



SURVAL MONTREUX
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND



SURVAL NEWS

Summer 2020

Celebrating Excellence in Girls' Education for over 55 years

www.surval.ch



Greetings from The Principal

I am writing this from my Study at Surval, overlooking a sparkling Lac Lemman and hazy alpine backdrop; the sun is shining, I am watching a paddle steamer sailing by and I can hear the little tourist train rumbling up the mountain behind us.

Switzerland has managed the pandemic situation extremely well; enhancing health and safety measures, re-opening schools, restaurants, sports and leisure facilities as well as its borders. Switzerland for students is seen by many as one of the safest places to be!

As a community, we have successfully come through an unprecedented and challenging time. Our brave, creative and enduring response nobly demonstrates the courage I have often spoken about that reflects the indestructible nature of the Surval spirit! This was epitomised in our very special and memorable Global Graduation and Prizegiving Ceremony, celebrating individual and collective achievements and highlights of this academic year. Spanning over 15 countries and incorporating a time difference of 12 hours, our micro-community here at Surval were joined by families and friends around the world to see the Class of 2020 graduate. I was thrilled to host over 100 guests online to celebrate this extraordinary year. Surval's intimate setting, spectacular location and the good humour shared amongst all in attendance made the day feel exceptionally special and precious.

The importance of family and Surval providing a real home from home has become the very pronounced theme for our journey together this year. Even more so for those of us who stayed on at the school during the pandemic, Surval was a much-loved family home during the time; I shall never forget it! The Easter break all together enjoying spectacular sunsets, birthdays celebrated (joyfully dining out in Montreux when the restrictions eased), evening activities, weekend outings, Soirees in my Chalet Garden and a fantastic, delicious Thank You cake baked and presented by the girls to the staff.

Our girls have reached out to each other as an extended family. Even from homes across the world, collaboration has replaced competition and sport and hospitality have featured high on our community's Lockdown List. The Surval Education online this term has been complemented with after school and weekend enrichment activities and individual Tutorials, ensuring wellbeing is prioritised alongside learning. Our collective charity work has continued apace this term: with girls still completing over 200 charity hours from home. Our Surval Global Gala Dinner also celebrated International Diversity Day, featuring a variety of dishes and costumes from homes around the world.

We can be proud of ourselves this year as never before. This Summer News presents an impressive collage of opportunities, events and occasions from the Surval Family album we have created together since last August, capturing just some the energy and pace of this momentous year.

Every girl has created a powerful story to tell of her time here, she has journeyed through her own personal adventure transforming her tomorrow. It has been the greatest pleasure to watch these fine young women unfurl their wings, grow in confidence and soar in spirit, fulfilling and exceeding potential and expectations even in the face of the recent global challenges.

My heartfelt thanks to the professional teams of dedicated staff at Surval for their tireless efforts this year; also to my parent body, thank you for your loyal, warm support and the trust you place in me to watch over your daughters, which is the greatest privilege and responsibility as well as an absolute joy.



Finally to you girls – what a year! Well done and felicitations, I salute you all! Whether you are returning to Surval in September or taking yourselves off on your next thrilling adventure - in the wonderful, wise words of my hero Winnie the Pooh, remember your special Survalienne link will remain with you forever

*'If ever there is a time when we're not together
There is something you must always remember
You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem
And smarter than you think.
But the most important thing is, even if we're apart...
I'll always be with you'*

Patricia Woodhouse

Mrs Woodhouse
Principal

*"Everyday, we remind ourselves
that we made the right choice for
our daughter by joining Surval.
You are all a great team."*

Surval Parent, April 2020

*"Surval has exceeded everybody's
expectations. Teaching at the
very highest standard levels,
online classes and most of all,
The Unique Care and Protection
to the Students."*

Surval Parent, April 2020



The Surval Family

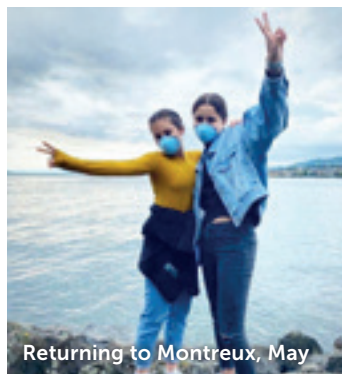


The Surval Family has been very busy this year, even with our community dispersed and just a few students remaining at Surval. The Surval Experience took on new shape and form; transforming the Surval Education online. Our girls united in their endeavours, with cookery and sports proving popular, and competition being replaced with collaboration. The girls remained close despite the physical distances. Vivi (FY, Mexico) stayed at Surval until June and shares her Surval Experience below:

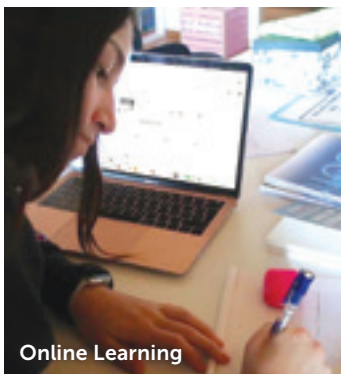
In the past few months, we've all been through so many things together. We have travelled, we have laughed, we have cried, but through it all, near or far, we have remained together, connected and taking care of each other. This is what Surval is all about. It is about friendship, experience, and spirit. My time here was nothing like I expected... it was better. I expected friends but I never thought I would get a family. I expected a school, but I was welcomed into a home. I expected trips, but I experienced adventures. Surval offered me all this and so much more and I am eternally grateful for everything that was given to me.

I had a very unique experience during my time here because when I was given the choice to stay or leave, I chose to stay and I do not regret my decision. Not even a little. Surval was keen to give me the adventure and experience I came for at the beginning of the year and yes, I did not travel or go anywhere, I stayed at Surval but I didn't need the trips or the weekend getaways to be happy. The simple fact that Surval gave me the opportunity to stay and finish my school year was all I needed to be happy. But of course, what made me the happiest was that Surval never stopped being Surval. Even with only 5 girls at school... We still had art activities, movie nights, take outs, scootering, cycling, hikes, everything. I wanted to make the most of my year, and I definitely did thanks to everyone at school, the teachers giving virtual lessons, the boarding staff, Chef Francois, Madame Horta, and Mrs Woodhouse.

Surval is not conformed by a building, school supplies, rooms, and a dining hall, but it is the people in Surval that keep the spirit alive, that make Surval a safe, exciting place. I came in September as a little girl, with nothing more than a couple of suitcases, but now I am leaving as a young woman, mature, experienced, confident, and ready to face anything the world throws at me. I have created long-lasting friendships and incredible experiences that I will cherish forever. And as sad as I am that my time here has finished, I know that I am not leaving, because a part of Surval will always be in my heart.



Returning to Montreux, May



Online Learning



Surval Easter residents!

Surval's Global Gala Dinner

Our Gala Dinner is an annual fundraising event in aid of the Habitat for Humanity (HFH) Project we support in Kenya, and a highlight of the school year.

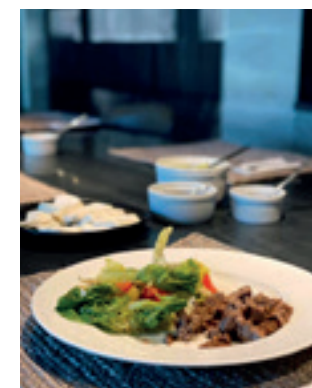
This year, we made this occasion global, with girls planning and cooking their menu, laying and decorating their tables and putting on entertainment in their own homes. They shared photos of the occasion and made donations to HFH.

For the Gala Dinner hosted at Surval, our girls created fabulous decorations and displays in the Dining Room and Library, producing a beautifully laid table and delicious three-course British-Kenyan-Mexican menu.

This is a very special event in the Surval calendar made even more meaningful this year; broadening cultural links, strengthening the Surval Family bond.



Gala Dinner at Surval



Anisa (Grade 11, Mexico)



Nastya (Grade 11, Ukraine)

La Cuisine de Surval

Cookery has always been a firm favourite here at Surval. It can often be incorporated into lessons and clubs, as with French Club's crepe making! Following lockdown, with Surval Education online connecting our students across the globe, girls enjoyed video tutorials, sharing family recipes and images of their creations. Those girls who remained resident at Surval made the most of our catering facilities, cooking and baking with our Chef, planning and producing some fine meals!



Sports

Surval sports this year included:

- Climbing
- Cross country
- Cycling
- Dance
- Hiking
- Horse Riding
- Netball
- Scootering
- Snowsports
- Tennis
- Yoga



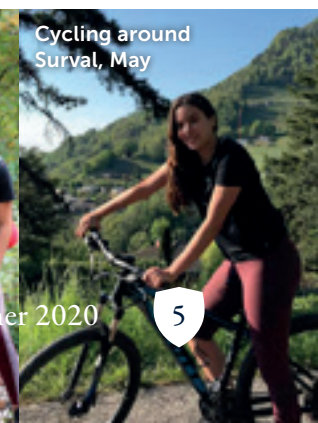
Snowboarding, February



Cross Country Race for Swiss International Schools, Bern



Hiking in Rochers de Naye, September



Cycling around Surval, May

Summer 2020

Surval's Global End of Year Celebrations

Tuesday 16 June 2020

Surval's End of Year Celebrations 2020 went global, with the Prizegiving and Graduation ceremony hosted at Surval Montreux, uniting the Surval community online in Thailand, India, South Africa, Russia, Ukraine, Austria, Spain, France, England, Ireland, USA and Mexico, with Guest Speaker Survalienne Amalia Lopez (1996, Mexico) inspiring us from her home in Monterrey.

Mrs Woodhouse led this special day, with girls sharing their personal memories and highlights of this extraordinary year at Surval, and Student of the Year 2020 Elizaveta (Grade 12, Russia) giving the Vote of Thanks.

Spanning a 12 hour time difference from Asia to South America, Surval spirit shone through, and proceedings concluded with a Global End of Year Toast to wrap up 2019-2020.

David Williams, Surval's Education Director at Bellevue Education, reflects on the occasion.

The current state of the world is pushing us into new territory both negative and positive as we adapt to a new state of being. It was very much a question of the latter as I sat there as a guest at Surval's Global Graduation and Prizegiving.

Throughout this pandemic Surval has been the only school in the Bellevue group that has remained open and this is testament to a resilience that is fostered in all the girls that have had the good fortune to be educated here. Although the crisis has hit all of us in so many ways, the young have suffered as they have lost key moments and I am so pleased that the Surval celebration went some way to ensuring that the Graduates of 2020 had a great send off. Each girl who spoke did so eloquently and from the heart in summing up what Surval meant to them. I wish them all well for the future.

Our inspirational Guest Speaker Survalienne Amalia Lopez pointed out the connection that we felt to an event that brought people together from living rooms in Russia to gardens in Mexico. Read her address on page 10.



It has been a pleasure to work with Surval over the last six months and my congratulations to Mrs Woodhouse for curating this end of year celebration so effectively. She passionately believes in the purpose of the school to give girls the confidence and resilience to find their own way in the world. These messages came across loud and clear at this event (although I hope in some ways it never happens again and we can all assemble in person in Montreux in 2021).

Our Principal Mrs Woodhouse congratulated the community for this exceptional year, and paid tribute to...

...our Community

This year to date has shaken the world. I look back to my trip with a group of girls to the World Economic Forum at Davos last January and the international call there for a different model of leadership in the world.... Since March, we have found ourselves having to navigate through the most challenging waters, uncharted and unforeseen. Working and pulling together, we have not been thrown overboard, we have come through the steepest learning curve very successfully, each of us changed for the better by our experience.

At Surval, we foster a style of leadership which believes in Vision, Compassion and Tenacity; which champions Social Enterprise, forges Global Perspectives and celebrates Language and Culture.



No more so relevant than now, our commitment to emboldening our girls with the confidence and resilience to find and follow their own path in life, equipped for a world in which they will have influence and responsibility; role models to their communities and guardians of their environments. In a time such as this, our girls have come through as winners and have so much of which to be proud.

...our Guest Speaker

Surval is a community which draws strength from new opportunities and challenges, new faces and welcoming back old friends. Amalia Lopez is a Survalienne from 1996, I first met her during my first year here, via Skype in Monterrey. A highly skilled and successful Jewellery Designer, Amalia immediately made a distinct and long-lasting impression on me; she has since become a fantastic friend and role model across our entire community.

She has attended every Graduation celebration here at Surval for the last 5 years. She is the ideal Guest Speaker on this occasion. Amalia, thank you for your unwavering loyalty and support for the school you hold so dear, joined today with your mother Amalia, also a Survalienne of 40 years ago. I am thrilled we continue to grow across the globe a powerful network of former students and their families: you are our best Ambassadors.

...our Graduates

We have a record number of girls graduating from Surval this year; Sophie, Eksha and Anastasiia are flying the Surval nest to embark on the next chapter of their life. Faith and Elizaveta will be returning to continue their Surval adventures on their Swiss Gap Experience. It has been truly inspiring to be part of the journey of these and every girl at Surval this year.

Student of the Year 2020: Elizaveta

Back in 2015 a little 11 year old girl from Russia came to Summer Camp in Switzerland... I got the taste of that cool and fun summer experience with international friends; the sense of improving a language that you can actually start speaking, and learning a new one that seemed completely unattainable before.

After this, I had a burning desire to study abroad for the whole of the next school year... Now 5 years later, I have completed my A Levels and I could never have imagined that one day when my Mom suggested that I go to a Summer Camp in Switzerland would change my whole life and make me a different person.

From my first French lesson when I fell in love with this beautiful language, I eagerly anticipated every lesson: learning more, communicating and expressing myself with more and more ease. Thanks to my teachers, I never felt that I could not say, write, or pronounce something, even when it was very difficult for me.



Every day here at Surval I, like all girls here, have grown mentally and more and more opportunities around me have opened from a new angle. Today, I graduate from Surval and I can't believe that this stage of my school career is completed. Each and every one of you will always be in my heart and I will remember these five years as the happiest time in my life that made me who I am now.

Graduates

Anastasiia

Anastasiia joined Surval Summer Camp 2016 from Russia; she returned that September for IGCSE Grade 9 and completed her IGCSE and A Level programme here.

Anastasiia was Student of The Year September 2017 and led Surval Student Voice last year. Anastasiia is looking forward to going onto the University of London, King's College to read Management and Modern Languages with a year abroad

"I remember very vividly my first day in the Summer Camp 4 years ago when I had no choice but to gesticulate, point and draw to the staff what I wanted to say because I didn't speak a single word of English... It took me a lot of courage to open my mouth and say anything at that time. I am proud that I can now more or less express myself in three different languages, which would certainly not be the case had Surval not placed great importance on the language and cultural aspects throughout our learning journey."

"I will never forget these 4 years because the moments that I cherish a lot are the definition of who I am today. My dear friends, as we all go on to the new chapter of our lives I want to wish all of you to be truly happy no matter where and what you end up doing and please stay in touch."



Eksha

Eksha joined Grade 11 from Thailand in September 2018, starting on the A Level programme before transferring to American High School Program for her final, graduating year. Eksha has led our Student Voice this year and is the brainchild of our new Surval Families system.

Eksha is applying to universities in the UK to study Nutrition.

"My time at Surval has undoubtedly been one of the best times of my life! I can say with complete confidence that it has been a transformational experience as I have gained 3 things which are most significant to me; confidence, independence, and perspective."

"I gained confidence as I had to step out of my comfort zone in a new country to try new things which had the best possible income. Independence was an automatic response to being alone and in boarding for the first time. Lastly, I gained perspective as I stepped out of my bubble and learned so many things from different cultures, backgrounds, friends and most importantly, myself. At Surval, friends become sisters. Living together and seeing each other every single day forms an unbreakable bond. The people you meet at Surval are truly special and I know that I have made friends who will always be there for me and I'm so grateful to have met these people. These friends have also taught me so much about myself. Thank you Surval, for everything you have given me!"



Faith

Faith joined Surval in Foundation Year from South Africa in Autumn 2015. She started on the IGCSE programme before transferring onto the American High School Program from Grade 11. Faith plays an important role in our Sustainability Society, and famously planted the 3 beautiful cherry blossom trees in Mrs Woodhouse's chalet garden.

Faith is looking forward to returning to Surval next term on our Surval Swiss Gap Experience Programme.



Sophie

Sophie joined Grade 12 last September from Austria to complete her American High School Diploma. Actually, Sophie joined whilst travelling around the world on a tall ship. She sent us the most fascinating emails describing her time out there. Sophie has played an important role in MUN this year.

Sophie is applying to universities in Vienna to read Economics and Business.

Elizaveta

Elizaveta joined Surval Summer Camp 2015 from Russia and returned for Foundation Year that September, staying on to complete her IGCSE and A Level programme here.

Elizaveta is passionate about languages, culture and sustainability. She is returning for our Swiss Gap Experience programme in September.

"No matter how obvious it sounds, Surval has made me more independent. I have learned what true friendship actually means and how so many people from other countries can become your second family. I have learned that it's not always going to be easy, but it will always be possible."

"I look with gratitude and admiration at all the qualities of the people in this school, with whom I had the honour to meet and connect over these five years. I will never forget anything that happened to me - starting from dreaming at night with my best friend overlooking the lake, adventures on our trip to Lugano, loudly celebrating our friend's birthday at night during Ski Week, sneaking into the elevator, being late for breakfast, and finishing with Monday and Thursday assemblies, all of the lessons that were so fun, crying about the exams with pre-exam nerves, worrying I might fail then bouncing out to tell my teacher that it was easy."

"I will never be able to thank enough every teacher, all of the boarding and house staff... I have been so lucky to meet all the girls who will always be much more than just school mates or friends"



"Thank you Surval, for everything you have given me!"

Message to Class of 2020 Graduates

Guest Speaker of Surval's Global Graduation and Prizegiving, Survalienne Amalia Lopez (1996, Mexico) gave a heartfelt address to the Surval Community worldwide.

"Hello Surval Students, Surval Family and Surval Friends.

It is an honor to be here with you today, Maybe we are not physically together, but we certainly feel more connected than ever. Today, from Monterrey in Mexico, I wish to speak from my heart, to your hearts.

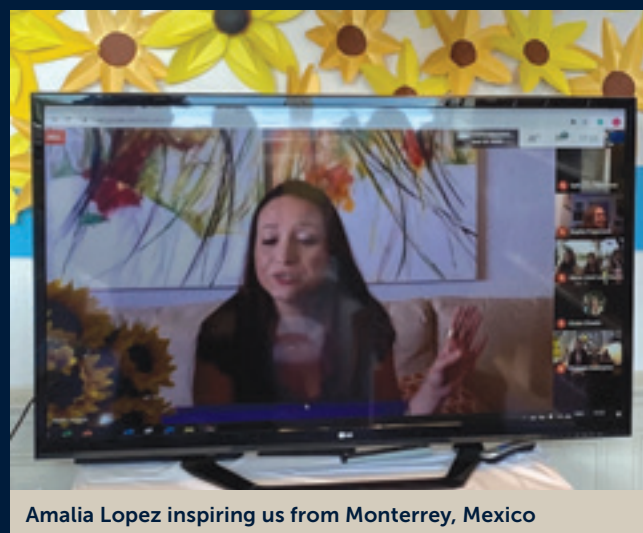
Some of the first memories I have of Surval are the never-ending sunflower fields on the ride from the airport to Montreux. I remember how I first saw that scenery back in 1996, ready to become a Surval student. Bright yellow flowers all turning to where the light and warmth of the sun is, mixed with powerful feelings of excitement, nervousness, expectation, and curiosity. What new experiences will I have in a school with girls from all over the world, that like me, are eager to discover the world?

For the past four years, I have had the privilege to return to Surval as a Jewellery Design Teacher, and have attended the last 4 Graduations. I have witnessed how you girls have blossomed, have found your passions in life, and made friends for life.

Our travels are not measured in kilometers but in how much we open our hearts to new people; cherish new experiences and how much we are willing to deeply connect with one another overseeing boundaries and differences. Studying abroad builds a young woman in a very unique way.

Graduating class of 2020 you are outstanding, you are exceptional! As we are passing through one of the toughest challenges in history, here you are, celebrating your hard work, discipline and resilience, in triumph.

Every day brings a new opportunity to believe, to choose, to create. Now we all realize that it's not about us, true joy comes when serving others, when we connect. Never before have we felt more present without being physically together. We have learned how to hug with our words, kiss with our eyes, and comfort with our love. Our egocentric ways have been shattered by empathy, caring and true connection. We have become more vulnerable and thus more courageous.



Amalia Lopez inspiring us from Monterrey, Mexico

Graduating Class: Anastasiia, Eksha, Elizaveta, Faith, Sophie - as those sunflowers, paving the way to Surval, may you always turn towards the good, towards the bright side of circumstances. May you see an opportunity in every challenge. Your life purpose is a gift, waiting to be unwrapped, hidden in dreams waiting to be pursued, ready to happen, ready to bring you the greatest joy. I'm sure that everywhere you go, you'll take Surval in your heart."

"Amalia, you are an excellent role model for us all – now famous for your jewellery workshops here at Surval and Surval Summer Camp, with your beautiful designs, inspiring us girls to create our own for ourselves. Your professional creativity and enterprise are exciting and exemplary. As a passionate and committed Survalienne Ambassador for Mexico, I will be welcoming your wisdom and experience as I embark on my own journey next year as Survalienne Ambassador for Eastern Europe."

Vote of Thanks, Elizaveta (Grade 12, Russia)
Student of the Year 2020



"Thank you very much for an amazing graduation that you organised despite the difficulties we have been facing due to the pandemic.

It was special and unforgettable."

Surval Parent, June 2020

Global Perspectives

At Surval, Global Perspectives are forged by exploring world events, broadening students' horizons and empowering them with the knowledge and understanding to be role models and leaders.

This year has seen our girls emboldened by participating in our Model United Nations Club, Sustainability Society, the International Youth Forum and the Open Forum at Davos and sparking new student-led initiatives such as Panel discussions with inspirational guests.

Elizaveta (Grade 12, Russia) recognises the global perspectives she has gained from her time at Surval:

“Two important aspects of my life at Surval are Charity and Sustainability. Before coming here I'd never heard about both of these significant and serious topics and as an individual I couldn't think about having the power to help and motivate others to contribute, to raise awareness and influence people around me to change their lifestyle for even a bit and do better for the future of our planet or for other people. I am so beholden for being given a chance to participate in the Youth Forum and deliver a TED Talk.

I've learned how it is to help and how so many people need help. I've grasped how many of them are much less privileged than I am, which is not fair and that's why I need to use my power to create a change in their lives for the better.”



Presenting at Youth Forum Switzerland 2020, January



Environmental Sciences - new this year!



Former Director of UNESCO Irina Bokova, Guest Speaker at student-led Panel Discussion at Surval, February



Surval Sustainability Garden



Our Sustainability Society at the Youth Strike for Climate Change, Lausanne in September



Environmental Sciences



WEF's Open Forum in Davos, January



Model United Nations conference, Le Rosey in October



Surval Sustainability Garden



Irina Bokova and Panellists

Language & Culture

In this international world, understanding of languages and culture is a key part of an excellent education. At Surval, languages and culture are celebrated in abundance; through our Savoir-vivre programme embracing etiquette, hospitality, refining social skills, our first and second languages of English and French (with Italian, German and Russian also on offer), and through our fabulous activities, excursions and worldwide trips.

Highlights this year have included:

- European Day of Languages
- St Nicholas Feast and Christmas
- Mexican Day of the Dead
- Trip to the Valais region
- International Women’s Day
- International Day of Diversity
- Easter
- Cinco de Majo
- And of course Surval Travel (see page 18)

The quality of language learning at Surval this year has been celebrated with three Modern Foreign Language Prizewinners, each able to work in 3 languages in addition to their own mother tongue. Congratulations to Grade 12 Graduates Sophie (Austria), Nastya and Liiza (Russia) for this outstanding achievement.



Decorating the Christmas tree



St Nicholas Feast, December



Christmas Lunch



Surval Easter Egg-chocolatiers



International Women’s Day, March



European Day of Languages, September



French Table, Tuesday lunch



Modern Etiquette



Christmas Lunch



Musée et Chiens du St-Bernard, February

“When you think about it, it is incredible how many different nationalities we embrace as the Surval community. I’ve been able to get to know and become friends with people from every inhabited continent on the globe. We go to classes with amazing teachers who come from different backgrounds just like us and we subsequently acquire the skill of communication, because that’s one of the biggest ways that varies from country to country, and person to person. This helped me break the patterns of bias or preconceptions and I realised that cultural immersion is a cure for hate, ignorance and stereotypes. I now feel an increased desire for all the world to live in peace and with access to the necessary ingredients for a good life.”

Nastya (Grade 12, Russia)

Social Enterprise

Charity means a lot to Surval and our community, we are so fortunate to help others. This year our Charity Committee has been really successful.

We have helped various charities such as:

- Hello Yellow for mental health
- Habitat for Humanity for their housing project in Kenya
- MACS for children with undeveloped eyes or impaired vision
- Swiss Telethon and many more

Although this year got cut short we did not stop helping these charities; it is times like this when they really need it the most.

This year I had an amazing opportunity to hold my own charity event for MACS with children born without eyes or with underdeveloped eyes. I can't thank enough the girls and the staff who supported me to make this day possible and help MACS.

This year Kenya got cancelled as well and we weren't able to build a house for a family that really needed it. We realised how lucky we are to be able to fundraise to help these families.

I want to thank all students, families and staff for donating this year. We have managed to raise CHF 10'550. It wouldn't have been possible without you, and these charities really appreciate your help.

I also would like to say a massive thank you to our coordinator Mrs Spigarelli for helping us to make these donations and these events possible.

From fundraising and friendraising to awareness raising, we all give and gain so much when we help others.

As Kathy Calvin said:

"Giving is not just about donations, it's about making a difference"

Charlotte (Grade 11, England)
Head of Surval Charity Committee



Buddy Day with ASRIMM children, September



Blue Monday Pyjama Day, January



#Hello Yellow for Young Minds on World Mental Health Day, October



Cartons du Cœur



Colour Run, Lausanne, September



Valentine's Day Brownies for Habitat for Humanity Project in Kenya



Visiting Le Byron Retirement Home



MACS Day, December



Téléthon Mascot Sale



Global Give & Cake, May



Surval Scootering Bouge Challenge, May

Surval's Fundraising & Friendraising this year has included:

- Colour Run, Lausanne (an event just for happiness!)
- Hello Yellow: wear yellow, cupcake sale and movie night for Young Minds
- Valentine's Day Brownie Bake & Sale, car-washing and other initiatives for Habitat for Humanity, Kenya
- MACS Day (including blindfolded football)
- Legathon and Mascot Sale for local children's charity Telethon
- Buddy Day with children from ASRIMM (Association Suisse Romande Intervenant contre les Maladies neuro-Musculaires)
- Visiting our local retirement home, Le Byron
- Cartons du Coeur - essentials boxes for those in need
- Blue Monday Pyjama Day: cake sale and movie night for Protect Our Winters
- Global Glve & Cake Baking Challenge for Young Minds
- Surval Bouge Scootering Challenge for Téléthon and ASRIMM
- Surval Global Gala Dinner for Habitat for Humanity (see page 5)

Surval Travel

This academic year, whilst our trips to China, Dubai and Kenya were not able to take place, our girls still got out and about around Europe.

The Swiss Gap students made the most of their independent travel weekends as always, and before borders were closed in March, we had enjoyed six school trips and Surval Ski Week in Anzère.

“This year with the new French immersion trip, our dream to go to Monaco together with my best friend came true. It was an incredibly magical trip that I never ever could have thought of it as being that unforgettable and life-changing!”

Elizaveta (Grade 12, Russia)



Surval's Swiss Tour, September



Ski Weekend in Grimontz, December



Surval's Swiss Tour



Surval's Swiss Tour



French Immersion in Monaco, September



Surval Ski Week, Anzere



Rome



Milan, February



Italy, October Half Term



Surval's Swiss Tour



Above Lake Lucerne



Prague, November



Saas Fee, March

Survaliennes

We are delighted to have heard from so many Survaliennes over the last 3 months, in response to our social media posts and requests for updates as the pandemic swept the globe. Wherever you are, we hope you are well, happy and the Surval flame, connecting us all, is burning warm in your heart and bright in your soul.

Our Global Connection: Survaliennes Living through Lockdown

Dasha Khalimon (2018, Ukraine)

Dasha is a Business student at Kedge Business School in Marseille, France.



"During this uneasy time we all have to stop and rethink how we live our lives. I truly believe we will soon recover from the pandemic and everything will go back to normal. I miss Surval with all my heart and express my warmest regards and best wishes!"

Amina Saidova (2018, Russia)

Amina is reading Economics and International Relations at the State University of Economics in Moscow, Russia.



"During this difficult time, I try to stay at home and miss Surval very much. I send my regards to everyone and hope that the situation will calm down soon and I will be able to come to Surval again. I hope everyone is healthy and everyone is doing well!"

Alina Sheludchenko (2018, Ukraine)

Alina is studying for a Bachelor in Business Administration at the International University of Geneva, Switzerland.



"Surval was like my second home and I really miss the time we spent together because we had so much fun and it was amazing to meet such people from different countries. Due to the situation in the world caused by coronavirus we have to stay home and support each other. I really hope that everyone is healthy and have enough patience to get through this difficult time. My best wishes to everyone! I miss you all a lot!"

Cristina Dassum (2019, Ecuador)

Cristina Dassum sent us her best wishes, commenting it has been a year since she left and so much has changed in the last few months. Cristina is now a senior student at the Unidad Educativa Delta in her hometown of Guayaquil, Ecuador.



We are very much hoping Cristina will return to Surval for Winter Term 2021.

Graciela Arroyo (2019, Mexico)

Graciela's family have moved from their native Mexico to Croatia. Graciela is completing Grade 10 AHSP in Croatia.



Graciela's mother emailed Mrs Woodhouse (who was due to visit Croatia this term) in March.

"We are in Zagreb keeping ourselves inside the house and until now all is well. What a change the world has made but we have to be positive that this will make us, our communities and our countries much better than before the crisis. Please keep in touch. Be well and hope to see you as soon as possible."

Jimena Guerra (2018, Mexico)

Jimena is a Fashion and Design student at the College of Monterrey. She has started creating bespoke facemasks, and designed this one for Surval.



"My semester in Surval definitely was the best experience in my life, I am very thankful to have had the opportunity of going to this school, the people that I met there will never be forgotten. Living far away from my home it could sound very hard, but Surval became my family, my home. All of my friends became my sisters so fast, till today we try to see each other constantly."



Jimena sent through this photo, happy memories of Surval 2018

Raquel Berko (2018, Mexico), Ale Alvarez Guadalajara (2018, Guatemala), Cristine Arzu (2018, Guatemala), Jimena Guerra (2018, Mexico), Daniela Arzu (2018, Guatemala), Natalia García (2018, Guatemala)

"I will never forget my experience there, I miss it so much. I would repeat a thousand times if I could. Surval taught me to see the world in a different point of view, I learned how to understand other beautiful cultures that I didn't even know existed. During my time in Surval, I travelled a lot with my Surval sisters. After leaving I felt more independent and prepared to go to college. I definitely wouldn't change my time there for anything in the world. Surval will always have a place in my heart."

Asunta Larrinaga (1976, Spain)



"I spent two years 1974/75 and 75/76. Surval in those years was directed by Monsieur et Madame Sidler. I can only say good things about Surval, two of the best years of my life, full of good moments, joy and happiness, friends that I will never forget!! Madame Sauser, strict but one of the best teachers I have ever had - thank you for all the grammar that you taught me!! And patience. Madame Melonni, funny and our (mum), those weeks in Andermatt!! Was such fun, the hotel Metropole. The weekends in Vevey, Diplodocus Disco!! Lausanne, pizzas for four because we didn't have enough pocket money...."

What can I say!! I will never forget those Surval years, I was the happiest girl in the world. Thank you Surval! Marietta, Trynie, Meno, Lia, Patricia, Gloria, Hetty, Paula, Jasemyn, Ethel, Eleonora, Sabina, Lucía, and many more....I love you!!!"

Rikke Line Olsen (1990, Denmark)

"I spend lockdown looking through old photos - here is one from my room mate's wedding in Australia."



Rikke Line Olsen (1990, Denmark), Amanda Lintott (1990, Australia), Lara Batton (1990, Australia)

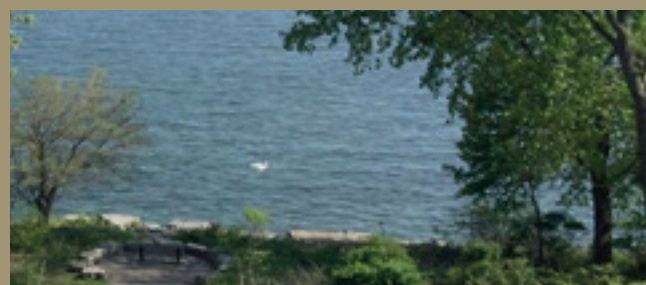
Milena Padilla (1994, Columbia)

"In Colombia, we are still in lockdown, I've been reading a lot of books!"



Silvana Ghio De Harth (1977, Canada)

"In Canada, we are on faze one of lowering restrictions. Still about 300-400 new cases every day in Ontario. Staying home as much as possible, only going out for grocery shopping/pharmacy and for long walks along the lake. Very peaceful... here is a picture taken from our balcony. Also, I have been doing sudokus and word puzzles and lots of reading."



Adriana Perez (1986, Columbia)

"In Colombia, enjoying my family, working sporadically and doing my best not to gain weight."



Duna Al Ashi (2005, Jordan)

"In Jordan, I think we are going back to the lockdown after a week of having a curfew at 12 but I spent most of the time baking bread, desserts, doing puzzles, and reading."



Facebook

Christina Azan-Owen (2012, Jamaica)

After Surval, Christina went on to study Finance and Food Service Entrepreneurship at Johnson and Wales University in USA. She now lives in The States and is Dining Room and Banquet Manager at a luxury restaurant. Christina married Justin in October 2019 - congratulations!!

Some of the graduating Class of 2012: Christina with Beatriz Pinheiro (2012, Brazil), Emilia Lujan (2012, USA), Mahoro Fujioka (2012, Japan), Fatima Covarrubias del Cueto, (2012, Mexico), Naiane Witeck (2012, Mexico), Lin Zhang (2012, China), Akane Shibuya (2012, Japan) and Carla Toledo (2012, USA)



Claudia Pizaña (1989, Mexico)

Claudia posted on our Facebook Alumnae page some wonderful memories from her time at Surval.



Surval Easter Trip: a Mediterranean Cruise



Dinner at the Mexican restaurant in Montreux



Preparing to go to the Bal de Printemps at Montreux Palace

Instagram

Susana Torres (2019, Mexico)

Susana contacted us through Instagram. She has started her own flower shop and recently entered a competition by Chiltepec, the largest flower chain in Mexico; the photo with the most likes would win.

We posted her story on our instagram: "Our Survalienne needs your help" and Susana won the competition! Winning this competition has opened many doors for her around the world. Susana tells us her story:



"During my last year of high school, I started a Floristry Diploma to certify myself on Floral Technique. This diploma lasts two years so I'm still on it. Next month, I'll start my studies at Business School in Tec de Monterrey."

I grew up in a home full of flowers, in our dining room we had fresh flower arrangements on our table and I loved it.

Then I went to Surval, and I was amazed at all the flowers I saw in Montreux and decided to buy an orchid to decorate my desk. I loved having flowers on my desk - I felt like they completed the room! So I came back to Mexico and started practising flower arrangements until I mastered them and started selling them to close friends and family... the business started growing in a matter of months.

My main point of contact with customers is my Instagram page, most of them contact me through there and afterwards they contact me via my phone. I have my workshop here at my home (Monterrey) and I'm starting a project to expand my business and build a bigger workshop in my garden for me to teach floristry to others and have my staff help me do all flower arrangements to satisfy more clients and have a bigger volume of sells. Currently, I work on my own and have over 50 sales a week.

This contest was created by "Chiltepec" which is one of the biggest flower supplier chains here in Mexico. The main benefit of winning this contest was the exposure, tons of new people followed me and got to know about my work. For me winning this was a new bullet on my curriculum as a florist which can later help me enter a flower school in London, Paris, New York..."



SURVAL MONTREUX
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

Surval Montreux, Route de Glion 56, 1820 Montreux, Switzerland

 +41 (0)21 966 16 16  info@surval.ch  www.surval.ch