

Newsletter of the Friends of the Friedrich Fröbel School



# Spring

After a long, often gloomy winter, spring brings fresh energy and new motivation. The fourth-graders have an exciting new phase of their lives ahead of them, as they are moving on to secondary school. Outdoor activities are also planned for this time of year, making learning more exciting and interactive. The trees in the schoolyard are aglow with fresh colors, and the students enjoy recess outside, where they can let off steam and breathe in the fresh air. Spring therefore symbolizes not only new life in nature, but also the potential for growth and the development of new skills. Even the youngest first-graders have now grown into independent and responsible students, and the future first-graders are already raring to go. In addition, students are now seeing each other more often in the neighborhood, which strengthens the sense of community and fosters a sense of community.

WARUM KANN MAN BLUMEN IM FRÜHLING AM BESTEN VERSTEHEN? WEIL ÜBERALL LAUTER BLÜTEN SIND!

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# Review of the last few weeks

### Methods Day - Tools for independent and selfdirected learning

The established Methods Day took place again in January, and many of you have been wondering what exactly this day entails. In elementary school, students have the opportunity to explore and try out various learning methods to promote independent learning. Among other things, the children learn:

- Station learning in small groups (cooperative learning for better collaboration)
- Mind mapping to visualize ideas (e.g. for preparing presentations)
- Methods for work organization and independent learning (how to work in the homework book)

Talk to your child and ask them about the method they've learned. By repeating it, your child can deepen their knowledge. This way, you can also support them in applying these methods.

Click here to get even more input on learning methods. You can also follow her on Instagram. You'll find great ideas there.



## **First Aid Project**

With the support of the Johanniter Rhein-Main Regional Association and the Niederrad Local History Association, the support association was able to implement the first aid project. The third-grade students were able to conduct a first aid course as a class in January.

After the first exchange of experiences, in which the children were able to talk about their accidents, emergency situations, etc., they were able to practice in a very practical way.

Plasters are applied, bandages are applied to arms and legs, and even applying a head bandage can be practiced. The children also try applying an arm sling, made from a triangular bandage, to a partner. Between the practical exercises, there are useful general tips and important information about the emergency numbers 112 and 110.

Even the recovery position is demonstrated and tried out by the children. A poster for the classroom shows the exact procedure.

At the end, each new first aider receives a certificate and a workbook to take home.





### School conference

The first meeting of the new school council took place in March. It promotes collaboration between teachers, parents, and students for a high-quality education. The school council consists of five teachers and five parents, led by Ms. Althaus. Key topics include school program development, improving the learning environment, event planning, and evaluating teaching methods. It contributes to shaping everyday school life and fostering respectful interaction. Special thanks go to the dedicated members of the school community!

### **SEB** meeting

On March 12, the second meeting of the School Parents' Council (SEB) for this school year took place, chaired for the first time by the new SEB chairperson. During this meeting, current topics and concerns were discussed with the school administration in order to strengthen cooperation between parents and the school. Such meetings offer a valuable opportunity for exchanging ideas and jointly developing solutions to promote the quality of education and the well-being of the students. Ms. Althaus reported on topics such as all-day school, the good staffing situation, and appointments, and was able to clarify individual concerns directly. We, as the support association, also had the opportunity to report on our work.

The new school parents' council has prepared excellently and demonstrated its willingness to responsibly represent the interests of the parents. They also presented opportunities for further training for the parent representatives.

Almost all parent representatives of the first and second graders were present. Thank you for that! Unfortunately, the third and fourth graders were barely represented. The event was meticulously prepared, and everyone's presence is important to ensure a dialogue between parents and the school can take place.

### **Parent-teacher meetings**

Parent-teacher conferences at the beginning of the second half of the school year offer a valuable opportunity for parents to talk directly with teachers about their child's progress and development. Many parents use this opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of their child's academic performance and behavior. During the school year, communication often takes place via the child themselves or their homework book, which requires both trust and personal responsibility on the part of the child. Such discussions strengthen the collaboration between parents and teachers and support students' independence by giving them the space to take responsibility for their own learning. Parent-teacher conferences are therefore not only a means of disseminating information but also promote a trusting and supportive learning environment for children.

# ongoing projects

### **Rhythmic break for first graders**

Rhythm Break, a 20-minute musical intervention for first-graders, began in February. It replaces regular classes with rhythmic activities such as speech rhythms, body percussion, and improvisation. A music school teacher leads the break, while the classroom teacher actively participates to expand their own music-related skills and gather content for later lessons.

## **Friendship Bench**

Although it's unclear how long the current schoolyard will remain, the Friends of the School Association aims to improve the school's break atmosphere, in addition to the mentoring project we featured in the last newsletter. friendship А bench in the schoolyard encourages social interaction and helps lonely students connect. A student sitting on the bench signals a willingness to talk, which reduces exclusion. The bench strengthens a sense of community and promotes a friendly school environment.

This container houses the break toys, because the old accommodation did not meet fire protection requirements

## Golden Shoe now for the second graders

Following the successful pilot project for first-graders to encourage walking to school, the initiative is now being expanded to second-graders. The goal is to increase physical activity and environmental awareness. Studies show that walking to school daily improves children's health, concentration, and well-being. Parents and schools are working together to create safe walking routes and motivate children. This project promotes a healthier and more environmentally friendly lifestyle for the younger generation.

#### paypal@fv-ffs.de



# YOU WANT TO DONATE?

Of course, you will receive a donation receipt upon request!



**ACCOUNT DETAILS** 

Friends of the Friedrich Fröbel School e.V. Frankfurter Volksbank IBAN: DE 93 5019 0000 6301 1916 91 BIC: FFVBDEFF

### showcase

A display case, funded by the Friends' Association, will be installed on the wall at the entrance in the next few weeks and is a wonderful way to improve communication between the Friends' Association, the SEB (School Parents' Council), and parents. It provides a central location where important information, events, news, and reminders can be quickly and prominently displayed. This is particularly useful for parents dropping off or picking up their children, as it allows them to stay up to date without having to invest additional time. Direct communication strengthens the community and promotes a stronger sense of togetherness, which ultimately benefits the children. We are very much looking forward to the new opportunities for exchange and the stronger connection between each other.

### Library support/ reading mentors wanted

We're looking for dedicated support in our school library to make the library accessible to children every day and to strengthen the community. We particularly welcome grandparents or retired neighbors (as well as parents) who would enjoy actively participating once a week from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. It's a wonderful opportunity to foster community spirit while also engaging in meaningful work. We're also looking for reading mentors who can regularly help children with reading in the classroom, thus making an important contribution to the students' education and development. If you know of someone who might be interested, please get in touch – we look forward to your support!

### Membership in the support association

A friends' association is a valuable addition to any school, as it helps create a supportive and enriching learning environment for all students. It is by no means an exclusive club, but rather a community of parents, teachers, and supporters who work together toward one goal: to create the best possible conditions for our children's education. Any kind of support, whether through volunteering at school events, financial contributions, or creative ideas, is welcome and contributes to the success of the community. By actively supporting the school, parents not only demonstrate an interest in their children's education but also strengthen the sense of community and promote cohesion. In an ideal world, every parent would be part of the friends' association and actively contribute to a positive school atmosphere. Currently, 60% of parents are members of the friends' association, which shows great potential for improvement. We would like to inspire even more parents. Only through membership can we enter a direct dialogue with you.



Click here, fill out and submit the application: 1. By mail: Friends of the Friedrich-Föbel-Schule Else-Alken-Strasse 3 60528 Frankfurt 2. Per Mail (Scan): schriftfuehrer@fv-ffs.de 3. By mail/or secretariat

## current topics

### Transition from grade 4 to 5

The transition from 4th to 5th grade and the associated move to secondary school is a significant step in a child's life. This transition brings with it many changes, such as new subjects, teachers, and classmates. To make this process as smooth as possible, it is important that children are well prepared and receive support. An excellent book recommendation for parents and children during this phase is "Transitioning to Secondary School.", in addition to the official guidelines as posted on the schools homepage. This book offers valuable tips and strategies to make the transition stress-free. It is a guide to all the big and small questions surrounding the transition to secondary school - from choosing the right school to the first few weeks in the new school routine. Through practical advice and a sensitive approach, Caroline St. Ange helps children gain self-confidence and successfully master the transition to secondary school.

CLICK HERE FOR THE LINK

### **Toilettensituation**

The restroom situation at our school is a frequently discussed issue, causing many children to avoid using the toilet. Toilet paper is often lacking, and cleanliness is poor, compromising comfort and hygiene. The "broken window theory" suggests that such neglect can lead to further vandalism and disorder. It is important to talk to children about their responsibility for the cleanliness of their environment. Parents can help by providing their children with a small pack of moist toilet paper. Although the city has pledged to provide additional cleaning to improve restroom conditions, this alone is not enough. Schools and parents must work together to foster a sense of responsibility in children and create an environment where they feel comfortable and enjoy using the restroom facilities. For an opportunity to talk to your children about this topic, please watch this "Wissen macht Ah" program on the subject.



CLICK HERE FOR THE LINK TO THE SHOW

<u>Do you have questions, feedback, requests?</u> <u>EMail an info@fv-ffs.de</u>



### outlook

### Stand new building and full day

Full-day schooling is scheduled to begin for first-graders in 2026, and the new building has been planned accordingly. Since the school's parents' council received no further information from politicians at the last local council meeting (in March) regarding whether, when, and how the award-winning design will be implemented, we would like to share our current knowledge with you:

The winning design for the planned five-stream Fröbel School features three staggered buildings with a forecourt featuring wooden seating and secure bicycle racks. The forecourt provides access to the gymnasium and outdoor sports facilities. The outer buildings house year-group clusters, while the central building includes communal areas and a marketplace. Welcoming entrances and spacious schoolyards face west and east. Specialist classrooms and a dining hall are located on the ground floor, while the upper floor houses the school administration, research rooms, and a library. Each year-group cluster has its own sanitary facilities. The new open spaces offer opportunities for exercise, a school garden, and a green classroom. A new single-field sports hall complements the existing sports hall.



From August 2026, first-graders will have a legal right to full-day places, which offer care beyond regular classes. The goal is to promote the compatibility of family and work and to offer children more educational and leisure opportunities, for example by integrating local providers from the neighborhood. Frankfurt is planning to convert primary schools into all-day schools, but there are currently no clear guidelines and regulations on financing and organization from politicians. In Niederrad, after-school care places are guaranteed for only half of the children. Unfortunatley there is currently little political action to be seen. A new building for the primary school in the Lyoner Quartier and the Fröbelschule would remedy this. But precisely because the sports clubs from the neighborhood are necessary for a successful all-day program, negotiations for building sites and interim sites are difficult. A clear decision from those responsible would be important here.

The new construction of our school has been discussed for more than five years, and at times, classrooms were even set up accordingly. Expansion planning for Niederrad has been prioritized by the School Building Initiative (SBO) and is intended to be accelerated, but for a year now, there has been no dialogue with concrete, plannable information. We would welcome an exchange with politicians.

# World Book Day/Reading Day 16.5.

UNESCO World Book Day is celebrated on April 23rd to promote reading, books, and authors' rights. It was established in 1995 and commemorates the death anniversaries of William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes. Events are held in many countries to raise awareness of literature. In Germany, Deutsche Post is participating by giving away stories. At our school, we celebrate this day with a reading day on May 16th and need parents and grandparents to read aloud in their native language.

## Bundesjugendspiele/ Sportsday

The Bundesjugendspiele are prepared with great care and dedication by the teachers. Please consider offering your support to ensure this event is a complete success. Every family should participate in a school event at least once during their child's school years. The joy and excitement the children experience are priceless and contribute to a positive school community.



HAVE A RELAXING EASTER HOLIDAY!

## **DEADLINE 2025**

16.5. VORLESETAG
FEDERAL YOUTH GAMES 22.5.

Please check the school's homepage (calendar) for any updates.

# IMPRINT

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