



Director's Message

Ralf Gabriel

Dear Parents and friends of the Victoria German School,

The new school year is in full swing; children, parents and teachers have slowly settled into the routine. I am happy to let you know that we are starting the new school year with an increase in student numbers - at least when looking at the classes for children: We have 80 students registered in our classes, which is an increase of approx 20% compared to last year. The fall term adult courses show a good turnout as well, although the number of adult learners hasn't increased compared to the fall term of 2016. I have already had the chance to meet many of the new families and course participants at the UVIC campus in person and I hope to meet many more of you in the near future – maybe at one of our events such as the Laternenfest or the Weihnachtsfest!

We continue to maintain our good relationship with the Germanic Department and UVIC as a whole and I would like to express our gratitude for this very important collaboration. However, you might have noticed that our Tuesday classes are not entirely held in the Clearihue building anymore, but rather are taking place in the MacLaurin building. This somewhat unfortunate setting is not one that will change in the near future. The university is dealing with more and more students every year and it remains a challenge for the room booking department to allocate space for VGS.

We are happy to see many of the experienced teachers from previous years continuing to teach during the 2017/18 term. New on board this academic year are *Lisa Suessenbach* and *Gerlinde Weimer*, both of whom have already taught at VGS in the past. Changes have also happened in the school board - we do have a new treasurer and two new members at large. Last, but not least, we are happy to introduce our new administrative assistant, Debbie Sherwood, to you.

Following good tradition, this year we are once again planning a number of cultural events and activities that will enhance the German experience for our students.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all the new students at VGS and to those who are returning, we are very happy to have you with us again!

In this issue:

- *Director's message*
- *Student Numbers*
- *Events & Dates*
- *Students' Work*
- *Meet the new teachers, board members and admin assistant*

Facts & Figures!

In the academic school year 2017/18 we have **80 students** enrolled in children's classes (3 years – 17 years) and **44 adults** who are learning German in one of our 4 adult classes.

Save the Date!

Oct. 31st 2017: Halloween: **No Children's Classes**

Nov. 11th 2017: Laternenfest (Lanternwalk)

Dec. 16th 2017: Weihnachtsfest (Christmas party)

Herbstelfchen der A1 & A2 Klassen

Petra Kixmüller's class wrote poems about Fall, while Ben's group was out and about throwing autumn leaves.



Herbst
Ganz viele Farben
Es schimmern alle Blätter
Der Winter kommt bald
Seelja

Der Herbst ist da,
die Blätter werden schon bunt.
Ich liebe den Herbst!
Jannes



Herbst
Ich spiele,
die Blätter tanzen.
Das Laub rauscht im
Wind.
Kamilla



Es ist wieder Herbst,
die Blätter färben sich rot.
Es ist bald Winter.
Loukas



Thrifty's Smile Card Fundraiser



The Victoria German School is approved for Thrifty's Smile Card Fundraising

How you can participate:

- Get a registered Smile Card from Ralf on Tuesday or Saturday at the desk
- Load money on the card and use it for grocery shopping at Thrifty's
- Thrifty's will donate 5% of every dollar spent to VGS
- No cost to you and will not affect your air miles!

We can raise up to \$1200 within the scope of the program and this will enable us to purchase educational material.

Thank you for your support!



Events

Nov. 2nd 2017 @ 5:30 pm

SCHNITZEL ABEND Victoria Edelweiss Club

<http://www.victoriaedelweiss.ca/events/2016/9/8/schnitzel-night>



Nov. 11th 2017 @ 4:30 pm

Laternenfest (Lanternwalk)

St Barnabas Church
1525 Begbie St, Victoria, BC

Martin's Play, Lanternwalk with brass ensemble, hot apple cider and fresh pretzels in the hall or around a fire outside! (cash only)

In the spirit of St. Martin we ask for a donation of dark socks for Our Place, socks will also be for sale at the event

Please bring a lantern, rain wear and arrive early – limited parking!



Dec. 16th 2017 @ 10:00 am

Weihnachtsfest (Christmas party)



This year, the Christmas party will not take place at

the Edelweiss Club, but rather at St. George Anglican Church in Cadboro Bay. There will be the usual students' performances, music, food, and of course: Santa's visit!

Volunteers needed! (More detailed information to follow soon!)

Preparing for the Lanternwalk

Adult Classes

The Victoria German School will once again be offering our popular adult classes. We now have Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced courses available on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Winter term is starting in January – online registration will open soon!

Parents of a VGS student receive a 25% discount when taking an adult class!

Spread the word!

More info at:

<http://www.victoriagermanschool.org/adult-classes/>



Meet the "Newbies" !



The new school board (from left to right): Christina Knowles (secretary), Trevar Pearce (member at large), Katrina Giesbrecht (member at large), Monika Brandstaetter (member at large), Werner Simbeck (president), Ralf Gabriel (director), Michel Turcotte (treasurer), Marcus Schlag (member at large).
Not pictured: Anahita Ariana, Vice president

The new A1/A2 teacher:
Lisa Suessenbach



The new GS2 teacher:
Gerlinde Weimer



The new treasurer:
Michel Turcotte



The new admin assistant:
Debbie Sherwood



Many Thanks to our outgoing board members **Sara Patino-Turcotte**, **Ann Thomson** and **Mike Birch** and especially to our outgoing treasurer **Tanja Weber-Hemerling** for the dedication and hard work in the past year(s).



Tanja Weber-Hemerling