

Administration Bulletin

Week 49

- 1.** It was with sadness that we learned of the death of our friend and colleague Steffen Klem. Steffen has been a familiar face in Svanereden for the past years and will be greatly missed by all. NGG ID teachers have made a donation to the Heart Foundation in Steffen's honor.
- 2.** Secondary students will have Mock exams in English, Mathematics and Science in week 2 (the first week back after Christmas break). Please find attached the schedule of the exams. All students will be in for regularly scheduled lessons on Monday and Tuesday but only for Exam times/days for the rest of the week. Students should speak with their class teachers if they have any questions about the schedule.
- 3.** At today's in-service teachers will be meeting as a whole team and also as department teams to discuss differentiation, assessment & student reports examinations and more. These in-service afternoons are invaluable times for teachers to work together for the benefit of our students. We enjoy this time and hope all of the students enjoy their time off as well.
- 4.** At the NGG assembly on Friday; Dec 9th, classes will hear about the Christmas Bazaar and learn who won prizes for best decorated and most sold

etc. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to this seasonal event.

5. Important note from Karen Bøttger and Annette Wiencken:

If you have ever heard yourself say ‘Why bother to learn Danish? We are only here for two years, and everyone speaks English anyway’, please read on!

The parent session *Danish for Foreigners - why learn the host country language?* was intended for interested non-Danish parents in both Primary and Secondary departments. As only one parent signed up for this session we have decided to write our main points here instead. If interest resurfaces in the New Year, let me know and we will reschedule the session.

There are many good reasons why your children benefit from learning the host country language and even more importantly, something about the host country culture.

- Some basic survival skills are necessary for everyone living in a community with a different language but especially so for children, to enable them to ask for a turn on the swing in the playground or whether they can join in a game with the neighbour’s children.
- Learning about the Danish culture gives the child a sense of belonging, not only in our International community here at school but in the wider community. This feeling is of most importance to our most transient student population who can sometimes lack that sense of belonging.
- Developing an understanding of Danish culture develops the understanding of ‘others’ in the children. This ‘internationalism’, acceptance and tolerance of others is an essential part of the IPC and our school philosophy.

How can parents support their children at home with learning Danish if they don’t speak it themselves? Here are a few suggestions for you:

- Be a good role model and learn some Danish yourself! If your child sees you making an effort and taking an interest in the host country language, they will naturally follow. You can even study together!
- Encourage your children to play with local children- if official ‘playdates’ are too heavy going for all parties involved, then visit the local playground and encourage interactions.

- There are some great DR TV children's programmes and websites. Ask your child's Danish teacher for age appropriate recommendations.

Karen Bøttger and Annette Wiencken

Warm wishes,

Karen Johansen