



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

Dear Members and Friends of our School,

With just a few more weeks left, the end of the spring semester (and 2008/09 school year) is ending soon. As in the past we are marking the end of the school year by celebrating our traditional Maifest, before we start into the summer break. More about the upcoming Maifest inside the newsletter.

Looking back it is fair to say that our school had another excellent year despite the current economic situation with one of the highest numbers of student enrollments of the last several years. This is also a reflection of the quality level we provide and can be contributed to the great work our teachers and volunteers do every Saturday when school is in session. I personally would like to thank all of them for their dedication and commitment to serve our small community.



You may have heard and seen over the past couple months communication of a potential move of our school to another location. After an initial assessment to weigh in the pros & cons, many discussions on the board and the feedback from our members, the school board decided NOT to move to the Santa Clara University campus at this time and continue to STAY at the Willow Glen Middle school. It is always great to have choices and I like to thank all of those who helped in the process to come to this decision.

I wish everybody a wonderful and relaxing summer break and hope to see you all again at the current location for the 2009/10 school year starting Saturday, September 19, 2009.

Herzliche Gruesse,

Josef Hellebrandt

President, South Bay Deutscher Schulverein

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kaleidoskop

Tests at SBDS - What is DSD, AATG, and AP?



1. American Association of Teachers of German (AATG)

In January the AATG National German Examination is administered to students in grades 6 and above. This test is generally offered to high school students learning German. It measures a student's German proficiency in comparison to 25,000 others who take the exam nationwide. The exam tests in context, and reading comprehension. There are three different test levels:

- Level 2 correlates to having two years of high school German language classes,
- Level 3 to 3 years, and
- Level 4 to 4 years.

The teacher determines the test level that is appropriate for each child. 18 Students from our school in the three different levels attended the AATG tests. 11 scored in the 70th percentile and 7 of them even in the 90th percentile and higher. These students are invited to the AATG recognition ceremony in Berkeley on April 26, 2009. Congratulations!

🌐 <http://norcal.aatg.org>



2. Deutsches Sprachdiplom (DSD) A2

Usually in April or May, the Deutsches Sprachdiplom A2 (DSD A2) is administered to students who have completed approximately 800 hours of German instruction and have demonstrated sufficient language proficiency. The DSD A2 is an official exam from Germany, which is only offered at certified German language schools, such as the South Bay Deutscher Schulverein. For the A2 we have 5 students attending the test, which takes place on two Saturdays in the second half of April.

3. Deutsches Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz (DSD) B1 and C1

Typically in March the Deutsches Sprachdiplom B1 and C1 are administered if there are eligible students. These exams provide the most advanced students an opportunity to demonstrate foreign language proficiency at the highest level. Some American universities recognize the Deutsches Sprachdiplom C1 by awarding college language credit and advanced placement. The Sprachdiplom C1 diploma is an official certificate accepted by all German universities, which will then waive any further language entrance testing. Our school had 9 students who took the B1 test back in March. The results are not yet published.

4. Advanced Placement (AP) Test German

Interested Students are also prepared to take the AP Test German, which are offered at area high schools.

5. AP International Recognition and Entrance to German Universities

For further information about AP International Recognition and entrance to German universities, please visit the College Board website. From the Home Page go to College Board Tests > AP Exam Grades > AP International Recognition > Germany.

🌐 <http://www.collegeboard.com>



Study Tips

The Author of this article, John Braunreuther is one of our students in his first semester of the Adult Beginner class, and wanted to pass along a couple of things that he found helpful for studying German. Here is his report:

Ten minutes of immersion a day, I found a podcast called "Langsam gesprochene Nachrichten", or "Slowly spoken News" by Deutsche-Welle. Updated daily, it is five minutes of news read slowly, so it may last anywhere from 8 to 12 minutes. There are several readers, all of whom are native speakers of German, so I know I'm hearing the proper accent, but in a variety of reading styles. I don't understand most of it, but I hear the patterns of the language, and I hear the high-frequency words... frequently. Occasionally I get on a roll, and I understand a big chunk, which is very satisfying. I subscribe to it on iTunes, but it can also be found in MP3 and WMA formats, as well as text, on their website



(Study Tips cont.) ✨ <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/0,,8030,00.html>. In fact, I listen to it on my iPhone with the iPod app, while I look at the text in the web browser app. The website also has other tools for learning German.



Speaking of the iPhone, I have an app that replaces the two massive volumes I was dragging around: my 600 page German dictionary, and the 700 page volume of verbs, conjugated in every tense. The Collins Pro dictionary does both. The entries are loaded with examples, and while looking at one, you can touch a word with your finger and get a menu that allows you either to look up that word in the dictionary, or in the case of a verb, to see it conjugated in any tense. It also keeps a history of words you've looked at, so reviewing them is easy.



Another app I found for the iPhone is called AccelaStudy. It is a flashcard app with the words already in it. You can select groups of words from several categories and then just flip through them, shuffle them, display them with or without the translation, and even hear the words pronounced by a native German speaker. Anytime I find myself with a few extra minutes, I can study vocabulary.

I'm assuming similar programs are available for other phone platforms. Hey, I'm going to bring my phone with me anyway, so now it's no extra effort to hear native German, look up words, or study vocabulary any time, any place. Got any study tips? I'd love to hear yours.

Author: John Braunreuther

eScrip helps our school



Did you know that you can support our school financially without spending an extra dime out of your own pocket? The Good Samaritan is called eScrip. With eScrip you just need to register your debit, credit and selected store cards on their secure website and help our school to raise some additional money that can be used for things our school needs, such as books and teaching materials. It is absolutely free and the online registration is fast and really very easy. If you consider signing up, please use '**South Bay Deutscher Schulverein, Inc.**' as Group Name and '**5534135**' as Group ID to ensure we receive the proceeds. Many of you are already eScrip members and support other schools or institutions. In this case you can allocate also a specific percentage to how much funding each recipient shall receive. Also make sure that you update your cards, e.g. Safeway annually!

✨ <http://www.escrip.com>

2009 Maifest



The planning and activities for the upcoming traditional SBDS Maifest are in full swing. Make sure you have marked your calendar for **Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 10:15 am**. Like in the past years the Maifest will be held on the Willow Glen Middle School campus, in front of the school cafeteria. Our teachers and staff put in a lot of effort to make this a fun event for everybody. We offer a lot of fun activities like outdoor games, singing, Maypole dancing, face painting, soccer shoot-out challenge and many more things. Of course one of the most important parts of the Maifest is the tasty German food. It would be great if you can contribute to our healthy potluck style lunch and bring your favorite German side dish or dessert to share it with others, e.g. salads, etc. This is of course a free event for all SBDS members, their families and friends.

German Maifest Tradition:

The Maifest is one of mankind's oldest traditions, the celebration of nature's bright reawakening after winter's cold darkness. The custom of the maypole began in the tenth century, when villagers would erect a pole in the local square and decorate it with sausages, cakes and multicolored ribbons. Dancing around the maypole, medieval citizens believed, would bring good luck and wealth.

Its religious and superstitious aspects have long since disappeared, but Mayfest is still celebrated throughout Germany, where cities and villages are bedecked with colorful drapery and flowers. Some areas light bonfires, while others elect May kings and most retain the maypole. Once again, the food is plentiful and beer and wine flow freely. Today, in many villages throughout Germany, one can also observe the Maibaum (Maypole). The Maibaum may be officially erected in the market place, in front of city hall or some other prominent spot in town. Often colorful carved shingles or signs decorate the Maypole and indicate the town's various trades and professions. The Maypole and the dance around it is a singular symbol of spring's reawakening of fruitfulness. In some areas a whole village may gather around a Maypole to hold hands, dance, sing and drink. We still need about 10 volunteers for some activity stations. Please contact Annette Buckmann at abuckmann@hotmail.com, if you are able to help.

SBDS part of "Partner Schools for the Future" Initiative



End of last year our school joined the "Partner Schools for the Future", an initiative of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany in cooperation with the Goethe Institute and the Zentralstelle fuer das Auslandsschulwesen. SBDS is now part of a network of 868 schools in 105 countries around the world. For more information, please read got to our website at <http://www.sbds.org> and read the letter from the German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, he addressed to our school.

<http://www.pasch-net.de>

Volunteers needed



Our school depends on volunteers! SBDS has many opportunities and possibilities to become even better, safer and valuable for our community. It depends on its members to help in many ways, and a lot of the activities are fun, too! Of course we need always help at the cake and library table, during recess and during the events (like Christmas and Maifest), but there are a few more ideas on how YOU can help.

1. SBDS GASANC representative

GASANC is our parent organisation which unites all Saturday German schools in the Bay Area. The main activity here is to attend their meetings and represent SBDS. This is a board position, you could learn a lot about SBDS!

2. German Computer games

Who is interested in finding and testing online computer games that can help our kids learn some German? Let's get our kids to play something USEFUL while they are on the internet. It would be great if you could find, test and categorize online games, and then SBDS could list them on the web site for all members to enjoy!

3. Recess Lead

We need help to keep our kids safe! A recess lead could coordinate some volunteers to watch our kids during the break from 10:15 until 10:45. SBDS already talked to the Willow Glenn school and there are some ideas on how to minimize cars driving thru the campus during that time. Any help is needed here!

4. Online Photo Album

Interested in enhancing our web site with some pictures? We already received photos from our members during the events, but now we would like to share them on our web site. Who has an artistic eye, talent and tools for that?

5. Reporter or Writer

Would you like to test your English and German writing skills? Interview the staff, teachers and students to share some interesting stories on what's going on at SBDS? Or share some news among our German members? Our Kaleidoskop newsletter needs ALWAYS more content, and we would love to publish it more frequently!

Author: Thomas Zscherpel

SBDS decision on campus location



At the April 7, 2009 Board Meeting the board made the decision NOT to move to the Santa Clara University (SCU) at this time. Instead we will re-apply with the San Jose Unified school district and intend to STAY at the Willow Glen Middle School (WGMS) for the coming school year 2009-2010.

The most important reasons against SCU are an anticipated significant reduction of our current membership (mostly due to its location) and some difficulties to get long term contracts at this time. We also heard that most members like the current character and location of SBDS on the WGMS campus with its social and academic components. SBDS will try to further work with WGMS to improve the relationship and environment in the class rooms for next year.

It is always great to have choices, and as members we all helped to make a decision for our school. Thanks for all the support and we all hope the decision was in your best interest and that we will see you again at the current location for the 2009-2010 school year!

SBDS Yahoo! Group



In case you are not aware, our school maintains a non-public (closed) Yahoo! Group. If you are an active member of our school and like to join the group, please send an email to info@sbds.org and request access. Because it is a closed group you need an invitation to be able to join. After you receive the invitation, just follow the step described in the email in order to subscribe.

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

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

Do you miss German Food? Here are some Tips



Tyrolean Inn Restaurant	Authentic Bavarian and German cuisine	🌟 http://tyroleaninn.com
Hardy's Bavaria	Good German Restaurant	111 W Evelyn Ave, Sunnyvale, CA
Crossroads World Market	International Grocery Store	720 San Antonio Rd, Palo Alto, CA
Esther's German Bakery	Fine Pastries, Bread, Brezeln, Rolls	🌟 http://www.esthersbakery.com
GermanDeli.com	US based German Online Grocery Store	🌟 http://www.germandeli.com
Dittmer's	Gourmet Meats & Wursthaus	🌟 http://www.dittmers.com
Walzwerk	Unique East German cuisine in S.F.	🌟 http://www.walzwerk.com
Münchner Haus Delicatessen	Freshly prepared German Sandwiches	39212 Fremont Blvd Fremont, CA

School Calendar

Below please find the school calendar for the remainder of the 2009 Spring Semester and the 'tentative' schedule for the 2009 Fall/Winter Semester. Please check the Website for the latest schedule.



Remainder of 2009 Spring Semester			
Sat.	April 18	School	DSD-A2 Written Test (for Teenager 12-14 years)
Sat.	April 25	School	DSD-A2 Verbal Test (for Teenager 12-14 years)
Sun.	April 26	Event	AATG recognition ceremony in Berkeley
Sat.	May 2	School	
Thu.	May 7	Event	German AP Tests at local High Schools!
Sat.	May 9	Last Day of School	Maifeier & School Year 2008/09 ends

(School Calendar cont.)

2009 Fall/Winter Semester			
Sat.	September 19	First Day of School	Enrollment for 2009/10 Fall-Winter Semester
Sat.	September 26	School	
Sat.	October 3	School	
Sun.	October 10	School	Parent Morning & Board Election
Sat.	October 17	School	
Sat.	October 24	School	
Sat.	October 31	School	Halloween
Sat.	November 7	School	
Sat.	November 14	School	St. Martin Fest @ 6:30 pm
Sat.	November 21	School	
Sat.	November 28	No School	Thanksgiving
Sat.	December 5	School	
Sat.	December 12	School	
Sun.	December 13	Event	Christmas Celebration @ 2:00 pm
Sat.	December 19	No School	Winter Break
Sat.	December 26	No School	Winter Break
Sat.	January 2, 2010	No School	Winter Break
Sat.	January 9, 2010	School	
Sat.	January 16, 2010	School	
Sat.	January 23, 2010	Last Day of School	2009 Fall/Winter Semester Ends

We will be in Summer break starting May 10th through September 18th, 2009.

The entire Board and Teacher staff wish you a wonderful and relaxing summer break and would love to see you all back at our school in September.

We are looking for teenager and adult volunteers to contribute to future Kaleidoskop newsletters. Please contact me directly at paris@sbds.org or your teacher with your ideas for an article etc..

Tschuess,

Paris

Kaleidoskop Newsletter for the South Bay Deutscher Schulverein (SBDS)

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