



German American Society

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September/October Newsletter 2005

NEW SCHOOL LOCATION:

We have successfully moved to our new location at the New German Haus and we are all happy to see so many new and returning faces each Saturday morning filling the school. We teachers are enjoying having our own rooms to call home. Classrooms are on the 1st and 2nd floor of the tall, three story building. A parent room is available on the second floor for anyone wishing to stay at the Haus during school on Saturday.

REGISTRATION:

Registration is nearly complete with many of our classes at full capacity. If you have not completed your forms or made final tuition payment, please take the time to do so to help us close registration for the school year. Additional forms can be downloaded directly from the website at www.gssop.com.

CHOR:

We have had adequate interest in our children's choir which will meet from 9:30-10:00 each Saturday before school. If you are interested, please let Caron Olson or Susan Schlesinger know. Our first choir meeting will be October 29, 2005 in the large room across from the elevators at 9:30 sharp.

LIBRARY:

Our students will be able to check out books for the first time this Saturday, October 22, 2005. Please give a big thanks to our volunteer librarian, Sabine Schulze. We are really fortunate that she is willing to take on this responsibility for our students. The library will **only be open when she is present**. Books will be checked out and tracked by class. All students are eligible to take home books each week if they have:

1. registered and tuition is paid in full
2. do not have an outstanding library book

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER:

School bags have been reordered and will be available to purchase for \$10.00 each within the next two weeks. The Schultasche has a dual purpose for our school: to help parents and children keep Saturday School papers, library books and communications organized, and to help purchase materials for our classes. 50% of the purchase price of each bag we sell, directly benefits your/your child's classroom. We have tried to keep tuition affordable for our students and we please ask your continued support to help provide our classes with the needed materials to make their learning experience as productive as possible. In Germany, such bags are carried to the grocery store and used instead of paper or plastic. This is another opportunity we have of helping our children learn to be responsible and do their small part to help our planet.

TSHIRTS:

Results for the "Help pick our school t-shirt contest" are in. The votes for the designs were so close, that we have decided to offer both shirts to our families. Shirts will also be \$10 each and will benefit our spring essay writing contest, and school festivals such as the Laternenfest discussed below. An order blank will be sent home with each student. Again, please help support our school!

LATERNFEST:

Each year, children celebrate the holiday of St. Martin throughout Germany. Martin is best known for sharing his cloak with a beggar to save him from the cold. Our school will be celebrating St. Martinstag on November 10, 2005. We will make our traditional lanterns on Saturday, November 3rd during our regular Saturday School classes. On Thursday, November 10, we will meet the students from the German American School and others for our lantern parade at the Portland Art Museum at 6:30 p.m. (There is no school on Friday, November 11 due to Veterans Day.) After the parade, we will meet for refreshments inside the Museum in the ballroom. In the spirit of St. Martin, students are asked to bring donations of canned foods to learn about the gift of sharing. The Portland Art Museum is opening its doors to us this evening to bring the local German community together and create an awareness of their upcoming exhibit from Germany: "Hesse, a Princely Collection". The exhibit opens October 29, 2005 and runs through March 2006. The German American Society along with other German companies in Portland contributed financially to bring this exhibition to our area. This will be a special Laternenfest with so many groups together.

Thank you all for a wonderful beginning to our school year!

Your,

Saturday School Staff