



German American Society of Portland  
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## January/February Newsletter 2009

### **Fasching:**

Over 150 people attended our annual Fasching celebration on February 7, 2009 at the German Haus. Special thanks to Mary-Catherine and all behind the scenes for putting on such a wonderful evening for our families. Parent volunteers are such a valuable asset to our program and we appreciate the "extras" you brought to the event this year. Another special thanks goes out to the teachers/staff/and school committee members who were there to help us celebrate!

### **Spring Break:**

There will be no Saturday School on March 21st and March 28th. We have students from many schools and our break does not align with any one break. School resumes April 4, 2009.

### **AATG Tests:**

Congratulations are in order for our many students who participated once again in the annual AATG tests given in January at the German Haus. Our students did very well and we are looking forward to recognizing their accomplishments. The German American Society has expressed an interest in honoring our students at their April General Membership meeting and families will be receiving more information soon. Special congratulations to Ana Orhanovic and Ben Altenhofen who both earned top scores on their exams for non-native learners. Their accomplishment qualifies them to compete with others later this spring to win a month-long exchange to Germany this summer! Congratulations also to Sonja Gorman who scored a perfect 100/100 on the native speaker level IV test! Congratulations are also in order to Lynn Ries who is the proud teacher of all three students!

### **Library:**

Have you or your children visited the library lately? Sometimes it is easy to take a library for granted, but we would like to remind you what a valuable resource our library is! It is difficult and expensive to locally buy German books and to have so many available to us is a gift. There are instructions for self-check out posted and we kindly ask you to check at home and return library books on a regular basis. Our volunteer librarians are available every Saturday from 9:30-10:00 and most Saturdays during school hours if you need assistance. Anyone interested in helping schedule an hour or two on a Saturday to support the teachers/classes check out books or read aloud to a group of students is asked to leave word in the library or the school office.

### **Zauberwald! A German immersion language experience**

Plans for our summer program are underway as our staff begins planning for our day and overnight German language camp opportunities beginning mid-June. Please let the office know if you would like additional information regarding the camps. The week-long day camps will begin June 22 and be from 9-2:00 Monday through Thursday (childcare available after school) and the overnight camp in the Columbia Gorge (Corbett) will be July 12-17<sup>th</sup>. Watch our website for more information.

## **News from the German American Society:**

**Kinderbazar:** The first annual Kinderbazar of the German American Society will be held after school on February 28, 2009 in the hall of the German Haus. If you would like more information about this event or participating in the event, please contact [Kinderbazarpx@gmail.com](mailto:Kinderbazarpx@gmail.com).

**Kinderkino:** The German American Society is also offering a children's movie event on Sunday, March 1 at 4:00 at the German Haus. Kelly Baur, our preschool teacher, will present Neues aus Uhlenbusch. This is a show from the late 70s and early 80s that was on ZDF about a group of kids living in a small north German village. Hope to see you all there!

**School Committee:** The school committee is asking parents who might like to be involved in supporting the Saturday School at the committee level. Anyone interested, please leave word in the office or contact new School Committee Chair, Bernd Ferner at the German American Society Office at 503.775.1585.

### **February 21, 2009 Annual Scholarship Competition**

The German American Society is hosting its annual scholarship competition on Saturday, February 21, 2009. High School Students and College Freshmen from Oregon and Southwest Washington will be meeting at the German Haus all day and we kindly ask for your understanding as they will be meeting all day in the hall so it will not be available to our families. As your children become seniors in high school, we hope they will also apply for this wonderful opportunity honoring their efforts learning German.

## **BABIES!**

We have many families who are expecting babies this spring and we wish them all well! Our very own Frau Olson and her husband Fred are expecting their first child this March and please do give her and all of our expecting moms your best wishes. Frau Olson has served the Saturday School for 8 years teaching every age level possible and singing each Saturday before school. I'm sure we will have many students who will line up to babysit for her!

## **Lost and Found:**

We have several clothing items hanging outside the children's library which remain unclaimed. If these items are not claimed by March 1, they will be donated to the Goodwill.

Your,

*Saturday School Staff*