

Newsletter



No. 5/2016



International School Braunschweig – Wolfsburg

Dear Parents,

We would like to wish you, students and CJD community, a safe, happy and relaxed Christmas vacation. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution from staff, parents and students that have been involved in our daily school life throughout the year. Walt Disney once said ‘You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality’. All that we have achieved this year, has been made possible not only because of the commitment and support from the entire team, but staff, students and parents as well. Special thanks goes to the PTA members, who tirelessly worked hard day and night together to prepare all the wonderful items for the Christophorus market sale. We greatly appreciate all your work for school.



We look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas Party on Tuesday at 12.30 p.m. and look forward to another activity-filled year in 2017.

Kind regards,

Arundhati Mukherji
Academic Dean

Ursula Hellert
Head of School

School Life



Congratulations to the PTA Board Members of the school year 2016/2017. The School looks forward to all of your support and involvement to make so many of our activities together a reality, which otherwise may not have been possible. **The present PTA Board Members are** (from left to right): Ms L. Djemailovic, Ms K. Karnahl, Ms J. George and Ms R. Basso.

IGCSE Ceremony and results 2016

Congratulations!



This year's IGCSE ceremony took place on 11th November, 2016. After waiting for a long time, the former Year 10 students received their IGCSE Certificates. Parents, grandparents, friends and members of staff were invited to come together and celebrate their success. A number of students achieved passing grades in all subjects that are to be recognized as the equivalent to the "Erweiterte Sekundarabschluss I" which is the highest degree after ten years of education in Germany. Two students were honored with the IGCSE Certificate of Merit, and a book prize for their outstanding performance in the exams. We are very proud to announce an increase in our students' performance in some subjects which are to be seen in the table below. Please note the comparison of the results from our school in the previous session and this year's world average.

Anne Köneke, Cambridge Examination Coordinator

	IS (2014/15)	IS (2015/16)	world total (2015/16)
English	80%	72%	66.1%
German	85%	93%	88.5%
German FL	100%	100%	94.5%
Spanish FL	100%	100%	95.6%
Geography	82%	100%	73.3%
Maths	64%	92%	74.1%
Biology	82%	63%	75.5%

Percentage grade c or better/ Students with complete IGCSE quota



Cambridge Professional Development Workshops at the International School Braunschweig – Wolfsburg

Our school hosted three Cambridge Teachers' Professional IGCSE Workshops and welcomed around thirty teachers not only from Germany, but from many other countries as well in November. Teachers from Egypt, Brazil and Latvia found their way to visit our school and joined us for this two-day event.



The workshops aims were to explore teaching strategies and materials for class work, using good examples from all over the world on how to apply the teaching objectives in History, English and Art. Teachers discussed the role of assessment towards improving performance and also shared best practise to do so.

Workshop participants were impressed by the facilities offered at the International School. We have started planning more events for 2017. [Anne Köneke, Cambridge Examination Coordinator](#)

Music Department

"Akkordeon zu Gast im Klassenzimmer"



The project "Akkordeon zu Gast im Klassenzimmer", was co-organized by the "Musikland Niedersachsen" and "Musikhochschule Hannover". Altogether, 5 professional musicians visited 31 schools within the lower Saxony region in October and November. Our school was glad to be one of them! More activities were conducted after the workshops, like the colouring competition (Year 3,4 and 5) and essay writing (in Year 6,7 and 8). Come and find out who the winners are on the entrance hall notice board.

Year 3, Wyatt and Samiha : On 20th October, we had a famous person play music for us. He showed us how to play an accordion. He had been to many different countries. He played in a band in Hannover. We had lots of fun!



Year 7, Gregor: On Thursday, 20th October, Year 6, 7 and 8 had an accordion workshop. Mr Stagakis, a professional accordion musician showed all of us how an accordion works and how to play it. We had to guess what kind of song style he played us. He gave us a hint by saying which countries the song came from. We had Italian classical music, a French Waltz, American Jazz, an Argentina Tango and a Greek dance from his own home country. He also showed us other instruments, out of the accordion family, such as the Harmonica. Finally he played “Pirates of the Caribbean Sea” theme for us. We were informed that on 23rd–27th November the accordion festival will take place in Hannover, and that Mr. Stagakis will be playing there too.



Year 7, Erik: Today we had an unexpected visit. Mr Sagakis came to our school to show us his beloved accordion. He is from Greece and started learning to play the accordion at the age of 6. Nowadays, he plays on the largest accordion you could possibly get. It weighs about 15kg and it is also used in the orchestra. He also brought with him a baby accordion. Both of them are made of around 2500 pieces. Mr Stagakis didn’t play the small accordion because, he has taken it apart to show us, how the inner part of an accordion works. He played for us many famous songs from Italy, Argentina, France, and Greece. I think that this was an unforgettable experience in my life.

Our concert trip to Hannover

On 24th November, 47 students from Year 6 –10 joined a concert rehearsal in Hannover. This was an educational project co-organized by the “Musikland Niedersachsen” and “Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover (HMTMH)”. We studied and listened to a contemporary music piece called “Three water colours for String trio (violin, viola and cello), Bayan (chromatic accordion) and piano. It was one of the new commission works especially written for the Hannover Accordion Festival this year. The German composer Mr. Martón Illés, explained his composing idea. Sounds can be produced in an unusual way: stretching finger nails on the strings, a cluster of dissonance notes, hitting the violin bridge with a bow, contrasting dynamics, etc. Inside the HMTMH concert hall, we watched his final rehearsal with professional musicians. He demonstrated how to produce a special sound on the grand piano using a coin and hand palm!



Year 10, Georgy: “It was fascinating and impressive. I’d love to learn more in this direction (contemporary music)”.

Upper Primary (Years 3–5)

One platform where the International School children learn about different cultures, religion etc. is through EMR (Ethics, Morality and Religion). Apart from topics on ethics and morality we focus on religions from all over the world. This term they learnt how “**Thanksgiving**” is celebrated in some countries of the world, including Germany. A Thanksgiving tree was crafted and the students made thank you notes as leaves for the tree.

Years 3 – 5 talked about **Harvests festivals** around the world during the EMR lessons. They understood the concept that Harvest festivals everywhere were mainly about thanking God for all the material goods they enjoy. To wrap up the topic the children wrote small “thank you phrases/words” for all that they are grateful for.

Then they focussed on “**Diwali**”. Apart from focusing on the traditional story and customs

associated with the festival, Years 3, 4 and 5 gathered in the Assembly Hall and learnt a lot about the religious aspect of the festival.



They saw pictures of

how Hindus worship the Goddess Lakshmi on this day. There was a small replica of an alter in the Assembly Hall and the children even sat on the floor with folded arms and closed eyes and enacted “worshipping Goddess Lakshmi” with a Hindi religious song being played in the background.

Congratulation!



Congratulations to **Justus** (Year 4) for winning the “Special Commendation Certificate!” for his poem on Owls that he wrote for the Storytime magazine’s Animal-themed Poetry competition!

The judge, Mr Brian Moses, specialising on children’s poems, was the main judge. And he gave this feedback on the poem: “Justus’s poem cleverly gave us a lot of information and facts about owls in short lines, which were fun and easy to read and had a great rhythm all the way through. We really liked the line “Silent she soars” as it was very atmospheric. Well done Justus!”

RC/Year 1 Afternoon Room

October and November were full of busy afternoons for the children in the afternoon room. They were creative in making cute lanterns for the lantern procession and also many different spooky crafts that were used to decorate the classroom for the Halloween party we celebrated together.



They had loads of fun bobbing for apples and competing against one another to see who could eat their pretzel first without using their hands. Some children even challenged their senses by pinning the spider on the web while blindfolded or by racing spiders against one another with only a straw. To top off the whole afternoon, they could enjoy some yucky, scary jelly with worms and if brave enough, eat Dracula's eyeballs or drink some of his blood.

Primary Afternoon Room

This month in the Afternoon Room, the children have been busy crafting various Christmas gift ideas.

We would like to give a special thanks to "Lackerei Gabo" for donating the chocolate and sweets for our Afternoon Room Advent Calendar. The kids love the Lindt chocolate.



Library



I am glad to say that our library stock has been fulfilled with new items for our students and teachers. Especially for the IGCSE students new Cambridge IGCSE workbooks on Biology, Chemistry and Physics arrived and for the IB students samples of the best Internal Assessments in Geography, Maths, Physics, English are available now.

My special thanks go to family Troelsen who donated 35 absolutely new children subject books in German language. The books are from the "Was Kinder wissen wollen" series. They will be registered in the catalogue and available for the students at the soonest. **Maryna Stern, Librarian**

News from the Project Classes

Gardening in winter?



What is the gardening crew doing during wintertime? We craft labels for our vegetable beds, clean and organise our garden tools, plan our next gardening season and we have a lot of fun.



Information about the classes

RC



In October, to our theme 'Autumn', the Reception Class visited the Botanical Gardens. The children enjoyed learning that the hedgehog hibernates in winter and how to count the rings of a tree to determine its age. 'The Five Senses' were discovered by touching hidden things in closed containers and guessing what they could be, or listening attentively to what might be rattling this time! Halloween was filled with pumpkins and spooks and we even measured and weighed our pumpkins during our numeracy lesson. It was exciting to find out if our pumpkins floated in water, or not! For our literacy lesson on the letter sound 'e', as in 'eggs', we went

into our kitchen and scrambled eggs. The children ate them all up; most foods do taste better when you make them yourself! **We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! RC Class Team**

Year 1

For our first day trip we went to visit the public library. There we took part in a guided tour and enjoyed listening to a special story. We even got to follow the story on the big screen. Afterwards, we had time to browse through the books. Before we went back to school, everybody received their own book to keep and read at home. We also had our first well-deserved reward party for showing good behavior. As a special treat, we made individual pizzas with our favourite ingredients. After they were finished baking, we ate them for breakfast. Yum!

In maths, we have been busy strengthening number sense and learning about the special friends in number bonds. We loved playing games to practice adding and subtracting up to ten.



Year 1 Class Team

Year 2

Year 2 had two special events in November.



On November 22nd, as a result of good behavior, we were able to have a Basketball lesson from two Professional players of the Basketball Löwen Braunschweig Bundesliga team. Carlos Medlock and Constantin Ebert put the class through different technique stations and the children had a lot of fun.

The other event was a Day Trip to the Botanical Gardens on November 15th. The topic of our Tour was "Journey to the Equator" and it wrapped up our Jungle Theme. **Year 2 Class Team**

Year 3

We walked to the public library. Our class learned that there are sections for games kids and grown-ups. There was one special pen we found really interesting. With it, you can learn things in certain books. We all got together on a carpet, and we talked about how to borrow books.



We also enjoyed a baking activity in our art lesson. After washing our hands and getting out the baking equipment and ingredients, we made gingerbread muffins and butter cream frosting. We used food colouring to make primary colours out of the frosting and we mixed our primary colours to make secondary colours. It was fun eating the yummy gingerbread muffins!

Year 4



On November, 4th we went to the Natural History Museum to learn more about "Animals in Winter". We took the tram and bus to get there.



There was a big dinosaur right in front of the museum. After storing our jackets and our bags in the museum locker, we went to the room where a nice man told us how animals survive during winter. We learned that some birds migrate to warmer places and reptiles hibernate. It was really interesting! After our lesson, we were allowed to go around the museum. After finishing our breakfast at the museum, we came back to school. We all enjoyed the trip.

Written by Nihar, Hanan and Charlotte

Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy few months leading up to the assessment tests, which I'm sure they are happy are over.

We have recently learned about various festivals such as Diwali as well as harvest festivals around the world including the Chinese Moon Festival, and more recently,

Thanksgiving. In the corridor by the classrooms, there is a tree with all the things the students are thankful for.

The students are now very excited about Christmas (especially the Christmas break) and Alexandra's family have very kindly donated a homemade Advent wreath for our classroom.

We'd also like to welcome Kieran to our class and hope he's ready to play a lot of football!

**All of the Year 5s and class team wish everyone a relaxing Christmas and New Year.
We look forward to seeing you all in January!**



Year 6



Right on time to get prepared for the Christmas Time and first of Advent, Year 6 investigated all steps in the process of burning a candle as being part of the Science topic reversible and irreversible changes. From putting fire on the wick, melting wax all through the whole process to enjoy the warm the light of a candle.

But not only this: We enjoyed making a big fire with only a little bit of molten wax in a test tube. This can turn into a flame thrower when treated with cold, icy water in the right way. So be careful and never leave your candle alone! **Year 6 Class Team**



Year 7

Year 7 has been carefully studying in preparation for the November assessment tests. One of the topics that the class has been covering in the Biology lessons was to meet Mrs. Gren and Mr. Greef. Although these two are not personally related, they have many of the same things in common. To decode, these two names are simply the acronyms often used as memorizing techniques. They help remember all the necessary features of living organisms:



Movement, Respiration, Sensitivity, Growth, Reproduction, Excretion and Nutrition (Mrs. Gren) or, as you wish, Movement, Respiration, Growth, Reproduction, Eating, Excretion and Feeling (Mr. Greef). There are several well-known remembering techniques used by students. Since every student is different and possesses diverse capabilities in memorizing, every method has its own fans. The concept of mind palace is a very popular and can be used when memorizing great volumes of information. It matches an image of one's with a piece of information that needs to be memorized. There are several other methods like mnemonics, rhyming, or making up the story just to name a few. Speaking of the last one, in case of Mrs. Greef and Mr. Gren, the make-up story could go for example like this:

Never (Nutrition) Run (Respiration) Elephants (Excretion) Going (Growth) Round (Reproduction) Salisbury (Sensitivity) Market (Movement). In conclusion, students can choose any method they want, but whatever method that is, they better be well acquainted with Mrs. Greef or Mr. Gren before the Biology Assessment Test takes place.

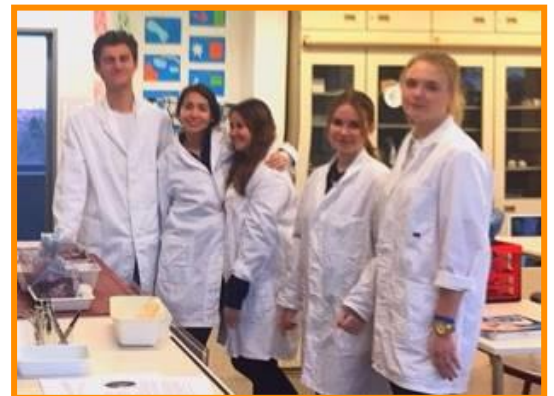
Year 8 / Year 9 / Year 10

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Senior School

Year 12 Biology Class

On Tuesday, 24th November, the Year 12 biology class had the chance to dissect several animal organs as practical work. This included the livers, kidneys and hearts of a deer and wild boars. Since the class is learning about Human and Animal Physiology at the moment, it was a great opportunity for students to become more familiar with the features of each organ and discuss among themselves their purposes and functions. For some students it was the first experience with dissecting organs, and the last time as well. It was definitely an eye-opening and educational experience!



Written by Nicole

Last minute information

Music department

On 25th November, our percussion band met Santa Claus at the Christophorus market! Year 4 Yasmina, Year 3 Yuna, Miyu and Amelie performed two songs: "Greensleeves (What child is it?)" and "Night Train Express". This was our first show and we had a wonderful time eating, chatting and shopping together.



We wish everyone an early Merry Christmas!

Impressum

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Every year the CJD offers 155,000 adolescents and young adults' orientation and prospects for the future. 9,500 employees and many volunteers at over 150 locations offer support, teach training skills and provide education. The Christian concept of the human being linked with the motto "Let no one fall by the wayside" make up the core of our work.