

eTASIS TODAY

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An e-magazine for Alumni and Friends of The American School In Switzerland



Celebrating the
Class of 2012



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Join the conversation. Share your story. We want to connect with you - all of you! Whether you are a TESIS alum, current parent, prospective student, or you simply like looking at the photographs of the most beautiful school in Switzerland, we would love to hear from you and start a conversation.

Please share this publication on your Facebook wall, pin it on your Pinterest board, or Tweet about it! Help us share the TESIS story.

We've just finished our second year of *eTESIS Today* issues and are grateful for your feedback and support. Our goal is to share some of the magic of the everyday happenings on the Collina d'Oro that combine to create a truly extraordinary story, intertwining the lives of remarkable people, places, and events. These stories, and yours, make up the TESIS story. Thank you for being a part of it.

TASIS

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

Story Highlights:

02 **Campus News**
Stories, announcements, and campus happenings

10 **The easyJet Set**
Echoes of Mrs. Fleming's Five American Girls in One American Car

14 **Books, Glorious Books**
TASIS is a community of readers.

16 **The Lighthouse Project**
Plans for a tech-savvy campus

22 **A Very Special Evening**
The Middle School pulled off one of the favorite events of the year - an amazing talent show!

26 **The End of the Year**
Celebrations, parties, and goodbyes - another school year has ended, but wonderful memories remain.



TASIS Photo Galleries



TASIS Videos

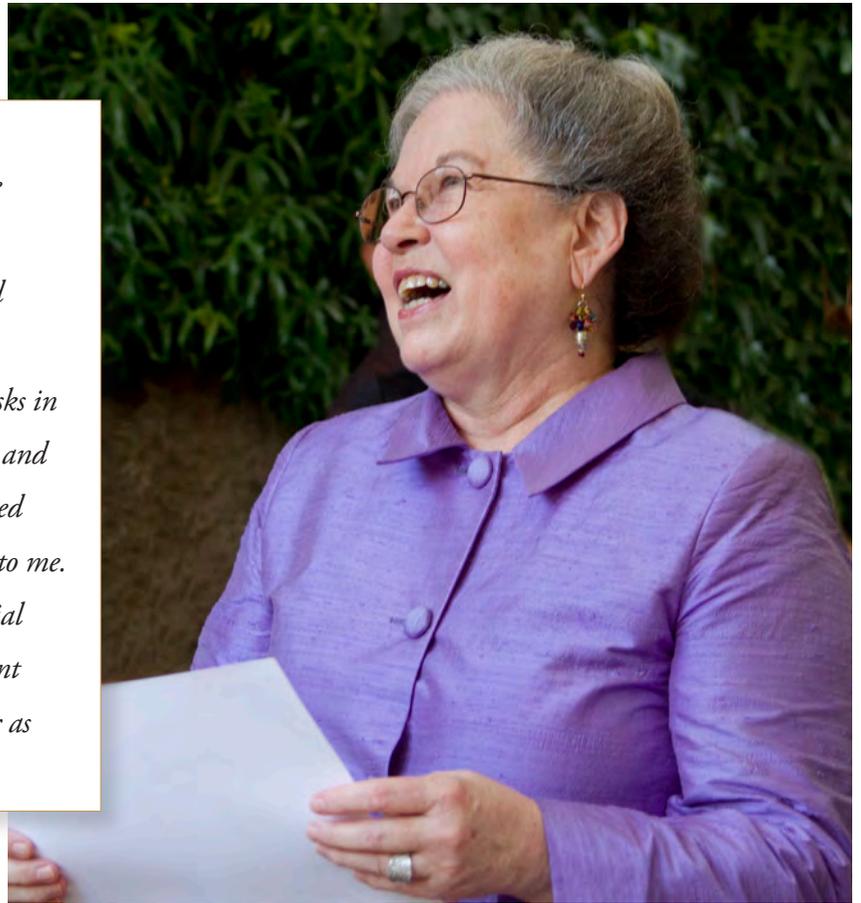


Audio Files

Explore the extra links provided throughout the publication

A Master Teacher Retires

“After a long day of tedious physics formulas and strenuous calculus problems, Ms. Whisenant’s English class was more than a breath of fresh air. With her warm smiles, cheerful greeting, and laid-back classroom setting, she made a hard week melt away and a world of beautiful literature and profound poetry consume our minds. By arranging our desks in a tight circle, Ms. Whisenant’s desk included, an intimate and comfortable classroom atmosphere emerged and ideas flowed readily and potently. Ms. Whisenant is not only a teacher to me. She supports, motivates, and makes every student feel special and important. Ms. Whisenant brings a bright and vibrant vibe to any room she enters and I was honored to have her as my AP English Literature teacher.” (Blair Darrell ’12)

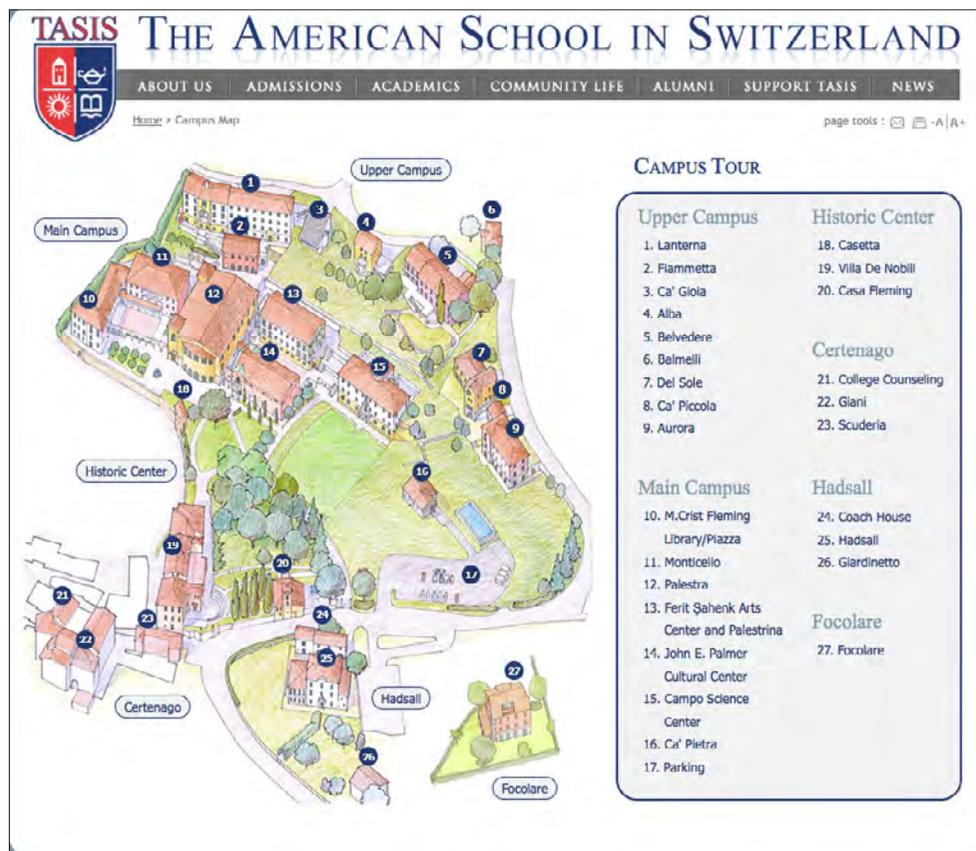


Long-serving English faculty member Cynthia Whisenant retired from TASIS this spring. Her story, along with many tributes from students, faculty, and friends, will be shared in the forthcoming print copy of *TASIS Today*. Cynthia’s contribution to the lives of hundreds in the TASIS circle is difficult to put into words, but it is fitting to include a tribute from a student in her last TASIS AP English class (see above).



2011-2012 AP English students celebrate with Ms. Whisenant at the Bellavista after their AP exam.

Interactive Campus Tour Now Online



For the past six months, the website office and campus photographers have been busy working on an interactive campus tour map for the Tasis website, and we're pleased to say it is now live! Like the Tasis campus, the map is a work-in-progress which will be changed and updated to reflect the progress of future building projects.

A timeline of upcoming campus projects can be found on the [Tasis Global Village](#)

page on the Tasis website.

The Tasis website is also going through a re-design to add better navigation and a new features. We hope to have the re-designed site live in September.

Click on the above graphic or on this link ([Campus Tour](#)) for your own virtual tour of campus. We hope you will enjoy seeing the campus you knew back then and how much it has changed.



Creating Community

The final two stories for the 2011-2012 school year are included below. Sasquatch will continue the series next year.

Click on the title to listen to an mp3 audio file.

Fast and Furious

Yu Kanamuru '13 is one of Japan's best kart racers. Listen to him talk about his love for going very, very fast.



Zuleika's Story

Tasis Alumni and Development Officer Zuleika Tipismana shares the powerful story of her accident and how it has transformed her life.



In the last issue, EAL Department Chair Carolyn Heard told the story of her gift of bicycles to a community in El Salvador. A student group on campus was inspired to donate enough money for three additional bicycles. If anyone else is interested, please contact carolyn.heard@tasis.ch.



Click above for quick access to all the photos in this issue of *eTasis Today June 2012*.

Reminder about Tasis SmugMug Galleries

Over 21,000 photographs are uploaded to the Tasis SmugMug Galleries covering the years 2003 - 2012. This school year alone there have been 349,000 views of the photographs on our Tasis SmugMug site. There are small charges for prints of the photographs, and any money received goes directly back into the school photography budget to allow this service to continue.

Elementary School photos still must be accessed using a password. This password can be requested from the Tasis Elementary School Office.

Spring Gala - A Wonderful Evening at the Eden



The weather on May 5 may have been frightful, but the Spring Gala was truly delightful! This year's event took place at the Grand Hotel Eden on Lake Lugano, in a venue beautifully decorated with accents in spring green, imported specially for the occasion.

The pyrotechnic lightning over the lake quickly lost its fascination as guests' attention turned to socializing and identifying the 'must-have' items in the Silent Auction. The TASIS string ensemble played during cocktail hour, as guests admired the striking presentation of the raffle, with tickets in Mrs. Fleming's signature 'cherries in the snow' red mounted on a board which revealed a collage of TASIS students underneath as tickets were purchased and removed. A delicious dinner followed, with more entertainment by TASIS students.



The after-dinner entertainment kicked off with a Live Auction, expertly conducted by Sotheby's auctioneer Daniela Mascetti. Many lots were fiercely competed, including 'Bowling with the Headmaster' and a commission for alumna Jo Fabbri '03 to paint a portrait in her striking style. As a fitting finale, a week in a presidential suite in the Maldives stimulated the fiercest bidding war of all. After all this excitement, folks finished off by dancing the night away to the sound of the DJ. What a great evening!



TPA Gala Gallery

Spring Sports Wrap-up

The TESIS tennis teams did very well this year. They hosted a TESIS invitational on April 28th with three teams and took first place in three of four flights: boys singles, girls singles, and girls doubles. The following weekend the teams were in Leysin to participate in the SGIS tournament. On Saturday, TESIS entered both a boys and girls doubles team. The girls team of Kate Ivanova '15 and Larissa Men'shikova '12 fared extremely well and weren't seriously tested until the semi-final against Kumon. Playing against two baseline players, TESIS was forced to be aggressive and played inspired tennis on their way to an 8-4 victory. In the final the TESIS girls cruised and beat Basel handily to bring home a first place trophy.



Tennis Teams Gallery

The Boys Lacrosse team was able to pull out a fourth place in the International School of Brussels Tournament they attended in late April. Ten teams from around Europe competed despite torrential downpours, chilly temperatures, and hail. The TESIS Boys Lacrosse team was the lone Swiss team, and without several key players, the small team still managed to do very well.



Lacrosse Gallery



Spring Boys Varsity Soccer Gallery

For the first time ever, TESIS fielded a spring varsity boys soccer team. The Tigers competed in the same league they did in the fall playing their home games at the FC Paradiso field in Grancia. With the number of exams and spring commitments seniors have, it was often difficult to field a competitive team every weekend. The first game was a 4-1 victory highlighted by a hat trick by senior Aldo Cresta '12, but that was the last win the TESIS boys were able to notch this spring.



MS Boys Soccer Gallery

The MS football team attended its first competition in Verona Italy on May 5, 2012. The tournament was an eight-a-side under-14 competition involving teams from all over Europe. All the TESIS boys can hold their heads up high as they exceeded all expectations. Goals were scored by Roman (6), Riccardo (4), Alex K. (4), Ilya (3), Max K. (3) and Daniil (1) and helped by strong defense from Ivan, Eyyub, and Angelo and the TESIS keeper Ilya. The boys finished 8th out of 19 teams in the tournament.



Inside Out

When photography teacher Annika Fibbioli came across the Inside Out project, she was intrigued:

“Inside Out is a large-scale participatory art project that transforms messages of personal identity into pieces of artistic work. Everyone is challenged to use black and white photographic portraits to discover, reveal and share the untold stories and images of people around the world. These digitally uploaded images are made into posters and sent back to the project’s co-creators, for them to exhibit in their own communities. People can participate as an individual or as part of a group. Posters can be placed anywhere, from a solitary image in an office window, to a wall of an abandoned building, or in a full stadium. These exhibitions will be documented, archived and be made available online at the [Inside Out Project](#). The INSIDE OUT project is a creation of the artist JR, recipient of the 2011 TED Prize ([watch JR’s TED talk here](#)).”



The project took weeks of preparation, and it was important to abide by the rules and guidelines of the TED Prize. It had to be displayed in a public area, and the students had to decide together what elements made up their ‘story’. They settled on *Smiling Faces from Many Places*, and after a whirlwind of taking photos, uploading jpgs, and a crash course in wallpapering, the project was complete.

Images were placed on the construction wall surrounding the Global Village site, and will remain there until weather and time make them dissolve. During the Arts Festival, these 50 portraits of faculty, staff, and students were a fitting reminder of our international community. And more importantly, the portraits made us smile!



Inside Out Gallery

Composing Themselves

In April, our MS Music students had the opportunity to work with visiting composer Paul Robinson. Together, they created a film score using both live instruments and computer software. Before Mr. Robinson's visit, the children learned how to match pre-recorded music to a silent movie based on the story of Alexander Nevsky. After working with Mr. Robinson, the children presented their work in the Palmer Center using both their pre-recorded computer tracks, live instruments, and vocals.



Music Composition Gallery



Sisters Respond to Disaster in the Philippines

The night of September 28, 2011 was frightening and destructive for the community of San Luis, Pampanga, in the Philippines. A flood left the entire community of 8,450 families with water-logged homes, and combined with the aftermath of Typhoon Pedring, which hit soon after the flood, the community was devastated.

Patrizia '12 and Sarah '13 Wyler's mother was born in the Philippines and much of her family lives in San Luis. The girls wanted to do their part, so they joined forces with an organization called iTAYO NA (translated to: *let's go, let's build* and started by their cousin) to re-build a school in the community. The sisters spread the story of this community and ended up raising \$2085 to help iTAYO NA in their plight. Thanks to money raised by TASIS along with other organizations, iTAYO NA was able to not only fix a building but also inspire others in the community that every person can make a difference. The girls also connected with the Foundation Pro Victimis in Geneva and were able to add an additional \$18,000 to their gifts to iTAYO NA.

A letter from the organization says it all:

I hope you still manage to convey our gratitude to all the students and teachers at TASIS who were so generous in supporting this help to our town back home in the Philippines.

Arts Festival and Drama

The annual Arts Festival was held the second weekend in May and included concerts, drama performances, workshops, and art exhibitions by all three divisions of the School. A highlight for the entire community was senior Lydia Lee's performance of *Haydn's*

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in D major. It was the first piece she played with the Arts Festival Chamber Orchestra in May 2008, and fitting that this encore was played during her last Arts Festival.

Click on the photos below for more images.



**Alice in Wonderland Jr.
MS Musical**



**Jungle Book
ES Musical (performed late May)**



The Visual Arts



Musical Performances



Workshops



Drama/English Performances

Looking Sharp

This coming academic year is the first since the 60s to require a High School uniform during the academic day. TASIS students and staff helped choose the uniforms, which are high-quality and look great. All ES, MS, and HS uniform items may be purchased through [Unique Uniforms](#). Additional photographs of uniform items are available on the site.

Information from the School with ordering instructions and the uniform policies can be viewed on the [TASIS Uniforms](#) page on the School's website.

Please direct all questions or concerns to our uniform supplier, Lavinia Romani '90
lavinia.romani@sunrise.ch.

<http://www.uniqueuniforms.ch/shop/en/>



Summer Campus Renovations

The minute the students were gone, summer campus construction work began in earnest. The Ferit Şahenk Arts Center/Palestrina, our newest construction project, is continuing throughout the summer. Alongside this, a number of other substantial projects have begun.

- De Nobili's dormitories are getting a much-needed facelift. A new common room is being created near the upper terrace. Additional bathrooms are being added to allow each room to have en suite facilities.
- Coach House's photography studio/classroom is being renovated into two elementary school classrooms.
- Balmelli is being transformed from a dormitory into the Health Center and School Counselor office. Faculty apartments are being developed in Balmelli and Belvedere for Middle School faculty.
- The former Health Center in Lanterna is being reworked into dormitory rooms.
- At the close of the Summer Programs, the Capannone will be taken down to prepare for our next construction project - Campo Science.



For a few weeks the entrance to De Nobili is through the Dining Room terrace door, but work is progressing quickly. Soon all will be back to normal!

The **easyJet** Set

“Youth is the best time to form the impressions that can advance international understanding. Together... with mutual understanding gained through language and personal meetings... a new generation can help to keep our unified culture in peace.”

TASIS catalogue, 1960s



Ask an American under the age of 40 if they've been to Europe and chances are, they have. Backpacking through Europe has been en vogue for the early twentysomething set for decades; the proliferation of hostels along the main drags of most European cities is a testament to this, as are countless guidebooks aimed at this particular market. Some may rattle off a checklist – 8 countries in 14 days! – or perhaps some time lingering – “we did the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and Versailles”.

But for those lucky enough to attend high school in Europe, travel takes on a new dimension, and for these five American girls, it has become integral to their education.

By the time our five girls graduated from high school in May 2012, they visited nine countries. Some were school-sponsored trips, but during their senior year these five girls spent every other weekend exploring the places they are learning about in their classes. They saw David in Florence, Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, the Imperial War Museum in London, and Gaudi's Barcelona. They researched their destination, asking for restaurant recommendations from teachers and hints about ticket prices from the academic travel coordinator. But perhaps most importantly, they experienced the rich and diverse perspectives that populate modern Europe, and the responsibility citizens feel to the history of their countries.

“If you have the chance to visit different destinations around the world, you must seize the opportunity to be in places that are oozing cultural enrichment,” says Lauren Stephenson. “Downtown Lugano is beautiful, but we have seen it before and are very aware of the culture. Instead, we think, Why not spend a weekend in Barcelona visiting Park Guell and learning to Flamenco dance with native Spaniards?”

Where did they go?

Rome	Geneva
Florence	Dubai
Venice	Ibiza
London	Majorca
Prague	Barcelona
Paris	Mykonos
Berlin	Portofino

This attitude echoes that of TASIS founder M. Crist Fleming, who spearheaded a trip across Europe with five of her students during the summer of 1938. They were an anomaly everywhere they went, but didn't let that stop them from experiencing 13 countries in two months. And while Mrs. Fleming and her charges made their way around Europe in a 1938 Ford V-8, these girls were lucky to have

other options. They took planes, trains and automobiles, but more frequently they found themselves on **easyJet**, a budget airline that traverses most major European cities.

Travel at TASIS is a privilege, and these girls understood the responsibility that comes with independent travel. They had to remain on the Dean's List for two years and earned the trust of the administration. “We were very respectful of our superiors and would never even consider crossing them,” Lauren says. “Don't



Barcelona



London



Dubai



Florence

get me wrong, we are still a bunch of teenage girls and made a few mistakes here and there, but we also take responsibility for our actions.”

For Mrs. Fleming and her students, the former Yugoslavia was the biggest culture shock. But for our girls, Dubai made the biggest impact. “It was the most ‘awed’ I ever felt,” says Bella Clark. Lauren concurs. “It was so dramatically different to anything I’ve ever seen. The buildings are brand-new, the desert is desolate, and the sea flawless. The people are all conservatively covered. And there is a ski slope in the mall!”

“ I recommend independent travel to everyone. You really discover who you are as a person and what is important in this short life that we have.”

— Lauren Stephenson

While many TASIS students enjoy traveling, these five found a group that clicked. While they were always open to others joining them, they had their own way of working once at their destination. “We have a certain understanding – we want to wake up early and roam around the cities, visiting museums and seeing the sights and learning about cultures. We all feel you must immerse yourself completely, and sometimes others aren’t willing to do that.”

Of course things went wrong – this is international travel, after all. “The most distressing situation was when we were separated on a train to Florence due to riots in Milan,” Bella recalls. Lauren laughs at this question. “When have things not gone wrong? We always run into the language issue, but we communicate using our limited vocabulary in the native language and hand gestures.” But of course, this is all a part of the fun!

The cost of travel can add up, so the girls had to be savvy in their planning. They split the costs equally and often stayed in apartments rather than hotels so they could cook. “We had incredible luck finding the best deals that have left us with unforgettable experiences,” Lauren says.

The girls have learned much from their travels, such as on-the-spot problem solving, dealing with being lost in a place where nothing makes sense, and how to communicate. The girls feel that through their travels, they have been able to see the world in a much broader sense. “I recommend independent travel to everyone,” Lauren says. “You really discover who you are as a person and what is important in this short life that we have.”

In 1983, when asked about the thinking behind TASIS, Mrs. Fleming said, “What we are doing, or at least attempting to do, is to create not international schools but international human beings, men and women who are capable of moving easily in any society and any civilization on the face of the earth...” Our North American Girls weren’t even born in 1983, yet they embody Mrs. Fleming’s ambitions for her students. She would be very proud of these five 2012 graduates.



Future Itineraries

After graduation, the girls took a final adventure to Ibiza, Majorca, Barcelona, and Mykonos. But that was where their dream together ended.

Lauren is attending NYU in London for a year before transferring to NYU in Manhattan. Melissa Swats is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Virginia. Tali Sandel is at Boston University, and Bella studies broadcast journalism at American University. Natasha Watson is taking a gap year to

volunteer before going to Whitman University. “We will stay in touch and visit over Christmas and Thanksgiving,” Bella says.



The five friends pose on Commencement day: Natasha Watson, Melissa Swats, Bella Clark, Lauren Stephanson, and Tali Sandel

“Friendship is one of the most important things to all of us.” Lauren concurs. “What has made our travel so amazing is each other. The laughs, the talks, the adventures we have gone on together make the travel we have had completely unforgettable. We’ve already planned a reunion in Dubai for New Year’s Eve 2012.”

Books, G

Reading is in fashion at TASIS! Students, teachers, and parents are all enjoying books on their Kindles, iPads, and even regular old paper books. For the past few years, 3rd Grade teacher Julia Wilkins has had a very active ES Book Club for 3rd and 4th Graders. They meet once a month in Casa Fleming and have a special snack related to the book they are currently reading. Ms. Wilkins leads the discussion about the book the students have read. The group reads eight books each year, and this summer is the first Summer Book Club where members will read two books.

All Middle and High School students are expected to read books during the summer as well. These required reading lists can be downloaded from the TASIS website: [MS Required Reading List](#) and [HS Required Reading List](#).



Book Club Gallery



The Book Club newsletters include information for parents and students about upcoming book choices. These newsletters and much more information about the ES Book Club can be found on the TASIS website's [ES Book Club page](#).

Glorious Books



Book clubs are popping up all over the place!

Bookworms (2nd and 3rd Grade)*

Meets in Hadsall with Ms. Rawcliffe.
11 students are currently signed up.

Ravenous Readers (4th and 5th Grade)

Meets in Casa Fleming with Ms. Wilkins.
20+ students have already signed up.
Summer books: *The Great Cake Mystery* by Alexander McCall Smith and *The Magician's Elephant* by Kate DiCamillo

ES Moms Book Club*

Location for group TBD. Each of the ES student groups and this group will meet at the same time.

Faculty/Staff Book Club

Meets monthly at a faculty/staff apartment to discuss current fiction/nonfiction.
Summer book: *State of Wonder* by Anne Patchett

MS Parents Book Club

This group meets in Casa Fleming

Faculty/Staff Health/Wellness Discussion/Book group*

Will meet bimonthly in the 2012-2013 school year
Summer book: *Brain Rules: 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School* by John Medina

* New groups for the 2012-2013 School Year



The Faculty Bookshelf

A randomly selected group of faculty were asked, what are you currently reading and what are your summer reading plans? Only the book titles are listed here; for additional comments and faculty thoughts, please read the extended text here: [The Faculty Bookshelf](#).



Dr. Karen Taylor - HS History

Jane Eyre by Jane Austen
Murder of a Medici Princess by Caroline P. Murphy



Dr. Beril Ulku-Steiner - Counselor

The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach
The Tiger's Wife by Tëa Obrecht
The Marriage Plot by Jeffrey Eugenides



Patrick Alava - MS History

Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary by David Sedaris
The Beauty and the Sorrow by Peter Englund



Omar El Maaroufi - HS Economics

Ransom by David Malouf
Lettre à Delacroix by Tahar ben Jelloun
Common Wealth by Jeffrey Sachs
The Ascent of Money by Niall Ferguson



Julia Wilkins - 3rd Grade

The Full Cupboard of Life by Alexander McCall Smith (Book Six of *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Series*)



Todd Matthew - HS English

The Help by Kathryn Stockett
Fathers and Sons by Ivan Turgenev



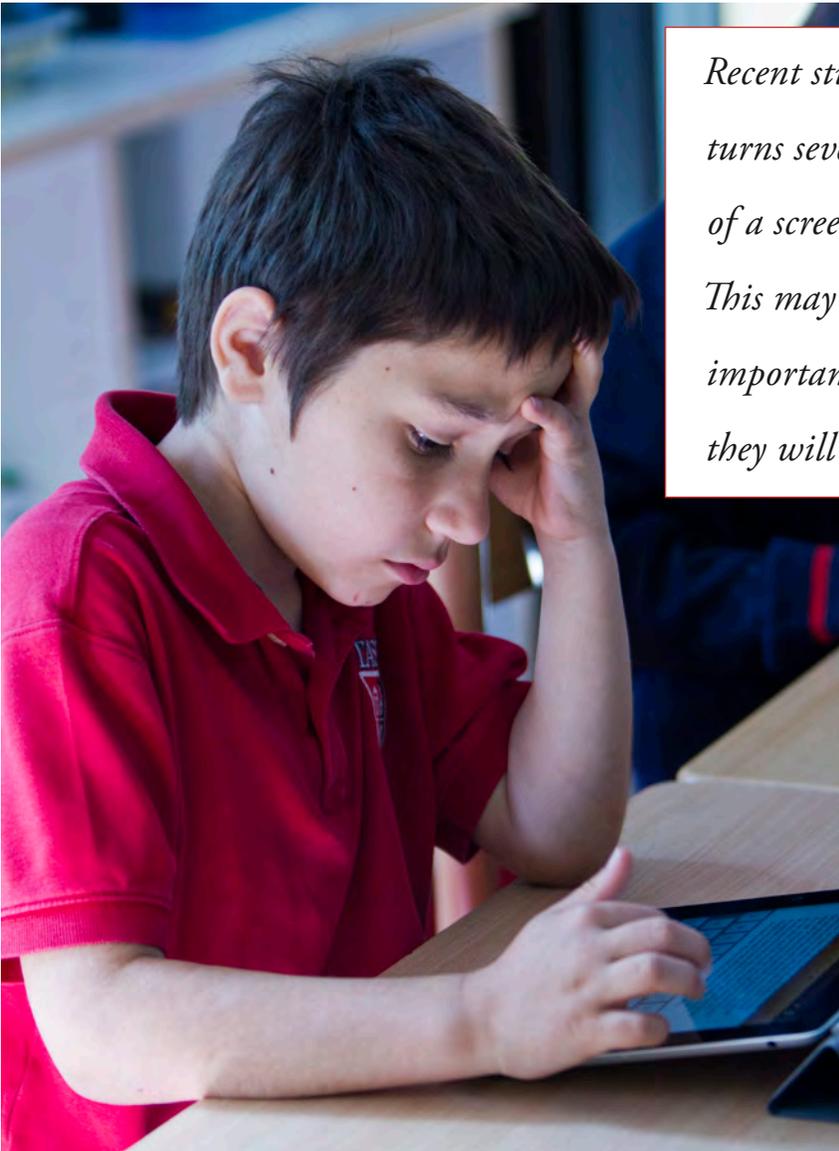
Brett Merritt - MS Science

Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West by William Cronon



Cynthia Whisenant - HS English

Downhome: An Anthology of Southern Women Writers Edited by Susie Mee



Recent studies estimate that by the time a child born today turns seven, he will have spent one year of his life in front of a screen - tablet, smartphone, television, or cinema. This may seem alarming at first, but it indicates just how important devices have become for us, and how integral they will be to a child's learning. - ChildWise study

TASIS is determined to face the digital age responsibly, while taking advantage of the exciting learning applications that enhance students' education. To acknowledge this commitment, the TASIS Foundation Board donated CHF 50,000 towards a technology grant program, called **The Lighthouse Project**, which provides teachers of any subject or grade level with funding to explore the use of technology to improve teaching and learning. Out of 15 submissions, ten were chosen; some are still in the planning stages and will be in place for the fall, but others are being implemented now. Please read a few updates on these two pages.

The Lighthouse Project

TELL ME (Teaching English Language Learners with Mobile Education) uses iPads to enhance the learning experience for our EAL students. This spring, students have researched and performed interviews with others, which were then turned into videos and will be edited into a movie about using iPads in the classroom. Students are taking notes in their iPads and uploading weekly reflections to the class blog. An example of their work can be found in the video to the right.





3rd Grade teachers Sarah Boughey and Julia Wilkins are piloting a project **focusing on the iPad**. Every student is given a device to use during the school day, and students have produced research presentations and reports. Math skills are tailored to the individual as students practice at their own pace.

Click here for more photos of [iPads in use](#).

Digital Learning Working Group

To ensure that TASIS uses its technology resources constructively, TASIS has appointed a group of tech-savvy teachers to evaluate and discuss the various pilot projects on campus and investigate new ways to integrate technology into our students' lives. The group has asked themselves the question:

“ *How can we separate hype from substance in this fast-developing realm? How do we best choose the devices, services, and initiatives that support student learning and the TASIS mission? We aim to think openly, patiently, and with our eyes on the distant horizon; then craft a policy statement that can guide choices regarding how TASIS will spend time and resources in the future. These discussions too often begin with devices and lead to poor choices and splits in organizations between true-believing early-adopters and skeptical resisters. We can do better.* ”

Nyman Brooks	Elementary School Head
Barbara Cormack-Krieg	Learning Support Center Director
Berkley Latimer	Board Director
James Lemmon	History Teacher and MS Academic Dean
Sky Manganaro	Information Technology Development Assistant
Tom Mauro	History Teacher/Department Chair/Director of Libraries (Committee Chairman)
Brett Merritt	MS Science Teacher/Pre-K - 8 Science Curriculum Coordinator
John Nelson	High School Academic Dean
Johanna Prince	4th Grade Teacher, FAC Representative
Michael Ulku-Steiner	Headmaster
Tim Venchus	ES Math Teacher and Technology Specialist
Kerry Vogelgesang	Mathematics Teacher/HS Instructional Technology Coach

BrainPop is a web-based collection of animated videos, activities, and lesson plans, and our students have already begun using these tools to explore the Korean War, JFK, and the Cold War. Teacher Zach Mulert has allowed his students to opt out of homework if they score 9/10 on a BrainPop quiz, which has encouraged students to utilize this service in a way that helps them learn as an individual.

The Middle School will have a **'mobile iPad lab'** available for classroom use. Teachers are encouraged to use the devices to enhance the learning of their students in any subject, and will participate in monthly roundtable discussions to learn from each other's successes and challenges.

Universal Design For Learning. The Learning Support Center (LSC) is continuing with its Universal Learning Design project by exploring how technology can increase student performance and access to the curriculum. Already, the LSC has seen positive results for students with diagnosed learning differences. With the use of the Echo Smartpen, students have been able to independently complete exams through the use of its audio feature. The Smartpen offers students the capability to tap each question with the pen and listen to what each question says. This group is also investigating how iPads can be used as a diagnostic and remediation tool to develop cognitive processes.

GrammarSnap is already a favorite with 1st Graders, who have used the software to take grammar tests and publish online portfolios of writing in various genres. Thanks to a successful pilot program, this software will be available for all grade levels next year, and will come in especially handy for EAL and ES homeroom teachers. Click here for videos of some of our [ES GrammarSnappers](#).

Lynda.com offers online tutorials in software commonly used at TASIS. Students and faculty have logged over 31 hours with 398 movies as of May 31.



MS Field Day and Team Sforza

The end of any school year is full of celebration, and the TASIS Middle School knows how to celebrate! On May 23, the students took to the field and competed in a variety of games - many including water. Sack races, water relays, three-legged races, and beautiful weather made for a crazy and fun-filled afternoon.

Many of the students purchased the Middle School t-shirts, designed by a group of students. At first glance you might think they all have the same name. “Sforza” appears on the back of every single shirt. The students were very intent on placing Mr. Sforza’s name on their shirts. As the Middle School intern, Mr. Sforza ’07 is loved by his students and has been involved in the after-school activities and dormitory life of all the students. Exciting end-of-year activities also included a day trip to Gardaland.





 **MS Field Day Gallery**

OLYMPIC SPIRIT WITH MR. VOLPI

The annual ES Field Day is a feat of extraordinary organization and planning. ES Physical Education teacher Giorgio Volpi outdid himself this year with a 'Passport to the World' Olympic-themed Field Day for the 3rd - 5th Grades and at Focolare the younger kids celebrated Traditional Italian games.

The Hadsall events included:

- Mexico** - Sponge Relay
- Germany** - Autobahn Race (scooter race)
- France** - Pastry Cook Up (relay race)
- Italy** - Pasta Pull (tug of war)
- Switzerland** - Rock Throwing (medicine ball toss)
- Bahamas** - Frisbee Toss
- England** - Torch Relay
- Ireland** - Potato Sack Race
- Greece** - Catapult Shoot Out
- Iceland** - Icicles (ice cream treat)

*Two ES girls from Iowa did the Tallcorn State proud by getting the balloon through the target in the **Catapult Shoot Out**. They each won a lunch with Mr. Laurent! Way to go girls! It was quite an amazing accomplishment.*



ES Field Day Gallery





**Middle School Talent
Show Photos**

Bello....Bello

Reflecting on The Middle School Talent Show

I did not want to go, but photographing school events is my job. It would only be an hour, and the kids had worked hard, so I loaded up my camera gear and headed over to the Palmer Center. Michele Kestenholz, our school videographer, also was asked to stay and videotape. He was a bit hesitant about the event, too.

You might imagine how this story will end. Yes, it was an absolutely wonderful evening. Middle School students I have never heard speak,

let alone sing, got up in front of a packed house and sang solos, duets, and were part rock bands. The audience was blown away. As I put my cameras away, I saw the videographer. He only said two words: "Bello, bello." Then he smiled.

The evening was put together by Middle School Music teacher Samantha Forrest, MS Intern Gaby Sforza, and Middle School Drama Director Gillian Eames. *(By Kim Nelson, School Photographer)*

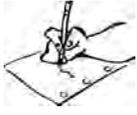


MS Takes the Stage Again During Arts Festival

Arts Festival Friday always features an outdoor jam session. This year it was the Middle School groups and soloists who wowed the crowds with their musical talents - and bravery!



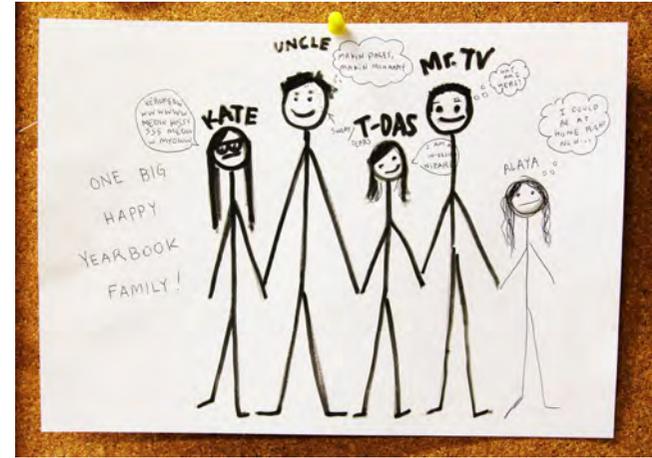
Friday Jam Session Photos



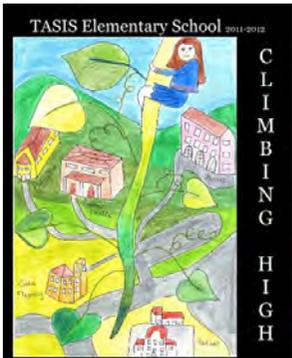
The Quiet Heroes

“Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It’s not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it’s when you’ve had everything to do, and you’ve done it.” — Margaret Thatcher

Pens, pencils, cameras, and computers are the tools of the trade for these four TESIS student/faculty publications. Quietly teachers and students proof, do layout, design, draw, photograph, and create stunning records of the year. Often, they use every free minute during the school day and into the night to work on their projects. These groups become like family, and the publications described on these two pages are a record of the 2011-2012 extended TESIS family.



ES Yearbook



ES teachers Allie Keen and Bernie LeClaire pulled together the ES yearbook (not a small feat) and were helped out by some amazing ES artists. The front cover was created by 4th Grader Valentina Chimienti, the back cover by 4th Grader Avishag Shaul, and the title page by 3rd Grader Penelope Baroni.

ES TESIS Times

The *ES TESIS Times* has been a big hit with students and teachers. Parents, teachers, and students work together on this project. Two issues were produced with more planned for next year. Please click here to see the first issue of the *ES TESIS Times* done earlier this year.



Vox Populi

Graduating senior Lauren Stephenson had grand plans about establishing an art and literary magazine to showcase the diversity of both the artistic talent and literary skills at TESIS. Beginning a magazine is no easy task, but a smart and eager editor, a dedicated board, and a veteran art and literary magazine advisor allowed *Vox*



Populi (Latin for “voice of the people”) to get off the ground in fine fashion. In this inaugural issue, you will find a diverse sampling of photographs, sculpture, sketches,

watercolors, poetry, prose, and more. Please enjoy what we hope will be the first of many more issues dedicated to showcasing the wonderful talents of the TESIS community. *Vox Populi's* mission is to encourage creativity and appreciation of both art and literature while also publishing work from students, teachers, administrators, and staff. The magazine also strives to balance excellence and diversity in a wide variety of media.



The MS/HS Yearbook

The High School yearbook is a labor of love and lots and lots of time. Faculty advisors Peter Locke and Tim Venchus had an amazing staff of writers, designers, and photographers working throughout the year to pull together the mammoth 240-page annual. Next year the plan is to have one yearbook for the entire school with representatives from each division working together.



A Yearbook Gallery



Handing out the books



After the Farewell Assembly, the yearbook staff was set up on the Monticello Terrace to hand out the 2012 Yearbooks. For the next hour, everyone either had their heads buried in their book or were busy writing in each other's books. With ice cream, sunshine and a beautiful book of memories in hand, it was a perfect ending to the day. The campus was remarkably quiet for an hour, too! Congratulations to the 2011-2012 Yearbook staff and advisors.

END-OF-THE-YEAR CELEBRATIONS



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School Moving Up ceremony was held on June 1 in the Palmer Cultural Center. Eight speeches were given by students from both the Italian and American sections. The Service Award went to Jonatan Shaul and the Megan Keenan/Tyler Schmidt Citizenship Award went to Jillian Streit. Jillian also sang a beautiful solo, "Little Wonders," and a few tears were shed during her performance! Everyone enjoyed a buffet under the Capanonne after the ceremony before the Middle Schoolers left for summer vacation.



**MS Moving Up
Gallery**



THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The End-of-the-Year Ceremony for the Elementary School honors the 5th Grades in both the American and Italian sections. Next year they will be Middle Schoolers, and this shift is an important time in their lives. The ceremony began with all of the students Pre-K to 4 humming Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* while the 5th Grade students progressed into the Palestra. Both Nyman Brooks, the ES Head of School and TASIS Headmaster Michael Ulku-Steiner gave sound advice to the students as they look ahead to their Middle School years. The ceremony ended with a special lunch for everyone in De Nobili.



ES End-of-Year Ceremony Gallery



THE HIGH SCHOOL

One paragraph does not allow justice to the busy final week in a TASIS senior's life. Beginning with the Farewell Assembly on Tuesday the next four days include: Commencement rehearsals, an Alumni Induction night on a boat on Lake Lugano, Prom, the Senior Banquet, and finally Commencement. A gorgeous Lugano spring day was the backdrop to this year's Commencement, which featured speaker Carla Arimont '94 and a speech by valedictorian Anna Gandolfi. Click on the links to the right for photographs from these special events.



Senior Banquet Gallery



Prom Gallery



Commencement Day Gallery



Service has been an integral part of a TASIS education since the School began, and 2011-2012 included some impressive milestones. Here are some of the highlights:

Amnesty International created special artwork to raise awareness about human rights and exhibited this at the Arts Festival.

Caring for Cambodia's work was recently featured in the international charity's monthly newsletter, highlighting the fundraising and Supply Drive the group successfully conducted this year.

Children from the **Casa Elisabetta** center downtown were recently hosted at TASIS during Advisor Dinner and attended the MS Musical Alice in Wonderland.

Ethical Food hosted the Oxfam Hunger Banquet, Fair Trade Fortnight, and has been working in tandem with the new school chef to use more sustainable, organic foods in the cafeteria. Next year, they plan to start a Grill Club, where students can visit the farms and animals which provide local food, and are hoping to discuss a Meat Free Mondays initiative.

KIVA has completed another successful year of micro-loans to entrepreneurs in developing countries. Some of the entrepreneurs have begun to pay back their loans, including Andrej in Ukraine (polyethylene film and vegetable salesman), the San Gregorio Group in Paraguay (clothing sales), Michael in the Philippines (motorcycle transport), Mukim in Tajikistan (food production and sales), Francesca Isabel in Ecuador (clothing sales), Hassan in Lebanon (computers), and many others. So far all of the chosen entrepreneurs are on track to repay their loans on time. More information about the TASIS KIVA program can be found here: [Kiva report](#).

Africa Service Trip Advisor, Howard Stickley asked ES teachers Mara Bernasconi and Julia Wilkins to arrange for HS students to practice teaching lessons in the elementary school. This summer these same HS students will find themselves in front of classrooms in Africa.

A Culture of Service

E-Club has successfully cultivated the new TASIS garden and is next undertaking a campaign to raise awareness about bees and pollination. TASIS students are truly discovering their green thumbs.

Habitat for Humanity once again sent 12 students to Portugal during Academic Travel to help build a home for a deserving family.

The Recycling Club successfully ensures the School's paper and plastic recycling bins are emptied each week, keeping our campus clean and green.

WISER has raised nearly \$1000 to help fund a scholarship for an aspiring secondary student at the WISER school in Kenya.

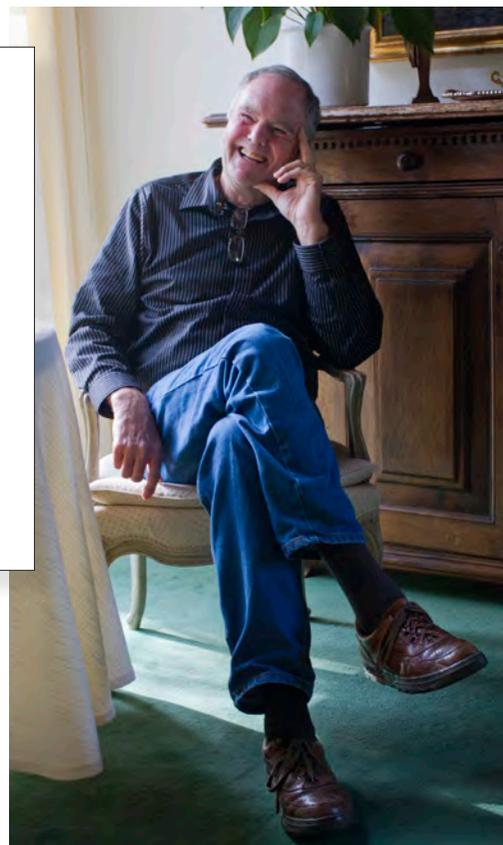
Embracing Romania sent 15 students to Romania during Academic Travel to work with an educational facility, along with continued fundraising and awareness campaigns.

The group will be going to Zambia and Botswana in June and will be teaching and running activities at a pre-school in Livingstone and at an Elementary School in the remote Western Province. TASIS students needed to practice and prepare for teaching in Africa. In addition to teaching, the TASIS Africa Service group will also be organizing a leadership workshop for students from a remote high school.

The Middle School World Issues service learning group studies the Millennium Goals as set out by the UN in 2000, including debate on how successful the world has been to meet the UN deadline of 2015. This spring the group traveled to Geneva and toured the UN Headquarters to see where world-impacting decisions, such as the Millennium Goals, are made. Read more about this [Middle School trip here](#).

Division Service Learning Coordinators (2011- 2012): HS - Zach Mulert , MS - MJ Breton, and ES - Julia Wilkins

On April 20, **Rich Mitchell** and his wife Renee visited from California, where they split their time between Sonoma County and Malibu. Richard taught at the Vezia campus in 1970-71 before earning a Ph.D. at Cornell. He has since worked in education as a Headmaster and in law enforcement, and currently writes screenplays. He stopped at TASIS en route to Italy for a screening of his short film about St. Francis of Assisi, *Walking with Francis*. In the style of a Socratic dialogue with a philosophical rather than theological approach, the film was greeted with acclaim by audiences in Assisi, Florence, and Rome. We were proud to give an impromptu showing at Casa Fleming as well!



Alumni Campus Visits

Only a few of the many visits...

It was a day for coincidences when **Claudia Figueredo (CDE '83 & TSLP '84)** and **Camilia Tara '84** both found themselves in the throng of the Elementary School closing celebrations on June 8. Claudia and Camilia didn't overlap at TASIS but know each other – and our head of housekeeping, Mariella Tullini – from Franklin College. Claudia remembers what a huge impression the summer program made on her at the tender age of 11, and how cool it was to be in such a diverse community. Camilia's family embodies that diversity – she is part Iranian, and was a TASIS boarder at the young age of 9 due the revolution in Iran. Camila will be joining the TASIS Elementary School staff in August.





Khalid Zabadne '86 was in Milan for his sons' soccer tournaments and brought his family to campus. While in De Nobili he ran into classmate Rob Lazar '86! His children enjoyed seeing where their dad went to school and viewing the 1986 Yearbook.



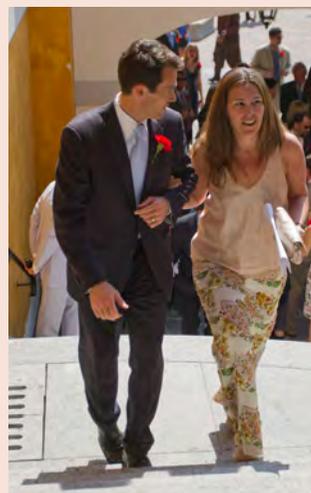
Ali Toscani '06 visits with Francesca Mueller while on campus.

If you're in the area, please come and visit campus! We'd love to reconnect and hear your stories.

That's my book, too!

When Michael Davis '12 looked at the list of names in his English textbook, one of the names looked familiar.

"Her name was written there in 1994: Carla Arimont, our 2012 Commencement speaker. I showed Carla the book at the buffet after the graduation ceremony. She gazed at it for a few moments, in awe, then smiled. "Oh my God! I can't believe it!" She said she wanted to take it back home with her, but before that, she had me sign the book in the allotted spot where people sign out the books. She thanked me, and I was on my way. It was a wonderful moment; I realized that I had bridged a gap between old and new generations of the TESIS family."



Carla Arimont '94 was the Commencement speaker for the Class of 2012. Her Graduation address and more about her return to TESIS will appear in the upcoming print issue of *TESIS Today*.

Class of '92 Celebrates 20-Year Reunion

A dozen members descended upon campus during the weekend of June 8-10. The unpredictable summer weather encouraged flexibility, but the group still enjoyed poring over old yearbooks and exchanging stories. Saturday night featured a buffet dinner at Casa Fleming followed by dancing at Nyx until the wee hours.

Not everyone made it to Sunday brunch, but those who did enjoyed a great spread and beautiful sunshine, including the cult-brunch item of the 80s and early 90s – melasse. The uninitiated looked on with bemusement to see the correct way to enjoy this delicacy (mixed with butter, of course).

The group was joined by former teacher Karen Long, who also left in 1992 after nine years at TASIS and happened to be in town from Madagascar. Thanks to Sophie Desplaces for all the time and thought she put into planning this reunion. Next appointment: 2017 for the 25th!



Tara Fallon, Sophie Desplaces, and a strip of paprika chips!



Bettina Walter '91 with Sophie at brunch



Bill Eichner and Tara share yearbook memories.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Reunions are wonderful events.
Please plan on attending one
of the upcoming reunions.

Class 2002 - 10th Year Reunion

TASIS Campus, Lugano

June 15-17, 2012

Contact: Armando Passuello
armandopassuello@hotmail.com or go
to the facebook page: Class of '02
Facebook Page.

Class of 1986

Prince Edward Island, Canada

July 13-16, 2012

Heidi Hyndman '86 is hosting a small
group of 1986 alumni. Watch for photos
in the upcoming print copy *TASIS Today*.

PG '61 Class Reunion

Fall 2012 in Chicago

This reunion is being planned to
belatedly celebrate the Class of 1961's
50-Year Reunion. Please contact Mimi
Trieschmann Nesbit at jtnesbit@att.net.

All-School Reunion

New York City

Casa Italiana at Columbia University

November 17, 2012

More information to follow.

All-School Reunion

Washington D.C.

Swiss Ambassador's Residence

March 2013 (To be confirmed)

More information to follow.

Grand Opening of the Ferit Şahenk '83 Arts Center

TASIS Campus, Lugano

May 11, 2013

Save the date!

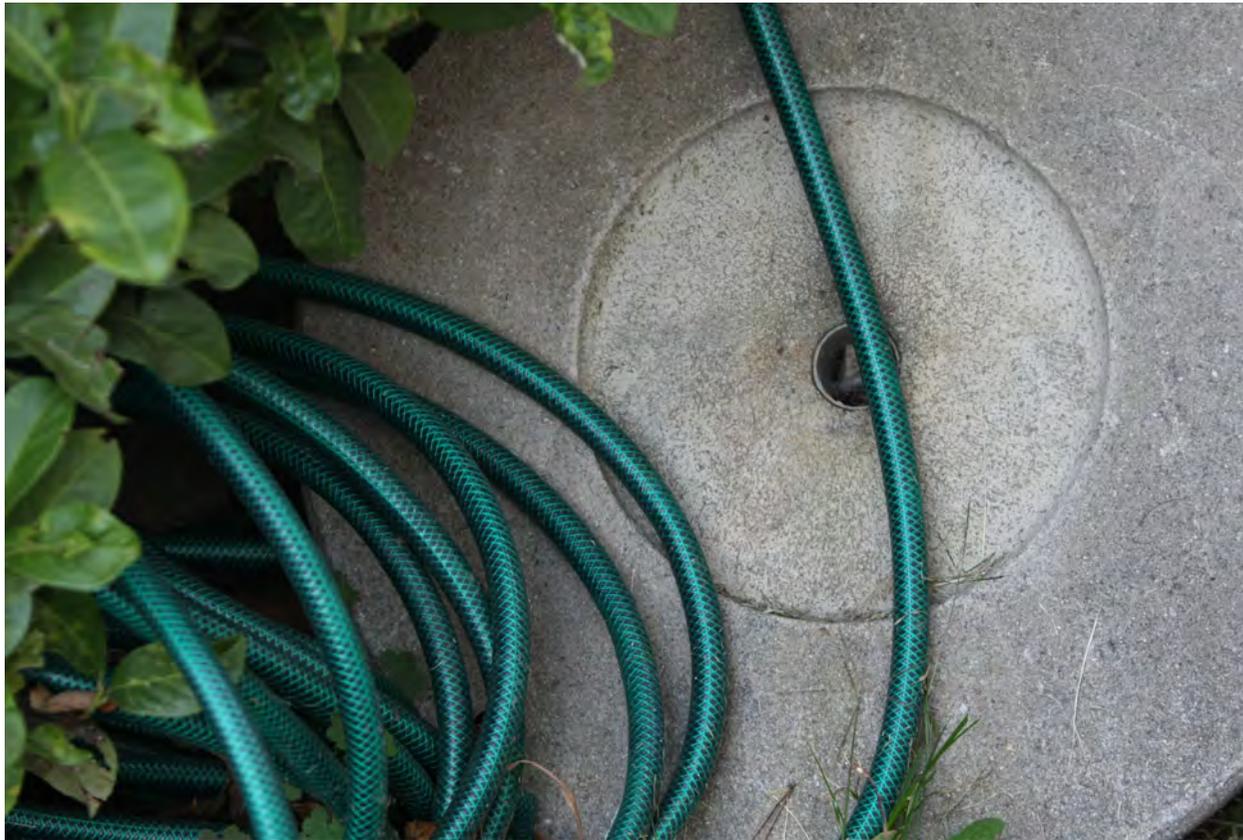
**Classes of 1983 and 1963 anniversary
reunions** in conjunction with the Arts
Center Opening.

We are searching for alumni from nearly every graduating class and need your help. We've listed our lost alumni here. Take a look at the names of those who were on campus at the same time you were, and if you have contact information for anyone, please send it to alumni@tasis.ch. We would love to connect with them and hear about their stories after TASIS!

Click here to access the [TASIS Lost Alumni list](#).







We usually associate TESIS' beauty with the campus—the view from Lanterna, the M. Crist Fleming Library, the tower of Casa Fleming. But sometimes the beauty is in the details and the often overlooked little things—simple, yet stunning. Memories flood back with the play of light on a door or the worn steps in a building.



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