When

Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Where

Simpatico, 2222 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver

More info [here](#).

• **Global Female Business Networking Dinner**

An event by the **German Canadian Business Association** to promote and strengthen business (and personal) relationships between German and Canadian business women. Join a delegation of female business owners direct from Germany - VdU. Share experiences about doing business in Germany and Canada and about making business connections across the Atlantic.

When

Thursday, September 19, 6:00-8:00 pm

Where

Bauhaus Restaurant, 1 West Cordova Street, Vancouver

Tickets (3 course meal): \$65 + tax

- **Rock 'n' Roll 50's & 60's Dance**

Come party in style at the Vancouver Alpenclub's Rock 'n' Roll themed Ballroom dance. The music starts at 7:30 pm. The Colin and Don band will be playing house favorites and some new numbers! Make sure to dress to impress as there will be prizes for best dressed and band's favorite. More info [here](#).

When

Saturday, September 21, 7:30-11:30 pm

Where

Vancouver Alpen Club (Ballroom), 4875 Victoria Dr, Vancouver

Members: \$10

Non-members: \$15

- **The East Vancouver German Language Meetup**

Another meetup for the German community meeting regularly to connect people interested in conversations in German language and curious about German culture.

When

Thursday, September 26, 7:00-10:00 pm

Where

Vancouver Alpen Club (Restaurant), 4875 Victoria Dr, Vancouver

- **Ulrich Schaffer: Verwandlungen**

Ulrich Schaffer is a writer, poet, and photographer who publishes books and calendars in the Herder Publishing house with a circulation of over 5 million. Every year he leaves his British Columbia home to give readings, lectures, and seminars in Germany. At the German-Canadian Care Home he will speak about "Our wise development in the second half of life".

When

Saturday, September 28, 2:30 pm

Where

German-Canadian Care Home, 2010 Harrison Dr, Vancouver

- **Tujamo in Vancouver at Harbour Event Centre**

German electro house music producer TUJAMO makes his return at the newly renovated Harbour Event Centre. Tickets are on sale [here](#).

When

Saturday, September 28, 10:00 pm

Where

Harbour Event Centre, 750 Pacific Blvd, Vancouver

• Vegan chef Boris Lauser visits Vancouver, including Vancouver Westside German School

Boris Lauser is a renowned German vegan chef, gastro-consultant and author, who runs his own plant-based institute in Berlin. He has taught at the world's most prestigious raw food schools, including the Tree of Life and the Matthew Kenney Academy in the US. Boris Lauser visits Vancouver in September at the invitation of the German Consulate General in Vancouver.

Boris Lauser will share his knowledge and passion on how to cook sustainable, vegan dishes and live a more sustainable life through several events in Vancouver:

- **Panel Discussion on Climate Change and Biodiversity**
- **Pop-up Dinner with German Vegan Chef Boris Lauser**
- **Get Raw and Vegan with Boris Lauser**
- **Zero-Waste Vegan Potluck w/ guest Boris Lauser, raw vegan chef**

Boris Lauser will also visit our school on September 25th.

When

Multiple dates at the end of September (see links above)

Where

Multiple locations (see links above)

KEEP UP THE GERMAN

Here is a selection of useful links:

Das gesamte ABC - Schnell Deutsch lernen - Learn German with ABC songs for toddlers

News in slow German - Learn German with streaming news and culture at an intermediate and advanced level

Youtube Course freeGermanLessons - A huge selection of videos created by a German teacher for her students at the following levels: beginner level (A1-A2), intermediate level (B1-B2) and advanced/proficiency level (C1-C2)

PDF versions to freeGermanLessons - PDF version to the free course and more materials can be found here

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