

04. September 2009



Danube DIGEST

News from the Director

I thought I would share some information with you about the cultural diversity we have within the school. This year, we currently have students representing 53 different nationalities in the school. There is no majority nationality with Austrians (many of whom are dual nationality) making up the largest group with just below 40% of the student body. The international nature of the staff is also reflected through the 23 different nationalities represented. This diversity is clearly an asset to our school in our efforts to deliver a truly international education.



I would like to invite all parents to a meeting on the Tuesday the 15th of September at 17:30 in the school theatre. This will be an opportunity for me to introduce myself more formally to the parent community and inform you of the direction the school will be moving this year. It will also be a chance for parents to meet with the members of PADIS.



The After School Activities for the year have now been prepared. The forms will have been given to the students today and need to be returned by the 10th of September. This year for the first time the school will be competing in the Danube Valley Athletic Conference with teams from AIS, VIS, Bratislava, Salzburg and Budapest in football, basketball, volleyball and tennis. These events will enable us to cheer on the Danube Dragons in their endeavours for competitive success.

Today

Friday 4th September:

Elementary Parent – Grade 1, 2 and 4 Homeroom Meetings 14:00-14:25

Next Week

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Monday 7th to Friday 11th September:

Challenge Week Field Trips Grade 6, Grade 9 and Grade 10

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 15th September:

Meet the Director 17:30 – 18:30 in the school theatre

Tuesday 15th to Friday 18th September:

Residential Field Trips Grade 5

Wednesday 16th to Friday 18th September:

Residential Field Trips Grade 3 and Grade 4

Thursday 17th September:

IB MYP Information Evening will start at 18:00 in the school theatre

IB Diploma Information Evening will start at 19:00 in the school theatre

News from the Elementary School

We have had a very good start to the new school year. All students, and especially our new students, have settled quickly into the school routine. The first week finished with a wonderful day out in the Augarten. The students had great fun in the pool and at the park. Some of the younger students were tired at the end of the day but they all went home very happy. The Early Years Unit spent most of their day in the Prater where they had a picnic lunch before returning to school.



The overnight trips for Grade 3, 4 and 5 will take place soon. Further information about each of the trips will be given out during our parents' information afternoon.

Dates of the trips are included in the 'Up Coming Events' section of the Digest.



In October we will have two American student teachers joining our teaching team. One of the student teachers will work with Miss Upton in the Primary class. This placement is part of their final teaching practice.

The students are in Vienna from Thursday 29th October and will stay for 10 weeks. They are still looking for accommodation and would enjoy staying with a family.

If you would like to offer some hospitality to one or both students please contact me.

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A 'Celebrating Internationalism' display is planned for this year. We will be looking at the different festivals and cultural activities that our students celebrate. If you can provide us with information about special festivals and cultural activities then please speak to Mrs. Fiona Mayer (fmayer@danubeschool.at).



Congratulations to Miss Yolanda Aspland who represented Austria in a drumming event last weekend. It was a wonderful experience for her to participate in such an international event.

News from the Secondary School

Next week Grades 6, 9 and 10 students will be on the challenge week field trips. In several cases the teacher for the Grade 7, 8, 11 and 12 students will be absent on the field trips. Students will continue to have work set for their classes. These will be covered by a substitute teacher Mr Windle for physical education and with other teachers in the school for other subjects. Grade 12 classes will also have work set if their teacher is absent but will have the option of working independently, many of them will undoubtedly be working on their Extended Essay.



The grade 10 MYP Personal Project is already underway this year. Staff supervisors are currently being assigned to students and we expect this to be completed by the time students return from Activity Week.

The final date for submission of the Personal Project is Wednesday 16th December 2009 and all parents will be invited to the "Personal Project Fayre" in the second semester when grade 10 students will be exhibiting their projects and will be available to answer questions and demonstrate what they have achieved. Grade 10 parents will receive an update letter with further information in the week beginning September 14th.



IB Coordinator, Mrs. Pernet, will be holding a personal statement writing session on Monday September 7 for Grade 12 students. On Friday September 11 Careers Advisor, Mrs. Atwater, will do a presentation on applying to medical and veterinary science courses in the United Kingdom during the homeroom pastoral period. All Grade 11 and 12 students are encouraged to come. On Monday September 14, Mrs. Atwater will run another session on how to apply to UK universities using the UCAS system during homeroom. Students are encouraged to check the careers bulletin board located on the third floor for upcoming events and their locations.

Several university visits are scheduled in September. The University of British Columbia (Canada) will be at DIS on Wednesday September 16 at 8:15am. Franklin College

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Switzerland will be at the school on Friday September 25 during the pastoral period. All university visits will be held in the theater. Lastly, Mrs. Atwater will hold an evening information session for parents on applying to UK and US universities on Thursday September 24 in the theater from 6:00 - 7:30pm.



Please note that there is an IB Diploma and IB MYP information evening on the 17th of September. The MYP element will start at 18:00 and the Diploma element at 19:00.