



St. George's School Cologne Newsletter



Saving the planet - One tree at a time

Plant-for-the-Planet is an organization where children all over the world plant trees as a sign of justice for the climate. Currently 132 children from 56 nations have pledged to plant one million trees in their respective countries. Last weekend the objective of planting at least one million trees in Germany, came a step closer as St. George's school put itself on the international map by joining in the project. The United Nations Environ-



ment Programme (UNEP) already supports the initiative and hopes to see a billion trees planted across the planet. Our intrepid pupils helped reduce the target by planting 1000 trees in Rondorf. Inspired and led by an 11-year-old boy, Felix Finkbeiner, the 'Plant for the planet' is one of the many charitable projects St. George's children are very glad to be a part of. (full story p.2)



Dear St. George's,
With the last two weeks providing many challenges for us all we are now focused on the final few weeks of the Autumn Term. With end of term productions, assessments and final preparations for the January examinations we are all looking forward to a very busy time.

We would like to draw your attention to the forthcoming St. George's Round Table **Christmas Fair on Saturday 28th November, 13:00 to 16:00**. This annual activity provides an opportunity for all St. George's families to enjoy a relaxing few hours as we enter the festive season. Our Round Table, in partnership with the American Women's Club of Cologne, are in the midst of arranging perhaps our most exciting Christmas Fair to date. With an enviable array of **vendors, the Grand Prize Draw, Cake sale, Christmas BBQ, Santa's Grotto, Waffles, Gluhwein, activities for our youngsters and the largest bouncy castle seen at St. George's for many years...** we hope that you find the time to join us!

The **new sports pitch** really will be a most exciting addition to our facilities. Over the next few days the finishing touches are being added as the playing surface is laid. **Once completed St. George's will boast an all**

weather surface available to all our pupils during the Spring Term. This facility also means that sports lessons may take place outside during the winter months; please ensure that you review the letter from Mr Johnstone regarding clothing required for sports lessons. Hockey, football and cricket will take place for all groups in the coming years, we will advise you concerning any suggested specialist equipment required for these sports over the coming weeks.

We are looking forward to our annual Foundation Stage, Early Years and Lower School Productions. Pupils are already working hard to learn their lines and songs; we would also like to thank all Parents for their support. Productions will take place in our sports hall with refreshments provided. We would like to thank Parents for your understanding and support regarding the changes to the Early Years Production. An addition to the end of term events witnesses our **Middle and Upper School hosting a concert** in the penultimate week of term – please review the whole newsletter for full details of all events.

We wish you all a relaxing weekend,
Yours sincerely,
R. Hollow
School Director
P. Dickinson
Assistant School Director



You should have received the following letters over the past two Thursdays: 12.11:EY Performance changes; EY Scarlet Fever Alert; EY Write to Santa; LS Open Doors; Y07-08 Readathon; MSUS Ski Trip Info 19.11- WS Head Lice alert; WS Christmas Fair reminder; EY Christmas Activities; LS Christmas; LS Cinema; LS Costume; US Examination Fees



St. George's Plant for the Planet



Plant-for-the-Planet is an organization where children all over the world plant trees for climate justice. Currently 132 children from 56 nations have pledged to plant one million trees in their respective countries. Richard St. Barbe Baker and the Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai and her "Green Belt Movement" inspired an 11 year-old boy by the name of Felix Finkbeiner.

Felix finished his 4th grade class presentation in January 2007 with the words: "Let's plant million trees worldwide - a million in each country!" - Thus a pan-global movement was born. Organised and promoted by Felix, this pupil-led initiative 'Plant-for-the-Planet' means that pupils in Germany alone will have planted one million trees by the end of 2009!

Last weekend the objective of planting at least one million trees in Germany, came a step closer as St. George's school put itself on the international map by joining in the project. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) already supports the initiative and hopes to see a billion trees planted across the planet. Our intrepid pupils helped reduce the target by planting 1000



trees in Rondorf.

Several pupils from our Lower and Middle school as well as a group from Deutzer Gymnasium Schaurtestrasse joined the programme's introduction on Friday evening and heard fascinating talks and presentations from various committee members. These included Clara Slawik, 11 years of age and Plant for the Planet Ambassador, Dr Manja Seelen Co-ordinator for Plant for the Planet, Andreas Renz of the Koelner Haie Ice Hockey team, Dirk Breuer, Toyota Press Officer and Mr Stimpson, Head of Geography at Rondorf.

Introducing and co-ordinating the schedule was by Frau Emons. The evening was introduced by Mrs Horton and every talk was followed up by interesting questions from the audience.

Before planting got underway, the pupils had the opportunity to become involved in several workshops on the Saturday, aimed at highlighting the committee's goals and improving presentation and interpersonal skills. The idea is to educate environmental ambassadors



who will transport the idea of planting. As the time approached for us to walk the short distance to the local site in Rondorf, we were fortified by some hearty soup. Our team donned their wellington boots and spades and set off up Kappellen Strasse towards Rondorf. The arrival at the site (see map

on p.1 if you wish to visit) was quite a spectacle, with a large field all ready for action, with lots of small saplings sitting nearby. Forester Hundt from the Stadt Koeln met us here and

took us all through the programme, including how to plant the trees; it is not as simple as one would think!

Braving the deteriorating weather, and joined by several helpers,

including Mr Ripton of the Geography Department, Mr Burns, Ms Calverley from the Biology Department and Mr Delkus, we reached our



target of planting 1000 trees. A heavy downpour did not dampen our spirits but actually made the digging a trifle easier!

At last 1000 trees were planted and we all proudly admired our work, joined by several local Rondorf residents pleased at the re-vegetation of a brownfield area in their town. Tired and damp, but with the glow of pride after doing something so worthwhile, we reconvened at the school for some hot soup and a de-brief. The weekend was finished off with presentations to all and a final word from Dr Seelen.

A most worthwhile project indeed and if you wish to visit the site, please follow the directions on the map. We, in the Geography Department, will be keeping a close eye on the trees' development over the coming years; watch Geog-Blog for updates.

A final vote of thanks must go out from the Geography Department and the school, to Dr Manja Seelen for making St. George's part of this fabulous project, to Frau Angela Emons, our marketing manager for so tirelessly organising and co-ordinating the many meetings, to Mrs Horton for her superb advice and support and to the above teachers and staff who turned up on a rainy, cold Saturday afternoon to help us achieve our goal. I would also like to extend a vote of thanks to Nadja in Year 13 I.B. who did an excellent job of moderating and translating for me for the German pupils on the Friday evening.

Kind regards,
Mr Stimpson
Head of Geography

