Children Teaching Parents

How do you program a robot? How do you write a short poem and how do you draw various constructions using a pair of compasses? During SIS Männedorf-Zürich’s annual expo, answers to these and other questions were provided by the local team of experts: the students of SIS. It is the one time in the year when parents can get a more in-depth insight into what and how their children are learning at school.

For a double lesson per class, students from all levels took over their teacher’s job – with flying colours. “We host an expo once a year so parents can learn more about SIS’ educational concept. This works best if it is the children themselves who show their parents how we teach and learn at SIS,” explains Lisa Cummins, principal of SIS Männedorf-Zürich.

Goal-Oriented Learning

There is always a broad range of activities encompassing all subjects being offered at the expo. In every learning unit, students informed parents about the respective learning goals and which steps have to be taken in order to reach it. Exactly the same procedure is also followed in regular classes at SIS. “A distinctive feature of SIS is its focus on goal-oriented learning, which not only takes place in the main subjects but also in subjects such as music,” explains the principal.

When the Student Becomes the Master

Students need to prepare intensively for the expo so that they are not only well-informed about the learning goals but also in terms of their presentation skills. This allows them to proudly present what they have learned and impress their parents with their knowledge.

English and German play equal roles in school communication at SIS – in the classroom and in all parts of day-to-day school life. During the expo, learning units in both languages are offered, providing students the possibility to improve their language skills and, if necessary, help their parents out with a word or two in their two school languages.

Events such as the expo strengthen SIS’ school community beyond the classroom and celebrate its unique bilingual learning environment. Learn more about the benefits of bilingual education at SIS today!

Provided by: Andrea Furgler, CEO of SIS Swiss International Schools Schweiz AG

Andrea Furgler is the CEO of Swiss International Schools Schweiz AG. SIS operates 16 bilingual, private day schools in Switzerland, Germany and Brazil with more than 3,700 students attending classes from kindergarten through to college.