Newsletter 03/2026

10.10.2026

Dear friends in India, dear Nandhini, dear Fr Regis, dear Fr. Charles, dear Ambrose

best wishes to all of you from Arivu-Team Nienburg, Germany!

We hope you are all doing well and our newsletter finds you all safe and sound. Since the beginning of the academic year in August some activities have taken place that we like to share with you. Enjoy reading our Newsletter!

New school year at the ASS



The new school year at ASS began in August, with five new classes starting in the fifth grade. The children and their parents were warmly welcomed to our school during a festive induction ceremony featuring music. During their first few days at the new school, the classes got to know their new classmates, teachers, and the school itself. Activities included a riddle-based school tour and various team-building exercises. At the end of October, all fifth-grade classes will travel to Rotenburg together for a three-day "getting-to-know-each-other" trip, where they will further strengthen their class community.



Dragon boat race in Nienburg

In late August, a dragon boat race for schools took place in Nienburg. Students from the graduating classes and teachers from various schools participated. A total of 11 teams competed; ASS entered both a teacher team and a student team. Amidst thunderous applause, the student team took first place, while the teachers finished fourth. It was a fantastic event for fostering community spirit, and everyone had a great time!





Certificates, honors, and commendations for outstanding achievements and qualifications



On August 26, a very special event took place in the “Giebelsaal” of the Albert-Schweitzer-Schule: selected students who had accomplished something remarkable were honored. Recognitions were awarded for participation in a student academy; successful performance in competitions—including a nationwide physics contest; outstanding work in musical composition; the founding and running of a book club at the Albert-Schweitzer-Schule; and excellence in specific subjects or exceptional social commitment.

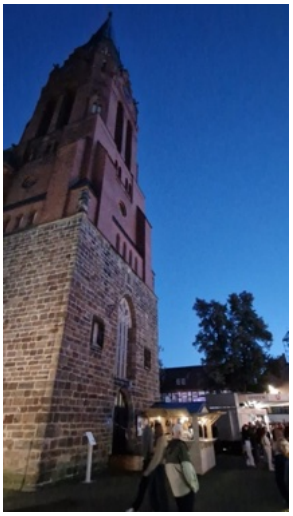
India-working-group sold Choclate-apples





October is the season for harvesting apples. With the India-working group we made „Chocolate-covered-apples“ and sold them at school. The other students were happy to buy them and the India-working group was quite proud to be able to contribute to the important projects in Neerpair.

Town Festival of Nienburg



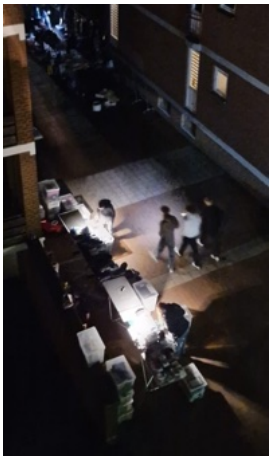


Last weekend of september, the city of Nienburg celebrated its "Old Town Festival". From Thursday evening till Sunday late afternoon, music events, a kids festival with games and fun, food trucks and attractions like a giant wheel expected the visitors. Arivu team has also been part of this festival again.

Thursday and friday evening, teachers of ASS and members of the parish of St. Martin in the middle of Nienburg sold drinks right in front of the church. We sat up a little wooden hut and as every year, many former students came along this meeting point. In the end, the money was split up half for social projects of the church and half for ARIVU.









Saturday morning, the flee market has taken place and it usually starts early in the morning. After a break of two years, ARIVU team decided to set up some tables in front of Andrea‘s place again. Thanks to several members like Frida-Lotte, Ella-Marie, Mrs. Beck and Hilde, we sold quite a lot and got some donations as well from visitors. On top, Lina, Nora and their friend Hanna from the "Youth of the earth" stand next to us. They offered "surprise nails" and gave information to the people how to protect the earth.





In the end, we all were happy about this successful weekend in order to support St. John‘s home and all the projects in Neerpair.

Discovering India – One Group of our Year 7 Project Days

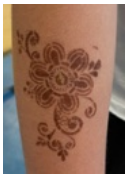


From 7 to 9 October, our Year 7 students spent three exciting project days on various topics. One of the many projects offered at our school was dedicated entirely to India and our partnership with our school in Tamil Nadu.

A group of 8 students explored many different aspects of Indian life and culture. They watched films, researched topics such as Indian food, clothing, animals, religions and society, and learned more about our partner school through photos and presentations from our India Group.





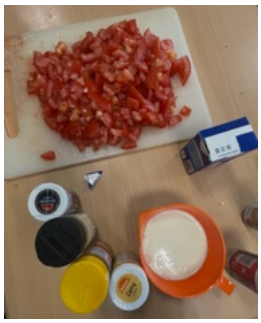


There was also plenty of hands-on activity: the students tried on traditional Indian clothes, learned about bindis, created henna designs and kolams and went on a photo safari. They also created a memory game and explored similarities and differences between everyday life in Germany and India.



A special part of the project was learning about our school partnership and hearing about the children at Dr Arulappa Hr Sec School. The students discussed what a partnership means and why international friendships and support are important.











Finally, everyone worked together to prepare an Indian meal: rice, a tomato and red lentil dish, fresh watermelon and lassi. After three days full of discoveries, creativity and new impressions, the project ended with a shared meal – a delicious way to celebrate our journey through India!

Amazement is definitely encouraged! Q2 classes from Oesede High School attended the Experiment Mile in Osnabrück











On September 18, 2026, our school took part in the event "Experiment Mile" in the city of Osnabrück. Schools, universities, and companies present science experiments designed to amaze and engage visitors. Representing our school were +2-students from Ms. Haase's chemistry class and Ms. Rolf's "Forensic Chemistry" seminar. The many younger visitors, in particular, were captivated by their experiments: a chemical traffic light drew just as much amazement as the spectacular "elephant toothpaste." With patience and expertise, our students explained the chemical processes behind the experiments and answered numerous questions from the curious guests.

It was a wonderful afternoon filled with research, wonder, and discovery!

Visit to the Chemistry department of the University of Münster

What is it like to study chemistry at a university? Our students had the opportunity to find out during a study information day at the Chemistry Department of the University of Münster.



Together with students from other schools in the region, they spent an exciting day exploring the world of university chemistry. They got an insight into modern laboratories, learned about different areas of chemistry and discovered what everyday life as a chemistry student can look like.

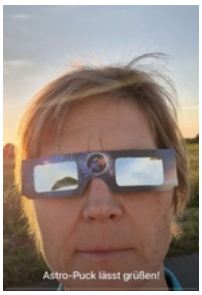
Of course, there was also plenty of chemistry to experience! Interesting experiments and demonstrations showed how exciting and diverse scientific research can be. Our students were able to ask questions, talk to university students and lecturers and get a feeling for what studying chemistry might be like after graduating from school.

For many of them, it was a new experience to step into a university laboratory and see chemistry beyond the classroom. The visit was not only informative but also inspiring – perhaps it even sparked an interest in studying chemistry in the future.

A Spectacular Sky Event: The Solar Eclipse of 12 August 2026



On 12 August 2026, people across Germany looked up at the sky to witness a fascinating natural phenomenon: a solar eclipse. Although it was only a partial eclipse in Germany, up to 87% of the Sun's disc was covered by the Moon.



Many people gathered outdoors to observe this rare event. Special eclipse glasses were essential, as looking directly at the Sun without proper eye protection can seriously damage your eyes.

As the Moon gradually covered the Sun, the daylight became dimmer and nature seemed strangely different. The unusual atmosphere made the eclipse a memorable experience, filling many observers with wonder and amazement.



Further south in Europe, the eclipse was total. For a brief moment, the Moon completely covered the Sun's bright disc, revealing the magnificent solar corona – the Sun's outer atmosphere, normally hidden by its intense light. This spectacular sight was broadcast live on television, allowing millions of people to share in this extraordinary event.

The solar eclipse reminded us how fascinating our universe is. It brought people together to experience the beauty and mystery of nature and showed how a rare event in the sky can inspire curiosity and wonder in people of all ages.

Trip to India from MARIANO-JOSEPHINUM in Hildesheim
"I Would Definitely Travel to India Again"



Johanna, a student in Q1, talks about her ten-day trip to India, her visit to the partner school and the special encounters she had with the students in the boarding school.

Ms Witte: *Johanna, last summer you travelled to India with a small group for ten days. What was the trip like for you?*

Johanna: Even the flight was very exciting for me. I had never flown for ten hours at a time before. At one point, I looked out of the window and saw that we were flying over Afghanistan. During the trip, I became aware of just how many kilometres I actually was from home. It was exciting to follow our route.

Ms Witte: *Were there any particularly special moments during the trip?*

Johanna: There were actually many special moments because it was so impressive to arrive in a foreign country with a culture that was unfamiliar to me. Whenever we travelled through the city by coach, I often felt as if I were in a film. I could hardly believe that I was really experiencing it all.

However, the encounters with the students from our partner school were particularly important to me, especially those in the boarding school. One night, I was allowed to stay there with four other members of our travel group. It was lovely to see how interested and open the children were. In their broken English, they asked us as many questions as possible and always wanted to stay close to us.

They proudly told us about the careers they wanted to pursue. Some of them even gave us small gifts, such as a little stone, even though they themselves owned very little.

Ms Witte: *How did you come up with the idea of travelling to India in the first place?*

Johanna: I have been a member of the India Club for many years. I have been fascinated by our partnership with India ever since I was in Year 5. I always thought it was exciting that our school had a partner school so far away. It gives you the opportunity to broaden your horizons.

I also think it is important, given our privileges in Germany, to help other people around the world. By Year 7, I was finally old enough to join the India Club. Now I am in the sixth form, which is why I was also allowed to travel to India.

Ms Witte: *You got to know a culture that was unfamiliar to you. Were there any situations that were particularly challenging for you?*

J**ohanna:** I first had to get used to the climate. Because of the heat and high humidity, you really sweat a lot there. Apart from that, I was surprised by how well I coped with the food. I also did not mind the basic hygiene conditions, especially in the boarding school.

Knowing that I would be back home in two weeks, where I could eat familiar food and have a hot shower, helped me deal with all the challenges.

Ms Witte: *What advice would you give students who would like to travel to India with the group in three years' time?*

Johanna: It was very helpful for me to find out about the trip and the possible conditions beforehand. Especially during the flight, I talked to members of the travel group who had already been to India several times. This helped me prepare better for what to expect.

During the trip, we were also accompanied by young Indian university students. They showed us many things and told us about their everyday lives. That is why I can only recommend talking to these impressive young women. They told us a lot about their lives and about India in general.

Ms Witte: *What fascinated or surprised you most about India?*

Johanna: The churches in India surprised me the most. I had not thought about them at all beforehand. To us Europeans, the interiors seemed very kitschy. There was a lot of gold and there were large statues. Different artistic styles had also been mixed together and, to our eyes, were not always combined in a harmonious way.

Wherever you looked, everything sparkled or flashed. Nevertheless, the whole thing created a special atmosphere. The churches also reveal something about Indian culture. In a certain sense, Christianity is in competition with Hinduism there, with its colourful temples, dazzling depictions of gods and large festivals.

Ms Witte: *Can you imagine travelling to India again?*

Johanna: I would really like to travel to India again. I do not know whether it will be possible in the next few years, with everything that lies ahead, as I first have to take my final school-leaving examinations. But I would definitely make the trip again.

I would love to see the people in India again and find out how things are developing at the school and the boarding school. The trip was definitely worthwhile for me.

Ms Witte: *Thank you very much for the interview!*

Johanna: You're very welcome!



Our Overnight Stay at St. John's Home

Right at the beginning of our trip to India, we students, former students and teachers from our school were allowed to spend one night at St. John's Home, the boarding school of our partner school in Neerpair.



After receiving an overwhelming welcome at the school during the day and watching a fantastic show performed by the students, we said goodbye to the rest of the travel group. They returned to the hotel by bus, while we set off with our packed rucksacks and full of excited anticipation. At that point, we had no idea what moving and unique hours lay ahead of us.

The bus had barely disappeared from sight when we were surrounded by the children and young people from the boarding school. We had never seen so many radiant faces as we did that afternoon. Everyone wanted to shake our hands, introduce themselves and ask us as many questions in English as possible. They laughed and danced with us and immediately welcomed us warmly into their home.

Their families live too far away from the school, or they are unable to live at home for a variety of other reasons. This means that they spend most of the year at St. John's Home. There, they have the opportunity to attend lessons while also having a safe home.

Before long, however, the children had to turn their attention to their evening jobs, as their days are strictly organised and the buildings and gardens have to be maintained and kept clean. So they busily moved around the grounds with their brooms while we were shown to our rooms on the first floor.

We were going to spend the night in two rooms with metal beds and mosquito nets, which was quite a luxury compared with the dormitories on the ground floor. These are designed for thirty boys or girls, all of whom sleep on the floor, as is common in India.

After Father Charles, the head of the boarding school, had shown us the beautiful grounds—which were suffering from the current drought—we were also greeted by monkeys from the surrounding forest. Then we were asked to come back downstairs.

The students had prepared even more dances, songs and speeches especially for us, which they presented with great pride. However, the applause became particularly loud when we guests were spontaneously invited onto the stage to give a short presentation. After telling them a little about ourselves, the India Club and our school in Germany, we were asked to sing German songs for them. Performing for such a warm and enthusiastic audience was great fun.

To bring the evening to a close, we asked the children some questions to find out more about them. This was the most impressive part of the evening for us:

"I will probably never forget how happily they talked about what they liked most about school and what their dream job was. Everything was included, from doctors and priests to football stars." **Johanna**

"What I will remember most are the answers to the question of what jobs the children would like to do in the future: lawyer, police officer, priest and doctor. These are all examples of professions they would not be able to pursue later in life without an education." **Angelina**

Although the sun had set long before, it did not get any cooler afterwards. Despite the fans, we were hardly able to sleep under our mosquito nets in the heat and humidity, so we were all tired the next morning.

However, we quickly forgot our tiredness because the next highlight was waiting for us: yoga with the children on the roof terrace. It was a wonderful and relaxing start to the day before the students went about their morning jobs and got ready for school.



The five of us then enjoyed our breakfast in peace. Cornflakes and toast had been bought especially for us—a thoughtful gesture and a welcome change from all the Indian spices.

After visiting lessons and the surrounding villages with the entire travel group and marvelling at the exciting, creative projects that the students presented to us as part of a science exhibition, it was suddenly time to say goodbye—far too soon. We had to promise our new friends that we would not forget them and that we would come back very soon.



"Personally, I will always look back on this overnight stay with a smile: on these warm-hearted and strong children who dare to dream, and on the priests and staff members who create a real oasis for them—a place where they can learn and grow, but above all, simply be children. Without St. John's Home and the school, their future would look completely different. But thanks to these institutions, these children can become the first generation in their families to graduate from school and perhaps even university. This confidence could be felt throughout our visit, and we are incredibly grateful for the open arms with which we were welcomed." **Johanna**

"The time we were allowed to spend with the children was one of the most intense and impressive parts of the trip for me. The direct personal encounters, the brief conversations and the overwhelming hospitality are impressions that will stay with me in particular." **Angelina**

Johanna Müller, Q1

Angelina Brückner, former student

Dear Nandhini, dear Viji, dear Fr Regis, dear Fr Charles and dear Ambrose, we send our special greetings and wishes to you and all our Indian friends!

Please convey or wishes to all children in St John's home, to all teachers, students and staff of Arulappa Higher Secondary School and all members of WE-Group!

Hilde, Andrea, Kathrin, Cordula

and all friends from Arivu-Team and Aktion Indien

