

## Activity-report February 2011 from the canteen

Dear Parents,

The school management has launched a project with the goal of improving the already very positive "school ethos and school climate" at the ESM. Canteen representatives will cooperate with the school within the framework of this new project to seek ways in which the canteen can contribute toward the school's goal. We see a great potential benefit in linking the school lunch to the curriculum, since the school food service offers a context for practical and social learning, for looking after our cultural and biological diversity and caring for our environment. A school lunch emphasizing organic, seasonal and regionally sourced ingredients, as in our school, is the healthiest option for our children and models sustainable practice. It can support the aspects of the curriculum dealing with health and sustainability issues such as "respect for food and its source" in the first grade, "respect for the environment" in the second grade and "benefits of organic farming" in the fourth grade (examples taken from the *Discovery of the World* curriculum). One direct benefit of organic agriculture to our own community is that Munich enjoys some of the best water quality in Europe, thanks to the organic agriculture in the Mangfalltal (see "Trinkwasser-Schutz" [www.swm.de/privatkunden/m-wasser/gewinnung/wasserschutz.html](http://www.swm.de/privatkunden/m-wasser/gewinnung/wasserschutz.html)). We also seek to integrate more stakeholders in planning and evaluating the lunch and cafeteria services and in creating a pleasant dining environment.

Below, a few recent actions which support our goals:

- In December, the Christmas decoration was planned and carried out by Ms Gulluoglu, Ms. Mazzadi and other primary school teachers, and the high school art teacher Ms. Artelsmeier. 2010 was the first year that the mensa was decorated for Christmas using pupils' work, and we appreciate the commitment and care demonstrated in the fantastic job done.
- Together with primary school teachers Ms. Dascalu and Mr. Pietrobelli, canteen committee members Ms. Giroul and Ms. Sommer and Ms. Petrone from Il Cielo met to look for ways to improve the cooperation among teachers, Il Cielo and parents, and to find ways to deal with the less than ideal lunch situation (over 300 children at once and a short, early lunch break before children develop an appetite) and also motivate children to become more responsible about their eating habits. Several ideas and suggestions resulted from the dialogue, which have been summarized by Ms. Dascalu in a report to be presented to the canteen committee (date pending). In addition, Il Cielo and the PA are preparing a questionnaire to be distributed to primary school teachers.
- The school has arranged a meeting among school management and representatives from the BUS kiosk, Il Cielo and the PA. We'd like to find a way that the various services reflect a consistent food policy, cooperate more closely and avoid competing with each other, and work toward increasing the healthiness of the offers.
- On Wednesday, 16th of February at 12:30, we plan a meeting with the kindergarten to discuss the menu plans, to see where changes and improvements can be made.

- We invite parents, pupils, teachers and staff to join us for lunch at the mensa on Tuesdays between 13:00 and 14:30. In case of interest, please contact [canteen.team@ev-esm.org](mailto:canteen.team@ev-esm.org).
- We encourage pupils who have questions to address the canteen staff during lunch. Photos and names are now posted at the entrance to the mensa and in the cafeteria, so that pupils know who is who.
- After Easter, we plan to organize a second Sunday Brunch at school. We were pleased with the large attendance at the first brunch in October, and happy about the chance to talk to many parents and about the positive feedback to the event.

Best regards,  
Raquel Sommer and the Canteen Team