Important Upcoming Dates:

20 January - Lower School Assembly Atrium 8:45 am
20 January - Grade 3 Bake Sale at Assembly
27-31 January - G10 & G12 Semester exams
27-31 January - MSUS Trip Week
31 January - LS Musical at 17:00
31 January: ISU basketball teams compete at BBU tournament
1 February - LS Musical at 14:00
3 February: Second Semester ASAPs start a
10-12 February - ISA/ACER testing Grades 3-8

News from the Director

Looking backwards and forwards - is that what makes us human?

A very warm welcome to the New Year, 2020. I hope you all had a wonderful winter break and a relaxing time with your family and friends. Whatever is lying ahead of you may the new year be a healthy and a successful one with lots of wonderful moments shared.

I was recently reminded that January is named after the Roman god of doors, Janus, because this month is the door to the year. Janus represents all beginnings and possesses the ability to see all things past and future. With this in mind, I'd like to reflect on past developments, while also considering what may lie ahead for our school and community.

In previous Newsletter articles I mentioned change as an inevitable part of life, and more especially for an international school. As you're all well aware, we're a school where enrollment has grown by 60% over the last three years and our staff has grown by almost 45% with additional provisions for Counselling, Student Learning Support, English as an Additional Language, German (first and foreign language), Information Technology and Mathematics. Our student enrollment will be 290 by the beginning of the second semester. A new strategic plan, ISU Strategic Plan 2020-2023 is being developed. However, some things are not up for change. We are a small international school and, while we have grown, we will enthusiastically remain a small international school.

Most international schools in Germany are currently in a period of growth. Nick Forbes in examining the phenomenon of international schools claimed that international education has gained a “new foothold in its seemingly unstoppable global march - raising the prospect that the biggest prize may be within reach”. He further stated that international schools have been one of the biggest success stories of the early 21st century, with their reach now extending to almost every corner of the globe. From fewer than one million students at 250 schools worldwide at the beginning of the century, international schools now account for 4.6 million students attending more than 8,600 schools, covering almost every country in the world, according to market analysts ISC Research.
In our own microcosm, developments over the last few years show that ISU is not immune from these global trends. Nonetheless, we have no desire to be a large international school. As we start planning for next year, we are not anticipating anywhere near the same trajectory of growth. We all realise that capacity at our school is limited and we are exploring short and medium term options to improve our facilities and capabilities. A final decision on this will be made at a future board meeting.

We now have “waiting lists” in operation for seven grade levels, and when the need arises, this will expand to other grades over the coming months and years. However, this does not mean we will be standing still. We are currently recruiting teachers and expanding our staffing provisions for the 2020/2021 school year.

Our core values will always remain at the centre of our being, and will continue to inform our identity and our purpose. Our core values are child-centred based on care, support and diversity, with a belief that international mindedness is a growth mindedness not based on a geographical location. Like the Ulmer Spatz we will always be small, imaginative and inventive.

Dr Liam Browne
Director

How do I find my child’s report card?

In regards to one of our initiatives to lower our carbon footprint and use less paper, this year ISU will be sharing report cards via Managebac in a digital format. The reports can be found by following the instructions below.

Please feel free to get in touch with Ms. Bachman or Mr. Rawlinson if you have any questions about the reports.

Via the Reports Tab
Select the appropriate child from the top of the page (if you have more than one child registered on Managebac). Select the Reports tab from the sidebar on the left-hand side. Here you can see your child’s Term Reports and Progress Reports. You can click on each report to view and download it as a PDF file, as well as print it.
Australia is experiencing unprecedented bushfires which are decimating property, displacing communities and destroying vast areas of native bush. The loss of wildlife is staggering.

Volunteer firefighter services across the states have been fighting fires for months now. Lives have been lost amongst this volunteer service. Having family members past and present in volunteer fire fighting units and town based stations, I can attest to the dedication of the men and women who perform this community service. In Australia at Christmas, Santa travels the streets of a town from the back of the local fire truck to give children sweets and wish Merry Christmas. The fire truck and rural fire service is a known imprint on an Australian's psyche. We deeply respect what they do.

The hottest months of Summer are ahead and the current reprieve has not extinguished the intensity of what is currently burning a spike in the weather is inevitable.

A few links below. This is the state of Victoria’s Country Fire Authority website, which provides choices of how to direct your donation. [https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/donate](https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/donate)

This is the state Ms Morgan and myself are from.

The state of N.S.W who have been battling fires since September. [https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/support-your-local-brigade](https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/support-your-local-brigade)

A site set up by an Australian comedian with an international following. All funds directed to The Trustee for NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations [https://www.facebook.com/donate/1010958179269977/](https://www.facebook.com/donate/1010958179269977/)

The site below is for wildlife rescue. [https://www.wires.org.au/](https://www.wires.org.au/)

Thank you for your support

Ms Narelle Johnson
EYP 1 Teacher

**This Week's Eco News**

**Fires in Australia** by Mathilde Rolland

After seeing the devastation over Christmas Mathilde reflects and shares ways we can help those suffering. Please go to the site below to read her article on ISU's Eco Council News website [https://sites.google.com/is-ulm.de/isu-eco-news/eco-council-blog](https://sites.google.com/is-ulm.de/isu-eco-news/eco-council-blog)

Sustainability ideas:

Mein Wochenmarkt - Carbon Neutral Food Delivery from the Ulmer weekly markets delivered directly to your house! [https://www.mein-wochenmarkt.online/](https://www.mein-wochenmarkt.online/)
Grade 3 Bake Sale

Grade 3 students Organize a Bake Sale January 20

As a kickoff to our Unit of Inquiry on “How We Organise Ourselves,” Grade 3 students will be organising a Bake Sale. We will focus primarily on breakfast snacks.

The Bake Sale will be held in the Atrium on Monday morning, January 20th.

Any students who would like to bring 50 cents to 1 Euro can support us by purchasing muffins or other baked goods.

Our profits will be donated to ISU’s UNICEF and/or Kinderhilfe Afghanistan projects.

We hope to see you on Monday the 20th!

Grade 3 and Ms. Rodriguez
Grade 3 Teacher