



ST. GILGEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
AUSTRIA

## PARENT NEWSLETTER 04 / 2009-2010

With the end of term rapidly approaching, we would like to keep you up to date with this term's events.

### Academic Programmes

After October's visit from representatives of the **International Baccalaureate Organisation** we have completed the IB Authorisation Process to become an IBO World School, being authorised to offer Diploma Courses to Grade 11 from September 2010.



As indicated in our recent newsletters the school will be holding a presentation on the Diploma Programme for Parents on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, at 13.00 at the school and preceding the Pantomime. The associated PowerPoints may be requested by email.

At the end of November we were also inspected by **Cambridge International Examinations** and have passed through the process to become a registered examination centre for the IGCSE examinations.

### C.A.S. Week 2009

One of the most interesting times in the term is the week after C.A.S. Week (Creativity, Action, Service) when the school community comes together to share their experiences of our half term break from classes. Together with a creative range of activities undertaken, this year we also offered our first cultural trip, to London and Cambridge, where students were introduced to Afternoon Tea at Harrods, punting on the Cam in Cambridge and stepping over the Prime Meridian in Greenwich.



### Martinilauf

Our Autumn cross-country programme continued in October with the local Martinilauf organised by the St. Gilgen Rowing Club. Almost all of our students and many of our Faculty took part in this annual lakeside run.

Winners in their specific categories were: Mr Wadsworth, Paul Batthyany, Melanie Gruenwald, Felix Jermann, Daria Batthyany and Kami Krista. Many other students achieved top placings. Congratulations to all.



Mr Wadsworth began the tradition of being the chased goose. Below are some of the chasers.



### “Unexpected Solutions” Student Conference

One of the highlights in November was the very successful ‘Unexpected Solutions’ student conference along the theme of “What is worth saving?”; with students coming from Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland and Austria to take part. Schools were mixed to create teams which set out to various locations around the Wolfgangsee to brainstorm a solution which were presented on the Saturday evening.



This group was heading for the monastery.



This group hiked up to work in a hut at the Weisswand.

### The Night of the Nobles

Here you can see some of the characters selected by the students for this special Mentor-Tutor evening – first we have Dante, then Yuri Gargarin contemplates the invention by Prof. Erno Rubik and below Nannerl met with Queen Elizabeth the Second. Certainly a fun evening for all.



### A Visit from St Nikolaus (and friends)

On Friday December 4<sup>th</sup>, St. Nikolaus and his helpers came to meet the students and reward them for their efforts this term. He did introduce them to his more fearsome companions as well, however, given the good nature of our students there was nothing to worry about.



### Competitive Sport

After our successes with individual sports last year like tennis, skiing and golf, this year as our student body has grown we have begun to develop a range of sports teams who have taken on both staff teams and local schools.

### Core Activities

As part of our Core Activities Programme this half-term, the students did triathlon training, specialised expedition training and climbing. In sync with our environment and at times despite the weather, our students are taught the basic and more advanced skills as they progress through the school.



StGIS Students competing in blue in the Turnhalle/gym



Rock Climbing at the Plombergstein



### **School Pantomime**

Due to popular demand, this year's school pantomime "Panto of the Opera" will be performed three times in the "Kino"; twice on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December (at 14.00 and 19.00) and once, particularly for visiting parents, on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December (at 14.00). Tickets are on sale from Reception.

### **Winter Sports Equipment**

Full details of winter sports equipment will be sent out before the end of term. Most equipment may be bought or rented.

### **Staff News**

We would like to welcome the following members of staff to the school.

Sharon Wieser – School Administration (supporting Reception and Library Services).

Renate Riedl – Business Administration

Jan Kmet – Facilities and Maintenance

Please also note the following changes in first points of contact.

Kirk Wadsworth – in addition to Boys Boarding now also Student Activities

Adelheid Gruber – Personal Assistant to the Headmaster

### **Student Travel Arrangements**

Please ensure you consult the school calendar before making student travel arrangements. For the start and finish of each term, we need two weeks' notice in which to prepare, for example, taxi arrangements to and from Salzburg.

### **School Snapshots**

Photos of school events throughout the year can also now be found on the website under:

News and Events, Event Photos - ([http://media.stgis.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/event-fotos\\_2009\\_11\\_20-1.pdf](http://media.stgis.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/event-fotos_2009_11_20-1.pdf))

These are being put together by Luiza Madalozo dos Santos, in Grade 10.

### **Reminders from the School Office**

If students need to be absent from school for any particular reason, parents should send **a request for permission** in this regard. We take the time to check whether it is advisable for a student to be absent at this time based on academics or activities, prior to allowing it.

Parents should also inform the school **with a signed document** on the preceding Monday of an Exeat weekend if boarding students are leaving, and what the travel arrangements are. Student pick-ups are allowed as of 18:00 hours.

### **End of Term Arrangements**

As stated in the Student and Parent Handbook, school officially closes at 16.00 on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. The boarding residences are staffed until Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 14.00. Students are asked to take any unnecessary personal belongings home.

### **Start of Term Arrangements**

Boarders are asked to return to school on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January in time for the evening meal at 18.00. School resumes on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 08.15.

### **Upcoming Events**

"Panto of the Opera" – School pantomime productions Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

"Christmas Celebration" for students Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

IB Diploma Presentation – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 13.00

G9-10 Girls' Volleyball competition against Hauptschule January 2010

"Snow Day" – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February

"Long Weekend" – 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> February

Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact us at any time.

***The Administration Team***  
10.12.09

## PARENT NEWSLETTER 03/2009-2010

With C.A.S. Week rapidly approaching, we would like to keep you up to date with this term's events.

### C.A.S. Week

Our student half term break is called C.A.S. Week (Creativity, Action, Service) as, in addition to getting some relaxation and recreation, we expect students to do a number of activities from which they are learning something new and to keep a reflective record of their experiences. If your child is with you over the week, you might like to take time to discuss their activities and reflections with them.

### Regional Orienteering (Report from Mr. Rees)

Ten pupils travelled to some wooded hillsides near Hallein to compete in the Salzburgland school orienteering championships. After an introduction to the sport in Fuerberg last summer this was their first competition and first new map. All did well and they were competing against some very good orienteers (even some internationals). The under 13 team came 5<sup>th</sup> while the under 15 team came 3<sup>rd</sup>. Individually, Petra Tupi came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Girls under 16 category.

With more experience and practice on different maps we could have some excellent teams in the future. There is lots of potential.

### Wolfgangseelauf 2009 – setting new standards

This year, the whole school was encouraged to take part or support the runners in the annual Wolfgangseelauf (a race around the lake consisting of various distances and age groups).

#### Results:

#### W U16 5.2 km

6<sup>th</sup> Kami Krista, 7<sup>th</sup> Melanie Gruenwald, 10<sup>th</sup> Daria Batthyany, 13<sup>th</sup> Anna Leitner, 15<sup>th</sup> Mira Gomha

#### W U20 5.2 km

1<sup>st</sup> Sonja Zobel, 4<sup>th</sup> Luiza Madalozo

#### M U16 5.2 km

3<sup>rd</sup> Duncan Donnay, 5<sup>th</sup> Felix Jermann, 11<sup>th</sup> Arno Paletta, 12<sup>th</sup> Luis Horstmann, 15<sup>th</sup> Artur Burbo, 16<sup>th</sup> Ernst Moritz von Puttkamer, 24<sup>th</sup> Elias Reinisch, 27<sup>th</sup> Artemy Malyshkov, 29<sup>th</sup> Charles Schroeder.

#### M U20 5.2 km

5<sup>th</sup> Johannes Waldeck, 6<sup>th</sup> Josias Waldeck

#### W U16 10 km

7<sup>th</sup> Catalina Verjan Polanco

#### M U16 10 km

7<sup>th</sup> Paul Batthyany, 11<sup>th</sup> Matthias Gasteiger.

In the team event, out of a field of 84 teams, Mr Wadsworth 27 km, Paul Batthyany 10 km and Duncan Donnay 5.2 km came in 24<sup>th</sup>.

Lisa-Marie Leitgeb, Heidi Rennie, Jordan Greulich and Constantin Wieser, all from Grade five competed in the 1 km challenge, and Theresa Tritscher and Jesse Greulich from Grade 7 competed in the 1.5 km event.



*Eager runners before the start of the 5.2 km race*

### Library

As visitors will note, the shelves of the library are filling to support the academic programme of the school and provide the students with a broader scope for personal reading. We would like to say a special thanks to the **Donnay Family** for their donation of over 120 books, which cater to the Lower Middle School students. Other donations are also most certainly welcome.

### Music and The School Choir

All of our students and staff are being prepared by Dr Justin Wildridge to take part in a Whole School Choir, which will perform in St. Gilgen for the opening of the Advent Market in late November. As it turns out we are not only athletic, we are also musically talented. Over 70% of our students are currently involved in individually learning a musical instrument in our extra-curriculum programme.

### Settling-in Reports

Parents of new students should by now have received their first telephone call or email from Mentor Tutors. Mentor Tutors meet with their tutees regularly for academic tracking, pastoral care and for social events including tutor evenings. Parents should be reassured that each student is allocated to a Mentor Tutor who works closely with the relevant Housemaster or Housemistress. Please feel free to contact them with questions about the overall well-being of your child/ren.

### Interim Reports

We are also now coming to the end of the first assessment period of the school year and the Interim Report is a conservative indication of the progress and level of effort being made in this short space of time. In any school, academic work is seen as the priority and we challenge our students to work hard and set realistic targets based on their first Interim Report. On these reports, comments by staff are optional.



*Students preparing their reflective Report Comments*

### Photo Galleries

In order to share an insight into the various activities and events going on here at school, we are happy to announce that Luiza Cristina Madalozo dos Santos, a new student in Grade 10 who has joined us from Brasil (Portuguese spelling) has offered to create a photographic diary throughout the year and we will place these photo collages onto our website for your enjoyment.

### Winter Clothing

The recent cold spell, down to below zero degrees Celsius, reminds us of the need for students to bring appropriate clothing to school for the shorter colder days up to Christmas. Advent is a wonderful time in the village and around the lake, but you do have to dress appropriately – so please ensure your children have suitable clothing. The students have been issued the school coat now, which is a khaki overcoat designed to easily cover the uniforms and the whole student from head to boots/shoes. It is ideal for the

cold and wet weather and with the removable lining can be worn from October through to May.



*Our weather plunge from sailing to snowman building*

### Ready for New Activities

After C.A.S. Week our main activities turn to the land with orienteering and mountaineering starting in earnest. Clothing and shoes for these also need to be suitable.

Please note that our Snow Sports Programme will begin in Term 2, however, we would encourage those who can to bring their winter sports equipment so that it can be checked before Christmas. Equipment may be stored at school over the Christmas Holidays.

### Night of the Nobles

Following on from last year, we have arranged another Night of the Nobles, where students choose to dress as and represent a person of 'noble' character. Students and parents might want to plan a costume over C.A.S. Week and bring clothing and props back for what should be another memorable night on the school calendar.

### Upcoming Events

"Unexpected Solutions" Student Conference Series  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November

"Panto of the Opera" – School pantomime productions  
Week 15

"Winter Celebration" for students  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact us at any time.

**The Administration Team**

23.10.09

## PARENT NEWSLETTER 02 / 2009-2010

After the calm of summer, we are pleased to report a very positive start to the new school year.

### The Start to the Year

The staff and new student induction processes went very well and we were very pleased to see so many of the school community at the dinner in the Falkensteinsaal of the newly renovated Mozart House. It was wonderful to see all the positive energy after the summer and the welcome for the new students and staff.



New students viewing the Salzkammergut

### Settling in to the Residences

We would like to thank Mr Wadsworth (Boys') and Miss Varone (Girls') for the diligence and careful management of the boarding Residences at the start of the school year. Moving to school is often a challenge for students and the support of our boarding managers is highly valued, particularly in the first few weeks whilst students settle into routines.



A puzzle, representing part of the school community

### Academic Curriculum

**Confirmation of Class Placements** - Student Placement in Languages and Mathematics is provisional at the start of each year and we aim to maximise the learning opportunities for our students. Transfer between levels is possible throughout the year and the class levels are included in Interim and Term Reports to parents.

**IGCSE** - To provide an additional point of focus on academic preparation for the IB Diploma Programme, the school has introduced IGCSE examinations as an assessment tool in the core subjects of Mathematics, Coordinated Science, English and German. Students in our current Grade 9 have begun these courses which take two years. Grade 10 continue on their own specific IBDP preparation for the start of the programme next year.



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations

**IBO-DP** - We are committed to starting our first Grade 11 cohort studying for the International Baccalaureate Organisation Diploma Programme from September 2010. Our students are already preparing for the programme through our early adoption of the IB Learner Profile dispositions, the Personal Project in Grade 9 and in our C.A.S. Week.

Our IB Diploma Handbook will be made available to students and parents soon and a Parent Consultation Meeting is planned for the afternoon of Friday 18 December 2009, at the end of term when many parents may be in St. Gilgen. This information will also be available online for all students and parents.

### School Library and Media Centre (LMC)

We are delighted to introduce our new school librarian, Mrs Batthyany, to the school community. We are most pleased to have her support in the development of our book collections and other Information Literacy Resources; and her commitment brings more regularity to the services of the library for the students.

### Council of International Schools visit

This week we were visited by the Council of International Schools (CIS) of which we are a Regular Member. From this visit we are now planning our Self Study with the aim of gaining CIS Accreditation. More details of this process, including a parental online survey covering the whole spectrum of school life will be in our next Parent Newsletter. The online survey is scheduled to take place at the end of October.

### Activity Testing in Week 1

In the first week of term we test our students in a number of activities, including running, swimming and cycling. Below are the various swimming qualifications completed. In order to participate in other, specific activities on water we will ask parents to sign a permission slip.



Fahrtenschwimmer



Allroundschwimmer



Helferschein

### The Start of Personal Activities

In week two a whole array of Personal Activities has started including: StGIS Radio, Art, Tennis, M.U.N., Public Speaking, Rowing, Textile Design, Choir, Board Games, Year Book, Drama and Academic Support.

### Outdoor Adventure Weekend



Last weekend saw our students divided into three levels, with expeditions getting ever tougher for our older students. For the first time in the school's short history, our O.A.W. had warm and sunny weather and we can report successfully completed challenges at all levels.



High on the hills for the weekend

### Celebrating Student Successes

Duncan Donnay, Grade 10, won the local St. Gilgen Tennis Club annual championship in his age group for boys. Catalina Verjan was runner up in the girls' category and placed third in the ladies doubles with her sister Tatiana.

### School Contract

The School Contract for the School Year 2009-10 will be sent to you shortly. Kindly read and sign it as soon as possible and return it to the School Office.

### Calendar Events:

**Open Day** – Today, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September we held an Open Door Day designated for local families living around the Wolfgangsee.

**Exeat weekends** – some parents have asked for clarification of Exeat weekends. These weekends are designed into the rhythm of our school year to allow students to rest for a weekend. Exeats also allow boarders the opportunity of going home or to visit a friend or guardian. They are timed every two or three weeks, depending on other school commitments and usually start after activities on a Friday (at 18.00) and end on the Sunday evening (at 18.00) in time for the evening meal and in good time to prepare for the next academic week. The School Office should always have signed confirmation of family plans by the preceding Monday by fax or scanned by email.

**C.A.S. Week** – as outlined in our Student and Parent Handbook, students have three options for C.A.S. Week, with our main aim that they use the break purposefully and complete a reflective journal.

**End of Term** – will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 16.00. We expect all students to attend school until the official end of academic classes as important events will be taking place. The School Office should always have signed confirmation of travel arrangements by fax or scanned by email.

### Telephoning Students at School

Being a boarding school, we welcome the opportunities for students to contact parents on a regular basis by telephone and Skype. In addition parents of our boarding students should be aware that direct telephone calls to study bedrooms are possible. We do ask, however, that calls are made at appropriate times and not during Study Halls or after Bedtime.

Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact us at any time. Attached is the latest updated Student and Parent Handbook.

**The Administration Team**  
25.09.09

## PARENT NEWSLETTER 01/2009-2010

### SCHOOL LIFE

At the end of last year a letter was sent out by Mr Greulich, with an overview information about the 2009-2010 academic year and structure of the week. It stated:

*To support our holistic learning approach, I would like to remind parents and students about the development of our school week for the coming year. This year we had a five day academic week, an activity based Saturday (sometimes compulsory), and an open Sunday for the boarding students; in essence a seven day, boarding school programme. This will continue next year as our student and staff population grows, with the main difference being that our outdoor pursuits and activity programme will be more connected and spread across the Wednesday and the Saturday. This is made possible with the flexibility of moving a small number of academic classes between*

*the two days, allowing us to take advantage of the weather, season and the additional time available. The school will maintain a large number of 'exeat' weekends throughout the year when all students will be able to travel away between Friday evening and Sunday evening. These weekends are clearly marked on the annual calendar. We know that on occasion students will have commitments, (external sports leagues, artistic commitments or important family celebrations), and if we know of such commitments well in advance, we will try to accommodate them with permission for an 'exceptional exeat'.*

Please refer to our website for an updated Calendar.

### STAFF FOR 2009-2010

We would like to welcome all the Faculty and staff to the school, especially the new members; a number of whom have already arrived in St. Gilgen full of enthusiasm and are settling in and already making preparations for the start of the year. For your information they are:

Mr. Christopher Greulich	Headmaster
Mr. Martin Reeves	Director of Admissions and Acting Deputy Head
Miss Natalia Varone	Housemistress and E.A.L. Teacher
Mr. Kirk Wadsworth	Housemaster, Teacher of Technology and P.E.
<b>Faculty</b>	
Mr. Neil Bradley	Teacher of Mathematics
Mr Barret Fabris	Teacher of Geography and History
Miss Adelheid Gruber	Student Activities Co-ordinator and Teacher of Grade 5 German
Mrs. Angelika Kearey	Teacher of English and German
Mrs. Estelle Lefranc	Teacher of French
Miss Tanja Manners	Teacher of Mathematics and P.E.
Miss Claire Moore	Teacher of English and Theatre Studies
Mr. Philip Rees	Teacher of Science
Miss Beatrix Schmied	Teacher of Art and Boarding Tutor for Juniors
Mrs. Martha Sullivan	Teacher of Science
Miss Gemma Theyer	Grade 5 Teacher
Mr. Justin Wildridge	Teacher of Music
Miss Agnes Zauner	Teacher of German and Spanish
<b>Administration</b>	
Mrs. Claudia Reeves	P.A. to the Headmaster and Senior School Secretary
Mrs. Natascha Lohse	Business Administration and Human Resources
Miss Karina Leitner	Administrative Assistant
Mrs Anita Schleifer	Receptionist

## CURRICULUM

Starting in September we offer a new Grade 5 class and add two Grade 10 classes. The Grade 10 year is a pre-IB one preparing students for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

Our new Grade 9 students will now be prepared for IGCSE external examinations, in a number of core subjects including Mathematics, Integrated Science and Languages, which will be sat at the end of their Grade 10 in May 2011. These examinations are set by the University of Cambridge Centre for International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)).

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

With our extended core activities programme on Wednesdays and Saturdays, our younger students will continue to experience a range of activities whilst there will be opportunities for older students to develop specific talents in sports, skills and service.

The personal activities, mainly in the late afternoon, balance the core programme. Choices are made in consultation with each student's Mentor Tutor.

Attached to this newsletter are a **Core Activity Option Form**, which should be completed immediately and returned to the school, and a **What To Bring** list of for the Autumn Term. An opportunity to buy additional equipment and clothing will be provided for boarders at the end of the first week.

## BOARDING

This year we will continue to operate in two boarding residences with additional support being provided for our younger boarders.

The Girl's Residence – the "Ratz" – will be the responsibility of Miss Varone as *Housemistress* and the Boy's Residence – the "Altersheim" – will be managed by Mr. Wadsworth as *Housemaster*. To specifically support our youngest boarders we have appointed Miss Schmied as full-time *Boarding Tutor with responsibility for Juniors*.

Day students are also allocated to the relevant residence and are expected to abide by the expectations of the School and of each Residence, as set by the Housemaster/mistress. All of our academic staff also have a role as Evening Tutors in the residences, supporting students.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

**Students will be required to wear the school uniform for classes, sports and activities, unless otherwise indicated.** Therefore boarders should not bring an excessive amount of personal clothing.

The school has now appointed a new school uniform supplier who is developing an online shop. For this September we will continue to provide a personalised measurement service at the school for uniform orders. The sizing of all items will take place in the days leading up to and during the first days of school. Day students are encouraged to already arrange a suitable time within the next two weeks. A bulk order will then be placed and delivered promptly to the school.

Further orders may then be made using the online shop provided by our German supplier which will be linked to our school website.

The requirements for the uniforms are attached and individual items and their costs may already be viewed on the supplier's website. Returning students may use uniform items from last year if they still fit.

Items such as socks and shoes should be purchased prior to the start of school. Until the arrival of the uniform, the dress code is going to be **smart casual** and in line with the general nature of the uniform.

Items for the colder months may be purchased later, bearing in mind the physical growth of the students. Boarders will be able to have their uniform delivered directly to the school.

## START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

***Please note the following dates for the start of the new academic year:***

*Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September*  
*New boarding students*

*Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September*  
*All boarding students to have arrived by 18:00hrs*  
*(please provide information for necessary*  
*airport/train station transfers to the school office)*

*Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September*  
*The first day of school for all students*

See you all soon!

***The Administration Team***

