



Victoria German School

Newsletter

January 2017



Director's Message

Dear parents and friends of the Victoria German School,

The school year has reached the second term and it is time to look back at some of the amazing things that happened in the first term, as well as give you a heads up about on goings in the near future.

From an academic point of view I can proudly report that the DSD II (DSD = Deutsches Sprachdiplom) students have finished all their exams and although we don't have the results yet, I would like to congratulate them on their effort and hard work. At the same time I will cross my fingers for the DSD I students as well as the A1/A2 students who will take their exams in March and April.

There is exciting news regarding the School Board. We have four new members who are supporting us in various ways and I would like to express my thanks to them for taking on this volunteer duty. Thank you Monika Brandstaetter, Ann Thomson, Sara Patino-Turcotte and Michel Turcotte.

While we have new members on board, we also have to report that our treasurer Tanja Weber-Hemerling will be leaving the Board at the end of the school year. I would like to thank Tanja for her tremendous support in the past years - her expertise and dedication will be missed. Please email, speak with any member, or contact the director, if you would be interested in finding out more about this position. See the miscellaneous section for a more detailed job posting.

During the next weeks, Monika Brandstaetter will be working on giving the VGS website a facelift. Please bear with us if you experience some interruptions. If you have suggestions and ideas for the web page please contact web@victoriagermanschool.org

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Ralf Gabriel



Students from the Grundstufe 1 building a "Wichtelwelt"

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New Fundraising opportunity:



mypharmacyonline.ca is a locally based and operated online pharmacy that gives back to non profit organizations and schools and has partnered with the Victoria German School.

Instead of waiting in line, you order your prescription meds anytime from the convenience of your own home and have them delivered to your door free of charge.

Prices are about 30% below national average due to very low overhead.

For every medication you dispense with them, they donate \$1 to Victoria German School. Remember to write code "VGS" in the affiliate drop box so they add to this ongoing, uncapped fundraiser for our school. Since they deliver anywhere in Canada, anyone who mentions "VGS" when ordering, will not only benefit from their low prices but will result in a contribution to our favourite school, so go ahead and mention us to friends and family.

More Info @ : <https://www.mypharmacyonline.ca>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-09YCANJ9g&feature=youtu.be>

Weihnachtsfeier @ the Edelweissclub



We would like to thank the following sponsors for donating the door prices at the VGS Christmas Party:

MOTHER NATURE'S MARKET & Deli
<http://www.mothernaturesbc.ca/>

SHAW CENTRE FOR THE SALISH SEA
<http://www.salishseacentre.org/#intro>

Events

Save the Date!

Wednesday, 1 February @ 7:00 pm

The Germanic Department at UVIC presents a Documentary film screening and lecture:

Hawar—A Cry for Help: The Ongoing Genocide of the Yazidis by ISIS.

A film by award winning German journalist Düzen Tekkal

UVIC, David Strong Building, Room C103

Thursday, 2 February @ 5:30 pm

Schnitzel Night at the Edelweiss Club

Reservations must be made by the previous Sunday. To make a reservation, please contact Mona Jane at 250-380-9158

Saturday, 4 February @ 9:30 am

Tuesday, 7 February @ 3:45 pm

Parent-Teacher meetings

Saturday, 11 February

Long Weekend - no classes

Thursday, 9 March

DSD 1 - written exam

Miscellaneous

Some thoughts about homework – an opinion

I heard it through the grapevine ... that some parents feel there is too much homework being assigned. I, personally, am not a fan of homework, but rather dream of a homework free school. However, we know VGS is not a regular school and one should keep in mind that we offer only one day of language instruction per week. For many students, their VGS school day is followed by a 6-day period where German isn't spoken, read or written until the next class. In this case, homework can be a helpful tool to keep up the involvement with the German language. Of course, there needs to be an adequate and age appropriate daily time frame for homework which warrants a discussion. I would like to host this discussion together with VGS parents in the near future. I'll be in touch regarding a time and place.

--- Ralf Gabriel ---

Treasurer Needed

As mentioned above, our treasurer Tanja Weber-Hemerling will be leaving the Board at the end of the school year. If you feel that you would like to volunteer your skills in this capacity, please contact Ralf (info@victoriagermanschool.org).

Duties include: **Bank account maintenance:** depositing tuition income and signing checks. **Expense management:** collecting completed forms, verifying amounts and totals, issuing cheques. **Financial transaction oversight:** Being knowledgeable about who has access to the organization's funds, and any outstanding bills or debts owed, as well as developing systems for keeping cash flow manageable. **Budgets:** Developing the annual budget (with the board) as well as comparing the actual revenues and expenses incurred against the budget. **Reports:** Keeping the board regularly informed of key financial events, trends, concerns, and assessment of fiscal health in addition to completing required financial reporting forms in a timely fashion and making these forms available to the board.

Works cooperatively with the bookkeeper; participates in board meetings and acts as backup payroll administrator as required.

VGS Library



Our Library now has DVDs, Music CDs and Audio Book CDs (Hörspiele). Check it out! The library works on an "Honour System". Your children are welcome to take

books and DVDs without signing them out. However, we would ask that you not take more than 2 items per week & per person. Also please return what you borrowed before you choose new items!

--- Thank you - the VGS team ---