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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers, and Friends of the GHLS Community,

We are halfway through our 2022-2023 school year already, and we have thoroughly enjoyed being back to in-person learning this year. We have experienced some changes to our staffing recently, as our Direktor (Principal) has stepped down and we have found a new one to take her place. Below, you will find information about this transition, as well as about our Term II class dates, and recent and upcoming GHLS events. It has been a wonderful few months of learning – let’s enjoy the rest of the 2022-2023 GHLS school year just as much. We look forward to a lot of learning, as well as a lot of fun during our upcoming GHLS community events!

A Message for the Departing Direktor

The GHLS board, teachers, and the entire GHLS community would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our departing Direktor, **Christine van der Stege**, who will be moving West in March with her family to pursue new adventures. Christine has been an integral part of our school this past year as she took over the position of Direktor. Her friendliness, her enthusiasm, and her knack for new and exciting ideas will be greatly missed. Christine, for example, organized and lead (with the help of Marco Roenz) a German Forest School camp last summer, wherein a group of students (aged 5-12) spent an entire week outside in the forest at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park, playing games, swimming, learning to canoe and to whittle sticks (and much more), all while being immersed in the German language the entire time. This is just one example of the work and inspiration that Christine brought to our German community. Christine’s sons Noah and Liam will also be missed, as they have been students at the GHLS for several years. We wish you nothing but the best for your new endeavors, Christine and family. Thank you for all the ways in which you contributed to our school while you were here.

A Message from the new Direktor

We would like to give a warm welcome our new Direktor, **Cornelia Schneider**. We are convinced that Cornelia will excel in her new role due to her professional background and personal enthusiasm, and we look very much forward to having her as part of our team. Welcome, Cornelia, and thank you for taking on this role.

Below is an introduction from Cornelia herself.

Dear GHLS Students, Families, Friends and Supporters,

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself to you as the new Principal of the German Heritage Language School, as I am sure you are curious about who I am. My name is Cornelia Schneider, I was born and raised in Nuremberg, in beautiful Franconia. I am a mom of two young kids who are currently going to GHLS. I am an Associate Professor at Mount Saint Vincent University in the Faculty of Education, and have been, in addition, the Director of Teacher Education for the past three years. I did my studies in both Germany (Universität Würzburg) and France (Université Paris Descartes - Sorbonne) in the field of Education, Special Education, Sociology of Education and Childhood which has over the years evolved into my research and teaching interests about disabilities, childhood, inclusion and inclusive education.



I hope to be able to support the terrific team at GHLS with my skills and knowledge about teaching and learning. I would like to put the learning experiences of the students of the GHLS at the centre of my work, so that they can experience positively their German roots and connections with the German language and culture. I am thrilled to be put in the position to contribute to this work. In the coming weeks and months, I am welcoming any conversation about your ideas or hopes for the GHLS, as it is in our common interest to advance and promote engaging learning opportunities for all our students.

*Liebe GHLS Schüler*Innen, Familien, Freund*Innen und Unterstützer*Innen,*

*Mit diesen Zeilen würde ich mich gerne bei euch vorstellen als die neue Schulleiterin der German Heritage Language School, weil ich mir vorstellen kann, dass ihr neugierig seid, wer ich denn bin. Mein Name ist Cornelia Schneider, ich bin in Nürnberg im schönen Frankenland geboren und aufgewachsen. Ich habe zwei kleine Kinder, die auch zur GHLS gehen. Ich bin Associate Professor bei Mount Saint Vincent University in der Fakultät für Erziehungswissenschaften (Faculty of Education), und seit drei Jahren außerdem dort die Direktorin der Lehrer*Innenbildung. Mein Studium habe ich in Deutschland (Universität Würzburg) und Frankreich (Université Paris Descartes – Sorbonne) absolviert, mit dem Schwerpunkt in Pädagogik, Sonderpädagogik, Soziologie der Erziehung und der Kindheit, der sich dann über die Jahre in den Forschungs- und Unterrichtsschwerpunkt für Behinderung, Kindheit, Inklusion und inklusive Erziehung weiterentwickelt hat.*



*Ich hoffe, dass ich mit meinem fachlichen Hintergrund und meinen Kompetenzen zum Unterrichten und Lernen das fabelhafte Team der GHLS unterstützen kann. Ich möchte gerne die Lernerfahrungen unserer Schüler*Innen der GHLS in den Mittelpunkt unserer Arbeit stellen, so dass sie positive Erfahrungen mit ihren deutschen Wurzeln oder generell mit der deutschen Sprache und Kultur machen können. Ich freue mich sehr, zu dieser Arbeit beitragen zu dürfen. In the kommenden Wochen und Monaten würde ich mich sehr freuen, mit euch über eure Ideen und Erwartungen für die GHLS zu sprechen, weil es ja doch in unserem gemeinsamen Interesse ist, motivierende Lernangebote für alle unsere Schüler*Innen mitzugestalten und zu fördern.*

Term II Class Schedule

TERM II - WINTER 2023

January 19th: First day of Term II classes

March 16th & March 23rd: NO CLASSES (MARCH BREAK)

May 11th: Last day of Term II classes

Upcoming Events

Kaffeeklatsch at the Shambhala School

Every Thursday @ 4:30pm-6:30pm

Trivia Night at Maxwell's Plum Pub

Monday, February 13th 2023 @ 7pm

Please join us to have some fun, some snacks (provided), and great company at our German Trivia Night at Maxwell's Plum Pub (1600 Grafton Street, Halifax; basement). All adults and all German levels are welcome; we will mix different levels and groups. You are welcome to bring friends and family!

Jugend Debattiert Kanada Workshop in Montréal, Québec

February 17th – 19th 2023

Three of our GHLS students (Sarah Dantz, Luisa Ensslin, and Jacob Weise), along with GHLS teacher Emily Martens-Oberwelland, will be traveling to *Cégep de Saint-Laurent* in Montréal, Québec, to take part in a German youth debate workshop. This workshop will consist of presentations and debate competitions, complete with debate juries. Declared winners of the debate workshop will have the chance to move on to Regionals. Our students will be competing against students from the *Deutsche Internationalen Schule Alexander (Humboldt Montréal)*, from the *Deutsche Sprachschule (Montréal Centre)*, and from *Cégep de Saint-Laurent* itself. Sarah, Luisa, and Jacob – we wish you the very best and we hope that you have a fun, enriching experience! Best of luck!

HIP Multilingual Fair

Saturday, February 18th 2023 @ Halifax Central Library (1pm-3pm)

The GHLS has been invited to participate in the HIP Multilingual Fair, which is being held as part of the International Mother Language Day, to promote the different languages spoken in the Halifax region. It would involve setting up and maintaining a GHLS booth, displaying German books and some worksheet activities, chatting about our German School with visitors, and possibly reading a short German children's book during the multilingual storytelling session in the BMO room. **We are seeking volunteers for this upcoming fair. The volunteers can be GHLS students, parents, or other community members associated with our school. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please email admin@germanschool.ca for more information.**



**Kinderfest Vorlesestunde at Woodlawn Public Library (not a GHLS event)
Thursday, February 23rd @ 10am**

German story/music time hosted by Franziska McCurdy at the Woodlawn Public Library (31 Eisener Blvd, Dartmouth). This event is for German-speaking or German-learning children (ages 0-5 years old). Stories and songs will amaze your little loved ones. Play time will follow the reading. This is a fantastic way to meet new German-speaking/learning families and for your littles to make some great new friends and to be exposed to the German language. Please go to the Facebook event page to confirm attendance: <https://fb.me/e/2I2HLLjEU>

Fasching

Thursday, February 23rd 2023 @ Shambhala School (4:30pm-6:30pm)

We will hold a Faschingsfeier/celebration at the Shambhala school during class hours. Students are welcome (and encouraged) to wear costumes as part of this celebration. More details will be made available on our website/via email soon.

DSD Level 1 Examinations

Seven of our GHLS students will write the DSD Level 1 (Sprachdiplom) Examinations (March 9th 2023), and the oral/spoken Examinations (April 6th 2023). We are proud of all students who are undertaking these examinations, and we wish them the very best. For more information about the DSD Classes and Examinations, please visit <https://www.germanschool.ca/sprachdiplom>

Bibliothek-Eröffnung (GHLS Library Opening) / DSD-Zeugnis-Übergabe (DSD-Certificate Presentations) / GHLS Schreibwettbewerb Ausstellung (Writing Contest Exhibition)

Thursday, March 30th 2023 @ Shambhala School (4:30pm-6:30pm)

More details will be made available on our website and via email soon

Ostereiersuche (Easter Egg Hunt)

Thursday, April 6th 2023 @ Shambhala School (4:30pm-6:30pm)

We will have a small Easter-Egg Hunt at the Shambhala school during class hours. More details will be made available on our website and via email soon.

GHLS Year-End Party

Saturday, May 27th 2023 (Rain date: Sunday, May 28th 2023)

Our end of year GHLS celebration is always a nice way to bring students, their parents, our staff, and our board members together before summer. More details will be made available on our website and via email soon.

GHLS Events in Review

The GHLS community has been fortunate to be able to enjoy a few in-person events over the past few months. These events are integral to who we are and to our commitment to fostering a vibrant German speaking community in Halifax and surrounding areas. There is no entrance fee to any of our events. Invitations to these events are sent out to our community via email. We want to emphasize that, even if you were unable to register this year, or if you have children too young to participate in an online class, you are still more than welcome to attend our events. If you are interested in receiving information and invitations, please contact engagement@germanschool.ca in order to be placed on our email list.

Laternenfest (November 2022)

Despite the windy/rainy weather, we were able to hold a wonderful Laternenfest indoors at the Christ Church Parish Hall in Dartmouth in November. We began our Laternenfest with a play of Sankt Martin, which was performed by a few of our GHLS students. We had asked those attending to bring non-perishable items to donate for the Christ Church Food Bank, and we were thrilled with the number of donations made. Attendees were asked to bring a potluck finger food to share. We also organize a German Book Swap during this event, where attendees brought a book or two to add to the collection, and adults and children found some great German books to take home with them. Lastly, we sang our German songs (Ich geh mit meiner Laterne; Laterne Laterne) as we walked around the hall with the children's many lanterns (some of which were made in their GHLS classes the week prior), with lights turned down. It was a wonderful atmosphere.





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Speak-Dating Event at Saint Mary's Boat Club (November 2022)

The Speak-Dating event was a very interesting and enjoyable new experience with language exchanges in German and French. This was a collaborative event between the GHLS and the Alliance Francaise of Halifax. Many thanks to all who helped organize and all who participated, to make the event a success.



CANADA AND GERMANY: PARTNERS FROM IMMIGRATION TO INNOVATION: Opening Reception of the Exhibition at Pier 21 (December 2022)

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 held a FREE opening reception for the exhibition of Canada and Germany: Partners from Immigration to Innovation. *"This exhibition displayed historical events over the centuries, inspiring stories of German immigrants, and innovative bilateral research projects and partnerships. This special exhibition was curated by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Canada for the purpose of celebrating the 150th anniversary of Canada, as well as the long and positive relationship between the two countries. It honors the German-Canadian friendship, from a rich history of immigration to cultural collaborations and innovations. The exhibition reception included speakers from both the German Embassy and the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, as well as live music and German-inspired hors-d'oeuvres."*





Nikolausfeier (December 2022)

Our annual Nikolausfeier, held at the Christ Church in Dartmouth, was a huge success once again! We had a very large attendance of both adults and children, and it was wonderful to see everyone together. Attendees were asked to bring a finger food to share for our potluck, there were some musical and some story-telling/play performances by some of our GHLS classes, students lit the Advents Kranz, we sang German Christmas carols, and we were even lucky enough to get a visit from the one and only Nikolaus, who gifted the children with small Nikolaus bags. We also held another German book exchange, which is always a hit. Thank you to all who helped plan, organize, and execute this wonderful annual event, and to all who attended!



Bake Sale Fundraiser (December 2022)

The GHLS held a bake sale at the Shambhala School during the 4:30-6:30pm Children's classes. GHLS students, staff, Admin, and other community members donated baked goods for a bake sale fundraiser. Funds raised during this bake sale will be used by the GHLS to enhance student learning (ie; learning aids, shared school and craft supplies, and much more).

Teacher Workshop and Appreciation Potluck (January 2023)

The GHLS recently held a Teacher Workshop and Teacher Appreciation Potluck. The workshop, titled "Dekolonisation im Deutschunterricht – Beispiele für die Praxis" was presented by **Mirjam Held**, and gave much food for thought for our teachers. This presentation was followed by a potluck, as a token of appreciation for our GHLS teachers.



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Website: <https://www.germanschool.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/germanlanguageschoolhalifax>

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**** Please email Barbara Kluge at newsletter@germanschool.ca with any information or photos that you would like included in upcoming Newsletters. Any suggestions and submissions are welcome and appreciated ****