



BERLIN
METROPOLITAN
SCHOOL



Building Project

September 2017

Dear BMS Families,

Welcome back to a new academic year! We hope that you have had a relaxing summer and that you enjoyed the time with your children. As we start the 2017/18 School Year, we are happy to come together as one school community and begin another year of learning.

We have been busy preparing for the arrival of our students and to complete the new learning and working infrastructure for BMS. We would like to use this opportunity to provide you with a quick update about the several projects we have started already last year and the most recent developments from the summer break.

EXTENSION

Our school community will most likely immediately notice that the scaffolding on Torstraße and along the main building has been taken down, allowing us now to revert back to our normal entrance at the Torstr. gate into the school courtyard. We are also pleased to report that many of you will also immediately notice the completed design and shape of our two new floors on top of the Torstrasse wing and along our main building side. The copper has already changed slightly in tone, producing a beautiful finishing for the extension of our building.

As announced, we have finished all our new classrooms and offices, as well as our new Secondary School Library in time. Now, we are very excited to see if our students like their new learning environment before they take over the spaces for their academic learning, house activities, research, and much more.

As with any construction project there are of course many little topics and certain areas which still need work to ensure a full finish. We will use the next 3 weeks to push all open topics to completion and finish key areas of student use. Our students will be able to see weekly improvements and further developments during this time first-hand, as ongoing progress will be apparent all around their school.



As already outlined in our last BMS Quarterly Newsletter, we have invested in new furniture for our new learning spaces which will further encourage a collaborative learning culture. Our language department will use those new rooms the most and as such, all students will have access to those new classrooms. All of the new classrooms will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology to support our aim of providing a modern learning infrastructure which we will be able to roll-out over the next days as well.

Our roof terrace construct is already completed but not yet in use as we have to finish the second emergency exit at the end of the terrace. We will be sure to announce the roof completion and will celebrate with our students the grand opening of this amazing space!

SAFETY AND SECURITY

For the new building extension, we installed a comprehensive safety and security system. To ensure that all classrooms are also equipped with the newest technology in order to ensure safety for all our students in the same way, we decided to install a completely new safety and security system for our entire building. In doing so, we had to access every single room, every floor, every stairway over the past 3 weeks which added another layer of complexity to our work. On Friday, September 1st we completed a full audit of our new system with the local Berlin legal authorities successfully. We will use the next weeks to train our entire staff with this new system and to trial the different security scenarios with our students and staff. We will be sure to provide you with an update on procedures and policies as soon as possible.

We feel very secure in the decision to prioritize this project as it allows us to install the most up-to-date and efficient safety and security systems for our students and staff at all times.

Due to the complexity of this project you will spot here and there areas where we could not finish removing our old security system and the ensuing cosmetic finishing which is needed after the installation is complete. We have of course prioritized this work for the next 2 weeks to finish as soon as possible.

CAFETERIA

Another project which began in summer is the renovation and new design of our cafeteria. The latter was necessary in order to improve the quality of our cafeteria and to bring back the joy of having a meal together during school. This transformation was also necessary to enable an improvement in the quality of our daily lunches, by providing an improved organizational use of the kitchen space, an improved and redesigned infrastructure, as well as installing new equipment.

If you have a look into our cafeteria now you will see immediately the changes although the transformation is not yet complete. Our carpenter could not finish all the tailored furniture and some materials have not been delivered according to the agreed-upon delivery times, and hence that is why we will have a semi-opening, allowing us to be in full operations but still be able to finish this project in the next three weeks. As soon as the whole transformation is finished, we will be sure to show you our completed work for the further improvement of our lunch offers at BMS.

YARD

An essential part of the development of our school campus is our school yard. We started this transformation as well and have used the past 5 weeks to begin the realization of our plans. The first third of the yard is done and provides a lot of space for our students already. In terms of playground equipment we



expect this week the delivery of our large table tennis installations, the big trampoline, as well some other equipment to provide our students with ample play and rest areas. The plan is to develop the yard further over the next weeks to ensure that we will achieve the completion of 2/3 of our yard by October. The next phase will include the street ball area as well as the climbing area, and because we know that our students are waiting for this, we will do our best to finish this work as fast as possible.

Unfortunately, the sandpit for our little ones is part of the last third of the yard. To ensure that they have nevertheless their due space on the playground, we will work with interim/mobile solutions to offer our youngest ones also activities for play.

HUMBOLDT BUILDING

As communicated in previous newsletters, we purchased the Humboldt Building at the beginning of the year and have used this so far for Physical Education. Now that we are officially the owners of the building, we have completed a series of refurbishments over the past three weeks to ensure that our students have a better learning environment. At this current point in strategic developments, we do not have a set idea for how we will develop this new building and are not sure yet if we want to keep it for sports and physical education, or if we will transform this building into an Art Lab Space; hence our reasoning for why we have completed surface-work in these areas only. Upon completion of the upcoming CIS/NEASC Accreditation process in November, we will revisit this topic as part of our ongoing school-wide development.

TEACHER LOUNGE

As an institution for teaching and learning, we aim to attract the best teachers possible for our school and to support our engaging teachers to do the best job possible. The latter is why we have also invested in our teachers' working infrastructure and created an attractive teacher lounge and work spaces, located in our former art rooms on the 4th floor.

Behind the teacher lounge, we still have a building site which will become the new bathrooms for our theater as well as the theater entrance area. This area will be finished over the next weeks to be ready in October as well.

ELEVATOR

As you may already know, we will install an elevator in our stairway 1 – Linienstraße. This construction for the elevator has been installed over the summer which required that all rooms in this area from the ground floor to the 4th floor had to be opened. The next step is to close all those rooms again and to install the elevator cabin which will take place in October. Until then, the area where the elevator will be located is covered with an interim closure.

BUILDING CONNECTION

In the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor, between the old and new building, a building transfer connection has been prepared so that in Spring 2018, the new Linienstraße building can be easily connected with our existing building. This interim solution will be developed further as the second building phase in Linienstrasse progresses, connecting soon the „old and new“ for all of our Primary School students.



We of course hope that you will share in finding our investments useful and we look forward to seeing the benefits of our expansion with you all in the coming weeks, months, and years. We do want to emphasize how thankful we are for your patience and your support over the past year and during our journey of transformation. Please rest reassured that we aim to finish all the remaining work and the many details across the whole building, as soon as possible. Your ongoing patience is much appreciated!

We will keep you updated regarding the next steps and the completion of the topics outlined above. We look forward to sharing in the success of our progress and would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and positivity!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Silke Friedrich'.

Silke Friedrich
Executive Director