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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear VWGS families,



My first year as VWGS Principal couldn't have been more exciting, challenging and inspiring, all at the same time! Thanks to the support and the hard work of every single one of you, students, parents, teachers, assistants, volunteers, and board members, we turned it into a successful year, and maybe the one with the biggest learning curve for many of us.

It certainly didn't turn out the way we all envisioned it to when we started classes back in September, and although online teaching and learning was enjoyable for some, and less ideal for others, we pulled through together and finished the year with our first virtual year end celebration. Thank you to all who attended, and to those of you who couldn't make it, you will find some highlights (Antolin winners, Schülerzeitung, year-end video) below.

As we are starting to plan for next school year, many things remain uncertain for now, like the format, size or venue of our classes, but one thing is for sure: We are determined to make it another successful year, one way or another! We have started contacting independent schools and other venues to see what other options are out there in case VSB and public schools are not able to host us in September, but at the same time, we are continuing to explore options for online teaching, should there still be the need to teach remotely next school year. We will be ready for whatever September brings, and I will let you know as soon as I have news on how, where and when our classes will take place, so please check your inbox and your junk folder for

emails from VWGS from time to time over the summer. And if you should have any questions, comments or ideas, please contact me anytime at info@vwgs.org.

I hope you can find some time to relax and recharge over the summer, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all again in September!

Happy summer,
Ute Steves
VWGS Principal

IMPORTANT NEWS AND UPDATES

- **Schülerzeitung (school newspaper)**

This year's Schülerzeitung is now available on our [website](#). Senior and Junior VWGS students contributed stories, drawings, quizzes, pictures, recipes, and much more to commemorate their journey through this school year. As we - due to the Covid-19 situation and online lessons - are only able to provide a



digital version of our Schülerzeitung this year, we made sure you have more content to enjoy. This is why our Schülerzeitung has a record 37 pages.

In the final pages of the Schülerzeitung you will find childhood pictures of our teachers and staff. Can you find your teacher and guess who is who? We will provide the answer in our next newsletter in which you

will also find important updates for the next school year. Until then, have fun guessing!

• **Year-end video**



We created a year-end video portraying the highlights of this school year. Those parents and students who attended the online year-end celebration/Abschlussfeier already had the opportunity to look back at memories created this school year. The video is a compilation of pictures taken by our photographer Lydia Hentschel as well as photo and video contributions from parents, students, and staff. For a limited time (until July 15th, 2020) we will make the video available to all students and parents. Simply access the following **link**. Please be reminded not to share the link or the video with anyone outside of the VWGS community.

• **Results of our parents survey**

We want to thank all parents who submitted the parents survey and helped us better understand their views and wishes. Here are some of the results of the survey:

- 11% of our parents have no German-speaking background; most families have a background from Germany, followed by Austria and Switzerland and are native speakers
- 48% of our students speak German at home on a daily basis
- The activities our students engage in when using the German language are,

e.g.: watching TV, reading books, and talking/skyping with family members and friends

- The majority of students spend 1 hour a week on their homework for German school and 61% are always supported by the parents when working on homework
 - 73% of parents are very satisfied with their child's improvement in German, especially those parents who have kids in DaZ classes
 - Reasons for going to German school are for example: maintaining or acquiring German language skills, opening the possibility to study in a German-speaking country, strengthen family bonds and make their parents happy
 - The majority of parents (>80%) is very satisfied with the communication with teachers and management/staff
 - Parents feel that Nikolaus is our most important celebration, followed by the year-end celebration and the lantern festival/St. Martin
 - 89% of parents feel that the value in language education for the tuition amount is very good
 - 6% of parents would definitely and 82% would maybe consider working as a teacher at VWGS. (Your applications are always welcome!)
 - 39% of parents would consider running for a board position. (Please remember that the school highly depends on board members who volunteer their time to keep the school running and existing. If you are interested in a board position, please send an email to orgavwgs@gmail.com and we will forward your email to our Board President Tracey Dye)
 - 81% of parents answered they would definitely sign up their children again for the next school year, 17% were undecided at the time of the survey.
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- **Registration for the upcoming school year 2020/21**

If you haven't done so already, please register your child or children for the new school year through our online registration system Karelo, using this **link**. To encourage early registration to make planning easier for us, the non-refundable administration fee will depend on the time you sign up.

Registration before July 15th is \$50 per family, registration on or after July 15th is \$100 per family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS

- **Competition "Demokratie leben"**

Students from VWGS participated in this years' competition "Demokratie leben", initiated by the ZfA (Central Agency for German Schools Abroad), and contributed creative films. Our students were tremendously successful and achieved the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th place in different prize categories. Congratulations!

- **Antolin winners**

Here are the winners of the Antolin competition:

Junior classes: class winners

- Edie Gesierich (DaF/DaZ Junior), 132 points
- Lilith Jack (DaZ Junior 4B), 451 points
- Sebastian Seewald (DaZ Junior 4A), 626 points

- Pippa Gieselmann (DaZ Junior 3), 806 points
- Zooney Stodden (DaZ Junior 1), 1189 points
- Liliana Vargas (DaZ Junior 2), 1555 points

Best class: DaZ Junior 1

Total points earned by all junior classes together: 15,405 points

Senior classes: class winners

- Noah Sinagowitz (DaZ Senior 4), 618 points
- Ellen Saykam (DaZ Senior 3), 696 points
- Martha Sinagowitz (DaZ Senior 1), 1377 points
- Louise Hogan (DaZ Senior 2), 5904 points

Best class: DaZ Senior 2

Total points earned by all senior classes together: 13,405 points

Electronic vouchers worth \$5, \$15, and \$25 were sent out to the winners via email last week.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND COMPETITION

- **International Parliamentary Scholarship Program**

The German Consulate General in Vancouver, would like to bring the International Parliamentary Scholarship Program to your attention.

The German Bundestag in cooperation with the Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt- Universität Berlin, and Technische Universität Berlin, invite students to apply for an International Parliamentary Scholarship (IPS) to spend five months in Berlin. The IPS gives participants the opportunity to

experience how the German Parliament works over the course of five months, with three months spent working in the office of a Member of Parliament. The scholarship includes a monthly payment, free accommodation, and insurance. It also covers the cost of travel to and from Berlin. The IPS is open to well-qualified and highly motivated young people who are open to new ideas, interested in politics, and wish to play an active and responsible role in shaping the democratic future of their country.

More information on the program and the application process can be found [here](#). Applications need to be submitted by 31 July 2020. Email your application to: info@ottawa.diplo.de.

• **International German Language Olympics**

The Internationale Deutscholympiade (German Language Olympics), short IDO, is the world's biggest German language contest. It will take place from August 3rd to 7th, 2020 and the theme will be "DABEI SEIN! – Die IDO kommt zu dir". It will be run as an innovative digital format. Over 120 students from over 60 countries will meet digitally for the final this year. You can find more information [here](#).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear VWGS families-
All Hands On Deck!!



You know, as we know, that the next school year will follow the whims of the pandemic and how health ministers, public officials and school boards respond. Most of that is beyond our control, and we will continue to be flexible in our response to the changes and challenges as the coming school year progresses.

That being said, we could really use your help. We have essentially 2 months to think about what worked and what didn't work with respect to our emergency response, and we'd like your input on how to make things better. Most importantly, we want to know what kinds of learning experiences you'd wish for your kids as we begin developing our multi-tiered preparations for the Fall.

Please send your responses to info@vwgs.org.

I've included questions that the board has discussed to help guide your responses, but don't feel like you have to follow our lines of thought. Like you, we are all parents, trying to figure out what might be possible now that we're living outside-the-box.

- What worked well with remote learning?
- What did not work well with remote learning?
- How could remote learning be organized differently to make it more engaging?
- What kinds of online/offline activities would enhance the online experience?
- How frequently could you/your kids meet for in-person learning?
- What kinds of community experiences would you like to see?
- If we developed monthly "community" learning events, what kinds of activities/skills/stories and so on...would you be willing to share?
- Would your senior/junior student be interested in forming a study pair?

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you all again in the fall.

Beste Grüße.
Tracey Dye
VWGS President

ONLINE RESOURCES

Here is a selection of useful links:

Lingo macht MINT - DaF materials for listening, reading and quizzes; learn German with MINT (STEM-subjects)

Vitaminde.de - The digital version of the German language learning magazine Vitamin de with worksheets, audio files and more

Montessori - colouring pages for children

Austrian for beginners - Learn about the Austrian dialect and discover funny words in this YouTube video

Lesejule - Learning material for reading and writing for the little ones

Grundschulkönig - Fables, fairy tales and blanks, level A1 and up

Kahoot - Free quiz tool for e-learning

Ticket to Berlin - Accompany 6 German learners who travel across Germany; includes exercises on vocabulary, grammar and regional knowledge

Onilo - Animated children's books with competence-oriented teaching material (free 1-month trial)

ARD Kinderprogramm - TV, books, radio and more for children age 3 and older

ARD Kinderfilme & -dokus - movies and documentaries for children

ZDF tivi - the German TV station's broadcast for children

Deutsche Welle - learn German with Deutsche Welle (different levels offered)

Step into German - a great variety of videos, music, podcasts, and worksheets (Goethe-Institut)

Averting psychological consequences of Corona - 3-minute video for children aged 6-12

Pixi Wissen TV - videos to gain knowledge in different areas

Eduthek - school supplies for different ages

Diercke - The famous world atlas for free (2 months access)

Duden Learnattack - free 2 month trial for Duden's learning portal for students from 4th grade to high school

4Kids Learning Videos - videos for young children to learn the alphabet, numbers, astronomy, flags or professions

Lesestart zum Lesenlernen - Visit the library with the reading kangaroo and immerse yourself in five exciting books

GEolino Podcast - "Together against Corona" provides an overview of the topic along with further information

Kids at home 2020 - Audio and children's songs, videos, handicraft, and live concerts to combat boredom

Youtube Germany #westayathome - a temporary platform with information and resources during the corona pandemic

Amazon Germany - free children's videos, currently due to Corona no Prime membership necessary

KiKaNinchen - App with which children can immerse themselves in the lovingly crafted world of snippets

BR Kinder - bedtime stories and news for children

Schlaudino - worksheets for printout, level A1 and up

Coloring pages - many different designs, calendars, quizzes

lernox - a great collection of DaF and Daz materials, different levels

Einfach vorlesen - stories to read aloud

Learn German with **worksheets** or a **German music blog**

Visit the zoo from home - watch elephants, koalas, panda, penguins and more live on your screen. Simply click on "Videos and cams".

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