

ENGLISH CENTER BASEL WHAT'S HAPPENING?

JULY-AUGUST 2012

News and Views from the Students and Staff

FREE ~ ISSUE 22

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Who's that?

CHRISTINE SEILER

Administrator

Christine is half French and half German. She was born in Bavaria, but her family moved just across the border – about 5 kilometers from the school – when Christine was six. Christine really enjoys living where she does, because of the great opportunities it offers. She says, "There are three countries together. You can profit from every country. You can go shopping everywhere. You have really nice landscapes, and the mountains are very close. You have bigger cities here. It's like a big region. I like Basel as a city."

Christine has been the administrator at the school for more than twelve years. Christine's job is quite varied. She does a lot of things: bookkeeping; doing statistics; ordering supplies; handling a number of other tasks like fulfilling staff requests; writing letters and answering e-mails; dealing with companies, etc.

She normally works from Monday to Friday during normal office hours.

From the beginning, Christine was warmly welcomed by the team and has felt at home here at the school ever since. She used to share an office with Moni – another long-time staff member – but Christine now has her own office because she got the chance to have a room with a view. Of course, she and Moni are still close, and Christine's door is always open; so everyone can come to her and everyone knows where to find her.

(See over to learn more about Christine)

ECB Crossword contest

PARTICIPATE!

In issue 21 of "What's Happening?", the ECB Crossword Contest was launched. It was the brainchild of Rudolf Schnider. Additional questions were posed by Aferdita Kryeziu....It's not too late to hand in your entry. The draw is on 19 July at our Speaking Practice Apéro.

Clues to the answers are at the school. Ask at Reception if you need help.

First prize: a unit of English studies at English Center Basel School of English for a friend of the winner (=450 CHF)

Second prize: a year's subscription to "The Basel Journal" (=78 CHF)

For info: www.journaldebale.ch

Third prize: an "English Center Basel School of English" T-shirt (=35 CHF)

PASTA CHARITY FESTIVAL FOR DOGS IN ITALY

by Karin Braun

Switzerland & Italy

On the sunny rooftop of English Center Basel School of English, 120 people came together on Saturday 23rd June to participate in an event organized by the "Stützverein Hundehilfe Mittelitalien" (SHM) and English Center Basel: the goal was to raise funds for Lia Campriani's dog shelter (Rifugio per cani Agrilia) in Ponte Patoli.

Lia Campriani is a 63-year-old animal lover who grew up in Umbria with dogs and horses. She had a long career as a show jumper. Later, she worked in the area of rural tourism (Agriturismo). During this period, Lia slowly started to adopt more and more homeless dogs. After some time, there were so many dogs that she stopped her touristic activities to focus on the care of the dogs.

Through a series of coincidences, Veterinary Dr. Gilbert Klaus, Andrea Tschopp and I found our way to Lia, and we were so impressed by her work that we founded the SHM to



For more info: www.hundehilfemittelitalien.ch

help Lia meet her high costs: more than 100 dogs need 80 kg of food per day plus medical care.

English Center Basel's owner has a good heart and his dog, Charly, the mascot of the school, came from Italy and also had a sad past.

Last Saturday, 120 guests came to the rooftop of the school to admire the view over Basel, to watch two "Laubholzkäfer" tracker dogs and a drug tracker dog perform and to have a wonderful salad, pasta and cake buffet. The evening ended with a

"dogs on the catwalk" parade which included a brief description of the dogs now living in loving and caring families. Each dog walked on the red carpet and received a "sympathy prize" from the public.

The SHM and English Center Basel are happy about the positive feedback received. The SHM has collected 14000 CHF to help the white-haired lady in Umbria pay for the planned renovation projects for her 140 dogs.

The Pasta Festival has contributed towards keeping Lia's project alive.



What's on at ECB

BARBECUE: 10 AUG

On 10 August we're holding English Center Basel's annual BBQ, so please come with your family and friends!

As soon as you receive your invite, please tell us if you can come and how many people you are bringing along.

We will provide the main food and drink but ask you to bring along a salad or a dessert to share.

Looking forward to welcoming you and yours on Friday, 10 August!

INFO EVENING

If you are thinking of taking the Cambridge University ESOL First Certificate (FCE) or Business English Certificate Vantage (BECV) exam, note that ECB's next Information Evening is on 26 July from 18:00.

Please sign up at Reception or telephone 061 269 41 41 to reserve your place at any of the following events:

SPEAKING PRACTICE APÉRO
A chance to speak English in a sociable and relaxed way.

Thursday, 19 July from 17:00 to 19:00

WHAT'S HAPPENING? MTG

A chance to suggest topics for the next issue of "What's Happening?" and to discuss new layout ideas.

Thursday, 26 July from 12:00 to 13:00

FCE/BECV INFO EVENING

A chance to find out about the exams and to sit an entrance test. If you cannot attend, you may take the test at another date. Please ask at Reception.

Thursday, 26 July from 18:00 to 20:00

ECB'S ANNUAL BBQ

A chance to speak with the staff of the school, meet fellow student and enjoy a summer evening with family and friends.

Friday, 10 August from 18:00 to late

My favourite British food

MINCE PIE

by Aferdita Kryeziu Albania

I want to write about Mince Pie because it is a historic recipe and an odd one.

Mince Pie is a sweet small round pastry tart filled with mincemeat and usually covered with a pastry top. It is traditionally served in Great Britain for Christmas and for New Year's Eve.



In medieval times, Mince Pie was called Chewette. Chewettes were baked or fried and were filled with pieces of meat or mixed with boiled eggs and ginger.

As a variant, Chewettes were filled with dried fruits and other sweet ingredients. In the 16th century, it developed into a specialty for Christmas.

During the 17th century, liver and meat was more often replaced by kidney fat. Since the 19th century, the Mince Pie has been a sweet pie in Great Britain and North America.

For more info, see wikipedia.org and thefreedictionary.com

What's your favourite food from an English-speaking country? Write in and tell us what it is and why you like it so much.

In my opinion

NO FACEBOOK

by Rudolf Schnider Switzerland

Do you have a facebook account? Do you have a hundred friends on facebook?

Do you have the daily pressure of answering all the inquiries? Accept or not accept?

At the moment, my daughter (she is fifteen years old) needs a lot of time (many hours) to answer all the inquiries every day. Sometimes, I ask myself: "What is the sense of facebook?"

Would I really like to tell all my friends on facebook what I am feeling at the moment? Or what I am doing now? Or which hobbies I have?

Do my facebook friends have time for me if I am sick? I don't think so, but if I want to organize a party, then all of these friends will have time for me. Is it important to have photos of myself on facebook?

No thanks! I don't use this opportunity for communication and I enjoy not being online. I prefer communicating with my real friends by a telephone call or an email or directly. I don't have to worry about somebody using some pictures of me inappropriately on the internet.

And what about you? What do you think about facebook?

Funnily enough...

ECB IS ON FB

Did you know that English Center Basel has a facebook account?

If you haven't been to it yet, please go and take a look. Feel free to write a comment on our wall.

My favourite App

VOCAB MOLE

by Nza Weilenmann Jamaica

Actually, I use this App on my iPhone to help me with my German.

Although I have spoken Swiss German for years, I sometimes have trouble with *der, die, das* and I find this little App both fun and helpful.

For info: <http://iOccam.com>

Write something for WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Topics for Sept & Oct

- When you were young, what did you do to earn pocket money?
- What happened the last time you spoke English? Was it funny or scary?
- What's your favourite App?
- Do you have a two-language family? How does this affect your children?
- Describe your last holiday.
- Have you ever worked in a country where you had to speak English? How easy was it to get your job and did you like the experience?
- What's your insider tip?
- Describe a city worth visiting.

DEADLINE: 21 AUG 2012

Please e-mail the editor:
JUNE_WINTERFLOOD@YAHOO.COM

