

# THE

# CIRKEL

NGG International Department News

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## Thanks for a Wonderful Year!

By Karen Johansen

Another year has flown past; we can look back and reflect on good times, great achievements and positive changes. Thanks to everyone who contributed to make this a special year in our community.

The students- an eager, enthusiastic group, who never fail to amaze the teachers. Not only in class, in school, but also out in what we fondly refer to as the 'real world'. Our students are constantly praised for their knowledge, compassion and thoughtful reflection while visiting venues in around Copenhagen and our local area. They have adopted the change in curriculum next year with a natural curiosity and eagerness. They work hard in class and at play. Thank you to each and every student at NGG ID.

Our community of families supported teachers in class, on trips and through volunteer activities. Unique and essential components of the success we have in our community at NGG ID are the close relationships we share in our community: between students and teachers; teachers and parents; administration and students and of course parents and administration. These relationships are based on trust, respect, communication and sharing of ideas in an open-minded environment. Thank you to all families who are a part of our special community.

The Parent Council has a vital role as a bridge between parents and administration and the teachers. This support is shown in a multitude of ways from PC reps supporting teachers at a class level including class trips, fresh veggies and fruit on pasta days, school information distribution, reading and mathematics help, costume and prop support to mention just a very few. The list goes on and on – thank you to all PC Reps for your support.

The Parent Council Committees: Welcoming Team; Fund-raising; Events; Library; The Cirkel newsletter all play an important role in the community- working for the benefit of the students and their families, to ensure first of all, everyone is made to feel welcome and accepted within the community. Fund raising with Pasta/Pizza and Library book sales contribute immeasurably to the student's school life with purchases, funding for special events and trips and so much more. Special Events over the past year were enjoyed by students, parents and teachers alike. Our library continues to grow, at last count, over 7000 books which include English, Danish and Mother-tongue. The team has put in enormous effort to purchase, cover, sort, enter and generally 'deal' with all of these books. The monthly newsletter is received with enthusiastic response. Contributions by students, parents and staff ensure this is a lively forum to 'catch-up' on what is happening in our community. Thank you for your enormous efforts as you volunteer your time for the benefit of our students. PC Chairman Heather has been instrumental working closely with parents and the administration ensuring a smooth flow of information and contributing to strategic planning for the future. Thank you Heather, for your inspiring humor and boundless energy as we work together to enrich the community with new incentives for the benefit of our students.

I also wish to thank our teacher team, who took in their stride a major change this year with a new curriculum decision. Teachers have worked hard on short and long term planning, gathering new resources and absorbing all new curriculum syllabuses in preparation for implementation next year. Thank you for your positive , team work and enthusiasm.

*continued >*

## Continued from **Time to Say Good-Bye!**

Thank you to Jan Thrane and Torben Sundstrøm for your continued support. Your doors are always open to students, parents and teachers. Ideas are listened to, information is exchanged and support is given. It is unique, in a school as large as NGG, that everyone is welcome and will be heard at the very highest level of Administration.

It is always bittersweet at this time of year as we say a fond farewell to students and their families who are leaving us to move on to new schools in new countries. We wish you all the very best and ask that you keep in touch and come for a visit when you return to Denmark. You have 'done us proud' while you were with us and we know you will continue to do so, good luck to you all.

For returning families, we wish you a safe, relaxing summer break and welcome you back on August 11, with a morning coffee sponsored by the new Parent/Teacher Association (PTA).

Thank you all, for making NGG ID the community it is. I look forward to working with you next year on new incentives and with the new curricula. Together we can further develop our community making it yet stronger. Our common goal is our strength — looking to the future and working side-by-side to ensure each individual student's needs are met and each individual student is able to become the most he/she can.

Warm wishes for a wonderful summer, Karen.

## **Sweet Sorrow....**

Some people live in the same house, street, town or country for the whole of their lives. This is normal. We international families shuttle around the world like a tribe of nomads. We blend our cultures, children, parties, pasts, presents and, sometimes futures with relatively pleasurable ease and are more than accustomed to settling-down, making friends and putting-out rapid growth of root systems in record time. Some of us suffer terrible homesick pangs for our mother lands though; others wish they were in the next destination. But many more of us love the international life, and the delight that "you never know what, or who, is around the next corner" brings.

We are all about to lose friends at the end of term. My heart is welling-up as I think of my Scottish friend Rosie Kelly and her brood of perky girls that my children have spent several sweet formative years with. I've been

feeling a lump in my throat for a few months now; as I watch the dates fly by and that alarming day when her packers come is upon us. Bye bye Kelly family! Travel safe and remember that there is a warm welcome always over here!

So here I sit; dumped and heart-broken...again! I know many others of you will be saddened and moved by the loss of your own good friends and their families. This is the harsh flip-side of our international lives. Of course we recover, but this well travelled old heart is struggling with this one!

Good luck from us all to our departing friends, we are sure going to miss you!

Heather

## **Welcome to the Newbies....**

With the tears barely dry from all the sad farewells, we in the International Department know that the show must go on and that a boatload of new families will be reaching our shores in August. Hopefully to cheer us all up, share the ride with us and fill students, teachers and parents with our life blood of new energy, ideas and friendship around our little community. Welcome to all you new people from around the world! We hope to see you all on the first day of school for our celebrated "Welcoming Coffee morning." Tina and Lene of the Welcoming committee will be making contact with you, as will your PTA Class Reps beforehand.

**AUGUST 11th:**

Please come to the Welcoming Coffee Morning.

9:00am until 10:30am in the school canteen. Meet the PTA, your Class Representatives, fellow parents, the school administration and the PTA Chairman.

At 10:30 all teaching staff will come and introduce themselves.

**Every Last Wednesday:**

Every last Wednesday in the month the PTA and the Welcoming Committee invite all NGG ID families to an informal coffee, chat, café latte and open meeting.

First meeting:

9:00am, August 31st in the canteen.

## *Message from Heather!*

I have steam coming out of my ears after a very busy year for the PTA. I know that I am not alone in feeling ready to relax; thank you to all our caring volunteers who have done just that little bit more for our kids and school! The long vacation is very close now, but first our "Parent Volunteer Appreciation Day," on the 16th of June, "Sankt Hans Aften" event on the beach on the last day of term and this "bumper edition" of your school newsletter to possibly stash in your beach bag. It's been a challenging year, but we've come through with flying colours, and can gaze into our children's eyes with the knowledge that we still are doing the best by them and that they are getting a great education, as always, here at NGG ID.

The recent PTA meeting was terrific, the minutes of which you should all now possess and new letter from the PTA is now on our school website at [www.ngg.dk](http://www.ngg.dk). Please remember that the Cirkel newsletter is very much our mouthpiece, and that this is available on the website or in paper copy from the front office. One big change for us is our identity; with our group name shifting from the PC to the PTA. It's timely, we (along with the International Department itself) has been growing-up and have needed a new set of clothes/ haircut to suit our well-developed new form. In this newsletter I hope that you can absorb a little our new directions and initiatives. It's been a headache to put down in words, after a year of proposals, but I sincerely hope that this nifty "little black dress" that we have ready now to slip into, fits well and that we can accessorize it to our hearts content in the coming few months!

Wishing you all a great vacation!

Heather  
[heathergartside@gmail.com](mailto:heathergartside@gmail.com)  
PTA Chairman 2007 - 2011

# International Department PTA Groups



## PTA Chairman

**Heather Gartside Knudsen**  
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heathergartside@gmail.com



## Vice Chairman IPC

**Jo Jobling**  
mobile 2093 6193  
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## Vice Chairman CIE

**Anna Wieghorst**  
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## Executive Committee

**Bettina Farahani**  
mobile 3172 1466  
bettina@farahani.com



## PTA Finance

**Dorte Denker Schmidt**  
mobile 2282 3828  
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**Welcoming:** We want to help speedily settling and warmly welcoming all new families to NGG ID and introduce them to the lively school community.

On the very first day of school, August the 11th from 9:00 until 11:00, we will arrange a Welcome Morning coffee in the school canteen; an informal get-together for both newcomers, old timers, the PTA, the teachers, the NGG ID office staff and the administration. We will introduce you to all the useful contacts at school to help your settling-in be much easier and more pleasurable. Throughout the school year on the last Wednesday in the month we have a morning meeting/cafe in the NGG Canteen, where newcomers and old timers share experiences about life in Denmark and the NGG community. We look forward to meeting and welcoming you to our school!



**Lene Pedersen**  
mobile 3064 3212  
gottlieb@mail.dk



**Tina Thorsen**  
mobile 2136 5504  
tina.thorsen@btinternet.com



**Newsletter:** Needing to express your journalist flare? Savvy with a camera? Or closet creative looking to release your graphic design skills? The Cirkel is the place for you. Join NGG ID's newsletter team to bring news around the school from people around the world.

Contact Tricia Floro-Gybel at [pafloro@mac.com](mailto:pafloro@mac.com) or 5180 6044.

**Pizza:** MAMMA MIA CHÈ STRESS ! No stress on Fridays when packed lunches are replaced by a yummy slice of pizza.

Pizza's are ordered from the local pizzeria, we just have to count pizza boxes for every class.

Contact Jenny on 2849 1636 or [jvandenpanhuyzen@gmail.com](mailto:jvandenpanhuyzen@gmail.com) for a helping hand.



**Events:** Hi - Jo Jobling here, I have a son (Adam) who will return to school as a Grade 2 kid In August. Until recently I did a lot of voluntary work with LINK and I found it very rewarding. I'm now eagerly anticipating the opportunity to get my teeth into the Events at NGG ID!

On the calendar and in the pipeline are our regular annual events such as Halloween, Fastelavn and Sankt Hans, but with the aid and enthusiasm of some willing volunteers, I'm hoping we can all enjoy some ad-hoc activities along the way.

I'm also very enthusiastic about the International Day on September 10th, in happy collaboration with the home room teachers where we will truly get the chance to celebrate our diverse and beautiful multi-cultural school. This is such a great initiative and promises to be a heart warming event so I'd encourage you to join in if you can.

I'm also looking for fellow events enthusiasts! If you prefer not to commit to being a full-on volunteer, no problem. I need ideas and energetic people for one-off ad-hoc events too, so please contact me!

See you soon and have a wonderful summer, Jo x



**Jo Jobling**

mobile 2083 6193

joblingjoann@yahoo.co.uk

## Leisure Activities at NGG ID

**Yoga:** Five elements yoga class for beginners. Every Thursday at 9:15 for adults and at 14:00 for teenagers (tba when their last lesson finishes.)



Contact Marzena at  
m\_jachowicz@yahoo.com  
or 6074 8738.



**Walking the Dog:** Every Monday morning at 9:00 outside the school gate. Please join us for "walkies" with or without your furry friend.

Contact Heather on 5150 3099 or  
heathergartside@gmail.com.



### Football for Dad's:

Dad's football on the Astroturf at school. Monday evenings from 19:30 until 20:30.

Contact David Jobling on 2084 6193 or  
david.jobling@nokia.com.

**Culture Club:** Contact Jenny if you are interested in joining art (and lunch) appreciation group.

Our next proposed trip in August is to visit cookery writer Camilla Plum on her delightful farm near Helsingør.



**Jogging:** So you think you can't run? Well, think again. Come run with us at a relaxed pace for about 30 minutes (building up intensity as we progress).

Wednesdays at 9:00am. Meet at the gate just in front of playground.

Contact Jenny on 2849 1384 or  
jvandenpanhuyzen@gmail.com.



**Get Fit:** We have a fitness deal with the local "Form og Figur" centre just around the corner. In short the options are:

- One year membership at 3280 kr. (30% discount).
- 6 month tied up period at 319 kr. a month (around 27% discount).
- Start up price is 150 kr. for both membership deals.

Otherwise, a totally normal membership with same rules as everybody else. Only catch is that you have to contact me to get the necessary forms to apply and you can become member straight away.

Contact Anna Wieghorst at wieghorst@mail.dk.

# Parent Volunteer Appreciation Day

June 16, 2011





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# The PTA – An Overview

The NGG ID Parents/Teachers Association (PTA) is a very energetic group whose activities focus on the needs of the school, its students and families. Its general meetings comprise of an elected parent from each class together with representatives from the administration. We also plan future strategies and events that will support the school in the education of our children. Social meetings for the PTA members occur often throughout the year.

The PTA is considered a vital part of the NGG ID community. We take great pride in the strength of the parent-teacher relationships that exist in our school; both sides working together on a daily basis to provide a wonderful living and learning environment for our children's growth and development.

If you are a good organiser with a little spare time to sit by the computer... and the occasional meeting, then this is ideal for you.

## So what does a Class Representative do?

Minimum involvement would be:

- To represent your class parents in the NGG ID PTA that meets 2-4 times per school year and to keep the PTA Chairman up-to- date with your class issues.
- To be an initial contact for new parents/students joining your class and help them to become familiar with school routines. Liaising closely with the Welcoming Committee at these times
- To notify the editor of the school Newsletter (The Cirkel) of any class field trips or special activities and remind the teacher to send in a trip report. Also notify pizza if your class will be absent on a Friday
- To forward messages from the PTA Chairman and teacher to your families. You and your sub rep alone have the right to use the class list of parents email addresses.

The role can then be expanded on a voluntary basis as desired by mutual agreement between you, your class teacher and the class parents. It can include things like collecting money for birthdays, arranging coffee mornings when new parents arrive, or helping to arrange any parental assistance that may be requested by the class teacher; for example on school field trips, (you don't have to be the one to go though!).

You will have an elected substitute rep to help you. They can attend meetings in your place if you are unable to go and can generally help out in other ways.

## GETTING INVOLVED!

The PTA welcomes parents, old and new. All you need is an interest in our school, a little time and a positive outlook! We're always looking for new ideas and suggestions. Interested?

If so, make your interest known (lobby) to other parents in your child's class (perhaps ask if anyone would like to be your substitute rep) and make sure you come to the parent information and election evening that is normally held 2-3 weeks after the start of the new school year. This is when elections take place and the class teachers describe their yearly education plan.

If you would like to be active in school, but not as a PTA Class Rep, there are opportunities to join a number of leisure groups that are set up under the umbrella of the PTA. If you have any further questions do not hesitate contact me:

Heather Gartside-Knudsen – PTA Chairman  
heathergartside@gmail.com

# Newly arrived in Denmark?

We in the PTA strongly recommend this club as a great start for you and your family:



The Ladies International Network København

For the past 35 years, LINK has existed to provide women like us with opportunities to meet and socialise. It is a voluntary, not for profit organisation, existing to enrich the stay in Denmark of the ladies who join.

LINK has a lot to offer.... The newsletter gives a friendly and informative picture of the month ahead, member's reviews on previous activities, plus so much more. The website is vibrant and fresh – [www.linkdenmark.com](http://www.linkdenmark.com) – all you need to know about LINK and the subgroups, plus an on-line membership form to enable you to join quickly and easily.

Twenty Five subgroups..... These are the backbone of the group and exist to fill up your diary, with a diverse range of activities on offer every month. New groups include a North Zealand group, relaunched book group and golf group, Fish and Chip supper night, Morning Cooks, Teenagers subgroup and Funky Fridays. Check out the website for further details.

Regular monthly activities plus ad-hoc events....Relax at Coffee Call; enjoy new aspects of the city on a guided walk with a qualified city guide; be informed at our monthly meetings with interesting guest speakers. Take advantage of group discounted tickets for theatre productions; join our member's photography competition – winning shots go into a LINK calendar; participate in children's parties at Easter, Halloween and Christmas; "smørrebrød – how, what and why"; tour museums, playhouses and art galleries, enjoy canoeing and biking trips. So much on offer and we are always open to suggestions!

Annual Events.... Every member is invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to hear how the network is running. Get dressed up for our wonderful Snowball – the jewel in the crown of LINK's social calendar. This year's party is at the historic and beautiful Oddfellows Palae in Copenhagen.

What does it cost? An annual membership fee of 300kr applies to cover the administration and postage of the newsletter. If you want to join, please use our on-line membership application form at [www.linkdenmark.com](http://www.linkdenmark.com).

Most importantly..... LINK provides women like us with a place to start to make friends, build a support network and form a new life in Denmark. It is full of interesting, warm and welcoming ladies from all over the world – women like us!

# Time to Say Good-Bye

By Michelle Jensen



As many of you may have heard, and for those of you that haven't, I will be moving back to Canada this summer with my family. It feels surreal to be sitting here saying that and writing this little piece for the Cirkel News. As a result of this decision, I have recently been reminiscing about my 7½ years here at NGG ID and I have thought a lot about what I wanted to write. I have been thinking about what kind of phrase I could use that would sum up my experience in Denmark. The phrase that kept coming up in my head was, what a ride is has been!! So then I started thinking more metaphorically. Many people may feel that life is a ride, and everyone experiences the "good" rides, the "scary" rides, the "never again!" rides, but I think my ride has been the "wouldn't change a moment of it" ride. So, without getting too carried away and telling you my life story, I will tell you about my "wouldn't change a moment of it" ride.

It all started in about November 2003. I was living in England, had recently quit my office job (no, I am not a business person I discovered) and was planning my return to teaching. I had been in UK for 3 years and thought I was on my way back to Canada. Now, you may not realize, my family is Danish. My

father was born in Denmark and moved as a young boy to Canada. My grandmother on my mom's side was also Danish. So growing up we learned all the traditions and food of Denmark and I was always curious about the Denmark I heard so much about (but we never learned Danish unfortunately). Anyway, as I sat in the UK planning my exit, it was my dad who actually suggested I look at work in Denmark. I figured it was a long shot, but what was the harm in looking. So I got on the internet and checked out all the international schools in Denmark, and emailed them all asking about jobs. Guess which school was the ONLY one that replied...yep, NGG ID (or HIS as it was at that time). They told me to send a resume and if anything came up they would let me know. About a week later I sent it and figured that was my long shot moment and away I would go to Canada, but before I left I had always wanted a Christmas in Denmark. I arranged a flight to visit my dad's family for Christmas that year and planned to go back to Canada afterwards.

About a week after my resume was sent to Karen J, she wrote and said they had a job in Grade 5 starting in January if I was interested. I remember the day I got that email

so clearly. I sat frozen, staring at my computer screen, reading the email over and over. I was still in my office job working out my last month and my coworkers got worried thinking I had received bad news due to my sudden silence and frozen face. What were the chances that a school in DENMARK had a job in JANUARY when I was already going in DECEMBER!!! WOWOWOW! When the shock wore off, I wrote back and arranged a phone call with Karen and we arranged an interview. Within 24 hours I drove from Leeds to London, flew to Copenhagen at 7:00am, got to Hørsholm for the 10:30am interview, went to dinner, back to airport, back to London, drove to Leeds and went to work 2 hours later. NOT a recommended journey for anyone, but, it was worth it because I got the job.

One of my favorite memories of that time was meeting Jan Thrane. He reminded me of my grandfather (not in age, but jolliness) and when he began talking I just started to smile. I don't even remember what he said because all I was thinking was, "Wow! He sounds just like my grandpa!" BUT the funny part was, I never realized my grandpa spoke English with a Danish accent!

In December 2003 I arrived in Denmark again and boarded the "Wouldn't change a moment" ride. I came to the school in January 2004, but due to HUGE immigration issues I was not able to work until March. When I finally got to work, I was of course over the moon with excitement to not only be teaching again, but to be here, in Denmark!

Wow time has flown since that first class of mine. To give you an idea of how much we have grown as a school, my Grade 5 class that first year was only 5 students! Let's just say my teaching friends in other parts of the world were very jealous. That was the year of new things like, overnight trips, PYP documents, teaching Units of Inquiry, and just a whole new teaching experience.

I have to share just one story from that first year, one of my favorites. I took my little class of 5 students to Bornholm, for the first time... and teachers who were here then,

also remember this trip. It was the first time I had ever planned any overnight trip before. All was set, Karen J was coming with us. We had to meet at about 5:30am at Kokkedal. I went to bed the night before, all packed and ready. Good thing because I also set my alarm for 4:30pm instead of AM so it never went off. Karen J came and knocked on my door and window at our arranged time of 5:00am and I heard nothing. So at about 5:26am my phone rang and Karen Frank (who had to be woken up to get my phone number) said, "You are supposed to be at the train station!!" I can tell you I have NEVER moved as fast as I did that day. Luckily I lived right next to the station and I kid you not; I got to Rungsted station in 4 min from the time I got the phone call. I made it just as the train pulled up and found the class and Karen waiting for me. I remember getting on the train and feeling like I was going to collapse from the sheer panic and the fact I had only been awake for 5 minute. One of my students looked at me and said "Umm, I guess you did not have time to do your hair!" What can you do but laugh! Ever since then, I have never again slept well the night before I have to go on any trip, and I got a huge alarm clock from the class that year. It also took Jan Alling many years to stop teasing me about making it on time for any other class trips!

After that first class, I continued teaching grade 5 for two more years and had classes of 15 or more students, so a bit more realistic. I loved grade 5, but thought it would be fun to try some other classes too, so then I made the change to grade 3 and have been there, loving it, ever since. Also, I am one of those lucky teachers who, over the years, has taught all the PYP classes. First it was IT, then Drama, then Dance. I have loved these lessons because I got to know all the children and I still know the MYP students from my past classes.

When I look back, it is amazing to think of how my life has changed in a relatively short time considering a life span. I started out with a few distant Danish relatives I met a couple times and today I sit with friends from all parts of the world, a husband from

my dad's "homeland", and now a daughter born here. AND I am fluent in a second language!! Who would have thought!!

Never ever in my wildest dreams did I imagine this is where my ride would end when I left Canada in 2000.

I found some old diaries last week I wrote only weeks and months after I had moved to the UK to teach. It is funny, on almost every page I wrote something like "it is going to be so fun here, and so many cool things to see, but I KNOW it will only be for a year!" I remember the conversation I had with my best friend in my mom's kitchen days before I left, "I HAVE to come home in a year, my passport will expire and besides can you imagine if I was gone for 10 years, AS IF!!" I laugh to myself when I remember these thoughts because that was 11 years ago!

Of course nothing comes without some kind of cost, and I have, like many of you, missed out on numerous family affairs because I have been so far away. I have been through so many issues with immigration, I won't even go there. Then there has been learning Danish. Of course I am so glad now that I have done it, but WOW!! At least I know I have come a long way, because in my very first Danish class when they asked me, "Hvad hedder du?" I said, "Canada." And of course, as with any profession I have met my career challenges too. But now, all of these things seem so trivial in comparison to life's biggest challenge, becoming a Mom! And if that wasn't enough, a full-time working mom!! I have a new admiration for every mom out there. Don't get me wrong, Lily is the best thing that has ever come into my life, I just thought I had already made it through the hardest part of life's ride and babies would be the easier part!! HA!

Throughout the entire ride I have been on, one thing has remained constant, NGG ID. From the first day I walked in the door I have felt respected, supported, cared about, and even loved by colleagues, students and parents. NGG ID has been my family when things have been tough, when I was not

sure what to do, how to survive the "Danish" world, when I needed help with the language, when I missed my own family. ANYTIME, I have needed anything, I have always known there are people inside these walls that would understand what I was feeling, would listen to me and help me however they could. These same people have made me laugh, smile, encouraged me, inspired me and taught me SOOOO much. I can say honestly, I probably would have left Denmark sooner if it had not been for everyone at this school.

My husband and I have talked for a long time about "one day when we move to Canada" and he has been ready for a while now, but every time we use to talk about it I would always say "I cannot leave my job, it is a teacher's dream job", and I still feel this way. It is a dream job and it is the one part about leaving that is the hardest for me. However, my new ride is waiting, the "Family First" ride and right now that has to start in Canada with my family.

So, I guess it is time to end and finally say the dreaded good bye. My ride has ended and I leave sad but satisfied because it has been one of the best rides of my life and I would not change a minute of it.

To all the parents, thank-you for supporting me while I have taught your children. To all my colleagues, thank-you for ALWAYS being there for me no matter what. To all the students, thank-you for being you, I feel lucky to have been your teacher. NGG ID has a special place in my heart. I am going to miss everyone dearly, but I promise when we come to Denmark I will visit. So let's say på gensyn instead (see you later)!



# They're back...

By The NGG International Department PTA



The head lice are back in town and sucking the blood of someone that you love! It would be so wonderful if every student (and their siblings) at school could get checked, combed and given the green light this long summer vacation. Repeat the procedure of scrupulous combings over a few weekends, and working together we could fight back effectively from this irritating invasion. Apart from intensive combing and cleansing, honesty from parents goes a long way in helping to corner these ancient menaces to hairy humanoids! If you do find lice or nits (the eggs) this weekend, or at any time of the year, then please inform your class rep. Your rep can then inform your child's class parents that there is an anonymous sufferer (who has now treated the infestation) and so get really get to grips with the battle.

United we will conquer! (Divided we get to take the nits on a round the world trip this summer!)

## Nits and Lies

*With the recent outbreak of nits at school, I thought I'd run this nit busting article that I wrote a few years ago. Enjoy and stop scratching! < Heather*

Oh dear...we have been playing hosts to a few small visitors over the past week. They came round on "store lusdag" for a long weekend in the country and liked it so much that they moved in. It's not the first time that we have had lice; all through the three fun filled winters in Danish børnehaven my kids came home every so often with that "lousey" look that my childhood Jack Russell dog used to get when it had fleas (something shifty about the eyes?) We have blitzkrieged all hairdo's in the house. Bedding, pillows, hats and favourite fluffy toys have been out in the frosty weather, snapping the washing line with the weight and upsetting the kids as "Bunny Boo", "Leo" and "Vow Vow" dangled from their nitty ears in the frigid air.

I'm exhausted, the washing machine has a death rattle and I know that

I'll have to "nuke" the family again before we take our Agent Orange resistant nits off on a nice holiday to England next week. In between all this frantic cleansing I have come up against a strange phenomenon; nobody admits about having lice. As a class rep I felt it my duty to lay our nits on the line, one family came clean...but for all I know we are pioneer nit farmers happily spreading our produce to all and sundry? The bottom line with nits eradication is honesty....if anything it shows that you are clean, as lice love a nice head of freshly washed hair. Plus it shows that your kids are social success stories; I never had nits as a kids...I also had no friends as we lived in the middle of nowhere; it's a dilemma isn't it!

We had nits last year in Australia too....not in the beginning, as we had no friends to share them with. But once the kids started school we were in for a bumper

crop. Oh happy days! Sat by the pool like a group of baboons whilst combing and combing my sun-kissed babes infested locks, the washing machine hums, my kids squeal and the lorikeets swish brightly by. All Australian school children had to wear wide brimmed sun hats before they could go out to play (the most perfect moist and warm environment for the juiciest lice that I've ever had the horror of snapping with my fingernails.) There again, no fuss made at school, no families coming clean and sorting their contagion out properly. "Nits and Lies". Was it like this during the several onslaughts of the Great Plague? Another bit of juicy "nit Info" that came out in our trip to Australia was that a friend from Darwin, in the Northern Territory, told me how it was part of aboriginal kids playtime to catch a louse on their own head and pop it into the hair of a pal. Now that's what I call friends!

Heather (Nit-free for now) Knudsen

# ALT FOR DAMERNES KVINDELØB 2011

## (Just for the Ladies Run 2011)

By Heather Gartside Knudsen

On one of those quintessential Danish summer days, with perfect high rolling clouds and small yachts out on the sparkling blue sea; a group of spirited moms, teachers and female students from the International department assembled ready to run as a team in this major sporting event. The venue was great; Amager Strandpark and a cool breeze from the sea cooling down our feverish brows as we pulled-on our race T-shirts with pride and shopped till we dropped with bags bulging full of free samples. It was great fun and a really positive experience for us all. Here are a few comments from some of the "Dream Team!"

**Anna Studsgarth, Grade 3:** At 6.30 Wednesday evening, more than 4 thousand women and girls ran the "Kvindeløb" along Amager Strandvej. My mum and I went together with quite a few others from school including Heather and Sasha, Michelle B, Karen B, Roisin, and Mary & Elizabeth Kosco. It was lots of fun and I will definitely do it again!"

**Sasha Knudsen, MYP1:** A great experience, and lots of free goodies; I'm definitely doing it next year!! :)

**Heather Knudsen:** This was the first official 5km run I have ever attempted. It was such great fun and if an ex-slob like me can accomplish this, get a huge bag of wonderful free sporty products, enjoy the wonderful company of fellow spirited moms and daughters, and a delicious gourmet picnic on a summer evening with 2000 other healthy people...then what's keeping you? Great idea Michelle! Bring it on for the next race in September!

**Rosie Kelly:** Didn't run a metre but still felt stiff in the legs the next day! Mary and I had a great time walking the 5kms along the beach and we were only 20 minutes behind the runners! Lovely evening, great food and nice company - who could ask for more!



# Summer Beach Collections

As you remember, our lower primary teachers were lucky enough to enjoy a day of Professional Development led by Dr. Lesley Snowball, way back on 5th May. Lesley has previously been involved with Curriculum development in the school, led a whole school Language workshop back in 2008 and has led several professional development workshops since then which our teachers have attended.

Math their Way takes a practical approach to the teaching of mathematics and its core philosophy is to give the youngest students time and opportunity to explore number in a wide variety of ways. We would like to equip all our lower primary classrooms with a wide variety of materials for counting and sorting and would like your help with this over the summer vacation! If you find yourselves on a sunny beach and need a focus for half an hour, please equip your children with a bucket or two for gathering small (coin sized) pebbles and shells.

In August, there will be two jars in my office for the collections (They should be collected separately please).

I hope we can work together to create this valuable resource and have some fun while doing so!

Happy collecting,

Karen Bøttger  
Curriculum Coordinator

## Grade 4: Trip to Knuthenborg Safari Park

By Katherine, Grade 4

First we met at the school at 8:00 and then we set off in the bus. It took two hours. Boring!

Finally we got there. We went to the adventure playground. It was so fun. My favorite thing about the playground was the raft you pulled a rope and then you could sail across the lake on a squared piece of wood. The tree house was brilliant and the bridge. It was all fantastic. We all had lunch and then we went to see the donkeys. They were very soft. After that we went on a tour of the park. First the lady told us a little bit about the history of the park and the old castle that used to be there. We went to see the wolves, we were, but in

the bus of course. I saw them playing with each other. It looked like they were all fighting but the lady told us they were actually not. Then we went to see the tigers. All the tigers were two years of age. They are bigger than lions she said. I did agree. They were huge tigers. We left and went to the rhino's and the zebras. They were very nice to look at. I saw one of them bathing in a mud pool. Next up the monkeys! Monkeys are my all time favorite animal. We went to them into their insular and I saw the cutest thing, a monkey with a little baby monkey on her back. We all had an ice cream and then went on the monkey train. We were given some food to give to the monkeys.

And to my surprise a monkey jumped up on the window and started eating all the food I was giving to him. I went on the train two times because I loved it so much.

We went back to the adventure playground and played for another 30 minutes. Then we had cake for the people who are leaving the school; Julie, Linnea, Mahzeeb and Lauri. We gave them little presents each to remember by. Sadly we had to go home. We sang our animal songs on the way back in the bus and then we were at school. I am sure we were all tired. It was a very good trip.

# Grade 2: Trip to Helsingør

By Josh Whitehead

Grade 2 really impressed Karen Böttger and me (Josh) on our overnight adventure.

The children took everything in their stride - it was great to see The Green Gang (hoodies designed by Iona) so relaxed (some extremely so!) and happy. They didn't have much time to think about what they were missing at home and even being in the dorm was an adventure! Here's a very brief summary of what we did:

**Monday** - aquarium; beach; hostel settling in; hostel play; dinner; postcard writing; quiet time/football/cheerleading(!).

**Tuesday** - breakfast; sandwich-making; train to Hornbaek (lunch, play, photo hunt, drawing); hostel play; shepherd and blindfolded sheep challenge; dinner; running and outdoor games.

**Wednesday** - packing; tidying and sweeping room; breakfast; sandwich-making; walk to Kronborg; Maritime Museum; dungeons; train to Kokkedal.

The children reflected enthusiastically on the trip and were excited about what we did and proud of their attitude in challenging circumstances. They demonstrated all attributes of the Learner Profile:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Principled</b>    | The children were very careful when handling the aquarium's sea creatures. |
| <b>Reflective</b>    | We made a video of the children's reflections when we got back to school.  |
| <b>Balanced</b>      | The trip was educational, active and healthy.                              |
| <b>Knowledgeable</b> | We learned about the sea, ships, trading and settlements.                  |
| <b>Risk-takers</b>   | Where do I start?!   |



- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Inquirers</b>     | Lots of intelligent questions for Benjamin at the Maritime Museum.          |
| <b>Open-minded</b>   | The children adapted impressively to their new surroundings.                |
| <b>Thinkers</b>      | Thoughtful answers to tricky questions about sea creatures in the aquarium. |
| <b>Communicators</b> | The girls' big dorm chatted until quite late, I hear!                       |
| <b>Caring</b>        | More experienced overnights (and teddies) looked after the first timers.    |

A special thank you to Karen, we were extremely lucky to have her experience, enthusiasm and kindness. Many thanks also to the mums and dad who took care of our baggage - an exceptionally smooth operation.

Well done Grade 2 - what a team! As Lilia said after facing her fears about being blindfolded,

"I knew I could do it because I had all my friends around me."



# Frankie Goes to Hollywood But MYP 1 Goes to Berlin

By Derek Scott

Berlin: This was a destination we had visited before. However, this year we decided to try to find a few original things to do. We did not have the time to visit the Olympic Stadium, but the things we did instead were even more memorable! The energy-burning highlight of our stay in Berlin was to play beach volley, with Michelle our PE teacher as referee, in the shadow of the former Berlin Wall. There is a Beach Park near Nordbahnhof and we can recommend it, both as place for fun and serious sport and also as a great place to eat, with good prices – even if the burgers didn't come with chips. Something got lost in the translation! (We forgot to say "Und chips!" presumably.) The weather was kind when we were playing, and it was amazing to be "on the beach" - yet nowhere near the ocean!

On a more serious historical and political note, I was able to book a guided tour for the class, in English, around the interior of the Reichstag, the redesigned German parliament



building that celebrates the re-unification of Germany after a half century of division. We had always been able to visit the glass dome on the roof (designed by architect Norman Foster) on our previous trips; but this year we were inside the parliament chamber itself and even in the chapel – an little secluded place of quiet contemplation and private worship, that we did not even know existed. The security was amazing – not least because the UN had given the go ahead to intervene in Libya just a couple of days earlier. Getting in, the security was exactly like in an airport – WE EVEN HAD TO SHOW OUR PASSPORTS! But it was SERIOUSLY worth it, and we felt very privileged. It was all the better because we could compare it with the Danish Parliament – which we had visited just one week earlier. (See the May issue of The Cirkel.)

There are some photos from our visit to Berlin accompanying this article.

We used the rest of the time to take an open top bus tour, to visit Checkpoint Charlie, the Zoo, the Sony Centre, the Jewish Museum, the Memorial to the Jewish dead from the Nazi era, Kurfürstendamm, the Brandenburg Gate, the amazing Technology Museum – with a real live aeroplane up on the top floor! We also visited the East Side Gallery

and the Panorama Punkt, which is 24 storeys up, on the roof of the highest skyscraper overlooking Potsdamer Platz. You reach the roof by using the fastest lift in Europe, which takes under 10 seconds from the ground floor! (THERE WERE NO STOPS...)

These were great experiences, crammed into two full days and two half days – so we had a very intense, tiring, memorable experience of this great city and came away with a strong sense of its history and a lasting impression of its wonderful energy.





## Fun Football After School Club

By Daniela Olafsson

On Wednesday the 15th of June, we had our yearly Football Match of the Year. This time with a twist we had 4 "guest" players from the Danish side (Gr. 5). We put all of our football stars together, mixed them and out came two brand new international teams! The two teams consisted not only of boys but girls too!

We had a fun afternoon and the match ended in a tie. In the last seconds of the extended playtime the yellow team scored and won with 5 goals to 4!!!

Gold medals to the winning team and silver medals to the team that came second. Each player got a congratulatory handshake. The prize giving ceremony was taken care of by Jan Thrane.



# SAVE THE DATE!

## NGG ID International Day

On Saturday the 10th of September all NGG ID families are kindly invited to an event to welcome you all back to a new semester and to our new families

"The NGG ID International Day:" Sports, parades, an international lunch and a chance to spend so me quality time with all international teachers, students and parents.

Best regards,  
Karen Johansen and the PTA

# Events, Activities & Ads



## Romeo and Juliet (anno 2011)

Come and share the drama and excitement with us!

**When:** Wednesday, 22th June

**Time:** 18.30

**Where:** The Big Gym, NGG

Actors, dancers, singers all from our own MYP 1, 2, 3 and 4!

**Who is invited:** Parents, friends, family and everybody interested in a Modern Danish version of Romeo and Juliet!

**Entrance fee:** Free

Looking forward to seeing you all!

Written in Danish by Bina Hjorth, Director of the Music School in Hørsholm  
(Translated by Daniela Olafsson, Drama Teacher)

We want to thank NGG (Jan Thrane) for paying the costs for the projector and screen.

A big thanks also to IRMA Vedbæk for sponsoring us!  
(REMEMBER... Irma VEDBÆK is open everyday from 9.00 to 20.00... 7 days a week)

Special thanks to Janet Dagfri for helping with the Belly Dancing and Manuel Rocamora Falcone for the Michael Jackson Dance.

Your help is highly appreciated!!!!

It was and still is lots of fun working with the MYP's, especially MYP 4. I would like to say a special thanks to Karin Swiegers (Music Teacher) and Michelle Bentsen (Dance and PE Teacher) for being a part of our Romeo and Juliet Project!

Daniela Olafsson  
Drama Teacher (MYP)



## *REMEMBER: A Midsummer's Nights Eve*

Nivå Strandpark, 2990 Nivå

On the last school day and the eve of the longest day of the year, (in Danish, "Sankt Hans Aften," the 23rd of June) the PC would like to invite all NGG ID families and friends to a leisurely picnic on the big, child-friendly and sandy beach at Nivå. On this special night we'd like to give some big hugs to each other and some farewells to all those of you who are leaving this school this summer. Apart from the sad bits, we hope to make a big, jolly and very beautiful celebration for us all for the third year running. Bring along with a nice big dish of food to share, a camping table for the food service, drinks for your family, a blanket or beach chairs and some dry wood or kindling for our fire...the more the merrier! This year we will also be having a sand castle building competition, so please provide the kids with buckets and spades. We'll be there at 17:00 until late with a little pavilion (does anyone have one that we could use?), ice creams for the kids, marshmallows and cookies to make s'mores over the bonfire, plates, cups, knives and forks. There will also be a huge bonfire being started by the locals at around 21:00 on the waterfront, which is also a wonderful treat. A fair few of us will stay very late, after all there is no school the next day!



### Elderflower Cordial / Hyldeblomstsirup

(Compliments of Heather)

It's that heady time of early summer in Denmark again. I've noticed in the past couple of weeks' the elderflowers coming into bloom, so I'll make a batch to serve at the Parent Volunteers reception on the 16th. Hope that you enjoy it! The following recipe is a local one, and is simplicity itself for making this wonderfully perfumed syrup.

#### Hyldeblomstsirup

(Approx 4 litres)

20 large heads of elderflower

3 kg sugar (yes it is a lot!)

6 sliced lemons

3.5 litres of cold water

40 g of citric acid (citronsyre from the bakery shelf at Brugsen)

Atamon (for washing the bottles, also from Brugsen)

Shake the perfect heads of elderflower to remove any insects. Place them in a large clean bucket

with sugar, lemon, citric acid and water. Cover with a cloth and leave for 3 to 4 days. Stir and squeeze the ingredients at least 4 times a day. Strain the mixture through a clean tea towel and pour into pretty bottles, previously rinsed in Atamon. This cordial should be kept in the fridge for no more than a couple of weeks. I tend to freeze big plastic bottles (3/4 full to allow for expansion) of it in my freezer to remind us of the summer in the middle of winter.

This cordial is wonderful served with iced water, sparkling water, white wine, champagne and gin. The tiny flowers that escaped the straining process look beautiful floating in your glass!



## After School Art and Design Classes

### Fashion, Textile and Accessory Design:

An after school activity for Cambridge students in September 2011. To motivate, give skills to and inspire students into creating their own designs, culminating in a fashion show in December. Our first project will be to learn how to sew with a machine, followed by making tie-dyed sarongs with our sewing efforts.

**Art and Design:** Cambridge students join me on an experimental journey through many different artistic disciplines and media. We begin in September and culminate the course with an exhibition of the work in January. Our first project will be making fantasy furniture from recycled items.

**Christmas Gift Workshop:** Both older IPC and Cambridge students are invited to this fun craft-based workshop, beginning after the autumn vacation and up until Christmas.

At this early stage I would like to know if there are many students out there interested in any of these classes, so that I can begin to order materials and prepare. I will only run the classes if I get enough numbers. Please contact [heathergartside@gmail.com](mailto:heathergartside@gmail.com) if there is something in this for you or your child.

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