



Munich 10/10/2011

**Information for parents of 2<sup>nd</sup> –4<sup>th</sup> year pupils about the European Hours lessons during the school year 2011/2012**

Dear parents,

In the coming school year your child will have European Hours as a subject in his/her timetable. We would therefore like to inform you about the aims and the organisation of this special subject.

The European Hours are held on Mondays during the last two lessons for the pupils of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years.

The European Hours offer children and teachers alike a unique opportunity to engage in an intercultural experience. Due to its project based character, learning can be experienced in many different ways. The European Hours and its theme – “We are Europeans” – can be seen as a preliminary stage in the development of that European identity, which is seen to be self evident at the end of the school career at the ESM.

Each school year the pupils take four different courses in their second language groups. In this way, the children find themselves in familiar surroundings and have the opportunity to communicate in a known language. To facilitate comprehension, the SWALS children stay in a group according to their language section (DE, EN or FR). During the European Hours children playfully and informally practice their second language with ease.

There is also the possibility *of making a preferred choice* of one of the following yearly courses:

**For the 4<sup>th</sup> years:** theatre, choir, orchestra, dances, football

**For the 5<sup>th</sup> years:** choir, orchestra, dances, pupils' magazine

The choice of an annual course serves to encourage motivated and talented children, who then represent the school at many communal activities, festivals and events.

If the number pupils wanting to participate in the same activity is too large, the groups are formed by drawing lots. At the end of each semester the teachers consolidate to evaluate the pupils' achievements. These are then noted in the reports.

The next school year 2011/2012 the courses will have the following overall theme:

1. First Semester "**Fairy tales in Europe**"
2. Second Semester "**Photography, Film and Cinema**"

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