

GISNY NEWSLETTER June 20, 2018

Liebe Schülerinnen und Schüler,
liebe Eltern, liebe Mitglieder der Schulgemeinschaft,

vor kurzem konnte ich in einer Fernsehreportage zum Thema Umwelt wieder einmal anschaulich erfahren, wie sehr Bildung, Aufklärung und verantwortungsvolles Handeln zusammengehören. Eine junge Deutsche wurde porträtiert, wie sie indonesischen Küstenbewohnern in einem kleinen Dorf die Bedeutung eines gelebten Umweltbewusstseins vermittelte. Fluss und Strand des Dorfes bis in die Straßen hinein waren übersät mit Plastiktüten, Plastikbechern und vielen weiteren Varianten von Plastikmüll. Kinder spielten darin und Erwachsene gingen achtlos daran vorbei. Eine geregelte Abfallentsorgung war nicht existent, hingegen die Existenz des Mülls akzeptiert und zur Gewohnheit geworden. Einen Großteil der Entsorgung regelt das Meer, das in Wellen an das Ufer schwappt und nach und nach das Plastik mit sich nimmt. Aus den Augen, aus dem Sinn! Wir wissen heute, dass in jedem Quadratkilometer der Meere hunderttausende Teile Plastikmüll herumschwimmen, sich darüber hinaus sammeln in den Mägen der Meeresbewohner und Seevögel. Wir wissen, dass dieses Plastik sich an bestimmten Stellen der Ozeane häuft und in riesigen Strudeln umhertreibt, dessen größter bereits fast die Ausmaße Europas erreicht hat. Verantwortungslosigkeit hat oftmals etwas mit Unkenntnis zu tun, was die junge Deutsche in Indonesien durch behutsame Aufklärung zu ändern versucht. Sie ist für mich ein Vorbild, weil sie ihre globale Verantwortung wahrgenommen hat, weil sie erkannt hat, dass ihr Wissen dazu beitragen kann, einen Sinn zu machen auch da, wo andere diesen nicht vor Augen haben.

Sie werden sich fragen, warum ich diese Gedanken in den abschließenden Newsletter dieses Schuljahres bringe. Ich tue dies, weil ich der Auffassung bin, dass dieses Thema gerade junge Menschen interessieren sollte, die bereits über den Tellerrand hinausschauen können. Und wer ist das mehr als unsere Schülerinnen und Schüler einer deutschen internationalen Auslandsschule? Gerade unsere GISNY, die in familiärer Atmosphäre mit zugewandten Lehrkräften eine gründliche Bildung vermittelt, dies auch noch bilingual, die unsere Schülerinnen vielfach wissenschaftlich, musisch-künstlerisch, sportlich, gesellschaftswissenschaftlich, politisch, historisch und ethisch unterweist, die Ihnen zahlreiche interkulturelle Begegnungen ermöglicht, die zum Thema passend eine Green School Policy vertritt, ist der perfekte Ort, um Wissen über das Leben, aber auch Lebenserfahrung zu sammeln. Ich habe dies in den Berufswünschen unserer diesjährigen Abiturientinnen und Abiturienten widergespiegelt gesehen, die vielfach genau Ausdruck dieser an der GISNY gesammelten Erfahrungen sind. Ich habe an den Ergebnissen der zwölf Abiturientinnen und Abiturienten, von denen drei mit der Note 1,0 abgeschlossen haben, abgelesen, dass sie hohe Leistungsansprüche mit hoher gesellschaftlicher Verantwortung in Einklang bringen können und wollen.

Ich bin stolz darauf und glücklich, dass ich in den vergangenen fünf Jahren Schulleiter dieser GISNY sein durfte, dass ich einen Beitrag zu deren Weiterentwicklung leisten konnte, dass ich in der Zusammenarbeit mit unseren Schülerinnen und Schülern, Lehrerinnen und Lehrern, Eltern, Vorstandsmitgliedern, Administration und Schulleitung viel lernen konnte, was mich ungemein

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bereichert hat. Euch und Ihnen allen möchte ich herzlich danken für die vielfach fruchtbare, anregende und angenehme Zusammenarbeit.

Dass ich mich nun bei euch und Ihnen allen verabschieden muss, ist Teil dieses Lebensprozesses, den wir ja fast alle durchlaufen. Schwer fällt der Abschied, wenn man zurückschaut auf diejenigen, die man verlässt, aber auch neugierig macht der Aufbruch auf die neuen Perspektiven und Begegnungen. Ich freue mich jedoch, weiterhin dem Auslandsschulwesen erhalten zu bleiben, in dem man sich ja sprichwörtlich immer zweimal begegnet.

Verabschieden werden sich auch die Lehrkräfte Frau David, Frau Ott, Frau Dr. Oswald, Herr und Frau Ströbel und meine Frau, Petra Weghoff, sowie aus der Administration Frau Buchelt, Frau Hoffmeister und Frau Malmström.

Ich wünsche den ausscheidenden Lehrkräften und Angestellten, den Schülerinnen und Schülern sowie deren Eltern, die uns verlassen, Ihnen und euch allen nun ein schönes Schuljahresende, einen erholsamen und sonnigen Sommer sowie viel Glück für die weitere Zukunft.

Mit den besten Wünschen
Euer/Ihr Ulrich Weghoff

*Dear Students,
Dear Parents,
Dear Members of the GISNY Community,*

Recently while watching a TV report on the topic of the environment, I was clearly reminded how education, knowledge and responsible action work hand in hand. A young German was being portrayed attempting to educate the inhabitants of an Indonesian coastal village about environmental awareness. Rivers and beaches in the village were overrun with plastic bags, plastic cups, and other types of plastic products. Children were playing in this mess and adults walked right by without taking notice. A regular garbage pick-up schedule was non-existent and therefore, the buildup of garbage was accepted and had become the norm. A big part of the plastic waste was being carried out to sea by the ebb of the waves. Out of sight, out of mind! We know today that every square kilometer of ocean water contains hundreds of thousands of pieces of plastic garbage and later this pollution is ingested by sea life and birds. Furthermore, we know that plastic waste has accumulated in huge whirlpools almost the size of Europe. Irresponsibility often is connected with ignorance which is what this young German in Indonesia was trying to change. She is a role model for me because she was true to herself and has accepted global responsibility. She hopes that her knowledge will help others learn what they have to do.



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You are probably asking yourself why I am writing about this in the last newsletter of the school year. I am doing this because it is my opinion that this subject interests the youth of today, and the youth are capable of influencing the future. And this includes the students of a German international school. At GISNY, dedicated teachers educate, often bilingually, our students about sciences, arts, politics, history, and ethics, embrace and share various intercultural activities including a Green School policy, helping our students gather knowledge and life experiences. I have witnessed these passions in the career goals of our twelve graduates, of which three graduated with a 1,0 final grade, and they will not only challenge themselves but also take responsibility for others.

I am proud and happy that I was able to be head of school at GISNY for the last five years, and that I was able to contribute to the continued development of the school, together with our students, teachers, parents, trustees, administration and management. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for this rewarding, engaging and enjoyable collaboration.

Having to say good bye is a part of life that we all go through. It is difficult for me to say good bye to you but my curiosity about the future adds a new perspective. I am glad that I will continue my work with the German schools abroad. There is always a chance that we will meet again.

At the end of this school year, the following teachers will also be leaving: Ms. David, Ms. Ott, Dr. Oswald, Mr. and Mrs. Ströbel and my wife, Mrs. Petra Weghoff, as well as the following members of the administration: Mrs. Buchelt, Ms. Hoffmeister and Mrs. Malmström.

I wish those teachers and staff, students and parents who are leaving as well as those returning to GISNY a successful end of the school year, and a wonderful and relaxing summer as well as the best of luck in your future endeavors.

*Kindest regards,
Ulrich Weghoff*

Greetings from the English Department.

Summer has nearly arrived, and while we want all students to enjoy themselves with family and friends, we also know that it is crucial for students to read during the break, not only for enjoyment but also to keep their skills sharp.

Beginning next week, look for Summer Reading letters in your student's backpack and on the GISNY website.

The GISNY English Department

Costa Rica 2018

Pura Vida! This phrase, meaning “pure life”, is often used to say hello, goodbye and everything’s cool. For many Costa Ricans, who are often referred to as “Ticos”, this expression represents a way of life, and for ten days the eleventh grade of the German International School New York got to experience this lifestyle. At first, however, it didn’t seem like we were going to make it there. Originally, we were supposed to embark on this journey at the beginning of January. The weather thought otherwise. After several days of snow storms we made our way to the airport on a frigid day, hoping to soon enjoy warmer weather. Shortly after our arrival at the airport, we faced our first obstacle: we weren’t able to check in. The cause of this: cancellations due to snow storms. Finally, after much discussion, a solution was found. We were going to travel a few



days later; at least we thought that we were going to leave, no less at an unreasonable hour and with less time in Costa Rica. Second obstacle: the next day we find out the terminal we were supposed to fly from was flooded. At this point we felt like this trip may be jinxed. But we came to a conclusion - we were going to fly when the winter was over. So it came that from April 21 until May 1 we were able to experience the “Pura Vida” lifestyle. We had a busy schedule that included volunteer work and sightseeing, as well as learning about the country.



Our volunteer work consisted of helping out at Manos de Jesús with the elderly who had been abandoned by their families. From Monday until Friday we got to explore the different ways in which we could help. We could work in the kitchen, or maybe help in the garden, or in occupational therapy. At one point or another, we would probably have had to feed the people who couldn’t do much on their own. On our last day of volunteering, the class also served as entertainment, for a dance show was planned. We prepared a few dances to perform, but we also gave the able bodied an opportunity to dance with us.

Working at Manos de Jesús clearly showed us how privileged we are. Seeing the elderly abandoned by their family was disheartening. Soon after we began our work, we could clearly see how much our presence meant to them. Even though the elder home offers adequate opportunities for the elderly to enjoy the last part of their life, there is still room for improvement. The facilities obviously needed some work. Our class was also able to help with that, especially through the garden work, which included painting. Because the home lacks some staff, our volunteerism was an immense help. Not only were we able to aid those in need, we also grew together as a class bonding over our shared work.



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Of course we also had plenty of chances to see different parts of the country. Sightseeing activities included visiting Tapantí National Rainforest, seeing Irazú Volcano, a tour of Cartago, where our Home Base was located, as well as a visit to the arts and crafts market in San José. On our last weekend we were in La Fortuna, where we had a chance to relax. Weekend activities in La Fortuna included zip lining, swimming in the hot springs and seeing the La Fortuna waterfalls.



Besides sightseeing and volunteering, we also took a dance class, learned how to make tortillas and had two Spanish classes. Because our days were very exhausting, we used the evenings to relax and play games. The home base had the perfect living room type area where we would hang out as class. This was another splendid way to get to know everybody and bond.

All in all, this class trip was extremely beneficial and we all had an outstanding time. Seeing the elderly so excited by our presence was extremely moving and we definitely made our mark.

“Moral, das ist wenn man moralisch ist” - “Morality, that is, when you are moral”. This quote originates from the drama “Woyzeck”. We wrote this on the wall at the home base as a reminder of our stay and our volunteering. Volunteering to help others doesn’t just improve their living situation; it also helps the volunteers grow as moral people. All of us underwent a significant change and learned what it means to be supportive of others.

- Sophia Rehn, Grade 11



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Running Club News

The runners ended the season with a podium finish! The Sprint to Flint in Larchmont was the last race of the season with a 1-mile race and 5K. Our results were very impressive as we earned awards in several age groups: Zoe Reiff (1st in girls 1-8), Rania Griepentrog (2nd in girls 1-8), Ben Rawls (1st in boys 9-10), and Beatte Parra (2nd in women ?-?). Congratulations also to Lily Rawls, Teresa Daehne, Matteo Reiff, and Isaac Gladden for finishing the 5K in under 30 minutes! Tommy Schmuck (age group: 8th out of 54) and Sammy Rawls (age group: 25th out of 71) ran a strong 1-mile race.

Thank you, runners and families, for supporting our running events and the club! It was a fantastic season because of all of you. Every runner/jogger/jogger-walker is welcome to join. If you're interested please email: ithornton@gisny.org.

Coach Thornton





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Chess Team Update

They came, they saw, and they conquered. The blitz tournament on 6.15.18 was fun, exciting and a very close match. The teacher's team won by 1 point (5 points for the teachers and 4 points for the students). After the first round, the students were leading (2 vs 1 point). After the second round, both teams were at a tie with 3 points each. After the 7th and 8th game, the teams were still at a tie (4 points each). At the 9th game, the student team lost on time. It was well played, with chess clocks clicking and pieces moving fast across the boards. Top scorers for the event were Herr Weghoff (3 points), Thomas (2 points) and Herr Panitz (2 points). **Congratulations to all the players and many thanks to the parents, teachers and students who came to support the event!**

For the NSCF tournaments, it was a successful tournament season for GISNY! **For the GISNY trophy count, we have 22 team trophies and 38 individual trophies for this school year. Congratulations to all the students who came out to play for the GISNY Chess team! This would not be possible without you.**

Thomas and Xavier both won first place in the 5th and 4th grade sections at the Westchester Chess Championship 2018. Thomas won first place in the Greenwich Chess Championship 2018. Both are the top NSCF Grand Prix leaders for the 2017-2018 school year.

This school year is also the first time that we had a GISNY Girls Chess team (**Anja, Viraya and Anais**). The girls represented the school in the NYS All Girls Scholastic Chess Championship 2018 in NYC and came in 6th place! Anja made the United States Chess Federations' Top 100 Girls List 2018 for her age.



Moving Sale Season has begun!!!

Use the parents' association website **THE CLASSIFIEDS** to sell your appliances, furniture, clothes, toys, cars, houses and so on! Show pictures, explain the items, set the price... and finally sell everything!

Or are you looking for new used things? Moving from Germany and need new technical equipment, household items, a car or a house for rent? Go to <http://gisny.yclas.com> and find the perfect match!



Umzugssaison hat begonnen!

Nutzt die Webseite des Elternbeirates **THE CLASSIFIEDS** (Kleinanzeigen), um technische Geräte, Möbel, Klamotten, Spielsachen, Autos, Häuser und so weiter zu verkaufen! Stellt Fotos ein, beschreibt Eure Artikel, nennt den Preis ... und verkauft am Ende alles!

Oder sucht Ihr nach neuen gebrauchten Sachen? Zieht Ihr von Deutschland in die USA und braucht neues technisches Equipment, Haushaltsgegenstände, ein Auto oder möchtet ein Haus mieten? Dann geht auf <http://gisny.yclas.com> und findet die passenden Angebote!

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