



In This Issue

- Message from the Principal
- Upcoming events at our school
- Additional information
- Meet our teachers and students
- Important dates to remember
- Community events
- Keep up the German

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-  [Website](#)
-  [Email](#)
-  [Facebook](#)
-  [Twitter](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Liebe Eltern, dear parents,

I hope you had a wonderful first month in 2020!

After having experienced some technical problems in December and January, we are very happy to finally be able to send out our first newsletter this year. The VWGS staff and management would like to thank you all for your support during a successful first term, which presented itself with many highlights, like the visit of famous German vegan raw chef Boris Lauser in September, presentations and reading projects about German reunification and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the lantern festival in November, and Nikolaus day and the Spelling Bee competition which took place at the beginning of December.

On Tuesday, December 17th, our junior classes presented their songs at the Vancouver Christmas market. The 'Alpenhaus' was buzzing, and it was heart-warming to see that so many family members and friends came out that day to support our students. A heartfelt 'Thank you' to all of you! The students and the VWGS staff appreciate your ongoing support very much!

The second term will be just as exciting as the first one! Our DSD 2 students took their oral exams at the beginning of January, and they all passed! We are now impatiently waiting for the results of the written exams!

Our parent-teacher meetings on January 28th and 29th were very well received and most of you got a chance to talk to your children's teacher one-on-one.

Please also mark your calendars for two important dates in February:

Our DaZ Senior 4 and 5 classes will be visiting the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre on February 19th, and all of our junior students will be celebrating 'Fasching' (carnival) on February 25th (see below for more details). Family and friends are welcome to join! We hope to see you all there!

Best wishes,

Ute Steves

Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OUR SCHOOL

• **Krapfen sale for our Faschingsfeier/Carnival**

On February 25th the Vancouver Westside German School will celebrate Karneval with our **junior students** again. We are happy to announce that the traditional "Berliner/Krapfen..." are available for pre-order [here](#).

Please note, that all (Junior and Senior) students, teachers and support staff will be receiving a complimentary Berliner on Feb 25th or Feb 26th. Please order only if you would like to have extra Berliner. All additional Berliner must

be ordered online by 5 pm on Friday, February 21st, 2020.
All items must be picked up on Tuesday, February 25th or Wednesday, February 26th between 5:00 and 6:30 pm in the cafeteria of Prince of Wales Secondary School.

- **Summer Camp**

The Vancouver Westside German School will be offering two weeks of Summer Camp for German-speaking children. Children can attend either in the morning program only (from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm) or for the full day (9:30 am to 4 pm).

The summer camp will take place in the following two weeks:

Week 1: June 29th to July 3rd, for ages 5 to 8, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, 1:00-4:00. **Cost: \$200 (daily 9:30 am to 12:30 pm only), \$300 (daily 9:30 am to 4:00 pm)**

Week 2: July 6th to July 10th, for ages 9 to 12, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, 1:00-4:00. **Cost: \$200 (daily 9:30 am to 12:30 pm only), \$300 (daily 9:30 am to 4:00 pm)**

For registration, please use this [link](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Parent survey**

In the course of February we will conduct a parent survey to ensure the satisfaction of students and parents. The survey will take place within the classes and will be given home to the children to guarantee the highest possible participation. The answers are evaluated anonymously. In addition to the survey, we are of course always available for suggestions and feedback.

- **Reading competition**

Before the holidays, there will be a reading competition in the DaF Junior 3 and 4 classes, which is sponsored by Loewe-Verlag. There are book prizes to be won and every student will receive a certificate of participation. Details to follow.

- **Christmas Market Performance Junior Classes**

On Tuesday, December 17th, 2019, parents, family, friends, and the team of VWGS enjoyed the performances of our students at the Vancouver Christmas Market. Thanks to everyone for coming by, for supporting our students and for celebrating this tradition with us.



MEET OUR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



Andrea Freytag (DaZ Junior)

My name is Andrea Freytag and I grew up in Spielberg, Austria and my passion was always to work with children. I have one son (7 years old) who goes to VWGS. I hold a master's degree in Education and a certificate for being an elementary school teacher from the University in Vienna. After moving to Vancouver in 2008, I worked at VWGS for 4 years and as an Educational Assistant/Special Educational Assistant at a private school. During my time off I did two online courses at the ILS institute on counselling in nutrition for babies, kids and teenagers as well as Educational Counselling. In my free-time, I enjoy spending time with my son playing soccer, tennis and board games.

Antje Mahintorabi (DaF Junior)

My name is Antje Mahintorabi. Some of you might know me from last year's "music with t i c", when the school gave all Junior students the chance to learn folk and Christmas songs. It's wonderful to see the children's language ability thrive while they're singing and having fun.

Before I moved to Vancouver five years ago, I used to live in Berlin. After my studies of dramatics and education I worked as acting teacher for children, taught script writing, and worked as theatre director all over Germany. In Vancouver I founded "t i c - theatre in classroom" to bring stories right into (you can see it coming) the classroom of elementary schools. To pass on my

passion for the German language and culture I started to work for the VWGS two years ago and I am a teaching assistant for German at the SFU.

Hello all together,

We are Antje Mahintorabi and Andrea Freytag, the DaF/DaZ Kindergarten teachers. In total, we have 14 lovely and enthusiastic children in our class(es).

In DaZ/DaF Junior, we learn the letters of the alphabet, our calendar, weather words, colours, and feelings, and explore the different seasons and their special holidays.

The children's favorite part is to bring in their 'Show & Tells' in their homemade treasure boxes with the letters of the week.

Up until February, we were co-teaching the students to make sure every student is getting plenty of attention, because every Tuesday, 28 eyes want to explore new things and 14 brains are eager to learn, sing songs, and play games from our book "Jana und Dino" with us. We have a wonderful and lively class. We are very proud of them, when they help each other to find the right German words or even share their favourite crayons.

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.

- **February 19th, 2020:** Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre visit, DaZ Senior 4 and 5 only
 - **February 21st, 2020:** Deadline for Krapfen pre-sale for Faschingsfeier/Carnival (extra orders only)
 - **February 25th, 2020:** Faschingsfeier/Carnival (Junior Classes)
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Feuerzangenbowle / Auf Augenhöhe movie screening**

The German Consulate General and the Alpen Club invite you to the first screening of the German classic 'Feuerzangenbowle' with Heinz Rühmann in Vancouver. A Feuerzangenbowle (special mulled wine) and complimentary cake and coffee will be provided by the Alpenclub. Bring a flashlight and a bicycle bell for the event to make it a special experience (you will need them throughout the movie). For kids and teenager we show the movie "Auf Augenhöhe" (German with English subtitles) in the Weinstube at the Alpen Club.

- **When**

Saturday, February 22 at 3:00 pm

- **Where**

Vancouver Alpen Club (Jägerstube/Weinstube), 4875 Victoria Dr, Vancouver, BC, V5N 4P3

- **Taxations of German pensions in Germany and Canada**

Britt Lampe will hold a lecture and answer questions regarding the taxation of German pensions in Germany and Canada. If you or your family members are interested in this topic, join the bi-weekly Outreach program of the German-Canadian Care Home. The program starts at 2:30 pm. Coffee and cake are served before the program at 2:00 pm.

- **When**

Saturday, February 29 at 2:30 pm

- **Where**

German-Canadian Care Home, 2010 Harrison Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5P 2P6

- **Study and Go Abroad Fairs**

At the "Study and Go Abroad Fairs", taking place at the Convention Centre, visitors can meet with top universities, graduate schools and professional schools from Canada and around the world. This is a great opportunity to learn anything about studying and travelling abroad.

- **When**

Tuesday, March 3 from 2:00 pm to 6 pm

- **Where**

East Ballroom at Convention Level, Vancouver Convention Centre, 999 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC

- **Pre-registration**

For pre-registration visit this [link](#)

- **Fundraiser supporting the German-Canadian Benevolent Society Outreach Program for the German Canadian Care Home**

The German Canadian Business Association, in association with the German Consulate General of Vancouver, invite everyone to a fundraiser supporting the German-Canadian Benevolent Society Outreach Program for the German Canadian Care Home. Including live music by the S-Bahn. With diverse and eclectic repertoire, the S-Bahn rocks Oktoberfests as well as any other party they are part of. There will be German cake, door prizes and other prize draws.

When

Tuesday, March 10 at 5:30 pm

Where

Vancouver Alpen Club, 4875 Victoria Dr, Vancouver, BC, V5N 4P3

Tickets

For tickets visit this [link](#)

KEEP UP THE GERMAN

Here is a selection of useful links:

German.net - Free online resource made for those looking to start out at the very beginning and for advanced learners that want to reach fluency and perfection.

The Mystery of the Nebra Sky Disc - A Learning Adventure from Goethe institute for learning German as a foreign language, starting at Level A. The game is fun and at the same time conveys and consolidates knowledge of the German language.

EasyGerman - An international video project aiming at supporting people worldwide to learn languages through authentic street interviews. Episodes contain subtitles in both German as well as in English.

Die Quellen sprechen - The podcast "The Sources Speak" brings together eyewitness reports and documents on the persecution of European Jews from 1933 to 1945.

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