



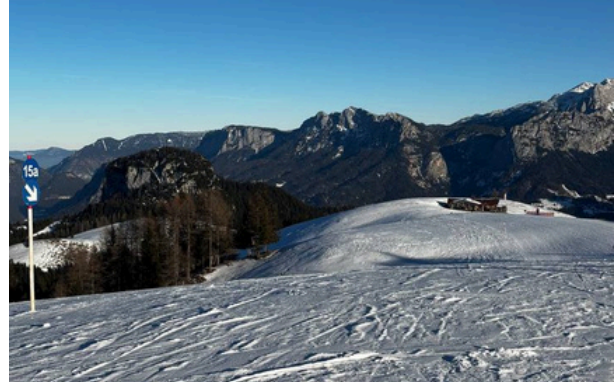
AIS-S SPOTLIGHT

The student newsletter of AIS-Salzburg

From Classroom to Ski Lift

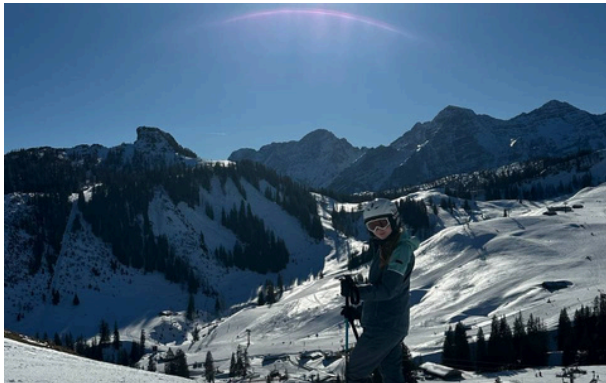
By *Juliana Hnidets*

With a blink of an eye, the winter holidays ended and students are immersed in school work once again, surrounded by the cold. However, winter does offer **snow** many fun activities! The most beloved ones and this newsletter's topic are skiing and snowboarding.



View from the top of Schwarzeck Ski Lift at Lofer

Last weekend was the first ski day and students, RAs, and even Mr. Anderson, a nonfiction teacher at AIS, took the opportunity to get away from the daily routine and have fun on the slopes. For the new skiers and snowboarders, lessons with instructors were organized, while the more experienced students got into groups that allowed them to go off and enjoy skiing on their own. Examples of "pro" skiers in AIS-Salzburg are Liza Kudina, an 11th grader, and Masha Lysina, a 10th grader. They might both be good at skiing, but their experi-



Liza K., 11th grade, enjoying the day

ences of the trip were quite different. It's Liza's third year in this school and, as a true ski lover, she has consistently gone to all the ski trips offered. In an interview, she explained, "School can be draining sometimes, that's why it's good to have a chance to just put on skis and shoo away." On the other hand, this most recent trip was Masha's first time skiing with AIS, and she said she "[...] enjoyed skiing a lot." The next step for her and the other newcomers is the four-day, three-night ski excursion in February-March, which seems to evoke even more excitement in the students.

The ski day trips are for sure in the list of the most loved school year activities, since so many students anticipate them. With more students now being able to ski, students can gather in different ski groups according to their level or with their friends, making the whole experience even more enjoyable for everyone. It was my first time skiing in the past 3 years, so I was very nervous about it, but as the day went by, it became clear there was nothing to worry about. Thanks to the attentive planning and mindful behavior of the students no one suffered any injuries this time, and we're already looking forward to the next ski opportunities!

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Cards for Valentine’s Day

By Veronika Pavilycs



In my childhood, and maybe in yours too, my classmates and I would write a note on heart-shaped cards for Valentine’s Day. This was done so that we could avoid the embarrassment that comes with speaking to people in person, while still showing appreciation for them. The person you give your Valentine’s card to can be a person you like romantically, but it can also be your friend.

When you write a Valentine’s Day card to someone, your message to that person should come from the bottom of your heart because it is Valentine’s Day, after all. If you don’t dare, you can also send the Valentine’s card anonymously, but in my opinion the person who receives your card would be happier if they knew who they received a compliment from (and knew who to thank!).

If you ask yourself how to write a Valentine’s card, then read this. You usually start with “Dear (name),” to address your Valentine. Next, the main body of the Valentine will depend on who you are writing to and how you feel about them. For example, “you know how to make me smile, even on the toughest days,” or, “I cherish our late-night talks and all the adventures we’ve shared.” For the end, close out the letter by saying one of the following: “With all my love,” “Forever yours,” “Happy Valentine’s Day!” or, “I will love you always.”



examples of Valentines cards

Aliesia, from 9th grade, talks about her experience receiving Valentines. She shares, “I mainly received valentines from my friends. They just put a card in my locker or on the desk. Every time I received a Valentine I felt very happy and glad.” When people accidentally find the Valentine card where they did not expect to find it, they are even happier.

AIS SALZBURG VALENTINES

At AIS Salzburg you can write your Valentine. Next to the main office there will be cut out Valentine’s cards. One set of cards will be blank while the other set of cards will have “for and from” written for people who have less to say but still want to make someone happy. When you’re done writing your card, throw it in the box by February 14th. During 6th period on Valentine’s Day we will distribute them to your mailboxes.



The Tragedy in California

By *Aliesia Nerozia*

Recently, another tragedy began in California and even reporters don't know how it started nor the extent of the final destruction. People have lost their homes and important personal things. Let's get some more information about this.

Personally, I found out about the fires from Tiktok. I didn't even believe the news at first, but then I saw more videos. According to a World Vision article titled "California Fires: Facts, FAQs, and How to Help" written by Kristy J.O'Hara-Glaspie, on January 7, 2025, twenty-four people died and thousands have been affected after wildfires erupted in Los Angeles. More than 10,000 "homes, businesses, and other buildings have been damaged or destroyed, but the full extent of the damage won't be known for some time, as responders are still actively fighting the fires." There is a lot of damage and we should think about why something like this happened.

Manuel Valdes, Hallie Golden, and Julie Watson of the Associated Press wrote, "hurricane-force winds blew embers through the air, igniting block after block, and hundreds of firefighters from other states have arrived to help, but the four fires burning out of control showed the danger is far from over." The fires have been so hard to control and spread quickly due specifically to this wind.

People quickly started volunteering and helping in some ways. Groups have brought supplies such as water, food, clothing, things for children, and air beds. People there are shocked and worried about the future. This topic needs more attention. We hope that everything and everyone will be safe.

Editor's note: A new fire began as of Wednesday, January 22nd, after this article was written.



*Images showing effects of fires
(taken from Associated Press photographers
Marcio Jose Sanchez and Ethan Swope)*