

# On Staying Swiss While Becoming International

Sibylle Gisi, President of the Swiss School in Singapore (SSiS), chatted with us about the transformation in education underway at 'the school next door', her dual lives in education and the corporate world, and her love of the Swiss Club.



## MOTHER, BUSINESSWOMAN, TEACHER, PRINCIPAL, PRESIDENT

Having been a teacher for most of her working life and more recently a principal at a school in Zürich, Sibylle was approached by the Swiss Embassy to apply for the position of President at the SSiS, which she has officially filled since August of this year.



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Sibylle Gisi

While Sibylle's working life has focused mainly on education, it has not been confined to it. In her mid-twenties, she moved to Singapore after four days of marriage, and within four years she was the mother of three – Pascal, Alessia and Virginia, now aged 26, 25 and 22 respectively. She also ran a successful pearl trading company with her husband Christian. After a sojourn of several years back in Switzerland, Sibylle returned with her husband, who is now the CEO of Rolex Southeast Asia. Together they are clocking up their eighteenth year in Singapore.

## HOPES FOR THE SWISS SCHOOL

Sibylle is immensely fond and rightfully proud of the Swiss School. Of her hopes and plans for its future, she shared, "I would love to keep the 'Swissness' of the Swiss School while fulfilling the demand for being an even more international school."

Unbeknown to many, the Swiss School in Singapore follows the curriculum of the Canton Zug, its partner in Switzerland. Sibylle explained that it differs from Swiss schools at home in that it is a company with many stakeholders, all of whom expect quality at every level. The school is answerable to the Singapore authorities, the Swiss authorities that fund it, and above all, the students and their parents. It also fosters relationships with the other pillars of the Swiss community – the Swiss Club, the Swiss Embassy, the SwissCham Singapore and the Swiss Association.

## A RARE JEWEL, IN A BEAUTIFUL SETTING

On the synergy between the Swiss School and the Swiss Club, Sibylle had nothing but praise. She sees the School and the Club as a joint venture, and cherishes the ongoing collaboration, in which the Club is both friendly landlord and caterer. (The Club supplies lunches to the Swiss School students daily.)

"The Swiss School is a rare jewel, located in the most beautiful spot in Singapore, surrounded by the lush greenery of the Swiss Club. What more could you wish for?" Sibylle shared that she enjoys a tête-à-tête with her husband every Friday at Arbenz.

## PEARLS OF WISDOM

When asked for a message to send to the students of the Swiss School, Sibylle shared: "Our school is a place where children feel safe, are loved and enjoy learning. Dear children – make the most of it!"

Clearly, Sibylle leads by example, having made the most of every chapter of her rich and varied life.

# Preschoolers Light Up Botanic Gardens



NEWS FROM THE



“Ich geh’ mit meiner Laterne und meine Laterne mit mir”, was one of the songs that echoed through the Botanic Gardens on the eve of 10 November. It was the yearly Lantern Event organized by the SSiS Early Childhood Department.



listen to the story of St. Martin who was kind enough to join us this year. (Mrs. Jo – our PGA teacher, dressed up as St. Martin himself with a sword, a horse and a coat!)

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On went the journey from the Botany Centre all the way to Swan Lake. On arrival, children and parents encircled the lake, illuminating it in its entirety, before the homeward journey began.

## A PRETTY PROCESSION... AND A SAINT IN ATTENDANCE!

Picture this – lights everywhere, children running around joyfully, parents and teachers talking to each other cheerfully and enjoying the festivities. We retraced our footsteps from previous years, following the familiar path from Botany Centre to Tanglin Gate and Swan Lake.

Each child carried a lantern of their own creation, lit up with electric candles and glow sticks. When everyone was glowing and shining brightly, the journey slowly began and the children broke into songs they had learned in class. Along the way, they also got to



## SPIRITS UNDAMPENED BY RAIN

A chorus of children, parents and teachers sang with enthusiasm. Not even the start of the drizzling rain could make the smiles on everyone’s faces disappear. By the time the last stop was reached, a parade of umbrellas shielded the beautiful lanterns and their carriers from the rain. After the evening’s songs were sung one last time, the teachers handed out bread to the students, which they happily shared with their parents.

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The lantern event was a beautiful way of celebrating St. Martin, and simply having a wonderful time together. We cannot wait to have our lives lit up again next year!