



**Victoria
German
School**



Victoria German School

Newsletter

Fall 2020



Director's Message
Deborah Weber

Dear students, parents, and friends of the Victoria German School,

We are very grateful to be able to welcome you back this fall, even if this year is shaping up to be unlike any other school year we have experienced. As you know, we had to switch to online classes last spring, and I would like to thank Petra, Debbie, our Board of Directors, and our teachers for the extraordinary effort they have made to keep our school and classes going. I would also like to thank our families and students for their patience and support during this challenging time. For many of us, it has been a difficult spring and summer, and we are looking towards fall and winter with some uncertainty and worry. Our goal is to continue to teach, learn, and play together in German – let's try to enjoy this school year together, however we can!

Despite the difficult circumstances, we have had a successful start to the school year. While most of our classes continue to be online, our youngest students are able to attend in-person classes at Lansdowne Middle School on Saturday mornings. The little ones have been busy collecting fall leaves, making lanterns, and catching up on lost time with their German School friends. It was truly wonderful to see their little faces again in person in September.

Some of our older students have been meeting outside whenever possible, enjoying the nice fall weather for the most part, but also braving the smoke in September, and stormy afternoons in October. Our DSDI candidates from last year were able to complete their oral exams that were cancelled last spring. We would like to congratulate Ella, Finn, Jannes, and Sofia for keeping up their spirits despite masks, zoom-related issues, and a fire alarm that forced everybody to stand outside in the rain for half an hour. We hope the DSDII exam will take place as scheduled in November and January, and we wish our candidates good luck with this challenging exam!

We are very fortunate that most of our teachers from previous years have stayed on with us, giving our students a sense of continuity in an otherwise stormy year. We very much appreciate their experience, and we are also looking forward to continue working with our team of teachers to build upon the curriculum that we developed together in the last two years. We are also delighted to continue working with Debbie, our Administrator, as well as with our Board of Directors whose members were all re-elected last week during our AGM.

If you would also like to contribute in any way to our school, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We are always happy to talk to you!

In this spirit, thank you for your continued support, bleibt gesund und auf ein gutes Schuljahr! -
Deborah

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**Student Numbers
2020:**

- **61 children**
- **15 adults**
- **76 students
total**

Events:

**Our Lanternwalk
and Weihnachtsfest
are cancelled for
now – we will let
you know if we are
able to organize
safe alternatives**

Who Is Who? Meet Our School!

Board of Directors



Werner Simbeck,
President



Ani Ariana, Vice-
President



Monika Brandstätter,
Treasurer



Christina Knowles,
Secretary



Trevar Pierce,
IT Support



Marcus Schlag,
Member at Large



Stefan Dollinger,
Member at Large

Virginia Burgess,
Member at Large

Michael Stevens,
Member at Large

Administration



Deborah Weber,
Director



Debbie
Sherwood,
Administrator

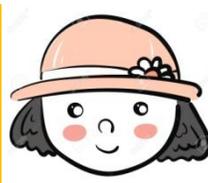
Teachers



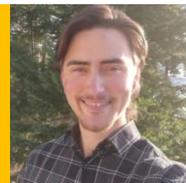
Mareike Bracht,
GS 1 Deutsch



Petra Kixmüller,
GS2 Deutsch



Britta Fischer,
GS2 Immersion



Ben Litzke,
A1 Deutsch



Sonja Urzinger,
A2 Deutsch



Tanja Dietrich,
A2 Immersion



Janine Wulz,
DSD1



Jasmin O'Brian
DSD2



Joanna Schaller,
Erwachsene



Elke Schlufner,
Erwachsene



Nadja Schewczyk,
Projektmitarbeiterin

Featured Teacher: Susan Pelny (A1 Immersion)

Woher ich komme:

I grew up in Halle, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany.

Seit wann ich in Kanada bin:

I spent almost a year in Calgary back in 2008. Came back to Canada in 2011. A summer vacation 2016 in Germany turned into a 2-year stay and I'm back since summer 2018.

Warum ich nach Kanada gekommen bin:

I prefer Canadian culture to German culture and prefer to raise my son in Canada.

Was ich von zu Hause vermisse:

Süßigkeiten (sweets), hiking (without bear spray), Christmas markets, city sightseeing (amazing architecture), train and tram rides, church bells ringing, certain dishes (e.g. Hefeklöße mit Heidelbeeren), German bookstores, my 3 nieces, soaking bath tubs, museums, driving with actual speed on highways, my German friends, German bakery

Was mir gefällt hier in Victoria/Kanada:

I ventured out into the world to find a place that would be so beautiful, that I'd choose to grow my roots there. I have found this place to be Victoria.

Wer bei mir zu Hause wohnt:

My husband, my son (Paul, 13 years) and my dog (Flint – Chihuahua Min Pin, 3 years)

Was ich sonst noch so mache im Leben (wenn ich nicht gerade Deutsch unterrichte):

I'm a business owner. But because of COVID restrictions, I'm taking a gap year and am currently working towards being an Education Assistant in SD 61 until I can safely restart my business. In my spare time I love taking long beach walks with my dog, inline skating, bicycling, cooking and baking with my son, reading (Harry Potter is still my favorite), crocheting, napping, SUP, meeting friends and learning new things.

Wenn ich morgen mit einem übernatürlichen Talent aufwachen würde, wäre es:

To be able to fly. Ever since I was a child I dreamt of flying in the form of an eagle.

Irgendwann würde ich mal gerne:

Learn to shoot with different weapons at a shooting range, learn fencing, sing in a choir, learn horseback riding, do a road trip across Canada and the USA, meet Barack Obama, play a role in a movie, write a children's book, have a pet pig, a parrot and a donkey, reverse climate change, invent a household aide robot, drive a Tesla

Eine interessante Tatsache über mich:

I had to show my ID at least 5 times in the last couple years, buying Lotto Max tickets. A few years back, I won the American Green Card lottery, but decided to stay in Canada. I have never smoked a cigarette in my life.



How to Support Our School

Soap Exchange



The Soap Exchange (1393A Hillside Ave) specializes in Canadian-made biodegradable personal and home cleaning products. They have products in high demand, such as hand sanitizer and household antiseptic cleaners, and supply re-fillable bulk and commercial packaging, and encourage customers to bring their own re-fillable containers.

Let them know you are associated with Victoria German School, and they will donate a portion of the sale to VGS!

<https://victoriasoapexchange.com/> 250-475-0033

Bottle Drive

When you return your empty bottles, let them know you would like to donate the return money to VGS!



Thrifty's Smile Card

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

How you can participate:

- Get a registered Smile Card from Debbie (debbievgs@gmail.com)
- 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 provide professional development for our teachers.



Other Ways to Help Out:

- Are you a pro on Instagram and TikTok? Would you like to help us improve our presence on social media? Contact us!
- Are you an excellent photographer? Would you like to take pictures during some of our school event? Contact us!
- Are you thinking about going into teaching? Volunteer with us!
- Already have some teaching experience and like kids? Come teach at our school!
- Do you have any fun talents you would like to share with us? Contact us!

Fall Impressions





Septembermorgen

Annabel Howard (DSDII)

Es war noch früh an diesem herbstlichen Morgen und sehr leise in dem überwucherten Wald. Kein Zwitschern zu hören weit und breit. Alle Lebewesen waren noch im Tiefschlaf, alle außer Matilda. Die dickköpfige Matilda, mit ihrem grellgelben Regenmantel und mit ihren kniehohen gestreiften Gummistiefeln. Sie stampfte durch das dichte Laub, knirsch, knirsch, auf der Suche nach Asten. Tilda strengte ihre Augen an, bei diesem ganzen Nebel konnte sie kaum Etwas erkennen. Nur die goldenen und braunen Blätter unter ihren Füßen waren klar wahrzunehmen, aber das jagte ihr keine Angst ein, denn sie hatte eine gewisse Liebe für den Wald. Der Wald war das zu Hause für unzählige Tiere, ihre große Leidenschaft. Er behauste Vögel, Hasen, Insekten, Eichhörnchen und weitere Tiere die Matilda heute alle zu Gesicht bekommen wollte. Sie mochte so wirklich alles, das draußen lebte.

Es war der Geburtstag ihrer Mutter und Tilda hatte nur einen Auftrag: die Lieblingsblumen ihrer Mutter zu finden. Denn diese Blume hat einen riesigen sentimentalwert für ihre Mutter. Den Grund dafür wusste Matilda nicht, ihre Mutter meinte immer als Tilda sie unzählige Male gefragt hatte, dass sie zu jung dafür wäre. Es war eine Weile her als sie ihre Mutter die Frage gestellt hatte und nun war sie schon zehn Jahre alt! Ingeheim, wünschte sie sich nämlich, dass ihre Mutter es ihr dieses Mal erzählen würde, wenn sie ihr die Aster schenkt. Matilda war schon immer sehr neugierig, aber noch nie wollte sie Etwas so sehr wissen als wie das Geheimnis welches ihre Mutter hütete.

Der Nebel war inzwischen schon ganz verschwunden und Matilda konnte jetzt den lebhaften Wald richtig bewundern. Sie schaute sich um. Riesige Bäume ragten über ihr und kreierte ein Dach aus roten, braunen und gelben Blättern, wo die Sonne ab und zu hindurch blinzelte. Als sie sich weiter umschaute, sah sie wie der knallblaue Himmel sie geradezu anlächelte. Er war so klar, keine einzige Wolke in Sichtweite. Eine kalte Brise wirbelte sich um sie, als sie ihre Augen schloss und aus vollem Herzen fröhlich lachte. Die Vögel waren auch aufgewacht und sangen ihre Lieder vor sich her. Tilda riss ihre Augen auf und erinnerte sich an den Grund warum sie hier war. Sie musste sich auf ihre Mission konzentrieren sonst würde sie diese noch völlig vergessen. Tapfer stampfte sie weiter, auf der Suche nach den hübschen Blumen.

Nachdem sie nach einer Weile durch den Wald wanderte, sah sie eine Wiese durch die Bäume schimmern. Der Wald hörte dort auf, wo die Wiese begann. Aufgeregt, um die Blumen zu finden, rannte Matilda auf ihr Ziel zu. Als sie am Ende des Waldes angekommen war, stoppte sie abrupt. Ihr Mund stand offen und ihre Augen waren weit aufgerissen, sie konnte es nicht fassen! Was sie vor sich sah, war das Schönste was sie jemals gesehen hatte. Ein violett und rosa schimmerndes Feld voller den Blumen, die ihrer Mutter so gefielen. Der Nebelschleier hing noch über dem Feld, aber das machte es alles noch so viel mehr romantischer. Zufrieden, dass sie es geschafft hatte, setzte Tilda sich hin und bewunderte den Anblick.

