



Annual Report

School Year 2020/21



INTERNATIONAL
MULTILINGUAL
SCHOOL

Introduction

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be able to present you with this year's Annual Report focussing on the development of our school and celebrating the terrific achievements of our pupils and the whole school community.

The last school year, 2020/21, again presented challenges due to Covid-19 - and ensuring that we were able to remain open and prevent any breaks in education for our pupils was a priority. Certain restrictions have of course continued into this school year, but I think that we can all be proud of how the situation has been handled.

I would again like to express my sincere thanks to all of our parents and school staff for their collaboration and support in continuing our children's education during this challenging time. It was again great to see just how much we could all develop through positive support and engagement.

Neal Brown
School Director

Zurich Kindergarten and Primary

Throughout the 2020/21 academic year, our school continued to grow, with 165 children attending Tandem IMS at our Zurich location. It has been a pleasure to witness this growth, and we are very happy to be able to offer our high-quality education and care to so many children.

During the year, it was noticeable just how well our children had been able to keep up during the lockdown that had been in place in the previous school year. Not only had the children developed their IT skills further, but they were able to keep track of the learning goals expected to be reached across each age level. Despite a year of teachers (and some children) having to wear masks, and restrictions on children being able to interact with those in other classes, it was wonderful to see how the children adapted to be able to continue their learning. It was also highly impressive that our teachers managed to keep up this level of support, particularly during phases when many staff members were having to be placed into quarantine.

One of the main goals that we had set ourselves was to continue developing IT across the school. The lockdown in the previous year had meant that there were many new platforms being used to support the children, but we had to begin to assess the validity of these upon the return to regular lessons and to decide as a school which ones we would continue with as a part of our curriculum. Google Classroom and many of its associated products have remained in use to develop children's learning and to facilitate teaching in a range of subjects. On top of this, we also worked as a school to develop a new App with the providers of our school database in order to refine our communication with parents. After a trial phase in the latter half of the year, this was then launched officially to all parents in August.



Zurich Kindergarten and Primary

As with every year, we were very sad to say goodbye to our 6th Graders in July. The majority of the class have since continued to FGZ's Pro-Gymnasium, whilst the remainder entered Secondary A level schooling. All have made a smooth transition, and it has been nice to see the children come back to visit us regularly and inform us on how they are progressing with life after Tandem IMS. A big thank you to all the teachers who taught the class across their time at the school, but especially to Frau Villger and Mr. Ncube who prepared them so well for these transitions.

There was also considerable success again for our pupils in the area of French. Last year, we offered 36 children the opportunity to sit the DELF Primary exams for A1, A1.1 and A2 levels. All children passed the tests with an average of 88%! Well done to all of these children! Also, a big thank you to Mme. Areitio for all the preparation for those children wishing to take the test.

We again thank every member of the school community for the wonderful collaboration during this challenging phase and wish everyone continued good health.

Neal Brown
School Director



Zurich Early Years and Pre-School

Our 2020/2021 school year started with the familiar patterns of settling-in and getting to know the new routines. The Pre-School group, with nearly 16 children each day, quickly found their routines and started their first unit of enquiry in September. The Gecko children also found their comfortable routines and made great use of the full classroom spaces in the relatively new nursery centre at Seefeldstrasse 116. Our Seahorse group grew steadily, allowing us to welcome new babies over the course of the school year. The Early Years groups began a close partnership already in August and September, which also developed wonderfully over the year.

Events and celebrations took place within each group, albeit without direct parent presence. We luckily had the support of our strong PTA, who kindly organised Halloween treats and a visit from Samichlaus. Although we were not able to host an evening Räbeliechtli event, each group created their own lanterns and practised singing the traditional songs while outside in nearby parks. We also celebrated Diwali with special lanterns and even made a beautiful mandala for all to enjoy at the Riesbach fountain.

In lieu of a live Christmas performance on stage, we created a whole-school video of all classes performing their songs for parents. This video captured the festive season and cheer wonderfully, and provided the Early Years and Pre-School children a familiar environment in which to perform. We certainly look forward to performing live for parents once again! In the meantime, we are grateful for the ability to share these moments virtually.

Spring, and our PTA, brought new plants and projects to our Early Years and Pre-School playground. These plants were well cared for, and eagerly watered, throughout the warm months and enriched our playground experience. When it was time to say goodbye before the summer holidays, the children were well-prepared for their transitions to the Gecko group, to Pre-School, and to Kindergarten.

Julia Helling
Head of Early Years and Pre-School



Zollikon Early Years and Pre-School

The 2020/21 school year began in August with our Zollikon team welcoming our returning families as well as several new families. The children were able to explore the new classroom layouts and centers that the teachers and staff had so diligently been preparing during the summer break. This school year was marked yet again by Covid-19 restrictions and unfortunately, we were not able to hold special events such as our welcome breakfast for parents. However, in making the best of the situation, we not only continued celebrating events with the children at Tandem but were also able to creatively include families by sharing pictures and videos with them, in great part thanks to the PTA who, as always, gave Tandem their time and generosity in order to provide the children and their families with quality events and activities.

The warm summer weather allowed us to fully enjoy what our local community has to offer. The children were able to explore the forest in Zollikon, the playgrounds, the football fields, and even visit the Epi Park's animals. We also spent lovely mornings and afternoons in our Tandem Garden where the children not only had fun playing with their friends but also took great pride in caring for the many plants that are growing there.

The crisp autumn air followed and brought us some of our favourite events, such as Halloween and Räbeliechtli. The children loved dressing up, learning new songs, and practising their motor skills by carving pumpkins and turnips. The best parts by far were the trick-or-treating and our mini parades throughout Tandem where we visited each group to show off our lanterns and fun costumes.

Winter came, and with it came the children's favourite thing: SNOW! The children had a great time playing and learning with snow both outside and inside! We were able to do so many fun things with the children like: building snowmen, throwing snowballs, go sledding, lead science experiments such as freezing and melting, and even sensory play with snow! Of course, winter brought not only snow but also Christmas, one of our biggest events (and one of our favourites). This year, the Christmas festivities began in late November, with the children learning many songs in both English and German. The Pre-school children joined in the fun with their own version of The Twelve Days of Christmas! In keeping with the sharing spirit of Christmas, these songs were all recorded and put together by the staff, along with pictures of the different activities done throughout the season, and made into videos to give to parents as part of their Christmas gifts.

After ringing in the New Year with Three Kings Day and sharing all the fun adventures that were had during the Christmas break, the children continued their adventures in the lands of rhymes & songs, community helpers, and the world around them. The end of winter and beginning of spring provided us with many more fun events such as Kite Flying Day, Fasnacht, a pirate-themed holiday care, and Easter. The children loved decorating their Easter eggs and especially enjoyed the Easter Egg hunt outside (although I think their favourite part was finding -and eating- the chocolate eggs!).

As we got closer to the end of the school year, the warmer weather gave the groups the opportunity to explore their science-based units about plants and animals outside. All the groups dedicated time and energy into planting and caring for our Tandem Garden. The early years groups planted new herbs, berry plants, and beautiful flowers, which we cared for and then enjoyed eating during snack time – YUM! The preschool children were very interested in bees and took a deeper look into what bees do and how they help our garden; they were also able to explore and experiment with honey and wax – and even made their own candles. Although excursions involving public transport were not possible because of Covid-19, it gave the children the opportunity to have mini excursions throughout the Zollikon area. The groups were able to extend their learning about the natural world by visiting new parts of the forest, learning about the different animals at the Epi Park, visiting the farmers' market, going to the Lake, and visiting the different animals found in the area like the goats and the rabbits.

Finally, the end of the school year was marked by special events such as the Pre-school Graduation ceremony, where the children were able to celebrate their achievements and hard work. The moment was captured by the teachers through video and pictures, and then also shared afterwards with the parents. This year, after the ceremony and thanks to the PTA, the children were able to have a special Graduation ice cream and cupcake party at the Zollikerstube. The early years groups were also able to join in the fun and celebrate their accomplishments; each group had their own fun ice cream sundae party as well, also thanks to the Zollikerstube and the PTA. It was a year full of fun, continued development, and learning for both children and staff – and we look forward to the exciting times the next year will bring!

Monica Mourao
Team Leader - Zollikon



Uetikon Early Years and Pre-School

The school year 2020/21 was a very exciting one in Uetikon. The groups were quite full, and we were happy to see so many smiling children coming in each morning! After the settling-in of the new children and the familiarizing of the existing children with their new groups and teachers, the routines were quickly established, and the children were able to engage in lots of fun activities together with their friends.

Since we could not have any events including the parents, we became creative and tried to still make them a lot of fun for the children. We were dressing up for Halloween and made a trick-or-treat hunt. For Räbeliechtli, we all crafted a turnip and each group carved one together as well. We then made a parade around the school with these Räbeliechtli and were singing the Räbeliechtli songs loudly. For Christmas, we had Santa bring in some presents for all the children, and we practiced a performance of different Christmas songs together, which we shared with the parents. We were happy to have very nice weather for the Easter event and therefore could do an Easter hunt outside where each child was looking for their Easter basket.

In addition, we also had a dog coming in to visit us for two days in March, in order to teach the children how we have to behave when meeting a strange dog. One of the most exciting events was again the hatching of the chicks, which we could closely observe this time and then spend a few weeks looking after them and caring for them.

What we could also offer during the whole school year were the music lessons with Rahel and the gym lessons for the Ducks and the Geckos. Rahel gave us the opportunity to experiment with different instruments, taught us many music styles and rhythms and even introduced us to musical notes. In the gym we always enjoyed setting up different constructions and in this way enhancing our gross motor skills and balance.

The PTA was very active this year and was involved in many of these events by buying gifts for the children, organizing a photographer who took Christmas pictures of the children, and sponsoring the chicks and garden projects. Thank you very much again for all your support!

The school year ended due to Corona with a live graduation for the Ducks only. However, it was nice to meet the parents for this last event and give them the opportunity to see their pre-schoolers performing live on stage. In order for the other parents to see the development of their children as well, we recorded a little show for everyone again.

We are looking forward to another exciting school year!

Tabea Siegwart
Team Leader - Uetikon



TEACH Update

Although we are not able to travel to Africa as often as we used to, TEACH remains in close contact with the local team to keep the village school running. Since the death of the headmaster Simon in November 2020, a new team has been put together to work closely with TEACH. We couldn't be happier as this team is extremely committed and enthusiastic about developing the school, as well as being extremely competent, detailed and well organised. After a year of excellent communication with them, the project has gained strength, quality and speed.

Educational Materials

One of the team members, Reuben, is also the kindergarten teacher at the school. He carefully coordinates with his colleagues to ensure that they select all the textbooks and materials needed to implement the curriculum. He teaches with incredible dedication and every time TEACH members visit, it has been a real pleasure to see the enthusiasm with which he learns and implements new teaching methods and materials. We have also learned a lot from his sense of community and his ability to involve all his colleagues.

Community Improvements supported by TEACH

The money raised through TEACH not only supports the educational needs of the community but also helps to build the infrastructure of the school. Two recent key projects include the following:

Guttering for the school buildings: New guttering for the school buildings are helping to prevent leaks in the building and flooding.

Water Tank Base: Water is very rare in the Eiti community as the area is very dry and arid. It is vital for them to collect clean rainwater as often as possible. The children suffer a lot from the lack of water at school and often spend a whole school day without water to drink. The nearest river is a 20-minute walk away, and villagers walk to collect water in jerricans. We have just learned that due to the recent months of drought, the water tanks have not only enormously helped the school children, but also the whole village. The school have specifically asked us to sincerely thank all the donors and TEACH members who made this possible.



Financial Reporting - Tandem IMS

Provisional Report

	CHF	
Total Income of School Fees	6'757'602	
(refundable deposit & Capital Fund excluded)		
Expenditure		%
Cost of Material	-512'578	7.6%
Operating expenses	-140'603	2.1%
Salaries	-4'586'869	68.2%
Rental costs	-948'246	14.1%
Maintenance	-17'786	0.3%
Transport	-13'976	0.2%
Insurance and duties	-5'183	0.1%
Energy and waste management	-31'238	0.5%
Administrative costs	-150'539	2.2%
IT	-56'382	0.8%
Advertising	-115'558	1.7%
Other operating costs	-3'241	0.0%
Financial costs and amortization	-139'139	2.1%
Total Expenditure	-6'721'338	
 Total Income	 6'757'602	
Total Expenditure	-6'721'338	
Net Income	36'264	
 Extraordinary Income*	 178'389	
Extraordinary Expenditure	-9'765	
Net Special Income	168'624	
 Profit	 204'888	
Accruals Accumulated		
Building expansion / renovation	500'000	
Total Accruals	500'000	
Capital Fund		
Sum carried forward 2019/20	432'687	
Receipt of payment 2020/21	132'350	
Investment 2020/21**	-74'732	
Total Capital Fund	490'305	

* late Covid-19 compensation for 2019/20; expenditure was already in 2019/20

** used for the following purposes:

- school training and professional development of staff
- curriculum development – focus on progress reports and portfolios

Financial Reporting - PTA Accounts

Zurich PTA 2020/21

	CHF
Opening Balance August 2020	36'430
Halloween (October 2020)	1'212
Christmas Decorations (Dec 2020)	284
Samichlaus & Goodie Bags (Dec 2020)	1'853
Christmas Performance (room rentals) (Dec 2020)	630
Book Day (March 2021)	3'060
Teacher & Staff Appreciation - gift vouchers (June 2021)	4'900
Fussballschueli Primary 4 (July 2021)	167
Graduation gifts (July 2021)	248
Other expenses (bank fees, meetings, thank you gifts leaving PTA board members)	334
Total Expenditure PTA School Year 2020/2021	12'687
Closing Balance August 2021 - carried forward to 2021/2022	23'743

Zollikon PTA 2020/21

Information pending and will be sent via the newsletter.

Uetikon PTA 2020/21

	CHF
Opening Balance August 2020	9'800
(incl. income 2019 of CHF 4'800)	
Halloween Event	70
Christmas event/photo shooting	1'900
Staff appreciation Christmas dinner	300
Easter event	900
Project of chicks	80
Graduation and presents for all the children	1'600
PTA gift for the whole school	500
PTA gift for the Seahorse group	500
PTA gift for the Gecko group	500
PTA gift for the Duck group	500
Kontoführung	60
Total Expenditure PTA School Year 2020/2021	6'910
Closing Balance August 2021 - carried forward to 2021/2022	2'890

Contract Changes as of August 2022

Due to the development and growth of Tandem IMS, it has been necessary to make some amendments to our school contracts and related documents. The below changes are valid for parents from August 2022.

Contracts

General

- The place of jurisdiction will change from Meilen to Zurich.
- Change of Attendance: A change of attendance can be requested for the beginning of each school quarter (Nov, Feb, May, Aug). The form «Attendance» must be submitted to the school office by the 15th September for 1st November, 15th December for 1st February, 15th March for 1st May and 15th June for 1st August. The minimum attendance (see clause 5.3) must be adhered to.

Early Years and Pre-School

- Zurich Opening Hours: Core hours will start at 09:00 (instead of 08:50) with drop-off from 08:45 to align with our other locations.

Kindergarten and Primary

- Change of Attendance: Quarterly changes are possible instead of only semesterly changes.

Fee Schedule

- Early Years and Pre-School: Price changes due to additional teaching staff, renovations and to align the fees across our locations.
- Kindergarten and Primary: Bus price changes due to a new bus stop-based fee structure.

Please click [here](#) to download the new fee schedules that will become valid as of August 2022.

School Policy Documents

Minor changes in accordance with the above-mentioned contract changes. The current and new versions may be found on our [parents' section](#) of the website.

Final Words

I wish to finish this report by thanking all of our parents for your incredible support and engagement. We value this extremely highly and know that such strong co-operation between the school and parents is of paramount importance to our success in educating and guiding your children. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to every single member of Tandem's employees who work with such dedication, professionalism and commitment. Each and every one plays a vital role in our school's achievements - especially in these challenging times.

I wish your children a wonderful continuation with Tandem IMS during the rest of the current academic year, and look forward to being able to bring you another positive report next year.

Kind regards,
Neal Brown

