



**Victoria  
German  
School**



**Victoria German School**

**Newsletter**

**Fall 2021**



**Director's Message**  
Ralf Gabriel

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Dear students, 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 new routines. However, this year is by no means "routine". Although we continue to maintain our good relationship with the Germanic Department at UVIC, it was not possible for us to rent rooms at the University this semester. However, we are pleased to announce that we found a fantastic venue at St. Patrick's Elementary School, which offers a nourishing learning environment for the students, especially the little ones: The classrooms are equipped with child-friendly furniture, white boards, couches and carpets. We can use two playgrounds, and even have access to an outdoor classroom. On rainy days we can take the students to the school's gym for break time. Moreover, we are very grateful to be able to welcome the students back to a face-to-face classroom setting during these difficult pandemic times. It is unfortunate that parents are not allowed access to the school building, but most students are now feeling comfortable in the new environment. We will, of course, follow the development of the pandemic and, if necessary, adjust to any new circumstances. Student safety is strictly based on the guidelines from the Victoria School District #61.

In times like these, we are very fortunate to see many of the experienced teachers from previous years continuing to teach, giving our students a sense of continuity in yet another turbulent year shaped by the pandemic. The same applies to our Administrator, Debbie Sherwood, as well as our Board of Directors whose members are still committed to help the school.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Deborah Weber who has been Director during the previous year. She has moved the school forward in difficult times and organised the handover flawlessly. As parents, you can help by supporting VGS in many ways such as becoming a board member or a member at large. Our (virtual) Annual General Meeting will take place on November 8th at 7:30pm. If you would like to join the AGM, please send me an email and I will provide you with the link.

And lastly, I would like to thank you for your continued support - Auf ein gutes Schuljahr!

Ralf

## Facts & Figures!

In the academic school year 2021/22 we have **71 students** enrolled in children's classes (3 years – 17 years) and **22 adults** who are learning German in one of our adult classes.

**Did you know** that parents of VGS enrolled children receive a **25% discount** if they enroll in adult classes?

## Save the Date!

**Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> 2021:** Online Reading

**Nov. 08<sup>th</sup> 2021:** AGM

**Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 2021:** Laternenfest

**Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 2021:** Weihnachtsfest

## Laternenfest (Lanternwalk)

**Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 @ 4:30 pm:**

St Barnabas Church  
1525 Begbie St, Victoria, BC

Martin's Play, Lanternwalk with brass ensemble, hot apple cider and baked goods around an outside fire (cash only)

Due to Covid restriction, we will not be able to hold an inside event! **Please be prepared for wet weather** and bring umbrellas and appropriate clothing. There will be some room under a tent, but this will most likely not be large enough for all participants.

Ask your child to sing to you the lantern-songs that (s)he has practised at VGS - and join in the choir!



## Support VGS



**The Soap Exchange** (1393A Hillside Ave) specializes in Canadian-made biodegradable personal and home cleaning products. They 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!

**Please note:** Unfortunately, Thrifty Foods has suspended the SmileCard program, and is no longer participating as a VGS fundraising partner. You can continue to use existing funds on your Smile Card, but you can no longer add funds to it.

## School Impressions

The new venue:



Break time on the playground:



A classroom at St. Patrick's School:



At the piano - St. Martin songs:



Practising St. Martin songs in the gym:



Creative work: Die Ritterburg



## Graphic Novel - Online Reading

On **Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm**, the Victoria German School and the Swiss Consulate General in Vancouver cordially invite you to an online reading. This reading and the following discussion is part of the 100 Years Anniversary Celebration of Swiss author and playwright Friedrich Dürrenmatt. The Hamburg illustrator Benjamin Gottwald graphically implemented Dürrenmatt's comedy "Die Physiker" and thus created a completely new approach to this work. He will present his graphic novel in a zoom reading, and will answer your questions afterwards. The reading takes place in German, but is also interesting for advanced German learners.

Participation is free of charge and you can even win a prize!

If you are interested, please register using this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/168774259353>

You can also find more information about the novel on this website.



## A Sad Message from the VGS Family

On 20.08.2021, Joanna Schaller, one of VGS' long-serving teachers, lost her beloved husband, Munj, after a sudden illness.

Our thoughts are with Joanna, and we want to help her get through these difficult days. If you, too, would like to know how to support Joanna and her boys, please contact Ralf at [info@victoriagermanschool.org](mailto:info@victoriagermanschool.org) or by phone (236-562-3715). It will be very much appreciated.

