Newsletter

24.11.2023

Grade 3 Field trip - Basketball ASAP
Duke of Edinburgh - CAS - Sport Season 2
U14 Football - Badminton - Volleyball - XC
Winter Play - PYPX - Groupalarm
Save the Date
Grade 3 have been learning about how the Earth is always changing as part of our How the World Works unit. We have also been learning to write newspaper articles. Some budding reporters have written about our field trip last week.

**ISU News**  
**Reporter:** Anisiia  
**Fossil Museum**  
On Tuesday morning ISU third grade went to the Urwelt Museum. It was almost in Stuttgart. Grade 3 loved it and everyone was excited. Jürgen, the guide, told Grade 3 about different types of fish and their bones. After Jürgen told us about it we looked at some different kinds of animals. Most of them kind of looked creepy. Ida said “It was amazing!” Also we saw the biggest plant fossil in the world. It looked amazing. After Grade 3 looked around the museum they went to Dinoland! They had a quick lunch and they went to run around and play. Then, they went to a quarry. It’s a place where you can dig for fossils.
To learn more, please visit our Toddle page.

**G3 ISU Field Trip News**  
**Reporter:** Philip  
**Urwelt Museum Field Trip**  
We were on a field trip at Urwelt Museum. We saw a belemnite and an ammonite, then Jürgen showed us some dinosaur fossils and plant fossils. We saw the biggest plant fossil in the world. We also saw crocodile fossils. After that, we went to a quarry and I was trying to find gold. If you want more information go to Toddle or the yearbook.

**G3 Field Trip**  
**Reporter:** Sarp  
On Tuesday 14th November, Grade 3 went to Urwelt Museum in Holzmaden then to Schieferbruch Kromer. We looked at a lot of fossils and got a lot of fossils from the quarry. We went at 8:30 and returned at 14:30.
“I had a lot of fun, Jürgen showed us ammonites and belemnites then we went to the quarry and we got a lot of fossils.” said Miss Lara.
Go to Toddle or the yearbook for more pictures!
Every Monday afternoon, the school gym transformed into a bustling basketball court, filled with laughter, cheers, and the exciting sound of sneakers squeaking on the shiny hardwood floor. Our after-school basketball activity is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn the basics of the game, improve their skills, and most importantly, have a blast doing it.

The ASAP was led by a coach from the Ulmer basketball club BBU 01, Ryan Whitmire (G11) and Pascal Foege (G11): big shout out to you and thank you for your hard work. It was just fantastic!

The children learned different skills starting from dribbling and passing to shooting and defending. Whether you were a complete beginner or already a budding basketball star, everybody found something challenging and exciting.

The activity was open to all Grade 1 to Grade 5 students, so next time don’t miss out on the opportunity to learn and play this fantastic sport!

Basketball is more than just a game; it’s a chance to learn, grow, and have loads of fun. So lace up your sneakers and come join us for some slam-dunking, high-flying, and hoop-shooting excitement next semester!

Thank you.

Ms Wellner
Dear Parents,

We will be holding an online information session about the International Duke of Edinburgh Award for those of you who could not attend the last one. Please find below the details of the Google Meet. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code to join the link.

Little reminder: the DofE International Award participants must be 14 years old to start.

Tuesday, 28 November · 6:00 – 7:00pm
Time zone: Europe/Berlin
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/nzb-ftbm-ihf
To the inexperienced eye, dressage may seem as though it is simply horse riding, however, to equestrians it can be one of the most challenging disciplines of the sport. Dressage is unarguably one of the most elite expressions of horse riding in which both rider and horse have to harmonise and perform from memory a series of predetermined steps (FEI, 11.09.2023).

I chose dressage to be my CAS experience because I have been riding on horseback since I was a preschool student, however I never before had intended on exercising the sport professionally or even competitively. Once CAS was introduced to us students as being part of our IB curriculum, I saw a chance to track the improvements I had made in my hobby and use this as an opportunity to improve myself based on what I had noticed from the reflections I had to post into the CAS portfolio.

I started the experience in late October of 2022, on the Wahlberg Hof in Nathheim. I started the experience by attending dressage lessons and jotting down mistakes that were pointed out to me by my trainer. In the beginning, the basic flaws such as properly positioning my heels and keeping tension on the outer rein were prominent, though such flaws were basic, they did have serious influence on the posture of me and my horse simultaneously, these were both criteria that would be reviewed critically by professional dressage riders and judges.

Through increasingly attending these lessons I had learned multiple valuable lessons, however, the most significant thing I learned from this experience was that once you were on horseback you had to put all your emotions aside and focus entirely on the task at hand. The more I rode, the more dressage appeared to me to be a dance, or synchronisation between rider and horse. Any emotions I would feel and express would be mirrored by my horse, this sometimes led to me sabotaging myself through being frustrated if, for example, a certain exercise did not work after multiple attempts. The frustration I projected was perceived by my horse, which then experienced stress himself, resulting in us both being overwhelmed and making the situation worse. Once I realised and corrected this flaw, I noticed an observable improvement in both of our capabilities which has granted us success at attempting multiple advanced techniques such as the piaffe.

Maximilian
Dear ISU community, It is with great pleasure that I announce the start of our sports season 2.

Below here’s the list of sports that we are planning to offer, with starting dates, information regarding coaches, days for practices and dates for events:

- U14 girls basketball (season starts on January 8th, practices on Monday and Wednesday, coach: Mrs. Snider).
- U14 and varsity boys basketball (season starts on January 8th, practices on Tuesday and Wednesday, coaches: Mr. Sauer and Mr. Foege).
- U14/varsity badminton (season starts on January 8th, days for practices to be determined, coach: Mrs. Bailey).

Keep in mind that Mr. Foege will provide a pre-season for all basketball teams, starting on November 29th. Pre-season days for practices will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

If you are interested in joining our sports program, please save the following dates:

- **February 3rd** - U14 girls basketball at International School of Ulm (friendly tournament)
- **February 3rd** - U14 boys basketball at International School of Stuttgart (friendly tournament)
- **February 24th** - U14 boys and girls and varsity boys basketball at Munich International School (friendly tournament)
- **February 28th - March 1st** - Varsity boys basketball, final GISST tournament at International School of Ulm
- **March 14 - 16** - U14 boys basketball, final GISST tournament at International School of Frankfurt
- **March 14 - 16** - U14 girls basketball, final GISST tournament at St. George's Düsseldorf.
- **April 18 - 20** - U14/Varisty table tennis, final GISST tournament at Franconian International School.

*We are in the process of finding another event for table tennis

The signing up process will start on December 1st (on schoolcloud). Looking forward to seeing you join our program and let’s go Wolves!
What an experience for the ISU under 14 boys Football team. On Friday the 17th and Saturday the 18th of November the team took the bus at 6:30 in the morning each day to travel to Bavarian International School to play in the Division 1 GISST competition. We played Games vs Franconian International School, Leipzig International School, Bavarian International School, International School of Stuttgart and St George’s Dusseldorf.

All these games ended in defeat and most by a considerable amount, but the boys represented the school so well by always working hard, dusting themselves off and trying again, until the final whistle went. I believe this is why they came away from the tournament with the Sportsmanship award. Special mention to Rapheal for scoring two goals, and it was awesome to see that our team (10 Grade 5’s, 4 Grade 6’s and 3 Grade 7’s) were on occasions able to dribble past other teams (full of Grade 8’s) and even have passages of play where they could make 5-6 passes around the opposition to move up the field.

They did a fantastic job to represent the school, myself (their coach) and most importantly themselves, with resilience and perseverance in difficult situations. This shows that just because something is difficult doesn’t mean that it’s bad for you, as it provides us with the opportunity to grow and develop.

I would like to give a huge shout out to the U14 Ladies Football team. While we all were cold due to it being November in South Germany, we had a great time competing in the tournament. I saw how you kept fighting and not giving up. With your positive attitude & being hospitable to the other teams, I was encouraged by you. Not only me, but also the parents, teachers & friends were encouraged. In the last game, I saw you leaving it all on the pitch, fighting to the last second. I want to encourage you to keep giving it your all in life like this. To never stop learning, searching & discovering in this great adventure of life.

Let’s go Wolves

Mr. Notz
On November 11th, the badminton team from ISU engaged in a friendly tournament hosted at FIS. The tournament was more than just a sporting event; it was a celebration of athleticism, teamwork, and the vibrant spirit of our school community. This tournament had successfully brought students together through the joy of badminton. The event not only showcased the athleticism of our school’s badminton enthusiasts but also fostered a sense of community and friendly rivalry.

Ms Kocharyan
The varsity boys’ volleyball friendly tournament was held at Franconian International School. The Wolves managed to win one game and lost two games. The team learned the need to work on the receiving and serving techniques. The Wolves volleyball team is preparing for the upcoming GIST tournament. The team greatly appreciates the players and entire ISU community for the support.

Here are the scores from the tournament:

**FIS 2 v ISU**

**FIS 1 v ISU**
25 : 23 / 25 : 17

**ISU v ISF**
10 : 25 / 19 : 25

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Mr. Nuru
The cross country trip to Leipzig was really fun. We got the chance to go shopping, also the food was really good. During the race there were people guiding us and they were also playing music. After the race there was food and they had a stand with baked goods. The weather was ok but sometimes there was light rain. My favourite part was running over the finish line. Overall if I had the decision to go again I would definitely come.

Mareike
Grade 6

It was a pleasure to join the 7 members of the ISU cross country team to Leipzig where the International School hosted the GISST championship. After a smooth train journey, we were able to see the sights of Leipzig including Wolfgang Matthäuer’s famous Jahrhundertschritt sculpture, and the Auerbachskeller - the first place Mephistopheles took Faust on their travels. Neve’s birthday provided an additional excuse for enthusiastic carbo-loading in a nearby pizzeria before an early night.

Race day was eventful and the students gave their all. For a small school, ISU did well to finish 7/10 in the junior girls’ race after a steady start saw the girls gain positions through the field over the two laps of the event.

Julius, Neve, Mareike, Mare-Fleur, Amina, Sarah and Annika can all be proud of how they ran. A big thank you to Ms. Hopley for the company and for enlivening our travels with rich context.

Mr. Osborne
Come join us on December 14th for an evening of performances from the ISU Drama classes! Doors open at 18:00 and performances begin at 18:15. Hope to see you there!

6th Grade will be performing the short play “A Christmas Idol” by The Little LearnMaid. What will happen if Santa decides he just doesn’t want his job anymore? Come watch well known characters see if they can fill Santa’s shoes!

7th grade will be performing the short play “The Antarctic Mystery” written by Andy Pavey from the amazing Drama Notebook! “The Antarctic Mystery” is a short, comedic play about a family of penguins who have been kidnapped. Some Antarctic scientists and an arctic fox are searching for them, and enlist the help of some magical friends. They’ll have to hurry to rescue the penguins from the evil Penguin Catcher before it’s too late.

The 8/9/10 Drama class had an extra challenge this term. I asked the 9th and 10th grade Drama students to work together to create a pastiche of The Grinch Who Stole Christmas, originally written by Dr. Seuss, with some extra fun cameos and twists. Over the past months of drafting and re-drafting different scenes, this class is now proud to present an entirely new play titled: “The Grinch’s Frozen Christmas Carol,” written by Zeno Ferrari, Julius Ebner, Victor Reuttner, and Richmon Nievera. The grade 8 students were also a part of the writing process, and were able to personalize and add extra flair to their roles.

What happens when the Grinch wants to make everyone else as miserable as he is with advice from Ebenezer Scrooge, and run-ins with Queen Elsa of Arendelle?

Community event: December 16th at the Ulm Theatre at 19:00, there will be an English-speaking Drama production of A Christmas Carol originally written by Charles Dickens. Tickets start around 22 Euros, and I would recommend purchasing ahead of time. The production uses live singing, instruments, and heartfelt acting to tell this classic tale. This is a very family-friendly production! I will be there at 18:30 if you want to say hello. If you are interested, I hope to see you and your families there!

Ms. Habeck
Have you ever wanted to be a guide for young minds on a unique learning journey?

Are you passionate about nurturing creativity and critical thinking in the next generation?

Do you believe in the power of mentorship to inspire confidence and self-discovery in young learners?

Do you see the potential to make a lasting impact on a student’s educational journey by sharing your skills and experiences?

Can you spare 30-60 minutes for four weeks from May?

We are searching for Parent Mentors for the Grade 5 PYPX!

During the final year of Lower School our Grade 5 students embark on a remarkable adventure known as the Primary Years Programme Exhibition (PYPX). This culminating project is an opportunity for our young learners to action their skills, knowledge, and creativity, reflecting on their journey through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

As we prepare for another exciting and enriching Grade 5 Exhibition, we are reaching out to invite you to play a crucial role in our students' learning experience. This year, we are seeking dedicated parents from any year group to step into the role of mentors for our students. As a PYPX mentor, you will have the unique chance to guide and support these young minds as they delve into their chosen topics, helping them refine their ideas, develop research skills, and enhance their presentation abilities.

Why become a PYPX mentor?

**Make a Lasting Impact:** Your guidance will leave a lasting impression on these students, helping shape their understanding of their chosen topics and fostering a love for learning.

**Deepen Connections:** This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with a student/s on an academic level, gaining insights into their educational experiences.

**Contribute to a Unique Learning Experience:** The PYPX is a distinctive project that goes beyond traditional classroom activities. Your involvement will contribute to a dynamic and engaging learning environment.

If you’re interested in being a PYPX mentor, please sign up using the link provided below. We will then contact you with more information about what the role entails! We believe that your unique skills, experiences, and perspectives will enrich the PYPX journey for our Grade 5 students!

We have an information evening for the PYPX parents and interested mentors on **Wednesday 29th November at 17:00-18:00**. Please join us! [Sign Up Link]

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our students. Your commitment to their educational journey is truly appreciated.

Carolyn Henry
Lower School Vice Principal & PYP Coordinator
ISU is using the software GroupAlarm to create bulk notifications to all parents in case of an emergency.

Since it is mandatory to ensure that everything works accordingly, we will send out a test message which contains the following text: “Dear Parents, this is the planned message from ISU to test our new platform. If you have received this message, your data is up to date and there is no further assistance required from your side.”

If you do not receive this message on 28th November 2023 it indicates that the personal information on Powerschool needs to be updated. Please make sure to submit your contact details to the Admissions Team in the following manner: Your name, name of your child(ren), grade of your child(ren), most recent phone number.

Thank you very much for your help in keeping ISU a safe place!
Save the Date

Save the date!
Christmas Market
-DECEMBER 19-
AFTERNOON

Be part of the ISU Sustainable Christmas Market

Grade 11 CAS students would like to invite you to be an active member of our Christmas market. If you would like to volunteer to help, have your own stall or bring some Christmas baked goods, please fill out this form by Wednesday 29th of November.

Thank you for your continuous support