

# LISA 4 U

This is the magazine written and edited by LISA students for  
students, parents, staff and friends of Linz International School Auhof  
Spring 2022 Edition

A skateboarder wearing a black helmet, a white t-shirt with a 'VANS' logo, and black knee pads is captured in mid-air against a light blue sky. The skateboarder is leaning forward, with their right hand reaching down towards the skateboard. The skateboard is positioned below their feet, showing its underside with various graphics and yellow wheels.

**Skateboarding:**  
Pros & Cons

**Book & Film**  
Reviews

**Spring**  
Poems

**Book:**  
The Dream  
Archive



## Lisa Teacher Feature: Springtime Interview With Ms. Spring

**LISA4U:** Since when have you been teaching and what made you want to teach?

**Ms. Spring:** I grew up around teachers and schools as my parents taught in several countries around the world and I



loved how teaching could take you places. I then studied Modern Foreign Languages at university and as part of my course, I had to spend a year abroad and I jumped at the idea of becoming an English Assistant in Austria. This provided me with great teaching experience and I soon realised that I just loved being in the classroom and interacting with my students. Hence deciding to study a Postgraduate Certificate of Education in Languages was a no brainer! And now I guess I have been teaching for over 18 years!

**LISA4U:** What do you like most about your subjects?

**Ms. Spring:** I love teaching English as a second language as we get to discuss all sorts of

stuff which can at times get very heated and passionate and takes you in all sorts of directions. It's just great to have the chance to work with students who on the whole, are able to express themselves so fluently and enjoy a good debate! I also really enjoy teaching English as a Mother Tongue as we get to do lots and lots of literature!

**LISA4U:** Is it easy to have a fun lesson with your students?

**Ms. Spring:** It most certainly is! My students are generally fun to be around and they always surprise me and keep me on my toes!

**LISA4U:** Where are you from?

**Ms. Spring:** I find the question: Where am I from? quite difficult to answer...I have 3 siblings

and we were all born in a different country on 3 different continents. I grew up with different cultural influences and grew up bilingual in French and English...But I also always felt very drawn to the British culture ...and I have now lived in Austria for well over 10 years...

**LISA4U:** What do you like about the Europagymnasium Auhof?

**Ms. Spring:** I love working at this school, apart from the usual stress linked to testing, deadlines, marking ...The school is continually progressing and never stands still and I think it is a place we should all be proud to be a part of!

■ ANGELINA GARDINER (3M)



# First year @ LISA

This is what our first year at the Lisa was like! In our class community, we sometimes got into fights, but usually we managed to solve them ourselves and we didn't need to consult teachers. Mostly, everyone tried to be nice to the new students, and most classmates were concerned about everyone's general well-being. The teachers always knew what they were doing and wanted us to feel welcome and to actually learn things, which we did! Students tried to use the new-found knowledge in the real world and treat it as a valuable thing.

At the very start of the year, we were happy and surprised to find few, but important old friendships in the new environment. Most of us were pretty shy and a little bit nervous, but towards the end, many strong bonds between students had been formed. Older students took time to help us get used to the new surroundings and they really tried to be friendly, which they mastered greatly.

Our guardian angels Adora, Emma, and Anna showed us around the school, and without them, we would never have found our way anywhere. They also always helped us with problems and showed us where to go if we did get lost once in a while.

We would like to thank the staff and students at the LISA for their support!



■ **SOPIA AUER (2L)**  
**LISA ANDEXLINGER (2L)**



# LISA Across the Grades

This is what LISA Students have to say...

LISA4U has interviewed students from across the grades. What do they have to say about the school? How do they like it? What are the challenges? Let's give them a voice and hear their opinion!

## Year 2

**DAVID KAISER (2L):** I have been at the LISA for over one year now and I have made a lot of friends. My favorite subject is his-

tory, because you learn about the past. I am looking forward to learning new languages at this school in the next few years.

## Year 3

**AIMEE JUAN-HOFER (3M):** In my first 5 semesters in this school, I can't say it has been an easy ride, I haven't been in this school without

there being a Lockdown after a Lockdown. Though with lots of support from my teachers, I have always gotten through them. A special thank you goes out to my great Math teacher Mr. Funk, I wouldn't be as eager to achieve my goals, let alone beyond them if it wasn't for him. I am thankful to have such great, almost friendship-like bonds with my peers and my teachers. It creates a great community amongst ourselves, some might say a second home.

## Year 5

**ANGELINA BURGER 5L:** One of the many things I like about the LISA is the feeling of closeness, since there are many ties connecting all the

classes with each other. These bounds are formed during joint activities like the Walkathon and the Spring Gala, but also during meetings of the class representatives and people sharing the same classes.

## Year 7

**MAXIMA KRAGE (7L):** When I moved to Linz two years ago, going to an international school was the highlight of moving away from my hometown. Now

it's not only this, but at the LISA I met so many people that I now call my closest friends <3. Additionally, our school provides us with uncountable opportunities that I could only have dreamt of at my former school.

## Year 8

**MAEVE BATES (8L):** After nearly 8 long years at the LISA I would say the number one skill I have learned throughout the process of doing the IB and the Matura, is time

management and balance and I definitely feel prepared for university and whatever is yet to come. Despite some struggles and difficulties, you will definitely look back and realise that you gained far more than academic knowledge at this school.

Sun is beaming into  
your eyes  
Peas are growing  
Running around the field  
Insects are crawling around  
Nose is starting to itch  
Ground is squishy  
**HENRYK WRONA 1M**

Sun shining in people's faces  
People playing their  
favourite games  
Rooms are decorated with  
flowers  
In the pools there is finally  
water  
Nothing compares to this  
season  
Grounds are now full of  
colourful flowers  
**YUNZE XI 1L**



# Interview with Mrs. Foulkes-Jones



For this LISA4U edition, Mrs Foulkes-Jones, a new member of the LISA Team, responsible for taking care of the LISA library and additionally for tutoring English, agreed to be interviewed on all that we are curious to know about – thanks a lot for your time!

**LISA4U:** Where would you consider your roots to be and which place signifies home for you?

**Mrs. Foulkes-Jones:** My roots are Austrian, but as I moved to the UK and some of my “growing up” happened there, I feel like there is a little bit of “Britishness” in the way I am and how I feel.

However, home for me is being with my family, no matter where that is. We have recently moved into a new house and it's only slowly starting to feel like ‘home’ – However, I feel the most at home when I am with my family on a rainy Sunday and we watch a movie, play some board games or do crafts together.

**LISA4U:** What are your hobbies?

**Mrs. Foulkes-Jones:** You expect me to say ‘reading’ now, don't you? Which is true, I love reading but I also really love being creative including doing craft projects with my daughter as well as working on my own designs. Music is also a big part of my life! I don't play any instruments, but I like to sing and listen to lots of different genres of music. I'm also a bit of a music nerd and really enjoy going to the theatre to watch shows.

**LISA4U:** Have you always been a librarian and teacher?

**Mrs. Foulkes-Jones:** No. I worked in retail before. I worked for IKEA for a long time - I started working in a store in the UK and when we moved to Austria, I then worked for a project team in their head office in Vienna and after that in eCommerce. It was a great time, but I was ready for a change, and I haven't looked back since!

**LISA4U:** Which subjects do you teach?

**Mrs. Foulkes-Jones:** This year I mostly do tutoring for students who need to improve their English quickly. For example, students who have recently moved to Austria and haven't had much English in their previous schools.

**LISA4U:** Do you prefer being in the library or teaching?

**Mrs. Foulkes-Jones:** I couldn't say! I think I enjoy both roles equally. They are very different, but each is challenging yet rewarding in its own way!

**LISA4U:** What is your favourite thing about the LISA?

**Mrs. Foulkes-Jones:** That's a good question! There are so many things I like about it, but I guess the thing that stands out most to me most is that I feel that there is a sense of “togetherness” and mutual respect in the LISA which provides everyone with a good environment to grow and learn - all students and teachers contribute to it in their own way to make the school such a great

place! I feel that even as a teacher I regularly get an opportunity to learn something new about different cultures and countries to which I haven't been, and I find that both very fascinating and enriching.

**LISA4U:** Which genres do you prefer reading and which literary work is your favourite?

**Mrs. Foulkes-Jones:** Just like with music, I don't really have a certain genre I like best. It greatly depends on what mood I am in, I suppose. I really enjoy autobiographies of interesting and inspiring personalities, currently, I am reading “Becoming” by Michele Obama, but I also like reading books that make me laugh out loud and where I can just switch off while reading them, the last one of those was “This Is Going To Hurt” by Adam Kay. I also enjoy reading thrilling ones or books that deal with moral dilemmas that make me think and wonder what I would feel like, and act like in certain situations. At the moment, however, my reading time is mostly spent on textbooks as I am in the middle of doing a course on dyslexia.

■ MAXIMA KRAGE (7L)



# LISA Languages: Spanish

The LISA offers several foreign languages to learn: German, French, Italian, Latin and last but not least, Spanish!

Spanish is spoken in more than 20 countries worldwide and has 450 million native speakers, which is, as a matter of fact, more than the English language has! In addition to those 450 million, 75 million have Spanish as their second language and around 21 million people study Spanish as a foreign language.

Several of my classmates, including me, can be counted in those 21 million as we have been learning Spanish for more than two years now and have chosen Spanish B as an IB subject. But why did we choose to learn Spanish?

Well for my part, I chose Spanish because I love the language! I love the way Spanish sounds, although I still

*“What made me choose Spanish IB was wanting to learn the language, as I think it is beautiful and very profitable for my future life. I like the subject, as we revise certain things again that we *did* in our Core Spanish class and practice until everyone has it down.”*

**Lena Waldhör, 7I**

*“I am very keen on languages and love how different cultures are presented through the way we speak. Moreover, Spanish is one of the most spoken languages in the world and hence a real asset. Regarding our Spanish lessons, I really like the conversations and discussions we have on a regular basis - they perfectly help me enhance my use of Spanish*

**Sebastian Koch, 7I**

struggle with pronunciation sometimes ☹. Studying Spanish vocabulary is something I don't specifically love either ☹.

While it does have rather basic grammar structures, the “Subjuntivo” continues to haunt me ☹. The point is Spanish is that kind of language, which will most definitely challenge you, but then again can be used in so many situations. As formerly stated, Spanish is spoken in a great number of places and there are amazing novels, films, series, and podcasts made in this language. My personal recommendations are the novel “La sombra del viento” by Carlos Ruiz Zafón and the well-known Netflix series “La casa de papel”. My concluding statement: Spanish is fantástico!

■ MAXIMA KRAGE (7L)





# Harry Potter

## and the Goblet of Fire

*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, which is The fourth in a series of seven, was first published in the year 2000. It is written by the author J.K. Rowling and is fantasy fiction and includes lots of magic.

Harry Potter is a fourteen-year-old boy, who goes to a magic school called Hogwarts. It is his fourth year, and two other magic schools from foreign countries arrive at Hogwarts for a tournament. They are called Beauxbatons and Durmstrang. The

tournament is called the Triwizard Tournament and one student from each of the magic schools is chosen by the goblet of fire to compete in the three tasks.

But disaster strikes, and Harry Potter's name comes out alongside those of three others. This is impossible, because Harry is much too young, but they have to take him. It becomes apparent that something within Hogwarts itself is trying to kill Harry, and Voldemort -The World's Greatest Enemy- who was banished fourteen years ago, is threatening to rise again.

Will Harry Potter manage to survive his fourth year and stop Voldemort from regaining power with the help of his best friends Ron and Hermione? Read this magical fantasy-fiction book to find out!

I recommend the book *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* to everyone above the age of ten. I rate this book: 10/10, for its mysterious plot as it keeps you totally gripped and for the wonderful feeling in the pit of your stomach, due to the beautiful way it is written.

■ SOFIA AUER (2L)

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# A Conversation Between Grades

Today I am talking to three first year pupils who have just started their school career here at the LISA. Emil Gauch, Jakob Gauch and Fabio Gaspar are all from the 1L. Let's find out about their perspective and how they imagine their future in this school to be. As we get into the conversation, I'll also compare their expectations to my own experiences.

**Felix** (class 8, grade 12): Hey guys, thanks for taking the time for this interview. I would like to ask you about your experiences at this school. I'll start off with the most obvious question: What was your motivation to join the LISA community?

**Jakob Gauch:** My sister, who also attends this school, told me that she likes it a lot. This raised my interest and I also wanted to learn English very well.

**Emil Gauch:** I agree. Learning English was an important reason for going to this school. Also, my brother attends this school, so he shared some first-hand experiences with me. It always sounded like fun – and now I can confirm that it is.

**Felix:** That's nice to hear. And I can tell you that in the final year of school it's still fun (at least when there are not too many tests). So, if I got that right, you came to this school with a lot of expectations. Would you say that those expecta-

**Jakob:** Yes totally. I would say that the school actually exceeded my expectations. People were even more friendly than I had expected them to be.

**Emil:** Also, I've already learned a lot of English since I've been here.

**Felix:** Speaking of English – how was your start in this school? Was there ever a language barrier due to the classes being taught mainly in English?

**Emil:** Of course, the first weeks were a little challenging but it generally works very well. We are taught in English most of the time, but there are always translations, which makes it possible to follow.

**Felix:** I'm happy you had a good start. Thinking about the future: How do you imagine your life at LISA in several years?

**Jakob:** I think that I'll have a lot of fun. One of my goals is to improve my math skills. In general, I hope that the following years will be as exciting as this one.

**Fabio Gaspar:** I agree on that point: If my life here stays as it is now, I'd already be happy.

**Jakob:** I'm aware that there will be a certain workload – the tests, the assignments and so on. But I do believe that we can manage it.



**Felix:** (laughs) Yes, I think so too, although the high workload is kind of a running gag among older students. It does get a little stressful at times due to the IB. But the school is totally worth it in my opinion.

**Fabio:** Do you have any advice on how to cope with the workload?

**Felix:** Well, the most important thing is that you stay motivated. Remember why you started all this, maybe read this interview if you ever feel too stressed. I'm sure that if you stay motivated, you're on a good path.

**Fabio:** Yeah, I agree, and I also think that my friends will help me go through the more stressful times. Emil and Jakob are two of my best friends here and we're really having a good time together.

**Felix:** That's amazing! Well, we have reached the end of this interview. I think a nice last question to ask would be: What do you like best about the LISA so far? What do you think makes this school special?

**Emil:** I think it's the community. The students and teachers are all friendly and we have a real sense of community here. Additionally, language also plays a role of course.

**Jakob:** The friends are the most important to me. I'm glad Emil and I met Fabio, we'll have a good time for sure. How do you think we can make the most out of these years?

**Felix:** That's a good question. I would say pick the subjects you really like and get involved in the school community. There are so many options for you, like school politics, the clubs or the LISA4U. Who knows, maybe you will be the ones writing articles soon...

**Fabio:** (laughs) That sounds cool. Who knows what the future will bring.



**Felix:** Thank you so much for this conversation, guys. I really enjoyed talking to you.

Talking to those motivated first graders made me optimistic about the future of the LISA community. It's great to learn about their expectations and I think they have a realistic view on several topics already. If they go on like that, they'll make final year students one day.

**Jakob:** Thank you for the interview!

■ FELIX ZEHETNER (8L)



# IB Chemistry: Or the Wonders of the World and how you can discover them

Look, when we are asked what “chemistry” is we can all probably answer the question more or less confidently, but it’s clear to all of us that chemistry is a natural science. Some might add that it is hard or complex, but don’t let that scare you!

In very basic terms, we can think of chemistry as the kind of science that lets us explain what stuff is made from and how it reacts. It’s the science that tells us the different properties of materials and how certain things can form completely new things under the right conditions.

Now I’m nearly completely sure that I have already sold one or two of you on the idea that chemistry is more than “just” a natural science and super worth studying, but some more cynical readers may wonder how chemistry even relates to them. Well, you won’t have to ponder that thought any longer, I’ll make it easy and lay it out for you! Chemistry is all around us. Be it because of the clothes we wear, their fabrics dyed in various ways, our

parents’ daily morning coffee that contains caffeine, or the reactions that make the sun shine the way it does, I promise you, there is no way to escape chemistry in our daily lives (even if we tried to, which we, of course, won’t, seeing as it’s even the thing that explains processes within our body...).

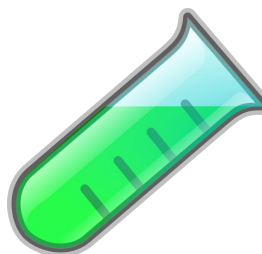
Besides figuring out how chemistry forms

fire, in a very controlled environment of course) you too will feel the appeal.

All in all, I can convincingly say that with some interest in chemistry, everyone will be able to discover some of the secrets of our universe and there is an easy way to do so at our school! While we all get to participate in some chemistry classes over the years by virtue of our general higher education, when the

time comes we can also choose to take chemistry as one of our IB subjects and study it even more in-depth! Be it at a standard or higher level, which more or less specifies how many hours a week you will have the subject and to what extent you

can get acquainted with different material, you’ll become a true chemist in no time! In case you have any questions about chemistry or chemistry for the IB make sure to ask your teacher about it, they’ll probably be thrilled that you too realised the appeal of exploring everything around you....



everything around us, working in a lab allows you to do so much more! Maybe you have already experienced it or it’s still ahead of you, but when you get to do your own experiments and mix together seemingly random chemicals to form some sort of fascinating reaction (or when you get to set things on

■ AMINA ABU ZAHRA (8L)



# How to survive the Oberstufe

Survive, really? Believe it or not, if you do your schoolwork, and choose to not hang out with the troublemakers (at least not all the time), and do what's right, you will not only survive school but ace it and move on to your next challenge. But, as an final year student, I have some tips to make life easier for you – well, hopefully.

What has carried me especially throughout the Oberstufe is the connection and relationship you build with your teachers. Making sure that you get to know your teacher's sense of humor, and adapt it, can be vital for a good learning environment, and of course also allows you to leave a good impression (especially when it comes to your grade ;)

In addition, please, please don't make procrastination a habit. This is something I have picked up recently, and I ended up regretting it, and it made me want to bang my head against a wall. When big tests, projects, and essays are due at midnight, you don't want to end up typing furiously at 11 p.m. to get it in. Many of us older students use apps to organize our school workload to avoid this scenario, and by setting yourself an alarm two days ahead of the deadline, you're good to go. Also, if you're the kind of person that hands in work early, teachers often let you fix errors so you can get a better grade.

If you're the type of person who stays up until 1 or 2 AM at night doing homework, then if

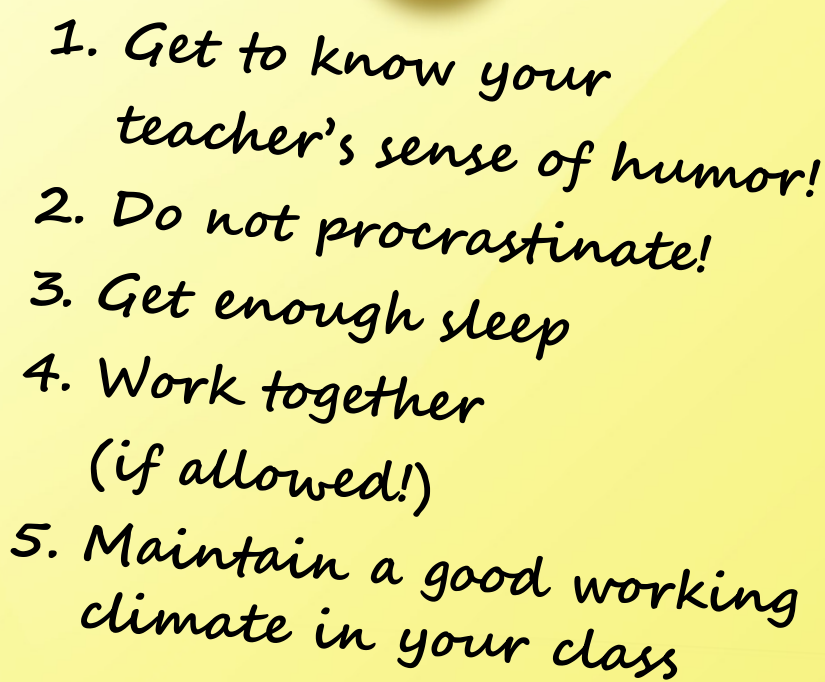
possible, take a nap at home. It's become quite a habit for many of us, and some extra minutes of sleep help a lot with energy aside from those morning in-class Red Bull's – something you please shouldn't take on from us.

Furthermore, split up your school assignments and share the workload among you and your friends, at least whenever the teacher allows you to do so. This is something we have picked up in IB classes, and it has saved hours of work. Finding yourself in an effective work group not only in class, but in general, can be very helpful for getting things done

quickly and making it more easily understandable for everyone – It's also more fun!

In the end, keeping a good class atmosphere and having friends who suffer equally sometimes, who allow you to rant and let out your frustration about school, makes school-life quite an enjoyable ride. You don't have to be a straight-A student to take school seriously. And after the drama of 5 days at school, it's important to take a deep breath and relax with your friends.

■ EDVIN ABAZ (8M)

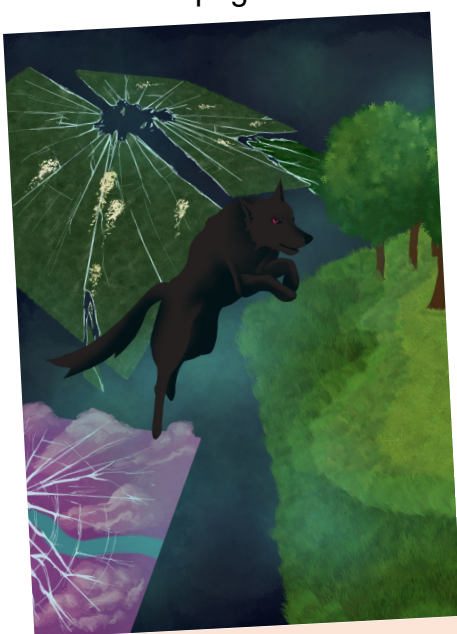
- 
1. *Get to know your teacher's sense of humor!*
  2. *Do not procrastinate!*
  3. *Get enough sleep*
  4. *Work together (if allowed!)*
  5. *Maintain a good working climate in your class*

# The Dream Archives: A Student CAS Book

Here is a sneak peak of the adventures that await you!



**T**he Dream Archive is a collection of short stories written in English, German, Spanish and French, proofread by natives, and designed for students of the Lisa or anyone who is an eager language learner. Per page there is one



The highly dangerous nightmare destroys one dream after the other.

paragraph in every language, which makes looking up unknown words or phrases a piece of cake! This book, which is also the CAS project of Caroline Laschkolnig and Dragos Acul, gives all students the opportunity to learn a foreign language through fascinating short stories with stunning illustrations, while also doing a good deed! All the profits gained from the sale of *The Dream Archive* will be donated to the Krebshilfe charity organization.

The protagonist waits impatiently for the train, wondering why five girls are standing in the pouring rain and staring at her. Little does she know, they will meet again.

Juno is a troubled teenager who wants to become a writer, but after everything that has happened, it's impossible... or is it?

Katherine is disorientated after being rejected by the University of her dreams until she



Juno feels like at the bottom of the ocean, far from the light.



Sisters that should be long gone, but still haunt the rooftops.

finds an unlikely friend who reminds her of who she really is. George sleeps soundly but in his head, the Dream Catchers struggle to find the nightmare that slipped through the security undetected.

A pigeon stumbles upon a chained dragon and vows to find the people who had chained the beast, and thus it starts looking for answers, gathering stories from all around the world.

■ CAROLINE LASCHKOLNIG (8L)  
DRAGOS ACUL (8N)



The participants of George's dreams are being controlled in Dreamcatcher Central Station.





A beautiful friendship blossoms.



In all cultures, the bravest warriors wanted to hunt down the dragons, but they always failed.



The dragon tells his tale of captivity to the little dove.



Kathy faces a little bear after she ran into the woods to free her mind.



Young Juno had a vivid imagination and many friends and protectors.



Five sisters wait for a train... or was it six sisters?

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# Spring

Spring Haiku  
Easter has finally come  
I find some chocolate behind trees  
Oh, it tastes spectacular!  
LUNA CALO (1L)

Spring is starting, bees flying and buzzing.  
Nature is present, it's the breeding season.  
Easter is here, bunny comes in and makes  
my day.  
Birds singing in spring,  
Spring is ringing  
The end of class.

LUCAS BERTHOD (1M)

Spring is starting to rise  
I'll tell you everything, guys!  
Flowers are growing  
The pollen allergies are blowing.

The animals finally come out of their  
cage  
The bees are starting to rage.  
The bunny is laying eggs  
With its furry legs.

HENRYK WRONA (1M)

Sunshine warming up your da  
Pretty roses have come to stay.  
Reading in the shade of trees.  
I can hear the buzzing bees.  
New leaves grow.  
Going for a walk and spotting a doe

LUNA CALO (1L)



# g Poems

Spring is so lovely, spring is so great  
And everyone has on a happy face.  
Dogs are jumping on logs with a happy face  
And kids are having a three-legged race.  
Birds are singing and the wind is swinging  
Butterflies flying like crazy people buying.  
The flowers are so colourful  
And everybody's tummy is full  
Winter was fun  
But now spring has come!  
ROSEMARIE BAUMGARTHUBER (1M)

Sun shining on flowers  
Illuminating everything it touches  
Everyone having fun  
Children playing with water  
Nothing can be that fun.

Pollen flying everywhere  
Like bees on a sunny day  
Roses blooming everywhere  
Making gardens colourful  
Flowers dancing and prancing.

Bears wake up from their hibernation  
To a colourful world  
I jump around everywhere  
That's when an adventure starts.  
MANUELA TURY PASTORINI (1M)



# Tutoring Program Auhof

Do you need help with a certain subject? Or do you want to help other students who are struggling in a subject you are good at? We have found the solution to connect both of you – the Tutoring Auhof Programme know for short as TAP.

But where do you find TAP? All the information on TAP is found on our school's website or under the link [lisa.europagym.at/tap/](https://lisa.europagym.at/tap/). This is also the place to register if you want to offer to tutor and to inform yourself on the tutors available if you want to receive tutoring. Students from year 6 & 7, who need to collect CAS hours, can get these signed by Mr Greenway.

Who is behind TAP? It's four students from 7L: Fabian Ertl, Irina Hofstadler, Leonie Theuretzbacher and me, Maxima Krage. TAP is our CAS project on which we have worked on with great effort and it has been quite the learning experience for us! ;) So, please check it out and maybe register if you need or are available for tutoring! And of course, if you have any questions or feedback for us, please write us an email!



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■ MAXIMA KRAGE (7L)

The world leader in serving science

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Our Mission is to enable our customers to make the world healthier, cleaner and safer. As the world leader in serving science, we are committed to inspiring the next generation of innovators.



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**ThermoFisher**  
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# The Europagymnasium Auhof

## Model United Nations Club Revisited

It was more than a year ago that the Europagymnasium Auhof gained its very own Model UN Club, known in short as EGAMUN.

The school club was first instigated as a CAS project after some time of careful planning and recruiting and is fully run by a group of students. The focus is on having groups of students simulate the council meetings and discussions held by the actual United Nations in an engaging group setting. Although this may sound dry to some, it's an amazing opportunity that gives everybody interested the opportunity to represent the stance of a country when debating on global issues! Like this, students are encouraged to learn more about the geopolitical situations influencing our daily lives, but can also simply choose to hang out with their friends at club meetings and dip a toe into the world of international relations without having to read the news from cover to cover every day.

After a successful year of meetings that were of course slightly adapted to fit the Covid-19 safety protocols, we are proud to continue this year with a new team of executives! Seeing as Isabella Preschern, Adora Sabau and I, Amina, are set to graduate this

year, the club has received excellent support from Mara Dirlea, Sebastian Koch and Maxima Krage (all from the current 7L). They will continue the legacy of



the club at our school and can of course already be seen leading the new Model United Nations meetings. In the future, they can also be approached regarding any and

to give students the ability to attend an international Model United Nations conference. This manifests itself in multiple ways, be it by trying to organise the specifics

of applying or accommodation or handling how to come up with the best arguments and gaining confidence for public speaking, we are there every step of the way! These Model UN conferences can best be described as big get-togethers with often a hundred people or even more attending. Most of them

are held outside of Austria and are a bustling hub for students of all ages that are willing to work together on global issues to get to

know each other. One of the biggest bonuses of MUN that I have noticed is definitely that it serves as the perfect opportunity for making friends with people from all across Europe. So seeing as in-person conferences may be coming back soon, definitely clear your schedule for those!

Until then we will gladly welcome you at our school debates and make sure to follow our official Instagram: @europagymmun

■ AMINA ABU ZAHRA (8L)



all questions should they arise, so if you are one of the many people that have yet to join, always feel free to reach out to them!

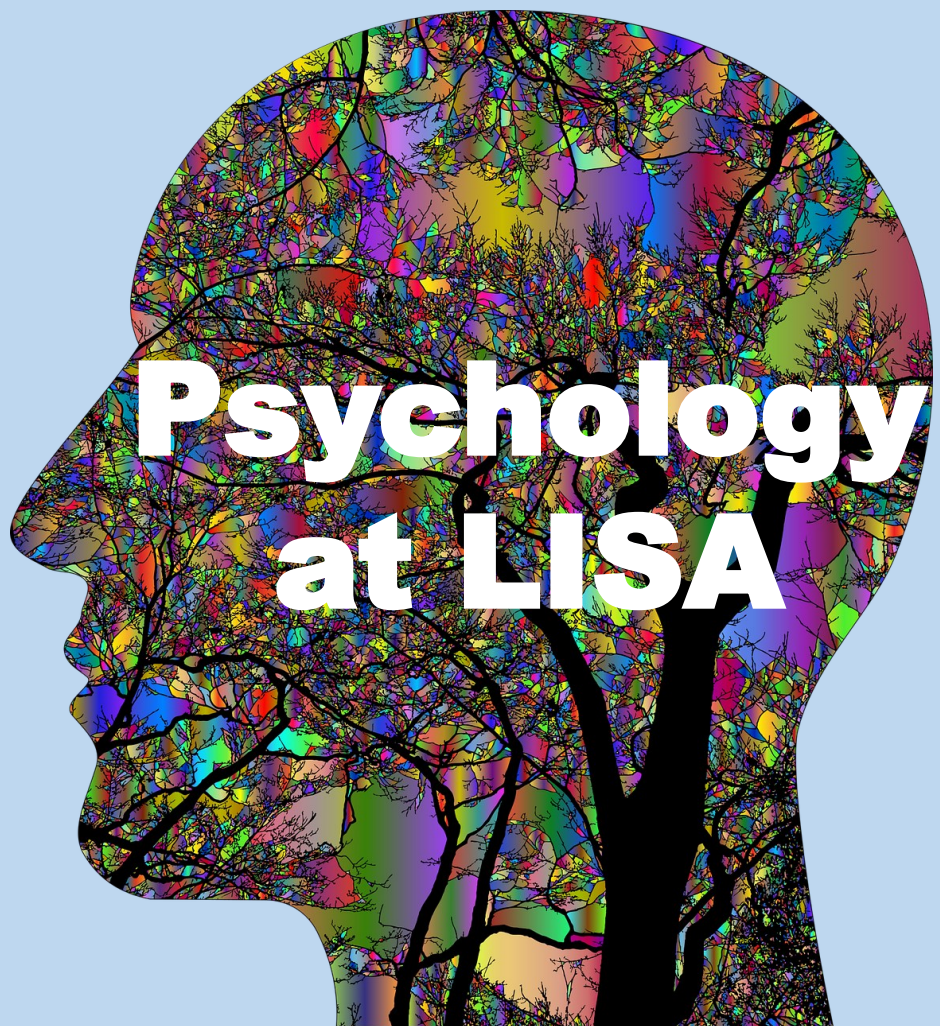
Overall, besides providing a space for political discourse and debate, and serving as a great opportunity to gain CAS experiences, EGAMUN is also trying hard



Don't you ever wonder why people do what they do? With the Psychology IB course you can discover fundamental behavior and learn how the brain works, how we behave as individuals in society and how your thought processes influence what you do.

In the IB Psychology course you learn to consider behavior from 3 different perspectives. First of all, there is the biological approach which studies our behavior from the anatomical or more "bodily" point of view. Here you learn which techniques you can use to study our brains – and it isn't that simple, especially when you want to find out which parts of the brain you need for certain functions or actions. After all, unless you want to cut out parts of the brain of thousands of people to study how their behavior has changed, psychologists have found other (non-brutal!!) ways of studying the human brain. In the course you will also find out about the cause of those annoying puberty-mood swings. You guessed it, hormones. Hormones and neurotransmitters (chemicals that transfer signals from tiny parts of your brain to others) are those little evil doers. However, you will also learn about how hormones make you feel love and closeness to your loved ones.

A different perspective is the cognitive approach, which studies what happens in your head. Trying to find out about thoughts, memories and decision-making is kind of hard, considering that you cannot see, smell or touch any of these processes. Yet, in the



course, you will learn to understand studies that investigate all those aspects of psychology. You will find out how researchers test for how only a few words in a question can change the way you answer it, how many different thoughts you can hold in your brain at the same time and how your emotions change your thoughts and behavior.

The third and final approach is the sociocultural one that investigates how you and I coexist in this society. You will find out how culture and our group thinking can be researched in an empirical way. An example for that is a study by Festinger (1956) that wants to find out how people react when they find out that the theory of the cult they have been a part of, turns out to be wrong. The course will explore why people conform, or said in different

words, why you feel the urge to follow the trends your fave influencers are trying out too (because let's admit it - we all do sometimes).

IB psychology is a class that will not only teach you to understand studies and factual information about our behavior, it also trains your critical thinking skills. Find out about the scientific method and how to apply it to human behavior, how to connect the dots and how to understand academic writing. You even get to replicate a study for your Internal Assessment!

Overall, learning psychology with the IB is a great opportunity to see human behavior from a multidisciplinary point of view and understanding the science as a discipline.

■ CAROLINE LASCHKOLNIG (8L)



# Don't Look Up

## A successful political satire or just a waste of time?

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Netflix released their own all-star cast movie titled *Don't Look Up*, featuring a star-studded cast and fan-favorite actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence as the movie's lead actors. What happens when Michigan State University doctoral candidate in astronomy Kate Dibiasky (Jennifer Lawrence) and professor Dr. Randall Mindy (Leonardo DiCaprio) discover a 9-kilometer-wide asteroid, whose impact with earth unmistakably leads to irreversible consequences? The film's prime focus is the deadly asteroid, which draws a parallel to today's issue of global warming – both proven to lead to apocalyptic results, if not tackled. Surely, I can say that director Adam McKay's

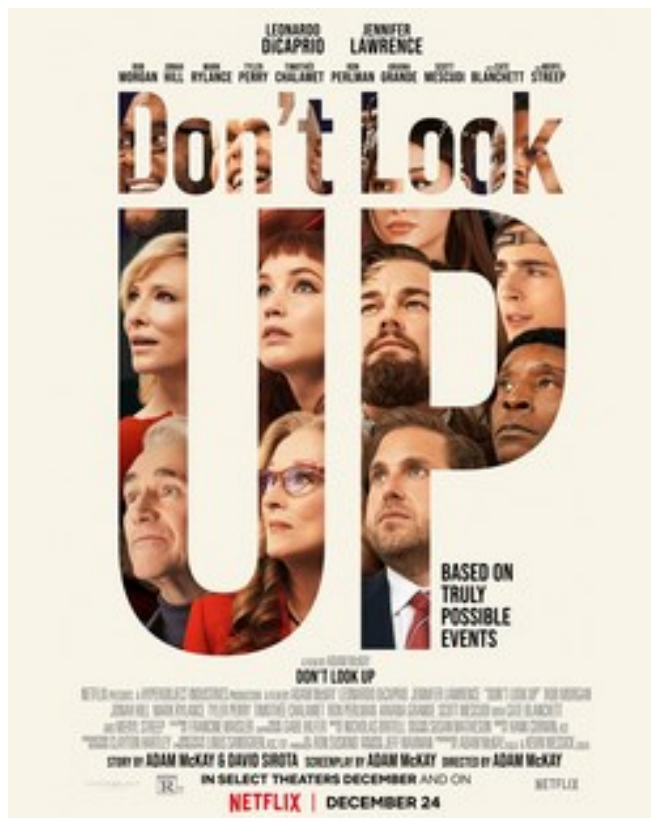
"Dark Comedy" has made it to one of my top 10 movies of 2021, simply due to its message, which is portrayed by using sarcasm as an effective

tool to hint at the urgency of the problem. Additionally, giving each character a symbolic role, as well as the storyline, bearing comparison to leading

posed to represent Greta Thunberg in her battle against climate change, President Janie Orlean (Meryl Streep) embodies former US-President

Donald Trump, as well as Jason Orlean (Jonah Hill) being based on Donald Trump's three children. Furthermore, Tech moguls such as Elon Musk or Mark Zuckerberg and their empires, all are portrayed by one character, played by Mark Rylance. Even today's media is portrayed by the persona of actors Cate Blanchett and Tyler Perry. The viewer, therefore, is able to analyze the actions of every character and align them with current events and public figures, all while enjoying the tumultuous storyline. A truly fascinating and grotesque portrayal of how the modern world prioritizes money and profit over their own lives. Despite its 3- and 4/5-star rating

on IMDB, "Don't Look Up" should be on everyone's watchlist.



figures in our current world (ruled by Twitter and split political opinions), makes "Don't Look Up" truly unique. Hence, Lawrence's character is sup-

■ MARA DIRLEA (7L)

# Rant Column: Is our Democracy Dysfunctional in a Digital Age?

For the past few decades many in western society considered democracy as the benevolent savior, freeing us of the strutting dictators of 20th century Europe, but how long will our new-found freedom last in a digitalized society? With the rise of social media across the world some may wonder how our highly digitalized society impacts modern democratic thought.

Fake news and propaganda have been around for centuries, but never before have they had such a profound influence on voting habits. You would think that a political system that relies on an informed population would thrive in a digital world, right? Well, not quite. While social media and the internet have had some notable benefits in terms of spreading awareness about various issues, this is clearly outweighed by the disinformation that seeps out of our phone screen and into the political reality. Various studies have shown that conspiracy theories and fake news are widely popular on social media platforms such as twitter and have had a noticeable effect on voting in the US. This mass

misinformation of the public is largely to blame for the democratic erosion we face today.

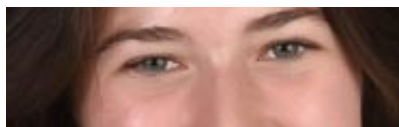
Some have even gone as far as stating that we live in a 'Twitterocracy' – a world governed by snappy headlines, parasocial relationships and abundance of fake news. This analysis portrays the increasing importance of social media in national elections. In fact, it has become clear that a political candidate does not stand a chance without an active social media account. It also portrays a dramatic shift in how news is consumed nowadays – people tend to favor short, polarizing headlines with a palpable message to long and impartial pieces. This works in the favor of many politicians, who like reality stars bask in the limelight of their flagrant twitter threads and exaggerated comments. Left in the shadows remains a people so unceremoniously choked by the hands of dubious fake news campaigns that one could hardly call it democracy.

This sensationalized attitude towards media has been especially fruitful for right wing populists – borderline fascist movements across the globe

have been successfully amplified, with their voices reaching both young and old, poor, and rich. No one is immune to their convincing rhetoric. This is especially harmful as the majority of such groups promote authoritarian ideals and anti-democratic sentiment. The infamous capitol riots, for instance, are a symptom of the brazen refusal to accept democratic elections that will rage on as long as such populist movements remain unregulated. These attacks, brought about by he who shall not be named, are a case study of how a single man and his cult-like group of supporters can topple democracy in one fell swoop. Well, almost at least. The darkly insidious nature of such instances highlights the fragility of our political system in the face of social media and the internet, leaving us to wonder: are the capitol attacks a sign of worse to come?

Unfortunately, yes. As pessimistic as my answer may be, we must recognize that the capitol riots were merely a dress rehearsal for the fate of democracy in the western world. Prepare the history books because the strutting dictators of the 21st century are ready to unfurl.

■ ADORA SABAU (8L)





# The Poppy War: Book Review

**The Poppy War is a truly thrilling investigation into the nature of power. It explores elements of Chinese history, political intrigue, and magic systems through the lens of a young girl who goes from having nothing, to having everything.**

The protagonist, Rin, is an orphan girl growing up in a small village in Nikan, a fictional empire inspired by both the history and geography of China. She strives to join a prestigious military academy and make something of herself in a cruel and merciless world. As she leaves her village in pursuit of a better life, her world becomes bigger and bigger and with it grows her ambition.

What makes this book such

a worthwhile read is the attention to detail when it comes to character development. What is astonishing to me about R. F. Kuang's writing is her ability to transport readers into another world and to see themselves in its characters.

Even though Rin is a deeply flawed protagonist by all accounts, I couldn't help but root for her and when she was in bad situations, I physically felt powerless. While the Poppy Wars certainly features war and international conflict it also paints a deeply personal picture of the characters and

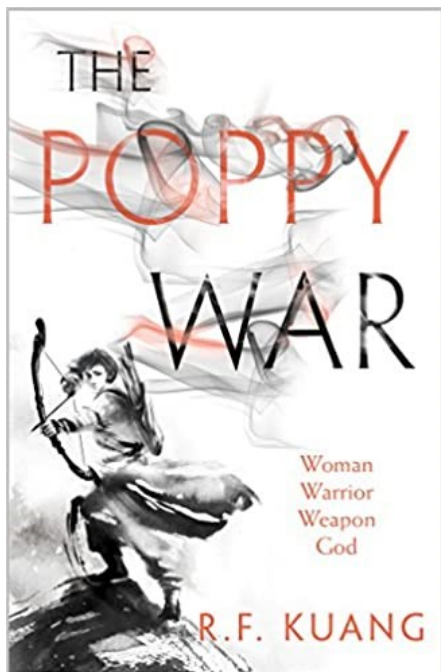
their relationships, exploring themes of friendship, love, hate, revenge, and betrayal.

As someone with a deep interest in politics and history, the entire Poppy Wars series

truly struck a chord with me. In her books, R. F. Kuang asks the reader to think about the nature of dictatorships, the rise and fall of empires, colonialism, war crimes and most importantly, power relations. If you are looking for a lighthearted Sunday read, this is not the book for you. Reading the Poppy War is uncomfortable and intense – it makes you forget reality and question your own morals. The only worse feeling is getting to the last page of the last book and realizing it's all over.

The Poppy War is definitely one of the best books I read in 2021, in fact, I'd even say it's among my favorite books of all time. I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in modern Chinese history or those who simply want to read a gripping exploration into a country devastated by war and conflict with some magic mixed in. However, as this book covers rather mature themes and contains violence, I cannot recommend it to young readers.

■ ADORA SABAU (8L)



# Skateboarding

## And the Pros & Cons of it

Skateboarding can be many different things. It can be enjoyable and fun but also un-enjoyable, and very (very) painful, as anyone who broke a bone can vouch for. So, I've made a list of pros and cons of skating.

It can be rewarding learning a new trick.

People might complain

You can make many new friends

It can get really frustrating learning tricks

It's not a teamsport (for all those extroverts out there)

It can give you a boost of confidence, especially when you do a cool trick in front of someone

Injuries can happen quite often

It's not a teamsport (for all those introverts out there)

It's more of a mental game than a physical one. It's absolutely terrifying when you're up on the vert-ramp, ready to do your first drop-in

It gives you something to do, and it's a good enough excuse to not do your homework

It can be very expensive. A complete Skateboard can cost from 100 € to 200 €. Even just the grip-tape costs 10 Euros.

If you're good enough, you could make some money, though this takes a lot of practice

Skateboards are quite loud, so you won't be able to most Skateparks on Sundays, or early in the morning



I could go on, but I don't want you to get a bad picture of Skateboarding. If you have some extra money, or a skateboard at home, I would definitely encourage you to go and try it out. I've been skating for a little over a year now, and apart from a scraped knee, I haven't really gotten hurt. But just in case, make sure you wear the proper protection gear. Other than that, have fun skating!

■ JOVAN CVETKOVIC (2L)



Sera Gruber

Caroline Laschkolnig

Magdalena Hahn

Sanna Pesterer

Mikael Bödler

Adora Sabau

Tamara Braumandl

Max Tomanek

Kira Greifeneder

Elisa Sihorsch

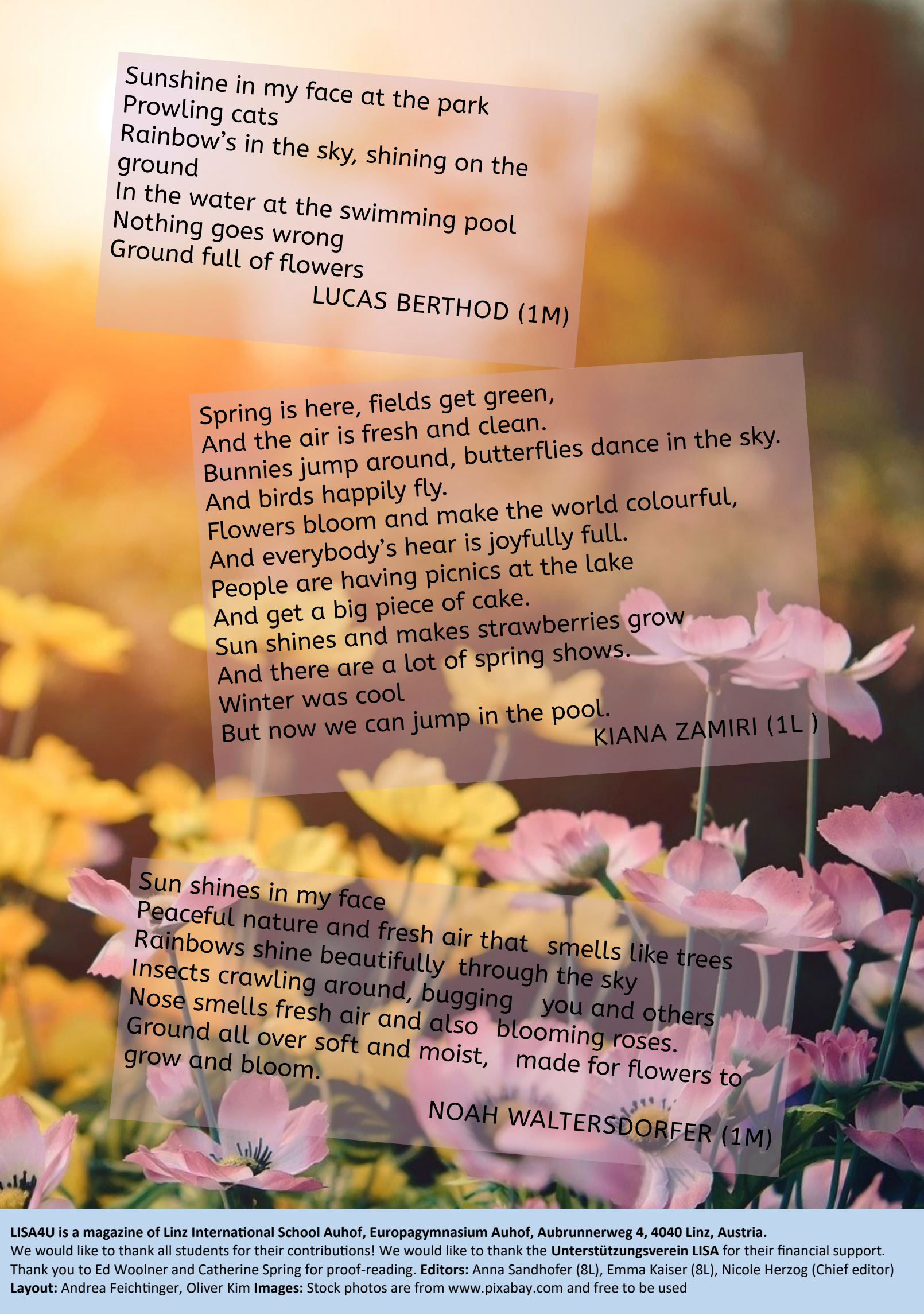
## IB Visual Arts Exhibition 2022

Festsaal Europagymnasium  
Aubrunnerweg 4, 4040 Linz  
viewing upon request

Opening Night:  
**15 March 2022**  
17:00

With art by  
10 IB students!





Sunshine in my face at the park  
Prowling cats  
Rainbow's in the sky, shining on the  
ground  
In the water at the swimming pool  
Nothing goes wrong  
Ground full of flowers

LUCAS BERTHOD (1M)

Spring is here, fields get green,  
And the air is fresh and clean.  
Bunnies jump around, butterflies dance in the sky.  
And birds happily fly.  
Flowers bloom and make the world colourful,  
And everybody's heart is joyfully full.  
People are having picnics at the lake  
And get a big piece of cake.  
Sun shines and makes strawberries grow  
And there are a lot of spring shows.  
Winter was cool  
But now we can jump in the pool.

KIANA ZAMIRI (1L )

Sun shines in my face  
Peaceful nature and fresh air that smells like trees  
Rainbows shine beautifully through the sky  
Insects crawling around, bugging you and others  
Nose smells fresh air and also blooming roses.  
Ground all over soft and moist, made for flowers to  
grow and bloom.

NOAH WALTERSDORFER (1M)