

Newsletter RIS Swiss Section 2015-16

Sixth Issue

www.ris-swiss-section.org

Dear Friends of RIS Swiss Section – Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok!

It is our great pleasure to present the second issue of the newsletter for the 2015-16 school year and we wish you a pleasant and informative reading,

Simon Dörig, Head of School & Hendrik Schuhmacher, Editor



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School Board/ School Management



Claude Salzmänn, Treasurer

Work Experience:

Since 2012: Division Controller, Schaffner Holding, Switzerland
2008-12: Group Controller, Schaffner Holding, Switzerland
2004-08: Finance & Controlling, Schaffner Thailand Ltd.
2002-04: Project Management, Rhenus Alpina AG, Switzerland

Education:

2011-14: Controller Academy, Practice Study in Controlling
2006-08: Payap University, MBA Business Administration
1999-03: University of Basel, Msc Business & Economics

Personal:

Married, daughter Claire is in BS-A

Goals for the work in the school board:

- Connect the school and parents
- Gather ideas and suggestions to improve the school



SMV

Student Council T-Shirt Contest

The student council (SMV) meets regularly to talk about things like upcoming social projects, events at the school and wishes of the students. This school year there have already been four sessions. For each class, there is a class representative and a deputy who take part in these meetings. These representatives are elected annually in each class. After the SMV sessions the representatives inform their classes about the subjects that were discussed. For example, last year the SMV organized the Klong Toey social project and the Sports Night.

For the T-shirt contest, which takes place every year, the students of grades five to twelve can submit their own design for a T-shirt. All students of the school are then voting and the design with the most votes will be selected and printed on the SMV-shirt. This year there may even be a sweater or a tank top, which would also be printed with the winning design on it. The new model could be bought for the first time at the Christmas party.

David & Samira



Parents

Interview with the Cantonal Councillor Reto Wyss, Lucerne

1.) The RIS Swiss Section-Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok is a small school in a distant land. Where does the interest from the canton of Lucerne, the patron canton of the school, lie, to engage in education over such a long distance?

Like the other 13 Swiss cantons, which also take on a patronage for a Swiss school abroad, we feel committed to the idea of offering Swiss and other German-speaking people abroad an education following the Swiss – and in Bangkok specifically the Lucerne - school system. The offered school programme facilitates a possible return of families to Switzerland and trains young people who receive a hopefully positive reference to Lucerne and Switzerland for their lives somewhere in the world. Thanks to the high quality of our education, further educational opportunities at a secondary school or training abroad, as well as in Switzerland is ensured.

2.) The canton of Lucerne has recently renewed their mandate as patron canton of our school. How will the canton of Lucerne show support in the next few years for our school?

The canton of Lucerne supports the school in accordance with the guidelines for the patronage of the Swiss cantonal schools abroad. The focus is not on financial support, but an exchange of educational, technical and administrative matters. Thus, for example, the interviews for new teachers are planned and executed in cooperation with the principal in Bangkok. Also, the quality management and the maturity exams are



common themes. The Maturity exam is validated by Lucerne experts and the certificates are signed in Lucerne. In addition, the canton of Lucerne supports the selection and procurement of teaching materials and is involved with a financial contribution for these materials.

3.) The Swiss subsidy to our school stems from the "Federal Law on the exchange of Swiss Education Abroad». In your opinion, which Swiss educational values should be available at a Swiss School abroad?

The students are to be citizens of the world who feel on the one hand connected to their home country yet also to their host country. You should be able to develop a good stamina and a portion of persistence in learning, but also a dose of creativity and 'life skills'. Important are a good team spirit and a certain understanding of democracy. Accordingly, we teach not only educational content, but also the methodology and didactics leading to these goals. Education is an important resource and a prerequisite for a successful entry into professional life.

4.) Our school is also supported by Germany. The school is a model of cooperation. What do you think of this collaboration? Where do you see the advantages?

Together with Germany, we have an interest to offer a school environment that is close to the education systems of our home countries. As we speak the same language, cooperation is obviously beneficial. Moreover, it makes little sense from an economic standpoint for both countries to offer separate schools.

5.) Children in the canton of Lucerne as well as those here in Bangkok will be seeking employment in about 15 – 20 years. According to a recent study by the Bank of America, by then 30% to 50% of all jobs will be done by robots. What does the Director of Education of a Canton think when he hears such development prospects? What educational priorities would he set for the coming years, if he could decide alone?

Without wanting to lead a discussion as to whether such a forecast

will actually occur, I am convinced that with a good school backpack such a development should not be feared. Robots would be suitable mainly for the acquisition of repetitive work and would in turn generate new fields of work. So would professionals - provided that it would come so far - develop and maintain the robots and repair them. Education that promotes creative and networked thinking and broadly applicable skills is still far from facing competition from automated robots.

My personal interest is the promotion of language skills, which is especially relevant in Bangkok in an international environment with many opportunities, because multilingualism can be experienced and lived daily inside and outside the school. In addition, with our Lucerne strategy we are pursuing the aim that our schools offer an attractive setting in the STEM subjects, in order to counteract the shortage of skilled workers in this field. A very concrete example of this objective would be tackled using a multidisciplinary pre-occupation with robotics.

CV of Reto Wyss

Reto Wyss is the educational and cultural director of the Canton of Lucerne. Studied as Dipl. Civil HTL, then an assistant at the Technical Center for Static and Reinforced Concrete. 1990 co-owner of Schumacher + Wyss Bauingenieure AG, which was transferred to the Wyss + Partner Bauingenieure AG. In 1998 Reto Wyss worked in this company as a business owner and manager by 2011. His political career began as a representative of the CVP in 1998 as mayor of Rothenburg LU. In 2011 and 2015 elected to the Lucerne Cantonal Government.



Teachers

Internship at the RIS Swiss Section - German-speaking School of Bangkok

Interview with Rebecca Rudolph, Intern

The RIS Swiss Section - German-speaking School of Bangkok offers young people the opportunity to gain important and unique educational experiences at a certified school abroad through an internship. To get a better insight into the responsibilities and requirements of an internship at our school, we asked a current intern a few questions:

Please introduce yourself.

My name is Rebecca Rudolph, I am 22 years old, I live in Nuremberg and currently study elementary education. I am in my fourth semester.

Where exactly do you work as an intern at our school and how long does the internship last?

I am doing an internship from 10/12/2015 - 01/31/2016, in 6th grade, and the class teacher is Stefan Nyffenegger. My studies focus on mathematics. I teach lessons regularly, otherwise from time to time I run team-teaching lessons with Stefan Nyffenegger.

Is the internship recognized as part of your studies?

It is recognized as a three-week pedagogical internship, which usually would take place at a school in the Nuremberg area.

Why were you interested in an internship abroad? And why did you choose Bangkok?

It was important to gather as much practical experience as possible, because I wanted to use the theoretical knowledge from my studies in the classroom. Therefore, I was interested in a long internship,

The biggest challenge is to get used to the school routine and to regularly prepare lessons. But it is precisely this routine that I had hoped for from the internship. Previously, I had only completed one internship, so I could take a lot of time to prepare. As I will later teach up to six hours a day, I need to learn to prepare lessons more efficiently and use my resources in the best way.

Which positive experiences have you made?

It is positive that I am getting more and more experienced and feel more and more "confident" in front of the class. Also, I assembled a huge variety of teaching methods, which will be very helpful for the coming years. The atmosphere within the teaching faculty and the family atmosphere at the school I have also found to be very pleasant.

After this experience, would you consider working abroad?

Even before the internship I had this wish and with this experience so far, this wish has become even stronger.

Thank you for the interview.
The interview was conducted by Hendrik Schuhmacher



preferably abroad, also to get to know another culture and to be able to compare the German school system with other school systems. Bangkok was a coincidence because one of my fellow students has been a student at RIS Swiss Section for three years and has made contact between university and school.

What is the biggest challenge for you during your internship?



News



Secondary School Ice skating and Bowling Trip

All students from Grades 7 – 12 of RIS Swiss Section – Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok took part in our annual iceskating event on Tuesday, January 19th, 2016. Together with their teachers they once again visited the ice rink at the Mega Bang Na Shopping Mall. All students and their teachers enjoyed the unique chance to experience “winter” here in tropical Thailand. For the first time some of our students had the chance to choose bowling instead of ice skating. They also had a lot of fun.

We all look forward to our next trip in 2017!



Her first project at the school is “Peacemakers on the school-yard”. This is an already tried and tested concept that has already been implemented in many schools in Switzerland, Austria, and Germany. Peacemakers is a prevention project whose goal is to train students to be able to solve conflicts in a non - confrontational way. This program offers assistance to students having difficulties with one another through a kind of peer media-

Peacemaker project

Since the beginning of this school year Annett Raich has been the school psychologist of RIS Swiss Section. In this position she advises children, young people, and parents about possible solutions for questions about development and childrearing. Additional duties include prevention as well as classroom or individual interventions when problems arise. She is also glad to give advice on offerings for support and therapy outside of the school setting. Her goal is to help each student reach positive character development and working habits so that they can feel comfortable at our school.

tion that attempts to find a solution that is acceptable for both parties. From each grade of classes 3 - 6, two students will be voted (one boy and one girl) to be trained as peacemakers. In the training, which takes place during school time, various games about how to get along with one another socially will be used. Additionally, Peacemakers will learn when and how to get involved with the conflict situation as well as how to find a solution that is workable for both sides. Using role-play, students will learn together how to solve problems. The project started on the 15.01.2016 and RIS Swiss Section - Deutschsprachige Schule Bangkok is proud to have trained peacemakers!



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