

# ELA CONNECT

Bringing You the Best from Our Community

VOL. 1 ISSUE 4

SUMMER 2025

## INSIDE

### Yoga kids



The joys and benefits of teaching yoga in Early Years.

### Reunion



Our graduates of 2015 celebrate their 10 year reunion.

### New FELA Chapter



New FELA Chairperson Jessica Regester's hopes and plans for our parent community.



Students from Year 4 shine during their 'School-O-Vision' Scala performance.

## A School United in Song, Dance, and Celebration

**THIS year's Scala performance once again shone a spotlight on the incredible talent at ELA Basel, bringing our school to life with music, dance, and drama in a double showcase that left audiences cheering, clapping, and calling for more.**

From our youngest Reception pupils to the confident leaders of Year 7, every student who stepped into the spotlight brought their own spark to an unforgettable two days of performances.

The curtain first rose on 'The Not-So-Creepy Crawlies', a Reception to Year 2 production brimming with colour, charm, and personality. Packed with catchy songs, playful choreography, and plenty of humour, the show had parents and extended family smiling from start to finish. "They should feel incredibly proud of themselves," said staff after the performance. The creative team, led by teachers Claire Zamarreño and Luke Davis, was credited with guiding the young cast to deliver a polished, heartwarming show that perfectly captured the joy of early years theatre.

Next, Years 3 to 7 took centre stage with a high-energy Scala production of 'School-O-Vision' that

blended comedy, heartfelt moments, and show-stopping ensemble numbers in the style of Eurovision. Year 7 led the way, anchoring the performance with confident acting and musical skill, while younger year groups added colour and momentum through a vibrant mix of songs and choreography. The result was a fast-paced, polished production that had the audience hooked from the opening note to the final bow.

Months of preparation went into the staging, with Music teacher Luke Davis honing the musical performances and Year 7 teacher and director Tina Corrigan bringing her trademark creativity and attention to detail. Her leadership and vision turned months of rehearsals into a seamless, professional-quality show that showcased the best of ELA Basel's performing arts talent.

The Scala productions were more than just entertainment—they were a celebration of teamwork, creativity, and confidence, uniting the school community in a shared moment of pride. As the applause echoed through the theatre, it was clear that this year's performances had set a new standard, leaving students, staff, and families already looking forward to the next production.

See more photos from Scala on page 9

# STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

From Basel newcomer to community leader, Jessica Regester takes the helm at FELA to strengthen connections and celebrate community



**New FELA Chairperson  
Jessica Regester.**

**ELA Basel's parent association, Friends of ELA (FELA), has welcomed a new Chairperson this year, Jessica Regester, who is passionate about bringing families together and strengthening the school's sense of community.**

Jessica, who moved from the United States to Basel with her family in February, joined FELA shortly after arriving. "We didn't know anyone," she explained. "I joined FELA so that I could meet people and get involved in my kids' school. From the short time I've been part of it, I have loved how open the team is and how much support they give one another. I can't wait to see what I can bring to the table."

FELA was established to strengthen community ties through enjoyable and inclusive events. Some of these, such as the Family Game Night and the Parent's (Only) Aperó, are organised entirely by the association, while others, including the Winter Fayre and Art Show, are hosted in partnership with the school. "We try to offer a space for friends and families to get together outside of school time, where the focus can simply be on bonding and having fun," Jessica said.

Having attended a number of events in the spring and summer sessions, Jessica quickly

saw how important they are in helping new and long-standing families connect. "I love planning and organising events, so being part of FELA felt like a natural fit," she said. "The experiences we've had so far have made Basel feel like home much more quickly."

*"I have loved how open the team is and how much support they give one another. I can't wait to see what I can bring to the table"*

As Chairperson, Jessica is determined to make FELA more visible and accessible to all parents. "We want parents to see that getting involved can be easy, rewarding, and a great way to meet others," she explained. "Even small contributions can make a big difference to the success of our events." She hopes to continue the strong foundations built by her predecessor Anna Reinersman, while also encouraging fresh ideas and broader participation.

FELA's calendar for 2025/26 is already shaping up to be full of activities, from the ever-popular Family Game Night to the annual Pool Day Party. The team is also working towards the return of International Day, which Jessica believes could become one of the most special events of the year. "It's a wonderful opportunity for families to share their cultures through food, music, games and traditions. In an international school like ours, that kind of celebration can be so powerful."

One of FELA's strengths, according to Jessica, is that there is no minimum or maximum time commitment for volunteers. "A parent can bake for an event after the kids are asleep, help for an hour making badges, sell Bratwurst and Glühwein, take tickets for Movie Night, or even monitor Twister games—before joining in the fun themselves," she said. Jessica explained that this flexibility means that parents can contribute in whatever way fits their schedules.

She also wants parents to know they are welcome to "just try it out" without any pressure to commit long-term. "Life is busy—we understand that. But every bit of help, whether it's spreading the word about an event or donating thirty minutes of your time, makes a difference."

For Jessica, FELA's role goes far beyond event planning. "We all know the saying 'it takes a village.' Well, FELA is that village! Especially in an international school where we welcome families from all over, it's important that we share those cultures with each other. It can be difficult being an expat, so having the FELA community to help support you as a parent, as a family, or as part of the school, helps everyone feel like they are part of the ELA community."

In addition to its social role, FELA also works closely with the school to enhance the student experience. Whether it's organising fundraisers, supporting creative projects like the mascot planters, or partnering with teachers to add something extra to school events, the association aims to create memorable experiences for children and families alike. Jessica sees this as another way FELA helps ELA Basel stand out as more than just a school—it's a connected and supportive community.

# PRIMARY

SUMMER 2025

## A SPECIAL MORNING FOR NEW FAMILIES

**ELA Basel warmly welcomed a wonderful group of new families during a special morning event designed to introduce them to the school community ahead of the official reopening on 11th August.**

The event provided a great opportunity for parents to connect with one another and for children to meet their teachers, make new friends, and explore their classrooms. This early familiarisation helped to ease the transition and build excitement for the upcoming school year.

Adding to the cheerful atmosphere was a special visit from Ella, the school's beloved mascot—a friendly Bernese mountain dog—who brought smiles to children and parents alike.

School leaders expressed their enthusiasm about the growing community and emphasised the importance of such events in helping families feel connected and supported. They reaffirmed their commitment to fostering a welcoming environment where every family can thrive.

The welcoming morning was a testament to ELA Basel's commitment to create a supportive and inclusive environment for all families, ensuring that new members of the community feel valued and at home from day one.

As the school year approaches, this event marked the beginning of many positive experiences for both new and returning families alike.



**Our mascot Ella was there to help welcome new families.**



## WHY OUR FAMILIES CHOOSE ELA BASEL

*After attending ELA Basel, our daughter transitioned to the Holbein Secondary School. The Swiss schools have bigger classes and adhere to a strict teaching method. So, it's not without its challenges. The ELA Basel curriculum prepares children to a more advanced level than local students entering secondary school. ELA Basel has also been increasing the amount of German taught, which is to be lauded. We feel that Sophie caught up language-wise in the local school and coasted through the other subjects thanks to the high-calibre teaching she received at ELA Basel. We are very grateful for the support of the staff. Her brother, also an ELA Basel graduate, is now attending Holbein.*

*David Kirk*

[MORE TESTIMONIALS](#) ▶

# STUDENTS LEAD THE WAY

Architectural event *Open House Basel* reinforces our school's role as a vibrant hub of education, creativity, and public engagement

ELA Basel's Wildensteinerhof Primary School campus was proudly featured as one of the standout buildings during *Open House Basel 2023*, a major architectural event celebrating the city's rich urban heritage and innovative design.

The weekend-long festival invited the public to explore nearly 100 remarkable sites across Basel, from historic landmarks to cutting-edge contemporary buildings.

The Wildensteinerhof campus, a beautifully restored 19th-century building, opened its doors to visitors with free guided tours, showcasing how the school's architectural heritage merges seamlessly with a modern educational environment. This unique fusion highlights the school's commitment to preserving history while providing a forward-thinking space for learning.

One of the most engaging elements of the school's participation was the involvement of its Year 4 and Year 5 students as tour guides. These young ambassadors underwent a series of four workshops throughout May to prepare for their role, gaining deep insights into the building's history, its recent renovation, and the architectural principles behind its transformation. They even met the lead architect responsible for the remodel, who shared expert knowledge about the challenges and triumphs of restoring the historic site.

On the weekend of the event, these trained students confidently led visitors through the corridors and classrooms of Wildensteinerhof, sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge with impressive professionalism. The positive feedback from attendees reflected not only the architectural significance of the building but also the effectiveness of engaging the school community, particularly its youngest members, in the event.

Professional tours were also available on Saturday, ensuring that the public could experience both expert commentary and the fresh perspectives offered by the student guides.

In addition to the tours, the school hosted an exhibition of children's artwork inspired by *Open House Basel's* theme. Young artists from across the city participated in the "Zeichne ein Haus" competition, sketching buildings featured in the event's programme.

Their drawings were displayed in the school's courtyard throughout the weekend, culminating in an award ceremony where winners received architectural drawing sets and had their artwork transformed into poster prints.



**Student tour guides take part in architectural workshops, while visitors explore the historical features of Wildensteinerhof with Managing Director of Heritage Protection Basel, Andreas Häner.**



**Some of the ELA Basel student tour guides leading the way.**

The event provided a valuable opportunity to highlight the role of Wildensteinerhof not only as a place of learning but also as a community landmark. Visitors were able to appreciate how adaptive reuse of historic buildings can serve contemporary needs without compromising heritage, creating inspiring spaces that foster both education and cultural continuity.

ELA Basel's involvement also underscored the school's wider mission to connect with the Basel community through culture and education. By opening its doors to the public and involving students in meaningful roles, the school reinforced its position as a vibrant hub where history, creativity, and community intersect.

The success of the event has sparked plans to deepen community engagement in future years, with ELA Basel exploring opportunities to host more cultural and educational initiatives within the Wildensteinerhof campus. Such initiatives aim to further bridge the gap between the school and the wider Basel population, strengthening ties through shared experiences.

Moreover, the participation of young students as tour guides highlighted the importance of experiential learning beyond traditional classrooms. This hands-on approach empowered students with public speaking skills, historical knowledge, and a sense of pride in their school's heritage—lessons that extend well beyond the architecture itself.

ELA CONNECT

# PRIMARY HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMER 2025



# OUR FIRST EVER GRADUATES REUNITE AFTER TEN YEARS

## Reflections on a pioneering class and its lasting school legacy

**ELA Basel's first graduating class of 2015 came together to celebrate a momentous milestone recently: their 10-year reunion.**

The atmosphere was filled with warmth and nostalgia as former students, their teacher, and a special guest reminisced about their shared journey. Among those attending was Bernadette Allison, the former Director/CEO, whose vision was instrumental in establishing the primary school. Bernadette flew over from the UK especially for this special event. They were also joined by their former teacher and organiser of this wonderful reunion Michelle Garrett. Though one student joined virtually from Kyoto, Japan, the sense of community was unmistakable as everyone gathered back at Gartenstrasse—the very place where their educational journey at ELA Basel began in 2008.

### A Journey From Tiny Tots to Graduates

Many of the students first joined ELA Basel as infants, when the school was known as Tiny Tots, moving through the year groups alongside each other under the nurturing guidance of Michelle Garrett, their dedicated teacher from 2006 to 2015, who later became ELA Basel's Primary School Principal. This cohort's growth and achievements reflect the solid foundation and inspiring environment ELA Basel has long provided.

The students have since pursued a variety of impressive academic and personal paths.

**Alexia**, who was at ELA Basel from six months old until 11 years, completed her bilingual Matura at SIS Basel before moving to Liverpool to earn a bachelor's degree in Bioveterinary Science. Now working toward a career in laboratory medicine, she fondly recalls the lifelong friendships and creative spark ignited at ELA Basel.

Similarly, **Alizah** developed her passion for music and movement at ELA Basel, which helped build her confidence through early stage performances. She completed her Matura at Gymnasium Oberwil and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts at the Music Academy of Basel, combining musical skills with dance pedagogy. Her days remain filled with music, teaching, and artistic expression.

### Academic and Artistic Excellence

**Danae** joined the class just after her eighth



*The graduating class of 2015 during their recent reunion with their teacher Michelle Garrett and former Director/CEO of ELA Basel Bernadette Allison.*

birthday and has since excelled in musical theatre, training at the Guildford School of Acting while working across Switzerland and the UK as a performer, teacher, and choreographer.

She credits ELA Basel for nurturing both her academic skills and social confidence, cherishing the supportive environment she shared with classmates and teachers.

**Janoah's** journey led him from ELA Basel to completing a bilingual Matura at SIS Basel and now studying Mathematics at the University of Basel. Inspired by Michelle's teaching, he embraces initiative and curiosity, mentoring first-year students and coaching athletics whenever possible.

After arriving at ELA Basel aged six, **Jessica** went on to study dental medicine at the University of Basel. She values the strong work ethic and lifelong friendships forged during her time at the school, and enjoys reconnecting regularly with classmates and Michelle.

**Max** pursued his passion for Physics and Applied Mathematics after ELA Basel, completing the Swiss Matura and now in his third year of Mechanical Engineering at ETH Zurich. Alongside his studies, he is heavily involved in rock climbing and a student solar race car team, carrying with him the

encouragement and safe space ELA Basel provided.

**Nini**, who studied Electrical Engineering at ETH Zürich and is currently on exchange in Kyoto, credits the teachers—especially Michelle—for instilling a passion for learning and life skills that shaped her both personally and academically.



*Then and now: The Class of 2015 when they were in Primary 5 (Year 4).*

## Leadership, Global Perspectives, & Lifelong Bonds

**Pablo** began at ELA Basel around age four and has since travelled an impressive educational path, attending SIS Basel, UNIS New York for the IB diploma, and currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts at Winchester University in the UK. He remains grateful to Michelle and ELA Basel for encouraging his love of music and instilling core values that continue to guide him.

Meanwhile, **Remi's** early years spanned ELA Basel's original locations before he moved on to SIS and Gymnasium am Münsterplatz. Following a gap year serving as a sergeant in the military, he began studying business at the University of St Gallen. Now a scout troop leader and active in rugby and chess, Remi credits ELA Basel for fostering his confidence and character.

**William's** journey reflects a particularly strong academic trajectory. Beginning in Tiny Tots, he fondly recalls his favourite nap time corner. ELA Basel's exceptional level of education placed him a year ahead when he transferred to a school in Como. After completing high school, he earned a bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of Leiden and is now finishing a master's in Development

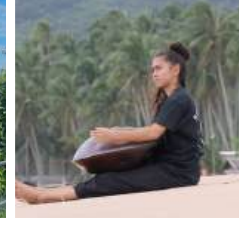
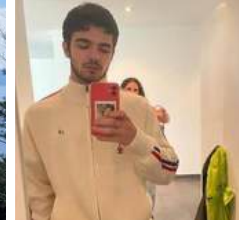


Economics at the University of Amsterdam. His hobbies range from gym workouts to exploring global trade data.

### Soaring to New Heights

The stories shared at the reunion showcased the impressive diversity of this pioneering class' achievements. Michelle Garrett expressed heartfelt pride in their successes, "They were given the wings and not only do they fly, they soar!"

As they continue to build on the strong foundations laid at ELA Basel, this first graduating class remains an inspiration to the school community and a testament to the power of a supportive and visionary educational environment.



# OUR FIRST SCIENCE FAIR SPARKS CURIOSITY AND IMAGINATIONS

Students showcase innovative projects and ignite a passion for discovery

**ELA Basel's first-ever Science Fair was truly electrifying and a standout highlight of the summer term, showcasing the remarkable talents of Year 4 to Year 7 students.**

The school's lunchroom was transformed into a hive of creativity, where young scientists proudly conducted themselves with confidence while presenting innovative projects.

The event wasn't just for families; all students got the chance to explore, ask questions, and react to their favourite projects by casting votes. The energy in the room was contagious, with experiments and concepts that were nothing short of outstanding in their originality.

Parents left charged up and buzzing with excitement. One parent remarked, "I came away learning so much about so many topics! The creativity here really sparked my interest." It was clear that the fair had catalysed a wonderful exchange of ideas and knowledge across the school community.

From bubbling experiments to magnetic presentations, the Science Fair was a true formula for success. The dedication and gravity of the students' efforts shone through every display, making it an inspiring event for everyone involved. Thanks to all the exhibitors for powering this fantastic day of discovery!

Students are already buzzing with excitement and ideas for next year's Science Fair. Many have expressed a desire to double the reaction with even more ambitious projects and creative experiments. The enthusiasm sparked by this year's event has clearly ignited a passion for scientific exploration, promising that future fairs will be positively charged with innovation and curiosity. The school community eagerly looks forward to seeing how these young scientists will evolve their skills and discoveries in the coming year.



Parents enjoying the wonderful selection of science projects on display.

# A CHAPTER COMPLETED

Heartfelt speeches and reflections capture the memories and achievements

**THE Year 7 students of ELA Basel recently marked a significant milestone in their educational journey with a heartfelt graduation ceremony just before the summer holidays.**

The event was attended by proud parents and streamed live, allowing extended families around the world to share in the celebration regardless of their location.

Many of the graduates have been part of the ELA Basel community since they were babies, making the occasion even more special. Among the guests were some of the Early Years carers, who were delighted to see these young graduates, once small children under their care, now ready to take the next step in their learning journey.

As is tradition, each graduate delivered a speech, thoughtfully prepared over several weeks, expressing their feelings and reflections on this momentous occasion. School Director Sally Hirsch offered inspiring words of encouragement and advice, setting an uplifting tone for the evening. The graduates' teachers, Ollie Paget and Tina Corrigan, presented certificates and commemorative books to each student as a token of achievement and remembrance.

The graduating families enjoyed one last special evening together, cherishing the community spirit before the next chapter begins. A specially produced graduation video captured the highlights of the night, providing families with a lasting memory to look back on in years to come.



**Graduate Lucas Hilfer receives his certificate from Ollie and Tina.**

Reflecting on their time at ELA Basel, Noah said, "The thing that I will definitely miss about ELA Basel is the fun learning and STEM projects." Owen added, "I'll miss all the interactive learning and the fun trips!" Mia-Sophie highlighted the close-knit nature of the school, saying, "The best thing is that everyone knows each other. I will miss this nice small community." Lily echoed the sentiment, sharing, "It's the safe environment where everyone belongs." Above all, the graduates agreed that what they will miss most is the friendships they have built during their time at ELA Basel.

## Ella makes fur-ever friends!

Our new Bernese Mountain Dog mascot Ella spreads joy, connection, and school spirit across both our Early Years and Primary School campuses

**OUR new mascot, Ella the Bernese Mountain Dog, has been making surprise visits across both our Early Years / Kita campus and our Primary School, and the response has been nothing short of heartwarming.**

One of our students, Yasmin, brought Ella to life through a drawing competition to design our new school mascot. All the designs were then voted on by our school community and Yasmin's design won.

From our youngest learners in the Kita to our recent graduates, children's faces light up the moment Ella walks into a room, proving that a well-timed wag of a tail can create magic.

Ella's appearances are more than just fun and games. At the Early Years Open Day before the holidays, she paid a "fur-tastic" visit, delighting families and adding a lively, interactive element to the event.



**Ella has helped out in the lunchroom and brought lots of smiles to children in both our Early Years and Primary School campuses.**

Children enjoyed meeting her up close, and it was clear that her presence helped make the day memorable. Meanwhile, at the Primary School, students from Reception through to Year 7 were equally charmed.

Ella even joined the lunchroom, lending a paw and spreading smiles, showing that she's not only adorable but also a true ambassador for teamwork and school spirit. Having a mascot like

Ella is about more than entertainment. She serves as a unifying presence across our campuses, creating shared experiences that strengthen the sense of community.

A mascot can embody school values, foster connection, and provide a comforting, friendly figure that children look forward to seeing each day.

Ella encourages interaction,

promotes positive social behaviours, and brings a tangible element of joy to school life.

At ELA Basel, we strive to make every day special, and Ella is helping us do exactly that. Her surprise visits create excitement, encourage laughter, and remind students that school is a place where learning and happiness go paw-in-paw.

Seeing her wagging tail and friendly face is a simple yet powerful way to bring our Early Years and Primary communities together, reinforcing our ethos of connection, care, and shared experiences.

In short, Ella isn't just a mascot — she's a symbol of the warmth, energy, and spirit that make ELA Basel a unique and welcoming place for every student.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

ELA CONNECT

# SCALA

SUMMER 2025



# KITA

SUMMER 2025

## SPREADING THEIR WINGS

Building on a strong foundation, our preschool graduates look forward to new learning opportunities and exciting adventures in Primary School

**JUST before the summer holidays, ELA Basel hosted its annual Preschool Graduation Party - a heart-warming celebration that brought together children, parents, and staff to mark an important milestone in the lives of our youngest learners.**

The event was filled with laughter, music, and touching moments, as families gathered to honour the achievements of the graduating preschool class of 2025.

The celebration was led by dedicated preschool teacher, Marta Szyzka, who has guided and nurtured the children with patience and care throughout the year. She was supported on the day by many of our wonderful staff members, each of whom has played a special role in the children's journey at ELA Basel. Their teamwork helped create a memorable event that reflected the warmth and close-knit community spirit of our school.

Speaking to parents, Marta reflected on the strong bond she had built with the children. She explained that although the young graduates have loving and caring families at home, she also felt like an extended family member and even a mother figure to them. She shared that she felt a deep sense of pride in seeing the children ready for their next adventure, but also a touch of sadness as she said goodbye. Her moving words struck a chord with many parents, who expressed their gratitude for the dedication and affection shown to their children.

The ceremony itself was both joyous and entertaining. The children proudly performed some of their favourite songs, including the ever-popular 'Baby Shark', which had the audience smiling, clapping, and singing along. Their confidence and enthusiasm shone brightly on stage, showcasing the many skills they have developed during their time in preschool.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of the children's graduation certificates, which was given a magical twist. Appearing in full costume, the god of the sea, Poseidon and his playful octopus helper handed out certificates to each graduate, creating a moment of wonder and delight. The children's wide-eyed excitement and the parents' warm applause made this a truly unforgettable part of the celebration.

Following the ceremony, families gathered in the garden to continue the festivities. The children enjoyed quality time outdoors with their loved ones while sampling a delicious selection of treats prepared by staff, accompanied by refreshing drinks. The relaxed atmosphere provided the perfect opportunity for parents, teachers, and children to come together as a community and celebrate the conclusion of an important chapter in the children's lives.

While graduation marked the end of preschool, it also heralded the start of new opportunities. Many of the graduates will continue their educational journey within ELA Basel



**Top: Preschool graduates of 2025 and (below) Poseidon and his friendly octopus who presented the certificates.**

Primary School, where they will build on the strong foundation established during their early years.

The staff look forward to supporting them as they take on new challenges, develop their talents, and grow into confident and curious learners.

The preschool Graduation Party was more than just a farewell; it was a celebration of friendship, learning, and community. It reflected the spirit of ELA Basel - a place where children are encouraged to explore, thrive, and feel at home.



# BRINGING CALM CONFIDENCE AND JOY

How yoga blends movement, music, & mindfulness to support young learners

**WHEN you step into the soft play room at ELA Basel during one of Maia Eckert-Thévenaz Lecreux's yoga sessions, the atmosphere feels at once lively and calm.**

Laughter, music, and movement fill the space, but there is also a sense of focus and joy in the air. Maia, who is qualified in teaching yoga for children, has been sharing her passion for movement with our youngest learners, weaving together play, creativity, and mindfulness in a way that feels both natural and magical.

She explains that yoga offers a wide range of physical benefits for children at this early stage. "During a children's yoga session, children explore a lot of different movements such as twisting, balancing and stretching. Movements that foster brain development and strengthen their growing bodies," Maia says. To help children connect more deeply with their own bodies, she often brings games into the sessions. They might ask where their ladybird will rest, rub their backs against the wall like a bear, or massage their hands to thank them for all they do during the day. These playful approaches help the children develop body awareness and care for themselves.

*"Yoga is a holistic approach to body and mind health"*

But for Maia, yoga is about more than just the physical. She strongly believes it plays a vital role in supporting emotional development too. She explains how movement helps children regulate their feelings—whether it's dancing freely to a playlist she has made for different emotions, pretending to be animals, hugging themselves or others, or balancing like a tree swaying in the wind. "There are so many ways of letting the body express itself," she says warmly.

The sessions are designed to be dynamic and age-appropriate. At this stage, Maia knows that children need to move, so poses are never static. A downward-facing dog might walk around the room, a cobra



*Maia Eckert-Thévenaz Lecreux is teaching yoga to our youngest learners.*

slithers on the floor, and a frog jumps as high as it can. Music, animal poses, and imaginative breathing games—like feather massages, hot chocolate breathing, or bee buzzing—make yoga sessions both fun and engaging.

Yoga also provides opportunities for calmness and focus, something parents at ELA Basel truly value. Maia introduces only a few ideas per session, leaving space for

children's creativity while helping them concentrate on one thing at a time.

Breathing exercises, for example, are introduced through playful imagery: smelling the scent of a flower or blowing its petals gently. She notes that while free dancing brings bursts of energy, it is surprisingly easy to gather the children back on their mats. They understand that calm and

movement naturally alternate, and trust that there will be more chances to move again.

Confidence and independence are also encouraged. Maia welcomes children's own ideas, inviting them to try each other's suggestions and laugh together when balance is lost. Challenges become fun, and responsibilities like putting on slippers or preparing mats help children take pride in themselves.

Asked what children enjoy most, Maia smiles: "They love preparing the soft play room with me, the routines we've established, the mystery bags, the instruments they pass between each other... and above all, they love collaboration." Whether tickling a neighbour's feet with a feather or holding hands in a balancing pose, children thrive on connection.

Yoga, she explains, is not an "add-on" but part of the wider Early Years curriculum, supporting personal, social, emotional, and physical development, while also linking to literacy, mathematics, and expressive arts. It even helps reduce challenging behaviours by offering children a physical outlet for self-expression.

Reflecting on her practice, Maia shares a story of one child who at first refused to join in, later came to observe, and finally became one of the most enthusiastic participants. For her, this illustrates how yoga respects each child's individuality and builds confidence at their own pace.

"Yoga is a holistic approach to body and mind health," Maia says thoughtfully. "But more than that, it's one of the many ways we, as educators, share our personal passions with children. For me, it's yoga; for others, it may be baking, outdoor games, or even Japanese calligraphy. That is our strength as a team."



*Children of all ages in Early Years get to explore Expressive Arts & Design.*

ELA CONNECT

# KITA HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMER 2025



# 6 ELA BASEL EXPERIENCES TO DISCOVER

*School enrolment not required!*



+41 61 313 05 80  
office@ela-basel.ch  
[www.ela-basel.ch](http://www.ela-basel.ch)

## 1 ENGLISH EXPLORERS

We follow an official UK phonics programme to build strong foundations in English literacy. With expert teachers and high-quality resources, your child is supported every step of the way. Join *English Explorers* on Mondays and/or Wednesdays.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

## 2 MUSIC LESSONS

ELA Basel offers private music lessons with a qualified music teacher in piano, violin, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, and drums. These one-to-one sessions support skill development, creativity, and a lifelong love of music.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

## 3 THEATRE SCHOOL

ELA Basel offers Saturday morning performing arts classes for children aged 4 to 15, covering singing, dancing, and acting. These sessions build confidence, creativity, and teamwork in a supportive, inclusive environment.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

## 4 VACATION PROGRAMMES

ELA Basel offers exciting, themed Vacation Programme weeks during most school holidays, including Fasnacht, Spring, Summer, and October. Open to all primary-aged children, these Monday-to-Friday sessions are packed with fun, engaging activities.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

## 5 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

At ELA Basel, After School provision is split into two sessions. The first session (15:30–16:30) offers supervised care with time for social interaction and free play. The second session (16:30–18:00) includes a choice of structured activities such as sports, reading, or guided play, designed to encourage engagement and teamwork.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

## 6 ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES

Choose from over 25 structured Enrichment Programmes designed to spark curiosity through art, music, dance, woodwork, science, sport, and more. Running Monday to Thursday from 15:30, and Fridays from 14:00 these engaging activities are led by qualified teachers.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

## + BONUS DISCOVERY

Why not book a visit to explore all that our Early Years/Kita and Primary School has to offer?

[BOOK NOW](#)



# ART EVENT PROVIDES A BIG SPLASH OF FAMILY FUN

Children make new friends while parents soak in the welcoming atmosphere

**BEFORE** the holidays, ELA Basel's Early Years / Kita team welcomed families to a vibrant Open Morning and Art Event at our Gartenstrasse campus.

The event was open both to current families and those curious about our school, offering a wonderful opportunity to explore our learning facilities and enjoy the beautiful, spacious garden.

Children were kept busy throughout the morning with a variety of fun activities. The bouncy castle proved an instant hit, while face painting brought bursts of colour and excitement. Families also explored a range of creative art stations, where children could paint, craft, and experiment with different materials alongside their parents.

It was a lively and imaginative atmosphere, filled with laughter, curiosity, and the joy of shared learning.

For parents, the Open Morning offered a chance to see first-hand the nurturing environment we provide in our Early Years programme.

Visitors could meet our dedicated team of educators, ask questions about our curriculum, and gain insight into the ways we

support children's development and creativity.

The event also provided a perfect occasion to experience the warmth and vibrancy of the ELA Basel community. Families mingled, children made new friends, and everyone enjoyed spending time together in a welcoming, inclusive setting.

Our Early Years Open Morning and Art Event truly captured the spirit of ELA Basel – a place where learning is fun, creativity is encouraged, and community connections are celebrated. We look forward to hosting more events like this in the future and continue to welcome families into our school community.



*Families enjoying our recent Open Morning and Art Event.*



Autumn Vacation Programme is back!



**ELABASEL**  
The Swiss British School

Join us for **Sports Week** 29.09.25 – 03.10.25  
and **Spooky Craft Camp** 06.10.25 – 10.10.25



ELA CONNECT

# VACATION PROGRAMME

SUMMER 2025



# ROUND-UP

SUMMER 2025



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

**30th August 2025**

Open Day - Kita & Primary School (09:00 - 14:00)

**4th November 2025**

Family STEM Evening (17:00 -19:00)

**17th December 2025**

Winter Fayre (Primary School Campus)

**17th January 2026**

Open Day - Kita & Primary School (09:00 - 14:00)

## Follow us

*Follow ELA Basel on Instagram and Facebook for a behind-the-scenes look at our teaching and learning. Discover fun, exciting updates, special moments, and the vibrant spirit of our community –stay connected and share the journey with us!*



## Celebrating Swiss Read Aloud Day

ELA Basel's Early Years children and staff recently took part in the 8th Swiss Read Aloud Day, a nationwide celebration of the joy of storytelling. At our school, we embrace reading aloud in both English and German, recognising its role in fostering curiosity, supporting language development, and building emotional connections. This year's theme highlighted the positive effects of reading aloud on mental health, an area we deeply value in our community. We are proud to join this wonderful initiative, which reminds us all how powerful and uplifting a shared story can be.



*Teaching Assistant Zohra Azizi reading to one of our Early Year's children during Swiss Read Aloud Day.*

## Theatre School is back & bigger

ELA Basel's Theatre School is back in full swing, offering Saturday morning performing arts classes for children aged 4 to 15. Due to growing popularity, Performing Arts Coordinator and ELA Basel teacher Tina Corrigan has added a new age group this year for children aged 12 to 15, giving older students the chance to join in the fun and continue developing their performance skills. These lively sessions build confidence, creativity, and teamwork in a warm, inclusive environment, where every child is encouraged to shine and express themselves. Led by Tina, children enjoy singing, dancing, and acting while making new friends and creating lasting memories. Families interested in joining for the new semester are encouraged to secure their places early, as spaces are limited. Don't miss this exciting opportunity for your child to thrive in the performing arts!

[SIGN-UP HERE](#)

## Calling all vendors



Calling all craft vendors! ELA Basel invites you to join our Winter Fayre and share your creations with our vibrant community. With up to 300 visitors expected, we especially welcome vendors selling baked goods, children's toys, and activities—children-focused items always sell best at our Winter Fayre. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of our magical celebration – secure your vendor spot today!



VENDOR SIGN-UP