

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

## President's Corner

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers, and Friends,

This week our school takes a well-deserved break to celebrate Thanksgiving. This short holiday also allows us to reflect on some recent accomplishments which would not have been possible without your active support. Our toddler group is off to an excellent start and promises to become an integral part of our school. We are also ready to launch our first advanced placement (AP) preparation class in December! And, finally, we have been able to move ahead with these initiatives without raising our tuition.

As in previous year, your board has begun planning for our school's culminating event - our Christmas Party on Dec. 9 in the school cafeteria. Again, we hope for and will actively seek your assistance with this important community-building event.

It is also tradition to include in the last annual issue of the Kaleidoskop, a very special thank-you to all of you. Without your active involvement in and outside the classroom we would not be able to provide a stimulating and safe learning environment. Let's continue this tradition in 2008!

With best wishes for the holidays,

*Josef Hellebrandt*

President



**YAHOO!** GROUPS

### Did you know that our school maintains a non-public (closed) Yahoo! Group?

Well, if you do, then you probably have already subscribed to it and if not, you may want to use this opportunity and join. Since the SBDS Yahoo! Group is setup as a private/non-public group you need to receive an invitation to be able to join. If you are an active member of our school and like to join our online community, please send an email to [info@sbds.org](mailto:info@sbds.org) and request an invitation. After you receive the invitation you must follow the step described in that email in order to subscribe. If you have already a Yahoo account, you have access to all features and resources. If you do not have a Yahoo account you will only be able to join the mailing list, unless you sign up for an account.

As a member of the South Bay Deutscher Schulverein Yahoo! Group you receive school announcements and information, you can communicate with other members, you have access to documents and pictures from school events, etc.

The Internet Address for our Yahoo! Group is:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthBayDeutscherSchulverein/>

by paris@sbds.org

## The Board

Our school is administered by a Board of Directors consisting of elected and appointed officers. In addition to running the school, the board keeps members informed of the curriculum, schedules, special events and other pertinent matters. The board also arranges the school's activities and events.

At the last Parent Morning on October 27, 2007, three new Members have been elected to the Board of Directors for the positions of Vice President (Thomas), Fundraising Director (Lutz) and Event Director (Annette).



### Who is who in the picture?

Sitting from left to right are:  
Claudia (Head Teacher), Lutz (Fundraising Dir.), Annette (Event Dir.), Andrea (PTA, Registrar, Hospitality) and Jeannette (GASANC Rep.).

Standing from left to right are:  
Josef (President), Thomas (Vice President), Jens (Treasurer) and Paris (Communication Dir.).  
Missing in the picture is Ellen (Secretary).



## School Library

Our School Library opening hours on Saturdays are from 9:15 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

During school hours the library is currently located just in front of our office (Room A-101).

With the start of this school year we have also a new Librarian. Jasmine Pape took over from Kerstin Pintus and Therese Mathis.

### 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 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. You will also receive a donation receipt.

Your donations will help us to renew our library inventory and make it more attractive. You can drop off your donation either at the library or the school office.

In fact we have had some very nice Book, CD and DVD additions to the existing inventory. Stop by during recess and have a look at what we offer.

For any question related to the school library, please talk to Jasmine or send her an email at [jasmine@sbds.org](mailto:jasmine@sbds.org).

## Teaching at SBDS



*Claudia Weller  
Head Teacher*

It was a huge relief to be able to start the school year with a full contingent of teachers, and a new class. The new class is the Toddler-Parent class which has enjoyed a great start with our experienced teacher Patricia. Over the summer, we hired four new teachers and revised some of the former areas of responsibility. In German there is the saying "Neue Besen kehren gut", which translates to something like, "new brooms sweep well" ...and our staff will give a good demonstration of that.

### Academic goals:

Most of you probably already know, but just as a reminder I will explain, the annual AATG tests, which will take place on Dec. 15th this year. The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) offers a yearly exam to test the proficiency of German language learning students at the second (Level 2), third (Level 3) and fourth (Level 4) High School years. High School students, Saturday school students, and others take these tests across the USA. Our students do quite well and very often take the tests at a much younger age than their High School peers. The early and steady exposure our students experience to the oral and written language results in high scores at the AATG exam. 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. Every

year the South Bay Deutscher Schulverein has students who receive top scores and receive an invitation to the AATG Award Ceremony in May.

The exams are taken by students in 5th /6th /7th. Grade (Annette's class) and the Teenager class (Livia). The teachers work hard to give the students as much preparation for the tests as possible.

Academic achievements are very important. Learning a second language can be challenging, especially if the student depends on just a few hours on Saturday. We start at a very young age through songs and riddles etc. to expose the children to the language and to the culture. Writing and reading starts around the age of six and then, by 3rd/4th grade our students work with academic books and are being tested to determine their learning progress and help the teachers create the correct curriculum for the class.

### Adult classes:

We welcome all our new and returning students. It is always a pleasure to see interest in the German language where the students themselves make the decision about how to spend their precious leisure time. Congratulations as well to you, parents; you are a wonderful example for your children.

*Claudia Weller*

Head Teacher

## SBDS Homepage

In September we moved our School Homepage to a new Hosting Service called 1and1 for better reliability and great service and support. The move was completely transparent and caused no interruption.

Please stop by and visit our homepage at [www.sbds.org](http://www.sbds.org) frequently for announcements and other information. If you have questions or would like to contribute to the content or design of our website, please send an email to: [webmaster@sbds.org](mailto:webmaster@sbds.org).



*Homepage of the  
SBDS Website*

# 2007/2008 School Calendar

Remainder of Fall Semester			
Sat.	November 24	<b>No School</b>	Thanksgiving
Sat.	December 1	School	APprep Class starts
Sat.	December 8	School	
Sun.	December 9		Christmas Celebration 2-4pm @ WG Cafeteria
Sat.	December 15	School	AATG Tests
Sat.	December 22	<b>No School</b>	Winter Break
Sat.	December 29	<b>No School</b>	Winter Break
Sat.	January 5	<b>No School</b>	Winter Break
Sat.	January 12	School	
Sat.	January 19	Last Day of School	Fall Semester Ends
Spring Semester			
Sat.	January 26	First Day of School	Registration, Placement and Orientation
Sat.	February 2	School	
Sat.	February 9	School	
	February ??		Board Meeting
Sat.	February 16	School	
Sat.	February 23	School	
Sat.	March 1	School	Parent Morning (General Association Meeting)
Sat.	March 8	School	
Sat.	March 15	School	
Sat.	March 22	School	
Sat.	March 29	School	
Sat.	April 5	<b>No School</b>	Easter Weekend
Sat.	April 12	School	
Sat.	April 19	School	
	April ??		Board Meeting
Sat.	April 26	School	Prep for Student Certificates
Sun.	April 27		AATG Award Ceremony 2008 in Stanford
Sat.	May 3	School	AABV Award Ceremony
Sat.	May 10	Last Day of School	Mai Feier / School Year 2007/2008 Ends



## Deutsche Weihnachtsfeier

Please join us for our traditional Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 9, 2007 from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Cafeteria of the Willow Glen Middle School on Cottle Ave.

### Our Program includes:

Deutsche Gemütlichkeit, Presentations by the Students, German Christmas Songs, Coffee and Stollen, Raffle, Visit by Santa Claus aka Nikolaus!

The entire SBDS staff is looking forward celebrating Christmas 2007 with you.



## Member Space

**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 for donation, please contact [communication@sbds.org](mailto:communication@sbds.org) for more information.

