



**Stille Nacht**  
A time for reflection

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and healthy 2011



# Reflect and rejoice



A term of achievements on all levels

Dear School Community,

As we approach the Festive Season this is rightly a time for reflection, thanksgiving and celebration. At St. Gilgen International School we have so much to be thankful for and many achievements to recognise.

As the Headmaster of this remarkable school I feel nothing but pride in all we have experienced together. There have been some marvelous individual achievements, often from unsung heroes who go above and beyond expectation quietly behind the scenes. These matter just as much as the high-profile successes. Just as importantly, we have worked well as a team, with the whole school community pulling together to attain excellence. I owe a debt of gratitude to everyone in our school and I hope I never take this exceptional commitment for granted.

Our school is thriving. Demand for places has never been higher. I have personally observed many classes this term and the quality of teaching is the strongest I have ever experienced. The new students and new staff have settled remarkably well, our charitable fundraising has been humbling, our activity programme continues to be enriched and our expeditions planned for summer 2011 will not be bettered anywhere in the world.

When I came to St. Gilgen I could see that this school had the potential to be one of the truly outstanding centres of learning in Europe. Through exceptional academic challenge, discipline, courage and personal growth we will help to create involved, active, spiritually aware and highly educated world citizens. I believe we have made measurable progress towards attaining this goal in the last six months, but the best is still to come. With the exciting plans we are now putting in place, the future looks even more exceptional.

I thank each and every member of our learning community for your personal contribution this year and wish you a wonderful holiday with your family and friends.



Michael Chapman  
Headmaster

# A cuppa with: Dr. Wildridge

## Where did you grow up?

South of London in a green sleepy hollow called Dorking.

## What are you listening to?

Last album was by Black Country Communion.

## Who is your inspiration and why?

I think I take inspiration from many different sources; not all of them human. My environment is extremely important to me, which is why we moved here. There are many people I admire or find creatively stimulating including Charles Bukowski, Peter Gabriel, Alex Ross, Robin Holloway, Gerald Finzi, Marion Molteno, Adrienne Rich to name but a few.

## A movie that moves you

Iris

## Your perfection on a plate

Really well cooked Indian food or fresh fish cooked with garlic, butter and herbs in foil.

## When I was a kid I wanted to be...

Grown up! And, of course a great musician.

## What makes you smile?

My children playing together

## A mantra you like to live by

Try to live each day as if it were your last

## What are you hungry to learn?

Almost everything, if only there were the time...

## Three famous people for dinner

Jesus, Mozart and John Lennon

## Ever slept at an airport?

Yes, Heraklion airport on the island of Crete. I was on the last leg of a six week inter railing trip with two school friends. We had run out of money and time and were more than a little travel sick. Our flight was delayed for a couple of days so we were stuck in a cramped, humid and increasingly smelly airport lounge. No food was provided and water only arrived a day after we'd been there. Needless to say we survived and on arriving at Gatwick ate a meal like we'd never enjoyed food before.



Dorking. Not entered for the European Town of Culture for the 20th year running.



Chicken to ride: John Lennon and a good curry.





## By Molly Rennie

### What's cool about your town?

Something cool about my town is that everyone knows each other, so when you pass each other on the street you can always say hi, because everyone is really friendly and most of the time, you know the person.

### What type of things can you do there?

It's the perfect place to go on a day outing. You could go to the park, eat at a café or restaurant or take a peaceful walk with your friends and family.

### What would you recommend for a tourist?

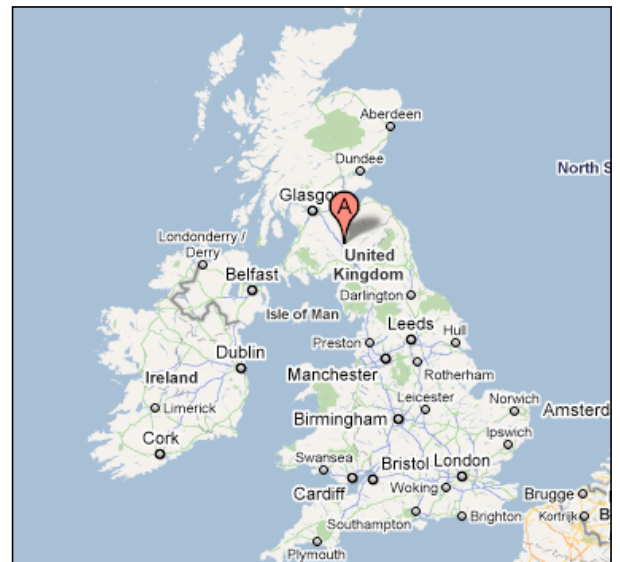
Firstly, I would recommend tourists to go to Station Park, a small park with a small pond that you could go paddle-boating in, and it has a small water play area for the children in the summer. Secondly, I would recommend to go on a few walks around and in Moffat, even on rainy days the views are to die for. Lastly, I would recommend tourists to go to 'Arieties' café. It's the best café that Moffat has and is filled with great snacks, lunches and hot drinks for those cold days.

### Anything interesting or strange that people might not know?

In Moffat, there is a small cliff side called the beef tub. This is where animal Steelers used to hide their cattle, because cattle can not climb up the steep side, and then throughout the night there would be no risk of the animals escaping, or someone taking them.

### Good food and cool shops?

Moffat is famous for its 'Moffat Toffee', which every tourist in Moffat HAS to try. This is found in the Moffat toffee shop, the place where all the children buy their candy. There are no 'cool shops' for clothes etc. in Moffat, but the view and town in total makes up for that.



Would you like to write something about your home?  
Answer the same questions and email them to Mr. Wren.

# Room for improvement...

*Designing a new visual identity to make the Best, better.*



*Out with the old, and in with the new - students have been getting a taste of life in the branding world with a project focused on giving Best Western a fresh new look and feel.*

The goal with ICDT is to make the workshops and classes as close to a creative agency setting as possible. Each project starts with a realistic brief from the 'client', some are easy to work out, some are a little more tricky, just like the clients! Each 'agency' then gets together to work out a strategy as to how the brief should be tackled, who will do what and how they will go about it with Art Directors, Designers, Project Managers and Copywriters. The deadlines are set, miss the deadline and lose the client! It's healthy competition as the agencies go head-to-head to win the pitch, whilst learning conceptual and practical skills at the same time.



So, the goal, get rid of the tired looking 'drinks coaster' Best Western logo and replace it with something fresh, inviting, attractive and contemporary for the largest hotel group in the world. After research and workshops with the Adobe Creative Suite, the 'agencies' were able to get a feel for how the process works in an agency setting, although, they were not forced to wear black from head to toe, drink coffee all day, debate the iPad and Twitter, work until 2am and then catch the 5.40am flight to Zurich to pitch to the client...that's the next project!

It wasn't a case of simply designing a new logo, agencies got 'stuck in' to the values and target market of Best Western: What look and feel would reflect the organisation? How do we communicate a Unique Selling Point with a visual identity? Tough tasks but always with creative solutions.





Ivan, Ernst and Noah. Agency: Power



Maike, Rike, Connie and Molly. Agency: Fire



Being creative does not mean you need to draw photo-real sketches or produce the Mona Lisa on Photoshop. In ICDT creativity is very much about ideas, lightbulb moments, putting heads together over a stack of A3 paper and doodling - before the computer come the concepts.

Design agencies, congratulations, you should be very proud of yourselves. Super presentations, even better results. Get ready for a very productive 2011, during which a few selected students from years 9 and 10 will get the chance to visit global advertising agencies in London and experience the buzz of the creative world first hand.

Mr. Wren  
Design

# Eye on the ball

On the 9th of November 22 of the STGIS's finest athletes set off to compete in the DVAC Soccer tournament hosted by American International School Vienna. The competition was fierce and Team B lost their first game 8 to 0.

Team A also came up short losing their first match 1 – 0. With plenty to play for and one last chance, Team A took to the field once again with a new determination. In the first few minutes Sergio Gomez found the back of the net with a powerful left foot goal. Unfortunately for us the opposition hit back twice to steal the game 2 – 1.

Best player of the tournament went to Artemy with an honorable mention to Mikhail for his courage under fire in the last lines of defence.

The defeats came as a tough lesson to learn for our developing squad who are well on their way to becoming a very strong team!

Mr. House  
P.E



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# A solution for pollution!

Congratulations to all of the Grade 5/6 students for their wonderful participation in Greenheart and the Dragon Pollutant. The play was brilliant and the cast were fabulous! A special thank-you to Miss Moore for her wonderful directing and also to Miss Theyer for the wonderful idea and creativity with the props.

Mrs. House  
Year 5



## Book yourself in!

Christmas has come early for the library this year with the delivery of a palette of new books for your reading pleasure! There are books for every taste, with a mix of non-fiction and fiction titles.

Also, having trouble deciding on a book to read? We now have recommended book boxes in the library with reads carefully chosen by StGIS teachers. Mr Reynolds, Mrs Fisher, Ms Cicero and Ms Moore's selections are currently featured, so come on up and have a peak at their choices. You may just find your new favourite book!

Finding resources for your assignments can be time consuming if you do not know your way around the non-fiction section. Here is a quick tip to help you find what you are looking for:

- World Religions - 200s
- Human Geography - 300s, Physical Geography 900s
- Economics - 300s (particularly 330-339)
- Language dictionaries, thesaurus' etc - 400s
- Poetry and Literature plus guides to help with analysis - 800s
- Mathematics - 510-519
- Physics - 530-539
- Chemistry - 540-549
- Biology - 570-579
- Art, Music and Sport - 700s
- Theatre - 800s (particulary 812s and 822s)
- History - 900s



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## Peak performance

*It's not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves - Sir Edmond Hillary*

Over the next two years, a small team of budding Alpinists will embark on a journey of discovery. During the two year project, team members will scale ice falls, cross crevasse fields and summit over seven 4000m peaks, including the highest mountain in the Alps – Mont Blanc.

Local mountain guides and a few axe wielding staff members will lead the team during this unique adventure and over the next few weeks, the student climbing team will be announced. The first hurdle for team members will be an intensive winter mountaineering course due to take place high in the Dachstein in February next year. Onwards and upwards!

Mr. Wadsworth  
Head of Boarding



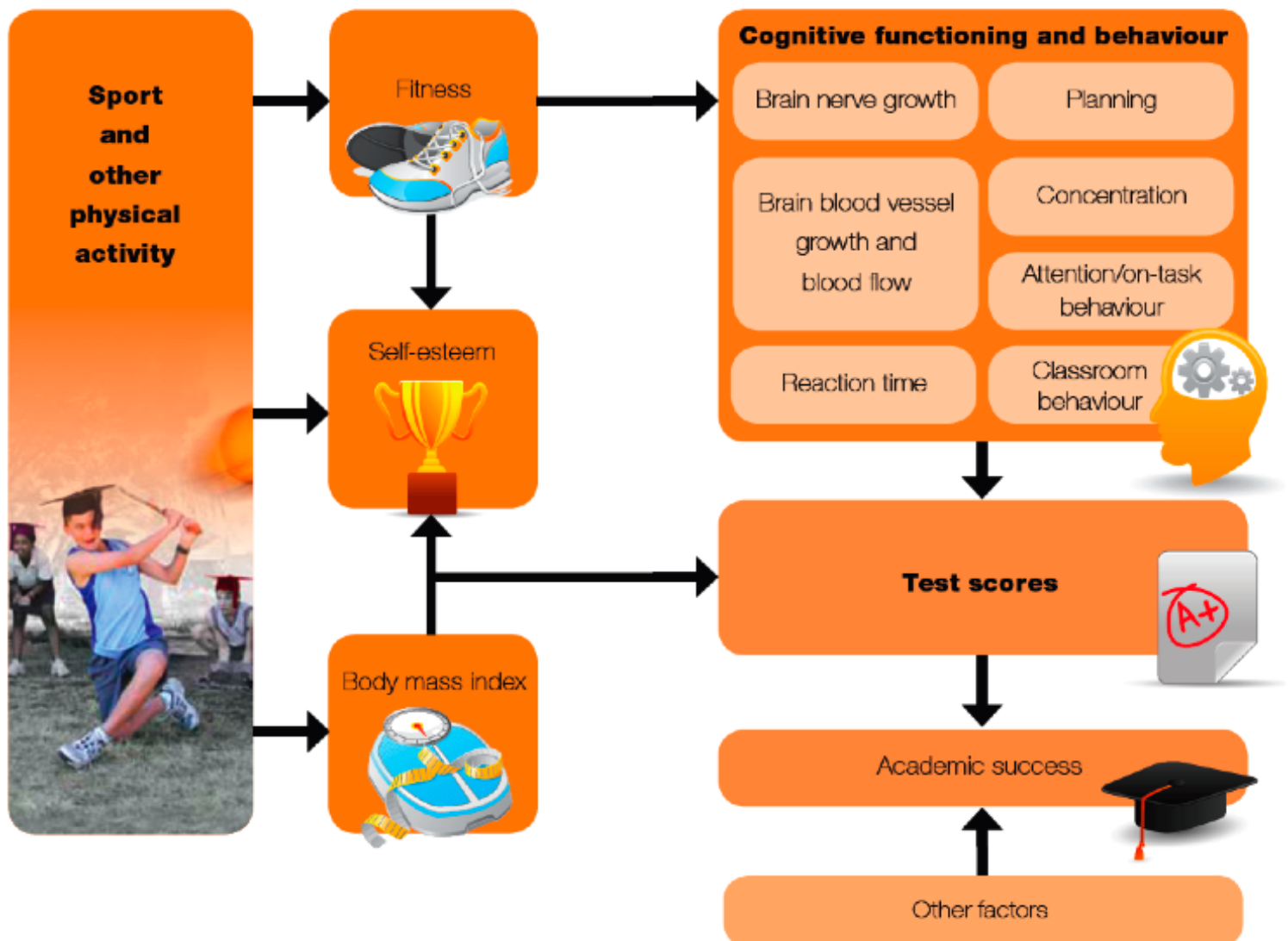
# Move to learn!

The linkages between physical activity and academic performance are becoming ever more clear in light of the current research. A short summary of this research (taken from Martin, K. 2010, 'Brain boost: Sport and Physical Education Enhance Children's Learning', The University of Western Australia.) is provided below.

- Physical activity is a significant predictor of academic achievement when controlling for other variables.
- Body mass index, diet and physical activity explained up to 24% of the variance in academic achievement when controlling for gender, parental education, family structure and absenteeism.
- Physical activity and physical capacity are significantly positively related to scholastic rating
- There is a significant positive relationship between physical activity and cognitive functioning in children
- Academic learning per unit of class time is enhanced in physically-active children.

Of course there is no substitute for a rigorous and proactive approach to your studies. However like all things, balance is the key. For further reading on this subject or related please e-mail [j.house@stgis.at](mailto:j.house@stgis.at)

## In the meantime... Get out, Get Active & Get Good Grades!





ST. GILGEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
AUSTRIA

Presents...

# SHERLOCK HOLMES

**Performances:**

Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December at 7:30pm

Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at 2:30pm and 7:30pm

**Venue:**

St Gilgen Kino

**Ticket price:** 5 Euro children/ students, 7 Euro adults from  
St Gilgen International School or at the venue on the  
evening.



## Saints on Show (SOS)

On November 13th the St Gilgen student and staff community came together to help raise money for the Africa Challenge. The SOS event was designed by the students in the Creative Arts Event Management group and was a great success. Over 50 students attended the 'Final Judgement' teacher auction and competition- it was great fun!

The SOS leadership team of Luiza, Max, Paul and Luis would like to expressly thank The Post Hotel for the use of their kitchen and for their support in preparing the food for the evening, it was a real highlight. We would also like to thank the Wirt Am Gries for donating the disco ball!

All students and staff should be very proud of their efforts as this event raised over 1300 Euro for the Africa Project - well done!!!





# Good Hope to The Cape

To support our commitment to developing socially aware global citizens, St. Gilgen International School will be taking a team to South Africa in the summer of 2011 to work with the schools for whom we have been fund-raising. This will be the experience of a lifetime and we will make a small difference whilst we are there.

We will be in KwaZulu-Natal for 10 days from 14th to 28th July, flying direct to Durban on the east coast. Whilst there we will be working directly with the Fundanami Trust – the literacy charity we have been fund-raising for – and local village schools.

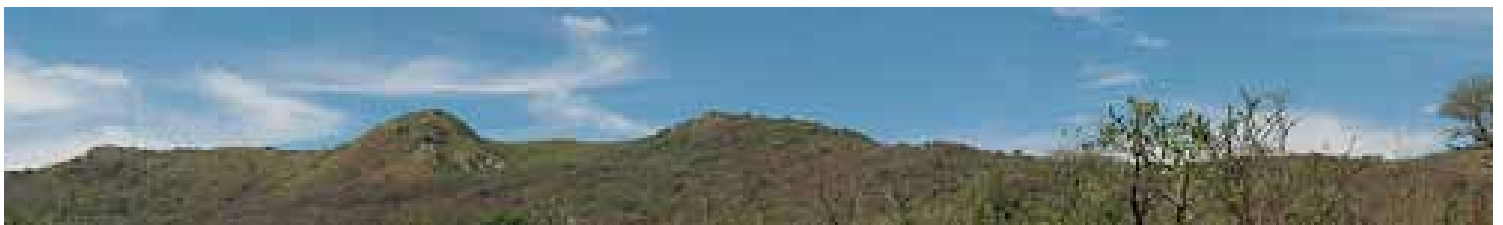
This trip will change perspectives on the world as Africa touches your heart like no other place. Students will meet wonderfully generous people who have nothing but who want to give you everything. They will see the beauty of Africa as we will be away from the cities and in the African bush. What is certain is that students will return a changed person. For IBDP students, this is as good as it gets for CAS and university applications.

Whilst in South Africa we will be based in the Salt Rock Hotel on the Indian Ocean on the Dolphin Coast. This is a stunning location. We will have a small bus / driver for the duration of the visit.

Our three foci for the visit will be as follows :

Firstly, intensive reading tuition with primary school children, working in pairs with a KZN student who can carry on when we leave. We will train our students to become basic Literacy teachers during preparation. Secondly, there are already plans for a mid year concert to raise funds for the literacy programme in the 6 schools we will be working with. Our group from Austria will offer 2 or 3 items. Literacy through Dance and Drama is a great model.

Continued...



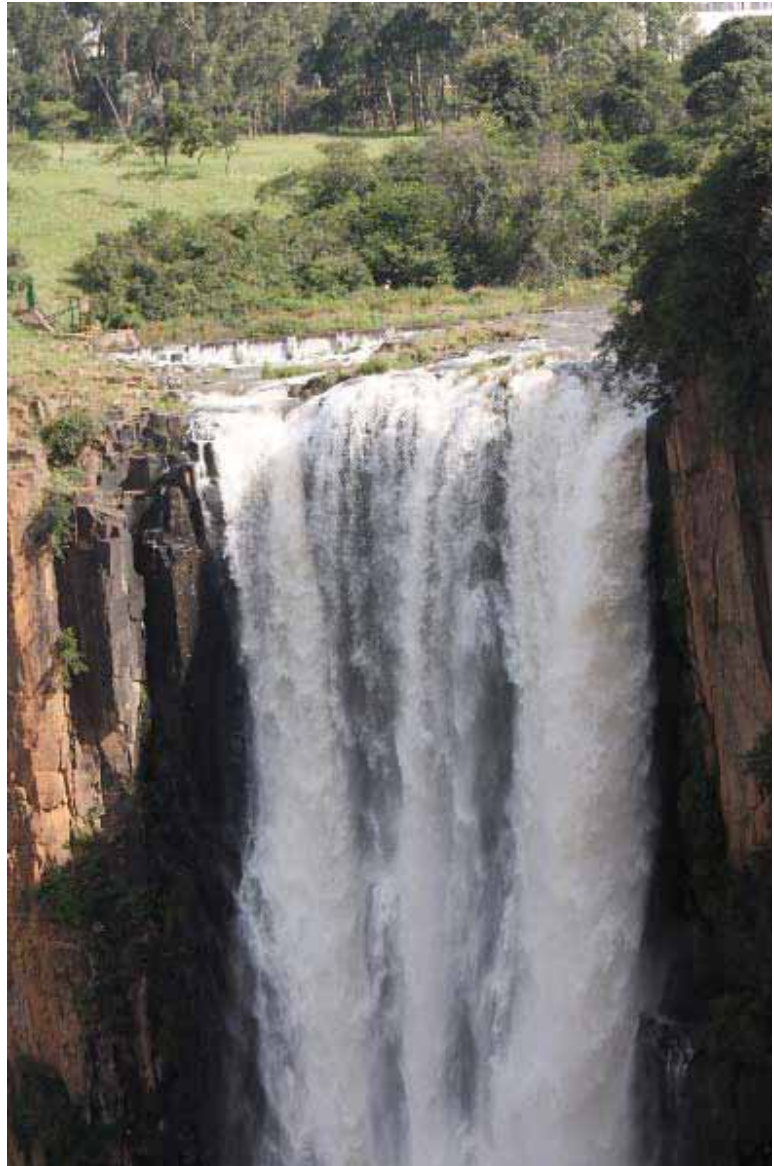
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Thirdly, the creation of local teaching material for weak readers in secondary school. There is a complete absence of age-appropriate material so we will run a 2 day workshop with KZN students to produce simple stories or news-based material. This will also help future children.

At the end we will do a safari with local guides and sleep under African stars. This will be a safari with a difference.

Further information from Mr. Chapman who will personally lead this exciting expedition.

Mr. Chapman  
Headmaster





## Set in stone!

The creative arts team of Miss Lamont, Rhian, Alex, Bella, and Freya have been working tirelessly to create amazing sets for the upcoming production of Sherlock Holmes. They have created the Gaslight Alley scene with a stunning view of Ye Olde London Town and an interesting backdrop for 221B Baker Street.

Look out for some special guest appearances from some of your favorite StGIS staff and personalities! The production team, cast and crew send a big thank-you to the creative team for designing and creating these wonderful sets. Without the special expertise of Miss Lamont and her team we couldn't put on such amazing shows!

Ms. Davey

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## Total support

Trust was the theme in the Radetzky this week and the Senior Girls, Miss Murphy and Mr and Mrs House all took a leap of faith into the arms of our housemates. It is comforting to know, in true St. Gilgen International School style that no matter who you are, where you are from, what language you speak, what grade level you are in... when you need it most there will be someone there to support, encourage (and catch) you.

I have come to know this as a real hallmark of the senior girls at STGIS and have seen more examples of selfless kindness to others than I could document. Here's a great shot of the trust games in action!

Mr. House  
Radetzky Housemaster





## Making a song and dance

On the 23rd of November the Grade 7 Drama class performed their ensemble generated performances of 'Brick in the Wall' and 'Pack Up.' These performances were a culmination of 11 weeks of work on ensemble play building skills. Students had to demonstrate skills of cooperation, communication, problem solving and trust and performed in front of a small supportive audience. Congratulations to Rike, Maike, Ernst, Corrine, Molly, Noah and Ivan you all did a wonderful job!!!

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## It's snow problem as Kendler melts

*Ratz Media - Fair and Balanced News, 24 hours a day - 7 days a week (Excluding Monday mornings)*

St. Gilgen, this small and tranquil Austrian oasis of charm and delight had a rather different look and feel on Monday 29th November. The rebel troops based at The Kendler came under a sustained attack of snowballs from the strong and vastly superior Ratz, Altersheim and Radetzky houses. John Simpson (BBC News) was on the front line and gave us this comment:

"The Kendler rebels stood no chance. Snow came in from every angle, never before have I seen such a well organised and perfectly planned exercise. The leader of the Kendler does have experience in this field, but on this occasion his men were reduced to boys with nowhere to run, it was text book. I've been in some dangerous places in my time, and all I have to say is this wasn't one of them. Although, to give the Kendler 'troops' credit, they did manage to fire some hastily put together snowballs. In the end though, it was about as effective as a chocolate fire guard. Now I really must go, I think I've left my trousers in the press back at the hotel."

Commander House, who seemed rightfully delighted with this well-led ambush, said: "I'm rightfully delighted with this well led-ambush, and you can quote me on that if you like." Don't tell us what to print, Commander House.



## Volleyball well on-track

The girl's volleyball team had a successful fall term, highlighted by a trip to Budapest where the girls finished 2-2, including an amazing come-from behind win over arch-rival International Christian School of Vienna, and a 15-0 thrashing of Danube International School. Luiza Madalozo served fourteen straight times for the Saints, and the girls celebrated in true volleyball style by eating doughnuts afterwards, in honor of keeping their opponents at "0."

After a few more weeks of practice and a friendly match against the teachers, the girls traveled to Salzburg to play in an end of the year friendly against International Christian School of Vienna and the American International School of Salzburg. The girls played their best volleyball of the year, but came up a bit short in their matches. Despite missing players and dealing with injuries, the girls showed great determination and fight in the last match against AIS-Salzburg, one of the best teams in Austria, and lost a tough second set 28-26.

The season will conclude with a friendly match against the boy's soccer team, as everyone looks forward to summer term and getting outside for beach volleyball!

Mr. Reynolds

# WARNING

There will be fantastic gifts and delicious food available at the StGIS Christmas Bazaar. If you do not want to take advantage of this opportunity to pick up some great gifts or festive treats, please ignore this advert. You have been warned.

The StGIS Christmas Bazaar.  
16th December 12pm-6pm, Soft Space. See you there?





# The A-Team!

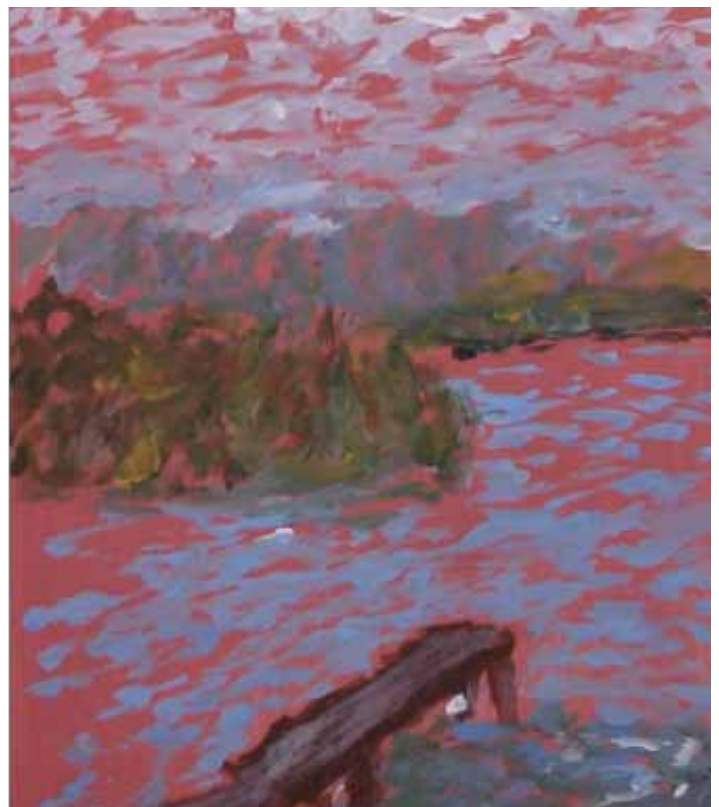
Major May

Alpine Art Club (AAC)

Each Wednesday at 1600 hours an intrepid Band of Brothers (and Sisters) deploys in a convoy of Landrovers from StGIS. Their mission is simple: to Seek out, Observe and Capture... the beautiful scenery around St. Gilgen.

Armed with paintbrush, easel and palette and following in the footsteps of Van Gogh, the A Team have about one hour to complete their mission. Their Commanding Officer, Major May, is clearly impressed with his team's performance: "Note that all these paintings are completed on the spot, in about an hour, in all weathers..."

So, if you love the outdoors, have a sense of adventure and enjoy painting, why not sign-up at your local recruiting office (the Creative Arts fair) or speak to The Major directly. Next term, the A Team will be progressing onto oil painting (indoors on Wednesdays) and then back into the outdoors on weekend excursions.





## UNbelievable Berlin!

Seven MUNers have returned from a triumphant tour of Berlin where they came, they saw and they debated. The theme of the Berlin MUN this year was illicit trade, which amounts to between seven and ten percent of the world's economy. Delegates were asked to think about how to halt illicit trade, considering issues of regulating the small arms trade, eliminating the trade in endangered species, combating human trafficking and illicit financial transactions and assessing the social, political and economic factors which foster such illicit trade.

For this MUN conference, St. Gilgen was represented on a number of committees and also represented a number of interested groups. Yara Gomha was the ambassador for the World Bank where our delegates sat in the general committees; her opening speech was electrifying and earned a well-deserved round of applause. Yara also passed a resolution as Co-Submitter for Regulating the Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in her Disarmament Committee. Kerstin Fuertrath was one of the select few chosen from a number of top delegates to consider whether the narcotics trade should be legalised; she bravely chose to represent China.

Kerstin's group created recommendations about legalising narcotics and 11 of the 13 clauses of her group's recommendations were used for the final resolution, which passed when debated in the General Assembly. Kerstin tells us that once again, the People's Republic of China succeeded and is closer than ever to taking over the world. Michele Haindl ably represented the Peruvian interests in the EcoSoc committee; although Peru and Italy's resolution sadly didn't pass, Michele integrated all her clauses in other resolutions and created compromises with countries such as Saudi Arabia, France and Slovakia to create a great resolution on how to re-integrate victims of human trafficking.

Part of the reason the St. Gilgen delegates were so awesome was because they were fed and housed in five star style and we would really like to say "thank you so much" to the Hübners for generously allowing us to stay in the fabulous Zoo Hotel right on the Kurfürstendamm. This top position allowed us to see some super Berlin sights and was just a hop, skip and a jump away from the amazing KaDeWe department store. On Sunday, while the girls were busy catching up on school-work, the boys decided to see some Berlin sights and trundled around looking at the Reichstag, the Brandenburger Tor, the Denkmal Für Die Ermordeten Juden Europas and go up the Fernsehturm to look down upon the city they had conquered through the MUN forums!

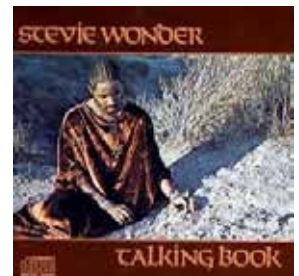
Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and on Sunday night we flew back to Salzburg where we were all very pleased and grateful to see Mr. Campbell ready to pick us up. All in all, we had a really super time and are looking forward to coming back to Berlin again so that we too can say 'Wir sind Berliners'!



## Beady eyed girls!

Many thanks to Mrs. Fischleder for organising a super jewellery making session for the Altersheim girls. A veritable buffet of beads, and possibly some Christmas presents resulting from it!

## top five



Students and staff, what are your top fives? It can be anything, food, movies, music, places...send yours to [j.wren@stgis.at](mailto:j.wren@stgis.at). To get things rolling, here are Mr.Wren's top 5 albums of all time. Send yours in today!

# Ratz Boyz Newz

Busy times for the Ratz boys with an action-packed first term about to come to a close. The atmosphere is homely with a real close-knit feel. Each of the five boys are even more self-reliant, showing great initiative and leadership. I'm very proud of the way in which they go about their day and the fine young men that they already are. Particular kudos goes to Aaron, Christian and Ivan who as new students have adapted to life here at StGIS wonderfully.

Ivan, our official Russian chocolate supplier, Christian who has aimed to make his room look like a Danish department store at Christmas, job done! Ernst, the house 'elder' with the world's most organised desk, Aaron the pancake chef and Noah who reads his catalogue about mountain bikes every day of the week. Note to parents, their rooms have been consistently clean and tidy, they are **sure** to continue this trend when they come home for Christmas, and 100% promise to help you guys in the kitchen...

On behalf of myself, Mrs. Wren and Mr. Campbell we would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and super start to 2011.



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## Mrs. House and Co.

First term is coming to an end and it is important that we reflect on what our class has achieved. If we were to create a Mantra about our classroom it would be that our learning is fun; it is about spirited laughter, smiling faces and inquisitive minds.

This term we have done some amazing things!

From synagogues to house shoes and stopping at all stations we vow to leave no stone unturned in our investigative quests.

We have been so busy this term working on many wonderful projects. We have visited the Jewish Synagogue in Vienna for our World Religion class, created a google map of St. Gilgen in Geography, explored the highs and lows of adolescence through 'The Diary of a Wimpy Kid' in Literacy, cooked ourselves up a storm in Numeracy and designed some comfy house shoes for ICDT.

This may seem like a strange and wonderful array of activities to some people... but not to us in grade five. For us there is something amazing to learn and explore in every step of our STGIS life!

Mrs. House





## Ice, Ice Baby!

On Sunday, November 30, the ladies of the Altersheim braved the chilling temperatures for a day of outdoor adventure in Salzburg. Ice skating and savouring the festive delights of the advent market were firmly on the agenda. The fortunate Salzburg bystanders at the Eisarena viewed a unique and engaging performance of 'Altersheim on Ice'. It is accurate and fair to say that the overall performance of the house was at the very least as entertaining as the Red Bull ice hockey team. The ladies glided onto the ice with amazing grace and finesse. Diana made a dazzling and effortlessly performance as she travelled around the ice. Maike, Corinne, Rike, and Rowan followed suit with an equal amount of style and fashion. Kami entertained us all with her impressive repertoire of skating formations.

Carmen displayed her level of skillfulness ice skating with an inordinate amount of confidence and smiles. The three M musketeers (Marsha, Molly and Mira) and Alex had fun revising the art of skating, being a little rusty on their triple spins and lifts at first. Little Millie and Daisy were not far behind in ability, rating very high as if it was X factor.

In comparison, Ms Hawkins and Mrs May, beginner skaters, looked a little unstable and unsure. Heidi and Ms Hawkins tied for the 'Bumper Car' award as they both had close encounters with the cold, hard truth of ice.

Major concussions avoided, we all had a splendid time sauntering around the Christmas markets with the twinkling lights and glittery snow. As the day drew to a close we enjoyed walking through Mirabel gardens and revisited some of the verses from the Sound of Music. The temperatures tumbled and catching the first glimpse of our transport home was a welcomed sight indeed. As the snow fell we all embraced the opportunity to warm up and recount the events of a fantastic day out.

"It was so much fun and icy. I fell one time and by then I learned 'Life is like ice skating – you slip when you don't stay on the track'" – Rike

Mrs. May

IB Theatre Art Presents...

*'Perspectives'*

A series of monologues and duologues  
that explore the human condition

WHEN:  
LIVE AT THE LAKE  
SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm  
start.

WHERE: THE SOFT SPACE  
COST: FREE ENTRY -  
PARENTS WELCOMED.

STARRING:  
MAX WIESER  
MICHELE HAINDL  
SONJA ZOBEL  
LUIZA MADALOZO