



SGIS Annual Conference 2020, Institut Florimont, Geneva

‘20-20 Vision’

March Friday 20th and Saturday 21st, 2020



Preparing the ‘students of today for the challenges of tomorrow’ has long been a central tenet for educators. Yet, it seems to be more crucial now than at any other time.

How can we best support our multilingual learners, and provide for their success?

How can we ensure that our children develop the skills and attitudes to ensure their full and meaningful participation in society?

How can we fully plan for and utilize the range of learning environments to ensure the learning spaces within and beyond our school’s walls are organized, positive and safe?

These questions and many more like them will be addressed at the upcoming SGIS Annual Conference, which takes place at Institut Florimont, in March 2020.

Chairman of the SGIS, and Head of Leysin American School, Marc Ott said, ‘The goal of the conference is for all participants to learn from one another. In addition, we hope we can continue strengthening the relationships between the international English-speaking and French-speaking communities in education’.

The SGIS is proud of its reputation as a prominent contributor to continuous professional development in education. Its Annual Conference represents a close collaboration with the hosting school, in this case Institut Florimont, and colleagues across its member schools. Teachers, educationalists, educators and parents of international, private and public education establishments will most certainly enjoy a rich two-day professional development opportunity, under the meticulous planning of the Swiss Group of International Schools.

Furthermore, the wide range of seminars will be offered in French and English, to member and non-member schools. This marks the second bilingual conference in recent years, covering the majority of curricula offered in Switzerland.

Sean Power, Director General of the Institut Florimont has been very proactive in bringing the conference to his school. He said, “We were delighted to have been asked to host the

2020 SGIS Annual Conference. It gives us a great opportunity to open our doors to anglophone and francophone delegates and visitors, who will be able to experience at first hand the warm welcome which Institut Florimont is known for. We look forward to a rich and rewarding two days next March".

The conference promises to have something for everyone – from specialist second language teachers, to well-being and pastoral coordinators, Middle and Senior leaders and School Boards.

The conference will introduce internationally reputed speakers such as Michael Thompson, Fred Genesee, Jean-Marc Dewaele and the innovative Rosan Bosch.



Michael Thompson, New York Times best-selling author and clinical psychologist, will share his research findings which focus on the social, emotional and psychological wellbeing of children and adolescents. He will also highlight how teachers and parents can best support the children in their care.



Fred Genesee, author and a professor at McGill University will present a number of workshops which explore language teaching and learning. His research looks at bilingualism and the early stages of assimilating two languages.



At the same time, Jean-Marc Dewaele, Professor in Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism will share his research findings, which look at the link between emotional wellbeing and second language learning.



Rosan Bosch is internationally renowned for her innovative designs of workspaces, which question and re-write the age-old design theories of schools and classrooms. In her book 'Designing a Better World Starts at School' Bosch presents a new, exciting and alternative framework for inspiring and imaginative learning areas. Her keynote and workshops at the 2020 SGIS Conference will address these points and are guaranteed to make delegates think again.

Finally, the conference will also offer opportunities for colleagues to share their good practice and action research, in a series of Teacher Presentation sessions.

The SGIS Annual Conference promises to offer a '20-20 vision' by providing a rich, rewarding and topical insight into the challenges facing educators and parents now and most importantly in the future.

For more information about the upcoming conference, please click on the following link:- <http://www.sgischools.com/cms/>, and look out for further features in the ISP magazine and online version over the next 6 months.

The Swiss Group of International Schools (SGIS) exists to support international schools in Switzerland and neighbouring countries in achieving their educational goals and to provide representation on issues of common interest.

Alison Piguet (Vice-Chair, SGIS)