



September 23, 2009

Contents and Attachments:

Kaffeeklatsch, Coupon Exchange, New Look to Lunch Menu, Curriculum Night /Meet the Board Event Schedule, Calendar Sept./Oct., PTO Auflauf Cook-Off & Community Dinner Flyer, Classroom Parent Info, PTO Bulb Fundraiser, Parent German Classes

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

REMINDER: Early Release – Every Wednesday – 2:30pm

Don't miss Curriculum Night / Meet-the-Board event this Thursday, Sept. 24 - 5 to 7 pm!

- **PTO Community Cookbook – Recipes wanted!**
With all the hot dish recipes flying around here, it only makes sense to put together a TCGIS Community Cookbook! Submit your favorite recipes by October 15 to Leslie Watson, leslie38@comcast.net. Please include your name, your kid(s)' name and class, and any brief background you'd like to share about your recipe. The recipe can be for Auflauf, other German or family favorites, or anything else--the only requirement is that it be tested and approved by you! Any of our kids who like to cook are also encouraged to submit a recipe. Our Community Cookbook will be available later this fall at a very modest price.
- **Fall Merchandise Sale**
Reminder: Order forms are due back by Friday, September 26. Please make checks out to "TCGIS PTO".

Kaffeeklatsch

Come join us this Friday the 25th in the basement cafeteria of the school just after morning drop off for some coffee and conversation. Bring a treat to share if you'd like, and don't forget to be "green" by bringing your own mug. Along the lines of being green, we will be having a Blue Sky Guide coupon swap during Kaffeeklatsch. We will also be selling the new 2010 Blue Sky Guide- The Best of What's Green and Local. We look forward to seeing you.

2009 Coupon exchange at Friday's Kaffeeklatsch!

TCGIS parents, led by Tanja Brandt and Gina Vader, will host our first Blue Sky Guide coupon exchange during this week's Kaffeeklatsch on Friday morning. The 2009 Blue Sky Guide coupons expire on November 30, 2009, and we should avoid throwing our unused or unwanted coupons away – someone else might be interested in using them! If you would like to be part of the first Blue Sky Guide coupon exchange, please bring your 2009 Blue Sky Guide/s to the Kaffeeklatsch on Friday. Everyone will have a chance to look through the Guides and exchange coupons.

If you don't have a Blue Sky Guide, please come anyway to enjoy the coffee, socializing with other parents, and to possibly to pick up a coupon or two.

Hope to see you at the Kaffeeklatsch!

Get Your 2010 Blue Sky Guides!

This year's Blue Sky Guide coupon book is here and ready to use. Get yours now to start saving around town!

The Blue Sky Guide is full of great deals at local businesses around town, including food coupons, coupons for hardware stores, local children's stores, REI, theaters and restaurants, and much more. Pick up your copy at the front desk for \$20, which is good now through October 2010. Remember that for every book we sell, we keep \$10 to support our students and teachers.

Just put your \$20 cash or check in the PTO payment box (note Blue Sky Guide on your envelope).

Questions? Contact Kate Olson (Elliot, 3A) at kathryn.a.olson@gmail.com.

And thank you for your support.

NEW LOOK TO TCGIS LUNCH MENU!

This month's lunch menu has a different look, and will hopefully be easier to use. Please indicate in the columns on the right side of the form whether you want to order regular "lunch", "vegetarian lunch" (when available) or "milk only". This will also be our new method for "milk only" families to pay for milk up front at the beginning of the month. Return the right hand side of the form to the school office with your payment and keep the menu portion for your records! Don't forget to mark your copy with info about which lunches you ordered for the month!

TCGIS Curriculum Night and Meet-the-Board Event – Sept. 24, 2009 – 5 to 7 pm

Curriculum Night Schedule (5 – 6 pm in the classrooms)

Each group of teachers will give a presentation twice. Once from 5:00 to 5:30 and from 5:30 to 6:00.

Parents will receive more detailed information from each teacher/teaching group about

- Curriculum
- Classroom Schedule
- Homework expectations

Parents who need to attend only one classroom presentation can attend either the classroom or the specialist presentation first. Families whose last name begins with letters between A and K are recommended if possible to attend the Specialist session first. Families whose last name begins with letters between L and Z should plan to attend the classroom presentation first. Families who will be attending two or more classroom sessions can attend in whichever order makes most sense to them.

Information on the locations for the classroom presentations will be posted in the school on the night of the event.

Note: 5th Grade Curriculum Night will be rescheduled to another night. Frau Wunsch (Gym teacher) and Frau Zachmeier-Ruh (5th grade German and Humanities) will be representing our school at a conference of German Immersion schools sponsored by the German government in Alaska from Thursday, September 24th through Monday, September 28th.

If you are planning to attend this event and need childcare while you are at the school, please email kwagner@germanschool-mn.org. The **hourly cost** will be **\$ 2.00/child or \$ 5.00/family**. **Please bring cash**. This will allow us to pay staff or interns who will supervise the kids. Let contact Kate by **5 p.m. Tuesday 9/22** if you are interested in this offer.

TCGIS Curriculum Night and Meet-the-Board Event – Sept. 24, 2009 – 5 to 7 pm

Meet the Board Event (6:00 – 7 pm in the cafeteria)

At 6 pm on Thursday, September 24 – right after Curriculum Night – there will be a “Meet the Board” social event in the school cafeteria. This is an opportunity for parents to meet the current members of the TCGIS Board of Directors and to find out more about what role the Board plays.

By way of introduction, the Board is a group of volunteer parents, teachers and other community members. The Board is responsible for school governance and oversight, including the school’s finances. We set an annual budget and check every month that spending is appropriate, thereby ensuring TCGIS’s financial health now and into the future. The board also oversees any contracts and appointments the school makes, and sets the general academic direction and goals of the school, including approving the school’s curriculum. The management and day-to-day running of the school, on the other hand, is the responsibility of the school’s Director, Annika Fjelstad.

Board members are elected at the school’s annual meeting in May and serve a term of three years, but there are ways of getting involved in Board activities without being elected. For instance, the Board has several committees, including the Finance Committee, Grants Committee, and Governance Committee. Participation on these committees provides a good way to get a feel for some of the issues that the Board addresses. All regular Board and Board committee meetings are open, and anyone is welcome to attend. Agendas for upcoming board meetings are posted on the school website, and you can also find copies of the minutes from previous meetings there.

The names and brief introductions of current board members are posted on the school website. Their names and e-mail addresses are listed below, along with any committee they chair and the grades in which their children are:

Kenneth Greener, kgreen112@msn.com

Susanne Grimm, Teacher Liaison (2nd grade teacher), sgrimm@germanschool-mn.org

Debra Haessly, Treasurer and Chair of Finance Committee, dhaessly@umn.edu

Rebecca Hauth-Schmid (3B), rebecca.hauth-schmid@moundsvIEWSschools.org

Kim Koppel, Secretary and Parent Liaison (1A, 2A), kimberlykoppel@gmail.com

Jürgen Konczak, Chair of Grants Committee (4), jkonczak@umn.edu

Gretchen Nessel (5), gretchen.nesset@moundsvIEWSschools.org

Andrew Oxenham, Chair (2B,4,5), oxenham@umn.edu

Holly Wiste (4,5), hwiste@hotmail.com

Mary Zellmer-Bruhn, Vice-chair (3B), zellm002@umn.edu

Please feel free to contact any of us with any questions you might have about our role in the school. If you are interested in joining one of the committees, please contact the committee chair. You can also send questions, comments and suggestions to board@germanschool-mn.org.

Andrew Oxenham

(TCGIS Board Chair, 2009-2010)

Twin Cities German Immersion School

Oct 2009 (Central Time)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
		3:30pm - After School Activities 6:30pm - Board meeting @	2:30pm - Early Release	3:30pm - After School	3:30pm - After School	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	6:30pm - PTO meeting	3:30pm - After School Activities	2:30pm - Early Release	3:30pm - After School 6:30pm - Facilities Committee	3:30pm - After School	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Columbus Day	3:30pm - After School Activities 6:30pm - Finance Committee	No School - Teacher 2:30pm - Early Release	No school; State Teacher's Convention		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		3:30pm - After School Activities	2:30pm - Early Release	3:30pm - After School	8 am - Kaffeeklatsch 3:30pm - After School 6pm - Auflauf Cook-Off PTO	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		3:30pm - After School Activities 6:30pm - Board meeting @	2:30pm - Early Release	3:30pm - After School	Halloween / Fall Festival 3:30pm - After School	

Register Now for TCGIS's First Ever

**Competitive,
Hot Dish-Style Action!**



**Celebrity Judges!
World's Best Sheet Cake!**

Auflauf Cook-Off & Community Dinner!

**Friday, October 23, 6:00 p.m.
Salvation Army Community Center
2727 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis**

Winners in Each of Three Categories:

- ❖ *German Traditional (a/k/a Auflauf)*
- ❖ *American Traditional (a/k/a Hot Dish--tater tots optional)*
- ❖ *Spicy/Vegetarian/Other*

Plus Grand Prize and People's Choice Winners!

**Space is Limited—Buy
Your Tickets Today!**

**\$9 - Adult (Regular)
\$5 - Adult (Contestant)
\$5 - Kids (5 and up)
Little ones are free!**

**Order forms and contestant
registration info available at the
front desk or online at
www.tcgispto.org/Auflauf.php**

This nearly zero-waste, 99% recyclable & compostable event is sponsored by the TCGIS Parent-Teacher Organization.

TCGIS Auflauf Cook-Off & Community Dinner

Everything You Need to Know:

- The event is on Friday, 10/23, at 6:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army Center, 2727 Central Avenue NE, Minneapolis.
- The contest has three separate categories: German traditional (Auflauf), American traditional, and Spicy/Vegetarian/Other.
- You don't need to enter the competition to attend. After the judging, the event will turn into a community dinner so that everyone can enjoy the contestants' masterpieces.
- Contestants pay a reduced ticket price of \$5. You can enter up to two hot dishes, but only one discounted ticket is available per family.
- The PTO will supply a kid-friendly noodle dish, beverages, fruit, rolls, and cake. The Salvation Army Center has an indoor playroom next to the fellowship hall where the kids can run around and burn off steam.
- *The Auflauf Cook-Off will be Zero Waste!* All food waste and servingware will be composted. Please try to compost and recycle as you prepare your competition entry! Many thanks to the Eastside Food Co-op for allowing us to use their commercial composting facility.
- **Space is limited, so register and buy your tickets early!**
- We will need volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, and keeping an eye on the playroom. Please email Leslie Watson, leslie38@comcast.net, if you can help out.
- Recipes will be featured in the TCGIS Community Cookbook, to be published later this fall. If you'd like to submit a favorite recipe for the Cookbook—for auflauf or anything else—please email it to Leslie Watson by October 15!

Special Instructions for Contestants:

1. Buy tickets for yourself (reduced rate) and family members.
2. Indicate on the form which category you intend to enter: German Traditional, American Traditional, or Spicy/Vegetarian/Other. Because space is limited, please do not register for the contest unless you are sure you can enter a hot dish!
3. Email the name of your dish to Renee Moelders, renee@themoelders.com, **no later than October 15**. If you want your recipe published in the TCGIS Community Cookbook, please also submit that by October 15. All contest entry information will be kept confidential until after the contest!
4. On the day of the contest, please deliver your entry **no later than 5:45 p.m.** *Your dish should be completely cooked and ready to serve.* You will receive your competition number at the check-in table.
5. The facility has limited oven space to warm up dishes, which will be available on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 5:00 p.m. (We recommend bringing your dish hot and ready to serve.) Judging will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m.; entries delivered after 5:45 may not make it to the judging table in time, so please do not be late!
6. We will have some serving spoons available, but bring your own if you can.
7. Once the judging is complete, join the dinner line and enjoy all the great contest entries.
8. Be sure to vote for your own dish in the People's Choice contest!
9. While you wait for the winners to be announced, enjoy a slice of the World's Best Sheet Cake from The Baker's Wife Pastry Shop.

Email Leslie, leslie38@comcast.net, if you have any questions. May the best recipe win!

**TCGIS Auflauf Cook-Off & Community Dinner
Ticket Purchase & Contestant Registration Form**

Name: _____ Email: _____

Are you entering the contest? _____ If so, how many entries? 1 or 2

Which category(ies)? (Circle:)

German Traditional American Traditional Spice/Vegetarian/Other

No. of Tickets:

Adult - Regular:	_____	x \$9	= _____
Adult - Contestant (max 1 per family):	_____	x \$5	= _____
Child - 5 and up:	_____	x \$5	= _____
Child - Under 5:	_____	(free)	
		TOTAL:	\$ _____

Please make checks payable to the TCGIS PTO. Drop this order form and your check in the PTO box at the front desk.

Don't forget to send your recipe to Renee Moelders, renee@themoelders.com, or Leslie Watson, leslie38@comcast.net, by October 15 if you'd like it to be included in the TCGIS Cookbook to be published later this fall.

Good luck!

What can YOU do to help your Classroom Parents?

What exactly is a Classroom Parent (CP)? And what in the world do they do? I'm unsure about the precise origin of the term. However, the role has been around since the beginning of the school, albeit in a very ad hoc capacity. The PTO saw the value and potential of the role and sought to clearly define it. They developed the following job description based on what they saw CPs doing in the past, as well as ways they envisioned CPs could assist in the future:

Classroom Parent job description:

- 1) Serve as a point of communication between the teacher and the parents of your child's classmates
- 2) Recruit parents to serve as chaperones for field trips or to help out with class projects
- 3) Coordinate parent response to the teacher's special requests for materials or help
- 4) Organize potlucks or other social events for your class
- 5) Coordinate class gifts (e.g., holiday and year end gifts for teachers, farewell gifts for interns)
- 6) Recommended attendance at PTO meetings and reading of PTO minutes
- 7) Field school-related inquiries from parents of your child's classmates. If unable to answer, then direct the question to the appropriate person or the Classroom Support Committee

You may be thinking that you dodged the proverbial bullet, since someone else volunteered (or was "persuaded") to be Classroom Parent for your child's class. Not so, my friend. We all need to pull together and support our CPs—and, in so doing, our teachers—this year. What can you do, you ask? Well, you can respond in the affirmative to your Classroom Parents' requests for chaperones or resource donations. You can sign holiday and farewell cards promptly. You can go to them with any questions you have about your child's class or the TCGIS community-at-large. You can offer to coordinate a class potluck. You can approach them and see if you can assist them in any way.

You see, the CPs are by no means going to do it all. They are not going to personally chaperone every field trip, coordinate every class gift, or buy every juice box. They are merely the facilitators, the organizers, the coordinators. It's up to you, parents, to support them in order for everyone—parent, child, and teacher—to have a successful and enjoyable year at TCGIS.

Here is the wonderful line up of Classroom Parents for the 2009-10 school year:

KA: Molly Foster (mollykfoster@msn.com) & Heidi Zimmermann (hzimmermann22@yahoo.com)

KB: Lisa Erickson (lrickson@kenwood1.com) & Katy McCarthy (katy_mccarthy@yahoo.com)

1A: Susan Kocher (skocher99@yahoo.com) & MaryAnn de Ruiter (maburke480@yahoo.com)

1B: April Pearson (april@pearsonmn.net) & Nicole Grenz (nicole_grenz@hotmail.com)

2A: Angela Thomas (athomas10@gmail.com) & Kimberly Feilmeyer (feilmeyer@hotmail.com)

2B: Barbara Holmes (bgholmes@earthlink.net) & Melissa Morrissey (melissalin@excite.com)

3A: Lisa Antony-Thomas (lizabella16@gmail.com) & Kate Olson (kathryn.a.olson@gmail.com)

3B: Gina Vader (vadercrego@comcast.net) & Jennifer Turnquist (jennifer.turnquist@comcast.net)

4: Janet Lenius (janet@jalenterprises.com)

5: Tanja Brandt (tanjag.brandt@gmail.com) & Susan Jacobs (susansjacobs@gmail.com)

Specialists (English/Kunst/Musik/Sport): Kami Blackwell Kinney (blackwell.kinney@juno.com) & Andrea Winkler (winklera@augzburg.edu)

Feel free to contact them directly, or you may also contact me with any questions you have.

Kami Blackwell Kinney
PTO Classroom Support Committee & Classroom Parent to the Specialists
blackwell.kinney@juno.com
651-494-2086

****Stay tuned for the next installment: What does the PTO Classroom Support Committee do anyway??**



Bloomin' Bucks **with Brent and Becky's Bulbs**

The Brent & Becky's Bulbs fundraiser is underway!

Of special interest to TCGIS gardeners, this low-key fundraiser offers a simple way to raise money for the school. Brent & Becky's Bulbs is an online bulb and nursery retailer with a fantastic selection and a great reputation for quality and service. Through their "Bloomin' Bucks" program, the company will donate 25% of all sales to a designated organization. It's easy to participate:

1. Visit www.bloominbucks.com (no "g"). Select the TCGIS PTO from the list of organizations.
2. You will then be redirected to the Brent & Becky's Bulbs website, where you can browse and place your order.
3. The company will send a check to the TCGIS PTO for 25% of anything you buy--bulbs, gardening accessories, perennials, etc.

If you're planning to plant bulbs this year, consider trying Brent & Becky's!

Please feel free to send this information along to other gardeners you know who might like to support TCGIS. Thank you!

EXCLUSIVE! German Classes for TCGIS Parents

Wishing you could help your student with Hausaufgaben?

Have you forgotten all the German you learned in high school?

Wanting to bring more German to the dinner conversation?

Hunter Goetzman will be offering German classes this year exclusively for TCGIS families. Classes will be offered throughout the year with 6-8 weekly meetings. **ALL LEVELS WELCOME.**

Beginner A: (6 weeks, \$75)

The basics of German vocabulary necessary for helping your student with homework and basic pronunciation.

Beginner B: (8 weeks, \$100)

Basic German skills of Beginner A, but with some emphasis on conversation and comprehension.

Intermediate: (8 weeks, \$100)

Go beyond the basics and begin to speak German with your child(ren). Also a good refresher for those who have learned, but forgotten, German.

Advanced: (8 weeks, \$100)

Get into advanced grammar topics and conversation skills. This class will have you building vocabulary and learning different ways to express yourself.

Send an email to hunter.goetzman@gmail.com with your name, phone/email and desired level.

[This is required so I can get scheduling preferences!]

Not sure yet?

Come to a FREE, all-level introduction class and info session on Thursday, October 1st, 6:30 to 8:00