Greetings from The PTA Chairs

Hello!

 Our names are Regine Ahner, Caterina Veronese and Krista White and we are three newest officers of the PTA's Executive Core Team.  At Wednesday's Annual PTA General Meeting, we were fortunate enough to be elected as your new PTA Chairs for the next two years.  We are delighted to take on this new “Tri-Person role” that Gabriella Popescu has so graciously headed and committed her time to for the past three years.  We have some exciting ideas to propose and implement this year but FIRST, Back to Basics....If you are new to the school or even new to getting involved in this organization, you might be asking, “What Exactly is the PTA and of Whom is it Comprised?” General PTA membership is for EVERYONE! Our members are parents, family members, school staff, and community members part-time workers, full time workers, and those who fill the roles in between. It is for anyone in the VIS community who wants to be a part of an organization that helps provide enriching and enjoyable programs, resources, and services that will maximize the education and well-being of our children—not to mention, It’s FUN! In fact, if you are receiving this newsletter as a VIS community member, then you are automatically a PTA member!  It is just up to you how much or how little you would like to get involved.  The VISPTA is especially unique because we are such a diverse international group of people coming together for the benefit of a greater commitment to our school community—most importantly, our children.

 In addition to General Membership (everyone) and the PTA's Executive Core Team of officers (Chairs, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer), the PTA also consists of an elected 24 member PTA Executive Committee. These 24 members were also voted and confirmed at Wednesday’s meeting (2 year term) and will meet on the first Wednesday of each month to discuss upcoming events, projects, ideas, make executive decisions, and vote on proposals.  Thank you to those who attended the annual meeting and either continued your executive representational role, or ran for a new one. (All general members are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly PTA meetings, by the way.)

 What will community events will the the PTA be sponsoring this year? We have quite a few upcoming community events sponsored by the PTA to raise money and in turn, re-invest in our school and children through donations and programs. We also have some new ideas in the pipeline to be proposed and announced soon. Here is a list of what’s on the 2018/2019 schedule so far with future specific dates TBD.

* Welcome Picnic - (Terrific turnout on September 8, 2018)
* Semester Coffee Mornings - (first ones already held on: September 5th (Primary school) & Sept 6th (secondary school) More to come!
* Winter Market - Fundraising event whereby students put together seasonal crafts, games, food, and drinks for the community.
* PTA Rocks - Fundraising event which also provides a night out for parents and teachers. VIS community musicians are the entertainment!
* Bingo Family - “Calling B-7, that’s B-7” Fundraising event with fabulous prizes and lots of fun!
* Summer Bazaar - Fundraising event (opened to the general public) providing a flea market, second hand book and toy sale, international food stall and children’s games.

As with any successful organization, Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

So, without any further adieu we’ve got some shoes to fill for a variety of roles…

* **Bingo Family Day Organizer Needed**- This PTA social fundraising event is a favorite with the kids. We need someone to chair this event. You will not be doing it alone. You WILL have help!
* **Booster Club Volunteers Needed** - Can you volunteer at least one hour of your time at the Booster club on Mondays? The Booster Club sells American style snacks and refreshments after school Monday - Wednesday from 2:50-5:00pm. We are currently looking for Monday volunteers.
* **French Teacher Needed** - Do you speak French or know someone who would like to lead a weekly French conversation club? We have many people who want to learn and practice this language. We need someone willing to teach and lead this group.
* **Lost and Found Coordinator Needed**- Looking for several volunteers who are willing to gather and organize lost and found items as they accumulate throughout the year. This coordination is currently done twice a year but could be done more often if we get enough people to step forward and help sort.
* **PTA Shop Volunteers Needed** - Can you volunteer 45 minutes of your time in the PTA shop on Fridays from 8:15am to 9:00am? The PTA shop sells school accessories, clothes for PE, instruments, and more. We are looking for a Friday volunteer.
* **Summer Bazaar Coordinator Needed** - This PTA event provides the school community the opportunity to take part in a flea market, books and second hand toy sales, as well as an international food hall. You won’t be doing alone, but we need someone to Chair this event.
* **Seminar Organizer Needed** - Do you have ideas for seminars? We need an organizer to arrange and organize interesting seminars and speakers for PTA members to attend.

If you would be willing to step forward for one of the volunteers roles above then we welcome your help and WE NEED YOU!

 “Do I have to Volunteer,” you ask? The answer is No. No one is required to volunteer. In fact, it is perfectly acceptable to maintain your general membership status and attend any of the diverse social clubs and activities. (see list below in the new “Communication Corner”)

 Once again, if you can volunteer for one of the above roles OR if you have another interest in which to volunteer, please contact us at ptachair@ptavis.com   In the meantime, (and in addition to) check out the wonderful array of social clubs in which to get involved.  We have started a communication corner below with specific email addresses that will always be listed in this section as a fast and easy reference.  Please read through the emails and don't hesitate to send a note for more information, questions, or to sign up for individual distribution lists.

 Come get involved in the many facets of the PTA and discover a whole new world (literally) at VIS! We are excited to transparently serve the school community in this new capacity.

Kindest Regards from your new Chairs,

Caterina, Krista, and Regina

Communication Corner!

Social Networking:

* FACEBOOK- Search  "PTA VIS"   (Currently 467 Members – Let's UP that Number Exponentially! Come join our Page!)

\*Below is a quick reference guide with email addresses and short descriptions of PTA offerings:  Please send an email if you have questions, would like to sign up for classes, or are interested in joining any activities.

* **Contact the Chairs:** ptachair@ptavis.com (Contact the Chairs: Regine Ahner, Caterina Veronese, Krista White.
* **Communication, Communication, Communication**: hotline@ptavis.com (We have created a hotline and WANT to hear from you! Send us your comments, suggestions, new ideas, or concerns.)
* **Book Club**: Info coming soon.
* **Booster Club**: boosterclub@ptavis.com (Join the Booster club. Help sell snacks after school, support sporting events, and more. Opening Hours are: Monday - Wednesday 2:50 - 5:00pm. Looking for Monday volunteers.)
* **Buddy Family Program**: buddyfamily@ptavis.com (Offer support and sponsor new families at VIS or request a buddy family/sponsor once you arrive. Always looking for sponsors.)
* **Cooking**: cookingclub@ptavis.com (Learn how to make delicious international cuisine once a month on Mondays. Next class: Sri Lankan Cuisine, Oct 15 12:30-2:00pm)
* **Culture**: cultureclub@ptavis.com  (Join us as we go on monthly cultural field trips.)
* **German Conversation Club**: elisabethriecken@hotmail.com  (Come practice your German skills and converse with others. Free beginner trial lesson: Monday, Oct 8th @ 1:30pm at Room VISMA2. Advanced level (B1-B2): Tues Oct 9th @ Starbucks DZ. Classes every week except school holidays)
* **Grants**: grants@ptavis.com (Do you have an idea for an idea that you would like to propose for a PTA grant?  This year's grant deadline is Oct 26th)
* **Hobby Club**: hobbyclub@ptavis.com (Do you have any talents to share OR Do you have any special skills you would like to learn how to do? We need your ideas, suggestions, skills, and we need presenters.)
* **Newsletter Editor**: newsletter@ptavis.com (Have something to put in the PTA section of the newsletter?  Submissions must be made by Wednesday evening 8:00pm for display in Friday’s PTA section of the school newsletter.)
* **Parenting Workshops:** writetorachelle@gmail.com (6 workshops on various upcoming Mondays 08:30-11:00am. Oct 8th: Engaging Co-operation, Nov 5th: Alternatives to punishment and problem solving, Nov 12th:encouraging autonomy, Nov 19th: new ways to praise and self esteem), and Nov 26th: freeing children from playing roles)
* **Primary Social**: pcpcoordinator@ptavis.com (If you would like to be on the list to receive information on primary level social events or be on your primary grade level mailing list.)
* **PTA Shop:**  ptashop@ptasvis.com (Join the PTA shop volunteers where we sell school accessories, clothes for PE, instruments etc. Opening Hours are: Tuesdays 2:30-4:00pm & Fridays 8:15-9:00am. Looking for Friday shop volunteers.)
* **Running**: runningtalkies@ptavis.com (Run with the running group every Tuesday throughout the school year @ 8:45am. Meeting point: Prater, in front of Republik Kugelmugel. Psssst: there are fast walkers that join in too!;)
* **Spanish Conversation Club**: andreaniknia@yahoo.com (Weekly Spanish Conversation classes. Write for more info).
* **Secondary Social**: secondarysocial@ptavis.com (Keep in touch with other secondary parents or be added to the mailing list for your specific secondary grade level)
* **Walking**: Walkietalkies@ptavis.com (Walk with the walking club every Thursday morning throughout the school year @ 8.40am. Meeting point: Ubahn Kagran, the exit from Siebekstrasse.)