

Schulnachrichten

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MARJORIE CRAWFORD ELECTED TO TENTH TERM

Mrs. Marjorie E. Crawford has been elected to her 10th term as president of the Deutsche Sprachschule. Others elected at the January 27, 2007, membership meeting were: Vice President, Monika Fabiani, Corresponding Secretary, Gladys Dubourg, Recording Secretary, Nicole Peaks, Registrar and Membership Secretary, Ursula Gyarmati, Press Secretary and Public Relations, Warren D. Crawford, and Treasurer, Christine Clark.

Mrs. Crawford took office as the 15th president of the school in January 1998. Born in Mississippi, she moved to New Jersey in 1972 and lives in South Orange with her husband, Warren, who attends the Adult School. Their son, Christen, is a school graduate. Marjorie and Warren were married in Heilbronn, Germany, in 1970 while Warren was in service.

"Marjorie has been a terrific leader," said School Trustee Chairman Alan A. Siegel, who himself served as president from 1987 to

1995. "She has a wonderful way with people. We're blessed to have her at the helm, and we thank her for her years of dedicated service."

ENROLLMENT & CONTRIBUTIONS REACH NEW LEVELS, ACCORDING TO REPORTS

According to School Registrar Ursula Gyarmati, enrollment as of January 2007 was 94 children and 11 adults, a new record. Trustees Albrecht Maier and Anneliese Schran report that their fundraising efforts over the last seven years have brought in total contributions of \$91,233, another record. Announcing the news, Trustees Maier and Schran expressed the school's "heartfelt thanks" to the supporting members "whose annual contributions have meant so much to our continued good progress."

SCHOOL DAY EXTENDED TO THREE HOURS TO MEET GERMAN GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

Effective January 27, 2007, the school day will be extended an additional 30 minutes to 12:15pm, according to an announcement by School Board Chairlady Ilse Maier. Exceptions are the Spielgruppe, Kindergarten and Adult classes.

"The German government has begun to set minimum standards for the language schools it supports, and one of them is a three hour session," said Mrs. Maier. "Because we receive about 20% of our income from Germany, we had no choice but to comply." According to Mrs. Maier, all other Saturday school GLSC members have already moved to the new schedule.

Mrs. Maier said the additional 30 minutes will be broken up into two segments: Five minutes will be added to the computer lab and the remaining 25 minutes will be used to

emphasize conversational German, something the Board has wanted to do for many years.

Maier said the additional 30 minutes "will increase the teaching payroll significantly, although the exact amount is not yet known." During the fiscal year 2005-2006, the payroll for teachers was \$39,734, including payroll taxes.

According to a memo from President Crawford, the Kindergarten class will remain at 2.5 hours and the Spielgruppe will remain at the usual two hours. All other classes (except Adult) will meet from 9:15am to 12:15pm.

"I would like to thank Mrs. Ilse Maier, chair of the School Board, along with Mrs. Anneliese Schran and Mrs. Ursula Gyarmati for their extraordinary efforts in making the necessary adjustments to our curriculum to facilitate this new schedule," wrote President Crawford. The new schedule went into effect January 27, 2007.

START EARLY WITH YOUNG LEARNERS

Parents' struggles with foreign languages actually may benefit their kids.

They're saying "It is so difficult for me, I should make my children start as early as possible," said Kornelia Grippo, an instructional supervisor at the Berlitz Learning Center.

In response to the demand, foreign language classes for kids are on the rise. Language schools are getting more creative with children's programs and more elementary schools around the nation are introducing foreign language study. Starting early pays dividends. Studies show foreign language instruction in grade school boosts students overall academic performance. High school students increase their SAT scores for every additional year of language study.

Some scientists believe that the brains of children are more agile than adults', making it easier for them to create the neural pathways needed to process languages.

Such research is making lessons for kids more popular, said Carey Myles, author of "Raising Bilingual Children" (Mars Publishing, \$19.95). For years, she said, parents thought exposing children to a second

language too soon might halt their development. "There was a common belief that kids would become confused," Myles said. In fact, children are often extremely successful second-language learners. "Children have enormous capability if you don't put restrictions on them," said Sharlene Vichness, a language instructor with Customized Language Skills Training, Inc. of Little Ms.

Kids have an advantage over adults because they aren't as fearful. "They sounded so good because they are such little mimics," said Vichness, who has worked with young children.

Another plus for kids is that they feed off each other. They get excited when talking to others their own age, said Angela Baxter.

But they need incentive, too. "Kids want to have fun," Vichness said. "If it's not fun, they are not going to do it." That's why a program such as "Sesame Espanol" (a French version is in the works) uses songs, games, videos, crafts and a multi-lingual Muppet name Tingo in class.

"It's fun," said Baxter. "They learn by doing things."

Parents can reinforce what their children are learning, for example, by bringing them to cultural festivals or ethnic restaurants where the new language is spoken. "The more the children can see people actually using the language the better," said Berlitz's Grippo.

School Board News – January 2007 by School Board Chairlady Ilse Maier

As a member of the Board of Trustees and School Board Chair, my responsibilities are to give monthly reports to the Board of Officers and Trustees on all school activities. The School Board and Principal update and maintain the curriculum for all grades. With the approval of the Board of Trustees we hired one assistant teacher and two substitute teachers. I want to thank the members of the School Board -- Anneliese Schran, Ursula Gyarmati and Jackie Spector -- for their outstanding support throughout the year. Together, we are the administrative support of the Principal and teachers. We oversee the musical program as well the computer lessons.

At the beginning of the month of August I received the school's book order, which needed to be organized by grades and number of students. At the end of August members of the school board and teaching staff attended an orientation meeting at the Deutscher Club in Clark. I informed parents and teachers of upcoming, important dates during the month of September. I prepared the annual school calendar for 2007-2008. For the teaching staff and administrative use I updated the class lists for all grades, prepared a list of all book materials according to the need of each level and updated the parents and teachers Email information, as well the computer and music schedules.

On October 7, 2006, our Principal, the teaching staff, members of the School Board and our President attended the annual German Language School Conference in NYC. We all enjoyed the different workshops offered. At the conclusion of the program, the "Hans Ludscheidt Scholarship Award" was formally established. This was a proud moment for us, since Hans Ludscheidt was President and School Board Chairman of the German Language School, Union, for over 20 years. Under his leadership our school flourished and reached the high academic standards it is known for today.

We extended our computer program to ten workstations due to a donation we received of ten personal computers. All classes, except Kindergarten and Spielgruppe, are participating. I would like to thank Ursula Gyarmati and her son Stephan for preparing and setting up the programs for us, saving the school a lot of money! Mr. Stanislaw, our computer technician, will be able to work for us two hours per Saturday morning. Mrs. Christine Clark, a member of the school, will assist and guide our students on a voluntary basis during their computer lessons.

In November, we had "Open House" and quite a few parents came out to visit and see their children in action. On November 18, school board members and several volunteering parents were busy setting up for our annual Christmas market, which is one of our annual fundraising events. Four vendors, true friends of our school, were present.

Thanks to them we were able to make a nice profit that day. A big thank you to all people involved! School Board members Anneliese Schran, Jackie Spector and our teachers were busy planning and organizing the music program, which was to be presented by the students at the annual Christmas program. This event took place on December the 9th. The Winfield School Custodian, Scott Douglas, was kind enough to once again turn into Santa and present the children with "Goodie Bags". All in all it was a successful event. I want to thank our President, Marjorie Crawford, for helping me to get the "Goodie Bags" filled and ready for Santa!

After the Christmas recess the AATG (American Association of teachers of German) test was administered to our upper grade students. This test is given nationwide to all high school German students. Our Principal, Dr. Roehrs, will inform you of all the tests given to our students throughout the school year.

MIND THE SPEED LIMIT! Parents are reminded that the speed limit on Winfield Park roads is 25mph.

A REPORT FROM THE DESK OF DR. HEIDI RÖHRS, PRINCIPAL.

Dear Deutsche Sprachschule Community:

Greetings to all, as we enter the New Year. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

It is my pleasure to report some important good news to you. We have reason to celebrate with some of our students, who have received well-deserved diplomas for their efforts, and have distinguished themselves as representatives of the Deutsche Sprachschule Union in Winfield Park, New Jersey.

On October 17, 2006, Danielle Nowara, a student in the Advanced Class, was awarded the "Sprachdiplom I" at the German Consulate in New York City. In the presence of School President Marjorie Crawford and her proud parents Jutta and Michael Nowara, Danielle accepted the German Language Diploma (Level 1) from the Consulate General of the Bundesrepublik Deutschland. This Diploma

“is regarded as proof of knowledge of German as required for admission to preparatory courses at German Universities.”

Congratulations Danielle! We are proud of you!

Our sincere 'Thank You' goes to the teacher of the Advanced Class, Christiane Friedlander, who prepared Danielle for this prestigious exam. We are grateful to Mrs. Friedlander, who has successfully guided a number of previous illustrious students through the Sprachdiplom Exams Level I and II.

The entire curriculum of the Advanced Class is tailored towards the Sprachdiplom Exams, so that prospective students have the opportunity to participate in this most challenging exam.

Danielle Nowara, Bogdan Lysikov, and Raphael Siegrist have received the IIZDP 1000 Diploma (Zentrale Deutschprüfung) at the beginning of our current school year. Both Bogdan and Raphael are graduates of the Deutsche Sprachschule now attending college.

The “ZDP 10” exam is given world-wide and was originally conceived in South America. It corresponds to the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages" by the Council of Europe. The diploma certifies the successful participation in an examination requiring language competence, involving listening comprehension, reading comprehension, written production (writing), and oral production (speaking). This exam is given by schools which are supported and admitted as participating schools by the Bundesverwaltungsamt, Central Administration of German Schools Abroad, Cologne, Germany.

I am pleased to inform you that the Deutsche Sprachschule Union provides our younger students with the ZDP 8 exam, which functions as a "Pre-Test" and gives the participants an insight into the much more challenging ZDP 10 exam, which lies ahead of them. The entire teaching staff leads the students into "productive" language. From Spielgruppe to Advanced, our goal is always: "Wir sprechen Deutsch!"

Und aus dem Chaos sprach eine Stimme zu mir: “Lächle und sei froh, es könnte

schlimmer kommen!” Und ich lächelte und war froh, und es kam schlimmer!



SNAPSHOTS FROM LAST DECEMBER'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

Abschliessend bildete die alljährliche stille Inszenierung des christlich weihnachtlichen Krippenbildes wieder den vorweihnachtlichen Höhepunkt.



Unterstufe C (Monique Ortiz) und Mittelstufe (Lale Saatchi) mit der Fortgeschrittenen A (Christine Zirngibl) sangen das alte deutsche Volkslied “Die Gedanken sind frei” und überraschten danach mit dem alten deutschen Schlager “Das kann doch einen Seeman nicht erschüttern.” (Photos courtesy of Wilhelm Röhrs)