



**Busy Winter
Sports Season**



eTT Creative Team

DESIGN/CONCEPT/WRITER: KIM NELSON

WRITER/EDITOR: KRISTIN PEDROJA

COPYEDITOR: YVONNE PROCYK

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTRIBUTORS:

KIM NELSON, TIM VENCHUS,
TAYLOR TOMASSO '13, MICHELLE
ARSLANIAN, TOM LILL, AND MANY OTHER
STUDENTS & FACULTY MEMBERS

Arguably, the legacy of the first 12 years of the 21st century can be defined by one word: connections. In 1999, we tended to reach for the phone if we wanted to contact someone. We read paper books and magazines, we wrote letters to friends, and shared gossip in person. And while we may still savor the act of reading the Sunday paper with a steaming mug of coffee, nowadays most of us get our information on a screen.

This issue of *eTASIS* celebrates connections in many forms. Read about a visit from Dr. Jack Brauns, a Holocaust survivor who is the subject of a moving new documentary, and how his talks transformed the lives of our students. Cheer for your flag as TASIS celebrates International Week. Share in our gratitude for an extraordinary donation by Jan Opsahl '68, which will allow our students to make connections with the developing world in ways we never imagined.

While we may feel nostalgia for a time when instant gratification was the exception rather than the rule, we also feel fortunate to live in an era where connections can be made between two people on opposite sides of the world at the click of a button. TASIS has never been more connected to our global community. Every day, each of the stories you share with us adds to the greater TASIS story, a remarkable tale of lives that span time zones, continents, cultures, and generations.

Join us as we celebrate connections.



TASIS

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

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An Amazing Gift - An Amazing Opportunity

TASIS is pleased to announce The TASIS Global Service Program. Envisioned by Jan Opsahl '68, the School's first international student, this special program will be supported by the generous donation of CHF 3,000,000 from him and his family to the TASIS Foundation for the creation of a new, sustaining endowment: the Opsahl Global Service Endowment.



(The following speech was read to students during the final 2013 International Week assembly.)

Nearly 50 years ago, Jan Opsahl '68 stepped onto the TASIS campus for the first time. Let's face it – Jan was different. Norwegian by birth, his parents made him take a crash-course English class the summer before he came to Montagnola. In the fall, he was suddenly expected to take all of his classes in English – many of our alumni can likely relate to his situation! Jan's challenge was even more dramatic than that of our hundreds of other non-native-English-speaking students; Mr. Opsahl was the first non-American student to attend TASIS. Just imagine: the International Week Parade of Flags in 1963 would have been exactly two flags long.

Forty-five years after graduating from TASIS, Mr. Opsahl decided that he wanted all TASIS students to realize their shared responsibility to the world. He and his family believe strongly in philanthropy and decided to give TASIS a gift – a very generous gift – with one goal in mind: to change the life of every TASIS student and to change the world we live in. Mrs. Fleming genuinely believed in the power of just one individual to reshape humanity; Mr. Opsahl and his family also believe that TASIS students should give of their time, talents, and resources to reshape this world for the better. *(Read entire speech here.)*

TASIS Global Service Program Mission Statement

The TASIS Global Service Program transforms lives by providing every High School student with a unique opportunity to connect across borders – whether geographic, economic, or social – through comprehensive experiences that build empathy and encourage personal responsibility. The Program awakens students to humanitarian needs, inspires them to build enduring, mutually-beneficial relationships, and leads them toward a life of active citizenship and committed service.



Caring for Cambodia



Serving Africa



Habitat for Humanity

Faculty in the News

Dr. Charles Skipper named new TASIS Headmaster

The TASIS Board of Directors takes pleasure in announcing that Dr. Charles H. Skipper has been appointed the new TASIS Headmaster, effective July 1, 2013.

Dr. Skipper will arrive with 30 years of teaching and administrative experience in independent schools in five American schools in the USA and one in El Salvador. His current post is Headmaster of Episcopal School of Acadiana in Lafayette, Louisiana, a co-ed day school with two campuses and 535 students, where he has served since 2009. [Read more >>](#)



Always on the Run...

Dubai was college counselor Greg Birk's 36th marathon finish, but his first marathon in Asia, his first marathon run with a former runner he coached in high school, and the first marathon he has run on a Friday (the Muslim weekend is Friday/Saturday). Greg used the run as an opportunity to visit an interesting location and to reunite with Jessie Gubbins, whom he coached at Webb School of Knoxville.

It was a fun social run and a good training run for Two Oceans, a 56K ultra-marathon and Greg's first, taking place in Cape Town, South Africa over Easter Weekend. Known as 'the world's most beautiful marathon', the race expects over 10,000 runners from around the world. Good luck, Greg!



One Billion Rising

For Valentine's Day, High School teacher Courtenay Mastain offered a donation-based yoga class at Yoga Roof, a yoga studio in the center of Lugano, where she teaches regularly. The class was one of thousands of events that took place in 197 countries as part of One Billion Rising, a global movement to end violence against women and girls. Click here for more information about [One Billion Rising](#).



Congratulations Max!

Bravo to Business Manager Dr. Max Gygax, who ruffled a few feathers while presenting at the Philosophy of Management Conference in Oxford, England last July. The working paper, developed alongside Dr. Stephen Fitzgerald, Trident University International, and as a tangent to Max's doctoral dissertation, proposes a quantitative model for assessing wisdom in business contexts, based on microeconomic principles of utility and discrepancy of outcomes. In plain English? Max has done some serious thinking about how philosophy and economics intersect in the real world.

The auditorium was full, with around 120 professors from around the world, and Max's presentation left few people indifferent. The Q&A session became quite heated; one vocal Ireland-based professor found Max's information threatening, while one from the University of Colorado felt that this "could become a bridging language between philosophers and economists." An academic from Finland suggested that "if this is confirmed, it could open up an entirely new field of inquiry." One attendee spent an entire evening memorizing the formula and checking it with economists from her university; she claimed that if the formula checked out, she will use it in her MBA courses, because it "talks ethics in practical terms." Her university produces the highest number of entrepreneurs in Britain, and she feels her students "need tools such as this to help them, act wisely and ethically in their practice."

Max found the exercise to be motivating; indeed, he is anxious to continue work on the formula and to apply it to various economic models. Congratulations to Max on this important work!

A Sweet Solution

“They’ve been living in Casa Fleming for over four years,” Luigia, one of the TESIS Personale, said in August 2012 of the vibrant colony of honeybees residing in the Casa Fleming tower. While personale staff had been expedited around campus to destroy the many wasps’ nests that had made dorms their home over the summer, campus handymen Bassi and Alfredo opted not to destroy the hive in the tower.

During the winter of 2011-2012, 70% of Swiss honeybees had been wiped out by a virus, yet the Casa Fleming colony had survived. Our staff felt that these bees must be saved, so they combined efforts to find a more suitable home for the colony.

Website Manager Michelle Arslanian contacted the local beekeepers’ association, and Livio Cortesi from Apicoltori Ticinese paid the hive a visit. He worked out a way to extract the hive from its position tucked under the roof. TESIS counselor Catherine Siegel made herself available to process any leftover honey.

Operation ‘Free Casa Fleming’s Bees’ went down on January 3. Mr. Cortesi donned climbing gear and abseiled to the hive,



where he removed over 5,000 bees. This included a healthy cluster of worker bees around a queen bee, larvae, and eggs in their wax cells. He confirmed that the Collina d’Oro was an ideal environment for them, and was not at all surprised that they’d been thriving in the warm, sun-bathed tower of the 16th-century building for years.



The bees are gone now. They’ve been taken to Castione in Bellinzona to become part of a community of over 50 bee colonies. Mr. Cortesi assures us that their new home is equally as sunny and nurturing as Casa Fleming was. Sadly, there isn’t much honey left over; the bees ate through it during the winter months, though there was just enough to put into a jar with a TESIS label.



 **Casa Fleming
Bee Gallery**

 **Casa Fleming Bee
YouTube Video**

Representing Estonia

Members of the TASIS Model United Nations team represented Estonia at the recent Model United Nations Conference in The Hague. Debating pressing global issues ranging from disarmament to global warming to human trafficking, the TASIS team performed admirably, writing, negotiating, and debating a number of resolutions. Throughout the week, the team, led by English teacher Chris Love and chaperone Amy Mulert, sampled a wide range of international cuisine, including Moroccan, Korean, Kenyan, and Indonesian. Midway through the week, the group took an afternoon tour of Amsterdam, where they visited the Anne Frank House and strolled along the city's canals. Congratulations to all participants!



TASIS Heads to the Hills for Skiing and Winter Adventures!



High School Ski Week

High School students and faculty enjoyed another memorable ski week in Crans Montana. This year everyone needed to plaster on the sunblock and protect themselves from the beating sun. Long time faculty commented that this had to be the warmest and mildest ski week in years!



[HS Ski Week Gallery](#)

Middle School Winter Adventure

The Middle School enjoyed another great week of sun, fun, and winter sports at La Tzoumaz, near Verbier. Days were filled with snow sports, and evenings with activities that challenged our students to be their best.



[MS Winter Adventure Gallery](#)



The Collina d'Oro is alive with the sounds of music!

As always, December was filled with concerts and performances by all three divisions at the School. Enjoy these galleries of photographs and videos from our special December events.

Thanks to an ambitious Cultural Events Calendar, our community is consistently exposed to a variety of musical genres, from a Vivaldi concert to an *a capella* performance by the Yale Alley Cats. During International Week, many students and faculty participated in an African drumming workshop, exploring rhythms and performing during the assembly.



December 14, 2012



ES Christmas Concert



December 9, 2012



Christmas Service Gallery



December 2, 2012



A Christmas Celebration Gallery

A special greeting...

In case you missed it, TASIS sent out a video Christmas card in December, with striking images and a soundtrack featuring our High School and Faculty choirs and instrumental ensemble. Think of it as belated greetings, or consider us the first to get you into the spirit for Christmas 2013!



Lighthouse Projects 2.0 Grants

BrainPOP

The renewal of our *BrainPOP* subscription will continue School-wide access to hundreds of animated videos and activities on topics like art, music, architecture, English grammar, essay-writing, science, health, history, politics, technology, engineering, and mathematics. (*Zach Mulert*)

Lynda.com

Lynda.com users can learn almost any software application available, in bite-sized segments or hours-long courses. Video tutorials are offered for software like MS Office, iMovie for iPad, Adobe Photoshop, Facebook, Garageband, iBooks, and all Google products, plus general topics like photography, video editing, web design and 3D animation. (*Kim Nelson*)

TELL ME (TASIS English Language Learners' Mobile Education)

After successfully proving that iPads can help enable EAL students to flourish in mainstream classrooms, TELL ME will now provide an iPad for every 4th Grader. This will create more personalized and challenging student learning, practice and model teacher learning, engage and motivate students, and give students the opportunity for meaningful learning using technology.

(*Jo Prince, Kent Hercules, Ilaria Peltier*)

High School iPad Academy

With the MS iPad Academy on its feet and heading toward success, now the High School will have the same opportunity to study how the iPad can be utilized to improve teaching and learning. Each participating teacher will be provided with an iPad (if needed) as well as access to a class set of iPads for student use. (*Kerry Vogelgesang*)

Harkness Tables

This project alludes to a table as technology, using the Harkness Method, where students and their teacher sit together around a large, oval table that mimics a conference room or tutorial rather than the traditional physical classroom structure.

Used in many American boarding schools and colleges, Harkness learning encourages students to share, discuss, and challenge ideas and topics, enhancing reasoning and debating skills. (*Peter Locke*)

iPad Middle School EAL Reading Program

This project will help MS EAL learners take advantage of digital books that allow students to take notes, highlight, annotate, and bookmark within ebooks, in addition to keeping a giant collection of books on one device. Teachers hope to show that using digital books in an EAL classroom can be a more effective way to teach reading. (*Gigi Diane Guarnieri Rosso*)

Portable Smart Board

Normally we find technology confined to traditional classrooms, but the PE department will be piloting the use of a MimioTeach interactive system, which can turn a regular whiteboard into an interactive one. Additionally, they will be exploring how the MimioCapture ink recording system's ability to digitally capture notes and drawings on a regular whiteboard can improve learning in their health classes. (*Jen Bendel*)

MimioTeach: Interactive Whiteboard Trial

MS math teachers will be investigating the use of the MimioTeach as a way to enhance mathematics lessons. With years of experience using interactive whiteboards (IWBs), teacher Kelly Leagas will be a great resource for any teachers wondering if an IWB is right for their classroom. (*Kelly Leagas*)



ES Celebrates Carnevale



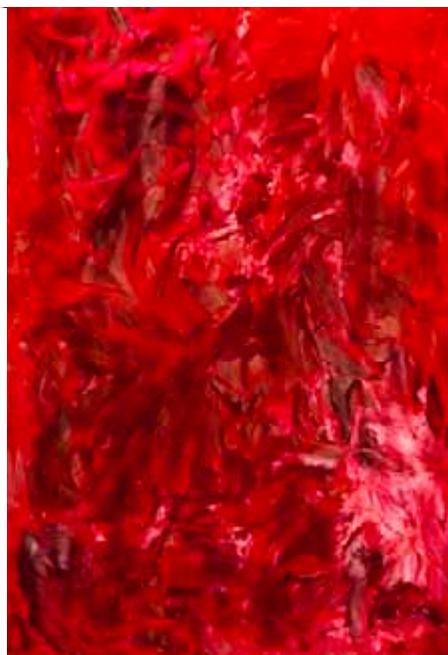
Carnevale is important to the culture of this part of Europe, and the Elementary School teachers and students look forward to celebrating this every year. Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade students and teachers paraded around campus showing off their creative costumes. The event provided a nice break for the High School and Middle School students on the parade route! Focolare students also celebrated with a costume parade. All the ES students ended their parades with snacks provided by the Room Parents.



**ES Carnevale 2013
(Password Required)**

Portrait of an Artist

By Taylor Tomasso '13



“My earliest memories are bringing a coloring book to restaurants during long, boring dinners,” says Anahelena Arévalo, a new 12th Grader at TASIS. For her, art is an instinct and as she lets her mind wander, her hands and emotions do all of the work for her. This is certainly obvious in the numerous paintings she has submitted not only to the *TASIS Visual Arts* website, but also to the Venezuelan Museum of Art in Carácas, where her work will be a part of an exhibition featuring young artists.

Anahelena’s work includes self-portraits in mediums such as acrylics, which she enjoys as it is easy to control the color, contrast, texture, and light. She claims, “I don’t follow a style, but my emotion of that day is evident in everything that I paint. Once, I was feeling off

the painting, it calms me down and it will always remain one my favorites.”

Anahelena didn’t always want to be an artist, but slowly discovered her talent and passion.

“I decided to break the news to my family that I was not going to be a lawyer or a doctor. My dad laughed in my face and screamed, ‘Finally!’ Apparently my entire family had already



known, but it had taken me awhile to figure it out. I understand the hardships such as becoming well-known, no one liking my work, and other problems, but I love painting and it makes me discover who I am and how I belong in this world. Whatever the difficulties, bring them on. I can handle it.”



Anahelena Arévalo '13

For this artist, painting is in her blood and with her passion, talent, and fearlessness she will be able to conquer the artistic world and create a name for herself.

Check out more artwork by young TASIS artists and photographers on the *TASIS Visual Arts* website.

LET'S GET SOCIAL

Connecting used to be simple: a chat over a beverage or perhaps a phone call. Nowadays, connections are made in a dizzying number of ways: posts, tweets, pins, prompts, blog entries, feeds, links—and that's just via the apps on your smartphone!

TASIS is active on many social media networks, and we're doing our best to connect with you in a variety of ways. Just as important to us is facilitating connections between you—those in our community.

Alumni, parents, students, former teachers and staff, and friends of our academic year and summer programs are encouraged to join in the conversation.

So, what are you doing these days?



We are delighted to boast about our completely new website. With a fresh, clean design, the website offers easier access to public viewing pages for prospective TASIS families. It's a great resource for students, parents, faculty, and alumni within our community.

Take it for a test drive! www.tasis.ch

Check out the new Visual Arts Website!

Designed by students in the Photography 2 class, the *'What's Happening'* blog includes news and events in the TESIS art scene.



*redesigned website! Along with
access to social networks and
families. Look for private portals
in the next few months.*

Join the Conversation <<<



Think of the TESIS website as Mission Control, or the Hub, or Grand Central. Our new design means that it's easier than ever to find the information you're looking for, from academics to sports scores to alumni events. Check out the new public pages for students, parents, alumni, and faculty.



TESIS has two official Facebook pages. The *TESIS Alumni* page is focused on our alumni and celebrates events, milestones, and the daily lives of our alumni around the world. Our general *TESIS Facebook* page celebrates the day-to-day hum of campus life with daily posts connecting you to what's happening on the hill.



TESIS tweets! Follow our Twitter feed to follow TESIS life in 140 characters or fewer.



Over 140,000 photographs have been collected and uploaded to the TESIS SmugMug galleries. Dive in and relive your favorite TESIS memories!



Once upon a time, 'pinning' meant 'going steady' - now it's a social media revolution! TESIS is quickly building its Pinterest boards with campus images, interesting articles, links, and alumni activities.



Join the TESIS Alumni LinkedIn page to connect with others in the community.



The TESIS Switzerland YouTube channel includes videos of a variety of campus activities. Most recently, we've uploaded a special series by videographer Andy Bryant, including footage of the new Şahenk Fine Arts Center.

connecting >>> reconnecting



Gina van Hoof '96



Ninah Mars '05



Dr. Janne Siren '88



Alicia Brauns '82



Milo Zanicchia '08

We all know that our campus on the Collina d'Oro is a special place, but the TASIS experience does not end on graduation day. We are fortunate to have an alumni network that spans nearly every continent and countless major cities around the world. Our graduates are involved in everything from filmmaking to investment banking to entrepreneurship to politics, and this eclectic group of people is bound by the vision of our Founder and their shared experience of life at TASIS.

Life in the 21st century means that our alumni can connect in ways that even Mrs. Fleming couldn't have fathomed at the first TASIS graduation in 1958. While our reunions, held in Lugano and in cities around the world each year, give people a chance to connect in person, we are doing our best to ensure our community can also connect in cyberspace.

So far, thanks to social media, our alumni have been able to arrange casual weekends, special nights out, and even quick catch-ups over coffee in an airline lounge. Half a dozen former students, teachers, and summer program counselors met up in Los Angeles just before Christmas. Eight former dorm mates from the early 2000s got together with their partners for dinner in New York

over Thanksgiving weekend. Our online connections have also benefitted the campus community. A number of alumni have returned to TASIS to be a part of the Senior Humanities Program, special workshops, and presentations during International Week. Showcasing our alumni in this way means that our current students see firsthand the value of a TASIS education, and how the connections they make at the School can change their lives.

Connections have also transformed the face of campus throughout the years. Thanks to generous gifts from John E. Palmer '64 and Ferit Sahenk '83, TASIS now has two beautiful new buildings that have quickly become indispensable spaces for our community to connect. Because of the generosity of the School's first international graduate, Jan Opsahl '68, TASIS students will have unparalleled access to Global Service, connecting our campus to projects around the world. These men have created legacies that will inspire students for generations to come.

TASIS is proud of its remarkable alumni. Our graduates are making their mark on the world in countless ways. Let your story inspire generations to come.

Join the conversation. Share your story.



Gina van Hoof '96 spent a week working with High School visual art students.

www.ginavanhoof.com

October 3, 2012



Ninah Mars '05 was on a tour of Europe and decided to stop by her old stomping grounds. She was able to visit one of the High School music classes and shared memories of her days at TASIS and about her musical career.

www.ninahmars.com

November 14, 2012



Alicia Brauns '82 visited campus with her father to help him tell his remarkable story. Alicia is making a documentary film called *The Mosaic of Life* about her

father's life. Read more about their visit on page 18 in this magazine.

www.themosaicoflifemovie.com

February 10, 2013



Dr. Janne Siren '88 spoke about visual literacy to TASIS seniors as part of the Senior Humanities Program. Janne also visited art classes and met with interested students after his lecture.

Read more about Janne's career [here](#).



November 27, 2012



Milo Zanicchia '08 spent the month of November in Malawi. He presented to students and faculty a video of his experience during international week.



www.milozanicchia.com

February 12, 2013

>>> **Visit TASIS and join in the conversation...**

Internatio

The Parade of Flags



International Week is always one of the best weeks of the year. The community comes alive as students proudly show off the colors, culture, and cuisine of their homelands. The opening assembly began with the Parade of Flags, which featured students from all three divisions carrying the flags of their countries – usually the youngest and oldest representatives from each nation. The crowd was entertained with music by a combined choir of students from all three divisions and faculty, then the annual Torch Awards. The Torch Award is given to the student in each grade that most embodies cross-cultural understanding. This award honors students who regularly reach out to students from other countries and cultures. It celebrates those who embrace the differences in others.

The final assembly on Friday opened with a performance by students and faculty who had taken part in an African drumming workshop. This was followed by the presentation and announcement of the TASIS Global Service Program and the generous gift of Jan Opsahl '68.



onal Week



2013 Torch Award winners

Pre-Kindergarten	Pablo Corrente
Kindergarten	Romeo Zanarini
1st Grade	Olga Vlajcic
2nd Grade	Romolo Cerra
3rd Grade	Jasper Niggeler
4th Grade	Victoria Haefliger
5th Grade	Mauricio Aceves Gonzalez
6th Grade	Filip Zabilski
7th Grade	Darina Khazieva
8th Grade	Gabriele Capacci
9th Grade	Alexis Epelstein
10th Grade	Kyla Altbart
11th Grade	Lorenzo Tarsis
12th Grade	Dede Da Rocha



**International Week
Parade of Flags Gallery**



The World Cup

Lots of fun, lots of great soccer, and an amazing shoot-out championship game between Mexico and Brazil.



World Cup Gallery 2013





International Food Fairs

The HS food fair, the MS breakfast and the new ES potluck made for some good eatin'!!



A STORY OF HOPE



“As I walked away from the assembly, I felt a tear well up in my eye even though I struggled to keep it hidden. Dr. Brauns is a living Holocaust survivor, but that fact is not as amazing as he is; throughout everything that he had been through, Dr. Brauns felt no hate or anger toward those who inflicted great pain upon him. He only felt sympathy and compassion....”



It was a very special week for the TASIS community when *Alicia Brauns '82* brought her parents to campus to help share her father's remarkable story.

Dr. Jack Brauns had a happy childhood in Lithuania before he and his family were forced to move to a ghetto with 30,000 other Jews. Three years later, Jack and his family were herded by gunpoint to Germany, where he and his father were separated from his mother and brother and put on a train bound for Dachau. During this horrifying time, Jack spent his nights dreaming of every detail of his childhood, trying to stay confident and strong. After Dachau was liberated in 1945 he was sentenced to 're-indoctrination' in a Soviet internment camp; instead of accepting this fate, Jack leapt onto the roof of a Budapest-bound train and stowed away to Italy, crossing the Alps on foot.

Here began a new life for Jack, who received his medical degree in Italy and moved to the United States in 1956. And that's what makes Dr. Brauns's story special: after everything he went through, he never let it stop him from striving for a better life.

During his time at TASIS, Dr. Brauns made presentations to our 5th Graders, Middle School, and High School, visiting history classes and having lunch with English classes. Our students were transformed by his attitude and philosophy. Most students noted a similar idea: focusing on anger doesn't help suffering. What helps is focusing on the kindness and goodness of those around you.

Filmmaker Alicia is in the final stages of creating a documentary, *The Mosaic of Life*, celebrating her father's life. This inspirational film has

won the 2nd Roy W. Dean Film Grant of 2012 and has attracted supporters from around the world. Students and faculty were able to view a 10-minute preview of the film during assemblies.



We thank the Brauns family for sharing their time with TASIS! To see photographs of the Brauns week-long stay, please view [*A Special Visit*](#).



A great start to the morning!

ES Morning Meetings

Every month, the ES gets together for an all-school meeting. These meetings take place in the Palmer Center, and are special because they include everyone from our Pre-Kindergarteners to 5th Graders. Along with announcements and brief talks from our ES Head, Nyman Brooks and Headmaster, Michael Ulku-Steiner, these meetings also feature ES students performing, speaking, or presenting.

“Each year, each grade is expected to make a presentation during these meetings,” says Sara Soncina, Assistant Head. “This year we decided that each grade would share a project they had worked on with their teachers in class. Teachers decide what to present, and it must be related to the curriculum.” Dubbed *Show What You Know*, this part of the meeting is engaging and fun for both participants and viewers.

During the other weeks of the month, our Pre-K and 1st Graders meet, and our 2nd through 5th Graders meet. Parents often attend these events to show their support. During the year, each class is expected to present on one of the Magnificent Seven virtues. Recent topics for our younger students have included Ms. Carol’s class sharing their views on Humility and the 1st Grade Italian Section discussed Honesty. Older student presentations have recently featured our 4th Graders talking about Responsibility.

“These meetings give our students a great opportunity to perform on a real stage,” Sara says. “This is the place where they learn how to present in front of an audience of their peers. It takes a lot of courage to speak in front of an audience, especially for the little ones!”

Congratulations to all of our ES stars who bravely share their stories with the School!



Morning Meeting Gallery
(Password Required)

A great way to end the day! ES After-School Activities

The school day might be over, but the learning continues with our robust After-School Activities Program. The number of activities and children participating increases every year. This spring there are over 125 ES students in the program.



Spring 2013 After-School Activities

Art: Origami, Choir, Handicrafts, Art

Languages: Italian, Russian

Dance: Modern, Classical, Hip Hop, Michael Jackson-style, Breakdance, Ballet

Sports: Soccer, Yoga, Horseback Riding, Basketball, Acrobatica, Tennis, Family Ski Weekend

Religion: Jewish Club, Catechism

Other: Writing, Chess, World Wide Web



After-School Activities



Kids Act

Drama is always percolating in the Elementary School. Since her arrival in 2009, teacher Gillian Eames has been a driving force for both divisions, grounded in performance and the art of theater. She has created a variety of programs for young actors, which boosts their confidence and self-expression.



In the Elementary School...

Our elementary students participate in drama through an after-school activity that meets weekly with students in Grades 3, 4, and 5. “The children engage in theater games and exercises in movement and voice that aim to develop listening and language skills, concentration and imagination, creative self-expression and group interaction,” Gillian says of the program. “These focused activities help channel the diverse energies of the children into structured forms of artistic expression.” The children also work on staged interpretations of short texts, skits and poems.

Fall drama students performed in an infor-

 **ES Drama Workshop
(Password required)**

mal Open Workshop Performance in December. “This was an opportunity for the children to get their feet wet on the stage and to share with parents and friends some of the intriguing activities they have been doing in drama class,” Gillian says.



“These focused activities help channel the diverse energies of the children into structured forms of artistic expression.”

Beginning in January, lessons were dedicated to rehearsing and preparing for the larger musical production that takes place in the spring. This year’s production, currently in rehearsal, is an adaptation of *Mary Poppins*. Past performances have included *The Jungle Book*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *The Little Prince*.

Gillian Eames is a part-time Drama teacher at TASIS and is also part of *Act Now*, a cultural organization based in Ticino, Switzerland that offers a unique opportunity for people of diverse ages to learn and practice English through the Performing Arts.

ing Now

mentary and Middle Schools. Since her
s been developing an ambitious program
ance techniques and general knowledge
performance opportunities for our young
e and excitement about the program.



In the Middle School...

Fall - In the fall, our MS students participate in an after-school drama program that builds on the foundations established at the ES level. Gillian aims to further develop trust, concentration, memory, imagination, self-awareness, and ensemble.

Each session begins with a physical and vocal warm-up, followed by a series of theater exercises, games, and sketches, involving the entire group, duos, and trios. Students focus on two new concepts which are building blocks of the actor's work: conflict and character motivation. Students then apply acquired techniques to scene work. Working in pairs or trios, students read, rehearse and perform a scene from a selected piece of dramatic literature geared specifically for their age and developmental level.

All drama students participated in an Open Workshop Performance in December, and the students presented Jack Frackes's one-act farce, *Final Dress Rehearsal*.



MS Drama Workshop

Winter, Spring - The beginning of the calendar year is dedicated to the annual musical, a long-standing tradition at the School and a significant event during the Spring Arts Festival.

Auditions are open to all MS students, and those who participate in the fall after-school program are strongly encouraged to participate in the musical. "They are encouraged to support those less experienced actors, and may also be asked to assume additional responsibilities, such as assistant director or stage manager," says Gillian. "The intention is to build an ensemble or troupe that works together organically towards creating a successful production."

Our MS students are currently rehearsing *I Want a Dog*, written by Gillian with music and lyrics by multiple-E Emmy-winning composer Jamie Broza. Past performances have included *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Annie Jr.*, and *Alice in Wonderland Jr.*



Winning Photo - Spring Academic Travel

Lara Hekimoglu '13 (*Istanbul*)



Chiara Ravaoli '13 (*Romania*)



Miller Marcus '15 (*Outward Bound*)

From the Corners of Europe

Our student photographers came back from Academic Travel with impressive images!



Gaia do Amaral '14 (*Poland*)



Tatiana Kochan '14 (*Sicily*)



Taylor Tomasso '13 (*London-Theater*)



Yu Kanamaru '13 (*Istanbul*)



**Follow these links
for more information
about TESIS Athletics.**



Winter Sports Galleries



Athletics Team Pages



TESIS SmugMug



November 27 - Girls Varsity Basketball Game



With only a few days of practice under their belts, the Girls Varsity basketball team took on the International School of Milan.

[game recap>>](#)

December 1 - Boys Varsity Friendly Tournament



An early-season four-team “friendly” tournament took place on December 1. TESIS won all the games in this early season test.

[tournament recap>>](#)

January 19 - Boys JV Basketball Tournament



The JV Boys took to the court right after Ski Week with a home tournament.

[tournament recap>>](#)

Lots of Palestra Action!



If it is a weekend, there is only one place new Athletic Director Sonny Lim will be: in the Palestra, running Friday night games or a weekend tournament. From the start of the winter sports season, the Palestra saw visiting teams coming to Lugano to enjoy all levels of basketball competition, and also a first for TASIS – a weekend badminton tournament!



Sonny is enjoying his first year at TASIS and is working hard to provide more opportunities for TASIS athletes to compete and stay fit. If the winter season is any indication, TASIS is on its way to becoming more of a presence in both the SGIS and northern Italian leagues. With the addition of the smaller Palestrina gymnasium, availability of gym space has allowed the Middle School basketball team to get off the ground as well as provided practice space for badminton.

“TASIS needs more opportunities to compete, and I am determined to make that happen!”

- Athletic Director Sonny Lim



Students help with the weekend tournaments by running the clock, keeping the books, and even officiated matches at the badminton tournament!

This spring will see Track and Field making an appearance again after a few years' hiatus. Go Tigers!

January 26 - Girls JV Basketball Tournament



The following weekend, our JV girls competed in a tournament.

[*tournament recap>>*](#)

February 2 - Badminton Tournament



The TASIS badminton team, along with three other schools, took over the Palestra for an all-day tournament.

[*tournament recap>>*](#)

February 9 - NISAA Boys Varsity Basketball Tournament



The Varsity boys hosted the NISAA tournament for the first time, finishing second overall.

[*tournament recap>>*](#)

Time to Celebrate

An amazing gift — The visual arts — Reconnecting with friends

A buzz is already in the air as we anticipate the official Gala opening of the Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center in May. The building has already become integral to life on campus, inspiring our students and faculty every day to stretch their creativity. This remarkable space feels like a second home to many of our students, who work on projects late into the night and on weekends, honing their skills and finding their creative voices.

Reservations are coming in daily for the weekend's festivities from TESIS alumni and friends from every decade. Along with festivities featuring select alumni artists, we will also be showcasing some impressive student art, including the final assessments by our IB Art students. We hope you can join us for this celebration of the arts at TESIS, past, present, and future!



Grand Opening Celebration The Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center

Friday, May 10 - Serata Ticinese
Saturday, May 11 - Gala Celebration

TESIS Campus, Lugano

Sign up now: www.tasisreunion.com

(We need to get an idea of our numbers!)

Gala Honorees

Rei Inamoto '92 - Chief Creative Officer at AKQA

Chih-Kang Tou '94 - Photographer

Steve Maloney PG'61 - Artist

Mary Kelton Seyfarth PG'66 - Sculptor

Barry Iverson '74 - Photographer

Umit Benan Sahin '98 - Fashion designer

Eda Aksoy '05 - Photographer/Auction Organizer

David Badgley - Former Faculty

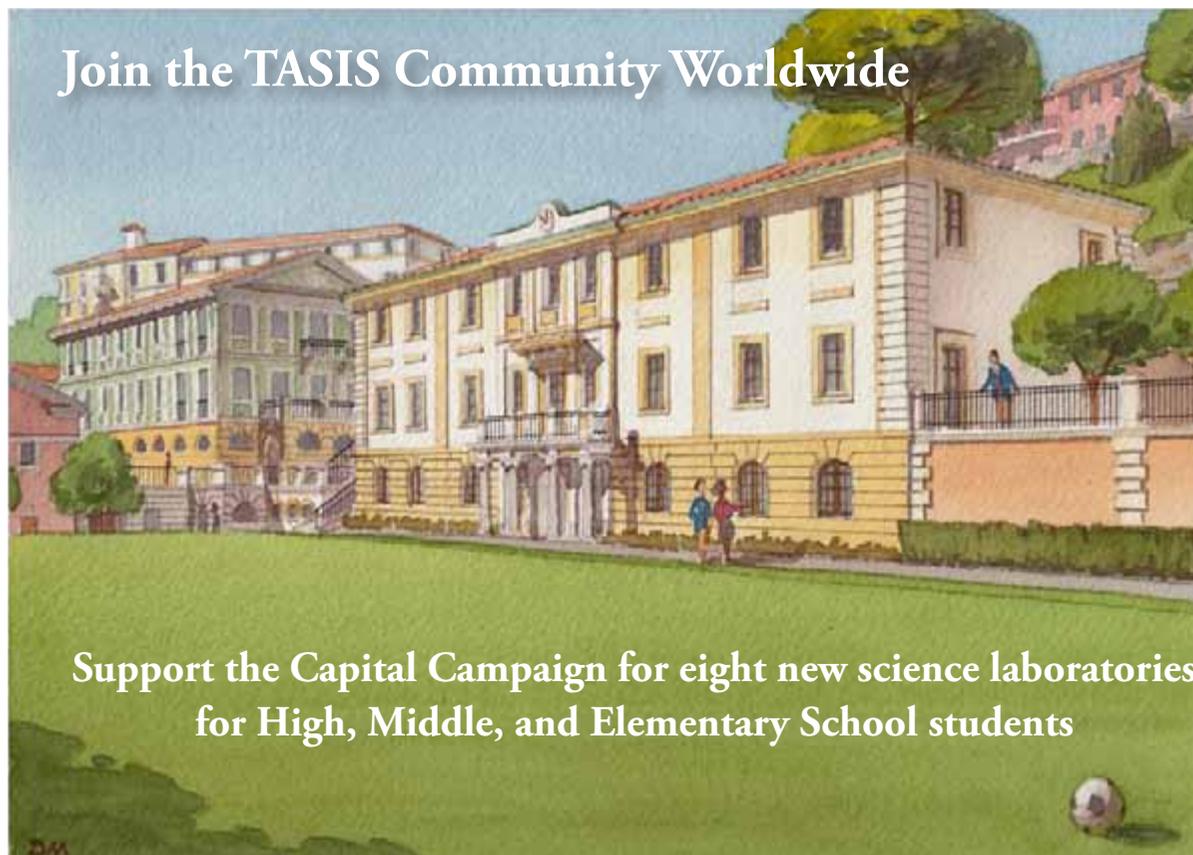
Horst Dürschmidt - Former Faculty

Mark Aeschliman - Current Faculty

TASIS Online Auction

www.tasisauction2013.org

Join the TASIS Community Worldwide



Support the Capital Campaign for eight new science laboratories
for High, Middle, and Elementary School students

The new Campo Science Center, to be completed by September 2014.

How can you get involved? It's simple!

Donate a work of art, an item of value, a gift certificate,
a vacation home, a unique experience or service.

Be as creative and generous as you can!

Donations are being accepted from now until May 11, 2013.

Online bidding will begin on April 1, 2013

Donations for the Live Auction are also most welcome.

For more information and assistance, email: auction@tasis.ch

Alumni Reunions, Events and News

All-Class Reunion

March 8, 2013

Washington, DC

6:00 - 8:30 pm

Swiss Ambassador's Residence

2920 Cathedral Parkway NW

Washington, DC 20008

TASIS 70s Reunion

April 5-7, 2013

Miami, Florida

Friday activities include a cocktail reception followed by dinner in Coconut Grove. On Saturday the group will enjoy a brunch cruise, a leisurely afternoon, and then dinner in South Beach. On Sunday there will be an optional send-off brunch on the beach.

Contact Daisy Bilbao '76 or Kathy Gamble Pilugin '74 for more information at: daisybilbao@bellsouth.net, dulcinea_q1@yahoo.com.

Class of 1983, 30-Year Reunion

May 11, 2013

Lugano

This reunion is in conjunction with the Grand Opening of the Şahenk Fine Arts Center. Contact Jim Carroll (jamesacarroll3@gmail.com) to show your interest!

Class of 2003 – 10-Year Reunion

June 14-16, 2013

This reunion is in the planning phase.

Email: enricosintoni@gmail.com, armandopassuello@hotmail.com, alice_passuello@hotmail.com, stefanodufour@gmail.com for more information.

Class of 1964 – 50-Year Reunion

April 5, 2014

New York

Contact Joe Cook (jacook4646@comcast.net), Judy Yale (yaletrade@aol.com) or Marta Babson (mbabson@hotmail.com) for more information.

Facebook connections

blog [blawg, blog] noun, verb, blogged, blog-ging.

noun

1. a Web site containing the writer's or group of writers' own experiences, observations, opinions, etc., and often having images and links to other Web sites.

verb (used without object)

2. to maintain or add new entries to a blog.

Origin: 1995–2000; shortening of Weblog

A simple question on Facebook elicited a wonderful response! We asked if there were any TASIS alumni who would like to share their blogs/websites with each other. Take a look at what some of your classmates are doing.

Carla Bigio '92

www.expatchef.wordpress.com

Luca Marziale '08

www.lucamarziale.com

Simon David '08

www.simonjdavid.com

Johannes Nelson '07

www.chasingwildgeese.com

Marcus Di Lenardo TSLP '92

www.travelmdl.com

Kathy Gamble Pilugin '74

<http://expatalien.com/about>

Neus Garriga '93

www.bcntas.com

Jack Savoretti '01

www.jacksavoretti.com

Tommy Grossi '10

www.AboutYourStartup.com

Tracey Stephens '71

www.traceystephens.com

Rosemary Kirincic '99

www.aprovecho.net



Find us on Facebook!

Sally Gall '73 - Photography Show at the Julie Saul Gallery

(From a press release from the Julie Saul Gallery)

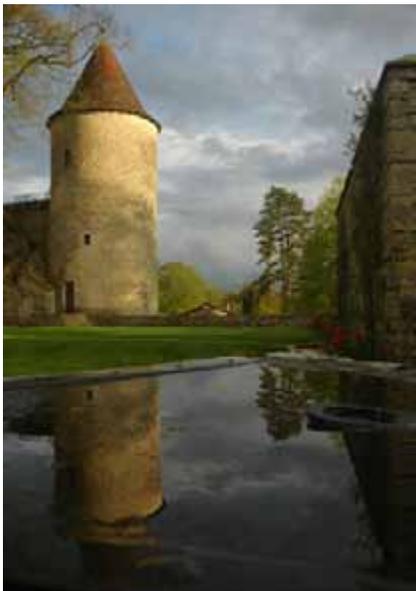
The Julie Saul Gallery (New York City) announced its 11th solo show with Sally Gall, who has been represented by the gallery since 1985. She is known as a classical photographer who takes the natural world as her subject. Unbound represents a shift in Gall's visual language in which she combines photographs to create diptychs and triptychs comprised of images that depict a weightless world without horizons. Gall brings together black and white and color images and a variety of formats which function as a whole to convey the spirit of the unbound.

Sally Gall received a BFA in photography from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1978. She has taught and lectured extensively in the United States and Europe. Public collections include the Guggenheim Museum, The Whitney Museum, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, and the Rhode Island School of Design, and the Hood Museum at Dartmouth College. [Read More >>>](#)



For more information about Sally and her photography please visit her website: <http://www.sallygall.com/>

TASIS Walking Holiday in France for TASIS Alumni and Friends (June 27 - July 5, 2013)



More information can be seen here: [TASIS Walking Holiday](#).

Sipping wine from the cask at *vin jaune* wineries. Tasting fresh *Comté* cheese from the cellars at Fort des Rousses. Exploring the beautiful region of Franche-Comté, with its lowlands of verdant valleys, pristine lakes, and charming red-roofed villages. Admiring the Vallée de Suran, the great cascades of Hérisson and Éventail, a string of blue lakes at Chalain and beyond, and the spectacular *reculée* of Baume-les-Messieurs. Wandering lush gardens, relaxing by the pool, playing a bit of tennis, or relaxing in an elegant room in the 12th-century Château d'Andelot.

Tucked between Burgundy and Switzerland, the Franche-Comté, part of French Jura, is a little-known corner of France that will play host to the 2013 walking tour for TASIS alumni and friends. Peter Boynton '69 has put together a fantastic package that allows participants TASIS alumni and friends the chance to experience all of what this lovely region has to offer. Daily walks will take place amid gentle terrain with visits to saltworks, waterfalls, wineries, and cheese farms (with tastings, of course!) along the way. Evenings will be spent at the beautiful Château d'Andelot, perched on a hill in the Suran River Valley. The château boasts a variety of amenities, from sprawling terraces and breathtaking views to stately gathering rooms and historic architecture.

Why Teach?

Classroom teaching in a school setting is an odd occupation. That is not to say that it is an uncommon occupation (there are ca. four million members of the two largest teacher organizations in the US alone), but it is odd in the relationships and the mental perspectives it requires. So in many ways, to be a teacher is to be odd.

Consider this: With which professionals are you required to interact? Are you routinely forced to visit a doctor? Consult a lawyer? Vote for a politician? Have a mechanic fix your car? Ask an electrician to re-wire your house? While you may routinely engage in any or all of those actions, your participation in the interaction remains largely voluntary. But, we make you go to school. It is a legal, governmental requirement in most localities. Up to a certain age, you have to deal with teachers. We have you trapped.

So, teachers are in the odd position of being professionals who have to be consulted regularly, almost daily, by millions of people. This oddity is magnified by the requirement that virtually all of those millions are under the age of eighteen. Think about that for a moment. Teaching is a profession that has a daily, forced interaction with immature humans. Teachers deal with Dennis the Menace, the Katzenjammer Kids, and Mafalda by choice. How odd must a teacher be?

“Why do I teach? Because it is fun. There is nothing like it in the world.”

Added to this oddity is the nature of the classroom itself. Teachers help students learn. How simple that task must be! After all, the species is *homo sapiens*; creatures who have evolved to know, be wise, and learn. Of course, we do not just let you learn as a natural act. We have curricula, methods, textbooks, assignments, examinations, and requirements that make you learn specific things, in specific ways, and demonstrated on specific tests. Oddest of all, we make you do all of that before the next grading period ends. Of course, that oddity of time pressure has its comparison with ancestral *homo sapiens* on the African savannah. The naturalistic learning process had its own grading deadlines, but they were more direct events like starvation or being eaten by a large predator. That type of learning was elemental: find food or be food.

These odd professionals then go into a classroom filled with youngsters who have no choice about being there, and impose the artificial structure and schedule on a natural process. But, there is more. Other professions deal with one person at a time. (Can you imagine a surgeon operating on two people at once? A lawyer arguing two cases in front of two judges simultaneously?) A teacher has a full classroom filled with different abilities, interests, needs, and goals.

This constellation of contradictions, capabilities, and confusion is part and parcel of a teacher’s daily life, and this brings us to the oddest aspect of teaching of all. Given all of this, why would you ever want to be a teacher? If you ask most teachers, you will hear a variety of answers. In my experience, both asking and answering the question, the answers all revolve around one key idea:

Why do I teach? Because it is fun. There is nothing like it in the world.

(Submitted by a TESIS teacher)

Get Ready for a TASIS Summer!



There may be snow on the ground in Lugano, but summer is just around the corner! This year's TASIS Summer Programs are filling fast thanks to some exciting new offerings and our students telling their friends about the 'best summer of their life'!

Learn a Language

English-as-an-Additional-Language

French

Italian



Be Active

AC Milan - Soccer

Armani Junior Basketball Camp

Outdoor activities

Create

Digital Photography

Drawing and Painting Ticino

Architecture & Design

Fashion & Textile Design

Perform

Musical Theater

Travel

Paris

Rome

Lucerne

Nice

Venice



Summer Programs

Click here for more information

Quick Guide to TASIS Summer Programs

Acronym	Program	Location/Ages
CDE	<u>Château Des Enfants</u>	Lugano (4+-10)
MSP	<u>Middle School Program</u>	Lugano (11-13)
TSP	<u>TASIS Summer Program</u>	Lugano (14-18)
CDMSP	<u>Château-d'Oex Middle School Program</u>	Château-d'Oex (11-13)
TSLP	<u>TASIS Summer Language Program</u>	Château-d'Oex (14-18)



The ES after-school writing club shows off their newspaper, *Hadsall Happenings*.

TASIS The American School In Switzerland
CH-6926 Montagnola, Collina d'Oro, Switzerland
Tel: +41 91 960 5151 - www.tasis.ch