



## Parent's Information December 2017 / English Version

Dear parents and friends of our school,

did you miss the Parent-INFO last autumn? No? Then it appears that we correctly understood your feedback. Following this feedback we have sent out current information at short notice, specifically to the classes involved, which means we can send just one Parent-INFO each semester: one shortly before Christmas and the second shortly before the Summer holidays. In order to make it easier to read, we will separate the parent newsletter into two languages: German and English.

In order to save paper and other resources, we will also send these newsletters digitally. Please let us know if you notice any problems with emails from the school. We have heard that sometimes our emails are not received, so please ensure that our email addresses are on the "trusted sender" list, so that they don't slip into your spam folder. We apologise for any issues we have had with our database or email correspondence.

As usual at the end of a calendar year we would like to thank all of you. First and foremost the children, who come to school each day with joy and an eagerness to learn which makes our work days sweet. We would also like to thank you, parents, that you trust us with your child, which shows how you trust both the potential of your child and the Montessori method. Last but not least we would like to thank all of our staff, who give their best day in and day out so that the wheels keep on turning and your children learn more than just the school curriculum. With these thanks we wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Verena and Jürg R. Schüepp-Lanz, Principals  
in the name of the schools Supervisory Board and  
teaching staff

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### Please note insets!

- Optional Leisure Courses – Offer 2017/18  
2<sup>nd</sup> Semester
- Registration form leisure courses



**CURRENT****Results of the Autumn 2017 Parents Survey**

Last autumn we released a survey to gain an impression of the current needs regarding care of the children. The main focus was on the opening and pick-up hours, as well as travel to and from school. Happily we had a strong response of 110 people.

Approximately a quarter of respondents were interested in a school bus, especially in the morning. There was a wide spread of opinions about a bus service in the afternoon and evenings, mainly due to the differing departure times of the children. There was an even greater range of responses in regards to the time and pick-up point of a morning school bus. There was also only a small minority who said they would use this service regularly.

An interesting point was that approximately 55% of respondents expressed no need for childcare beyond the school's current hours. In most cases where a family already has extra support, they have a nanny and said that they were unwilling to reduce the nanny's hours in order to take advantage of any extra offers from the school.

Approximately 90% of respondents agreed that the current Hort hours are sufficient. About a third would welcome overnight care and roughly 30% could imagine using weekend care now and then, predominantly on a Saturday. About 44% of respondents would welcome a reduction of the five weeks in which the school is completely closed and, of these, the majority would prefer more vacation care in the Summer holidays.

Another interesting part of the results was the comments which were given to individual questions. These were varied and the majority were positive. The main criticism was about the Hort payment system, which has several methods of payment depending on which services are chosen. The school Supervisory Board would like to thank everyone who took part in the survey and provided us with important feedback on the childcare services at our school. We are already planning several improvements for the new school year (2018-19). The draw for the Hort vouchers was won by Steven Neubauer – congratulations!

**Current and Planned Projects**

“Standing still is falling behind” is a frequently-quoted phrase which we also need to remember. We are constantly working to improve our services and perfect our work. Two areas are in focus: improving the educational outcomes of your children and optimising our other services.

Our entire team has been working hard for a while on term planning and record keeping, in order to improve transparency and our overview of the children's academic progress. The core of the Montessori philosophy is that each child should be allowed to grow and learn as an individual, at their own pace. The outcomes of the Montessori curriculum are aimed towards age groups, rather than the specific year-by-year steps of the public curriculum, and are focused on individual progress rather than insisting that all children should be at the same point in every area. In order to ensure that all children are challenged appropriately, we need to understand both curricula.

We have been using regular standardised tests in the classroom over the last few years in the primary school. These are the cockpit tests, and their provider intends to replace the cockpit tests with a new concept called “Lernlupe”. Recently we have also had the support of an external expert, Wolfgang Maier, to assess the academic level of the children in the primary school.

Mr. Maier is a primary school teacher with Montessori training and experience who is also an experienced special education teacher and neuropsychologist. On request he is available to provide individual assistance to students who would benefit from extra support. We have also decided to only release the school report once per year, at the end of the school year.

We have offered our Fifth and Sixth Grade students a Gymnasium preparation course which began last August, presented by external experts from Academia during the regular school hours in our school building. This is designed to assess and assist the students who wish to undertake the Gymnasium test.

Last but not least we have our “Germanist” Charles A. Weibel, who is replacing Claudia Barblan-Augustyn during her maternity leave. He has been focused on refining our MS students’ German spelling and grammar. We intend to retain his services after Mrs. Barblan-Augustyn’s return!

The school leadership has already had some thoughts on refining after-school care after reading the responses from the recent survey. We plan to simplify the system from the start of the next school year to include after-school care until 6pm in the flat rate Hort payment plan. At the moment any other changes are still being considered and discussed.

We are also considering whether vacation care could be extended after August 2018, which would reduce the number of weeks in which the school is completely closed. At the moment we are still discussing the details of these changes, including the cost. We plan to let you know some details in March.

**New: Credit Card Payments**

It is now possible to pay for Hort care directly with Maestro or credit cards at the Hort School house. We have a mobile terminal to enable this payment option, and you will receive a receipt via email or SMS.

**Dental Hygiene**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017, the school dental hygienist visited our school to instruct our children in proper dental care, as she does every six months. The next visit will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2018.

**Congratulations!**

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Kirisha Krishnarajah** for gaining her AMI 0-3 diploma in the Hague, which she earned in December 2017. We would also like to congratulate the following practicants, who will begin their “Fachfrau Betreuung” (childcare worker) training in the new school year with us: **Praveena Sritharan, Samuel Malinov, Michelle Awour.**



**City of Zurich Relay Swim - Team Hai(d) Swims to Success!**

On the 29th of November 2017 there was a swimming contest for children in the 3rd to 6th Grade in Altstetten Pool. A motivated and well-trained team of six Third-Grade children from GS1 were there. Students from a range of schools around Zurich take part in this contest each year and this year’s stroke was freestyle. Our swimmers chose crawl, since it is the fastest. Our team started in the tenth heat and were the second-fastest. In the end we were 33rd out of 74 teams, which was a good result. The team was organised primarily by the children themselves, as well as some highly-engaged parents. Next year we would like to attend again! Sporty greetings from Mia, Pia, Vanessa, Mona, Mael, & Emil



**Registration for Leisure Courses in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester 2017-18**

The registration for leisure courses is only for one semester, therefore they need to be renewed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the current school year. Only the course “Tanztheater” is an annual course and does not need to be renewed for children that were registered for 1<sup>st</sup> semester. Instrumental courses need to be organised with the music teachers directly. We would like to remind you that there are **no group courses in the week before each holidays. There is also no psycho-motor skill classes in that week.**



**Carol Singing, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

We will co-host our annual carol singing with Sprungbrett at St. Anton's church on the **21<sup>st</sup> of December, 2017, at 4pm** in the festival hall of St. Anton church. Afterwards we will serve punch and cookies outside the church.



**Spring Camp 2018**

Next year the Spring camp will be held from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2018 in Canton Graubünden, more precisely in Sedrun/Selva. We will stay in camp "Casa Nual" ([www.nual.ch/ubernachten](http://www.nual.ch/ubernachten) - see picture). You will receive more details shortly. We anticipate a great camp with your children! Rahel Zuber & Joshua Vosanibola from the Camp Team.



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Christmas is just around the corner, along with our winter closing time. From **Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December our school will be completely closed**; this is our cleaning day, on which our staff will prepare the rooms for the start of the new calendar year. On **Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2018** we look forward to welcoming you back.

For upcoming events and holidays, please go to our photo webpage ([photos.dinsle.ch](http://photos.dinsle.ch)), where you can download our annual holiday plan and the regularly-updated event calendar in the "Downloads" area of the d'Inslé section.

On **Saturday the 27th of January 2018** we are organising our annual "**Open Day**" from 1pm to 4pm at d'Inslé. This event is aimed at potential new families who have not yet had the chance to look into our premises and are interested in a place at our school. Of course the Open Day also gives our current families the opportunity to show their grandparents, godparents, uncles and aunts, friends and neighbours the place where they love going to school!

Before **Easter** our school will be closed from **Maundy Thursday, the 29th of March 2018, at 12pm**; there will be no lunch served on this day. From **Good Friday, the 30th of March, until Easter Monday, the 2nd of April**, the school will remain closed. "**Sächsliüüte**", the Zurich Guilds' festival, is on **Monday the 16th of April 2018**. The **school will be closed on this day** for this festival.

A week later we have the Spring holidays. The **Spring camp** will be in the first week of these holidays, from **Monday the 23rd until Friday the 27th of April 2018**. In the second week the school is **closed on Tuesday the 1st of May** (International Workers' Day, or "Tag der Arbeit"); vacation care is available for every other day of this week, including Monday.

The school will be **closed from Wednesday the 9th of May from 12pm (without lunch)** as well as on **Thursday and Friday the 10th and 11th of May** for **Ascension**. **Pentecost Monday** is on the **21st of May 2018** this year.



**Impressum**

EL-INFO d'Inslé, December 2017

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