

Juni 2008

Rundbrief # 4

Liebe Eltern und Lehrer der GKR!

Die Schule ist aus und das **Mittelalter Fest** steht uns noch zuvor!
Details sind per E-mail verschickt.

Die Kinder von GERMAN KIDS RICHMOND haben im vergangenen Jahr wieder viel dazu gelernt und Fortschritte gemacht. Die Deutsche Kultur und Traditionen wurden mit Feiern und Spielen gepflegt und dabei wurden viele schöne Erlebnisse gesammelt.

Newsletter # 4

Dear Parents and Teachers of GKR!

School is out and the **Medieval Festival** is planned for this weekend!
Check your e-mail for details.

The children of GERMAN KIDS RICHMOND progressed with their German language skills and knowledge of the German culture. We celebrated our German traditions with plays, games, crafts and fun, while creating many wonderful memories with our families.



Bitte gebt Euer **Anmeldeformular** bei einem Vorstandsmitglied ab, wenn Euer Kind im Sept. 2008 dabei sein möchte.

Please get your **Registration Form** to a committee member soon, if you want your child to join in Sept 2008.



Die nächsten Termine

- 14. Juni 2008 Mittelalter Fest
- 1. Freitag im Monat – Garry Point Park Summer Socials – 1st Friday / month

Upcoming Events

June 14th – Medieval Festival



GERMAN KIDS RICHMOND Vorstand / Committee

Director: Christian Reuten, Administration: Ingrid Lucke & Suzanne McIntosh,
Finance: Gisela Escher, Past Director: Astrid Sings
Newsletter, Brochure & Website Editor: Christine Boecker



**GERMAN KIDS RICHMOND at Opening Day of the first annual
Steveston Farmer's & Artisan Market**



Am Sonntag, den 4. Mai, eröffnete der Steveston Farmer's Market die Pforten, und die GERMAN KIDS RICHMOND halfen bei den Feierlichkeiten mit Speisen und Unterhaltung bei Rekordbesucherzahlen.

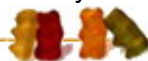
Unsere Eltern verteilten über fünfhundert hausgemachte deutsche Bratwürste, und die Kinder unterstützen die Feierlichkeiten vor der Bühne mit traditionellen deutschen Liedern und Tänzen.

Dies war bei weitem unsere erfolgreichste Spendenaktion und eine hervorragende Werbung für GKR in Richmond.



On Sunday, May 4th, the Steveston Farmer's Market opened its doors, and GERMAN KIDS RICHMOND were there to help celebrate, by feeding and entertaining the record crowds. Parent volunteers served up over 500 homemade German bratwursts, and the kids took to the main stage and contributed to the party atmosphere by singing and performing traditional German songs and dances.

This was our most successful fundraiser so far. This event was also a great opportunity to promote GKR in the Richmond community.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD

~ By Christian Reuten

Since the AGM, the board has been working tirelessly, partly behind the scenes, to discuss the future direction of GKR. Since I have taken over Astrid's directorship of the board I have spent much time with individuals simply listening to concerns and gathering ideas where we should be heading. The reason for the board to work behind the scenes was to stay focused and not to flood all of you with ideas and discussions that become obsolete within days. At the same time I strongly believe in openness and inclusiveness. Ideas abound, but over the next few weeks there will be many decisions to be made. I

ask everybody to contribute to these decisions, because neither the board nor I can and want to make all these decisions without a broad consensus. If you have any concerns that you do not want to share broadly please do not hesitate to contact me personally. I believe that many issues can be resolved in personal communication.

The most important message is that most likely all four classes will be able to continue. Furthermore, there is a chance that we may be able to open a new class for students without prior German knowledge. However, both continuation of existing classes and establishing new classes will require changes to GKR current structure and a re-orientation of efforts. A main goal is to separate administration from teaching and substantially reduce administrative overhead. To that end, all German classes will organize themselves independently from GKR with regards to time, location, and teacher payment. GKR will focus on its original core initiatives: organization of external and internal events, web presence, and marketing. This is just a rough framework; the details will require many tedious and sometimes painful decisions.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the parents, who changed their mind and decided to stay with GKR. These decisions hinged on my personal promise to improve the way GKR is run, in particular to implement the rough framework described above. Our teachers and substitute teachers have done an extraordinary job. The feedback I received from parents has been exclusively positive. It breaks my heart to see the disappointment of our parents over the loss of two greatly praised teachers. I apologize that we have not been able to keep these teachers.

Let me end on a positive note by thanking each and every one of you for your commitment to GKR. I appreciate that some have even less time than others to invest in GKR, and yet you have all demonstrated that you are committed to our future. I honestly believe that GKR has a bright future with your involvement either in your current or future role or by supporting GKR whenever we need a helping hand.



Our Volunteers

by Christine Boecker

On behalf of the children, we thank all the volunteers of GERMAN KIDS RICHMOND! Without you none of what is described in this newsletter would even exist. Einstein said if you can imagine it, you can create it. We have certainly done it – and at the same time our children can now (to some extent) read and write in German. BONUS!

Unsere Voluntäre

Ein riesiges Dankeschön an die 2007/08 Vorstandsmitglieder Astrid Sings, Gisela Escher und Ingrid Lucke, an das Festekomitee Christiane Thrum und Karin Voss, an Shan Wong für die Administration, an Suzanne McIntosh und alle Voluntäre, die sich für unsere Kinder unermüdlich einsetzen. Ich bin so dankbar und stolz auf unsere GERMAN KIDS RICHMOND und für alle, die immer wieder mithelfen.

Ein weiteres Dankeschön geht an unsere Sponsoren und nicht zuletzt an die Kinder, die jede Woche wiederkommen. **Danke!**



What our children say and write in German:

Kindergarten

Ich mag die Schule weil wir da immer so tolle Sachen basteln und im Gym zusammen spielen. Und ich mag, dass Karin immer so nette Sachen mit uns macht und so eine nette Lehrerin ist. Und ich mag, dass der Nikolaus uns besucht hat und uns Geschenke gebracht hat. Das fand ich toll! - Amy

Die Juniorklasse

Ich mag Deutsche Schule weil die Lehrerinnen nett sind. Ich kenne ein Spiel das ich mag. Ich habe es gelernt. Monica hat uns das Spiel erklärt um Unterricht viel spannender zu machen. Ein Schüler schreibt etwas auf Papier und klebt es auf deine Stirn. Dann musst du das Wort erraten. Die anderen Kinder dürfen nur ja oder nein sagen. Das finde ich toll! - Sebastian Reuten

Die Senioreklasse

Es macht Spass jedes Jahr ein neues Thema zu haben. Dieses Jahr haben wir Mittelalter. Ich wusste fast gar nichts, also war es interessant etwas Neues zu lernen. Die Lehrerinnen sind immer nett und erklären die Aufgaben sehr gut. – Serena Reuten



Osterfeier / Easter Egg Hunt 2008

Zur Abwechslung hatten wir herrliches Wetter während des Ostereiersuchens. Über dreißig Erwachsene und Kinder versammelten sich am Strand am Garry Point um die Ostereier zu suchen, die unser Osterhase versteckt hatte. Die Suche war nicht einfach oder notwendigerweise erfolgreich, aber die Kinder genossen es trotzdem. Anschließend begaben wir uns für Kuchen und andere Köstlichkeiten in die Kirche, wo die Tische mit Frühlingsblumen geschmückt waren. Eltern und Großeltern sahen Aufführungen der Kindergarten und Anfängerklassen mit Gesang und Spiel. Es war ein gemütlicher Nachmittag für alle Beteiligten.



For a change, the weather turned out very nice for our Easter egg hunt. Over 30 adults and children gathered at Garry Point beach eager to look for eggs left by our Easter bunny. Searching was not easy or necessarily successful but the children enjoyed it nonetheless. Afterwards we moved into the church where tables were decorated with spring flowers to have cake and goodies. Parents and grand parents also watched the Kindergarten class and Beginner class perform songs with actions and props. It was a *gemütlicher* afternoon for everyone.

St. Martin's Fest

Das alljährliche St.Martin's Fest war auch dieses Mal ein grosser Erfolg. Am 29.10.2007 nahmen über 20 Familien an dem Fest teil.

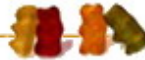
Die traditionelle St. Martin's Vorführung wurde von der Juniorenklasse aufgeführt. Die Senioren-, Anfänger-, und Kindergartenklassen haben uns Lieder vorgesungen. Nach den Aufführungen und dem Essen ging es raus zum Laternenumzug. Jedes Kind brachte seine selbstgemachte Laterne mit, die während der Schulzeit gebastelt wurden.



Lieder , die wir vorher geübt hatten, wurden gesungen. Der Umzug dauerte ungefähr eine halbe Stunde.

The annual St. Martin's/Lantern Festival was again a great success. On Oct.29, 2007 over 20 families took part in the event.

The traditional St.Martin's Play was played by the Junior Class. The Senior-, Beginner and Kindergarten classes sang German songs. After the show and the food we went outside for the Lantern parade and songs. Each kid brought her or his homemade lantern, which they had made in the school.



St. Nikolaus Fest

Trotz der üblichen Hektik in der Vorweihnachtszeit nahmen die meisten Eltern und Kinder der GKR an unserer jährlichen Nikolausfeier teil. Schon lange zuvor hatten die Kinder und Lehrer fleißig ihre Aufführungen für den großen Tag geübt. Die Eltern wurden mit Liedern, dem Krippenspiel und einer Hip-Hop-Vorstellung, die die Mädchen unserer Seniorenklasse choreografiert hatten, verwöhnt.

Ein Miniflohmarkt mit deutschen Büchern und Spielzeug und Losticketverkauf halfen zusätzliche Spenden fuer GKR zu erhalten. Der Höhepunkt des Nachmittags war die Ankunft des St. Nikolaus. Die Kinder waren zugleich aufgeregt und schüchtern beim Anblick des freundlichen alten Herrn. Wen hätte es überrascht, dass alle Kinder während des Jahres besonders brav gewesen waren und zum Lob ein Geschenk vom Nikolaus bekamen. Der Nachmittag endete in gemütlicher Stimmung mit Kaffee und traditionellen Weihnachtsköstlichkeiten.

Despite the busy time of the year, most parents and children of GKR participated in our annual Nikolaus party. Parents were treated with songs, Nativity play, and a hip hop show choreographed by our girls from the senior class. A mini-swap meet of German books and toys as well as a raffle ticket sale helped raise additional funds for GKR. The highlight of the afternoon was the arrival of St. Nikolaus. Children were excited and shy at the same time in front of this friendly old man. No surprise - all children had been particularly good during the year and were rewarded with a present from Santa. The afternoon ended in relaxed atmosphere with coffee and traditional season's goodies.



Generalversammlung / Annual General Meeting

Our 3rd Annual General Meeting was held on May 1st and had fair representation from all classes, but only from 10 families. The meeting began with a review of the year's activities with much focus on the up-coming Farmer's Market and last minute verification of jobs, etc.

Discussion then turned to our school and its structure and the direction it should take. The matter of becoming an "official" school will be investigated since it would qualify us for some government subsidy and could bring down our registration fees. At the moment, we are attempting to cover our costs with our registration fees. The number of students required per class to cover the cost of one class is 8. Currently we don't have that enrolment. Discussion followed surrounding grant money and how we might get some, soliciting sponsorship for the GKR, restructuring the school so that smaller classes were run more like tutorials outside of the regular school setting, teachers and teacher contracts.

In going over our financial statements, we realized that we needed to be more aggressive in recruiting students if we want to continue as a school. We passed a motion to increase school fees and to offer a choice of payment plans to ease the financial burden families may face at the end of the summer. Three payment options will be available (full, 3 payments or 9 payments). A motion was also passed to increase the parent participation fee while maintaining the number of hours required. Hours needed are to be set-up before the start of the year so that we can keep better track of what needs to be done with onus being placed on parents to ensure their hours are recorded and verified.

It was also decided that there needed to be more cohesiveness between past and present boards. With this in mind, the position of "past director" was created. This person would remain on board to advise the board and provide continuity. The board was elected as follows: Director: Christian Reuten, Administration: Ingrid Lucke and Suzanne McIntosh, Finance: Gisela Escher, Past Director: Astrid Sings.

The meeting was adjourned with the board planning to meet in June.



Herzlichen Dank an unsere grosszügigen Sponsoren:

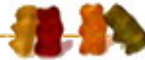
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