

Parents' Association Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Introduction

The Parents' Association (PA) is an active association representing parents' interests within the European School Karlsruhe. The Association is a non-profit organisation and membership is voluntary. Members of the PA committee (henceforth committee) represent the parents in the school and in the various committees in Brussels. The members all work voluntarily for the benefit of all pupils and parents in the ESK and can influence the decisions made by management locally and at the system level of the European schools. The role of the PA is unique to the European Schools and therefore it is imperative that the PA is active in the school community and parents take advantage of this rare opportunity. The membership fee is currently €30 per family per school year. More details can be found on the ESK PA website: www.esk-eltern.de

Year's review

This year the ESK PA Annual General Assembly (AGM) took place on 20th of November 2019. The members of the Association present approved the previous year's Annual Report and the new PA Committee members were elected during the AGM. The financial accounts had been audited and the assembly approved them. The full General Assembly minutes can be found on the PA website.

The newly elected PA Committee held their first meeting on 27th of November 2019. The committee members elected the Board: President – Debjani Basu, Vice-president – William Scott-Stewart and Treasurer – Brynn Thompson-Renz. It was also decided that Felicitas Martens will be the acting Vice-President.

Furthermore, the other 14 Committee members are - Sabrina Beaubay, Cristina Chinese, Rachelle Tracey, Letizia Dalle Donne, Benoit Garoche, Saida Goudrar, Annabelle Humanes, Annika Koltes, Eleonore Kutzner, Felicitas Martens, Thorsten Soeffner, Ilka von Bauer Monteiro de Paula, Olaf Walter and Clemens Wollfarth.

The various positions represented by the members are:

After-school Activities: Brynn Thompson-Renz

Canteen: Eleonor Kutzner, Felicitas Martens, Anna Heral, Rachelle Tracey, Clemens Wollfarth

EuroBoutique: Cristina Chinese, Saida Goudrar, Annabelle Humanes, Ilka von Bauer Monteiro de Paula

Interparents: Sabrina Beaubay, Christina Chinese

SWALS: Letizia Dalle Donne

Transport: Olaf Walter, Thorsten Söffner Clemens Wollfarth, Ilka von Bauer Monteiro de Paula

Website: Saida Goudrar, Felicitas Martens, Annika Koltes

Events Coordinator: Annabelle Humanes, Saida Goudrar, Rachelle Tracey

Christina Chinese, Olaf Walters and Sabrina Beaubay stepped down from the PA committee due to personal reasons. Members of the PA Committee represent each Language section in the secondary and primary school. As of September 2020, Bill Scott-Stewart is an observer to the PA as he does not have a child in the school. Elaine Dolan was co-opted to the committee on September 25, 2020; Rachel Cerini and Kati Reeb on November 18, 2020. Furthermore, Kati Reeb is an Interparents representative.

Additionally, Anja Bühner, Amy Chia-Gaess and Cristina Chinese are in-charge of the organization and coordination of after-school activities.

PA Objectives

In 2019 - 2020 the priorities of the PA remains the same as in the past years –

- Close monitoring of changes to the “new” marking system and curriculum of Secondary
- Strengthening of relationship and improvement in communication between the different members of the school community.
- Support in building and maintaining a positive school spirit
- Support of ongoing activities and projects

Most of the activities that we generally support every year were cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Some of the activities that we were pleased to have supported this year are:

- Organization and sponsoring of (book) vouchers for the OS pupils
- financial support to
 - DELF – French Language Diploma
 - various projects both in the primary
 - and various other class trips and projects

The members of the committee represent parents in meetings such as –

- Adhoc meetings with the management
- Biannual PA/Parents’ representative meetings
- Biannual ESK statutory Administrative Board meetings

- Biannual Educational Council meetings (Secondary, Primary and joint)
- School Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the members of the committee switched to online meetings for most of the above mentioned meetings.

Please send us an email, in case you would like full details and minutes of the various meetings.

Website (Saida Goudrar, Annika Koltes & Felicitas Martens)

In the year 2019/2019 the shop was online only for the first semester, as most of the classes were cancelled during the COVID 19 lockdown.

As with any website, there were of course some uncertainties or problems for us. Our team, including our financial officers, extracurricular organizers and our accompanying programmer, was always available and eager to find a quick fix.

We had planned to add a „small adds“ section for our members. The project is currently on hold.

We look forward to future challenges and welcome any ideas that you may have for the website. We offer our continued support in all your concerns at all times.

Financial report (Brynn Thompson-Renz)

(see financial report)

After School Activities (Anja Bühner, Amy Chia-Gaess and Cristina Chinese)

This school year there were again many different courses:

All proven language clubs (German, French, English, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Greek, Romanian, Korean and Dutch).

New is a Persian course.

For all language courses, except German, English, French and Italian, we had to increase the price from 110 to 150, as the demand for these courses is not so great.

New courses were origami, a STEM / MINT course and a robotics course for GS and OS, self-defense for 10 to 13 year olds and an Arduino club for the OS.

We were also able to offer some musical instruments this year: piano, violin, flute, guitar and harp.

We also had numerous sports activities (capoeira, football, basketball, yoga, ballet, gymnastics, parcour and athletics).

Movement games for the little ones from KG were new to the sporting courses.

The tried and tested swimming courses in the fan pool continued to exist.

The DFJW (German French Youth Office) gives us a large grant for our French courses, which can therefore take place with fewer children.

We had language courses in German, Italian and Spanish for parents and teachers.

There were a total of 64 different courses with 318 registered children. Most of the children were from the GS.

For the KG there were 12 different courses this school year, for the GS there were 45 and for the OS there were 27 courses.

From March 16, 2020, due to the corona pandemic, no more AA courses could take place. We then asked the parents whether they would forego repaying the fees for the months that were lost so that we could still pay the teachers' salaries. Very few parents wanted a partial refund of the fees, so that we could ultimately pay the teachers their salaries from April to June.

For the new school year 2020/21 unfortunately no AA could take place so far.

Holiday Child Day Care (Anna Héral)

The PA organises every year up to 6 weeks of holiday care for kindergarten and primary school children provided by Lenitas for the shorter holidays and by the AWO for the summer holidays.

In 2020 3 weeks of holiday care took place at the school, 1 week in February and 2 weeks at the beginning of the summer holidays.

Due to the current pandemic 2 weeks have been cancelled (Easter and Autumn 2020).

For 2021 the PA hopes to carry out 6 weeks of holiday care:

- 1 week at the beginning of the Easter holidays
- 1 week in May
- 3 weeks at the beginning of the summer holidays
- 1 week in October

After consulting with the school directors, there will be no holiday care during the winter holidays in February 2021 due to the ongoing hygiene plan at the school and the requirements in Baden-Württemberg. Nevertheless, we are planning to offer a third week in the summer, taking place on school grounds and provided by the AWO.

More information about registrations and fees will be published on the PA website in due times.

Conclusion

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the PA was not able to support school events such as the Open Day or the Summer Fete,. We have tried to be helpful contact for the parents and the school in this very uncertain times.

The work of the PA has only been possible through the help and support of parents volunteering their time and effort towards the running of the office and commitment to follow up on issues discussed at the administrative and pedagogical meetings. Due to the missing funds of the Summer fest and the open day we will need the support of all the parents so that the volunteer work of the Committee can continue effectively.

We foster a good working relationship with the school directors, teachers and staff, keep continuous flow of information and try our utmost to maintain regular communication with the parents.

Thank you

We would like to offer our thanks to everyone from the PA Committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Our heartfelt thanks also go to all the teachers, and staff of the school and to the management for their support, help and involvement and to the parents for their dedication and enthusiasm.

The PA tries its best to achieve their objectives, which is designed to make this an exciting and outstanding school for our children. As always, we hope for your active support.

Karlsruhe, January 2020

Debjani Basu (President)

William Scott-Stewart (Vice-President)

Brynn Thompson-Renz (Treasurer)

On behalf of the Parents' Association of the European School Karlsruhe