

Leadership & Academic Newsletter

22nd March 2024



Here's what has happened in the last few weeks and what's to come!

Dear Teachers, Students, and Parents,

As we navigate through the ever-evolving landscape of education, it's imperative to reflect on the core principles that guide our approach here at the International School Altdorf. Our mission extends far beyond the mere transmission of subject-specific knowledge; we aspire to cultivate well-rounded individuals equipped with the skills and mindset to thrive in an interconnected world.

Holistic Education: At the heart of our educational philosophy lies the belief in holistic development. We recognize that true education encompasses more than academic prowess; it encompasses the nurturing of social, communicative, intercultural, and critical thinking skills. Our aim is to empower students to become discerning, empathetic, and culturally competent individuals.

Life Skills: Equipping our students with life skills is paramount to their success beyond the classroom. Skills such as teamwork, conflict resolution, time management, and self-organization are indispensable for personal and professional fulfillment. We are committed to fostering an environment where these competencies are cultivated and honed.

Social Responsibility: Central to our ethos is the promotion of social responsibility and community engagement. By instilling a sense of duty towards the common good, we aim to nurture socially conscious individuals who actively contribute to their communities. Through service projects and volunteer initiatives, our students not only apply their knowledge but also develop a profound sense of belonging and civic duty.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Students
Well-Being

MYP and Service
as Action

FROM THE DP
Desk

From the
UNIVERSITY
COUNSELLING
Desk

International
Day March 15th

NEWS: New
admission Team

Practical Application: We recognize the importance of bridging the gap between theory and practice. Real-world application of knowledge is essential for deep and meaningful learning experiences. Through hands-on projects and community service activities, our students have the opportunity to apply their learning in authentic contexts, making a tangible impact while honing their skills.

Future Readiness: As we prepare our students for an uncertain future, we understand the importance of equipping them with the tools necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Beyond academic excellence, employers seek individuals with strong interpersonal skills, problem-solving abilities, and a proactive mindset. By nurturing over-arching competencies and fostering a spirit of community service, we are ensuring that our students are well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

In essence, our commitment to holistic education extends beyond the confines of the classroom. It is a journey of self-discovery, personal growth, and societal contribution. Together, as a community, let us continue to champion the values of holistic education and empower our students to become compassionate, competent, and engaged global citizens.

Warm regards,



Hans Hürlimann



Student Health & Well-Being

On February 27th, the Campus Dining Hall at International School Altdorf was abuzz with excitement as Mr. Michael Ammann, the CEO of update Fitness, delighted us with his presence for an exclusive interview. As the leader of one of Switzerland's foremost fitness chains, and the Campus Fitness Partner of International School Altdorf, Mr. Ammann shared invaluable insights into his journey and discussed the future of fitness.

update Fitness stands as one of Switzerland's leading fitness chains, boasting over 70,000 members and 1000 employees nationwide. Founded in 1997 by Mr. Ammann and his brother, the brand has since grown into a renowned name in the industry, with a network of over seventy locations across the country. Committed to excellence and community engagement, update Fitness continues to set industry standards by offering high-quality fitness services and education.

During his visit to International School Altdorf, Mr. Ammann inspired students with his personal journey, sharing how he passionately established the first fitness center in partnership with his brother immediately after graduating from college. Despite facing initial challenges, the brothers raised funds from within their own family, remarkably repaying the debt within just seven months.

Mr. Ammann emphasized the importance of Hospitality across the update Fitness group, aiming to welcome every member to a feeling of a home away from home, regardless of the location they visit. Despite the majority ownership of COOP in the group, Mr. Ammann maintains leadership and full strategic decision-making rights, a testament to the trust bestowed upon him by investors.



A highlight of the interview was Mr. Ammann's emphasis on language and communication skills. Reflecting on his own experiences, he expressed regret for not learning sufficient English and other foreign languages earlier in life. He strongly recommended all students to focus on language acquisition, as it opens doors to countless opportunities.

Offering valuable advice to our students, Mr. Ammann urged them to relentlessly pursue their passions and skills, leveraging networking and communication opportunities, and never giving up on their dreams. His words serve as inspiration from a leader dedicated to securing a higher sense of well-being and fitness across our community.

We are proud to have update Fitness as a partner of International School Altdorf and eagerly anticipate Mr. Ammann's and his Team's continued contributions to shaping the future of fitness in Switzerland.



MYP and Service as Action

1. Service as Action as ...?

Service as Action is a fundamental element of the MYP programme. The aim is to develop awareness and caring in students to help and contribute to improve life in the local and broader community.

2. Where?

Service as action requires students to engage with their local community through community or personal projects and provides opportunities for students to explore, design, implement, and reflect on their efforts to positively impact their local environment.

3. What and when?

International School Altdorf believes that through Service and Action, students can connect classroom content to real life, but they also learn to give back to the community. This project-based learning is an ongoing tool that students have to support their learning and make a difference.

Learning Outcome?

SERVICE LEARNING

Service is for and with others.

Through service learning, I learn to:

- 

Become more aware of my **strengths** and **areas for growth**.
- 

Challenge myself to develop new skills.
- 

Discuss, plan and **evaluate** action with my peers.
- 

Persevere in action, *keeping up the effort* even when things are challenging.
- 

Collaborate effectively with others.
- 

Develop **international mindedness** by *engaging with the world, using different languages & understanding other cultures*.
- 

Consider the **ethical implications** of my actions, *thinking carefully about right and wrong*.

Examples of Service as Action at International School Altdorf

- Mubina and Olivia (MYP5) are part of the photography club that starts an interesting project (TBC)
- Grant, Kirsten and Lam (MYP5) work with Michael and Sheldon (DPI) to develop a chemical waste management system for the school
- Ivy, Angel and Andy (MYP4) helped tidying the lab and preparing flashcards in sciences for DP students
- Darcey, Miuccia, Olivia and Kirsten (MYP5) are working on the yearbook

From the DP Desk

Some useful information for parents and students.

DP2 students will stop regular lessons on Thursday March 28th. This means that they will be on study leave until April 25 to revise and to get ready for their Final Exams which will start on April 26 and will run until May 17th.

We, teachers, will be available to answer any questions they might have during that time. We wish all of our students the best for their final high school endeavours!



DP1 students have started their lengthy Extended Essay journey, their first ever long academic essay writing. They will have their first mandatory reflection with their respective supervisor before the break.

For all students and parents, Easter break will start on Friday March 29 and school will resume on Monday April 8th as usual.

From the UNIVERSITY COUNSELLING Desk

A promotional poster for the University Fair 2024 at International School Altdorf. The poster features the school's crest at the top, followed by the text 'UNIVERSITY FAIR 2024' in large, bold letters. Below that, it says 'INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ALTDORF'. At the bottom, it lists 'OVER 60 UNIVERSITIES ATTENDING' and 'EVENT DATE & LOCATION: 16 APRIL 2024 FROM 17:00 - 19:00 ST. JOSEFSWEG 15B, 6460 ALTDORF UR'. The background is a light blue and purple gradient with a pattern of small squares and silhouettes of graduation caps.


**UNIVERSITY FAIR
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**INTERNATIONAL
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OVER 60 UNIVERSITIES ATTENDING

EVENT DATE & LOCATION:
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The last few months have been a busy time for both students and teachers, however, the hard work is finally paying off, with university acceptances and offers coming in on a daily basis. The school management is extremely proud of our students.

Our DP1 students have started drafting their personal statements, which is an integral part of the application process. At this age, it can be difficult for students to “sell” themselves without coming across as being arrogant. However, it is safe to say that they are taking all this in their stride, which is an attribute to their strong resilience.

It is our great pleasure to inform you that International School Altdorf will host its second major university fair. This year, we will have 65 universities in attendance, which in fact is 25 more institutions than last year. We are delighted that so many universities are coming to visit our small campus. The fair will take place on Tuesday 16th April 2024 from 17:00 – 19:00.



EVENTS: International Day March 15th

On Friday, the 15th of March, International School Altdorf had the opportunity to host its second annual International Day. This year, it connected perfectly to the IDEALS of the RoundSquare's Committee - the concept of developing Internationalism, Democracy, Adventure, Leadership and Service and promoting these IDEALS on a constant basis.

During this event, we incorporated several aspects of collaboration for students to engage in, such as: cooking an international menu, which had been influenced by the diverse backgrounds of ISA students, listening to interactive presentations by fellow peers and teachers to enrich the students' knowledge of cultures and develop themselves as knowledgeable individuals (this also links to the IB Learner Profile - the curriculum followed in the school), and, most importantly, participating in various games and quizzes, which single-handedly was marked as the best part of the day.

The day allowed students to participate in areas, which they preferred. For example, students, who wanted to cook took part in cooking, and students who wanted to participate in games had the chance to do so too, which meant that each student was free to choose what best fit their interests.

Furthermore, the cooperation of several school committees and clubs, from the Art Club to the School Ambassador Committee were also instrumental in contributing to the success of the day. Overall, the International Day at ISA was tremendously successful, with positive feedback from both students and teachers.

This activity marked the first Round Square-influenced event in our school year, and safe to say, it set a great benchmark for future activities that will further promote the IDEALS.

Round Square Committee Leader
Uliana Ovsyanko





NEWS: welcome to our new Admission team member!



Dear students, parents, and colleagues,

As I step into the vibrant community of the International School of Altdorf, bringing with me 17 years of corporate experience, I am excited to infuse our journey with a fresh perspective and an unwavering belief in the power of education because "Education Matters".

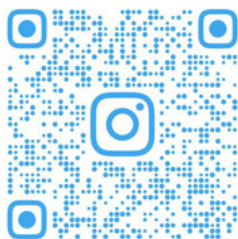
I am dedicated to supporting you in your academic pursuits. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at **anastasia.rachman@lisa.swiss** if you require any assistance or guidance.

Let's embark on this journey together!

Warm regards,

Anastasia Rachman

Thank you for reading!



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