



ST. GILGEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
AUSTRIA

NEWSLETTERS

PARENT NEWSLETTER 05 / 2010



*Perfect conditions on the morning of our Snow Day!*

**SNOW DAY**

We thought we might be in luck with this year's Snow Day as, for the three days prior to Wednesday,

St Gilgen experienced perfect 'Winter Wonderland' snowfall and intermittent clear blue skies. Unfortunately, our luck ran out an hour before the long awaited ski races began as the snow turned to rain.

Conditions were not ideal to say the least, and concentration and technique were the order of the day.

We are very happy and proud to report that our students and staff remained motivated and did StGIS proud. All the students deserve recognition for their efforts however, we would like to particularly congratulate the students who won prizes for first place in the following categories:

Fastest boy	<b>Josias Waldeck</b>
Fastest girl and fastest overall	<b>Anna Leitner</b>
Fastest Junior	<b>Rike Heindl</b>

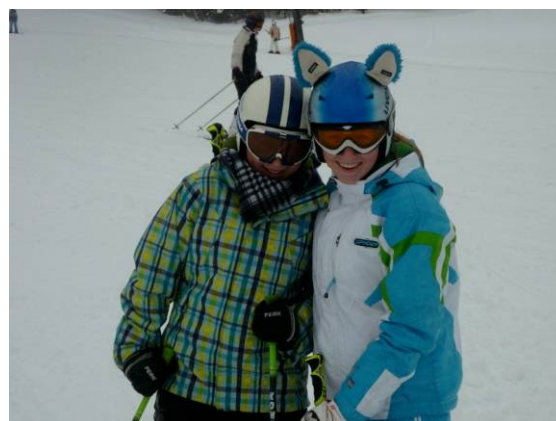
*Most consistent times after two runs:*

Boys	<b>Giorgi Gelashvili</b>
Girls	<b>Harper Vickery</b>
Juniors	<b>Lukas Leitner</b> (who used his ski chair with father Norbert Leitner)

*Most consistent House including day students*

House	<b>Boys</b>
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**WELL DONE TO ALL!**



***Congratulations to Anna Leitner (left) and Anna Davidhazy for most original helmet!***



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## *The Importance Of Being Earnest*

Performances: **Tuesday** 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7pm  
**Wednesday** 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm  
**Wednesday** 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm

We are very happy to report that there will be a Spring Theatre Performance of "*The Importance of being Earnest*" written by **Oscar Wilde**.

Tickets will be available to purchase from the Reception as of the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**Adults** 5 EURO

**Children** 3 EURO

We very much hope you will be able to attend, and look forward to welcoming you to what is promising to be a highly accomplished performance of this wonderful comedy spectacular.

### **Important 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 per fax or, scanned signature via e-mail on the preceding Monday of an Exeat weekend.** if boarding students are leaving. We need to know what the travel arrangements are. Student pickups are allowed as of 18:00 hours.

### **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.

### **The Long Weekend**

The reason for the Long weekend in February is that many International and British Schools usually have a short holiday break during the month of February. The school will be closed during the long weekend and we encourage all students to return to their respective families. We do, however, appreciate that due to long distance travel – this may not always be possible, therefore, some students spend this time with the families of other students or, if a student has to remain in their Boarding Residence then we will arrange suitable activities.



**Congratulations to Josias (left) & Lukas with father Norbert**

### **Upcoming Events**

Long weekend	11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2010
Helmut Pichler	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2010
Outdoor Adventure	27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> February
Skiteufel	13 <sup>th</sup> March
"TIOBE"	23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> March
Easter Ceremony	26 <sup>th</sup> March
MUN	26 <sup>th</sup> -

**The Administration Team**  
05.02.10



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### 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.

#### 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.



*Students writing Report Comments in the Soft Space*

#### Interim Reports

We are also now coming to the end of the first assessment period of the school year with students busy completing summative assessments and tests. 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. These Reports are posted home over C.A.S. Week.

#### Curriculum Development

Over the last six weeks our Faculty have been busy developing their courses for the new school year. In particular a lot of work has gone into planning our new Grade 5 and 10 classes.

During C.A.S. Week we have allocated Faculty time to prepare for the planned introduction of the I.B.O. Diploma Programme, which we are committed to offer from September 2010.

#### C.A.S. Week

Our student half term break is called C.A.S. Week (Creativity, Action, Service) as we expect students to learn during the week from their various activities and keep a reflective journal 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.

#### Winter Clothing

The recent cold spell in St. Gilgen 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 but you do have to dress appropriately – so please ensure your children have appropriate clothing (such as ski clothing), including the school coat.

We also encourage those that 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.



October's unseasonable early snow

#### Night of the Nobles

Following on from last year, we have arranged another Night of the Nobles, so 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.



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### Core Activities

As the late summer and early autumn activities of sailing and rowing come to an end, it is important to reflect on how well our rowers and sailors have developed their skills since the summer. With the additional talents of our new students we now look forward to entering more competitions in the Spring Term.

After C.A.S. Week our main activities turn to the land with orienteering, hill-walking and mountaineering starting in earnest. We value our location and take advantage of the opportunities created.

### Personal Activities

Integrated into daily programmes are a number of diverse activities from which students may choose. This term we have started a number of new activities including Radio Club and Public Speaking.

### Music and The School Choir

All of our students (and staff!) are being prepared to take part in a Whole School Choir who will perform in St. Gilgen for the opening of the Advent Market in late November.

Over 70% of our students are involved in individually learning a musical instrument in our extra-curriculum programme.

### 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).

Our students represented the school with enthusiasm, with Sonja-Maria Zobel winning the Women's under 20 5.2 km category race.

Three racers completed the full 27 km category and three teams completed the 42.2 km team category.



*Running in the Wolfgangseelauf*

### Admissions

October has been a very busy month in Admissions as we have welcomed two new students. We are delighted to report very strong interest from new students, which have included a number of trial days.

We would also like to thank our students for their help in welcoming new students and visitors and to report the many compliments we receive over our students' behaviour both within the school park and the village of St. Gilgen.

### Student Travel Arrangements

Please ensure you consult the school calendar before making student travel arrangements. The school asks for confirmation of travel arrangements in good time. For Exeat weekends we need to know by the preceding Monday and for the start and finish of term we need two weeks' notice in which to prepare, for example, taxi arrangements to and from Salzburg.

### Upcoming Events

"Unexpected Solutions" Student Conference – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November

"Panto of the Opera" – School pantomime productions in 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**  
20.10.09



ST. GILGEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
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## PARENT NEWSLETTER 02 / 2009-2010

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

### School Induction

For new and returning Faculty the school year starts earlier than for our students with a lot of preparation for the new academic year. We are pleased to report that new staff completed their induction, including a team building boating activity. New students had an easier induction, enjoying a trip on the Schafburg mountain railway.



*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*

### 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 class levels are included in Interim and Termly Reports to parents.

**IGCSE** - To provide a strong 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.

Our current Grade 10 are also strongly focussed on their pre-IB studies and as a trial this year, selected students from our current Grade 10 will be invited to sit examinations in Mathematics set by the University of Cambridge International Examinations.



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.

### Council of International Schools visit

Last 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.

### School Library and Media Centre (LMC)

We are delighted to introduce our new librarian, Mrs Batthyany, to the school community. Our library grows ever larger and further book donations are always welcomed. The new opening times are on display for students and parents are also welcome.



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**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. In order to participate in certain activities on water we 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**

Attached with this newsletter is the School Contract for the School Year 2009-10. Kindly read and sign it as soon as possible and return it to the School Office.

**Upcoming Calendar Events:**

**Open Day** – On 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



ST. GILGEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
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**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



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## 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 Schmieid 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***