

# Komm – mach mit

## TACOMA GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

### October 2008 Newsletter

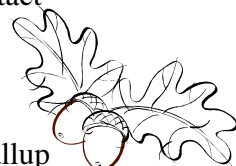


#### GREAT START INTO FALL TERM 2008

Welcome and welcome back! School started September 6 with three children's classes, two adult classes and one class for children ages 11 – 15. As of today, we have 48 enrolled students. Thank you all for recommending the Tacoma German Language School to friends and students. We also want to thank the parents of the school who attended the Parent Orientation and are willing to help around the school. I will contact parents who signed up for volunteer work as we get closer the school events.

#### TGLS AT THE OKTOBERFEST ON THE PUYALLUP FAIRGROUNDS

The fourth Oktoberfest Northwest festival is going to take place on the Puyallup Fairgrounds on October 3 – October 5, 2008. German traditions and culture will be the highlight of this festival. The Tacoma German Language School is very excited to be able to be a part of this great new event again. The school will be on-site Friday – Sunday providing educational games and the chance for kids to make a lantern in celebration of the upcoming Lantern Festival at the school (and in Germany). I hope you will have a chance to visit the Oktoberfest and enjoy it as much as I did over the last years and will again this year.



#### HALLOWEEN PARTY AT THE SCHOOL

The children of TGLS will enjoy a Halloween Party at the school on **October 25**. This event is only for students of the school. The party will begin **at 10.45 am**, so please bring your costume to school. **The children will put on their costumes after the break. Please have your child wear an appropriate costume. Halloween is fun but it can also be very frightening, especially for younger children.**

Please don't let your child come to school wearing a costume, since it may cause a distraction from class. Thank you for your understanding!

#### FACULTY NEWS

Please welcome our new faculty members Gabriele Williamson and Wiebke Nicholson. *Frau Williamson* is teaching the children ages 6-7 in the *Hasenstall*. Gabriele Williamson had worked as a faculty member for the TGLS from 1999 – 2002 and recently joined our school as a teacher again. In the past she has taught the children in the *Hasenstall*, the *Dinosaurierhalle*, substituted for several groups, and also taught during summer camp.

She was born and raised in Fulda, Germany and moved to Lakewood 10 years ago. Frau Williamson is a state registered instructor as a nursery school teacher for the German Kindergarten. She also completed an advanced training course in special education for children with the University of Marburg, Germany.

Since 1999 she has been employed with the Clover Park School District #400. Please welcome our new teacher Gabriele Williamson.

**Frau Nicholson** She is teaching the students in the *Denkmalstube* (children ages 11-15). Wiebke Nicholson was born and raised in Germany. When she was sixteen she had the privilege of spending one year as an exchange student in Michigan. After working in the travel industry for many years and traveling the world she moved to the US in 1997. After her husband retired from the Air Force they spent years in Hungary, moved back to Spokane, WA and then back to Italy for 5 years. While volunteering at her twin sons' school, she was always busy tutoring French and German. We are very excited to welcome Gabriele Williamson and Wiebke Nicholson as our new Faculty members.

### **AATG AND WAFL CONFERENCES 2008**

Susanne Taylor, Gabriele Williamson and Wiebke Nicholson attended the AATG conference on October 13 – the annual Teacher's Retreat in Hyak. They were very pleased with the presentations and workshops and came back with new great teaching ideas and teaching material. They shared the ideas with all other faculty members at TGLS by giving a mini workshop. In October Yvonne Bahlmann and Ingrid Skeldon will attend the WAFLT Fall conference in Vancouver, Washington.

### **A NOTE TO THE PARENTS**

Please arrive on time on Saturday mornings so we can assure that classes will start on time and interruptions and distractions are avoided. The teachers of the children classes are asking the parents to stop their children from bringing toys like game boys, cell phones, other electronics or any toys at all to class. These toys cause a big distraction in class and the school wants to ensure a high quality teaching environment. Also discipline will be reinforced in all children's classes. Thank you for your understanding!

### **LIBRARY**

The school has a small collection of German books you can use to practice your German at home. There are a few new books added to the Library this fall. If you wish to check out a book with your child, please talk to your teacher. She will help you AFTER school. Adult students also need to ask their teacher for help during the break or after school. The teacher will list the title of the book, your name and the check out date. Please return the book to your teacher within two weeks. In consideration of others, we ask that you limit borrowing to TWO items.

Enjoy the books!

### **IN THE EVENT OF SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS**

In the event of severe weather conditions, including snow and ice, please call the school's voicemail number (253-383-3210) on Saturday mornings. If school is cancelled because of severe weather conditions, the answering machine will be updated. If you hear the regular recording, school will take place as scheduled.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen!

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