



Copenhagen International School



# FOOTPRINTS

## LEARNING

### Learning Danish at CIS

Our aim is to deliver a very high standard of teaching. PAGE 6-7

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### The mural

Working together with the art teachers across all departments. PAGE 12-13

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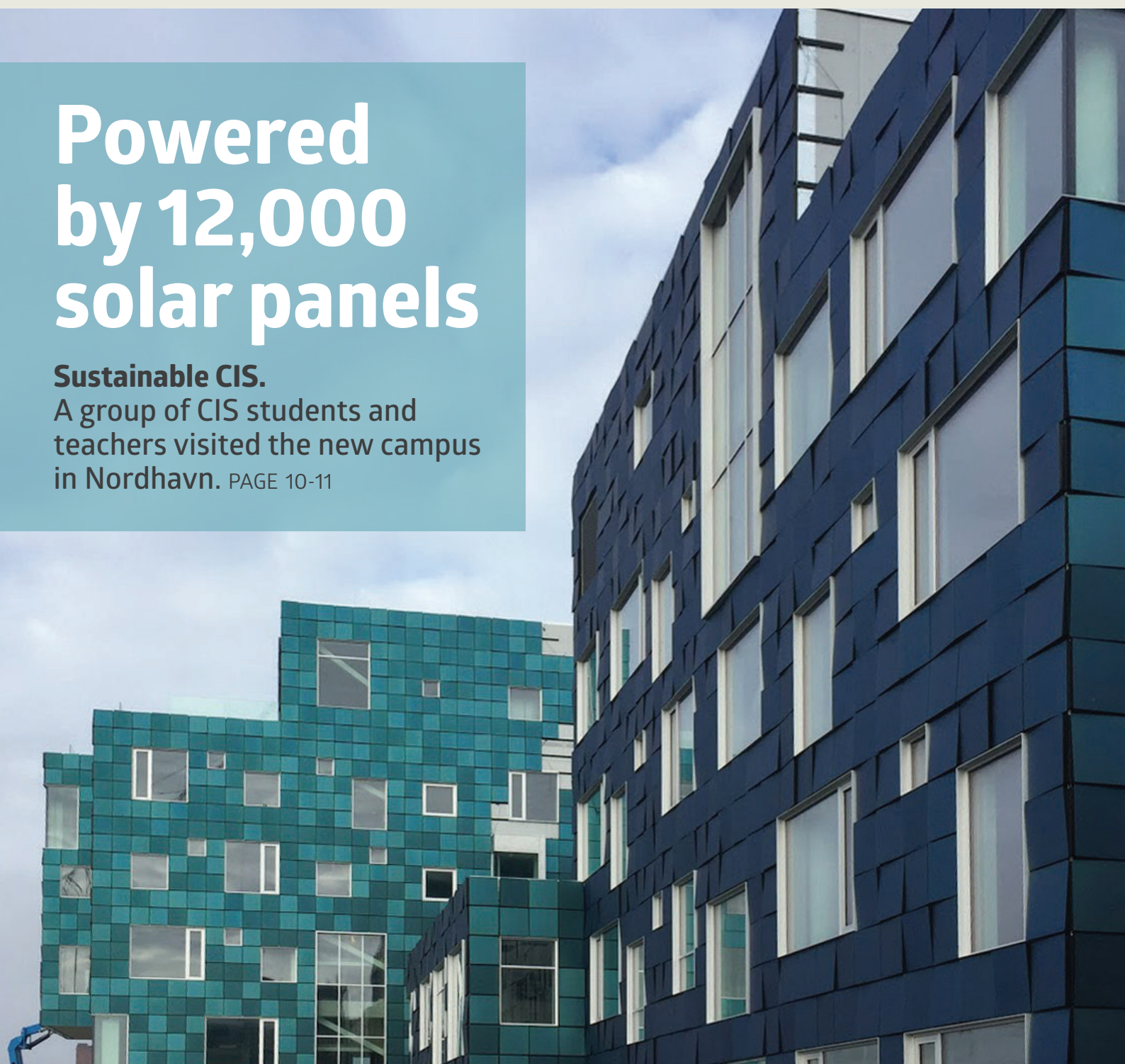
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NOVEMBER #11

## Powered by 12,000 solar panels

### Sustainable CIS.

A group of CIS students and teachers visited the new campus in Nordhavn. PAGE 10-11



# FOOTPRINTS

## LETTER FROM THE FOOTPRINTS TEAM

Welcome to the first edition of Footprints for the 2016/17 school year and to our new student writers: Clodagh Cunningham, Audrey Taylor, and Tess Kauffmann. Our theme for this edition and future editions will be "Learning, Building and Community", words that describe our everyday at CIS.

**This is indeed a year  
of great change, of hellos and  
goodbyes, of endings and  
beginnings, and it is our hope that  
this issue will once again capture  
your attention as we reflect  
on the past, present, and future  
of the CIS community.**

We wish to thank former colleague and friend, Chris Hambley, for introducing the Footprints Student Mentorship Program, taking Footprints to a new level. The program has inspired CIS students to become budding journalists - researching and writing pieces that they then collaborate on with our editors. We hope that their voices, the voices of the future, will inspire.

**NOVEMBER 2016**

Editor in Chief: Suzanne O'Reilly  
Managing Editor: Shannon O'Connor  
Designer: Inger Tanderup Klixbull  
Junior Reporter: Clodagh Cunningham  
Junior Reporter: Audrey Taylor  
Junior Reporter: Tess Kauffmann

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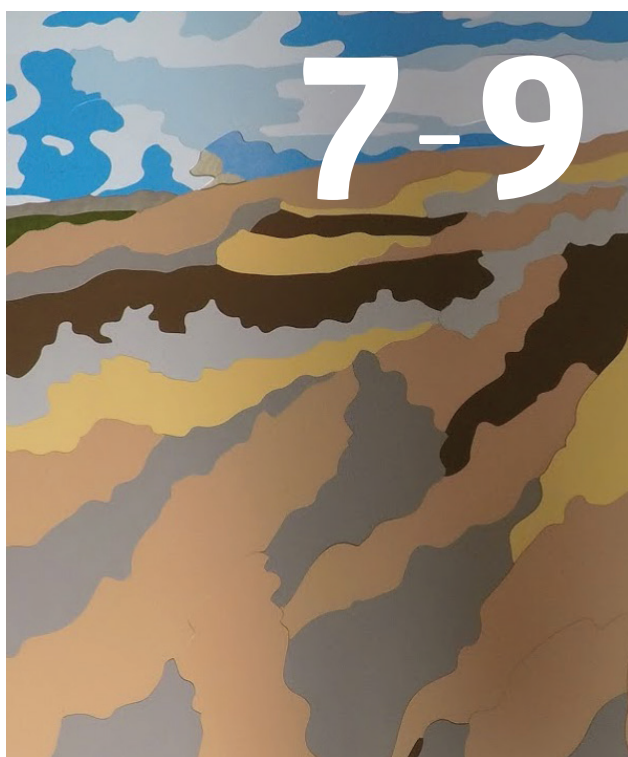


## LEARNING

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COMMUNITY

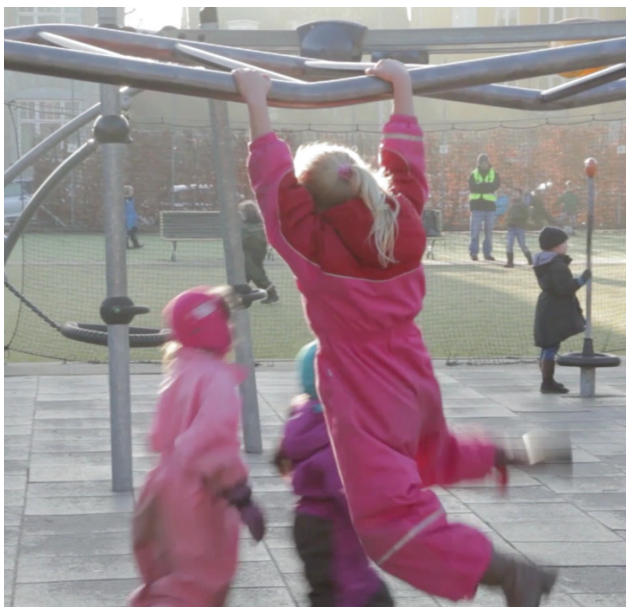
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# Exciting new experiences await us at Nordhavn



**Our memories of school are so deeply tied to place.** Now that we are about to move to our new campus in Nordhavn, we must take time to think about what our current spaces mean to us.

Whenever I think about my early friendships, I am drawn back to the cafeteria in my elementary school. It was an all-purpose room that served also as our gym and auditorium. We packed into long picnic-style tables, jockeying for places, trading snacks, cherishing the time unmediated by adults. I can still see the grey walls and high bright lights. I can still feel the slick floors and smell the cartons of milk.



When a situation requires me to recall my basic French, I am once again sitting in my high school French classroom, my weary teacher writing noisily on the chalkboard at the platform in the front of the room. I sat in the back, next to the large iron radiator, creaking and popping as the heat came on. I would look out through the dark paned windows, mesmerized by the immense tree branches waving.

Our memories of school are so deeply tied to place. Now that we are about to move to our new campus in Nordhavn, we must take time to think about what our current spaces mean to us. What do we cherish most when we think about Hellerup and City campuses at CIS?

## What do we cherish most when we think about Hellerup and City campuses at CIS?

### Students, past and present:

What spaces do you love at Hellerup and City? Where are your memories of friends located? Which classrooms have you done your best learning in? Where have you had your hardest challenges? Where have you performed, played, planned with classmates?

### Staff:

What spaces have been your haunts? Where have you created community with your students? Where have you planned lessons, wrestled with deadlines, laughed with colleagues?

### Families:

What spaces do you know well? Where do you remember public performances and matches? Where have you had conversations with staff, with friends?

Exciting new experiences await us at Nordhavn. But the spaces will look different, sound different, smell and feel different. So before we go, let's ponder and cherish the learning and meaning we have made here. Then we can go knowing we will always have Hellerup and City in our hearts.



# Learning Danish at CIS



## FROM OUR DANISH TEACHERS

The Danish Language and Literature lessons at CIS are based on the goals set by the Danish Ministry of Education and the International Baccalaureate Organization for Language and Literature. There is a strong connection between grades 6, 7, 8 and 9 making sure that our curriculum is meeting these goals. On top of that we prepare our students for the four final tests in grade 9 – also called FP9: Folkeskolens prøver i faget dansk – 9. klasse.

Our aim is to deliver a very high standard of teaching, giving our students the greatest possibility to be successful learners in an international environment. Therefore we expect our students only to speak Danish during our classes, to prepare properly for every lesson, and to hand in all given assignments. We are looking forward to welcoming you.

**TINE BALCK,**  
Middle School Danish Language and Literature Teacher

In Beginner Danish the students learn so quickly, as they are eager participants in class. Their progress is so noticeable, moving from only a few words in the beginning, to being able to express themselves in short sentences. Our lessons need to be fun, meaningful, and at just the right level.

Films and games are always the most popular activities, but when we do role play the whole lesson takes on a more urgent level of involvement. Meeting a new Danish friend or using the language in various contexts makes all their language learning efforts worthwhile.

**DEBBIE SMITH,**  
Fifth Grade Danish Teacher

## FROM OUR STUDENTS

My name is Carla, I'm fourteen-years-old and I am one of the Danish students in the international IB system at the Copenhagen International School. I enjoy formally studying Danish, because I haven't been able to speak a lot of it in past years due to always attending international schools.

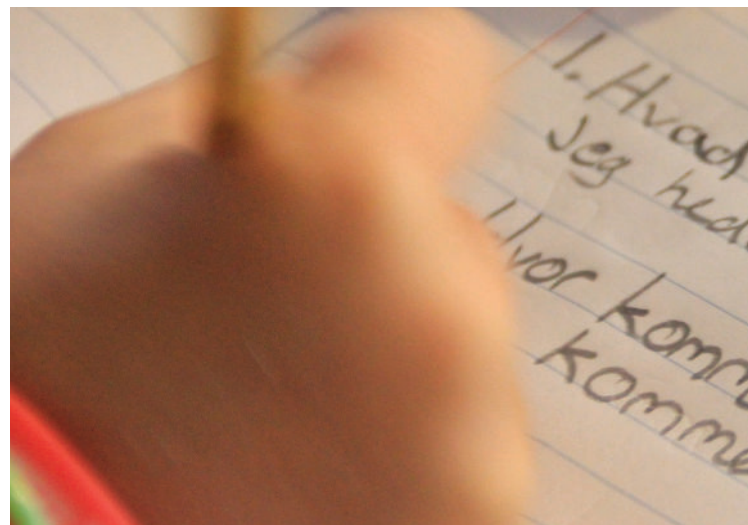
I enjoy learning Danish at CIS because my classmates are at the same level as me, and we are always being pushed to really reach our full potential in our knowledge and application of the Danish language.

People seem to think that Danish native speakers have an advantage because we are typically Danish, but actually it isn't easy for students who have spent most of their lives living outside of Denmark. The work we are assigned is just as difficult as English Language and Literature is for English native speakers, we always learn new things, and that's why I enjoy Danish.

**CARLA MARIE ØRTING JØRGENSEN**  
Nationality: Danish

Danish is fun to learn. I think it's important to be able to speak to the local people, and make new friends outside of school.

**CAROLINE HYLDELUND**  
Nationality: Danish



I enjoy taking Danish at CIS because I get to speak my home language with other people who are also from Denmark, but still get to move around internationally. Outside of Danish class, I like to speak Danish with the people from my Danish class so we can get better; just because we go to an international school doesn't mean that we can't speak the language of our nationality.

**HARMANNAT SINGH**

Nationality: Indian; residing in Denmark since August 2016

**I think that it is really fun to learn Danish, and important. I would like to make new Danish friends while I'm here and would therefore like to understand their language.**

**DMITRY STOROZHENKO**

Nationality: Russian; residing in Denmark since August 2016

I enjoy learning Danish because I feel that it is important for me to learn and explore the language that is my mother tongue. In Danish we analyze and read complicated texts, which I find challenging. At the same time I enjoy it because I can feel improvement from time to time. We also create

our own essays where it is required to write varied and thoughtful sentences. In school we usually interact with each other in Danish because we generally find it easiest, but only when it is only Danes conversing. One of the best things about being Danish at CIS is that you act like an ambassador for Denmark, especially for new students. Whenever we are together on the weekends we usually go around Copenhagen. I like to do that with my CIS-friends because I have a chance to show them my favourite places and restaurants. In that way I actually feel I have learned more about Copenhagen after starting at CIS.

**AL-FADL SALEM**

Nationality: Danish/Egyptian

When I speak with my friends, we speak English - unless I'm around only Danish people. At home I speak Danish with my mum and brother, and English with my dad; it's very natural and interesting to be able to converse in both languages. I'm happy to have the opportunity to be both part of the international and Danish communities.

**ZACHARIAS**

Nationality: Danish/English; born Ethiopian, adopted

I enjoy learning Danish because I like the learning environment in the class. There is a good and positive vibe. We are very interactive and everyone participates during the period.

**NICHLAS LUTTE**

Nationality: Danish/American

I had very little English when I came to CIS, and so focused more on learning English until I felt confident enough to conquer Danish. Now, I really enjoy the Danish classes as our teacher uses fun methods to teach us new words and sentences.

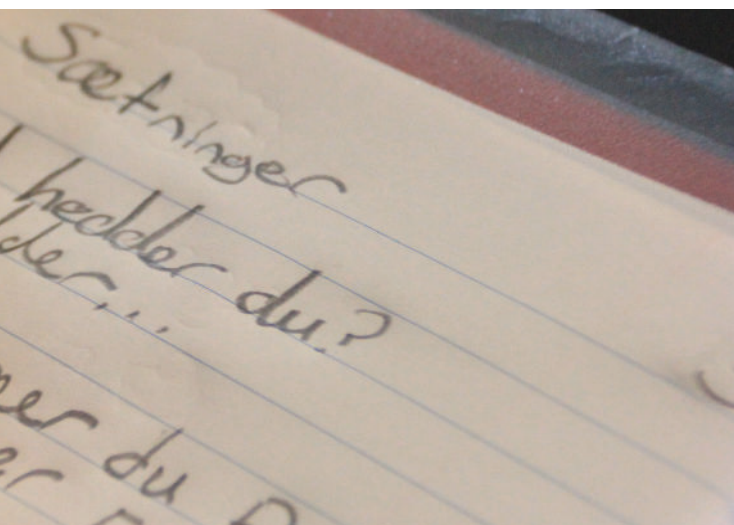
**LOTTE HELLEMONS**

Nationality: Dutch; residing in Denmark since 2013

Being a Danish student at CIS allows me to be a part of the international community all the while still learning Danish at a high level, which is both challenging and rewarding. I love being from Denmark while still having the opportunity to receive an international education.

**SARAH FÆSTE**

Nationality: Danish





# Learning a third language at CIS

As an international school in Copenhagen we encounter many different people with many different languages, some with English as their first language and some who have never spoken English before. There are many students attending CIS, like me, who only speak one language fluently, and I constantly wonder how hard it might be - but also how much easier - to be able to communicate fully in at least one other language. Studies do show that it is easier to acquire a third language if you know two already. I spoke with the language teachers in the middle school, and it seems that they all agree on the fact that there are benefits and challenges to speaking two languages, while learning a third, or even a fourth. Every language teacher in CIS middle school can speak at least two languages, some can even speak three, all of which they learned at a young age.

When I asked what they thought some difficulties of learning two or more languages at the same time could be, they all agreed on the fact that the many small vocabulary words can be mixed up across languages. Although, some of them may have not experienced this themselves, as they may have been learning two very different languages at the time; for

example, Mr. Steven Bristow, one of the French teachers at CIS, stated "...a lot of my beginner students in particular, if they come into the sixth grade and they start learning French and Danish at the same time, they find that very confusing

**"There are many students attending CIS, like me, who only speak one language fluently, and I constantly wonder how hard it might be - but also how much easier - to also be able to communicate fully in at least one other language."**

and they are mixing [words] up a lot." I then thought about what it might be like teaching a student who is learning at least two different languages at the same time, and they said it was having to constantly remind the students, if they were in Danish, the different sentence order from French, German or Spanish, etc.

I asked the teachers, and some students, for their thoughts on whether it is easier or harder learning a third language instead of just two. Ms Sara Mlynek, a Danish teacher at CIS and founder of our Language of the Week program, said "...the biggest leap is from learning a second language, or a foreign language, the first time you are doing it, because then all these concepts of sentence structure and all that, you never really thought about that in your own language.... So that is the biggest leap. But once you have gone through that process, I think it becomes easier to make the connections a second time and a third time." All the teachers agreed with this statement; however, when I posed a similar question to a student, Zach Zeidler in eighth grade, he said that while he speaks Danish and English fluently, he doesn't see the benefits of this to his acquiring French. Zach doesn't make connections from the two languages he already knows, to help him learn a third. This shows us how different people learn differently, or make different connections. How you learn is different from how I learn, which is different

from how someone else learns.

In addition to speaking with Zach, I also reached out to students I knew from my previous schools. Almost all of the students I asked about the disadvantages of learning a third language agreed on the fact that it wasn't easier - they still mainly thought about how confusing it can be mixing up the new language with the other two that you speak fluently. However, one student, Chiara Rebor, who speaks Italian and English fluently, who is now learning French and Latin, thought that it was actually easier to learn a third language because she thought that by your third language, you know how you learn best. Although, they all concurred that the advantages of speaking two or more languages is more useful when you are looking for jobs, or even just being able to communicate with different people who live in different countries.

There may always be difficulties to speaking many languages, however, I believe that the advantages weigh out the disadvantages. Being able to say, "I speak Punjabi, Hindi, English, Norwegian, and now I am learning German," like Mansukh Kaur can, is incredible! I moved to Denmark three years ago, and I hope that in the near future, I can also say that I speak another language. If you try hard enough and never give up, then one day you might be able to say that you speak more than two, or even three languages!



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# Powered by 12,000 solar panels

## **Sustainable CIS.**

A group of CIS students and teachers visited the new campus in Nordhavn.

The group was given a tour of the facilities by Anders Smith, a CIS parent and architect who is also one of the masterminds behind the building project.

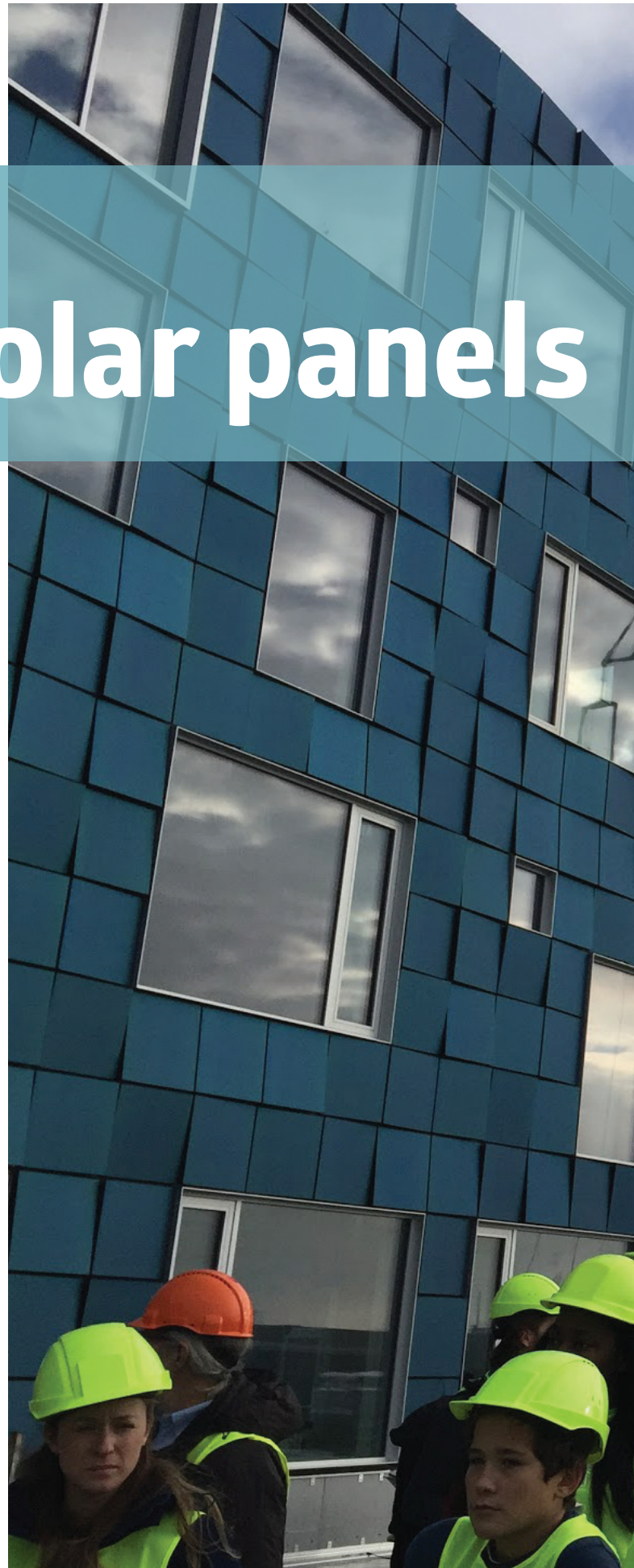
Anders told the group about the many aspects of the new campus that relate to sustainability, from the 12,000 solar panels that cover the facade to the careful choice of materials, the automated lighting and ventilation systems, the rooftop greenhouses and the state-of-the-art windows that let daylight through but filter heat and infrared rays. The students and their teachers were wowed by what they saw:

**“I can’t wait to play in those sports halls!”**

JONATHAN BEDAYSE, STUDENT

“My recent site visit to the Nordhavn campus made me consider more deeply how the physical environment impacts student learning, and thus made me more aware of how lighting, airflow and aesthetic have been lacking in my previous schools. I am eager to observe how the new learning space impacts student achievement, and also very interested to witness its impact on students’ attitudes toward being in school. The new campus was an important factor in my decision to join the CIS faculty and I’m certain I’ll take more pleasure from working in such a spectacular environment. I feel deeply privileged to be part of an institution that has so holistically embraced the concept of sustainability.”

KASEY KOZARA, GEOGRAPHY TEACHER





Visiting the building in Nordhavn was a great learning experience because we had the opportunity to hear about all the sustainable features that have been built into the premises. My favourite feature was the solar panels. Not only do they supply a lot of the school's energy, but they also give the building a cool funky looking colour that changes throughout the day.

**KOEN VAN DER LAAN CHADBOURNE, STUDENT**

I really enjoyed the visit last week and found it fascinating to hear about all of the architectural decisions that have been made with regards to sustainability. I felt that sustainability (in the broadest sense of the word) has obviously been considered from the sustainable wooden flooring to the solar panel facades!

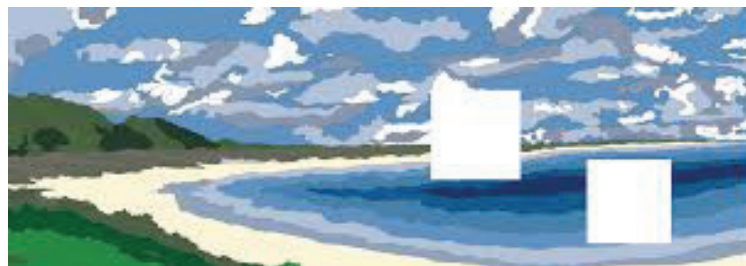
**LAURA WELLS, CIS SCIENCE TEACHER**

# The puzzle of people and places

My name is Brendan Dean and I am from Granby, Massachusetts, USA. I have had the pleasure of working for CIS for five years now, coordinating the After School Club, and last year also as the Playground Supervisor. I have a BFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from the University of Massachusetts, and have carried out several collaborative art projects with students over the past six years, in both Sweden and Denmark. I firmly believe in the power of art to inspire and unite diverse groups of people, and to enhance the way we experience places, public and private. But how exactly art achieves this can be quite the puzzle, literally.

Since August 2016 I have been working on an art project for the new CIS campus at Nordhavn, which we will enter in January 2017. It has been designed to wrap around the four external walls of the meeting room located at the main entrance of the school. The image is one continuous landscape scene, measuring 2.5 meters tall and 30 meters long in total. With help from a company called COTTER, the mural was laser-cut into over one thousand pieces of varying shapes and sizes, from as small as an eraser to as large as a door. It is my intention to have every student at CIS (circa 930 students) contribute to the project with drawing, writing, or pattern-making.

Working together with the art teachers across all departments, I have begun visiting art classes to introduce the project to our students and have them each personalize a piece of the puzzle. Beginning with students at the primary level, I asked them to search their memories for a positive experience they have had at school, and to draw these memories using acrylic paint-markers.



Their responses have included happy memories from playing on the playground, making new friends and being reunited with old ones, field trips to the deer park, sporting events like football and swimming, bonding with teachers, and making connections between what they have learned in class and experienced in life. The idea, as I describe it to the students, is for us to physically take these memories with us to the new

campus as a way of making them permanent, to display what we value both individually and as a community or, as it has been called, the CIS Family. It is precisely this intersection of personal and communal values that makes CIS special; it's a place we feel at home, and regardless of where that home is it is one we love and take great pride in. It is my hope and intention that this collaborative mural will help convey that message for all to see.



**Beginning with students in the Primary School, I asked them to search their memories for a positive experience they have had at school, and to draw these memories using acrylic paint-markers.**

Finally, I would like to say Tusind Tak to everyone who has helped this project come to life: the PTA for their generous donation, the CAG (Cultural Advisory Group) and CIS Communications director Thomas Nielsen for approaching me in the first place, previous Director Walter Plotkin for allowing me to devote this semester to the project, current Director Jennifer Weyburn for her guidance and support, ECIS for their coordination and communication - especially Anders Smith, CIS Art faculty members Alison Gregersen, Mary Banda, Fiona Whitton, and Gora Lizaso for allowing me to commandeer their lessons, and last - but certainly not least - the wonderful students, families, and staff at CIS for making this puzzle every piece worth assembling.

# 10 Things that we will all miss most about our Hellerup and City Campuses



We will all miss our Hellerup and City campuses as we prepare to make our move to Nordhavn, but from what many of us have experienced as international school students, the things that we miss most about schools left behind are our teachers, and our friends - the community; our move to Nordhavn will allow us to maintain, and in fact grow, our community as we become one unified school. While this is an exciting time, it's also a time to reflect and say our good-byes. In no particular order, here is what our community will miss most about our current homes:

1. One of the best things about our Hellerup Campus is its location in a quiet suburb. The location of the new school campus will have its pros and cons, but it will ever be like Hellerup with all the houses, shops, and other schools around. The new school will have a much different feel - especially because there will be lots of office buildings. The quiet suburb around Hellerup Campus is definitely one of the most important features that we will miss.
2. The location of the City Campus, has given us great opportunities; lunch breaks can be well spent at a nice café, pizza stop, or even in the cozy lounges at school. The new campus will be spectacular, but nothing will ever beat those "hygge" days.
3. Most of us will just miss Hellerup Campus in general, the blue mosaic, the playgrounds and the entire building layout. A few students have been at the Hellerup Campus ever since their first days of school, leaving it now will be a big change for these students in particular. The whole school pictures will never be in the same spot - ever again - which is something quite small and personal, and most people might not have thought about it, but at least we will get to bring some of our memories with us in the form of old photographs.
4. As we all know, City Campus is tiny! Although, that is what brings us together. All grades are able to interact with each other because we are so close. Therefore the size limitation isn't necessarily a negative aspect, as all four grades are able to create bonds easily as well as communicate with our friends and teachers.

5. The Hellerup Campus is very convenient, especially because the train station is so close and most students who go to CIS live in Hellerup or the Gentofte Kommune. According to one CIS Parent they will miss leaving the house late and still being on time to school, while not having to worry about the traffic. Getting to the Hellerup Campus is something we'll miss a lot.
6. Transportation, is of major importance in the Danish culture that we thrive for and live in. City Campus is three minutes away from one of the main stations in Copenhagen, meaning we can go anywhere. This will be missed. You can get from City Campus to Hellerup Campus in the span of 10 mins. We will also miss blaming our tardy classes on the "train problems" in the mornings.

7.

**The Park. The best days at City Campus are in the summer. Sitting in the park for lunch, having spontaneous outdoor classes, playing basketball or soccer. These are the enjoyable days, thanks to the green all around us!**

8. The beach is always great spot for school gatherings when leaving Hellerup Campus because it isn't too far away from the school. When we move, we will have to find somewhere else to gather, but it will be an exciting opportunity to get to know our new neighborhood!
9. We will definitely miss the town of Hellerup because there are shops, supermarkets and cafés. The new campus just won't have the same feeling as Hellerup because it will be a building site for the first few years. In Hellerup there is a very convenient shop really close to the school, which is great for parents and students who quickly need to get something. We will miss cycling up to school early and stopping at a café for breakfast, which many students found really nice to do for a treat.
10. Hellerup Campus was a great place for middle school, it was quiet and easy going - but going to City Campus in high school has a great impact on people. As we are situated closer to the city, we get the feel of the adult environment/world. This is essentially what high school is preparing us for.

CIS Parent Teacher Association  
of 2016/17

# How we're building community

At CIS every parent of a child currently enrolled is automatically a member of the PTA. Being a member of the PTA simply means that you are now part of a vibrant community that believes in building a cooperative relationship between the school and home - involving parents in volunteer opportunities that enrich the educational experiences of our children, while also creating a welcoming and inclusive place for our international community.

With the impending move to the Nordhavn campus, PTA's mission of working together with the school has proven to be an asset for helping to create a smooth transition. Despite the excitement of our upcoming relocation we continue to focus on community building. So far this year we have striven to enhance the CIS environment through our complimentary Wine and Cheese Welcome Evening in September, and our Halloween Fest in late October; we also continue - and will continue - to hold topic based coffees about settling-in, healthy lifestyle choices, and other parent-centred areas of interest. On the new campus our efforts will persist with our annual Spring Fair's International Festival in May, and through also continuing to provide mentorship to student-led charity events.

**The PTA welcomes all parents and teachers to get involved and to help us continue building a strong and vibrant school community. Here are the reasons our PTA leadership team gets involved:**

"I want to be part of the solution - helping to make positive changes. I know that my donated time benefits fellow parents and children at CIS. As an expat, I find that a strong school community contributes hugely to making new families feel welcome, which is so important to easing the stress of adjusting to living in a new place/a new country. At CIS, PTA aims to alleviate the transitional challenges, so families can quickly acclimate; students can start to benefit from the learnings at CIS, and parents can enjoy what Denmark has to offer."

AMANDA VO PARK, PTA CHAIR

"I felt so welcomed to the CIS community when I arrived last year. I met others quickly through PTA sponsored events. This year, I wanted to be part of the PTA and contribute to the community to make sure the warm welcome and sense of community continues."

ANETTE BRATTEBERG, PTA NEWCOMERS VICE-CHAIR

"The move to a new campus is an exciting but challenging time for CIS, and I realized this year in particular requires all hands on deck. Being a part of the PTA is the perfect opportunity to interact positively with the diverse school community, to meet people and learn about the many different places represented at CIS. It will be a busy year and I'm happy to volunteer my help to make it a successful year."

JUGGU MEDWAN, PTA TREASURER



"My first month, the PTA had me sort wonderful staff thank you cards from the students. They showed how much our kids loved their teachers, the parents appreciated the staff's hard work and the staff's dedication to nurturing our kids. Since then, it has been about keeping our amazing community strong. Easy and wonderfully infectious to be part of the PTA and a partner in the CIS community's journey forward."

JAY WATKINS, PTA PARLIAMENTARIAN

**As Hillary Clinton said,  
it takes a village to raise a child,  
and I believe helping parents  
to cooperate more closely with  
teachers and administrators will  
help to make our children become  
more successful. It's part of  
building community."**

KARI ANDERSEN, HIGH SCHOOL COORDINATOR

"I hope that by volunteering I can contribute to making our school an inclusive, friendly and great place to be."

FIONA NELSON, PTA MARKETING COORDINATOR

"I became actively involved in the PTA as it's a great way of participating in the school community. Being part of the Newcomers Committee is very rewarding when you see new families settling in quickly and building their social network."

SUZANNE COLCOUGH, PTA NEWCOMERS VICE-CHAIR

"My daughter's time at CIS is limited, therefore I would like to take the opportunity to share my experiences in parent teacher associations acquired from other IB Schools with the CIS Community. As our family revolves mainly around the Danish community, I find it very enriching to combine both international and Danish acquaintances in our school's social events."

LUCCIE JENSEN, PTA EVENTS COORDINATOR VICE-CHAIR

# 2016 PTA Halloween Party

With the growth of our school, trick-or-treating in the small neighborhood was no longer safe or viable. Additionally, the Danes have more widely accepted trick-or-treating in their neighborhoods. In recognition of this, in 2015, Sandra Van Brunt, a former CIS parent, took on the huge task of bringing Halloween to the CIS campus. She created the foundation for this year's event.

Not wanting Sandra's legacy to die in vain, I offered to chair this year's Halloween festival. I started the process with a request for volunteers. After a few brainstorming sessions, we decided what worked last year, and what didn't, and we assigned responsibilities. We agreed the event would include trunk-or-treating, a haunted house, a monster mash dance, a catwalk costume contest, and of course food and drink. The foundation for our event was formed.

We are very fortunate to have had such a huge pool of talented parents who devoted their valuable time to create user-friendly forms, turn branches and cardboard boxes into works of art, plan/execute complicated logistics, and





contribute in many other ways. We had a great team who worked closely and cohesively together. Because of this tremendous talent, teamwork, and dedication, the night was a success that far surpassed expectations, both in attendance (approximately 600 students and their parents) and income (up 20% over last year). We hope your children and family enjoyed the event as much as we did organizing it for you.

Although this event was traditionally not intended as a fundraiser, the money raised this year will go back to CIS in the form of new events to rebuild our community at the new school.

The PTA would like to acknowledge all the volunteers for their generous gift of time in the planning, setup, execution, and cleanup for this event. In addition to the many unnamed volunteers who contributed during and after the festival, we want to extend a special note of appreciation to the incredible Halloween Fest committee leads who were the brains behind the success of this event:

Committee Chair: **Kim Edelson-Esposito**

Decoration:

**Anette Larssen Bratteberg, Sanne Rygaard Pedersen, Sarah Flandermeyer Weber, Ingrid Morejón**

Trunk-or-Treat:

**Carrie Brock Cooper, Kirsten Tschofen Pelletier**

Haunted House: **Helen Brown, Sarah Davies**

Costume Contest: **Maureen Chaduc**

Monster Mash: **Judy Tourek, Katia Arroyo, Haijing Ye**

Volunteer Coordination:

**Vanessa Krempa, Fiona Nelson, Jay Watkins**

Food + drinks: **Vourneen Clifford, Cherry Jaruwan Rabis**

Ticket Sales: **Amanda Wilks, Jennifer O'Brien, Rajji**

**Mehdwan (Juggu), Luccie Jensen**

CIS PTA would also like to say a special thank you to our school administrators who not only collaborated with the PTA Halloween Committee to make this event run smoothly but who also volunteered their time as ticket sellers, costume contest judges, and floaters at the event. With sincere gratitude, thank you Jennifer Weyburn, Mark Hansen, Sabrina Manhart, Karen Rohrs, CIS Facilities staff, and CIS staff for helping PTA create an amazing community event for our CIS families!

We would like to send a spook-tacular shout-out to Mars candy and Lay's potato chips for their generous, well-received, and greatly appreciated donations to Halloween Fest. Tusind tak!

This event, as well as the many other PTA-sponsored events, helps us promote a sense of "hygge" and strengthens our sense of community at CIS. We hope to see you next year!



COMMUNITY

BY JENNIFER BURNAM

# The start of a new tradition

Halloween has always been celebrated at CIS; students dressed up and marched up and down the stairs, walked the corridors while visiting offices and classrooms trying to scare everyone. In 2006 PTA members Kim Comstock and Jill Milnor took it to another level and created a truly American style event.

They brought the event out into the community and students held Halloween on the streets of Charlottenlund. They organized a street where the CIS students could safely dress up and “trick or treat” door to door. The candy and some decorations were provided to the homes that participated.

In 2008 I took over the event and moved it to the street I lived on – Vasejohvej, in Charlottenlund. We kicked things

up a notch, shut down the street to cars and enlisted every single house to participate. If the owners were not going to be home, we enlisted upperclassmen to sit on their front steps and hand out candy to the children.

One of my fondest memories was driving to Tivoli to collect car loads of pumpkins so we could give two to each house for the owners to carve and decorate the street. We had a line of volunteers who filled their cars with pumpkins and we had a HUGE pumpkin carving party.

In the photo are my children, Danielle and Arleigh, who are now 15 and 13. Behind them you will see boxes of American Halloween candy that we were able to buy with the entry ticket cost and then distribute to all the homes on Vasehøjvej to hand out.

Halloween at CIS is one of my absolute favorite memories. I am happy to see the PTA have continued the tradition!

Best wishes

Jennifer Burnham, former PTA member (2007 – 2010).

# Irish Ambassador, Cliona Manahan, Visits CIS

On the 2nd of November, 2016, Irish Ambassador, Cliona Manahan, came to visit CIS and address our high school students and staff.

Ambassador Manahan shared some perspectives following the EU referendum that took place in the UK, also known as "Brexit". The Ambassador spoke about Ireland, Denmark, and Britain joining the EU together in 1973, and remembers well the hope and expectations of the Irish people. It meant a lot to the Irish people because it was a significant message that they wanted to collaborate and work towards a better, more peaceful Europe.



Ambassador Manahan spoke briefly about some of Ireland's priorities:

- Ireland will remain in the EU and has a vital interest in the future success of the Union.
- The joint responsibility for the Northern Ireland peace process continues, and Ireland has a special concern for the impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland: even after the UK leaves the EU practically everyone in Northern Ireland will be entitled to an Irish passport, and thus to be an EU citizen. In particular, Ireland wants to preserve the current open border in Ireland; it would be detrimental to turn the clock back by putting barriers in the way of the further development of relations between North and South on the island of Ireland.
- Ireland also wants to preserve the advantages of the common travel area which has served many over the decades of its existence.

Ambassador Manahan spoke positively about the EU stating that it has been open to the membership of many poorer states, including Ireland in the 70s, and has contributed over the years to their modernization, peace, and prosperity. The Ambassador encouraged our students, the next generation, to actively get involved and lean in, as unlike the old Europe, this Union is built on law, shared institutions, and is entirely voluntary. It is driven by diplomacy and politics and everyone's voice matters.

The staff and students very much enjoyed the talk and found the Ambassador's perspective and message inspiring.

# Alumni Interview with Daniel Korski, '96



Daniel Korski was born in Copenhagen, but his parents were from Poland; they were forced to leave their home country because they were Jewish. Daniel's mother went to Sweden, his father, to Denmark. The two met in Denmark and raised Daniel in the northern suburbs of Copenhagen. Growing up, Daniel kept a budgie and a desert rat as pets! Upon finishing secondary school, Daniel attended LSE, the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, as well as Cambridge, studying politics and history.

In my correspondence with Daniel, I asked him what some of his best memories of CIS are, and if he still keeps in touch with some of his classmates? He replied by saying "I've got so many great memories - it often depends on what time

of day I'm thinking about it. Watching basketball in the old gym at Gammel Kongevej, thinking about a complex question that Pierce Bekka just asked the class, arguing with the CIS leadership on behalf of the Student Council, mingling with people at MUN [Model United Nations] in The Hague and hanging out with the many wonderful friends I made while at CIS." Even in his school years, Daniel was striving for something that he would later use in his life working at 10 Downing Street, where the current Prime Minister of England lives. Model United Nations is an academic simulation for kids to learn about the United Nations, and what they do.

When asking Daniel if he always knew he wanted a career in government, he told me that he thought he always knew he wanted to do something in the public realm - to help improve the lives of people around him. He wasn't sure if he could, or wanted to, achieve that through government work. He wasn't even sure if he would be able to find a political berth, being of Polish-Jewish origins, a Danish upbringing, and having a set of quintessentially British experiences, and an overall European sentiment. Daniel told me his "path certainly wasn't conventional or illuminated... it went through London, Cambridge, Bosnia, Kabul, Washington, Basra, and Benghazi." He spent a lot of time helping countries recover from war, but he says "looking back I now see that the path to where you want to go isn't always clear, the connection between the steps you take isn't always easy and life mainly makes sense when you look at it in the rearview mirror." Although, Daniel

also stated, that “if at every juncture you do what you think is fun, interesting, worthwhile, and exciting you’ll do well, and if you’re a bit lucky too, and work hard you’ll do very well.”

Getting a sense of Daniel’s accomplishments, I asked him what his goals for the future are, and if he had any words of wisdom for future CIS graduates? He started by outlining that he “want[s] to make a dent in the universe. To leave a mark. To find something and change it for the better.” Right now, after a few years in government, he is looking at helping other governments from around the world by aiding them in adopting new technologies, stating that “ governments lag hopelessly behind the rest of society in understanding technologies” and he’s trying to change that.

As far as advice for us, the current student body, Daniel gives the following remark: “ Attending CIS and your experience in Denmark - a wonderful, open, liberal society unlike many others - will give you a head start...be bold, dream, do what you think is interesting - because you’re more likely to be good at it than if you do something boring yet worthy.” Daniel continued by asking students to keep in mind that “the world is full of people like you. Some are smarter, some are richer, and some are just luckier. So work harder than they will, be bolder than they would be.” Finally, Daniel gave up the recipe to his success: “The most important ingredients of professional success - diligence, hard work, energy, a positive attitude, and an upbeat can-do spirit”, iterating that these characteristics are not inherent, rather they are “entirely down to you”.

Having received the Reader’s Digest version of Daniel’s political career, and his professional and personal values, I also wanted to get a bit of a better view of Daniel’s more relaxed side, so I asked him to imagine that he is having a dinner party. If allowed to invite eight people, dead or alive, who would it be and why? Daniel responded by saying that he “was lucky in life to be able to meet some very interesting people - I have joined Angela Merkel (Chancellor of Germany) for lunch, met President Obama, discussed

innovation with Elon Musk (the creator of Tesla cars) and dined with Henry Kissinger (he was the National Security Advisor to Richard Nixon and later became the United States Secretary of State to his successor, Gerald Ford), but if I could have my pick I would want the dinner to be a fun affair with a mix of well-known characters and my close friends.” Daniel listed lyricist Tom Lehrer, stating that he “would be a hoot,

**“Be loyal because loyalty is one of life’s most important traits. Be true. Fake often looks better. It certainly has a better YouTube channel. But true lasts.”**

DANIEL KORSKI, STUDENT OF ‘96

rhyming throughout the dinner.” He added to that list Woody Allen “who would tell wonderfully neurotic stories”, and also his “all time celebrity crush, Natascha McElhone” who would be his date. Daniel would of course have his friends and family make up the majority of the party, with a few other celebrity names.

After my communications with Daniel, I began to reflect on my own experiences as a CIS student. I think CIS is something we will take with us throughout the rest of our life. It has certainly made an impact on me still having only been here for two years, and I hope that when I leave CIS, I will take a part of it with me. I think that if you, dear reader, believe half of what Daniel has imparted to me, then you too have just as big a chance to “make a dent in the world”, just as he has.

## Thank you Friends of CIS

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# When you leave home to go back home

Having lived in Copenhagen for nearly 9 years it was a scary thought to repatriate back to rural Scotland. It was leaving home to return home. Not really wanting to leave, but being oh so glad to return - albeit to what would now be a bit unknown. Copenhagen and CIS had become our community and way of life. Our youngest, now grade two, was born in Gentofte Hospital and had known nothing other than Denmark and an international community; my other two children were five and seven when we left Scotland and had become accustomed to the relaxed ways of CIS, the mix of cultures and nationalities, and the freedom that growing up in Copenhagen offers teenagers, being able to come and go under their own steam or with the aid of a rejsekort!

Leaving Copenhagen, and more importantly CIS, was a wrench. I had moved house all of my life, but had never felt like this: leaving our way of life, everything we had come to know, and most importantly the people and the community that had always been so easy and welcoming.

One of my biggest concerns had been getting used to the way of life in the country again. We were moving back to a rural village, population 2000, where the nearest large supermarket was a 30 minute drive away and there was no 3G signal. In fact, anything other than school and the village was a 30 minute drive away. I envisaged myself spending my life driving. Also that everyone would have moved on. All of my Scottish friends had teenagers, some of whom were now working. What would I do all day? Who would I chat to and

learn what was going on from? I knew no one with younger kids, and none of my children's new peers. I had been used to knowing every child in the class, and most of the parents who went along with them, when the boys were young. Another concern was the weather!! Yes, Denmark doesn't have the best weather, but compared to the North East of Scotland it can be pretty wonderful, and I hate the cold!

**Having lived in Copenhagen for nearly 9 years it was a scary thought to re-patriate back to rural Scotland. It was a thought to leave home to return home.**

We arrived back early one morning early in August. It was freezing, and they had windows open in the bathroom at the airport! I couldn't wait for the shipment to arrive and get hold of my boots, and this was summer. On the drive from the airport, for a very brief time, I was thinking oh no, what am I doing here? We went for lunch at the local bistro, and as we were leaving in walk not one but two ex-Copenhagen friends. I was so happy hugging them that people were giving us strange looks. This was the sign of all the good things to come.

After being back for just 12 weeks it is as if we haven't been

away. The boys all made friends immediately at school. The older ones having reconnected with some kids from nursery and the early years at school. I have been welcomed, with open arms, back into the community, and am already having to make sure I don't book the diary too full so that I have time to do chores. The transition to the Scottish school system has been smooth, although the boys do have to get used to the more formal ways - as they learnt when they called the Deputy Head by her first name! Uniform is wonderful for me at least, as is being in our own home and knowing that we can plan and make changes to it without ever having to worry about removing everything and changing it back when we move out. I have even embraced the long drive for groceries, which is made so pleasurable on a nice day by the wonderful scenery that we are blessed with every day, and the friendly, helpful people everywhere you go. The lack of 3G means people speak to each other and are not constantly checking their phones. It is still cold, but I have my boots now and I am used to people's looks at how many clothes I am wearing when they are still in blouses! I worry about the boys walking to the village in the dark, no pavement and no streetlights, so I spend even more time in the car shuttling them. I am even getting used to not getting over the threshold of the school to casually speak to the teachers.

We settled back in Scotland so quickly that we have even made our first trip back to Copenhagen this autumn break. Social Media has made keeping in touch so easy to arrange get togethers. We all had a wonderful few days catching up with as many people in person as possible. The older boys had the freedom to come and go themselves knowing the place so well. The timing was perfect as we are happy back in Scotland but still feel very much part of the CIS Community, still very much in touch with what is going on in our friends' lives.

I still miss the ways of CIS and community on a daily basis, I expect I will for some time. I still shed a little tear for those days and wish we could be back there, but in my heart know that this is where we belong for now. I love the fact that I can keep in touch with what is going on through the CIS Alumni - although I miss CIS Families so much. It makes me happier than I have words to express to see the work for the Refugees being continued, and the responses to requests for donations coming in so quickly and in such numbers. I am so grateful to Eva & Co for this. The CIS community will always have a place in my fondest memories; it is something that is hard to replicate, but luckily there is the Alford Community in Scotland that is also a very special unique place.

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Coming Together Again

# Sound bites from the Alumni Reunion '16



On the 16th of September 2016, there was a reunion of students who graduated between 1988 and 1992.

It had been over 20 years since some of them saw each other, and it was a memorable moment for all. They had organised to spend a weekend together in Copenhagen, and there were around 50 people anticipating a dinner out that evening. Here is what our alumni had to say when asked about the school and how it has changed:

When reflecting back on Hellerup campus, given our impending move, Poppy Sanders ('90), a former CIS student, gave the following statement on its maintenance - she recalls helping her sister, Tara, and their mother, a former board member, paint the Hellerup Campus Building:

**“My mum and I and a few other people, moved everything - all the desks, all the equipment, everything - into the back of her car time after time, after time, and she and I spent the whole summer holidays painting it!”**

Matt Gahr ('90) had never been to our Hellerup location, but whilst sitting in our cozy middle school conference room felt



that it still has the spirit of CIS and comments

**“hopefully we can maintain  
this feeling at Nordhavn”.**

Enrico Trippa ('90) says that “we can and will. I can still see the whole thing about being CIS, being together... Working together is still here, very much so - this is something that will likely never change.”



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