

# Building the Future of Learning

## Impact Report

2023





# Celebrating the success of our campaign



Last year, we opened the doors to a new learning community - our new Secondary Campus. This spectacular facility is the culmination of our Building the Future of Learning campaign, which hit its target of CHF 5m. And this future is just beginning.

Every time I walk into the new building, as it hums with life, laughter, creativity and passion, I am reminded again that it represents everything we believe in here at ZIS. It's more than just concrete and steel: it's a philosophy of education; a focus on the development of critical thinking; and the embodiment of the ZIS experience.

There's a kind of magic that takes place at ZIS and, already, this campus is transforming learning experiences for our students, nurturing a diverse community where everyone feels they belong. It's a home away from home, giving our students the confidence to go anywhere and do anything, and it helps spark an interest in them that will animate engagement for a lifetime.

But, of course, just like our first school back in 1963, the new building was only made possible by the incredible generosity and support of our community. It is your contributions that have made ZIS what it is today, and it is your ongoing support that will enable us to continue to deliver outstanding educational experiences into the future.

Your generosity has been overwhelming, and I, along with my colleagues, am profoundly thankful for your commitment to Building the Future of Learning.

**Lisa Lyle**  
**Director**

# The Building the Future of Learning campaign was made possible by the incredible generosity of our whole community. To all donors: thank you.

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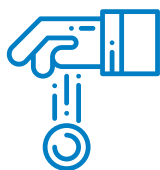
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**"I believe in the power of education and think it is worthwhile to invest in. In fact, one of the best uses of money is for bettering the educational system – for the kids, the future"**

**Dan Holzmänn, current parent**



# The ZIS Building the Future of Learning campaign raised a massive **CHF 5,123,055**



The average  
donation was  
**CHF 6,201**



**544**  
donors  
contributed



**4**  
foundations  
donated



**26**  
companies  
donated



**31**  
alumni  
donated



**59**  
past families  
donated



**67**  
employee  
families donated



**357**  
current families  
donated



**9**

**donors named brand-new  
state-of-the-art spaces**



**62**

**trees around the campus  
were adopted by donors**



**185**

**items were gifted for  
auction at the Gala**



**265**

**people attended  
the Gala**



**of the Board of  
Trustees participated**



**of the Leadership  
Team participated**

**“I love the concept of the new Middle School but, for me, the building itself isn’t the most compelling part of the proposition. It’s about the future it represents: the potential for children”**

**George Quinn, alumni parent**

# More than just a building – the Secondary Campus is transforming lives.



Walk into the new Secondary Campus and you walk into the future of learning. From the Media Center to the ABB Design Lab, students and teachers are using their new spaces to learn, innovate, create and be active. And this future is secure: the cutting-edge facilities will ensure that ZIS's educational offer remains world-class for years to come.

"The new building has opened up a world of opportunities for collaboration between students, teachers, parents and the wider community," says David Wood, Middle School Principal. "It embodies that synergy."

## A flexible future

Students from Grades 6 to 12 have the opportunity to mix and learn from each other, enabling a more seamless transition for students from Middle to Upper School. All spaces can change easily from lessons to co-curricular activities – and this flexibility extends to even the most subject-specific spaces, such as those dedicated to STEM disciplines. Gone are traditional lab benches, with sinks and gas-taps. Instead, the STEM classrooms have their equipment positioned around the outer walls, while the interior space is entirely flexible. Tables and chairs can be cleared away completely, for example, to enable the construction of large projects such as model spaceships.





## Breaking down boundaries Strong relationships

In the ABB Design Lab, there are no boundaries between art and science. The latest tech sits side by side with practical tools, allowing students to take on everything from coding websites to building sets for drama productions. In the Media Center, students bring their devices to the IT kiosk for support, and much of the collection is online - enabling texts in multiple languages for this community, which includes more than 70 different nationalities. "It would once have been called a library, but libraries today have changed in both function and purpose," explains David.

"Hosting on your own campus - a basketball tournament, for instance, something the Middle School has never been able to run - is exciting, and generates lots of camaraderie and community spirit," says David. Teachers and parents are benefiting, too. "I have so many good conversations with parents on the side of the court," David adds. "Having those facilities strengthens relationships with families and makes their lives easier, especially those with several children enrolled who no longer have to take their children to three different locations."

## Built for inclusion

The ZIS population can be transient, with some students only in the school for a year or two. So the new building has inclusion in mind. "When a family arrives, whether from Shanghai, Munich or Auckland, we want to help them feel part of the community, and sport and the arts are often a huge part of that," says David. Those communities are now making the most of everything the new facilities have to offer, including an indoor gym, a full-size pitch, and multiple courts suitable for everything from tennis to basketball.

## The sound of success

The new building hums with music, from orchestral epics in the large concert space to the smaller ensemble spaces perfect for sectional brass, wind and percussion practice. Wander around the building at any time and you'll also hear a multitude of groups or soloists rehearsing in the individual rooms. "We have a thriving music program," says David. "The arts - learning to sing, dance, perform jazz or be part of an orchestra, for example - are essential to how our students and wider community connect."

# We're grateful for all your support in helping us reach our target – but the work goes on. Your contributions have made ZIS what it is today, and we are focused on the future.

As our Building the Future of Learning campaign has reached its CHF 5m target, I have been reflecting on the incredible legacy of philanthropy at ZIS. Back in 1963, a dedicated community of parents and educators recognized the need for a school. So they raised the money and founded it themselves. For 60 years, that philosophy of generosity has endured down the generations – and has enabled us to carry on building.

It has been heartening and humbling to see this legacy in action. Our entire community came together and contributed: naming a space, helping out with and attending the Gala, giving prizes, making generous donations or making ZIS their philanthropic priority. The Board of Trustees, the ZIS Foundation Board and the Campaign Committee took on this huge and complex project with incredible enthusiasm and efficiency. My heartfelt thanks go out to you all.

And the work continues. Our ambition for the future is to focus on sustainability across transport, energy, food, recycling, vendors and sustainability education throughout the whole school community.

Our not-for-profit status allows us the freedom to evolve and innovate and ensures that every franc or dollar you give goes towards improving the student experience. Your contributions have made ZIS what it is today – a school of the first rank, where we enable every student to thrive, and to make their own impact locally and globally.

**Michaela Seeger**  
**Director of Community Relations**





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