



GERMAN
HERITAGE
LANGUAGE
SCHOOL

Annual Report 2018-19

German Heritage Language School

Message from the Chair

The accomplishments and generosity of the German Heritage Language School Community are a never-ending source of good news, warmth and inspiration.

We have made significant progress towards the development of our new strategic plan. Thank you to everyone who participated in our surveys and who provided such valuable input and feedback.

In the midst of considerable change in our team, including our Principal as well as on our board, progress has been made on each of our strategic priorities.

The Board has established new Committees: Engagement, Curriculum, Finance and Audit, Governance and Human Resources. Members of the community who wish to volunteer are encouraged to join in an area that interests them by contacting any member of the board.

In our continued efforts to provide both our young and adult students with an exceptional German language learning experience, staff and volunteers worked diligently to update our course offerings, modernize our board policies, to offer professional development for both our board and teaching staff and to more actively engage all of our stakeholders.

We are fortunate to have excellent partners in the development and delivery of our curriculum. Elke Rühl, of the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad (ZfA) visited us three times last year providing valuable assistance and pedagogical advice. We continue to enjoy the support of Lennart Eisenträger, Second Secretary Communications and Culture of the German Embassy and of Isolde Winter, Kanadischer Verband Deutscher Sprachschulen (KVDS).

Once again, this year all of our DSD students were successful in obtaining their certificates. The DSD is an important step in our school and represents a significant investment from the German Embassy for which we are most grateful.

Special thanks are due Stefan Eisebraun for his exceptional efforts to implement more robust financial reporting for the GHLS and for his interim leadership of the school. I also thank Cornelia Lorenz for her incredible work as my predecessor and for the assistance and excellent example she has so generously provided.

It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to serve as the next Chair of the Board of Trustees following such a substantive year. I look forward to working with each of you, as members of our GHLS community over the coming year.

Paula Minnikin

Vorstandsvorsitzende, GHLS

GHLS by the Numbers

6

**Number of Kids and Youth Classes
offered in 2018-19**

5

**Number of Adult Classes offered in
2018-19**

NUMBER OF STUDENTS 18-19

35 
Kids/Youth Students (Fall Term)

32 
Kids/Youth Students (Winter Term)

65 
Adult Students (Fall Term)

30 
Adult Students (Winter Term)

4

**Number of Professional
Development Opportunities
attended by Teaching Staff in 2018-19**

11

**Number of Youth Students who
completed the DSD1 since 2015 at
the GHLS**

DONATIONS & GRANTS

3,360 
Donations

3,776 
Grant (Sprachbeihilfe)

SATISFACTION RATING

4.35 ★★★★★
Parents

4.39 ★★★★★
Adult Students

4.00 ★★★★★
Teachers

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School Year in Review

Children and Youth Classes

We offer classes for children and youth for various levels. Lessons take place once a week for two hours on Thursday afternoons and evenings at The Shambhala School in Halifax. Children start as young as age four and are encouraged to speak German through play and music. In the children 4 and 5 classes, students can prepare for the German Language Diploma (DSD = Deutsches Sprachdiplom). The curricula for our childrens classes are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The GHLS Curriculum Committee has reworked the curriculum of the children classes. Anyone interested can request a copy from the teachers or the principal.



Children 1 class with teacher Agne Kubilute and helpers Mia and Jan



Children 2 class with teacher Arne Martens and helper Sabina Machum



Children 3 class with teacher Christine Höhne



Children 4 class with teachers Marco Rönz (fall term: Wiebke Schröder) and helper Louisa



Children 5 class with teacher Cornelia Lorenz

German Language Certificate (Deutsches Sprachdiplom – DSD)

We had three students from the Children 5 class who took the DSD 1 exams this year. The oral exams took place on March 7, 2019 at the Shambhala school. Elke Rühl from the ZfA (Zentralstelle für Auslandschulwesen) in Toronto was present for the oral exams in March, which were conducted by Cornelia Lorenz. The written exams took place at Dalhousie on April 11, 2019. We had 100% pass rate on DSD this year. Congratulations to Tovah Clift vom Hagen, Benjamin Martens, and Maxwell Mitchell

The GHLS renewed its DSD1 certification in 2017-18 with the German Kulturminister Konferenz. The school is eligible to offer DSD1 exams until 2020. The GHLS applied for a renewal of our accreditation as a DSD 1 school. However, this time we are hopeful that the accreditation is no longer temporary but rather permanent. We are also planning to offer more test exams such as “Vergleichsarbeiten” to prepare students in Children 4 and 5 for DSD 1. We were encouraged to consider applying for the DSD2 accreditation.

Adult Classes

For adult students we offer German courses at various levels, where students with no prior knowledge in German are just as welcome as advanced students who want to put their German knowledge into use in the conversational classes. Most classes for adults take place Thursday evenings at The Shambhala School in Halifax. The curricula for our adult classes are also based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and our Curriculum Committee is working on a draft for each class.

Scholarships

Every year the GHLS awards a scholarship to one of the children and one scholarship to an adult student to recognize their commitment. Tovah Clift vom Hagen received the Gerta-Josenhans Memorial Scholarship for the children and Ani Delice received the Eva-Huber Memorial Scholarship for the adults.



Above: Tovah Clift vom Hagen recipient of the Gerta-Josenhans Memorial Scholarship

Below: Ani Delice recipient of the Eva-Huber Memorial Scholarship

Teach the Teachers

We continue to put an emphasis on providing professional development opportunities to our teachers. GHLS teachers attend these workshops or conferences on their own time and we appreciate the commitments and dedication our teachers have shown over the past years.

Professional development highlights during the past school year were as follows:

- ✓ KVDS conference, August 24-26, 2018, attended by Julia Pörtner, Christine Höhne, and Cornelia Lorenz.
- ✓ DSD 1 Vorkonferenz with Elke Rühl, October 11, 2018, attended by Julia Pörtner, Christine Höhne, Wiebke Schröder, and Cornelia Lorenz.
- ✓ Half-day Workshop for all the GHLS teachers with Astrid Seidel at Dalhousie, April 6, 2019.
- ✓ Canadian Association of Teachers of German (CATG): April 27 & 28, UTS in Toronto, attended by Christine Höhne.
- ✓ Half-day Workshop for all the GHLS teachers with Elke Rühl at Dalhousie, June 6, 2019.

Community Engagement

Last Year's Events

During the school year, we enjoyed the following social events.

We celebrated our **Laternenfest** in November at the Christ Church Hall in Dartmouth. Like every year, we socialized and sang songs while enjoying tasty finger food. This year, Ruth Köller from Goethe Books visited us and brought with her a collection of German books for young and old for viewing and to purchase. After dark we took our home-made lanterns and wandered through the neighbourhood.

This year's **Nikolaus** Party had the title "The Advent Wreath" and each class had prepared a short performance. We sang Christmas carols and lit the four candles of our homemade advent wreath. And of course, Nikolaus himself came to give treats to all the kids.

The children had fun dressing up for our **Faschingsfest** in February and learned more about the German carnival culture and celebrated with music, dancing and candies.

The weekend after the last day of school we met at the BMO Soccer Center to enjoy a fun time with soccer and typical German games which were enjoyed by the kids and the adults.

Upcoming Events

We plan to celebrate these events this school year and we invite you to join us:

- ✓ Laternenfest November, 11th 2019
- ✓ Nikolaus Party, December, 7th, 2019
- ✓ Spring Party with games and finger food, May, 9th, 2020





Survey Result Highlights

The GHLS conducted a survey with the teachers, parents and adult students to get input for the strategic plan. The response rate was excellent for each of the groups (between 44% and 83%). Most notable outcome was the confirmation that the location of the school, and the time and day of the week for the classes are convenient for the majority of the participants. We are also continuing to focus on the DSD.

GHLS Board of Directors

Name of Board Members and Functions

Paula Minnikin (Chair), Arne Martens (Principal of the School), Stefan Eisebraun (Treasurer), Christine Höhne (Vice-Chair), Friedemann Brauer, Johanna Campbell, Paula Weste Dumaresq, Verena Eichhorn, Sarah Ensslin, Brigid Garvey, Carol Grunsky, Steffen Käubler, Cornelia Lorenz, Julia Pörtner

Anybody who feels like it is welcome to help, please contact: info@german-language-school.ca

Financial Accountability

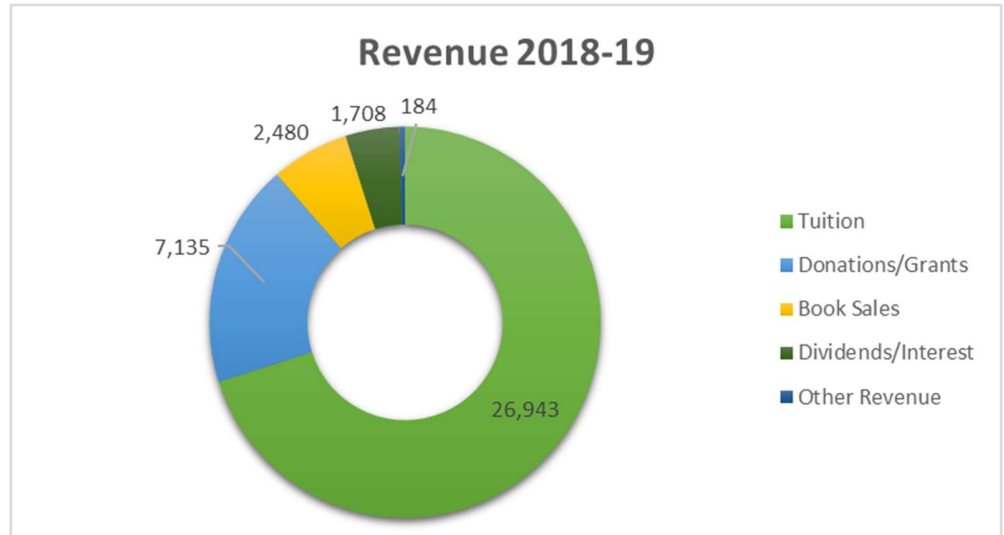
A summary of the financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2019 is provided at the end of this report.



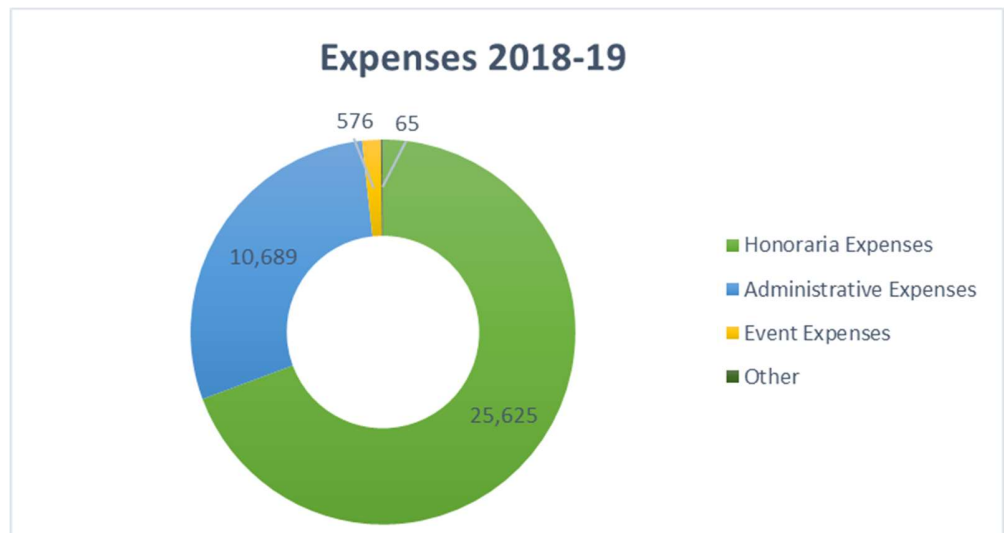
Thank you very much for your ongoing support!

For more information visit: www.german-language-school.ca
or Email: director@german-language-school.ca

2018-19 Financial Summary



The GHLS generated a total of \$38,451 in revenue during 2018-19 compared to \$37,639 in the prior year. The majority of revenue is generated through tuitions (70%) and donations (19%).



Overall, total expenses of \$ 36,955 are comparable to the prior year (\$34,086). Teacher and helper honoraria accounted for 69% of the total expenses.

For detailed financial statements, please go to: german-language-school.ca