

Table of Contents

- EGLS seeks a New Principal
- EGLS Volunteers Needed
- Changes in the 2009 EGLS Calendar
- Schulwitze
- Investigation into New School Location
- Zungenbrecher



Schedule 2008-2009

Classes are from 9:30 to noon. Children should bring a snack and a drink.

Feb 14 - Classes

Feb 21 - No classes

Fashingsparty @
Deutsche Haus

Mar 14 - classes (make-up day)

Apr 11 - No classes (make-up day, if needed)

Apr 25 - Board elections

May 16 - Last day of school (Maifest, open house, registration)**

* Regular classes, plus event

** Major celebration at school (event only; no classes)

EGLS Seeks a New Principal

Ulla Bode is wrapping up her position as EGLS Principal after over 3 years of amazing service to the school. Her dedication and hard work has benefitted teachers, parents, and students at EGLS, as well as the German-speaking community at large. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in applying for the EGLS Principal position please contact Info@egls.us. We kindly ask candidates to apply by February 13th. You will receive an updated and complete job description and instructions on how to apply for the position. This is a paid position. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend gratitude and a heartfelt THANK YOU to Ulla and her family for all of their contributions to EGLS.

Rob Hindmann, EGLS President

EGLS Volunteers Needed!

There are many opportunities for parents to improve the quality of the school through volunteer efforts. We have opportunities for a wide range of skills and interests! View a complete volunteer list at http://www.egls.us/index.php?page=donations_volunteer.html.

Bettina Berton

Please note these changes in the 2009 EGLS Calendar:

Classes will be held on February 14th, 2009

Classes are cancelled on February 21st, 2009

Classes will be held on March 14th, 2009 (this is a make-up day)

The initially planned Faschingsfest on Feb 14th at EGLS had to be cancelled but there will be a **Faschingsparty on Saturday Feb 21st at the "Deutsche Haus" in Seattle** in the afternoon. We will keep you informed about details.

Ulla Bode, EGLS Principal

Schulwitze

Die Lehrerin in der
Schulklasse: „Also merkt
euch das - Hitze dehnt aus
und Kälte zieht zusammen.
Wer kann mir ein Beispiel
geben?“ Katharina meldet
sich: „Die Ferien im Sommer
dauern sechs Wochen, die im
Winter nur zwei!“

„Christian, du hast dieselben
10 Fehler im Diktat wie dein
Tischnachbar. Wie erklärt
sich das wohl?“ „Ganz einfach.
Wir haben die gleiche
Lehrerin!“





Growth at EGLS Prompts Investigation into New School Location

EGLS is experiencing unprecedented growth in Kindergarten classes. For the past two years, the Kindergarten classes have doubled their previous size, stretching the limits of their classrooms and requiring additional teachers. Come by the Kindergarten classroom on any Saturday morning and you will find coats, backpacks, and toys in the hallway, emptied from the classroom to make room for the students. Teachers, whose greatest attribute to our young children is teaching them German, find themselves moving furniture, toys, and toy boxes before and after class - a task not found in their teacher's contract.

This interest in learning German comes at a time when most Seattle-area schools have dropped German from their curriculum, as the German language has been superseded by 'relevant' language classes such as Spanish, Chinese, and Japanese.

At EGLS, 70% of the students are under 10 years of age, with 18% ready to move up from Kindergarten next year, creating a domino effect for sought after classrooms. Currently, EGLS is using all of the classrooms in the Community Church of Issaquah. As Kindergartners graduate to their next class, there is not available space for all of them. The school is facing a challenge: do we limit the number of children that can attend the next class on a first come, first serve basis, or by lottery? Should we cancel a class, for example the adult class, to make room as the young students move up next year? What if we need an additional classroom the year after that?

There is another challenge that was identified this year by an EGLS Vision team, led by former teacher Bettina Berton and comprised of teachers, Board members, parents, and students. This challenge is one that considers a child's German skills and goals, and how to best help children meet their goals. Two general types of students attend EGLS; children that are academically motivated and interested in earning credentials to study and/or work in German-speaking countries as young adults, and students that are interested in exposure to the German language and culture so they can communicate with friends and relatives, travel easily in German-speaking countries, and/or connect with their heritage. While all EGLS student's education would overlap in many areas, students could be offered two different tracks to choose from after Kindergarten. In this environment, teachers would adjust their curriculum to better suit their student's needs. To test out a two-track system, the current 1st/2nd grade class (Sabine's class) and current Kindergarten class would each need two classrooms next year.

In summary, here are the challenges that we currently face at the Community Church of Issaquah:

- Current location cannot accommodate growth
- Current location cannot allow separate learning tracks
- Because the current location is a church and not a school, several classrooms lack proper chairs, tables, and blackboards
- Because the current location is a church, the congregation sometimes use the church during EGLS classes for church-related activities such as holding meetings in the social hall during EGLS hours, limits after-school use, and requests we change school dates to accommodate their schedule

A new location that meets our needs would have the following:

- Spacious classrooms with chairs, tables, and blackboard
- Enough classrooms to allow a two-track education and provide the opportunity for growth
- Storage facilities
- Social hall for events accessible at all times during school hours
- Easy accessibility from freeway
- More flexibility for after-school activities
- Reasonable cost

Saskia Rosendahl, a marketing specialist who has a child at EGLS, has been busy creating a list of criteria for potential new locations for EGLS and visiting local facilities that would better suit the needs of EGLS. A visit to two schools that could meet the needs of EGLS is being planned for this winter and all parents, teachers, and students will be notified of the date and time to visit the schools and provide feedback.

EGLS has changed location several times in the past. The school first began at Bellevue Community College, then moved to a Factoria area church, then Forest Ridge School, then to the Community Church of Issaquah. Sometimes the school has moved because locations chose not to renew contracts or increased rates, sometimes the facility no longer met the needs of the school.

Changing locations is a subject that the Board takes very seriously, and would only recommend in the best interest of the future of EGLS and the parents, students, and teachers that comprise the school.

Monica Rockwell, EGLS Secretary

Zungenbrecher:

Sieben Schneeschaufler schaufeln schnell sieben Schaufeln Schnee.



Non-Discrimination Policy

The Eastside German Language School admits students of any race, color, creed, national and ethnic origin, and sexual orientation to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid programs, athletic programs, hiring and employment, or in any other way.

Your tax deductible donations are gladly accepted! Make checks payable to EGLS and mail them to the Eastside German Language school.

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