



Herbst 2012

Volume 10, Issue 1



## ***Important: GSP Strategic Planning Initiatives*** ***Mark Vickers, GSP Board President***

A publication about and by our community.

Dear GSP Families and Friends,

We all know that we are part of an excellent school. GSP does great things as a learning community together. I write today to share important information about the future of our school. It is time for us to work together as parents, teachers, board members, friends and students to chart the course for this school's next five years. Your participation in this process is vital to helping inform the board of your interests, wishes and ideas.

The Past Five Years:

- The school has operated under a long range plan to ensure the stability of our program.
- The focus has been on being the best pre-K through 5th grade program that we can be.
- We weathered a significant global economic downturn and came through it with a rock solid financial base.
- We firmly established our place among the upper echelon of elementary school programs in the Portland Metropolitan area.

The Next Five Years:

- Our lease on the current space expires June 28, 2015.
- Before a decision on where to go (or stay) should be made, the school needs to proactively decide what kind of school we want to be.
- Over the next two months, the board is embarking on a research and decision making journey to identify and develop a strategic plan.

Coming out of our October '12 board meeting, the board established four possible routes that we will examine, prioritize and then pursue with the **goal of focusing our efforts into one area**. There have been board members assigned to each of the tracks to lead the prep work.

1. Stay focused on PreK through 5th grade program – [Mark Vickers/Ulrike Weiler](#)
2. Build the program up through 8th grade – [Steven Carnegie/Darin Closson](#)
3. Merge with another school to grow our base and enable future higher grade growth – [Mariah Scott/Marcus Eyth](#)
4. Add an English language track – [Barbara Simon-Evrenosoglu/ Karen Keene](#)

It is very important to us to get feedback from the GSP community on how we should move forward. As such, we are reaching out to you, GSP's teachers, parents, administration, alumni, and interested community members in an effort to better understand your thoughts, questions, hopes, and fears. I encourage you to connect with the board members above or with [Blake Peters](#) at the school if you would like more information. We will create more options for giving more specific input in the coming weeks. Until then, please send emails (in German or in English) to these individuals, talk with us and help us all work together to continue improving our school. Look for information on community talks and posters to provide input and more over the coming weeks.

Wait, there is one more important thing:

If you are intrigued by these ideas, **this board election cycle is more important than ever**. We need dedicated people who believe strongly in shaping the future of the school. If you are interested in running for election, please contact [Steven Carnegie](#) or [Bettina Calaba](#).

Sincerely,  
[Mark Vickers](#), President of the Board, The German American School of Portland

### **GSP Mission**

GSP is a collaborative community with a student-centered learning environment that encourages growth into bilingual world citizens, who

- strive for academic and creative excellence,
- embrace healthy and responsible behavior, and
- value independence and lifelong learning.

### **GSP Leitbild**

GSP ist eine Lerngemeinschaft, in der unsere Schüler im Mittelpunkt stehen. Hier wachsen Kinder in einer zweisprachigen und weltoffenen Umgebung auf und

- streben nach akademischer und kreativer Exzellenz,
- übernehmen Verantwortung für sich selbst und ihre Umgebung, und
- entfalten ihre Individualität und werden an selbständiges, kooperatives und lebenslanges Lernen herangeführt.

the  
**GERMAN AMERICAN  
School of Portland**  
www.gspdx.org

13th ANNUAL  
**GERMAN  
HOLIDAY  
MARKET**  
NOVEMBER  
17 & 18  
2012  
Saturday, 10am-5pm  
Sunday, 10am-3pm

All proceeds to benefit the German American School of Portland.

### Join Us!

Be sure to mark your calendars for a GSP classic, the 13th annual **Holiday Market**. This community event is inspired by the wonderful holiday markets held throughout Germany during the holidays. Featuring traditional German holiday crafts, sweets and treats, *Adventkalendar* and more, many vendors have been a part of this annual event since the first market held in 1999. We hope to see you here!

### GSP Minis

Is there anything more fun than singing German songs, playing interactive games, making apple prints and pumpkins and getting to know new families? In the GSP minis we don't think so. We have started out this year with two dedicated and wonderful leaders, **Brigitte Byars** and **Gail Moebius**. They have put together a program that is hands on fun for infants, toddlers and young preschoolers. We have seen an increase in attendance and look forward to what the rest of the year will bring. GSP minis are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 8:45-9:45am; we are located in classroom 9 and always welcome new faces. Join the fun and you can always bring a friend. Email [gspminis@gspdx.org](mailto:gspminis@gspdx.org) for more info.

### An Official Visit: The German Ambassador Stops in at GSP

On September 25, GSP was honored to welcome **Peter Ammon**, Ambassador from the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States. He was joined by **Peter Rothen**, Consul General from the German Consulate in San Francisco, as well as **Günther Hoffmann**, Honorary Consul from Portland. GSP students gave our guests a very warm welcome. The dignitaries toured the school and were treated to a performance by our grade school students. There is a video [of our students singing here with some pictures](#).

**Ambassador Ammon** remarked about how well-behaved the children were, how positive and warm our community is and how well the students speak German. We should all be proud of the great work that our teachers are doing with our children.



First Graders present their welcome sign.



Ambassador Ammon address GSP students.



October was the perfect month to create some haunting poetry. The 4th Grade students wrote spooky poems, be sure to read them all on the 4th grade board.

### GSP Newcomers Club

Please join us for a fun Moms' Night Out on Wednesday, November 14 from 6:00pm-8:00pm. We will be meeting at GSP (in the lunchroom) for an evening of fun conversation, hors d'oeuvres, dessert, and wine! This event is open to anyone interested in participating in Newcomers Club events. Please kindly RSVP to [Newcomers@gspdx.org](mailto:Newcomers@gspdx.org). We hope to see you there! GSP's Newcomers Club Chairs, *Gail Moebius & Tara Wieser*



## First Week of School

*Stefanie Amann, Elementary School Director*

GSP was excited to welcome 2 first grade classes for this school year.

New and returning GSP families came together on the first day of school to celebrate this important milestone in a student's academic career.

Parents had done a fantastic job crafting and filling *Schultüten* as part of a long-standing German tradition on the first day of school. While the things our students found in their *Schultüten* may be quite different from what our grandparents found, the wishes and aspirations we have for our students are not so different after all:

We want them to be prepared for the challenges that await them and to succeed.

We want them to make lasting friendships and find their passions.

We here at GSP are committed to them and with the loving support of families and our GSP community, we are confident that they will succeed in reaching these goals.



New GSP First Graders pose proudly with their *Schultüten*.



Recognize this GSP teacher and her *Schultüte*?

Thank you **Bob Cerbone** for sharing your story about finding GSP in the November issue of *Portland Family*. Pick up a copy in the lobby or read more [here](#).

## GSP's Extended Care Enters Second Year

We have had a great start to the 2012-2013 school year. We started the year out with a new staff member, **Alec Haskard**, to assist with the higher enrollment in the School-Age group. Due to these high numbers we decided to combine the Pre-School and Kindergarten groups in the Pre-K Extended-Care room. All groups are working well as we dive into fall.

The teachers are working hard to build upon the successful start the Extended-Care program had last year. We have seen curriculum focuses on oceans, mythological creatures, the great outer space, and now are looking at the wonders that fall brings.

We are really excited about the upcoming year as we get closer to winter break focusing on the Ice Age and just around the corner Spring Break. There will be many more stimulating and fun ideas for the In-Service days on top of our regular engaging weekly themes. We are looking forward to providing more field trips, in-house events, and guest speakers. We encourage all GSP families to try a camp or an In-Service day this year.

Program information is available on the GSP website. For program questions, please contact [Elizabeth Gillespie](#). We all are looking forward to seeing you!



*Extended Care students making popcorn balls.*

## Ice Cream Social: A Sweet Success!

What a perfect way to start the school year: catching up with friends, meeting new ones and enjoying sunshine and some tasty treats. Our first back to school Ice Cream Social was a wonderful success enjoyed by many in our GSP community. Thank you to our Board of Directors who were on hand to help serve up the tasty ice cream. When asked if this should be an annual event, students gave an enthusiastic "Ja!"



*The thermostat was above 80 that day, perfect for some cool treats.*

## GSP Fundraising

Bettina Calaba, Director of Development & Marketing

### Annual Fund Update

This year's Annual Fund has already surpassed last year's total participation rate! 43% of the GSP community has donated toward this vital fund (we reached 35% for all of last year). Our ultimate financial goal for this fundraiser is \$25,000 and 100% participation. To date, we have raised just over \$12,000 including pledges and matches, **we are just half way there!** Thank you to everyone who has already donated and has helped bring us closer to making our goals. Contact [Bettina](#) to find out how to you can give or [click here](#) to donate today.



Annual Fund Co-Chairs  
Heike Droste & Darin Closson

### Donor Dinner: An Evening for DaF & DfdS



Frau Amann works with GSP students using the DfdS method.

Our goal here at GSP is to support students with a non-native speaker background in their acquisition of the German language. While language support is an integral part of our day-to-day classroom instruction we saw the need for additional instruction for smaller groups based on their individual needs.

DfdS was developed by the [University of Heidelberg](#) and is currently used by various school districts in Germany to better serve their diverse student population.

At GSP we introduced DfdS in 1st grade this school year and intend to expand the program into Kindergarten and potentially preschool later in the year.

### GSP Donor Dinner

Thank you to all of our Donor Dinner attendees and supporters! The evening was a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and enjoy an intimate dinner at one of Portland's finest restaurants, [Bluehour](#) while at the same time supporting what is incredibly important to all of us: the German American School of Portland. The event raised over \$30,000 net — funds that will directly support the *Deutsch als Fremdsprache (DaF)* and *Deutsch für den Schulstart (DfdS)* programs. Read more about these programs in the neighboring article.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Brother's Grimm collection and to honor the anniversary, our planning committee incorporated a *Snow White* theme into the invitation, centerpieces, and menu. Some attendees even came in theme inspired attire!

A very special thanks to our dedicated planning committee: **Michelle Meyer**, **Tina Franck** and **Bruce Carey** who worked hard to create a special night, and our event sponsors: [Bluehour](#), [Stoel Rives](#), [Williams Kastner](#), and [Sammy's Flowers](#) for their corporate support of this event.



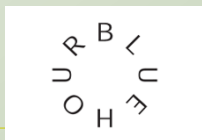
### Deutsch als Fremdsprache (DaF)

The DaF program, is an advanced learning opportunity for some of the children at GSP. The DaF program offers a unique chance to get extra practice in vocabulary and basic sentence building.

This program will help students who need additional language support or who may not have any German spoken in their homes. Our goal is to do our absolute best to get all the children acclimated to our school and also to the German language. The content of the DaF program is the result of close collaboration with the Preschool and Kindergarten teachers, making sure that children, whose primary language is English, get a head start on the important vocabulary and sentence building topics of each week.

### Goodsearch

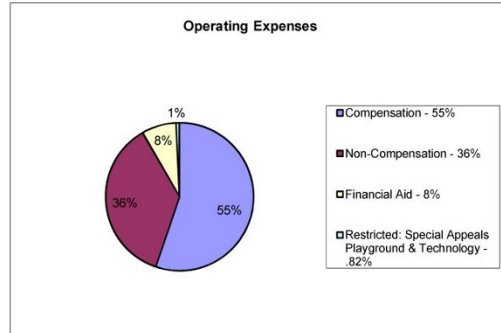
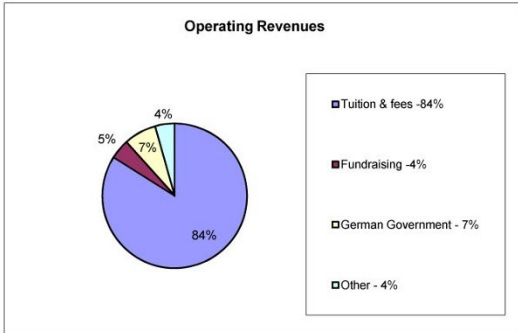
Did you know that you can raise money for GSP simply by surfing the internet? Simply set your browser to [Goodsearch](#) and choose to have one cent donated to GSP for every internet search you do. You can even raise money by eating out at local and national restaurants, by shopping online going through this site and more. Please share the site with friends, grandparents, extended family and more.





*2011-2012 Financial Report*  
*Ulrike Weiler, Jackie Ortega*

**2011-12 Financial Report**



<b>Operating Revenues</b>	
Tuition	\$ 1,764,188
Fundraising	\$ 92,900
German Government	\$ 152,096
Other*	\$ 92,510
	\$ 2,101,693

<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Compensation	\$ 1,042,173
Non-Compensation*	\$ 688,106
Financial Aid	\$ 142,426
Special Appeal: Technology	\$ 14,861
	\$ 1,887,566

\*Other includes Summer Camp & Enrichment programs

\*Non-Compensation includes Rent, Materials, Liability Insurance, etc.

<b>Giving</b>		
<b>Unrestricted:</b>		
Annual Fund	\$ 16,179	
Donations	\$ 1,089	
Donor Dinner	\$ 29,692	
Holiday Market	\$ 5,738	
Other	\$ 9,556	
Spring Fundraiser	\$ 19,113	
<b>Total Unrestricted Gifts</b>		\$ 81,367
<b>Unrestricted:</b>		
Playground	\$ 975	
Computers in Classro	\$ 10,558	
<b>Total Restricted Gifts</b>		\$ 11,533

The 2011-12 fiscal and academic year further built upon the successes of 2010-11. On June 30<sup>th</sup> we closed last year and ended on a very strong financial note – the operating year resulted in an increase of \$214,000. The key contributors of this successful result are:

Extended Care – we launched the GSP Extended Care Program last fall and expectations were surpassed. Enrollment was strong throughout the year and the program curriculum was well-received by our families. We are continuing to build upon last year’s success as we are continuing into the 2012/13 academic year.

Enrollment was higher than budgeted (budget: 153 students, actually enrolled: 164 students) resulting in the opening of a 3<sup>rd</sup> preschool class two weeks before school started.

German Government Support – we continue to receive support from the German Government; this past year the support received was higher than anticipated.

We also were the beneficiaries of a rare situation of a decrease in health insurance expenses.

The successful year end result puts GSP in a strong cash position that allows us to continue to build up our reserves as well as to continue to invest back into our program. Some of the investments that took place this past year:

Technology – we conducted a long-needed network upgrade for the school and we were able to fulfill the goal of getting a computer into each classroom, which was partially funded through Special Appeal.

Continued investment in our staff as well as program materials for the German Accreditation process.

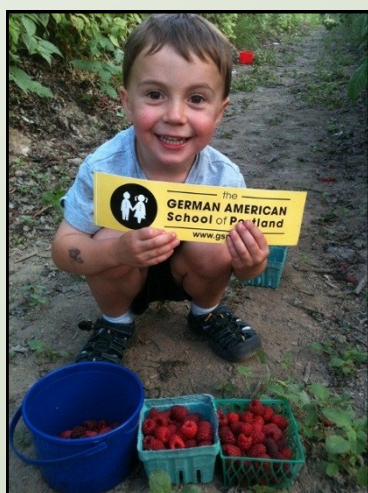
Offered small student group instruction opportunities.

We appreciate your continued support for the school and look forward to another strong year.

Ulrike Weiler  
 GSP Board Treasurer

## GSP Bumper Sticker Project

Thank you for taking us on your travels over the summer. The GSP sticker was spotted in many states and several countries! Alaska, Tennessee, at Arches National Park in Utah and even berry picking in Oregon. Internationally we had several photos from several different cities in Germany as well as Thailand, China and more. Thank you to all that participated – please visit the GSP [Facebook](#) page to see these fantastic photos.



The GSP sticker made appearances in Ketchikan, Alaska and at the berry farm in Beaverton.

### Find GSP On Facebook!

GSP regularly uses [Facebook](#) to keep friends and families up to date on all of our exciting events. We have even added frequent postings of our day-to-day school activities as well as upcoming events. We invite you to check it regularly and look forward to catching up with friends, both new and old.

## Kinderparlament

*Tobias Pax, Fifth Grade Teacher*

GSP's *Kinderparlament* is comprised of all the elected student representatives from grades 1 -5. Its function is to be the students' official voice and a direct link between the student body and staff. Parliament convenes once a month to discuss current student matters. They report the content of the meeting to their class and - ideally - lead ensuing discussions and votes. Visibility for the parliament is given by the *Kinderparlament* info board in the lunch room, where photos of each student and other important information is displayed. I have volunteered to assist the *Kinderparlament* this year.



## Kindersommer

*Elizabeth Gillespie, Director of Admissions/Extended Care Coordinator*

The sunny days are behind us, but we can look back at the fun and successes we had. The Pre K and Kindergarten camps were a hit and we had so much demand that we opened additional sessions. **Frau Daniela Williams, Frau Kati Heckmann and Frau Liane Rask** provided amazing themes and curriculum that was environmental hands on fun. The Grade school camps offered a wide array of opportunities. **Frau Susi Kapela, Herr Nathan Conant, Frau Imke Melles, Miss Chelsea Jones, Frau Kati Heckmann, and Frau Liane Rask** provided diverse themes that encouraged learning life skills, cultural awareness and of course were enjoyable for all. This summer was the first year we provided a German Soccer Camp. It was an exciting one week camp sponsored by [The German American School of Portland](#), [Concordia Language Villages](#), [Auf Ballhöhe](#), and the [Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany](#). **Matthias Eiles** brought his knowledge, experience and the German language to our soccer camp and worked with **Herr Conant** and **Miss Jones** to make it an amazing experience for 35 kids. Stay tuned for next summer's programs.



German soccer camp held at Tektronix.



## Field Trips

No school year would be complete without adventurous and informative field trips. GSP preschool students have already enjoyed an outing to a local pumpkin patch, kindergarten explored the zoo, and fourth grade students made a trip to the capitol building in Salem. Field trips are a great opportunity for parents to get in some fun (and educational) volunteer hours as well. Stay tuned for more opportunities in the future.



Picking the perfect pumpkin with **Frau Rask** at Plumper's Pumpkin Patch.



Working the pump at Plumper's Pumpkin Patch.



**Frau Draheim-Shadbeh, Herr Seilheimer** and GSP students on the steps of the Oregon State Capitol building in Salem.

## GSP Enrollment

The 2012-13 school year started on September 4 and we were excited to welcome 155 students to their new classrooms. Of our staff, 80% are returning and 20% are new this year. The school has budgeted for 162 students by the end of the year, so are getting close. Families are our best resource for enrollment, so please spread the word and help GSP welcome more families into our community.

## GSP Admissions

Please join us in re-welcoming **Elizabeth Gillespie** to the GSP staff. **Elizabeth** successfully launched our own Extended Care program during the 2011-12 academic year and this year she has also taken on the duties of the Admissions Director as well. We are pleased to have **Elizabeth** still with us and encourage you to direct ideas, questions and friends with preschool-aged students to [Elizabeth.Gillespie@gspdx.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Gillespie@gspdx.org).

## New Teen Extension Program

We are thrilled that 7 former GSP students have formed our first ever teen extension program. These students meet on site every other week and in a virtual room via internet on the alternate weeks. Goal of the program is to keep up German skills, prepare for AP and German government standardized tests, have fun and reconnect with their old school. The course is taught by GSP's own **Christiane Seydel**, who is also the 6th grade History Teacher at the [Gilkey International Middle School](#).

## New Honorary Consul, **Robert Manicke**

Congratulations to **Robert Manicke** on his inauguration as the Federal Republic of Germany's Honorary Consul in Portland. Germany's Ambassador, **Peter Ammon**, Germany's Consul General in San Francisco, **Peter Rothen**, retiring Honorary Consul **Günther Hoffmann**, representatives from **Governor Kitzhaber's** office, the Port of Portland and many local cultural and business organizations, as well as friends and family members celebrated with **Mr. Manicke** on September 25 at the Portland Art Museum. **Mr. Manicke** is an attorney with GSP sponsor Stoel Rives and has three children who all attended GSP and the [Gilkey International Middle School](#).

The Honorary Consul's role is to represent German language, culture and business interests locally. He also helps process applications for passports, signature verifications and other official documents. **Mr. Manicke** is keeping the honorary consular office downtown at 200 SW Market, Suite 1775, and you can reach him or the longtime consular assistant **Christine Lang** there at 503-222-0490, Monday through Thursday from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. **Mr. Manicke's** consular email address is [portland-OR@hk-diplo.de](mailto:portland-OR@hk-diplo.de).

[www.gspdx.org](http://www.gspdx.org)

## Special Appeal Update

*Bettina Calaba, Director of Development & Marketing*

Last May, our community came together at the Spring Fundraiser and enjoyed a wonderful evening with our community, all for a great cause: GSP. During the Special Appeal that night, we challenged guests to raise funds to help put a computer into every classroom. Together, we raised just over \$10,000 to make that happen and last week we began installing a computer into each room. These computers are important tools for our teachers, to be used for prep and also for class projects as needed. Be sure to stop by your child's room in the upcoming weeks and see your donations at work!



*Frau Noller preps for the upcoming school day on her classroom's new PC.*

## Science at GSP

Thanks to the initiative and inventiveness of **Nermine Ramadan** and **Bettygene Scholes**, GSP students and teachers are making even better use of our science laboratory and materials, in preschool all the way through fifth grade. These two dedicated volunteers are working through the inventory in our lab, creating age-appropriate plans, teaching some lessons and sharing their knowledge with our teachers and students. Thanks so very much!



*Bettygene Scholes and Nermine Ramadan helping organize the GSP science lab.*

## AdvancED Accreditation

As a result of the School Development Committee's (SDC) work in the past two years, we are pleased to announce that GSP is now a fully accredited member of the [AdvancEd](#) Network of schools. While we are also accredited with the Federal Republic of Germany, it was important for the school to also be accredited by a North American agency. As we continue to grow and improve, it is always good to get critical feedback from an outside source to make sure we are on the right track.



## Thank You Girl Scout Troop 42902!

Girl Scout Troop 42902 began at GSP in Kindergarten, and the girls are now in their fourth year of Girl Scouts and in the 3rd grade at GSP. The Brownie Girl Scouts focus on learning about as many different skills and areas of interest as possible through earning badges called *Ty-its*. In guiding this generation of girls to have Courage, Confidence, and Character (Mut, Selbstvertrauen und Charakter), the girls have undertaken many community service projects. Although the girls' favorites are always helping animals (A local cat shelter & Dove Lewis emergency vet being two such projects) and kids (NW Children's Outreach and Outside-in), the girls also like providing service at GSP. The planters out front in the red pots are just one way that they demonstrate pride in their community and try to give back to make the world a better place.



*Girl scout troop 42902 helped repot plants at GSP.*

## Volunteering at GSP

The backbone of many non-profit organizations like GSP is the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. This year, volunteers of all ages have already come together to clean up the playground, beautify the front entrance pots, work on mailings, hang signs and many, many other tasks that help keep GSP running. We cannot do what we do without you and we are grateful for your time and talent. Frequently check the volunteer board in the lobby or email our [volunteer coordinator](#) for info on upcoming volunteer opportunities.



## *Living the GSP Mission*

*Stefanie Amann, Elementary School Director*

*Starting with the 2012-13 academic year, we have placed a framed copy of our new mission in all rooms throughout the school. These constant reminders of who we are help guide decisions and plans each and every day. I ask you to join the entire community in asking yourself if your actions, ideas and efforts are supportive of our mission. In this article, **Frau Amann** shows us how grade school teachers and students truly live our mission.*

*- **Blake Peters**, Head of School*

Great things happen at GSP every day...

### Strive for academic and creative excellence

While many of us might remember memorizing poems as a cumbersome process, writing poems is a wonderful way to instill the love for writing and word play in students. Students who tend to have a harder time with writing are getting excited when it comes to poems. Writing poems is a manageable task, allows for creativity and is accompanied by a creative component that provides a gateway into language learning. If you have a moment, read through the creative thoughts our students put into fall and Halloween poetry – both in English and German.

### Student-centered learning environment, teamwork

I was fortunate enough to visit 4<sup>th</sup> grade during their sound experiments in our science lab. Students were hard at work exploring the movements of paper clips on a drum, for example, describing experiments and documenting their findings. They were discussing ideas in their small groups about how sound waves travel and shared their own experiences – this is when meaningful learning happens on so many **levels!**

### Student-centered learning environment that encourages growth into bilingual world citizens,

Our two first grade classes are adjusting well to new routines. We evaluated German language skills of all first grade students using “Deutsch für den Schulstart” and have started tailored small group instructions. Students enjoy the fun and age-appropriate approach to learning about German grammar and language structure and are expanding their vocabulary continuously. Using this program with these groups allows for a high level of student involvement and we look forward to continuing and expanding this program.

### **Professional Development**

#### Value independence, teamwork and lifelong learning.

We used our staff development day in October to expand our knowledge through pedagogical workshops and work on our competency-based science curricula for grade school. Defining competencies that students need to demonstrate supports differentiated instruction in the classroom and throughout the day there were many constructive discussions about how this could be advanced in our classrooms. We clearly have a dedicated group of teachers and assistants!

### **School Development Committee**

We prioritized our goals for this school year and are currently working on coordinating curricular development. We also started planning our upcoming peer review visit, which will be scheduled for the end of January.

As you might know, we are preparing for a visit of German Government representatives who will accredit our school according to quality criteria for German schools. This process is called *Bund- und Länderinspektion* (BLI). The development of our new Mission Statement or *Leitbild* was one integral part of this process and our upcoming peer review is another important component of our preparation for the BLI visit, which will occur in 2013. Expect to hear more about this process in the coming months!

**Teacher Spotlight:*****Frau Ashley Parsons, Head Teacher Extended Care***

For the past few years I have been working on my Master's in Zoology and Science Education through Miami University in Ohio. The Global Field Program (GFP) brings Master's degree candidates, scientists, educators, community leaders, and others together at conservation hotspots in Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas for firsthand experience with inquiry-driven education, environmental stewardship, and global understanding. During this program I have been able to travel to Costa Rica, Belize, and Australia connecting with a network of leaders who work collaboratively to bring about change in local

and global contexts. While in each country I have worked with scientists on local conservation issues like forest management and preservation, manatee and marine turtle surveys, and this last summer was able to conduct Great Barrier Reef health assessments. During my trips I had the privilege to spend time with local educators and schools getting first-hand experience on how other schools from around the world work.

The most exciting part of about this program is that I have been able to conduct most of my research projects with the students of the GSP Extended-Care Program. This year I have switched my focus to include the whole families. Through my research I have found that family role models are the top reason children gain an appreciation for the environment. There are countless health, social, and academic benefits to engage with nature and I hope that I can encourage you as a family to spend more time outdoors, no matter the weather. This year I have created Nature Explorer Kits, including a magnifying glass, bug catcher, collection box, and other fun tools for you to play with. It requires your family to check out a box for the weekend, play together, and bring it back the following Monday. There is a short survey for parents to fill out, too. Over the next few months I will be contacting parents asking if they are willing to participate in my project and if you just can't wait please contact me at [Ashley.parsons@gspdx.org](mailto:Ashley.parsons@gspdx.org).

I want to express my gratitude to all the families of GSP who over the last few years have supported my projects, activities, and curriculum while I have been working on my Master's degree.

**Upcoming Important Dates**

November 7:	<i>St. Martin's Parade, 5:30pm at GSP</i>
November 8:	<i>Parent Teacher Conferences, Early dismissal (12:30) &amp; Extended Care Open</i>
November 9:	<i>Parent Teacher Conferences, GSP closed &amp; Extended Care Open</i>
November 12:	<i>Veteran's Day, GSP &amp; Extended Care Closed</i>
November 17 & 18:	<b><u>Holiday Market</u></b>
November 22 & 23:	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday, GSP &amp; Extended Care Closed</i>
December 6:	<i>St. Nikolaus</i>
December 13:	<i>Grade School Holiday Concert, 6:30pm</i>
December 18:	<i>Pre-K Music open classroom</i>
December 24-Jan 4	<i>Winter Break</i>

**GSP Intern Spotlight:*****Frau Pia Kramer***

**Frau Kramer** is GSP's [Amity Intern](#) this year. This exchange program allows teachers in training to spend up to one academic year helping out at GSP. She has a family connection with GSP in that she is 5th grader Marta's second cousin. Amity Interns benefit from the wealth of experience that our teachers share with them and our students receive small group instruction. Our primary focus with these interns is in supplementing German as a Second Language instruction. GSP pays a small stipend and the visa costs for this program while the students live with host families during their stay.

**GSP Board of Directors**

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[Marcus Eyth](#), Vice President  
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[Karen Keene](#), Secretary  
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