

FRIENDS UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of WMIS e.V. | December 2020



Friends News

New school display

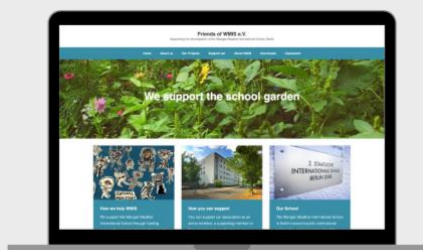
We have moved into our new display right at the school's main entrance. Stop by for the latest updates on the state of the association, our projects and activities. You can also pick up a membership form directly at the display. Just fill, drop at the school secretariat and support the Friends!



Homepage face-lifted

We have redesigned the Friends' homepage and have expanded the functionality. We now have added a news section to the frontpage, where we provide updates on our activities and projects. We have also reviewed our download section – so the membership forms and other templates and forms are easier to find and fill. Take a look at:

www.friendsofwmis.de



EDUCATION BUDGET AT WORK

Thank you to all the parents who have contributed their share to the Education Budget this school year (suggested amount 100€)! Based on the experience from previous years, school, GEV & Friends have created the Education Budget as a flexible resource for teachers and staff to procure learning materials and organize activities. **It helps to better meet the needs of a young, bilingual school.** It ensures that sufficient and high-quality learning material is available in both languages and equipment is offered that could usually not be provided given our school's size and budget. But the Education Budget has also eliminated the hassle for parents to hunt at the beginning of a school year for items on the "Required utensils and materials list." Sketchbooks, notepads, art tools, activity booklets and more are now procured centrally – ensuring the availability of equal equipment to all students and quantity discounts. For details, check out our display.¹



MEMBERSHIP UP TO 63

LET'S COMPLETE THE 70 BY CHRISTMAS!

With 24 new members from the new cohort 2020/21, membership has increased to now 63 active or supporting members. Thank you for the support! Every member counts and enables our association to better fulfil its mandate to materially and non-materially support our school. **So, let's try and pass the 70-mark by Christmas!** Join the Friends and / or help spread the word among grandparents, local initiatives and businesses. Joining the Friends is easy – pick up a membership form at our new school display (see left), reach out by email to info@friendsofwmis.de, or scan the QR-Code to fill the form digitally.



¹ Donations for the Education Budget: Dt. Skatbank – Zweigniederlassung der VR-Bank Altenburger Land e.G. IBAN DE82 8306 5408 0304 0832 88, BIC: GENO DEF1 SLR. Please add the purpose "Education Budget" to your transfer.

Recently Supported

The Festive Season is full of traditions – following the positive response from last year, the Friends once again **sponsored the school's Christmas Tree**, located in the staircase near the main entrance. We hope you enjoy taking a glimpse or two even though we can't have sing-alongs this year.



Further, in honor of the teachers' and educators' hard work during an intense three-day language testing marathon with prospective 1st-graders, the Friends **sponsored a small picnic** allowing staff to take a short break before moving into the end of year showdown.

FRIENDS JOIN LSFb ASSOCIATION

We are proud to announce that the Friends are now member of the regional umbrella association of KiTa and school associations, **Landesverband der Kita- und Schulfördervereine Berlin-Brandenburg e.V. (lsfb)**². Membership comes with many benefits for our members and the school community. Board and members receive access to peer exchange, relevant training, professional advice and support resources (e.g., on tax and association law, media law, fundraising and more). As a community, we benefit from insurance for our events, access to framework contracts (cheaper printing, giveaways, sound equipment etc.) as well as a stock of equipment to borrow for our events (popcorn maker, button press, crepes maker etc.). Further, there is a buddy program, the so-called **Chancenpatenschaften**³. Contact the Friends for more details at info@friendsofwmis.de.

WMIS RECEIVES BAYER GRANT

The Friends have acquired a grant from the Bayer Science & Education Foundation for the school project "Discover our world with all our senses – pathways to science for the youngest". With the grant, the science department bought equipment and material worth €1,100.



WATCH THIS SPACE

We are excited to see what logo designs the fourth graders will come up with. The new school logo with slight adjustments will also become that of the Friends of WMIS e.V. We look forward to sponsoring the winner's prize and spread the new logo all over!! With a new logo you can also look forward to new school T-shirts!

HOW CAN I SUPPORT?

There are many exciting projects that look for your support to take shape next year, such as upgrading the front garden, a hut for storing outdoor play equipment, flags in front of the school and more. We are always open for ideas on how to support the school's development – just connect via info@friendsofwmis.de.

The Friends of WMIS e.V. is the parent-initiated school association (Förderverein) for material and non-material support to the Wangari Maathai International School in Berlin. With the Friends Update we reach out to our WMIS parents and the wider school community to inform about the work of the association.

Contact (v.i.S.d.P.): Friends of WMIS e.V.

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The Board (Vorstand)

Chair: Katrin Angelos
Deputy chair: Dr. Gülden Halis
Treasurer: Maria Koenig

Assessor: Jenny Bartz
Assessor: vacant

² <https://www.lsfb.de/>

³ <https://www.lsfb.de/leistungen/chancenpatenschaften/>