



February 24, 2010

Contents and Attachments:

Reminders and Announcements, Parent-Teacher Conferences Overview, Board Elections, Maskenball Thank-Yous and Photo Link, Calendar Feb & March

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Elternbrief deadline for articles and announcements is Monday mornings 9 AM.

- **Parent-Teacher Spring Conferences**
TCGIS will be using Virtual Paragon's on-line **Parent/Teacher Conference Reservation System** for the Spring 2010 conferences
<http://www.virtualparagon.com/tcgis/conference/>
The system will accept reservations from **Thursday, February 25, 2010** at 7:00am until **Wednesday, March 24, 2010**, at 3:00pm (CST).
Please see the attached "Parent Overview".
It contains instructions and the password in order to log into the system.
We hope that this system will make it easier and more convenient for you to sign up for conferences with your children's teachers.
- **Conferences for Frau Huttlin - Music**
To help accommodate parents who will be attending conferences at TCGIS during their lunch breaks, in addition to having time slots on **Friday, March 26 between 1:00pm and 3:30pm**, Frau Huttlin will be available to meet on **Thursday, March 25 from 11:30-12:30** or by appointment. To reserve a 10 min time-slot on Friday, March 26 please visit the online Conference website. To schedule a time on Thursday, March 25 please call the TCGIS office at 651-492-7106. If you would like to schedule a meeting with Frau Huttlin outside of these dates, please contact her at mbhuttlin@germanschool-mn.org.
- **REMINDER: CHARTER SCHOOL DAY AT THE CAPITOL – MARCH 9TH**
The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS) is organizing a charter school lobby day at the capitol on **March 9, 2010**.
Please consider joining TCGIS parents and other charter school advocates on March 9. The deadline is Feb 23 and you sign up by contacting:
Margaret Uttke - MACS
651-789-3090 ext. 303
margaret@mncharterschools.org

TCGIS will be using Virtual Paragon's on-line
Parent/Teacher Conference Reservation System
for the March 2010 conferences

<http://www.virtualparagon.com/tcgis/conference/>

The system will accept reservations for conferences from **Thu, Feb 25, 2010**, at 7:00am (CST), until **Wed, Mar 24, 2010**, at 3:00pm (CDT).

IMPORTANT! Save this notice!

When you go to the web site, you will have to type in TCGIS's master password before you can enter the System. You must enter 1745university in the field labeled "School's Master Password".

Unless you indicated for us to keep your account from the last sign-up session, your user name and password will be deleted and you will have to create a new account. (If your account is still active, we will send you an e-mail reminder with your user name.)

Remember that on-line registration is the only way to make an appointment. It is very user-friendly and will be easy for most people to use. If, however, you feel the need for more detailed instructions, you can access a full User's Guide after you login.

If you encounter any problems or have any questions, please send email to support@germanschool-mn.org.

It's time for SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS!

This year's school board elections will take place on May 20th. We will be electing three new members to our nine-member board of directors. The board plays a crucial role in providing direction, vision and continuity for our growing school community. We hope that you will give serious consideration to volunteering for a board position, or will take the time to recommend someone who you think would be willing and able to support the school in this way.

Last year the State Legislature passed a new charter school law. One of the changes instituted by the new law was that a charter school's board of directors shall be composed of at least one licensed teacher at the school, one parent or legal guardian of a student enrolled at the school, and one interested community member who is not employed by the school and does not have a child enrolled in the school. TCGIS's board will already meet these requirements at the time of the election. Having a diverse board representing different points of view benefits the school in many ways. We would welcome nominations of people who have experience in a legal, marketing, business, human resources or educational field (ideally involving elementary or middle school curriculum and/or language immersion) and who are interested community members. Of course, any person who has a passion for the school, and a willingness to work with and for the community to promote and improve the school would be a great asset to the Board.

One term on the board of directors consists of three years, and a director may serve for up to two consecutive terms. A key responsibility of a director is to participate in the development of policy and major decision-making at board meetings, which take place at least twelve times a year. Another key responsibility is to be active on an ongoing basis in at least one committee of board. Current Board committees include Governance, Finance, and Grants and External Relations. Typical issues that arise at board meetings include financial oversight, hiring of staff, approval of the school calendar and curriculum, long-term facilities planning, long-term financial planning, grant writing, and relations between the school and its authorizer, the Germanic-American Institute. In addition, all new board members are now legally required to attend training in board governance, a board's roles and responsibilities, employment practices and policies, and financial management.

TCGIS is committed to creating a safe and effective school environment for children, as well as managing all school business in a responsible manner. Therefore, all board members will be asked to supply the information needed to conduct a criminal background check.

Board nominations are open until Friday, April 16, and all application paperwork is due by the following Monday, April 19. The application forms can be downloaded from the TCGIS website (http://www.germanschool-mn.org/board_docs.html) or picked up from the school office. If you have any questions or have suggestions for potential candidates, please contact Kimberly Kompel, Board Secretary (kimberlykompel@gmail.com, 651-414-0304) or any other member of the current board.

Thanks to everyone who helped make Maskenball such a success!



We'll have a preliminary number on the proceeds in a week or so, but in the meantime give it **all the way** up for:

The PTO's Maskenball Committee:

Rebecca Johnson, auction chair
Linda Michel
Molly McBeath
Kate Olson

Michelle Sheire
Lisa Antony Thomas
Gina Vader
Leslie Watson

- **Kordula Coleman** for her lovely artwork and design, and for performing with the band.
- **Peter Bruhn** for designing and building the Maskenball website.
- **Andrew Sinning** for engineering our online silent auction software.
- **Renee Moelders**, for managing our guest list database.
- **Heidi Zimmermann** for creating handmade signs.
- **Lisa Friedman** for helping with TCGIS mug organization.
- **April Pearson, Nick Michel, and Andrew Sinning** for helping the Committee with set-up.
- **Karola Rauer, Elena Heindl, Nick Michel, Andrew Oxenham, Kim Kompel, and Britta Walker** for serving as greeters
- **Mike Sampson**, for his gracious hosting and emceeing during the event.
- **Lisa Antony Thomas** and her sisters, **Linda & Laura**, for selling raffle tickets all night long, in costumed perfection.
- **Sylvia Oxenham** and **Chris Weimholt** for organizing the performance by **our young TCGIS string players**, and **Lydia Miller, Andrew Oxenham** and **Benjamin Stierle** for accompanying them.
- **Beryimar Funk**, for wowing the crowd with her fabulous belly dancing.
- **Jim Crego** for managing the sound system.
- **Sue Burke Westacott**, for tracking raffle ticket and mug sales throughout the evening.
- **Renee Moelders, Saskia Henke, Ben & Casey Mueller, Nicole & Aaron Grenz, April & Tim Pearson, and Heidi Zimmermann** for helping with auction checkout.
- **Joan Lessner**, sister to Rebecca Johnson, for arranging flowers and watching the cash box all night.
- **Amber Hollenbeck**, for sitting at a computer all night and entering data—despite having bronchitis!
- **The University of St. Thomas German Club** and **Girl Scout Troop 51325** for volunteering in the auction section all night long.
- **The German Immersion Education Foundation** for offering up to a \$5,000 match to the Curriculum Fund donations. GIEF's funds will be used for the purchase of new classroom furniture.
- **The many people, businesses, and organizations** that donated to our auction—send your business their way!
- Everyone who donated to the Wall of Wine—including **Britta Walker**, who single-handedly collected a full case.
- Our event sponsors, the **German American Chamber of Commerce, InverGrove Volkswagen, Re/Max Realtor Beth Richardson of MovingtoMinnesota.com, and Park Midway Bank.**
- **Kane's Catering**, for donating box lunches for all of our evening's volunteers.
- **Ol' Yeller**, for being as amazing as always.
- **Everyone** who bought raffle tickets or bid in the auction, and anyone we may have inadvertently forgotten to mention!

Congratulations to first-grade teacher **Scot Stephenson** for winning the Staff Getaway Raffle. Have fun in New Ulm!



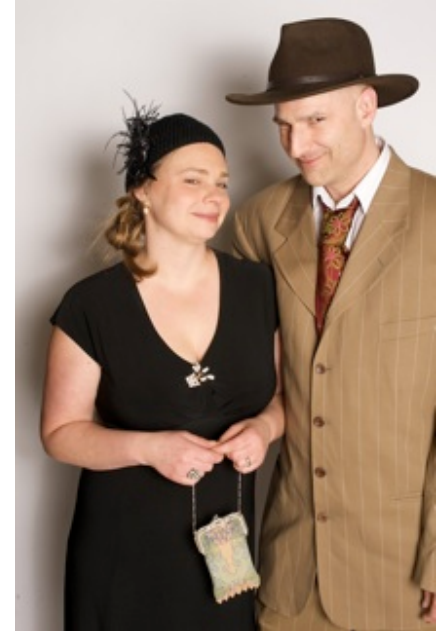
Maskenball Photos Now Available Online!

TCGIS parent and photographer Anna Botz captured all kinds of great portraits at Maskenball. To view:

1. Go to www.studio414.com
2. Click on “**Client Galleries**” near lower left area.
3. Click again on “**Client Galleries**” when directed to that link.
Login: mask
Password: ball
4. If you would like to order a print, contact Anna via email: anna@abotzphotography.com

Deadline for print orders is March 6th!!

Also check out www.abotzphotography.com and go to **Blog** to see some more Maskenball images!



Silent Auction Results are also available online at:

<http://tcgispto.org/documents/Maskenball/WinningBiddersFinal.pdf>

Twin Cities German Immersion School

Feb 2010 (Central Time)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 2010-2011 REENROLLMENT Deadline for ordering School	1 Adult German Classes start @ 3:45pm - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - PTO meeting 7pm - Info Session for New	2	3 2:30pm - Early Release 2:45pm - Vienna Community	4 6:30pm - State of the School	5	6
7	8 3:45pm - Staff Meeting	9 6:30pm - Finance Committee	10 3rd and 4th Grade Fieldtrip to 2:30pm - Early Release	11 Fasching and Valentine's Day 6:30pm - Facilities Committee	12 No School - Teacher 6pm - Info Session for New	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Enrollment Deadline for all No School - President's Day Supply Fee due 3:45pm - Staff Meeting	16 6:30pm - Finance Committee	17 2:30pm - Early Release 7pm - Library Committee	18 6pm - Board Governance	19	20 Maskenball @ Wabasha Street
21	22 3:45pm - Staff Meeting	23 6:30pm - Board meeting @	24 2:30pm - Early Release	25	26 8am - Kaffeeklatsch	27
28	1 3:30pm - Fundraiser in 3:45pm - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - PTO meeting	2	3 2:30pm - Early Release	4	5	6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	1 3:30pm - Fundraiser in 3:45pm - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - PTO meeting	2	3 2:30pm - Early Release	4	5	6
7	8 3:45pm - Staff Meeting	9 6:30pm - Finance Committee	10 2:30pm - Early Release	11 6:30pm - Facilities Committee	12 No School - Teacher Grading	13
14	15 TCGIS Clothing/Merchandise Sale 3:45pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Board Governance	16	17 2:30pm - Early Release	18	19 Game Night PTO	20
21	22 3:45pm - Staff Meeting	23 Honorary Consul Heino 6:30pm - Board meeting @	24 2:30pm - Early Release	25 Parent Teacher Evening	26 Grand Marais Getaway Fundraiser Trip NO SCHOOL - Parent Teacher 8am - Kaffeeklatsch	27
28	29 No School - Spring break 3:45pm - Staff Meeting	30	31 2:30pm - Early Release	1	2	3 Rummage Sale