



St. Gilgen
International
School | SALZBURG
AUSTRIA

Path of Excellence



Seven Days Bulletin



VOLUME 8 | TERM 1a
19th - 25th OCTOBER 2026



Save the Date



COMING SOON

16.10.2026 (13h30)

Parent Community Café with
Head of Teaching and Learning

16.10.2026

Term 1b & 2 Activities sign-up opens

20.10.2026 (All Day)

Grade 9 I&S Fieldtrip

20.10.2026 (09h20-10h00)

Hult University Visit

21.10.2026

Community Building Day

21.10.2026 (08h00-12h00)

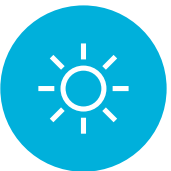
Open Day

**23.10.2026 (On Campus: 08h00 - 12h00/
Online 13h00 – 15h00)**

Parent - Student -Teacher Conferences

24.10. - 08.11.2026

Autumn Mid-Term (No Classes)



WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Saturday 17th October

Football & Volleyball Tournament

Mountaineering

Basketball with Coach A

Sunday 18th October

Wolfgangseelauf

*These are the activities planned for the weekend,
however there can be last-minute changes!*

Calendar 2026/27

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2026/27



Formal Reporting Cycle



REFLECTING ON STRENGTHS AND PROGRESS

Our first formal reporting cycle of the academic year is now underway, with a focus on students recognising their strengths, celebrating their achievements and identifying opportunities for further growth.

Supported by their Mentor Tutors, students are reflecting on their learning and development through three key questions:

- **What is going well?** Reflecting on achievements, successes and experiences they are proud of, both in and beyond the classroom.
- **Even better if...** Identifying areas where they would like to improve, develop their skills or make further progress.
- **Goal setting – What next?** Setting meaningful goals and, importantly, identifying the specific actions and strategies that will help them achieve these goals.

These reflections take a holistic view of learning, encompassing academic progress in the classroom alongside personal development through Activities and Boarding.

Students' completed *Strengths Self-reflections* will be published on ManageBac on **Wednesday 21 October**, providing an opportunity for students and parents to review and discuss their progress together.

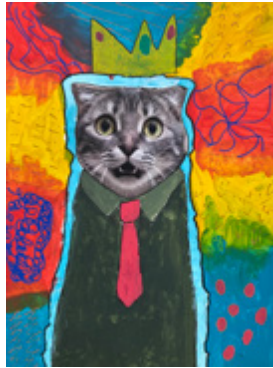
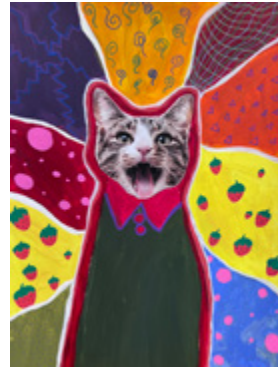
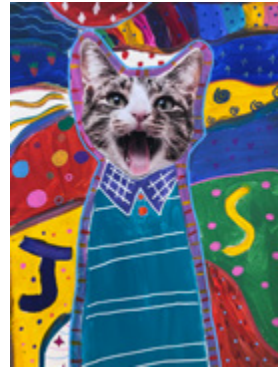
Our **Parent Meetings on Friday 23 October** will provide a further opportunity for students, parents and teachers to engage in meaningful conversations about learning, celebrate achievements and consider next steps. Meetings will be available both in person and online, and there will be no scheduled classes on this day. Details for sign up will be sent out later this week.

Alongside these reflections, our Continuous Online Reporting (COR) system provides parents with ongoing access to subject-specific feedback through ManageBac.



MRS SOMMERVILLE

Head of Teaching and Learning



Grade 4-5 That Looks Like Me Unit



In Grade 4/5 Art, we have been exploring self-portraiture in creative and unexpected ways, discovering how we can express our identities without showing our actual faces. Our first project asked students to represent themselves through expressive cat faces, which they surrounded with colours and patterns that reflected their individual personalities. In our second project, we explored how shape and expressive marks can communicate who we are. Students experimented with inks and watercolours to create colourful papers, which they then collaged to form vibrant, personal backgrounds. They completed their artworks by cutting

out silhouettes of themselves in expressive poses, using body language to reveal aspects of their personalities. Next, we will investigate symmetry as we transform ourselves into superheroes and design our own masks. Finally, we will work collaboratively on a whimsical sculpture project in which each student becomes a piece of chocolate in a box of chocolates, celebrating individuality while contributing to a larger, shared artwork.



MS SPROWL
Visual Arts and Design Teacher



Shaping Our Future

WHAT FUTURE ARE WE PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR?

What future are we preparing our children for—and what do they need from us to thrive in it?

This important conversation will begin with a series of student, parent, and staff sessions facilitated by **Homa Tavangar**, co-founder and CEO of the **Big Questions Institute**.

For more than three decades, Homa has worked at the intersection of innovation, strategy, leadership, global citizenship, belonging, and cultural competence. She is a trusted thought partner to educators and schools across five continents, helping them imagine and create more purposeful, inclusive and “irresistible” futures for all students.



Homa will help us engage with some of the big questions facing our children and our school community. Together, we will explore our shared ambitions, develop a common vocabulary, and, where necessary, identify and embrace the tensions that arise when we think deeply about the future we want to create.

Parent Lunch with Homa Tavangar

We warmly invite parents to join us for a conversation and lunch with Homa:

Friday, October 23

12:00 noon

StGIS Conference Room

This is an opportunity to step into the conversation, share your perspectives, and help shape a shared vision for the future of our children.

We hope you will join us.



MS MÖTZ
Head of School



World Mental Health Day 2026



LIVED EXPERIENCES HEARD: REAL VOICES, REAL CHANGE

On 10 October, communities around the world recognised World Mental Health Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness of mental health and encouraging conversations about wellbeing. This year's theme, "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change," highlights the importance of listening to people's experiences and creating environments where everyone feels heard, understood, and supported.

At our school, we know that wellbeing grows through connection. The day serves as an important reminder to check in with ourselves and those around us, and to recognise that everyone faces different challenges and experiences. Taking the time to listen, show empathy, and support one another can have a meaningful impact on someone's day and sense of belonging.

Most importantly, it reminds us that none of us has to face challenges alone. Whether it's talking to a friend, reaching out to a teacher or trusted adult, spending time outdoors, or simply taking a moment to slow down and recharge, small steps can make a big difference. By looking out for one another and being willing to listen, we can help create a school community where everyone feels supported, confident, and able to be themselves. Let's continue these conversations, not just on World Mental Health Day, but every day.

If you would like to learn more about this year's campaign and access resources, please visit the [Mental Health Foundation's World Mental Health Day](#) page.



MRS PORTER

Wellbeing Coordinator, MYP Physical and Health Education Teacher

WORLD
MENTAL
HEALTH
DAY 2026



OCTOBER 10TH

LIVED
EXPERIENCES
HEARD
REAL VOICES,
REAL CHANGE



wmhdoofficial.com



StGIS & Operation Wallacea (Opwall)

SOUTH AFRICA EXPEDITION – JULY 2028

Extend your learning beyond the classroom, working alongside local communities, academics and researchers at a Big 5 game reserve and UNESCO World Heritage coastal wetland and coral reef site.



Following the success of our **South Africa 2026 Opwall expedition**, we are excited to be looking ahead to **South Africa 2028**.

Are you currently in Grades 9, 10, or 11 and interested in joining?

- Watch the video [[YOUTUBE LINK](#)]
- Check out the display in the school cafe
- Watch for more details from Mr. Woodman and Ms. Willey via email



MR WOODMAN

Coord Accreditations & Educational Innovation, OS-TVE Coordinator, Teacher of WS



"If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together."

- African Proverb -

COMING UP THIS WEEKEND – STGIS VOLLEYBALL

An exciting weekend of volleyball lies ahead for StGIS!

On Saturday 17 October, our Girls' Varsity, Boys' and Development Teams will represent the school in friendly matches at the American International School. This will be followed by the Salzburg State Volleyball Championships on Monday 19 October, when our Girls' Varsity Team will compete against schools from across the region.

We wish all three teams every success on Saturday and our Girls' Varsity Team the very best of luck in Monday's championships.



MRS SOMMERVILLE
Head of Teaching and Learning



We would like to invite you to our

Parent Community Cafe

with the

Mrs Sommerville - Head of Teaching & Learning



Invited: Parents
When: October 16th 2026 at 13:30
Where: Conference room



Library Spotlight

BANNED BOOKS WEEK

'Let Books Be, protect the Freedom to Read' was the theme for this years Banned Books Week. In celebrating this week, it serves as a reminder that reading is a freedom worth protecting. We should have access to different ideas, even if they are controversial. Reading educates us, encourages critical thinking, develops imagination, builds empathy.... In short, a good book has the power to transform the way we think, communicate, and analyze the world around us.

Last week, the StGIS library held two contrasting

events; one involved a book being shredded while the other event gave books a new home. Both allowed students to reflect on the importance of stories and the consequences of restricting access to them.

Back by popular demand for the fifth year running, the first event was to guess the shredded book in the container. There were clues to help students and staff guess what the book was. To be a winner, you had to guess both the title and author correctly, and this year there were 13 winners out of 96 students and staff who took part.



A further 29 people guessed just the title correctly but not the author. Well done to everyone who had a go. This year's book was *Maus* by Art Spiegelman which tells the true story of the author's father, Vladek Spiegelman who survived the Holocaust as a Polish Jew. It is told in graphic form using mice to portray Jews and cats to portray Nazis. This book has been frequently challenged and banned over the years for reasons ranging from profanity, violence, to nude imagery.

Whilst this was a fun event, it did allow us to consider that when a book is destroyed, we lose the opportunity to discover its message, learn from the characters, or decide for ourselves what we think about the books' ideas. All stories deserve to be read and as a reader we deserve the freedom to decide what that story means to us.

The second event gave students and staff a chance to take home a banned book to read. A table was set up in the courtyard with a selection of books that have been challenged or banned.

The StGIS community could browse, discover something new, and be able to take home a book that grabbed their interest. This event enabled the Library Guardians, students, and staff to engage in meaningful conversations about why the books have been banned or challenged and the consequences of restricting information, and it was fantastic to hear questions being asked. In taking a book home, it was for us as a community, one small way of standing up for the freedom to read.

Although the two events were quite different, both sparked conversations about reading and guessing the shredded banned book was fun! Hopefully, one important message resonated throughout the community: every story deserves the chance to be discovered, discussed, and understood. We are grateful that here at StGIS, our library gives us the freedom to choose and read the stories we want.



MRS LA RONDIE
Teacher-Librarian



Earth Week might be over, but there is no wrong time to be green!

On Friday, 16th of October, we will have a “Zero Food Waste Challenge” during lunch. We want to raise awareness about the current food waste at our school, and how we can all work together to solve this issue!

Empty Plate?
Great!
Take Less – Waste Less



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Menu for the Week

MON 19 th	Hotel Kendler	<i>Soup:</i> Clear beef broth with profiteroles <i>Main course:</i> Grilled chicken pieces, rice and vegetables; Savoury strudel with vegetables (V) <i>Dessert:</i> Pancakes <i>Salad bar</i> <i>Dinner:</i> Schnitzel, potatoes, vegetables; Fried cauliflower, camembert and mushrooms (V)
TUE 20 th	Hotel Kendler	<i>Soup:</i> Cream of vegetable soup (V) <i>Main course:</i> Kasspress knödel and spinach knödel with Sauerkraut (V); Pasta with cheese sauce, tomato sauce (V); Gluten free pasta <i>Dessert:</i> Vanille pudding <i>Salad bar</i> <i>Dinner:</i> Meat skewers with ratatouille and rice; Vegetable skewers with ratatouille and rice (V)
WED 21 st	Community Day	<i>Lunch:</i> Sandwich & Hotdog Lunch on Campus <i>Dinner:</i> Halloween Party - Pizza and Snacks in House
THU 22 nd	Gasthaus Wirt am Gries Hotel Kendler	<i>Soup:</i> Cream of zucchini soup (V) <i>Main course:</i> Chili con carne, chili sin carne (V), wraps, rice; vegetables, sour cream, cheese <i>Dessert:</i> Apple cake <i>Salad bar</i> <i>Dinner:</i> Voucher
FRI 23 rd		<i>Parent Teacher Conference</i>
WEEKENDS	Restaurant Voucher	Hotel Gasthof Kendler/ CASA-M/ Brunnwind/ Nilu's Portofino/ Pizza King Fuschl/ LIVA

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN AND GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE.

If you have any feedback or questions, please send an email to catering@stgis.at



St. Gilgen International School

SALZBURG | AUSTRIA

Ischlerstrasse 13
5340 St. Gilgen, Austria
P +43 6227 202 59 | F +43 6227 202 59 10

www.stgis.at | info@stgis.at

Accreditation



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