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Word from the president

Es guets Tägli liebi Helvetia Läser,

It was a proud moment for me when, just after we arrived in Switzerland, the whole squad of the Auckland Swiss shooters were on the "Tagesschau" on Swiss National TV! Six shooters from the Auckland Swiss Club competed in the "Eidgenössischen Schützenfest" and apparently were the main attraction amongst the 'Swiss Abroad'. All their hard work training paid off and Henry even made it onto the podium. Congratulations to you all!

With spring in the air, the annual school speech competitions were on last week. No parent help allowed – so when Luca started practising his speech at home, I was in stitches whereas little Sascha was in tears... I just have to share that with you (don't ask me where I have gone wrong with my parenting.... haha)!

Why younger siblings should be sent to boarding school - by Luca Latham

Do you have annoying, scratching, biting little siblings? Well I know I do. Do you just wish you could do something about it? That's why I think we should send our little siblings to boarding school.

Firstly younger siblings are SO picky. If something doesn't go their way, they throw a tantrum until your parents give in. Plus they ALWAYS get the better stuff and they always get what they want!

The next reason why they should go to boarding school is because they have no manners. Completely none. When younger brothers and sisters say please OR thank you it's an achievement. But when older siblings say please AND thank you it's expected.

Thirdly: Attitude. For example when my parents tell me off (which is never) my brother goes: "yeah Luca" or he smirks at me. And he is not the only sibling who does that.

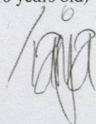
Boarding school will help solve all these problems because it gets little siblings out of the way but still gives them an education. They will be pushed to the limit and taught manners and respect. Boarding school will help self-management, attitude and obedience.

It will help a lot of things. When they come back they will be perfect! Full of manners, no more teasing or violence. They might even be a teacher's pet. Little siblings will be cleaner and tidier. And a tidier home helps the whole family.

That's why I think we should send our little brothers and sisters to boarding school.

(School speech written by Luca Latham / 10 years old)

Liebi Grüessli
us Blockhouse Bay,

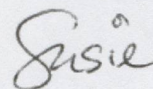


From the Co-editor

Hello dear Helvetia Readers!

Once more I am back at the Editor's desk for this issue of the Helvetia on Solothurn to give Tanja a little break from her many duties as President, Editor and of course Mum. As we can see from the President's word, being a Mum to two boys is not always an easy task! All sorts of issues come up for Mums and Dads on a day to day basis, and almost always the responses from parents are not just a simple "yes" or "no" but involve all sorts of thoughts and moral decisions. In Tanja's family we can see democracy at work: everyone has their say which is a great thing. I have no doubt that Sascha can stay at home.

The subject of this Helvetia is close to my heart: I am a Citizen of Matzendorf in the canton of Solothurn, although born in Basel. There is an unusual reason for this which I explain on Page 24. It's been fun exploring this home canton which I know so very little of as an arm chair traveller. I hope you will enjoy it, too. Have a lovely spring and special greetings to all the hard-working farmers who are busy with calving and lambing



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