

A Word from the Proviseur...

By: Mr. Jean Stephan



Dear Parents, Students, and Kind Readers,

Isn't it wonderful, living in Houston?

It's November 16, and the weather is beautiful. Many of our neighbors on the East coast and our friends and families in Europe envy us this time of year. Paris covered in frost, London in the fog, Berlin awaiting the onslaught of general Winter... and here we are, feeling as though Spring has come.

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It's November 16, and already the stores are enveloped in a holiday atmosphere. In six days, our beautiful city will be decked out in lights. It seems strange, with the weather doing nothing to get us in the mood. No snow in sight...hardly possible to find a little morning frost. As for building a nice fire in the fireplace, you'd really have to be ambitious!

Here comes December, and Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Saint Nicholas, Hans Trapp, and the Christkindle have decided to come to the party. Just as he does every year, Santa will come to the school on a pretty red fire truck. The youngsters can play in the snow, and we'll have the traditional Christmas Show. Everybody will be getting ready for this happy season of the year.

Feeling nostalgic for the language that brightened my holidays as a child on the banks of the Rhine, I wish you all...E gueti Wihnächte ùn e glecklichs Nejjohr!

Isn't it wonderful, being at Awty?

December is a special month. It's a festive time, but it's also a time to take stock. A good part of the school year has already gone by. The parent-teacher conferences and class councils (for students in the French Bilingual Section) will provide the opportunity to assess how far we have come. If everything's going well, then keep it up. If there are a few little bumps, make the necessary adjustments.

The month of December is a time for generosity and sharing. Many of you have given unstintingly of yourselves for the benefit of our school and our children. So much time and energy have been invested. Because of that investment our school has become what it is today, and if it continues to be what it is, it's thanks to all of you. Thank you all.

Each of us in our own way can do something positive for Awty. It doesn't have to be a lot. Be part of an event at the school, invite your friends, bid on an item made by your child's class, put an Awty sticker on your car, give a friend an Awty mug as a gift... every one of these little gestures helps keep The Awty International School on the right track.

For some of us, too, December is a sad time. The end of the year is also the time for job transfers in some companies. You have to go back home, or go someplace new... Aberdeen? Dubai?

Calgary? Lyon? Zurich? You have to leave your friends and neighbors behind, leave the school you loved and had come to appreciate, adapt to a new environment. To all of you who are leaving, I wish you a "bon voyage."

Many of you will stay here in Houston, and some will fly to see their families all over the world. We'll be looking forward to seeing you all on January 7, 2008.

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