

# ELA CONNECT

*Bringing You the Best from Our Community*

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1

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## INSIDE

### Why ELA?



Our parents talk about why they choose ELA Basel.

### Bilingual



Learn about the new bilingual programme at our Kita.

### STEM



STEM Coordinator and Year 5 teacher Leia Ford talks about the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.



(l-r) Emily, Eileen, Maddie and Alex model our new sportswear.

## NEW AND EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

**WE are delighted to introduce *ELA Connect*, our new termly bulletin designed to shine a spotlight on the significant events, achievements, and news from across the ELA Basel community.**

Each edition aims to keep you informed, engaged, and connected with some of the highlights this term, providing an overview of the dynamic activities shaping the ELA Basel experience. Since the start of the new term, ELA Basel has seen several exciting advancements. Most notably, our Kita (daycare) has launched a bilingual programme, offering a unique opportunity for children to learn in both English and German. This programme, which follows the UK's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, is available for children from 3 months to 4 years old. Families residing in Basel-Stadt can also benefit from the Kanton's subsidy, making this high-quality education even more accessible.

In addition to this, we have received heartwarming testimonials from parents that capture what makes ELA Basel truly special – from the nurturing environment to the experienced, dedicated staff who have long been part of our community. These testimonials highlight the lasting impact of ELA Basel on both children and their families.

In primary school, our community continues to grow. We are excited to announce that several new programmes and activities are now available to external families, further strengthening our school's role within the broader Basel area.

Finally, after extensive roadworks over the past year, we are delighted to see our street, St. Alban-Vorstadt, beautifully restored and reopened to the public. We hope this makeover will help create a welcoming environment for all when visiting our school.

Stay tuned for more highlights, stories, and updates in this and future editions of *ELA Connect*!



# PRIMARY

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## FEELS LIKE HOME AT ELA BASEL

**AT ELA Basel, every student is valued as an individual. With a close-knit relationship between staff, students, and families, the school fosters a supportive environment where every learner thrives.**

Teachers work closely with parents to adapt to the unique learning needs of each child, ensuring personal growth and academic success. This nurturing and caring environment is clear to Tomek and Aleksandra Dzwonkowski and their son Ludwik, who moved to Basel from their native Poland last summer.

Tomek recalled, "Relocation to Switzerland, embracing a different culture and language, new friends, and a new learning curriculum was a lot for our family. Here at ELA, we found the help and support we needed."

He added, "For us, it was important that ELA places a strong emphasis on the overall development and learning of children from diverse backgrounds. The inclusive community promotes cultural diversity and understanding. It just felt great from day one."

Tomek was impressed by how quickly his son learned English and the role this played in helping Ludwik settle in. He explained, "We appreciate the school's great commitment to quickly teaching our son to communicate in English in such a short time. This enabled him to fully participate in classes, interesting projects, and build friendships with other children."



### WHY OUR FAMILIES CHOOSE ELA BASEL

*Liam's integration was very smooth, and he has enjoyed ELA very much for the last 4 years. The quality of the teaching has been fantastic so far. Our son has had an impressive learning curve and the opportunity to improve his knowledge and skills in a broad range of subjects. Happy kids, happy parents! Thanks ELA.*

*Angelique & Brice*

Tomek added, "The warm and supportive environment at ELA created a sense of belonging and security. It allowed our son to explore and nurture his hobbies and talents. The teachers and staff went above and beyond, encouraging our son to develop his unique interests and passions like woodcraft, art, wildlife, or music."

In addition to its academic programmes, ELA Basel offers over 25 Enrichment Programmes, ranging from woodwork and creative arts to sports and coding clubs. With such a wide range of activities, every student can explore their passions, build new skills, and excel on their learning journey.

[Click for more testimonials](#)



Tomek and Aleksandra  
Dzwonkowski



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# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

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**AT ELA Basel, STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) plays a vital role in equipping students with the skills and knowledge they need for the future.**

With a strong emphasis on these critical areas, the school is committed to ensuring that students are prepared to navigate and succeed in an ever-changing world. Leia Ford, STEM Coordinator and Year 5 teacher, shared her insights on how this multidisciplinary approach prepares students for the evolving demands of the global economy and society. "STEM doesn't just prepare children for the future, it is the future," Leia explained. "In a society that is constantly making new technological advances, it is our job as educators to prepare our students for the world they will enter."

As industries continue to transform under the influence of technological innovation, the importance of embedding STEM education into the classroom has never been more critical. Leia stressed that the pace of change is accelerating, and education must keep up. She highlighted the unpredictable yet exciting nature of the future job market.

"There are careers today that didn't exist ten years ago, or even five years ago. As we teach our students, it's important to remember that.

We are preparing them for jobs and careers that don't even exist yet," she added.

STEM education at ELA Basel is not just about meeting today's academic goals; it's about fostering a forward-thinking mindset in students, one that encourages curiosity, innovation, and adaptability. The excitement surrounding STEM is further amplified by the vast and diverse opportunities that students will encounter as they grow into adulthood. Leia expressed her enthusiasm for the futures of ELA Basel students, confident in the foundation they are building through their STEM experiences. "It's very exciting to think of all the great opportunities they are going to have as they grow up and advance in the world," she said.

At ELA Basel, the focus on STEM ensures that students not only grasp the essential concepts in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, but also develop the problem-solving skills and adaptability they will need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. This comprehensive approach guarantees that ELA Basel students are well-equipped to embrace the challenges and seize the opportunities that lie ahead, no matter how the future unfolds.

Watch Leia Ford's full video interview on our **YouTube** channel by clicking the button.

# FUTURE PROOF

**with Leia Ford STEM  
Coordinator &  
Year 5 Teacher**





# KITA

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## HANDS UP FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION!

**BILINGUAL education is an excellent choice for families in the German-speaking region of Switzerland, as it promotes cognitive flexibility, language development, and cultural awareness.**

Research shows that children exposed to multiple languages from an early age often develop enhanced problem-solving skills and adaptability, which are highly valuable in Switzerland's multicultural environment.

ELA Basel Kita is excited to introduce its new bilingual programme, offering instruction in both English and German through the UK's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. The programme is designed for children from 3 months to 4 years old, with teaching split 50/50 between the two languages.

The Kita provides wrap-around care from 06:30 to 18:30, making it convenient for working families. With a team of long-serving, fully qualified staff, ELA Basel ensures a nurturing and stable environment for all children.

Additionally, families living in the Kanton of Basel can now benefit from the Basel-Stadt childcare subsidy, making this high-quality bilingual education even more accessible.

To book a tour and discover our first class facilities in the heart of Basel click on the link below.

**TAKE A TOUR**

**FACT:** Average service of  
our staff is 10 years!





# ROUND-UP

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*Our events warmly welcome both ELA Basel families and families from the wider community.*

**5th November 2024**

STEM Information Event and Family STEM Night

**12th December 2024**

Winter Fayre – food stalls, festive singing, bric-à-brac stalls and more

**22nd January 2025**

Inclusion Information Event

**3rd April 2025**

Maths Information event

**26th March 2025**

Music Information Event

**4th April 2025**

Kinder Flöhmkt/Children's Flea Market

*Follow us*



## DON'T MISS OUR FAMILY STEM EVENT

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting our very first Family STEM Night on 5th November 2024, from 17:30 to 19:00. This hands-on event will allow families to work together on engaging STEM challenges, witness fascinating demonstrations, and enjoy a relaxing apéro. Whether you are part of the ELA Basel community or a visiting family from outside, this is a wonderful opportunity to experience the innovative and collaborative spirit of STEM learning. Join us for an evening of creativity, discovery, and fun that's perfect for all ages. We'd love to see you there! **RSVP [here](#)**.



## Bilingual offering for our senior students

We continue to expand our German programme now offering German Maths starting in Year 5. With our increased German programme in Years 6 and 7, students can now choose a bilingual route for their final two years of primary school at ELA Basel. Students who opt to do German Maths, German Science and German Art will have 10 hours of learning in German, 10 hours of learning in English and 2 hours of learning in French each week. Our German and French after school programmes include language support as well as 'learn and play classes'. We will continue to add more home languages in our Enrichment Programme to support our community.

## It's a record!

Our after school Enrichment Programmes are now available to non-ELA Basel students. This record number of 25 programmes offer a wide range of activities designed to complement your child's education and interests, from arts and crafts to sports and academic clubs. You can view our Enrichment Programme offerings [here](#). If you would like more information or to register your child, please reach out to Wouter Rausch, our Head of Programmes at [w.rausch@ela-basel.ch](mailto:w.rausch@ela-basel.ch)

## Stadtlauf Calling

Did you know that ELA Basel and our families proudly take part in the Basler Stadtlauf, one of Basel's most popular annual events, every year.

This year's race will be held on Saturday, 23rd November 2024, with a 1km route starting at Münsterplatz and finishing at Marktplatz. Children can participate with their parents in the Family Run at 16:30 (open to children aged four and up, born in 2020), or run individually in the age group races, which start at 17:00.

In addition, FELA (Friends of ELA) will be hosting a Pre-Race Event at Wildensteinerhof from 15:00 to 16:00. Families from the wider community are welcome to join us before walking together to Münsterplatz for a 16:15 warm-up.

Whether running or cheering, this is a great opportunity to enjoy a fun and active afternoon in Basel with families from all over the city!