

May 2008

## **Auf Wiedersehen an alle an der Deutschen Sonnabendschule Boston!**

As the VanOpdorps bid a fond farewell to Boston's German Saturday School community, I am deeply honored and humbled to know our great German children's library now bears my name.

Looking back, in 1992-93 the library started off with four basic categories: picture books, stories & novels, fairy tales & poetry and educational books. As time, technology and energy allowed, we expanded to audiocassettes, a Videothek, *Thema der Woche*, Multi Media, a Computer Software-Ecke, *Leseleiter*, Anfänger-Ecke, CDs, DVDs, and most recently a Comics/Jokes/Brainteasers section. Our students now benefit from regular class library visits and occasional *LeseFreunde*. Just this year for the first time, certain classes contributed to a rolling monthly student library exhibit *Wer war. . .?/Wer ist. . .?* as well as two *Teens For Tots* picture book publications (available for check out!).

*Please* recognize that I, since embarking on this special initiative, represent merely one of many library volunteers over these past 16 years. Each time a parent – or faculty – individual stepped up to conceive and then implement a new library offering, service or program is truly a priceless and permanent gift to our school. For a detailed retrospective, please refer to the list of contributors to the library's major initiatives success, which is presented in "DSSB Library Milestones". We can thus all be proud of the *synergistic* collaborative and cumulative achievement made by every library TEAM each school year.

Over the years it has been an ongoing privilege to work with supportive School Committees and all committed library parent volunteers. Saturday after Saturday school parents (under the leadership of a minimum of two dedicated team coordinators) accomplish the library's Aufbau-Wunder [set-up miracle], automated returns and check-outs, *Thema der Woche*, holiday and Sonderausstellung [special exhibit] displays, reshelving and alphabetizing, and class visits. And then somehow during our Abbau-Wunder [break-down miracle], our library magically "disappears" until the next Saturday of classes.

During most weeks other essential volunteer library projects occur behind the scenes: ordering, classifying and labeling of new acquisitions, data entry, computer loading and maintenance, media conversion to U.S. compatibility, library cards for new families and faculty, weekly e-mail reminders of borrowed items or the upcoming library staffing commitment. . .

The financing of the library's infrastructure (customized automation and cabinets) as well as a considerable part of the expansion year after year of the library's collection has been made possible through the incredible generosity of school parents. We are eternally grateful for repeated participation in our *Danke-Schön* and *Flohmarkt* programs, contributions to the *Eltern-Lesecke*, and endowments of partial and entire German children's collections to our library.

I encourage you in the years ahead to continue to share your motivating enthusiasm and compliments with the library team. My children and original inspirations, Mika and Davis, my husband, John, and I leave the library in the excellent hands of my School Committee Library Liaison successor, Marie-Christine Hariton-Vitunic, and of my Library Faculty Liaison successors, Petra Rollins, Birgit Koriath-Schmitz and Anja Chavez – and the inspiration of their children. The library team's founding legacy is outlined in "DSSB Library Mission and Objectives".

Mit tiefster Dankbarkeit für diese herrlichen gemeinsamen Jahre

*Kris VanOpdorps*