

12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In my comments at Monday's Semester Opening Assembly, I drew heavily on an article by David French, who on Sunday had included a Swedish proverb in his opinion piece in the New York Times: "Shared joy is double joy. Shared sorrow is half sorrow." That seemed to me to be an appropriate New Year greeting in a UWC that includes students and staff from families, communities and societies facing great challenges and even physical danger. The idea of "sharing" is much more than listening and then moving on. There is something more committed and participatory about sharing. When we share a meal, for instance, we sit and eat it together.

Many students, supported by colleagues, are "sharing" some of the challenges women have faced and continue to face in different parts of the world, by preparing for a public concert to raise awareness and to raise funds. The student organizers write:

On January 19, RBC will host a charity concert aimed at raising funds for the education of Afghan women and girls. There are over 50 students involved in the organization of this event, and it has truly been a campus-wide effort to pull this together. The organization that all proceeds will be donated to is Visions for Children, which is a Hamburg based organization that works to improve education standards in war and conflict zones, specifically running projects in Afghanistan.

The concert hosted on the 19th will tell a story of feminist movements across cultures and throughout history, highlighting, just to name a few, the student SE/EA Community, Latinx Community, and the #MeToo movement. The aim of the event is not just to raise money, but also to spread awareness in the general Freiburg community concerning the ongoing education crisis in Afghanistan.

That said, fundraising and donations are still the primary avenue in which we will be able to generate direct change for women and girls in Afghanistan. Below, you will find the bank information of Visions for Children, which will gladly issue a donation receipt for your records.

**Visions for Children e.V.**

**Bank für Sozialwirtschaft**

**IBAN: DE 49 3702 0500 0001 6175 01 BIC: BFSWDE33HAN**

**Verwendungszweck: RBC fundraiser for Afghan women's education**

Of course, we extend a warm invitation to you for the event which will occur at 19:00 on January 19, if you are in this part of Germany.

**Snow Days**

In recent days, Freiburg and its surrounding hills and mountains have been blessed with some snow. Over weekends during January, if there is enough snow, outings are planned for cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing and winter hiking. This weekend two sunset winter hikes are offered, to Hinterwaldkopf. A highly experienced teacher will take out a group of potential ski guides and Project Week cross-country skiing leaders this afternoon. Currently, there is only just enough snow at nearby Notschrei and

Feldberg which offer routes that might be challenging in currently icy conditions. We are hoping for more snow next week.

In closing but not in afterthought, I want to thank the RBC and UWC Families, and Host Families, who opened their homes and hearts to the many students who for different reasons did not or could not travel home this Winter Break. Each hosted student I have spoken to has spoken warmly of and gratefully for the hospitality they received. Again, thank you.

With best wishes for the New Year,

Laurence Nodder

Rektor

laurence.nodder@uwcrobertboschcollege.de