

1st Newsletter of the 2017/18 School Year

Dear parents and colleagues,

With this first newsletter of the 2017/18 school year we warmly welcome the new pupils of the three first year classes and their parents to our school community. We hope the children have settled in with us and have already learned a lot of new things.

Our new colleagues, Frau Dudel (5euB team and music teacher), Frau Hammer (educator) and Herr Göhring (sports and maths in two fifth year classes) are already busy teaching the pupils entrusted to them. Unfortunately, the trainee teacher Frau Reinke is no longer with us and will be replaced by another trainee teacher, Frau Meyer, in the second half of the school year.

We are very proud of the new **interactive smartboards** which replaced the old chalk boards in some classrooms in August 2017. Currently, classes 6a, 5a, 1euB, 5euC, 4euB, 6euA and 3euA have all been equipped with a smartboard. Some boards are already in active operation, others are experiencing technical issues which we hope to fix soon. The boards were distributed to the classes in accordance with the wishes of the teachers. The four new boards were financed exclusively by donations from our parents! We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donations during the sponsored runs and various school fairs. Without your help we would not have been able to make these purchases. More smartboards will be acquired in the long term.

You may have already noticed the new door next to the large sliding gate at the **Heer Strasse entrance**. In future everyone can use the small door, while the large, hard-to-move gate will remain closed and will only be used for delivery vehicles. The door will be open at the usual times, from 7:40 am to 8:10 am.

In this year's **Bookweek** the emphasis is very much on our cooperation with the **Eco-Ecole primaire bilingue La Courbe in Aytré**, under the motto "Environment". We are very proud of this cooperation with our

partner school in France, as part of the EU sponsored project **Erasmus+**. The theme of the project is "Biodiversity" and all classes in both schools will be working hard and exchanging experiences on this topic over the next few years. The results will be presented at our Summer Fête in June 2018 and at the Aytré Summer Fête. This year's **Bookweek** will be held from the 2nd to the 9th of May 2018 and we look forward to the visit of a 5th year class from France during this time.

Takings from this year's **Christmas Bazar** amounted to **€2193.88**. This is a great amount and we would like to sincerely thank all the parents who supported us with their contributions. Of course, **special thanks go to the organisers** of this successful afternoon, Frau Sahab, Frau Stelling, Frau Nicolae, Frau Krawietz and Frau Bonello.

New contracts have been signed with all the instructors for our **Free Time Activities**. The current timetable with the individual activities is posted on the notice boards and published on our website. The courses, which are all free of charge, are financed partly by the school and partly by the School Support Association (the Pottery Club charges for material costs only). There have been **some changes**:

In future, **Origami classes** (in English) will be on offer three times a week (one of which will take place in the Hort). In addition, every Friday 10 pupils can build and program a **robot** using Lego Mindstorm sets. For this purpose the Parents' Representatives Association has purchased five sets (€335 per set) via the Support Association. The **Robot Club** is run by an absolute expert, one course runs over seven sessions and is free for all pupils. Unfortunately, the **Tap Dancing Club** has had to be cancelled because the tap dancing was damaging the floor.

All the instructors are experts with specialised knowledge in their subject areas and are carefully selected by the school administrators. All activities are available to every child at the school.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that **school renovation work** will begin during the winter holidays. All corridors, staircases and classrooms in all three houses will be **painted and decorated**. We anticipate that this work will take **about a year**.

As was the case with the renovation work in 2015, the School Authority has commissioned the *Verein der Straffälligen- und Bewährungshilfe e.V.* (SBH - probationary service) to carry out this work. SBH has already successfully renovated many schools in the Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf district. The probationary service workers are all ex-offenders who are paying off fines by means of community work.

Without exception, the fines have been imposed for minor offenses such as repeated fare evasion. None of the offenders have committed violent crimes or other serious crimes.

You will recognise the SBH staff by their work clothes (white overalls). Their daily work is managed by professionals and they are under constant socio-pedagogical supervision.

The SBH general manager will introduce himself at the next meeting of the Parent Representatives Association and will be happy to answer questions from the parents.

We request that you and your children treat the SBH staff with respect.

Yours faithfully

26 January 2018

Frank Effenberger, Ralf Müller