

eTASIS TODAY

TASIS Summer 2012

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

Online only

Enjoy the stories
and hundreds of
photographs from
the 2012 TASIS
Summer Programs!

- CDE
- MSP
- TSP
- MSPCD
- TSLP

TASIS



Welcome to the Summer Programs *eTASIS Today!*



Summer at TASIS seems like another world. Days are packed with activities, from classes to concerts, sports to study hall. Some days feel like weeks, but the sessions seem to fly. So many stories can happen in just one day. And that's what this issue of *eTASIS Today* is about: the stories.

We asked staff and students to tell us their stories – the moments that made them laugh, cry, squirm, and scream. Included in this e-publication are just some of the many stories that made up summer 2012. We hope it captures the spirit of these brief, vibrant, remarkable weeks.

As always, this e-publication rests on our website, and its format allows us to send it directly to your email address. Some alumni and TASIS friends will not receive this in their inbox, however, since we are still missing the email addresses of many alumni. Please share this publication with others (on Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and encourage interested individuals to get in touch with their current information. Contact alumni@tasis.ch if you want to be included in future mailings. We will not share your address with anyone.

eTT Creative Team

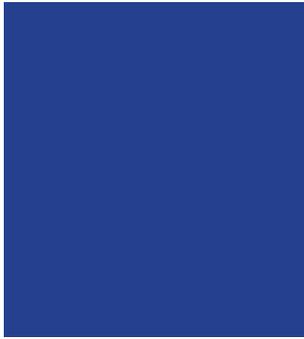
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Cover: MSPCD and TSLP enjoy an afternoon of rock climbing. Photo by Calum Main, TASIS Staff



In this issue:

- 2 Summer News
- 8 Learning Languages
- 10 Enjoying the Outdoors
- 12 The Faces of a TESIS Summer
- 14 Clay Play
- 18 Summer Arts Festival
- 12 It's Showtime
- 24 Africa 2012
- 28 Alumni Crowdsourcing



Check out more photos, links, and video!

The Summer *eTASIS Today* allows you to go beyond the stories included in this e-publication. Look for these buttons, which might take you to a photo gallery, a link to a summer TESIS video, or the TESIS website with further information.



Photo Galleries

Help us share the TESIS story! "Like" us on Facebook and you'll receive photos and stories in your newsfeed. Keep in touch via Twitter for up-to-date information, from live-tweets at soccer matches to Ski Club snow reports. Add us to your Pinterest board for stunning images of campus and our remarkable surroundings. Check out our YouTube channel for videos, and don't forget to visit the TESIS SmugMug site, where you can share your favorite photos on Facebook!



The most beautiful boarding school campus in Europe!

Our community grows stronger—and bigger!—every year! The School's Master Plan is advancing. Take the time to view our new interactive [Campus Tour](#), located on the TASIS website. Look inside the TASIS buildings and enjoy the beauty of campus without leaving your laptop, and enjoy a trip back 'home'!



On How to Choose Color

As the buildings of the TASIS Global Village continue to bring architect David Mayernik's vision to life, the stories behind these buildings emerge and bring a new dimension to our campus. In July, the color of the new Ferit Şahenk '83 Arts Center was revealed. "My idea all along on the campus buildings has been to distinguish each one within a limited palette of materials, details, and colors, so that each is distinct and yet they harmonize," David says. "The arts and theater are meant to be seen as a pair. These complementary colors contrast; they are linked by this contrast." The color is nearly identical to the one used in the muses' robes on the frescos decorating the facade of the John E. Palmer '64 Cultural Center. "The color of the two muses' robes —pastoral/comedy and lyric—link the building to two of the arts that take place in theater. It also links two of its aspects: rustic and refined," David says.



The color also vaguely alludes to the colors of St. Petersburg, an allusion to its neoclassical art academy which will be reinforced by the painting for the pediment; but the color also alludes to the peacock and colors found in Turkish tiles. And, of course, the color is an

obvious allusion to the sustainability of the building, including its state-of-the-art ventilation system and use of natural light which make the building among the greenest on campus.

Arts Center Status Report: The hills are alive with the sound of... drilling. Nail guns. Machinery. Not exactly the Alpine idyll, but worth it, because the Şahenk Arts Center is complete, and the building is remarkable.

Designed specifically for our TASIS arts courses, the building includes purpose-built studios for our budding architects, potters and sculptors, photographers, and painters. High ceilings and large windows allow plenty of natural light to flood the rooms, and the large hallways on both floors provide much-needed gallery space for student artwork.

Below the art rooms is a practice gym, the Palestrina. Half-moon-shaped windows at the top of the room let in a surprising amount of natural light, and this space will be used for both physical education classes and after school activities.

The building fits perfectly into David's Global Village plan, connecting seamlessly to the Palmer Center, adding another key element to his vision. The buildings flow together, sharing porticos and walkways, creating a village with spaces to rest, relax, and take in the views.

We are grateful, as ever, to Ferit Şahenk '83, who donated half of the building costs. In honor of Ferit's Turkish heritage, beautiful Turkish tile accents will appear on the facade of the building.



**Şahenk Arts Center
Photo Gallery**

More Ch-Ch-Changes and the Start of Another Year

After a busy summer and an even busier two weeks between programs, the TASIS academic year began on September 3. Every year comes with new events, altered schedules, and revamped buildings, and this year is no different!

Academics

Our EAL 2 and 3 classes will begin a brand-new EAL Film Program, which brings together their classroom work with the real-world experience of watching a film. Students will improve their listening comprehension and will be exposed to a variety of English accents—from Southern American to Scottish English—which helps students gain confidence in the language.

Dorm Life

After 400 years, you'd probably want a facelift, too... It's been awhile since the De Nobili dorms have been refreshed, and students living in the dorm will enjoy some great new features! Ensuite bathrooms, new floors throughout, and fresh paint means a brighter, more pleasant space.

New Health Center

The Health Center has found a new home in the Balmelli dormitory, at the top of campus beside Belvedere. Students will no longer live in this building, although one faculty apartment remains. Balmelli also houses offices. And students may think twice about visiting the nurse if it involves a long uphill trek...

Capanonne No More

Just when we were getting used to the large wooden structure sheltering the basketball court, it has found a new home with a company in Switzerland. What a way to go after a few years of protecting and shading students at play! The structure is being moved to get the space ready for construction of Campo Science, to commence in April.

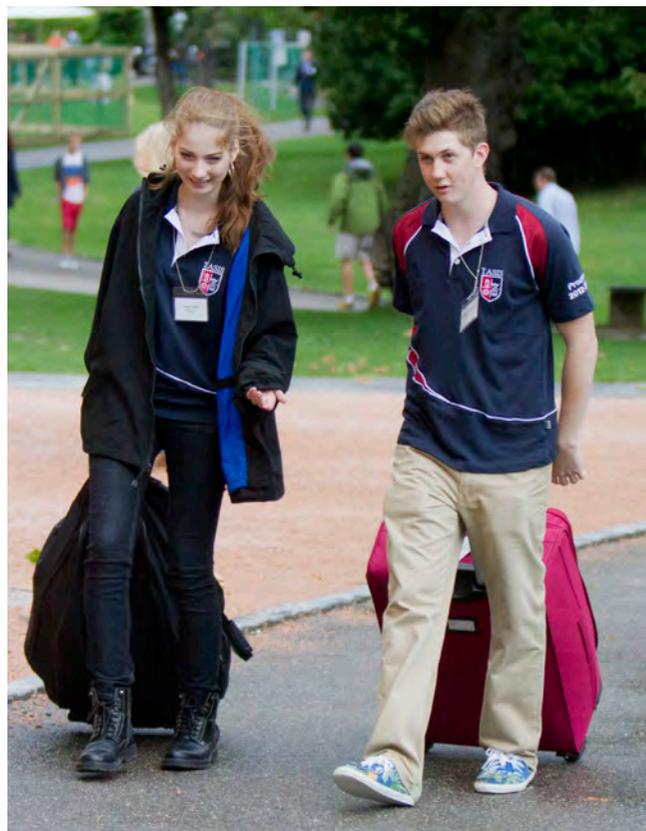
New Faces

This year, we welcome 21 new faculty to our ES, MS, and HS. They hail from the US, Bulgaria, Australia, the UK, and the Netherlands, and have taught in such varied places as Thailand, China, Turkey,

South Korea, London, and Hawaii. (We know that is in America, but it's still pretty exotic!) We look forward to getting to know them better as they transition into our community.

...and a New Headmaster

The search is on. Michael Ulku-Steiner will be leaving us next year, and a core team of eight individuals continue the search for a new Headmaster. Over 150 applicants have expressed interest in the position, and our search team has been whittling down this impressive pool of people to find the ones most suited to our School. The goal is to have two or three applicants visit campus in November to meet with administration, faculty, parents, and students, with the decision coming in early 2013. The new Headmaster will work closely with Michael during the spring to ensure a smooth transition in July, 2013. Read the [Head of School Opportunity Statement](#) here.



**TASIS Orientation and
Opening Day Gallery**

CDE Pet Show

One of CDE Director Betsy Newell's treasured moments of summer was an evening activity that is always a student favorite. Many boarding students bring stuffed toys from home to keep them company, and CDE celebrates these 'pets' by dedicating a night to them! "Kids who hadn't spoken any English yet stood up in front of the boarding community in the Salon to talk about their pets," Betsy says of the event. "This year's children in particular overcame their shyness, fear, and language difficulties to share their stories. It was a truly special evening."



Dancing in the Rain



The Garden Party is one of the highlights of TSP. The students get all dressed up to spend a sophisticated evening dancing on the Monticello Terrace. But during first session, that lasted about a half an hour before the heavens opened! TSP staff rushed around to shift the sound system equipment out of the rain as students ran inside—well, some of them! Many were already soaked, so they went out to the fountain and twirled and danced, in the pouring rain! Not even a freak rainstorm was getting in the way of their fun!

CDE and MSP Volleyball: The Rivalry Continues

Another summer, another two chances for the MSP and CDE staff to compete on the volleyball court. Once again our students created cheers, made signs, and wore special outfits to support their staff members. Coupled with some mighty loud screaming, this year's events were as exciting as ever!

While last year's results were balanced, with MSP prevailing 1st Session but CDE coming back with a vengeance 2nd Session, this year MSP won both.



But the second session loss was a bit too much for CDE. "After our third loss of three pitiful games, our staff rushed the CDE bleachers shouting *We won! We won!* with such enthusiasm that our CDE children joined in the celebration! CDE marched up the hill and off to bed oblivious to our poor performance," admits CDE assistant director Meagan Vincent. "Such is the joy of working with the littlest children on campus. It was pretty cute!"

Will CDE fight back for real next year? Wait and see...

In Their Own Words

Château-d'Oex

Chateau-d'Oex gives TASIS students a taste of the great outdoors. Alongside language learning, students explore the surrounding mountains on foot, by kayak or hot air balloon, hanging from a rope in the trees or on the side of a rock, or on two wheels. The program attracts children from around the globe. Here are some stories from this year's session.



Kyle Armstrong on why he enjoys returning to Château-d'Oex with his family year after year.



Mark, from Russia (MS academic year student & Château-d'Oex student)



Jonathan from Hong Kong, who learned to ride a bike at Château-d'Oex



Luigi, from Italy, who has been to CDE, MSP, and Château-d'Oex

Of Minnows and Mermaids

At ages 4-6, our Minnows are the youngest children on campus. They meet for a day program at Focolare, and they especially love doing projects outside!

The Minnows love to play in the sunshine, and they love learning new languages and teaching others new words! A group of three EAL students were playing in the sandbox, and one grabbed a leaf from the ground. “It’s my mermaid flag,” he sang, flipping his feet. “Mermaid flag!” The two other boys reached for leaves too, and began flapping their feet and singing along—“Mermaid flag! Mermaid flag!” They found a use for their vocabulary words, and used their imagination!



**CDE Galleries
on SmugMug**



Faculty Kids



We here at TASIS consider ourselves one big family, and this ethos takes on a new dimension when our summer staff bring along their kids! This year, faculty and staff entrusted over 30 of their children to TASIS, and they all had a ball!

"CDE was a remarkable experience for my daughter Delaney. We live here during the year and she is used to meeting people from all over the world, but our ES population of day students are largely from Lugano, Italy, and expats from English-speaking countries. Our summer programs attract kids from over 50 countries, and Delaney was coming home with stories her friends told her about Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Japan, and Venezuela.

This experience lays the groundwork for her becoming a truly global citizen so early in life, which is essential as our children grow in a society where borders are becoming less of a boundary and more of an opportunity. She loved every minute of CDE and can't wait for next year!"

— Emily McKee, *Associate Director of Admissions*



"CDE sent Ivy soaring to new heights! Italian class, wonderful trips, amazing performances, but of course her favorite things were swimming and gelato. Nothing but smiles (and a few tears!) as 2nd Session came to a close."

— Karen Libby,

(Mother of Ivy, CDE; wife of Mike, TSP Assistant Director)



"My daughter loved playing the piano in the CDE Talent Show with Lydia Lee '12."

— Michelle Arslanian, *Website Manager*

Cheese, please!

On a trip to the L'etivaz cheese factory, our MSPCD students received a tour in French. Two students studying French – a girl from Mexico and a boy from Spain – decided to help out the beginning French students and translate the tour into English. Working alongside the tour guide, these students ensured that everyone understood the processes of cheesemaking, and they did a wonderful job! *C'est bien!*

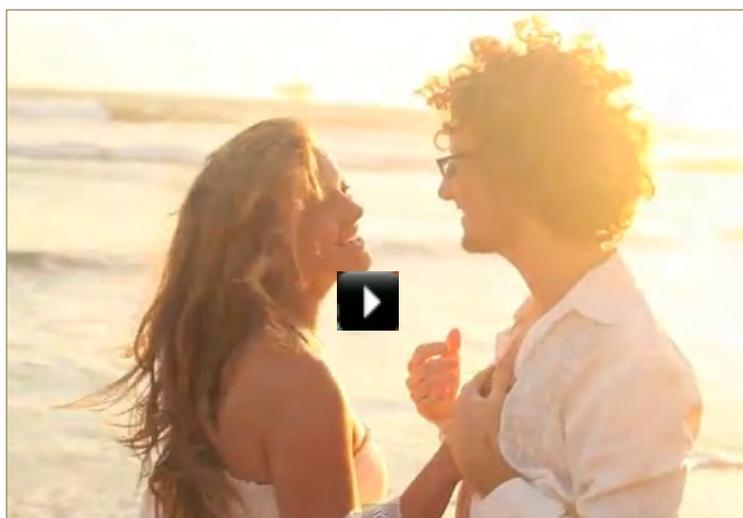


...And Even More Cheese!

The "cheesy" music video that is taking the Internet by storm!

Every year, on the eve of Arrivals Day for 1st Session, TASIS summer staff gather to get to know one another and enjoy a bit of entertainment by the multi-talented staff. In 2011, then-rookie MSP music teacher Paul Peglar brought the house down by singing "A Cheesy Love Song", an ode to love and, well, cheese.

The song and video are rooted in TASIS talent; along with composing the song, Paul sings and stars in the video alongside CDE music teacher Melody Tibbits, whose beautiful voice provides the backing vocals. The video was filmed on a Los Angeles beach by Milo Zaneccchia '08, who also edited the video. His brother Christof Zaneccchia '04 recorded the audio in his basement studio near the TASIS Campus.



Click here to watch "[A Cheesy Love Song](#)", and keep your ears open for the puns...starting with the dedication: For Maggio.

Check out the websites of these summer staff: [Paul Peglar](#), [Christof Zaneccchia '04](#), and [Milo Zaneccchia '08](#).

Our summer language students spend many hours each day practicing their target languages, but the true test of fluency is trips to the outside world. Each of our programs gives students a chance to practice their language, whether at a cheese factory (*Comment fait-on le fromage?*), an opera at Verona's amphitheater (*A che ora inizia l'opera?*), or at the Lugano zoo (Is that a monkey?).

As English is our program language, our English-as-an-Additional-Language students practice all the time, but it is still challenging to speak and listen outside campus. Our CDE students especially enjoy visiting the local zoo, where they get to practice their animal names and action words while having a great time together.

French students enjoy visiting Francophone cities such as Nice and

Lausanne where they take tours and eat their meals in French and can truly immerse themselves in the language. "I was really surprised when I understood all of the tour," says one Château-d'Oex student. "It made me really happy because I am much better than I thought!"

Ticino is the perfect place for children to learn Italian, and while trips to Venice and Rome give TSP students complete immersion into the culture and language, even a trip to Lugano becomes exciting for our students. "We play a game where we speak only Italian in shops," a TSP student shared. "So far I have successfully purchased shoes and a dress, but I failed miserably when attempting to purchase a special cake for my friend's birthday." A hearty *mille grazie* to Lugano shop owners for their patience with our students!

All TASIS Programs travel and see Europe

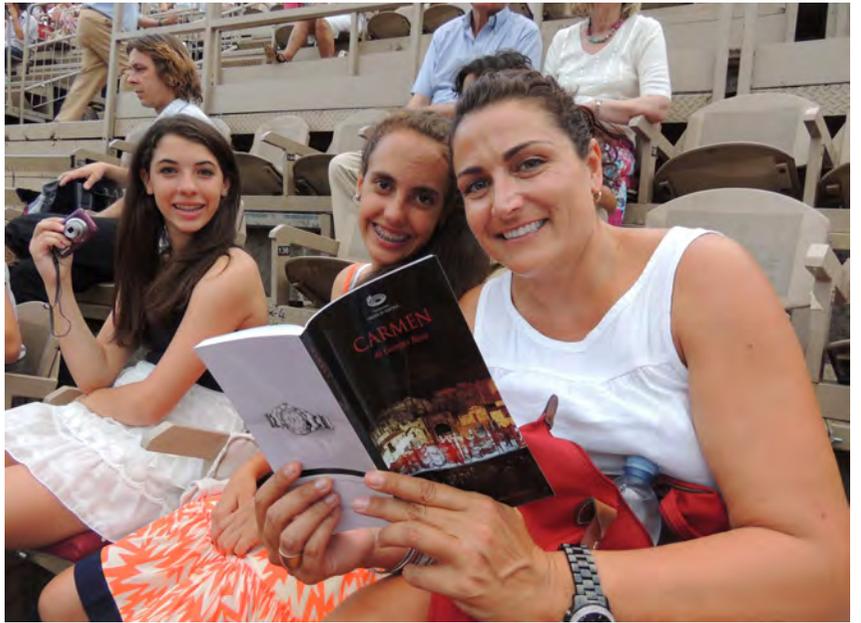
LEARNING NEW Languages



TASIS Summer Programs Website



TASIS Summer Galleries on SmugMug



ENJOYING THE **Out of Doors**



TASIS Programs enjoy Swiss outdoor life

Switzerland: land of lakes, mountains, and beautiful countryside. This is more than just a cliché; it is one of the many things that makes Switzerland a truly remarkable country. Our summer programs are so fortunate to be able to exploit the natural wonders of Switzerland, which allows our students to experience new things and push themselves beyond their comfort zones.

One of the reasons we get children returning year after year is the exciting assortment of outdoor activities that are on offer. The lakes offer wakeboarding, paddleboarding, windsurfing, and paddle boating. On land, they explore the Alps on foot and mountain bike, jump between trees on ropes courses, and climb up sheer rock faces. Underground, they explore caves and crevasses. Clear blue rivers mean canyoning and rafting, and often a swim in a natural pool at the end. They climb on glaciers and camp in the woods; they stay in mountain huts and roast marshmallows by a fire. Yes, that Swiss cliché is alive and well at TASIS!



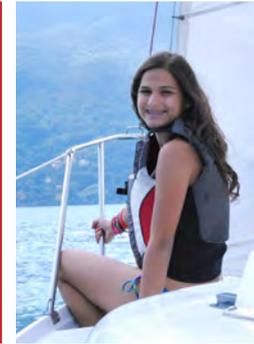
**TASIS Summer Gallery of
Outdoor Activities**







learn
laugh
enjoy





tasis summer programs



Click here to download this poster for free!

TASIS Summer Poster



Clay Play



Capturing the essence of a woman as extraordinary as TESIS founder M. Crist Fleming is a challenge few would take on. When asked, those who knew her smile, then use words like amazing, incredible, wonderful. But how can these words—and indeed the essence of this woman—be captured tangibly?

“When I told people about it, they seemed almost to pity me,” says Gianna Dispenza ’08 of her task to create a bust of Mrs. Fleming. “One person said, ‘The worst thing they can do is throw it away.’” But Gianna took this on, and has created a remarkable piece that has moved some viewers to tears.

Gianna is a sculptor living and working in San Francisco, CA. She’s sold countless works, been commissioned for a variety of pieces, and is a rising star in the art world. But Gianna feels she owes much to TESIS, and to Mrs. Fleming.

Gianna came to TESIS at age 15 and stayed for her junior and senior years. She enrolled in art hoping to find a new creative outlet. “I was given brushes and paint and a canvas, and no instruction,” Gianna remembers. “Our teacher, Laurence Koppe, believed that the way we find our own voice is without external influence. I didn’t even know if I had to add water to the oils!” She laughs. “I had no idea what I was doing. It was very much a process of exploring the various mediums and finding my way.”

Art soon began to take over her life and spill into every part of her TESIS world. “The program was challenging. Some

days I had no idea how I'd get everything else done. But my peers were doing even more – full IB, varsity sports – and they managed, so I was in a relatively kind position. There was a group of artists in Ca Gioia [the art building] who spent every day together, and we formed a close network that is still important to us today.”

Gianna felt that the IB Art program gave her the space and motivation, along with the tools and supplies, to help her shift out of her comfort zone. “There was so much freedom at TASIS. This is uncommon. At many schools, art classes can feel like a craft fair, but at TASIS you have the facilities and support to create something worthwhile. I’m not sure I left with a strong body of work, but I was happy with various pieces and glimpsed where I could go.”

And she did go – initially to Florence to study sculpture, drawing, and painting, and then on to Colorado College, where she pursued

“WHAT A PRIVILEGE,” GIANNA SAYS, SLIGHTLY IN AWE. “I HOPE IT RESONATES WITH PEOPLE AS MUCH AS MRS. FLEMING RESONATED WITH ALL OF US.”

a degree in liberal arts. “I didn’t take an art class for a year,” Gianna recalls. “It was a year of festering creativity. Whatever your gift is, if you’re actively rejecting that it’s going to hurt your character.”

Gianna sat down with her family to talk about her future, and with their blessing she transferred to the Academy of Art in San Francisco to study classical sculpture. “I knew that my work would eventually become abstract but first I had to become proficient in the fundamental classical techniques,” she says. The first 18 months were filled with foundation work which placed emphasis on academic, realistic technique. “Then I took a class called Gestural Figure Sculpture. It forced me to be loose and to create uncomfortable, ugly work. We’d create something, then destroy it, then re-create it. They were mostly quick studies. This was the most important class I took at the Academy, it has changed the way I sculpt but more importantly, it changed the way that I think about

art. It made me realize the undeniable correlation between art and history—that great work often relates to specific times or events and the human perception or reaction to that time,” she says. “Most importantly, though, I began to recognize the intuitive balance which is achieved through something along the lines of sensitive negligence. The entire process is a paradox of sorts but creating some sort of personal definition, however transient, is grounding.”



Gianna became an apprentice to the professor of that course, Cedrick Wentworth, helping him with small things. “It wasn’t about the work we did together. It was about the conversations we had. To understand art in the way those around you understand it is highly unlikely. When you meet someone you connect with, challenge, grow with and whose opinion you trust is the greatest thing. When a small group of people do that, movements happen.”

Art school did what it was supposed to do for Gianna: it allowed her to understand the nature of subjectivity. “You have to trust

your professors, but you also have to know when not to trust them,” Gianna says. “Some of my favorite classical professors would be hysterical about the work I’ve done. Others would cast it in bronze.”

While most of Gianna’s work is rooted in the abstract, she approached the brief of capturing Mrs. Fleming with gusto. “This sort of commission forces me to revert back to classical style,” she says. “I get such gratification from being able to capture the way the skin pulls over the muscles and bones, to understand the muscles of the face, knowing where it’s tense, how far it protrudes, characteristics of eyes, wrinkles on sides of the mouth. It’s extremely fulfilling.”

Gianna knew Mrs. Fleming during her time at TASIS. “She brought a huge amount of character to the school and to the students. And I had to try to capture character and charisma out of mud.” She was given 82 photos to work with. “And 80 of those are of Mrs. Fleming with a giant smile,” Gianna says. “From her early 20s to her 90s, she always had that smile. And I wish I could make that smile as it would truly capture her, but it would look wrong in clay. So I chose the mischievous smirk.”

Age was another difficult decision. “Then I realized I needed to create her as I knew her. As everyone in our class, and those who are still at TASIS now, knew her.” Gianna used younger photographs to detail the eyes, lips, cheekbones, but the finished product is a post-2000 Mrs. Fleming.

“The process is the most exciting part,” Gianna says. “As an artist you step into this black hole where you’re not sure what’s on the other side but you absolutely must trust in it. It’s a total submission to the unconscious.” She creates 80% of the piece and then steps back. “And then I think, I’m awful. This is a cartoon. I shouldn’t be a sculptor. It’s a torrent of self-doubt. And once I hit that point, a point that I almost wait for, I give up. I release it to something greater than my conscious self. I’ve tried to train myself to speed up this frustration so I can get to the breakthrough—the last 20% of the creative process—because those final moments are the greatest moments of my life.”



Has Gianna succeeded in capturing Mrs. Fleming? This is up to the viewer. But for someone to create her likeness in clay in three weeks is impressive. It is a handsome, imposing piece, its terra cotta color blending magnificently with the colors of the TASIS campus. It is also a soulful piece, with the familiar curves and angles of Mrs. Fleming’s face. For this young sculptor, creating Mrs. Fleming’s likeness out of clay was an honor. “What a privilege,” Gianna says, slightly in awe. “I hope it resonates with people as much as Mrs. Fleming resonated with all of us.”

*To see more of Gianna's work, visit her website:
<http://metalandmud.tumblr.com>*

Click here for more [TASIS Visual Arts Information](#).



The annual Spring Arts Festival has been a favorite TASIS event for families and students for many years. The addition of the Palmer Cultural Center and the new Şahenk Arts Center have revitalized the School's commitment to the Arts and inspired the Summer Programs Director for the Performing Arts to establish Arts Festivals during the final week of each session.

The celebrations began with the Talent Shows, which give students a chance to perform in front of their peers. All students were encouraged to participate and to be as creative as possible with their entries. Our CDE students included acrobats, dancers, singers, and jugglers, all performing with gusto! MSP entries included a young pianist singing Adele, two Michael Jackson look-a-likes and a tap-dancing duo of teacher and student! TSP also featured talented performers, and particularly memorable were a group of singers from Brazil singing with pride.

All three Lugano programs presented world-premiere musicals this summer. CDE's musical, *Bundle of the Living*, is loosely based on the novel by René Aeschliman, father of TASIS Foundation Board member Michael Aeschliman. The musical tells the story of Zusel Mueller and how, by providing a home for orphaned and abandoned children, she changed a great many lives, including that of the novel's author. MSP's *The Princess and the Goblin* is based on George MacDonald's classic fairy tale. The original TSP musical *Spy School*, conceived and written with the help of students in the TSP Musical Theater Course, is a spy-themed romp set in—you guessed it—a school. All three productions opened their dress rehearsals up to the public to give students a chance to perform in front of an audience before their world premieres.

Other events included the presentation of four original short plays



**TASIS Summer
Galleries**

performed by students participating in the TSP Drama Activity, a revival of the popular TASP musical *Ready, Set, Go!*, and a combined visual arts exhibition, showcasing photography, paintings, sketches, ceramics, and other artwork created during the sessions. Both CDE and MSP also gave hour-long performances of songs they had learned in their daily music classes. The performances also featured selections from the MSP student /faculty orchestra, the showing of original short films made in the video- making workshops, a virtuoso percussion performance, dances, and the MSP Boys Choir. CDE families are likely still humming the beautiful folk song “Oh Shenandoah” and MSP’s rousing rendition of Neil Diamond’s “Sweet Caroline” will ring in the rafters of the Palestra for a long time to come.

Congratulations to the staff and students who made this year’s inaugural Arts Festivals a huge success!

**"It was fun to see everyone's art
and to watch the other kids sing!"**

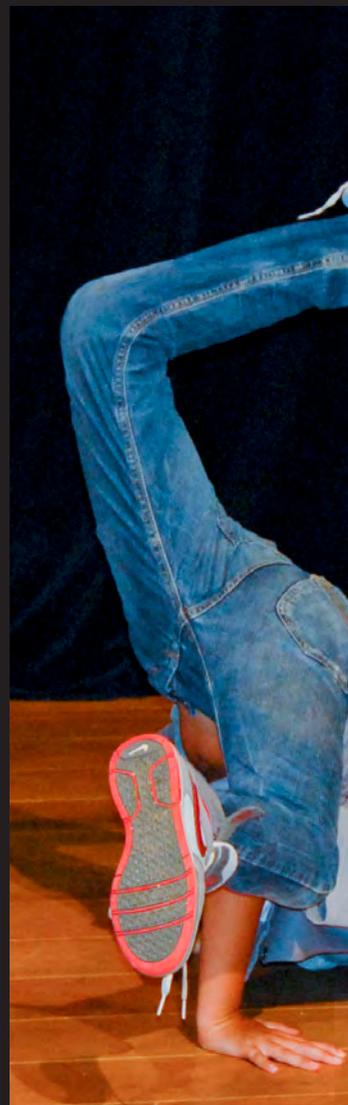
- MSP student



Celebrating the Arts



Performers of All



and Artists Ages





It's Showtime

Excerpted from the 2012 TASIS Performing Arts Manifesto by Todd Fletcher, TASIS Summer Programs Director for the Performing Arts

From the beginning, the Arts have played a central role at TASIS; indeed, the School feels that the Arts teaches skills and values that have an impact that lasts a lifetime. Our TASIS performing arts staff is committed to ensuring our students find fun and meaning in their artistic endeavors.

Understanding the necessity for both fun and meaning in our work in the performing arts is essential to success. *Fun* is self-explanatory; *meaning* is to be found in stories, words, and music that our students can live with for the rest of their lives; material that contributes to their intellectual and spiritual development; pieces whose themes, messages, and morals can be referred to as the children grow into men and women.

Central to the concept of fun and meaning is the full participation of the individual. We collaborate with our students whenever possible, inviting them to contribute to the creation of the material, direction, set design, etc. This sort of collaboration engages the students, giving them a sense of ownership that comes from

true contribution to a project or process. It also gives them an opportunity to exercise through their own creativity their own “power of one” to make a difference.

Though it might be fun to imagine otherwise, we must acknowledge that few of our students will pursue a career in the arts. However, nearly all of them will find themselves standing before a classroom or a boardroom with the need to be persuasive and exude confidence. What we do is about much, much more than just putting on a show. We teach skills that can serve a student for a lifetime.

We stimulate imagination and the making of creative choices. We foster the development of cooperation and collaboration among people who may not like each other. We teach empathy and understanding. We give children an emotional outlet for their many daily frustrations. Whether through an elegant monologue, a surprising cadenza, a vibrant *pas de deux*, we help students discover and learn to appreciate what is beautiful in the world, beautiful in others, beautiful in themselves.

Todd Fletcher on his collaboration with videographer [Andy Bryant](#).

“I met Andy four summers ago, but we didn't have much contact with each other back then. That changed last year when I saw a music video he shot of CDE counselors Melody Tibbits, Gaby Sforza '07, and Daniel Lohmann. I was thoroughly impressed with what I had seen and immediately asked if he would be interested in joining my new TASIS Performing Arts Team the following summer in 2012. He was enthusiastic about the idea, and a conversation began.

That conversation continued a few weeks later when he came to visit me in Berlin and a few months later in New York during a TASIS reunion. I shared with him my feeling that though it's always great to put on a good show, it's a shame that the students who aren't involved in the productions and the families in attendance only see the end product without any insight into all that goes into making the productions successful. To address this, I asked him to make 'behind the scenes' videos detailing key aspects of the process of putting on the shows. Andy embraced the idea, and we started talking in more detail about how to go about creating the videos.

The TASIS conversations led to our working together on another project as well. That project brings together Israeli and Palestinian teenagers to develop, write, and produce a musical in two weeks. The two-week program takes place at a castle in Germany, but the process begins with auditions in the Middle East. Andy was there from the beginning.

We used a week of living in Jerusalem to not only begin documenting the Middle East project, but also to go into more depth about the TASIS videos. One particularly significant conversation took place on a drive from Jerusalem to a Kibbutz near Gaza. The hours and hours of conversations as well as a great number of emails back and forth ultimately resulted in the TASIS performing arts videos.

Initially intended solely for a TASIS audience, I now see the videos as a great way to tell a certain aspect of the TASIS story to a wider audience. As the arts are such an integral part of what we do in the summer, I've asked Andy to edit a final performing arts video that will include the work of all three programs in one video. I am hopeful that this video will both tell our story and serve an important

role in attracting the best students and staff to the TASIS Summer Programs. I couldn't be happier that the videos turned out to be both informative and entertaining, but I am especially happy that they shine the spotlight on many of the people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make the performing arts at TASIS thrive.”



CDE Summer Performing Arts Video



MSP Summer Performing Arts Video



TSP Summer Performing Arts Video



Africa Service Trip 2012

For the many years, longtime TESIS teacher Howard Stickley has been taking groups of TESIS students to Africa for a service trip. Here, TESIS student Mackenzie Blinn '13 and teacher Mara Bernasconi share their experience, in their own words.

"My experience with the Africa service trip is one that I will never forget. Bringing my knowledge of poverty away from the perspective of the media, I was able to experience the differences between my life and theirs. Visiting the schools I learned how resourceful the children are and how happy they are with their lifestyle, not knowing anything different from it. Many third world countries are advertised as depressed and completely negative, whereas I learned that there is life and happiness in these countries. I couldn't imagine a better way to spend three weeks. The Africa service trip will be something I never forget and I encourage everyone with the ability to visit Africa for themselves.

- Mackenzie Blinn '13



**Africa Service Trip
Photo Gallery**



**TESIS Service Learning
Program Information**

"I saw so much poverty. I saw how nature remains in control of everyone and everything—in good and bad ways. The schools we visited were in appalling conditions but the students there were happy and proud of what they had. Most of all, they were always smiling and eager to make us feel at ease.

Howard Stickley thinks that what he does each summer is just a drop in the ocean, but the effort he makes to help those schools and the local communities is invaluable. And he also opens the minds of our students.

Returning home to Switzerland, I cannot escape the realization that we live in an absurdly luxurious way: when I arrived home the other day I had only to switch on the lights in my apartment and do everything easily instead of using a head-torch; I shoved my clothes in the washing machine instead of washing them by hand; I had running water to take a shower. What a treat!

The trip provided lots of food for thought. It was an experience I will never forget. I hope all of our TESIS students who went on the trip (and chaperones!) will thoughtfully consider the experience and learn from it. Our students worked hard and worked as a team by helping each other. It was wonderful to watch them teach."

- Mara Bernasconi, ES Italian teacher and EAL teacher

Special Events On Campus and Off

Founder's Day Celebrations



MS/HS students place yellow rose petals in the fountain after the Founder's Day Assembly.

Mrs. Fleming had such an impact on all of us, and celebrating Founder's Day is one of the many ways we can keep the spirit of our Founder alive. September 10 is Mrs. Fleming's birthday, and we hope that sometime this week, you can take a moment to remember your time at TASIS and how Mrs. Fleming has added to your life.

The TASIS campus will celebrate Mrs. Fleming throughout the week, with various Founder's Day celebrations. Our annual Class Hikes usually take place during this week to celebrate Mrs. Fleming's love of the Alps, but unfortunately were postponed due to weather. Mrs. Fleming's commitment to stretching her students physically (before the mentally taxing school year begins) will have to wait a week or so.

Make your mark on campus

Join us in honoring a legendary TASIS teacher by donating to the **Horst Dürschmidt Gallery** in the new Ferit Şahenk Arts Center. Contributions of \$20, \$50, or \$100+ to the Dürschmidt Gallery Fund will be remembered on a plaque with all donors' names at the entrance to the two floors of the Gallery. And join us on May 11, 2013, for the Grand Opening of the Şahenk Arts Center and the Horst Dürschmidt Gallery. Save the date!

Campo Science is scheduled for completion in 2014, and by purchasing a **paving stone** you can have your name (or someone else's) engraved and placed in the ground, forever a part of campus. Visit www.tasisgiving.com for more information.



Upcoming Reunions

PG '61 Class Reunion

September 19 - 21, 2012 - Chicago, IL

This reunion is being planned to belatedly celebrate the Class of 1961's 50-Year Reunion. Contact Mimi Trieschmann Nesbit at: jtnesbit@att.net for more information.

All-Class Reunion

November 17, 2012 - New York City

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Casa Italiana at Columbia University
1161 Amsterdam Avenue,
New York, NY 10027

All-Class Reunion

March 8, 2013 - Washington, DC

6:00 - 8:30 pm

Swiss Ambassador's Residence
2920 Cathedral Parkway NW
Washington, DC 20008

If you are
planning
a reunion,
please let us
know.

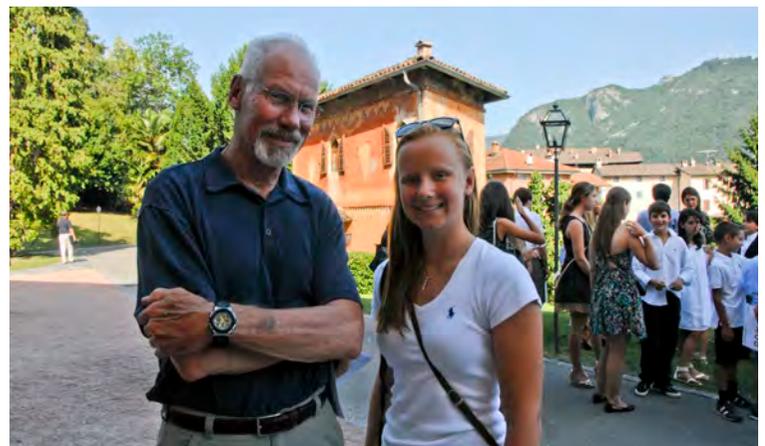
Class of 2002 Reunion



Close to 50 members of the Class of 2002 enjoyed their 10-year reunion in Lugano this past June. The weekend was full of fun and reminiscences, including a slideshow by Armando Passuello, a campus tour, a Casa Fleming dinner, boat dance, and a Sunday brunch. For more about the reunion and a collection of photos please visit the TASIS website's [Reunion page](#).

Summer Homecomings

This summer's hot ticket for alumni has been a visit to the TASIS campus! Peak season started as soon as the academic year ended, with one especially rich week in June beginning with the Class of 1992 Reunion and ending with the tenth anniversary celebrations of the Class of 2002. In between was a steady stream of visitors including Lisa Walhaug Hecker '94, who had the unusual experience of seeing her old dorm room in De Nobili being demolished; Lei-Fah Chang-Way Shafer '86 who showed the campus to her husband David (a TASIS England alum) and daughter; and Harriet Hilburn '64 who dropped in unannounced almost 50 years after attending TASIS as a junior. This was an especially welcome visit as we had had no contact information for Harriet and were able to put that right. The visits continued in July and included former faculty, alumni from the '80s, and a few millennials too. We love hosting alumni on campus! We hope you too will come and visit – drop us a line beforehand if you can, but most importantly, know that you are always welcome. (By Yvonne Procyk)



Above: John Gage '60, TASIS' first student, poses with Sophia Verner who has spent over a decade at the TASIS Summer Programs!



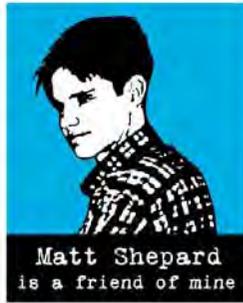
Left: Lei-Fah Chang-Way Shafer '86 was on campus with her husband and daughter.

Crowdfunding Creativity

One of the major recent breakthroughs in funding initiatives is crowdfunding. This allows creative-types to share their projects on a website, giving viewers a chance to help financially support projects which they believe in.

KICKSTARTER

Michele Josue '97 is a huge success story. Using Kickstarter, she set out to raise \$50,000 towards her film *Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine*, a documentary about the former TESIS student's tragic death and how it has affected those closest to him. Michele reached her goal on May 29, 2011, and her project at press time had raised \$60,415 from 669 backers located all over the world. [Click here for more about Michele's film.](#)



Alicia Brauns '82 used indiegogo to raise funds for her film *The Mosaic of Life*, documenting her father's remarkable life as a Holocaust survivor. But instead of focusing on the atrocities of his time in Dachau, her father wants to highlight the kindnesses shown to him by German SS officials. Alicia and her father will visit Dachau in September to film, and we will update readers on their experience in a future *eTASIS Today*. [Click here to read more about Alicia's film.](#)



Gregor Bismarck '82 took to Kickstarter to fund Floh, a kickscooter-backpack-trolley invention that raised \$87,764 via 199 backers. [Click here for more about the Floh and Gregor's project.](#)

Recent grads **Randy Lin '08** and **Dimitriy Levdanski PG '08** also took to Kickstarter to fund their project *Silk Rail Road*, an interactive photography book documenting the lives of the people who live along the road from Astana to Beijing. [Click here for more information about the Silk Rail Road Project.](#)



Alumni in the News

Our TESIS alumni are out in the world doing some pretty incredible things. Take **Jeanie Cunningham '75** whose musical *Dula* was performed at Northwestern University in Chicago on July 26. Check out the performance on the [Dula the Musical YouTube Channel](#) or the official [Dula the Musical website](#).

Or, **Alexander Polli '03**, whose video *Reality of Human Flight*, filmed in Switzerland, Norway, and New Zealand, has over 700,000 views on YouTube since being posted on August 22! (<http://alexanderpolli.com>).

Are you climbing mountains? Running marathons? Writing books? Recording music? Traveling the world? Volunteering? We want to share your story, and make it a part of the TESIS story. Let us know what you are doing to make your mark on the world. We're so proud of our TESIS students, alumni, and friends, and the narrative we weave every day through our actions and deeds. Our community is remarkable and inspiring. Share your story!



Naz Doganci '11



*Chris Nelson '09, Berfin Ataman '09,
Taylor Sayward '09*



Lydia Lee '12



Masa Yo '04

TASIS Alumni Working TASIS Summer Programs!



Milo Zanecchia '08



Capucine Mabika '05, Elyse Guizzetti '11



Gaby Sforza '07

Our individual stories are what make up the vibrant, global TESIS community. Share your story on any of our social media networks. Our [Alumni Facebook](#) page shares updates and photos with over 3500 people around the world. Our [TESIS Admissions Facebook](#) page shares stories, photos, and links to information about the TESIS experience. See striking images on our [Pinterest](#) or [SmugMug](#) page, keep up-to-date on [Twitter](#), and enjoy TESIS videos on our [YouTube](#) channel.

Join the conversation, connect with others, and share your TESIS story!

Follow

Share

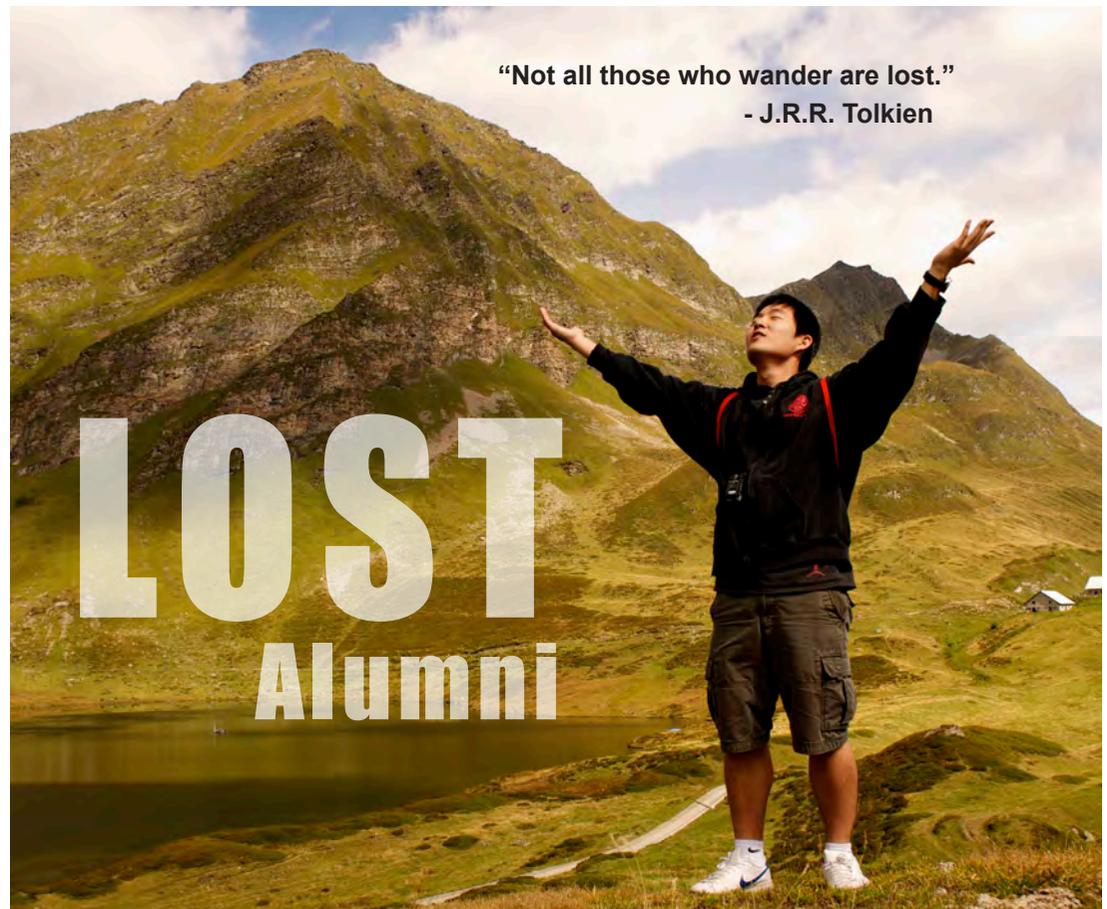
Watch

Connect



Thank you!

We have received a number of email addresses and contact information from Alumni for whom we did not have information. However, we are still searching for alumni from nearly every graduating class and would love 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 TESIS! Click [here](#) to access the [TESIS Lost Alumni list](#).





An excerpt from Headmaster Michael Ulku-Steiner's opening remarks to students, parents and faculty on August 31, 2012.

"Many of you have already seen Matt Harding's dancing videos. I shared one of them at our Opening Assembly in 2008. In those videos, Matt did one goofy dance in 40 different countries around the world. Jumping over language barriers and dancing through his own awkward embarrassment, Matt shared his joyful message with more than 50 million people. This summer, he shared his most recent work. Just as you will do this year at TASIS, Matt moved from doing his own dance to trying the dances of the people he meets and inventing some new dances together. I hope you'll enjoy the video. View the [Matt Harding video](#) here.

Tomorrow night on the terrace at De Nobili, the Proctors will offer you High Schoolers your first chance at TASIS for some literal dancing. But the opportunities for conquering awkward nervousness are everywhere at TASIS. Whether you dance or not, I challenge you to open yourself to new experiences this year. Open your heart to new cultures. Find your courageous voice and sing out loud. Take the risk to stand out from the crowd. To stand up for what is right in the world. To step beyond your lesser self be reborn this year as someone more honest, more respectful, more responsible, more compassionate, more humble, more helpful, and more visionary than you are right now.

Dare to be magnificent."



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