

BELOW: A HAPPY DIPLOMA PRESENTATION CEREMONY.  
 TRAIT: FOR PIERRE-ANTOINE HILDBRAND, THE SUCCESS OF THE  
 EL SCHOOLS IS SIGNIFICANT AND IMPRESSIVE.

> CI-DESSOUS: UNE JOYEUSE CÉRÉMONIE DE REMISE DES  
 DIPLÔMES. PORTRAIT: POUR PIERRE-ANTOINE HILDBRAND, LA  
 RÉUSSITE DES ÉCOLES HÔTELIÈRES EST MARQUANTE ET IMPRES-  
 SIONNANTE.



# PIERRE-ANTOINE HILDBRAND: "THE HOTEL SCHOOLS' SUCCESS IS AMAZING"

HOW ARE PRIVATE SCHOOLS GETTING ON IN THE  
 CANTON OF VAUD? ARE THEY ENJOYING THE SAME SUCCESS AS THOSE  
 IN GENEVA? ANSWERS BY PIERRE-ANTOINE HILDBRAND, GENERAL  
 SECRETARY OF THE VAUD PRIVATE SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION (AVDEP).

**What is the private schools' situation in the Canton of Vaud?** Private schools are generally doing well. The traditional success of the international schools is being reinforced by the development of bilingual schools, originally intended for the children of expat couples, but increasingly open to local children. However, after years of expansion, during this period of economic uncertainty the numbers of international school students are stabilising. In total, over 16,000 pupils are being taught in private schools (14,900 in 2011).

**What have been the important changes over recent years?** The success of the hotel schools is striking and impressive. The demand for bilingualism and full day schools are continuing to prove popular. At adult level, education continues with language courses being ever more in demand at AVDEP member schools. Also, the economic situation is encouraging many adults to refresh their knowledge or gain new skills.

**How have teaching methods changed?** Private schools, with individual options, resort to recognised and established basic pedagogical theories. But it is also true that technological evolution can influence teaching methods. For example, interactive whiteboards enable a new way of processing documents produced both by pupils and teachers. The dialogue between pupil and teacher is also using electronic means.







**And have the students' needs changed?** First of all, teaching fulfils an existential need, which is giving access to basic skills, such as reading, writing, arithmetic, etc. This has not changed. On the other hand, there is an increasing demand for a knowledge of languages and the inclusion in the school curriculum of various sporting and cultural activities. Access to other education abroad is becoming more popular.

**Is international demand still as strong as ever? Among which countries?** International boarding schools, like the export industry, are experiencing the consequences of the relative strength of the Swiss franc, but demand remains high and diversified. Their century-old reputation and past alumni networks continue to promote this

form of education. Traditionally, the schools don't reveal much about the countries applying. The high diversity of countries of origin is a source of pride. It also enables a healthy spreading of the risks arising from the economic changes faced by some countries, which can sometimes be devastating.

**What are the greatest challenges facing private schools in the coming years?** Private schools, to some extent, offer an education, which is complementary to that of their free State school counterparts

subsidized by the taxpayer. This implies a permanent effort to ensure that they offer added value to the students and to the parents who opt for private education. Each improvement offered by the State system represents a challenge. The internationalisation of education requires ever more competent teachers, who are sometimes difficult to find.

**How do you see their role evolving, especially in relation to the public sector?** In principle, we don't comment about the developments in the public sector. We offer education in some 50 private schools, which are notable for their diversity and independence. They provide a complete range of pre-school and school curricula, in both boarding and day school facilities, as well as professional training at all levels. Some specialise in artistic domains and language courses. In the final count, the ongoing education offer, with evening and holiday courses, is extremely varied. ■

ANTHONY KAESER



#### INFO

DETAILS OF THE AVDEP MEMBERS, INCLUDING THEIR ETHICS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET. WWW.AVDEP.CH



#### AIGLON COLLEGE

CH-1885 Chesières • tél. +41 (0)24 496 61 61 • [www.aiglon.ch](http://www.aiglon.ch)



IB World School for 338 boys and girls ages 9-18 from over 50 nationalities. British National Curriculum in preparation for GCSE and the IB. Small classes (8-12 students). We offer an ESL programme for

non-English speakers. Graduates reach world-class universities in North America and the UK. Languages and sports are also available during July and August Summer Schools.

*Ecole avec Baccalauréat International pour 338 garçons et filles âgés de 9 à 18 ans de plus de 50 nationalités. Coursus national britannique pour préparer pour les examens GCSE et le Baccalauréat International. Petites classes (8-12 élèves). Nous offrons ESL (Anglais comme seconde langue) pour tous les élèves qui n'ont pas l'Anglais comme première langue. Nos diplômés sont acceptés dans les grandes universités des Etats Unis et du Royaume Uni. Des cours de langue et sports sont offerts pendant les mois de juillet et août.*

#### ECOLE ALPINE INTERNATIONALE E.M.I.G

CH-1882 Gryon • tél. +41 (0)24 498 26 36 • [www.emig.ch](http://www.emig.ch)



L'Ecole EMIG accueille vos enfants de 2 à 13 ans dans un cadre chaleureux, familial et multiculturel. Scolarité en internat et externat avec support Montessori. Programme français et anglais. Camps de vacances tout au long de l'année avec cours de langues, sorties culturelles, en

internat ou externat pour enfants de 2 à 17 ans.

*Alpine International School, boarding and day school for children from 2 to 13 years of age in a warm, family-like and multicultural environment. Pré - and primary school with Montessori support. French and english programs. Throughout the year, the EMIG school organizes camps for children from 2 to 17 years of age in boarding or day school. Language courses, sports, fun and cultural outings are some of the activities we organize.*

#### LA GARENNE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

1884 Villars-sur-Ollon • tél. +41 (0)24 495 24 53 • [www.la-garenne.ch](http://www.la-garenne.ch)



Ecole Internationale Bilingue pour enfants de 4 à 14 ans. Internat et externat dans un cadre familial aux valeurs Suisses. Classes de petits effectifs équipées des dernières technologies (Smartboard, ...). Programme officiel français et anglais. Sport et activités extra-scolaires

quotidiennes. Camps d'été avec cours intensifs de langues.

*International Bilingual School, French and English, for children aged between 4 and 14. Boarders or day pupils educated in a family atmosphere with strong Swiss values. Small class sizes with latest technology (Smartboard, ...). Bilingual French and English curricula. Daily after school sports and activities. Summer camps with intensive language courses included.*

#### COLLÈGE BEAU SOLEIL

1884 Villars-sur-Ollon • tél. +41 (0)24 496 26 26 • [www.beausoleil.ch](http://www.beausoleil.ch)



Fondé en 1910, dirigé par ses propriétaires depuis trois générations, le Collège Beau Soleil accueille

des étudiants de plus de 45 nationalités. Nous offrons à nos élèves une éducation complète et équilibrée afin de développer le sens de l'effort, l'ambition, la responsabilité et le respect. Lycée français (6<sup>ème</sup>-5<sup>ème</sup> à Terminale préparant au Baccalauréat français) et section internationale en anglais (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> à 12<sup>th</sup> Grade préparant au BI). Camp d'été organisé en juillet (7 à 16 ans) offrant des cours de français ou d'anglais (6 niveaux, max. 10 élèves par classe). Accrédité par CIS, NEASC et le IBO et est aussi membre de GESBF, SGIS, Round Square, Swiss Learning et Nord Anglia Education.

*Founded in 1910, owned and run by the third successive generation of the same family, Beau Soleil welcomes students from more than 45 nationalities. We provide our students with a complete and well-balanced education to develop their sense of effort, ambition, responsibility and respect. French Lycée (6<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> to Terminale preparing for the French Baccalaureate) and International Section in English (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade preparing for the IB). A camp is organised in July (7 to 16 years old) offering French and English classes (6 levels, max. 10 students per class). Accredited status with CIS, NEASC, IBO, member of GESBF, SGIS, Round Square, Swiss Learning and Nord Anglia Education.*

#### ECOLE ALPINE INTERNATIONALE PRÉ FLEURI

1885 Chesières • tél. +41 (0)24 495 23 48 • [www.prefleuri.ch](http://www.prefleuri.ch)



Situé dans un domaine de deux hectares à l'orée des bois, le Pré Fleuri accueille depuis 1948 des enfants de 3 à 13 ans dans une atmosphère familiale et internationale. Internat. Externat. Notre

section académique suit les programmes officiels anglais et français. Nos classes ont des effectifs réduits et permettent un enseignement personnalisé. De nombreuses activités sportives, culturelles et extra-scolaires complètent notre cursus scolaire. Camps d'hiver et d'été avec cours intensifs de langues.

*Situated in two hectares of land, on the edge of the woods, Pré Fleuri has been home to children aged 3 - 13 since 1948, with an international family atmosphere. Boarders and Day pupils. Our academic section follows the official English and French programmes. In small classes, our teachers are able to provide personalised teaching programmes. A number of sports, cultural and extra curricular activities complete our programme. Winter and Summer camps with intensive language courses.*