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Dear Parents and Students

With the Parent-Teacher Conferences now completed for the 2013-2014 academic year, we hope you've benefitted from engaging discussions and received useful and effective feedback. Also, by now you have received the ISA results for your children, and this will also provide you with valuable feedback. These benchmarking tests are quite specific with regards to each student's progress in English reading, writing and maths. In this issue, you will find the overall school results, which have once again come in above average. The Klassencockpit exams are still coming up and these results will be published in the *Strompost* as soon as they are available.

On Tuesday, May 20, the Basel City Council will be meeting, and the Swiss International School Basel is on their agenda. They will discuss, and hopefully immediately approve, the recommendations made by the Cantonal Matura Commission and the Education Department. As soon as we are past this last bit of 'yellow tape,' we will be holding several informational evenings about the exact details of how the Matura, the IB and the IGCSE will be implemented in SIS Basel. If you have immediate questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Contrary to some comments that I have heard over the last month, we will not be forsaking our international programs (both IGCSE and IB) in favor of the Matura, but rather building on our

FYI – Coming Up Soon

May 26	Summerfest auditions (see ad)
May 29-30	School closed for Ascension holiday
May 2-6	Project Week, Primary Intro & Primary classes
June 9	School closed on Pentecost Monday
June 12	SIS Basel Sports Day
June 15	Expat Expo, 11am - 5pm, Congress Centre
June 28	Summerfest



Committed to excellence



Soon-to-be-graduated College students Kimberley (left) and Weronika (right) proudly display their Goethe language certificates. Congratulations!

current offerings by adding the local Swiss secondary school leaving diploma. This will only increase the benefits available to all of our students.

You have probably noticed that the initial construction phase on our gym is now over and the preparations have been made for the builders to begin their task of finishing off the project by early Autumn 2014 (!). Some building plans were posted around the school during the Parent-Teacher Conferences to show you what we can expect in the months to come. For someone that has been waiting for a gym to be built on the school premises for the better part of ten years, this is a particularly exciting time.

Excellent Exam Results 2014

The results are back for our February 2014 participation in the International Schools' Assessments (ISA). According to the Acer website, 204 international schools and over 37,000 students participated in this round. The

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ISAs have become a critical international benchmarking measure for international schools. SIS Basel has been involved in the ISAs since 2008, comparing maths and English results of our students to the results of students around the world. Not only do the tests enable schools to assess their overall progress as an institution, but also help identify strengths and weaknesses according to year group, class, subject and student.

This year again, we are especially proud that all SIS Basel groups tested **above average**. Based on thorough analysis of this year's results, we are very pleased with our students' progress and

the numbers clearly show that SIS Basel is on the right track (see chart). The results provide valuable feedback that the SIS bilingual curriculum is solid and reliable, even improving year by year. Again this year, the areas tested included mathematical literacy, reading comprehension, narrative and argumentative writing. The recently published results have again confirmed that bilingual students have clear advantages over their peers in English-only schools. The synthesis of bilingual language immersion in German and English, plus intensive instruction in maths, sciences and ICT, seems a recipe for success. We have cause to be proud!

International Schools' Assessment 2014

For easier reading we have highlighted scores attained by SIS Basel students:

Yellow: slightly above (within 5%) score of all schools

Pink: slightly below (within 5%) score of all schools

Green: more than 5% above score of all schools

Red: more than 5% below score of all schools

Class	Grade	Domain	Mathematical Literacy		Reading		Narrative Writing		Argumentative Writing	
			Nº. of students	Mean score	Nº. of students	Mean score	Nº. of students	Mean score	Nº. of students	Mean score
Pr 3	3	SIS Basel	48	350	48	292	48	393	48	455
		All schools	5759	308	5725	266	5744	378	5714	409
Pr 4	4	SIS Basel	36	435	34	347	36	444	34	508
		All schools	4257	374	4240	319	4250	414	4238	445
Pr 5	5	SIS Basel	26	510	26	410	26	479	26	528
		All schools	5839	432	5839	362	5826	461	5829	487
P-C 2	6	SIS Basel	31	525	31	458	30	513	30	529
		All schools	4310	472	4300	402	4300	485	4290	507
P-C 3	7	SIS Basel	16	574	17	502	16	557	17	563
		All schools	5083	521	5034	452	5049	525	5021	539
P-C 4	8	SIS Basel	15	618	16	532	15	565	16	603
		All schools	4468	547	4445	475	4459	549	4448	565
C-1	9	SIS Basel	14	585	15	538	14	574	15	591
		All schools	3534	573	3463	532	3514	570	3455	585
C-2	10	SIS Basel	10	631	10	577	10	602	10	651
		All schools	2515	580	2508	560	2507	586	2506	601

Zweisprachiger Unterricht / Bilingual Education

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SIS Basel will have a booth at the Expat Expo in the Messeplatz Congress Center on Sunday, June 15, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission free - pass the word!

Känguru 2014 Math Competition at SIS Basel

At the end of March, SIS Basel participated with 133 students in grades 4 through 8, in the Känguru math competition. We now have the results.

“Känguru der Mathematik” is an international math contest with approximately six million participants worldwide. The objective is to encourage learning math and awakening a sense of fun with math, and is organized in Switzerland by the Deutschschweizerischen Mathematikkommission DMK. This year in Switzerland, 287 schools participated with a total of more than 23,000 students. All SIS Basel classes came in above the Swiss average. We congratulate the following top scorers of SIS Basel students:

- Grade 3-4 Max Högenauer, P4D
- Grade 5-6 Timothy Tikhonov, PC2B
- Grade 7-8 Dominic Hoefler, PC3

And congratulations are due to all students who participated. You did great! The next chance to join the Känguru competition will be in March 2015.

~ Adrian Bürgi, Vice Principal and math teacher

Expat Expo, Sunday, June 15, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Congress Center

SIS Basel will once again have a booth at the Expat Expo organized for all English speaking people of the region, where SIS Basel will be presenting our school and the advantages of bilingual education. The expo features a variety of merchandise, as well as information about services such as schools, clubs and churches. We'd love to see you there! For more information, visit: www.expat-expo.info/Basel.html.

SIS Mom Awarded for Community Work

Maybe you've noticed the posters around town honoring the latest Basel Stadt “Schappo” award winners? Lenka Mazankova, a Primary 3 mom who's active with the PEA, has been volunteering for the Basel organization Austausch in Sport und Kultur (ASK), striving to bring together the many communities in Basel under the umbrella of sports and culture, a way for foreign and international families to integrate in the local community. For more information about “Schappo” award for community volunteer work, you may visit www.schappo.bs.ch.



Project Week

Preparing for Primary Intro and Primary School Project Week has become an annual favorite organizational activity. This year, Project Week is taking place from June 2 to 6, and our topic will be “Switzerland.” Our teachers will be offering versatile projects that are likely to stir up plenty of enthusiasm to participate. As many activities also will take place off school grounds, help from parent volunteers will be needed. Project Week

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takes place within the usual school hours. Whoever feels so inclined is welcome to support for a day or just a couple of hours, accompanying groups with students from Primary Intro up through Primary 5. Please contact: naomi.rinza@swissinternationalschool.ch. Also, if you would like to offer a project or activity, whether shorter or longer in nature (for example, introducing kids to a couple of Swiss German phrases or Swiss songs), we look forward to receiving your emails and proposals.

~ The Primary School Project Week Team

Excursion: the Educational Train

Recently, the classes PC2A, PC3 and PC4 each got to visit the SBB Swiss railway service's "Schul- und Erlebniszug" – a mobile, educational program in a train, with the motto "responsibility." The topic was applied with great diversity: responsibility for oneself, for our fellow human beings and for our environment. We got to learn about all kinds of energy forms; laboriously powered a microwave to pop popcorn; managed a challenging quiz; and took part in a police program on violence prevention. The on-site specialists certainly knew how keep their audience fully captivated.

~ Nina Herres, Pre-College teacher



Working hard to power a microwave to pop popcorn

Student comments:

- Violence prevention should be taught in every school.
~ Christoph
- The train looked really cool. ~ Lilian
- Our trip to the police train was exciting and educational.
~ Johannes und Jakob
- The trip was marvelous and the food wonderful. ~ Tilon



Learning in the SBB educational train

School Tournament 2014 – Team Spirit, Anticipation and Motivation

Already our fifth time, SIS Basel again took part in the large school soccer tournament encompassing Basel Stadt and Basel Land townships. Approximately 300 teams across 13 age groups competed on two days. For our fifth anniversary, SIS Basel showed up in bigger numbers than ever, this time with five teams.

On the first day, April 9, three of our teams played: two girl teams made up of students from Pre-College 2, 3 and 4, as well as one boy team with players from PC4 and College 1. On the second day, May 7, the other two boy teams from PC 2 and 3 had their go. Having prepared



for weeks, most of all during breaks and also sports lessons, the players' positions were assigned, technique and strategy were refined, and the excitement and anticipation palpably escalated with each day. When the big day finally arrived, five motivated, well-trained and

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most of all tightly knit teams were ready to go, and successfully and enthusiastically gave their all in the tournament.

Our teams played hard and skillfully, and thus were rewarded in the preliminaries with victories in their age groups. At the end of the preliminaries, our strong PC3-PC4 girls' team qualified for a fourth place in a very strong group. The other girls' team did even better, but despite having the same number of points as their group's victor, unfortunately they didn't qualify for the quarter-final due to a three-goal differential.



Something unusual happened in the preliminaries of our PC4 and College 1 team. With two victories and one draw, our team performed head to head with the Münsterplatz Gymnasium team both in terms of points and goals, for a shared top placement of that group. In order to have one qualifying quarter finals team, the two went on to an 11-meter penalty shoot-out with Dietrich Varaklis in the goal. It was a very close call, and our team had to accept defeat with 2:3. Once the tension of that 11-meter thriller was over, viewers, fans and team chaperones boosted the team's spirits again with sustained applause.

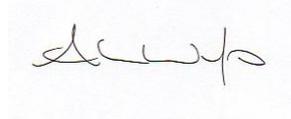
Regrettably, despite excellent preliminary performances, neither of the PC2-PC3 teams qualified for the finals. Second place in a preliminary group unfortunately doesn't get you to advance to the end.

~ Marc Sachs, Pre-College and College sports teacher

And...

- **Parent volunteers are needed for SIS Basel Sports Day, June 12.** If you would like to help out, please contact Marc Sachs: marc.sachs@swissinternationalschool.ch. More details about Sports Day will be provided in an information letter next week.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend,



Andrew Wulfers
Principal
SIS Swiss International School Basel

Watch the SIS video:

<http://www.swissinternationalschool.ch/Schulstandorte/Basel/Allgemeine-Infos/Video-SIS-Basel>



IB Students have had an intensive period of exams lately – with still more to come. Almost there!

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SIS-PEA Info

PARENT/ELTERN ASSOCIATION (PEA) INFORMATION

SIS PEA INFO

In this section of the *Strompost* we will continue to bring you updates on any events that the PEA is organizing, such as bake sales, book sales, and other fund raisers. So keep your eyes out for that information. And you are also still welcome to submit classified ads free of charge. Please send your submissions to Christine at pesoldc@yahoo.com or Susanne at shiller@bluewin.ch. We accept contributions in English, German, and French.

Summerfest, June 28

Planning for **Summerfest**, the annual SIS summer festival, is already underway. Save the date on **June 28** to join the fun with plenty of games, raffles, music, vendor booths, food, and more! The festival is also a great fundraiser for the PEA, helping to raise funds that then will be used for purposes benefitting the school and its students.

We are already looking for donations for our bottle raffle: This can be a bottle of anything from the best wine, a glass jar of candy, a bottle of soda, to a bottle of ketchup or shampoo! Please consider dropping off a contribution at the school office. If every family contributes just 1 bottle, we'll have a great selection!

We are also accepting donations for our main raffle/tombola. For example, you could donate items such as gift certificates, product samples, or service/event vouchers, whether from your own business or from one you enjoy. We can acknowledge all donors in our festival program and on other notice boards. You may also ask local businesses that you frequent if they would like to donate to this cause in exchange for this program advertisement. A sample letter to explain the raffle is available upon request from our organizers at sommerfestsis@yahoo.com or from your class representative.

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SIS AUDITIONS FOR SUMMERFEST
Monday, May 26th

Attention PC and College Students
Singers, dancers, musicians, if you have talent we wanna know about it! Prepare a 3-5 minute audition piece and if it's good enough you will perform it at Summerfest 2014. Ask Mr. Stetler for more information or write: kent.stetler@swissinternationalschool.ch

Summerfest is on:
Saturday, June 28th

Thanks for your participation!

Singers, dancers, musicians...you're invited to prepare a 3-5 minute audition piece to try out on May 26, 2014! For more information, contact Kent Stetler: kent.stetler@swissinternationalschool.ch

If you would like to participate in the planning and/or help at the event itself, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the school foyer next week, or contact us at the email above or via your class rep.



The Summersbook book sale during the parent-teacher conferences drew great interest

PEA Social Committee

Following our enjoyable Macaron-making workshop + bistro lunch this week, we are starting to plan our program of events for the next school year. Sadly, some of our group are leaving the school this year, so we are looking for some enthusiastic parents to join us. We

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already have 7 people but would like at least 10, so it's not a big commitment for anyone. There is plenty of scope for suggesting or organising your favourite event/trip! To find out more please contact Karen Rogers on karen.rogers@zen.co.uk.



Switzerland. Details: Executive pack—GPS with map of Europe, radio with mp3 and 6 loudspeakers, leather seats, heated front seats, fast windscreen defrost (Quickclear technology), extra-tinted glasses, park-assist in the back - electrical folding mirrors, Bluetooth and voice command, adaptive halogen lights. Rooftop bars for transporting additional storage included (worth 200€). Annual maintenance on 22/04/2014. Please contact Benoit Fanna on 078 608 99 81 or benoitfanna@yahoo.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

Apartment to rent from July 1, 2014: Spacious and super-bright flat for rent in Gartenstrasse, close to Aeschenplatz and to Basel SBB. The flat has 3 bedrooms, 2 large living areas, kitchen, and 2 bathrooms. It also has a nice balcony overlooking a green area, ideal for breakfast and barbeques. Price: CHF 3,000 p/m + service. If interested, please call 076 765 80 05

House to rent: Beautiful home with views over Baselland and beyond! 300m², with 5-7 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 2-car attached garage plus 2 parking spaces. Modern kitchen with American Food Center refrigerator and large oven. Geothermally heated floors, heat pump, and swimming pool. Refractory heat fireplace. Lovely garden, direct access to hiking trails. Available August 1. Please contact sparehinsh@gmail.com.

Car for sale: Ford CMax TDCi 1.6 Duratorq 109 Cv Ghia—CHF 12.400. Diesel engine. First registration in 08/2009, 70.500 km, very good shape. Imported in Switzerland and registered end of January 2014, car inspection in



Spring weather has brought ups and downs after a summery start, but kids still know how to make the most of playtime, no matter what!

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