

THE SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL GERMAN SCHOOL HCMC (IGS)



Where do educational ideals lie in our constantly changing global world?

When I went to school, everything was different: there were no computers, no mobile phones, the internet had yet to be invented, people smoked in restaurants, even on planes; wind parks and environmental protection were anything but a matter of course. Nena let go of 99 red balloons against Ministers of War and most islands in the Indian Ocean were still considered a paradise. « Globalisation » was still an alien concept and anyway, everything was totally fine. There was an undoubted « right » and « wrong » and the wickedness of the witch in the fairy tale was also not deconstructed until it dissolved in complete relativity. The world has undergone dramatic changes in the past 30 years and so has the understanding of good education—at least in many areas. Teachers are no longer the know-it-alls of old but have taken on the role of learning facilitator, the spot light no longer lies on factual knowledge but on competence, mastering several languages is no longer noteworthy but a matter of course. And yet, as humans we remain what we experience in our consciousness. If we no longer learn to notice the sounds and smells of the forest during a walk, if we no longer feel the moss or the sand underfoot—experience beauty—we remain very small indeed and education loses its inherent purpose—namely to stimulate the development of those capabilities in us humans which enable us to lead a happy and fulfilling life whilst respecting and considering social demands.

1

DEVELOPMENT OF PUPIL NUMBERS

German School attracts more international families

2

BOSCH IS INVOLVED IN EDUCATION TERRAVERDE AND KÄRCHER SUPPORT THE MUSIC WEEK

3

GERMAN FOR EXTERNAL PUPILS three courses three times a week



German School Abroad
with bilingual
programme



Our « U6 » children
discover flora and
fauna of Saigon Zoo



8 May: German
Language Day.
German-speaking Ka-
raoke competition

Brasilian Week at the IGS

from 30-05-2016 to 03-06-2016

For one week music was on the fore of our timetables. After two hours of subject matters, we started by warming up our vocal chords and relaxing exercises. Then we sang and played various instruments. Ensembles were formed and IGS pupils from nine different nations played music together.



The pupils very quickly proved their sense of rhythm and even when they sang in Portuguese, one could have been fooled into thinking that they had practiced that for a fairly long time. Indeed, the music teacher at the IGS, Mr Konrad Howitz, had prepared the children muscially but obviously a lot of new things had to be learnt.



Dynamic, musically exact, full of heart and utterly focussed on the children: this is how the four musicians from Brasil who live in Stuttgart/Germany presented themselves. Apart from several typically Brazilian instruments, they brought along their recorders: several soprano and alto recorders, also tenor and bass, plus sopranino.



The music week ended on 3 June with a presentation of the results in front of parents. Precious memories will remain, not just amongst the children at the IGS but also with the four musicians, Aline Pause Güntzel, Cibeles Endres, Greizi Kirst, and Alfredo Zaine, who

have since returned to Germany where they are teaching other children and where they are known as the recorder ensemble **Brasilien-Block**.

The music week was initiated by Dr Martina Merklinger and carried out with the support of the companies *Ter-raverde* and *Kärcher* as well as private sponsors.

German for external students

Since May 2016, the IGS offers German courses for external pupils under the direction of Ms Franziska Barnickel and Ms Ida Farkas. Three times a week courses are held for children from 6 to 14 years of age.

The target group for these courses are primarily pupils with no prior knowledge of German who are school changers. These preparatory courses are meant to give our new pupils an ideal start into school life at the IGS.



Dental hygiene in infancy

What actually happens when the milk teeth fall out and suddenly new teeth grow? How do we look after our teeth so that tooth decay has no chance and what can one expect at a dental visit? Our preschoolers got an idea about all these questions during their visit to a dental practice in Thao Dien.

NEW

German Courses for Beginners

(for external students from 6 - 14 years)

Course Duration:

Block B 10 x 60 Minutes 12.05.2016 - 02.06.2016
Block C 10 x 60 Minutes 03.06.2016 - 28.06.2016

Course Schedule:

Age Group (5-6) Preschool/Grade 1 Wed 16:45 - 17:45, Sat 8:30 - 10:00h
Age Group (7-9) Grade 2-3 Tue 16:30 - 17:30, Wed 17:50 - 18:50, Thu 17:10h
Age Group (10-14) Grade 4-7 Tue 17:35 - 18:35, Sat 10:30-12h

Course Fees:

10 x 60 Minutes - 10 x 350.000 VND = 3.5 Mill VND
Course entry is possible after the starting date, depending on available places

Course Objective

The course is addressed to students without prior knowledge of German who want to enroll at IGS for the school year 2016/2017 as well as external students who would like to start studying the German language. A qualified teacher and native speaker of German will be the course instructor.

Contact: Mrs. Thuy Dang +84 (0) 837 446 344 or thuy.dang@igs-hcmc.de

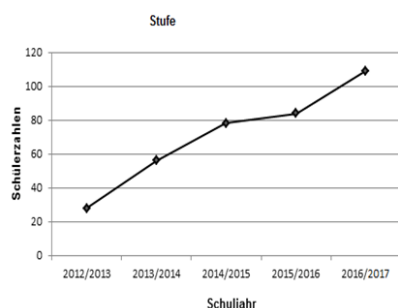
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A special **intensive programme** has been put in place for the first term of the school year 2016/2017 to assist school changers without sufficient German from years 1 to 7. This programme contains linguistic as well as subject components. In other subjects such as art, music, sports, swimming, IT, Vietnamese, English, lessons take place in their regular classes. In the second term, a gradual transfer of the school changers is envisaged. A week before the school starts, the pupils will also receive a **Starter Course**.

Development of pupil numbers

On the basis of current numbers of contracts concluded and those who advised us that they will leave school, the IGS envisages a **growth in pupils of about 25%** for the school year 2016/2017.

Our new pupils come primarily from Hungary, New Zealand, Australia, Vietnam, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria.



To meet the demand of additional space, an extension of the campus into the teachers' villa is envisaged. The growth in pupil numbers was factored in when ordering our new teaching materials for the next school year. The school materials are scheduled to arrive as early as the month of July. The expenditure for new materials was

significantly increased in comparison to the current school year 2015/2016.

Bosch Vietnam donates seven computers

Apart from the already existing infrastructure in our IT-subjects, the IGS will now place a desk-top computer into each classroom of the primary and middle schools to facilitate online-research during teaching projects.

Liaised by Mr Marko Walkde (AHK), the company Bosch Vietnam donated seven computers. We thank you very much for your support.



Our U6 children visit the zoo

What would it be like if one only knew what an elephant looks like from a drawing or a photograph? One wouldn't know how the animal moves, what it smells like, how it behaves towards its fellow elephants, how it feeds, or how big it is compared to oneself. And of course one would not know if one got scared when meeting such a big animal...



U6-Section celebrates Children's Day

The International Children's Day is currently celebrated in more than 145 countries, more than 40 countries celebrate on 1 June.

The idea of this day is closely linked to the development of a consciousness for children's rights as well as the progressive educational approaches of the early 20th century.

It was Turkey which officially established a Children's Day in the year 1920.

The IGS „shouted“ a round of ice cream for all children and pupils.

The Kindergarten section even became celebratory. With music and hands-on facts our little ones were informed about this great day by their educators.



So the children from our U6-groups visited the Saigon Zoo in several smaller groups. With its 151 years, **Saigon Zoo is one of the eight oldest zoos in the world.** The zoo with its botanical gardens houses 125 species of animals and more than 1,800 trees. Visibly impressed, the children returned with many new impressions. The experience was deepened in the days following the visit and processed in various forms methodically.



Year Book 2014/2015

We are happy to be able to offer one copy of the year book 2014/2015 to all children enrolled during that time free

of charge. The year book is available immediately in the school's office.

Should you wish to have additional copies, a fee of VND 250,000.-/book will be charged.

Enjoy the year book!

This is how reading is fun ...

As with many other things in life, reading out loud is no different. Many of us remember all too well what it was like to take turns reading paragraph by paragraph aloud in class. Of course one had to practise reading but it was boring nonetheless.



How great would it have been if at the time there had been a reading programme such as the one at the IGS. Pupils read to pre-schoolers from their books. Thus the sense of reading out loud is not forfeited but is perfect exercise on top. The pre-schoolers were impressed by how well the pupils could already read and can hardly wait until they are ushered into the world of books and letters. The reading out loud project which is prepared by pupils from year 4 is primarily aimed at a smooth transition of pre-schoolers into year 1. Important is above all the main character of the book chosen. „Elmar is different from all the other elephants. Instead of grey, he is colourfully

chequered. His head is full of shenanigans and because he is so cheerful, everyone loves him. After he proves himself through many adventures, he notices: He is exactly right in his otherness.“

Early learning in science



Headed by Ms Mai, the IGS started to offer an early learning science programme at the beginning of the current school year 2015/2016 which comprises several sessions a week at the U-6 section. With this emphasis on science we intend to promote cognitive ability and sensitivity of the children but also intend that the children learn very early on to analyse cause and effect as well as develop consciousness for their environment.

Here our topic: The power of wind.



IGS three times in HCMC

Early musical education does not only mean to sing by oneself or to play an instrument, but also to be able to enjoy music. On Saturday, 8 May, the children of the IGS visited the Ho Chi Minh City Opera House—but not for the evening's opening of Mozart's Magic Flute but to attend the dress rehearsal. The children were allowed a peek behind the stage and to maybe copy one or two things from the great artists.



Karaoke-Competition

Also on 8 May, the German-speaking Karaoke-competition took place. With songs ranging from „Nur in meinem Kopf“ to „99 Red Balloons“ many very different registers of the German music scene were courageously presented on stage. Apart from the DAAD and a representative of the National University, the IGS were part of the judging panel. A great event!



WDA Conference in Berlin

The IGS is part of the „Weltverband Deutscher Auslandsschulen“ (WDA) (Association of German Schools Abroad). This year's convention took place in May in the city of Berlin. Guest speakers were i.a. state minister Prof Maria Böhmer and Dr Thomas Feist (MP).



Dr Thomas Feist (MP): „At the convention of the Weltverband Deutscher Auslandsschulen I strongly advocated an even fiercer promotion of pupil exchanges with Germany. Meetings of young people are important for a mutual understanding. This is where German schools abroad are a key player in building important bridges.“

(Source: Publication of WDA)

Apart from the WDA-general meeting, sustainable strategy meetings with the senior management of the educational crafts foundation.

Contact with parents

We are extremely interested in close communication with the parents of our pupils. We therefore offer many avenues of communication between parents and educators.

The school year starts with a **parent evening**, where the form teachers or group leaders give an overview of the coming school year but also on the general situation of the class/group.

In the primary and middle schools individual private talks regarding development of the pupils take place at the **parents evening, twice a year for the pupils in primary and middle school**. The emphasis here is primarily to compare observations at home and at school

Many parents avail themselves of the chance to exchange information for example at the **Parents Coffee** in pre-school or in Kindergarten. In our U-6 years, it has become common practice to send a **report** on the programme with a preview on content for the coming weeks.



Day of the German Language

Our interns represented the IGS at an information booth and different activities during the Day of the German Language on the Campus of the National University.

Numerous students and visitors enquired about offers of German education in Vietnam. Apart from the IGS, the DAAD, Goethe-Institut, and VGU were present as German educational facilities. A big thank you to our interns for their commitment.

The reports also contain exercises and vocab lists to deepen our language programme but also photos and materials which can be downloaded from Google-drive. Many parents in U6 communicate via **Kigaroo-App** with the educators or are in contact—just as in school—via traditional **e-mail correspondence**. The **homework book** and the parent information folder are a further means of contact for the parents of younger pupils.

In our Kindergarten, the parents receive a **portfolio** of their child's work at the end of the year.

If you wish to have general information on school life apart from specific pedagogical questions, we post information on the school several times a week on our Facebook page which meanwhile has more than 500 followers. Our school's website is still in the process of being redesigned. The first designs for a facelift of our home page have been presented to us.

The frequently cited **"talks between door and jamb"** (conversations in passing) are an often used possibility of contact to our educators. However, to have a meaningful and focussed pedagogical exchange, it makes more sense to arrange a definite meeting. Please understand that a spontaneous conversation when bringing or fetching the children can only be held when this does not interfere with teaching or supervising the class/group.

Communication is important to us, please do approach us!

Language tests German as a Foreign Language (DaF)/English

Also this year pupils were given the opportunity to participate at the „Cambridge Examinations“. The results should become available this school year.

Independent competence tests

Within the framework of pedagogical quality assurance of German schools, selective years and subjects are tested externally and independently. The IGS places high value on these external, independent comparative tests.

The results of year 6 (mathematics/English) were received last week. According to these, our pupils were 29% above the Land average in maths and 20% above those in English.

We are happy about the great results.



Staff matters

We are happy to welcome **Mr Huu Truong** as the person responsible for our administration.

Dates at a glance

Summer party

25-06-2016, 9:30 – 13:00 hrs

Reports/last day of school

01-07-2016

Summer school for school children

4 July – 15 July 2016

Fee:

2,000,000 VND/ week, including meals

Registration at the school's office by 24-06-2016

Care weeks for U6 children

4 July – 22 July 2016

(Registration no longer possible)

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