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Danube DIGEST

News from the Director

The number of Vision and Mission translations continues to expand, this week we add Hebrew.



Last week the elementary Walkathon for Waluka raised 3096 euros bringing our running fundraising total to 7674 euros. This is an excellent figure and both Jennifer and myself are very proud of your children who walked and jogged so enthusiastically to raise this sum last week. Many thanks to Fiona Mayer and Nina Horvath for organizing this event. This coming week is the chance for our talented students and staff in both elementary and secondary to shine and perform in our Waluka Concert organised by Tonci on Wednesday at 18:00.



The April instalment of 'Project Centipede' with colourful and banana boxes is creeping up on us fast. Please bring these to reception and further details are attached to the Digest.



A reminder that parents have the opportunity to meet with PADIS representatives on the 12th of April (elementary) and the 13th April (secondary) at 08:30 in the dining room.



Today

Friday 1st April:

Adonis and Venus 19:30 Danube Theatre

Next Week

Monday 4th to Friday 8th April:

Elementary Science Week

Tuesday 5th April:

Grade 6, 7 & 8 Spanish Field Trip

Tuesday 5th to Friday 7th April:

Grade 11 Study Leave

Wednesday 6th April:

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Grade 3 Globe Museum Field Trip
Waluka Concert 18:00

Thursday 7th April:

Japanese Musical Performances in Elementary Assembly
Grade 12 Last School Day
Secondary School Parent-Teacher Consultations

Friday 8th to Friday 15th April:

Grade 12 IB Study Leave

Friday 8th April:

Grade 11 Exams
EYU Easter Market Visit

Friday 8th to Sunday 10th April:

IB Art Exam

Saturday 9th April:

DVAC Middle School Boys Volleyball Festival at Bratislava
DVAC Middle School Girls Volleyball Festival at Budapest

Upcoming Events

Monday 11th April:

Grade 9 and 10 Study Leave

Monday 11th to Friday 14th April:

Grade 11 Exams
Grade 12 Art Exhibition

Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th April:

Grade 9 and 10 Exams

Tuesday 12th April:

PADIS meets parents elementary 08:30
Grade 6 Drama Workshop

Wednesday 13th April:

PADIS meets parents secondary 08:30
Grade 2 - Vivaldi in der Au (trip to woods outside of Vienna and observing plants)

Thursday 14th April:

Grade 3 Field Trip - National History Museum

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Elementary BeyBlade Competition 15:15-16:15

Friday 15th April:

Jeremy Strong Visit

News from the Elementary School

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at our Parent/Teacher Conferences on Wednesday. Thank you for making the time to come and speak to your children's teachers. I know for many of you this was a challenging juggling act amongst your other commitments. However, as we all know it is so important that parents and teachers have an opportunity to discuss their children's development and progress.



On Thursday morning the whole of the Elementary School and the parents were treated to a fabulous performance of 'The Golden Goose'. The performance was presented by the German Drama Activity, led and co-ordinated by Mrs Spulak. The children expressed themselves clearly in German, acted convincingly and looked wonderful in their costumes. Most importantly they appeared to be really enjoying themselves. Thank you Mrs Spulak for the months of hard work put into this production.



Grade 3 and Grade 4 also presented to the Elementary School this week. They presented songs they had practised and prepared in their Music Lessons with Mrs Rausch. They sang about sunshine and deserts perhaps encouraged by our recent warm weather and excited that summer maybe just around the corner! Thank you Mrs Rausch.



Next Thursday our assembly at 8.35 a.m. will be very special and will be dedicated to those suffering in Japan. We will be inviting into our midst Ms Masami Morimoto who will perform two songs; Haruno umi (spring sea) and Sakura sakura (cherry blossom). A group called the Ankodama Chorus will also sing six Japanese folk songs.



どじょっこふなっこ **Dojyokko Funakko**
ほたるこい 秋田地方 **Hotaru koi**
金比羅ふねふね 香川県 **Kinpira fune**
ずいずいずっころばし 東京地方 **Zuizuzukkorobashi**
会津磐梯山 福島県 **Aizu bandaisan**
ふるさと **Der Heimat) Furusato (home town)**



Parents are very welcome to join us for this occasion and immediately following this assembly there will be a Japanese Food Sale. Children may bring fifty cents to purchase a piece of this food. The money raised will go towards supporting children suffering in Japan following the March earthquake and tsunami. My thanks go to Kieko, Alice and Julia's mother for organising this event.



Next week is the Elementary Science Week and parents are invited to share the children

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scientific outcomes on Friday 8th April at 1.45 p.m. in their children's classrooms.

Enjoy a wonderful weekend. With kind regards, Jennifer McLaughlin.

News from the Secondary School

Exam Season: The exam season is almost upon us, and students from Grade 9 upwards are certainly starting to feel the pressure. I have often told students that if they are *not* worried about their exams, perhaps they *should* be, as a certain amount of adrenalin is essential; however, if they *are* worried, perhaps it is time to relax a little, because if any of your children allow the stress to get too *much*, then they will underperform. It is up to all of us to help them achieve this delicate equilibrium. Similarly, we have tried to strike the right balance between formal revision in ordinary lessons, and affording students the opportunity to revise independently. As a result, some slight changes have been made to the upcoming exam schedule (see below). Could I ask that all parents keep a close eye on their children's revision habits, making sure that they get plenty of sleep at night too, and that they always get a good breakfast before the exams themselves. Please also make sure that they come to the exams equipped with any stationery they will need, carried in a transparent plastic bag.

Grade 9 and 10 exams: These will take place from Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th April, according to the schedule below. Grade 9 and 10 students will have 'study leave' on **Monday 11th April**, and should only be in school when they have an examination Tuesday to Thursday. At all other times during these four days, they should be revising sensibly and independently at home, and we ask for your support in ensuring they do so. Whilst they are not to be examined in all subjects, and the results will not be communicated formally to parents other than through the end-of-semester reports, this is an important chance for our Grade 9 and 10 students to practise exam routines, and acclimatise to the examination experience, in preparation for the Diploma in the next few years.

N.B. There will be normal school for all Grade 9 and 10 students as soon as exams finish on the Thursday and all day on Friday 15th April.

Tuesday 14th April 08.30-10.00 = English
Wednesday 15th April 08.30-10.00 = Maths
Wednesday 15th April 11.00-12.30 = German
Thursday 16th April 08.30-10.00 = French, Spanish, ELD or PTL

Grade 11 exams: These are stressful times for Grade 11, and, again, I know we all want to do all we can to minimise stress, whilst also ensuring every student is afforded the chance to fulfil their potential. Grade 11 examinations will now take place from Friday 8th to Friday 15th April, and all students should now have their timetables. 'Study Leave' for Grade 11 will now commence on Tuesday 5th April, and therefore the last day of formal lessons for Grade 11 will be **Monday 4th April**. All Grade 11 exams will take place in the

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theatre, and will usually be as close as possible to the actual Diploma experience they will have in a year's time. Should any students require any last minute guidance about these important exams, please encourage them to speak to their teachers as soon as possible; alternatively, please feel free to email their teachers yourselves, and they will be only too happy to help.



Grade 12 exams: As parents will know all too well, the Diploma exams begin immediately after the Easter break, and this late Easter has caused problems for many schools in terms of ensuring quality, independent revision time for students. We have decided to begin the Grade 12 'study leave' on Friday 8th April, giving them just over a week in which to revise independently at home in the knowledge that their teachers are just a bus journey or an email away should they need them. Teachers will be available during their scheduled Grade 12 lessons throughout the final week before the holiday, should students want to come in and speak to them. However, the final day of formal lessons for Grade 12 will be **Thursday 7th April**, on which day, as you know, school will finish for all students at 12.15 in advance of the Parent Teacher Consultation (see below).



Parent Teacher Consultation: Not much to add on this subject now, other than to stress the importance a) of parents taking fully this opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teachers, whilst we still have a month or two left of the second semester; and b) ensuring your child comes *with* you, so they can also hear the feedback and targets *first hand*. I shall look forward to seeing as many of you as possible around school on Thursday afternoon, and some of our Grade 11 students will be on hand to welcome you to the school when you arrive.



Science Fair: Two things to celebrate especially this week, the first of which is the achievement of a handful of our Grade 7 scientists last weekend. Emily Smith, our Head of Science, writes: "Michael, Joseph and Lars competed in the Vienna International Science Fair that was held on Saturday, March 26th at the American International School. They competed against around 60 students from various schools (The American International School, Lycee Francais de Vienne, International Christian School of Vienna and Vienna International School). After several hours of judging, each walked away with an award:

- Michael - Honorable Mention
- Joseph - Excellent Rating
- Lars - Superior Rating

There was also an awards ceremony that took place on Thursday, March 30th where special and overall awards were presented to the students. DISV was extremely well represented in the awards! Joseph was presented with the special award of 'Most Complex Project' for his use of a living animal (his cat) to collect data. Lars won his category, which was the Junior Division of Physics and Computer Science. There were several categories in the junior division and the winner of each category was considered for the overall winner of the Junior Division. Lars was selected above all other Junior Division students to win the entire Junior Division. This is an incredible honour for a first-time Science Fair participant! Both Joseph and Lars received certificates and gift cards for

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Saturn. A big 'Congratulations' should go to the three of them for being motivated enough to take their Science Fair projects to the next level of competition!"



Ski Team: A source of equal pride to the whole school community was the achievement of the Ski Team at Seefeld a week or two ago. Congratulations to all medal and combination winners, especially:

- Pauli (G7) - Silver in the Giant Slalom; Silver in the Super G; 3rd In the Combination
 - Lara (G9) - Bronze in the Slalom; Silver in the Giant Slalom; 3rd In the Combination
 - Tono (G9) - Bronze in the Super G
 - Nikolaus (G11) - Gold in the Slalom; Silver in the Giant Slalom; Silver in the Super G; 3rd in the Combination
 - Micky (G11) - Gold in the Slalom; Bronze in the Super G; 1st in the Combination
- ...and to all other members of the team! We came in an impressive 3rd place overall in the Harrer Cup and won a big trophy! Many thanks also to our great helpers, Christl and Harald. What an amazing season we have had this year – and what wonderful young skiers we can boast. The future seems very bright indeed.



Finally, from ski to sun, I hope everyone enjoys what looks set to be a gloriously sunny and warm weekend. Matthew Savage