

KALEIDOSKOP

The newsletter of the German Language School in the San Francisco South Bay

President's Corner

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers, and Friends,

Welcome back to our spring semester 2007! After only several Saturdays into session, there are already several highlights to bring to your attention.

Our students' academic achievements continue to be very impressive as Linda Yarritu, our head-teacher, reports in this issue.

We have been able to form a partnership with Santa Clara University's German Honor's Program in support of student learning in our pre-K and lower grades.

As you have also noticed, we hired a new team to manage our office and have taken steps to improve the flow of communication with all of you. All of this promises to further improve the quality of the teaching and learning of German at our SBDS.

Josef Hellebrandt

Partnership with Santa Clara University

SBDS Teachers, SCU German Students,

This semester three SCU Honor students have begun working as teacher/resource aides. Cassandra Ilich, Erick Gustafson, and Therese Mathis assist our teachers Silvia McCracken, Patricia Beck, and Stefani Schaefer. This arrangement enables our teachers to better individualize their instruction and helps SCU students to learn about instructional techniques and student needs at each level.

Are you missing out on emails from SBDS ?

To ensure you receive the email communication we send you on a regular basis, please add the following two email addresses to your email programs' address book: communication@sbds.org and info@sbds.org.

Otherwise it might be possible that our emails get filtered out and end up in your dreaded Spam folder. Thanks!



Bird-eye view of the Willow Glen Middle School campus.

Parent morning

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming parent morning on **Saturday, March 3rd at 9:15 a.m.** in our break room A-101 where the office is located. The SBDS PTA cordially invites ALL members (parents and adult/teenager students) to attend the meeting and get the latest updates from board members and teachers. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions.

During the meeting there will be supervision for the classes' pre-K and K-6.

Very important, we will have **FREE** coffee and cake waiting for you.

Come and meet the board members and teaching staff. Ask questions in a relaxed and cozy atmosphere.

Our school library



We would like to make you aware that our School Library opening hour on Saturdays is from 9:15 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

tapes) as well as games for all age groups and want to make some room for new ones at home, we gladly accept your donations.

The library is conveniently located on the second floor almost above the school office. Take the stairs to the left of the school cafe.

This would help us to renew our library inventory a little and make it more attractive. You can drop off your donation either at the library or the school office.

Library Donations:

If you have new or used German books, recent German Magazines, German DVD's, CD's, or audio tapes (e.g. music and books on

For any question related to the school library, please talk to Kerstin Pintus or send her an email at kerstin@sbds.org.



Homepage of the SBDS Website www.sbds.org

Spring semester calendar

March 2007

- Mar 3: School - Parent Morning
- Mar 10: School
- Mar 17: School
- Mar 24: School
- Mar 31: School

April 2007

- Apr 7: No School - Easter Holiday
- Apr 14: School
- Apr 21: School
- Apr 28: School

May 2007

- May 5: School
- May 12: Last Day of School

Academic achievements

Dear Parents, Students and SBDS Members,

It is again my pleasure to announce this year's results of the AATG National Examination for High School Students. On January 13, our students in the junior high and high school levels took this exam with excellent results. This year many of our students scored in the top percentile ranking compared to 25,000 other German language high school students across the USA. Our top scores for **Level 2: Amanda Ison 85%, Katrina Swarhout 85%, Alexandra Lamperti 83%. Level 3: Paul Schneider 96%, Ben Jubelius 96%, Lisa Devon 89%, Natasha Lamperti 84%, Johannes Heine 83%, Francesca Hellebrandt 82%. Level 4: Levi Yun 95%, Sophia Weller 94%.** Nine of our students have qualified for the AATG Award Ceremony taking place in May of this year. Please join me in congratulating our hard working students and the teachers **Claudia Weller** and **Gerlinde Sunbury**.

About the American Association of Teachers of German examination: Each year the AATG tests the

proficiency of German language learning students at the second, third and fourth high school years. Parents, please keep in mind that our students compete with high school students across the USA who learn German on average 5 hours a week, compared to 2.5 hours a week at SBDS. I strongly believe that it is the steady exposure to the German language at an earlier age that results in higher than average proficiency of our students. Some of the SBDS students who take this test are up to four years younger than their senior high school counterparts. Native speakers' to non native speakers' scores are taken into consideration, as well as students who have visited a German speaking country for more than 2 weeks since the age of six. It is our mission to continue to excel in foreign language education and we, the staff and board at SBDS, are thankful for your support as parents for helping us reach our goals.

Linda Yavitu
Head Teacher
linda@sbds.org



AATG
is the American Association of Teachers of German.

Website: <http://www.aatg.org>

You r space



Your Business
Card here!

Note: Depending on the number of business cards, we will allocate the appropriate space in the newsletter.

Would you like to promote your business or offer your service? You can reach approx. 100+ potential customers with your ad here. If you're interested to rent some space here please contact communication@sbds.org for more information and conditions.