

KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER



<<Preschool children 2018>>

Dear Kindergarten Community,

It is with fresh momentum and full of energy that we start the new Kindergarten year 2018/19.

In this newsletter you will receive information about Kindergarten, an insight into the current pedagogical theme and topics for the weeks ahead and a short DAF - German as a Foreign Language - summary and advisory.

Kindergarten News

There are currently 110 children registered in the Kindergarten, all of which we are thrilled to have as a special and important part of our school body! This year we have welcomed 44 new children aged 3-6 years, who each contribute in their own unique way to the school environment.

We have also welcomed some new personnel to our team this year:

We are thrilled to have such positive and friendly staff join our team and we are delighted with their contribution so far! We again extend a very warm welcome to our new colleagues who will work to the best of their ability with your children.

- Ms. Sabrina Fach, subject teacher for DAF
- Ms Sandra Korniewicz, educator of the Green Group
- Ms. Claudia Lorenz, educator of the Blue Group

- Mrs. Anastasia Reichel, our "Helping Hands"
- Ms. Melanie Stephenson, assistant to the Green Group

DAF Summary and Advisory

In this issue of the Kindergarten newsletter we will address the topic of language development and speech promotion.

Children experience different phases in their language development, in which disturbances or even delays can occur. Therefore, it is not uncommon for parents to seek advice of speech therapists, to work with their child in a therapeutic manner.

Speech therapists are a division of the medical profession, whose role includes diagnostics, prevention and THERAPY.

For example, there may be a need to take additional action if a child has significant differences in language development in comparison to children of the same age or if a child is not meeting developmental milestones. Some of the most noticeable language disorders are the so-called "stuttering", "the Schetismus and the Sigmatismus".

Schetismus is the name for a malformation of the loud/sch/ [ʃ] and is part of the disturbance of the „Dyslalie“. Replacement by/t/d/s/ch/ (phonological disorder) (source: Logopädisches Weblexicon).

„Sigmatismus“ is the malformation of the /s/-and /z/ phoneme (source: Logopädisches Weblexicon).

It is important to note that parents are the most important and primary caregivers for their children, they also exert great influence on their linguistic development. In speech therapy, children are encouraged and supported in a playful, practical way, but they must also practice the learned activity/exercise at home with their parents for the most beneficial results.

Language Promotion

Content

The "german-as-a-foreign language" (DAF) is intended for children who need support in the acquisition of the German Language.

The language themes and topics for Kindergarten are defined in an annual plan. The themes and topics act as a guide and curriculum for the teachers to follow and are the same for each group, however, individual creativity from the teachers allows for some deviation and modification. Each of the Kindergarten groups are taught about the same themes and topics at approximately the same time, thus, the acquisition of vocabulary is guaranteed for all children.

The language teaching methods refer to all the senses. By learning the language in a holistic manner, through motor, cognitive, haptic and emotional, the vocabulary consolidates more quickly and remains stored in long-term memory.

The DAF course follows a structured curriculum that is playfully implemented through the use of all of the above.

Structure

The language classes take place in small groups, which are divided by age and language ability. Every DAF child has language lessons several times a week.

The subdivision is categorized into three different levels:

Level 1 (beginner)

Level 2 (advanced beginner)

Step 3 (advanced)

Native Speakers

The categorization of the children into different language levels is organized through an assessment/language screening. Language development is reviewed at regular intervals (twice per year) and, if necessary, consultations with the parents is arranged.

Goals of DAF Teaching

The goal of DAF teaching is to enable a school career in the German education system. After three years in a German Kindergarten, the child should be able to switch to the German school system and cope with the language requirements of primary school teaching. A prerequisite for achieving this language competence is the regular participation in language classes and Kindergarten daily life for at least three years.

Tips for Language Promotion:

Talk to your child daily about his or her everyday life, their experiences in Kindergarten and special occasions. There is always opportunity no matter the significance of the events. It is important to show interest in your child's day so they feel valued. In this safe atmosphere your child will be able to open to the language and practice free speech! Communicate at home with your child in their first language - even if it is not German. The child will be able to use the structured learning of their own language for the acquisition of other foreign languages!

Support your child in learning the German language, even if you as a parent do not speak it. We are happy to recommend different books and children's series to you, and also provide you with some basic German words to stimulate German conversation with your child. It is as simple as watching a German children's show together and asking your child questions about what has happened! The same applies to books, pictures and drawings.

Be patient and do not exert any compulsion. This could result in the rejection of the second language and the setting up of a language blockade. Remember, these things take time and to build a good vocabulary you need on average three years.

If you have the opportunity to visit your German-speaking family during the holidays, let your child participate in a summer camp or language course in Germany. For language learning it is important that the language is not "rested" for too long, but remains as active as possible.

The Current DAF Theme:

Language opens the door to the WORLD. The children learn to express their feelings, to grasp and name sensual perceptions, to structure their thinking and actions and to "network" themselves socially.

Therefore, we start the school year with the theme "All About Me" and the topics; Body parts, senses and feelings. For example, we give the children who are not yet fully proficient in the German language a basic vocabulary with which they can communicate and express themselves in their new environment of the Kindergarten, so that they can competently express themselves and situations or problems can be resolved more easily. This theme will continue until mid-October 2018.

Kindergarten Dates to Remember:

On **Sunday 11th November 2018**, our Lantern Festival takes place from **6:00 -7:00 pm**. The program will run for approximately 45 minutes. We kindly ask that you please be punctual so that your child is not disappointed if they cannot be there on their special performance.



We are thrilled that our school year has gotten off to such a positive and wonderful start and we are looking forward to another Kindergarten year together with many beautiful experiences with you and your children.