

PTO NEWS

Fasching and Rosenmontag International Spring Fair

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers,



Fasching:

We hope the kids had a great time at school today, showing off their costumes and enjoying the activities set up by the PTO. A big thank you to all the volunteers, who helped us today.

But what is Fasching? It is a celebration marking the beginning of the Lent for Christians, but some traditions go further back in time. The carnival week starts on the Thursday ("Weiberfastnacht") before Ash Wednesday. German carnival parades are held on the weekend before and especially on *Rosenmontag* (Rose Monday), the day before Shrove Tuesday, ("Faschingsdienstag"). The carnival season begins each year on 11 November at 11:11 a.m, and ends on Ash Wednesday. Celebrated on almost all continents, the Carnival has different names: Mardi Gras in the United States (in New Orleans), Maslenitsa in Russia, Fašiangy in Slovakia, Busójárás in Hungary, Murga in Argentina, La Diablada in Bolivia, etc. It is a festival of colorful costumes showing different countries' traditions, but also food, and lots of fun. (source: Wikipedia)



International Spring Fair (ISF)

This year's ISF will take place on **Saturday, May 12th, from 11am to 3 pm at the school.**

Parents, teachers and students will have the opportunity to bring traditions from their own countries, such as specific foods, clothing, art, but also informative materials. Some items will be for sale. Display tables will be provided by the PTO. Although, the list may change, so far, representatives from the following countries will participate at the fair: Australia, Azerbaijan, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, and the United States. We welcome representatives from more countries and regions, such as Africa, North Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Russia, etc. If you want to help with your country's stand, please let us know; volunteers are needed to make/bring things and man the stands during the fair. For all inquiries, such as names of countries' representatives and other questions, please contact the following PTO members:



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Mark your calendars: Our next meeting with ISF participants will take place on

Thursday, February 23, at 1:30 pm in the school's conference room.