Dear parents, students, and staff members,

It is unbelievable, how time is flying. This is already the Christmas edition of our International School newsletter 2019. When you scroll further down, you will see that everybody is slowly getting into the festive mood. Many classes spent some time outside of school to go ice-skating or go for a walk around the Christmas Market in the city centre. Some classes baked cookies together or went to the theatre. All these activities are part of our school life and are appreciated by students and staff members alike as quality time to develop more personal relationships and to share moments with classmates, teachers and Professional Educators.

Also, the PTA spent many hours in school in the last weeks; planning activities and crafting, baking cookies and packing Tombola baskets to contribute to our Christmas preparations in school. A big THANK YOU to all – parents and staff, for your permanent support and engagement to the benefit of our students.

As every year, some families will leave us and return to their home countries. On behalf of the entire school community, I would like to wish you all the best for your future and a good start at your new schools in January. Don’t forget to visit your friends at the International School Braunschweig- Wolfsburg whenever you come back to Germany.

This year, we also need to say farewell to one of our staff members who is well known and liked by everybody from Preschool to IB classes. Mr Johnson is leaving us as he has accepted a position at another company. We wish him good luck and all the best.

Three more days now before we will close the school for Christmas vacation. May you all have a good time with your families wherever you may celebrate; relax, slow down and enjoy the festive days.

I am looking forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday, 7th January, 2020.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2020!

Sincerely yours,

Anne Köneke,
Head of School
Welcome back to school, everyone! We hope you had a relaxing autumn break.

Yes, now is the time to put on our warmest pullover and coat. The colder time is here, and guess what? Unless it rained, it did not stop the Lower Primary students to spend some playtime outside in the afternoon. The students love to play outside, explore, collect autumn leaves, acorns and create something cool out of them.

When it did rain, however, we stayed inside and the students could choose what they would love to do, such as theme-based colouring sheets, free drawing, spending time in the book corner, café and kitchen role play, lego, puzzles etc.

Just like last time, we arranged various weekly theme-based activities. The students did different activities on different topics, like autumn weather, bread, harvest and Thanksgiving.

Nevertheless, our Halloween party and the lantern procession have been two of the biggest highlights yet. The students crafted scary monsters and Jack-O Lanterns. The summit of the Halloween week was the party, where various scary games and snacks were offered. Furthermore, the lantern procession took place on the 7th of November, 2019, where students accompanied by their parents and siblings celebrated Saint Martin’s Day. What a wonderful way to celebrate grace and tolerance!

We celebrated Thanksgiving with various crafts. Each student had the opportunity to create a ‘thankful booklet’, pumpkins and, of course, crafted a funny looking turkey.

The next big event is Christmas and we are looking forward to spending the afternoons with you with different Christmas related activities.

The Afternoon room has been quite busy since the school year has started. Amongst other themes, the group really had a good time making Dream Catchers. Many of the students took special care to make them as gifts for their parents or siblings.

And for our culinary experience, one of the best events was when we made Fairy Bread. It consists of bread, butter, and the special ingredient of colourful sprinkles! The Fairy Bread did not last long, as the students were eager to devour their creations.
News from the Music Department
An early Christmas present has recently arrived at our music room – 10 new Primary Glockenspiels! Students were so excited to open the box. Thank you PTA! Our class sizes are growing and each child has their own Glockenspiel to play, no need to share anymore in class. Hurray!

A heartfelt Thank You to Family Niesner (Y4), who donated both an acoustic guitar and electric guitar to our music department. It's a treasure for the Upper Primary to Junior Middle School, because it's a half-size and fits our little fingers better. Thank you!

On the 9th of December, 2019, Year 10 music class went to the University of Hildesheim "Centre of World Music". They gave us a 1.5-hour workshop about world music instruments, musical notation, and a reflection on our daily music preference. Students are allowed to touch, blow and play their instrument collection! Through the hands-on experience, students know more about what Ethnomusicology is and how they preserve the music culture in tons of recordings.
Idiom Day

To give casual Friday a little twist and to celebrate Halloween, the students decided to come to school dressed as idioms. On November 1st, students from Year 6, 7 and 8 had the opportunity to dress up as idioms of their choice. If you didn't already know, an idiom is a figure of speech, much like a metaphor.

Some of the idioms included were:
"Hold your horses"
"Reach for the stars"
"When life gives you lemons ..."
"Cold shoulder", and many more.

In the end we all had fun and everyone found clever ways to display the idioms using only what they had at home. A good catch was that whoever came in costume got to wear anything for the actual casual Friday.

Nakshatra, Nilab, Amy, Louisa and Layan

House Contest

Create your own Superhero – what a fantastic idea!
Students from our Primary section Years 2 –5 participated in a contest held by Storytime Magazine to create/draw their own Superhero. In their Art lesson, they were introduced to this competition, which was also a house competition in our school. Students came up with so many creative and inspiring ideas, such as ‘Super Peach Man’ and ‘Super Leave’ who can erase the sadness and bad memories, ‘Super Bat’ who catches bad dreams, ‘Super Nature Girl’ and ‘Super Climate Man’, who can save the environment, change the climate and make plastic waste disappear, ‘Super Cat’, who helps people find their way, ‘Super Lego Man’, who can build Lego as fast as lightning. The students also adorned their superhero with colourful capes and masks and described their amazing powers in text.

The jury found it quite challenging to pick the winners from the array of superheroes, super animals or super insects!

The winners were:
Year 2 – Lo, Jessica, Prithvi, Viraj, Benno, and Carl
Year 3 – Fiona, Lukas, Karas, Greta, Sohyeon, Anna, Josephine, and Claire
Year 4 – Rhia, Soma, Alicia, Ryousei, and Raul
Year 5 – Anna, Sophia, and Weronika

Congratulations to you all!
We have sent the entries to Storytime Magazine and we are crossing our fingers and hoping for the best. 😊
Upper Primary EMR projects

In October/November Years 3 – 5 combined lessons for some EMR topics. They learnt about Diwali. The lesson started in the assembly hall with a short PPT presentation about the religious traditions regarding this celebration; about Goddess Lakshmi, who is worshipped on this day. We even spoke about the special procedures one has to follow when worshipping her. The group had a short glimpse of what an altar looks like in an Indian’s house, both on the PPT and from Mrs Mukherji who had even set up an altar on the stage! By the way, all Indians have an altar at home. The children also had to bow/show courtesy the typical Indian way in front of this altar. Later in class, they made Rangoli with coloured chalk on brown paper and the best ones were placed in front of their classroom door! It is important to mention here that during Diwali, Hindus draw bright Rangoli patterns on the floor by the front door to encourage the goddess Lakshmi to enter their homes. They are traditionally drawn using rice grains, flour, sand or chalk.

The other interesting topic was “Being thankful”. The classes discussed for what or to whom they are grateful. It was nice to hear how thoughtful they all were and all the nice things and loved ones they are thankful for! To sum up the topic, a Thankful tree was created in the Art lesson by Mrs Lu and the students hung up a leaf that stated what they were most thankful about!

House Meeting
This year’s IGCSE Ceremony took place on Friday, 15th of November, 2019. After a long time of waiting, former Year 10 students received their IGCSE certificates and celebrated together with family members and friends, students from Year 9 and 10 and teachers. 24 students had been registered for exams in June of 2019 and had been writing 144 different exams in total. 106 exams were mastered by our students with passing grades. Ten students could achieve passing grades in all subjects. They received certificates which are recognized as the equivalent to the “Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I”, which is the highest degree after ten years of education in Germany.

Many more students achieved passing grades in some of the subjects.

We are very proud to honour Hobeen K. and Jan D. with International Certificates of Education with distinction for achieving excellent grades in seven or eight subjects and Propailin S. with a Certificate of Merit. Congratulations!

**Information about the classes**

**Preschool**

The children have been exploring their world as engineers by constructing and building their own homes and as veterinarians by working in their own pet clinic to help sick and injured animals. A dog and cat came to visit us, so we could see what it is like to care for pets. We took a closer look at our five senses, where we tested each individual sense. The sour-pickle test had more smiling faces than sour ones. Before we dug into a real pumpkin, we had fun testing whether it could float or sink and planted the seeds from our pumpkin. Now we have four new shoots growing on the window sill in our classroom.

We went on a spider hunt and are now venturing into the world of animals. We found out what farmers and their animals do and even made our own butter and baked our own bread. We took a dive into the ocean, fed a shark, tested how an octopus sprays ink and went fishing. At the moment, we are finding out what it means to be thankful and how important our friends are to us.
The Reception Class would like to wish you all wonderful Holidays and a great New Year ahead!
We have thoroughly enjoyed our learning experiences linked to the themes. We learned about the Christian faith by inviting a priest and were very excited to know how he helps people in the Church. We enjoyed Thanksgiving by focusing on being grateful and appreciating our valuable gifts in life.
We had a great time visiting the Botanical Gardens and were very eager to learn about the tropical weather. We also enjoyed our tropical fruit treats.
Now we are looking forward to celebrating ‘Christmas Traditions Around the World’ with the parents.

Year 1

Year 1 had a busy month! In addition to the Lantern Parade and learning about Thanksgiving, one of the highlights was going to Theatre Fadenschein to see the play ‘Der kleine Bär und die lange kalte Winternacht’. It was a lovely play about a silly bear who didn’t know he had to hibernate during the winter. The kids were entranced by the adorable puppets and the funny story line. We’re currently enjoying the Advent Calendar that Santa brought to our classroom and looking forward to the Christmas celebrations coming up in the next few weeks!

Year 2

The Year 2 class worked hard to earn their first behaviour reward and together decided to have a special animal–themed breakfast. But first we had to shopping. So we went to Lidl and split into groups to collect all the food items that we needed to make our meal. It was great to see how well everyone was able to follow directions and help one another. Each group also paid themselves at the cashier. The next morning we were excited to get started. After washing hands, we started working. We peeled and cut all vegetables. Then we grated potatoes and carrots and mixed them with eggs, flour, cheese and spices to make veggie waffles. Then we set the table nicely and put together animal plates. There were piranhas, tarantulas and elephants. They were yummy!
Year 3

Since the beginning of the school year, Year 3 has been trying very hard to cope with the new challenges facing the class. The class team is proud of their efforts and as a reward before the autumn break, the class enjoyed an afternoon decorating their own ice-cream and eating it! The beaming faces in the photos show just how much they enjoyed it!

However, the class also had to prepare themselves for the formal Assessment tests! In spite of the tedious job, suddenly they were allowed to have snowball fights in the classroom! There was loud jubilation in class; as it turned out the paper balls (the imitation snowballs) were nothing but crumpled up maths sums. After the fight, the children had to pick up the balls and solve the sums. The children did not actually mind solving the hard sums either!

The class is multifaceted! They also used their imagination to design and create their own music instruments. While exploring sounds during their music lesson, they ventured on the idea: “Make Your Own Instrument.” They collected recyclable products from home and tried to give them a second life! They successfully made shakers with the help of paper rolls, butter paper and rice. Then yogurt cups/aluminium cans and balloons were used to make mini–drums. Tissue boxes, elastic bands and chopsticks were made into harps!

Year 3 recommends its readers to use their imagination and creative minds to explore more combinations of household items to create music instruments!

The class sadly bids farewell to Ayaka and Rume, who will go back to their home country, Japan. We will all miss you! Do visit us some time.

Year 4

Our class is still growing! Year 4 started the new school year with the addition of 7 new students. They are Emma, Nik, Anton, Frederick, Stephan, Bautista and Rhia. We are now very happy to welcome Rara and Abhiram to join our class as well! Welcome to the big family! A big thank to all the Year 4 students, thank you for supporting each other and helping the new students settle down in the big group!

Christmas and New Year are around the corner, during our EMR and art lesson, we have designed our unique class calendar for the coming 2020. Students came up with so many creative ideas respectively for each month and now our beautiful and artistic calendar is ready to launch… Great work and keep up the good team spirit, Year 4!
Year 5

Y5 Trip to Autostadt

Year 5 recently enjoyed a fun-filled daytrip to the Autostadt this term. They attended a workshop where they learned all about the sugar content in different foods and healthier alternatives to make our favourite sweet dishes. The students were thrilled to have the opportunity to do some baking and showed excellent teamwork skills by taking on different roles in order to follow the recipes accurately. The class also enjoyed exploring the different facilities at the Autostadt, especially driving the cars! Afterwards, they returned to the workshop and had a most wonderful feast of all the deserts each group had prepared. Since the workshop was taught in German, the children did extremely well in participating actively throughout the day and the class team were impressed at how well they helped each other to translate so that everyone could understand. The class were also praised by several members of staff at the Autostadt on their excellent listening skills and exemplary behaviour. We are so proud of you, Year 5!

Year 6

Y6 Breakfast time

In Spanish, we discussed food and traditions in different countries. The children came up with the proposal to cook together. I liked to cook with the students because was a very relaxed and fun activity that made us not only enjoy savory dishes, but was also a way of learning and getting together.

Mrs. Thakar supported us and we started planning. Many of the children have eaten tacos, a food from my homeland, so we decided to prepared tacos and quesadillas (dough made out of wheat flour, filled with cheese).

We were very glad that Judith could spend her last day in school with us. At the end we had a nice and tasty breakfast together.

Mrs Ketzler
It was pleasure to spend the whole day out with my classmates. We went ice skating. It was so fun to skate with our friends. It was nice to walk around at the Christmas market. We enjoyed the festive ambiance.

Momoko

Year 7

Year 7 Sustainable Christmas cooking

In the run up to Christmas the students have been writing articles and following their own instructions to cook the dishes. Look out for the articles and photos coming each day in December!

After working very diligently on their assessment tests, year seven had the opportunity to be very proactive leading up to the Christmas holidays by participating in a very nice cooking activity orchestrated by Mrs. Barker. The students were given the opportunity to hone their culinary and team building skills in the school kitchen by preparing a variety of tasty meals. Later on that week we attended the ice skating and Christmas market in the city.

Year 8

Year 8 Farewell Lunch for Amy and Nakshatra

On Thursday the 21st of November, we met to prepare a Farewell Lunch for Amy and Nakshatra. Two great students, that are moving to other countries and will leave a big gap in our class community. The plans were very ambitious: Oven potatoes, Avocado and cheese dip going along with Nachos and tomato sauce, Christmas cookies (two different types) and Brownies. Even though Mrs. Barker was supporting us, the time ran short, and at the end there was hardly enough time to eat. But all dishes were delicious and although for some the cooking and cleaning the kitchen was hard work. We all were proud of the results and happy of the time being together.

We wish Amy and Nakshatra all the best in their new schools and hopefully they can come to visit us one day. We will miss you.

Mrs. Ketzler
Year 8 Eiszauber
On Tuesday, December 3rd, Year 8 students had the chance to enjoy ice skating at the Kohlmarkt. The day was perfect and some sunny moments accompanied our journey as we walked to the location on foot to the location. A former student from Milan, Michele A. came to visit the class, after moving half a year ago to his homeland. The students spent time in the ice rink and afterwards in the Christmas Market where they could share joyful moments. Mrs. Wisotzki and I took care of the class and we were very pleased to greet Michel and his parents. Michele expressed that he had very good memories of his time in our school. We also remember him as an outstanding and friendly student.

Mrs. Ketzler

Year 9

This term the Year 9 students have worked hard towards the first round of IGCSE assessment tests. They have all had their results back and can hopefully relax over the Christmas break. As a way of unwinding after all of the tests, the year 9 students will be going ice-skating, which will be followed by a Christmas lunch in the city. Finally, we have a new student who recently joined us, Valeria. It’s great to have her with us and we look forward to showing her the sights of Braunschweig. We hope everyone has an amazing Christmas and New Year!

Year 10

A reward after lots of work

Last Friday, the Year 10 English as a Second Language students had a good time while cooking delicious culinary meals from different parts of the world. It was meant to be a recompense for lots of work during the Assessment Test period. Among the meals were pancakes, a Vietnamese soup, a Chinese traditional dish with potatoes, vegetables and chicken plus a spicy dish from Korea. Even though there is a proverb that many cooks spoil the broth, this was not true at all. The students could show off how well they were organised and what experts they were in the field of cooking by helping each other and cooking skillfully. All of the students were involved in the cooking experience which the students really enjoyed. As a result, the table was adorned with lots of scrumptious culinary delights which looked extremely appetizing and were relished by the students. The students had a cosy sit-in with interesting talks and, in the end, it was no surprise that there were no leftovers.

As the Y 10 pupils had a great time, they decided to definitely repeat this kind of cooking event. Furthermore, according to the saying “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” this served as a perfect means for distraction, relaxation and a revival for their enthusiasm.

Ms. Christensen
From the PTA

The year has passed us by so very quickly and soon we will be celebrating the holidays with our families and enjoying this festive time together. In whatever way you celebrate this time of year, it’s often good to take stock of the fortune we have to be able to experience life here in Germany, with many different cultures and nationalities surrounding us.

We have welcomed many new families to our school and with that many new parents to the PTA. It’s wonderful to see parents becoming involved and great to have a catch up each week with those that can make the Friday morning meetings. This school year we have held some great events including the first Parent/Teacher consultation Bake Sale hosted by Year 7 to Year 12. We had a good number of contributions and CAS students were wonderful to provide their time to sell your contributions.

This year’s Lantern Parade was a great success with a record number of students and lanterns filling the stage. After some wonderful sweet and savoury foods and watching the Lego Lantern Movie, everyone joined Mr McCaw to parade around the candle-lit field singing and enjoying the beautiful lanterns as they filled the evening's sky. Thank you to the parents of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for all their contributions to the bake sale and to the parents who were able to assist in decorating the event. Thanks also to the CAS students for their support during the afternoon.

We officially entered Christmas season and enjoyed the afternoon at the Gymnasium for the Christophorus Markets on 29th of November. Santa visited and spent time with the children, and many enjoyed crafting their Christmaskugeln, Sand Art and Christmas Angels. Special thanks to Janina L. (Natalia’s grandmother) for donating her beautifully hand-painted, glass Christmas ornaments for us to sell at the Christophorus Market and Christmas Party. Thanks to all staff, parents and students (CAS and non-CAS) who assisted with this event.

And our final event for this calendar year was our Christmas party. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the baskets, ticket sales and bake sale. It was a lovely afternoon showcasing the many talents of our students (and staff) at our school. We had 48 fantastic baskets to raffle off, the proceeds of will go back into the school to purchase needed items.

The PTA has a new personalised logo and updated posters in our notice board! Take a look and if you are free on a Friday morning, please join us for a coffee and chat! Many of us are expats so we are happy to help out with school related and living in Braunschweig related questions. The PTA is not only about raising funds for the school (though it is where we are the most vocal), but we also address issues that students and parents are facing. We have raised a number of issues this year (e.g. school uniforms, the driveway, teacher absences) and are willing to take matters directly to the school, if you don’t feel comfortable doing so.
However, we need to be informed of your concerns, so please raise your issues with your PR or a member of the PTA so we can address them.

We are saddened to farewell Mr Johnson this year. He has been a fantastic asset to the school and the PTA, and we will miss him greatly. We wish him all the best in his new career! Good Luck, Mr Johnson!

And finally thank you to all the families who continue to support the PTA in our drive to improve school spirit. We have many involved parents that support us each week by attending meetings and helping out with events, but we could not function without the less visible parents who, due to work or other commitments, can’t be involved regularly. We want to say thank you to those of you who have ever provided baked goods, bought pre-loved uniforms, assisted with setting up or cleaning up at events, or simply attended our events to share the festivities with your children. We also appreciate those of you that have voiced your concerns to effect change at the school. We love your attendance and involvement as much as your children do, and we hope to see your contribution, in whatever form, continue next year.

And on that note, we want to wish everyone the warmest of wishes over the Christmas break and the happiest and healthiest of New Years. For those of you not returning to CJDIS next year, we wish you a wonderful life. Everyone else, we'll see you in 2020!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Your PTA!
The CJD Braunschweig is an institution within the Christlichen Jugenddorfwerk Deutschland e.V. (CJD) – 73061 Ebersbach – Teckstr.23 – www.cjd.de
Every year the CJD offers 155,000 adolescents and young adults' orientation and prospects for the future. 9,500 employees and many volunteers at over 150 locations offer support, teach training skills and provide education. The Christian concept of the human being linked with the motto “Let no one fall by the wayside” make up the core of our work.