Bei mir - bei dir: Our place

Intercultural Learning through Photos

The Idea

What is considered completely normal on one side of the planet might be totally *fremd* on the other.

Students in Victoria take pictures of their lives. They show a unique world of local customs and every day life. Students share their photo stories via the Internet with their partner schools in Germany.

Students in a Germany learn about the Australian way of life. The German students reply with a photographic answer to one of the photos they receive from Australia. Using the Internet they share their answers with their Australian partners.

The focus on *bei mir* and *bei dir* facilitates the students' exploration of similarities and differences within and across cultures through sharing photos and individual stories. This promotes reflection about diversity throughout the world in which we all live - *Our Place*.

At the end of the project German teachers at Australian schools submit their best pairs of photos to the Goethe-Institut in Melbourne. A selection of these will be shown at an exhibition in Melbourne during Term 3, 2008 and may later be exhibited throughout schools in Victoria and Germany.

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The project was initiated in 2007 by Kathrin Schmieder, a German-born photo journalist living in Melbourne. Torsten Schulz (Goethe-Institut) and Catherine Gosling (AGTV) developed the idea in cooperation with Kathrin. The idea was promoted through AGTV Networks and the results of the project were celebrated at the Victorian State Conference in Kilmore in 2008.

The website was housed on the former AGTV website.

The Aim is on the next page.

The idea still has currency and improved ICT tools and skills of teachers mean it is easier to manage.

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The Aim

The prime aim of the project is to spark interest in another culture by using photos to promote intercultural language learning.

Students in both countries have the chance to reflect on their own world by comparing their lives through photos and stories. They learn about how people in Germany and Australia live, what they look like, what parents do at work, how friends spend their free time, what is celebrated or valued etc.

While writing to each other to learn more about each others lives as depicted in the photos, students reinforce and improve their German and English skills through learning new vocabulary and local terms.

Through establishing new contacts or strengthening existing ones, this project provides the framework for a sustainable and rich learning experience.

As 2008 is the United Nations' International Year of Languages, this project provides an ideal platform to promote and celebrate language learning and intercultural understanding.

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A range of support materials were developed to help students manage the project and gain appropriate permission. See the list of the next page.

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Downloads

Dates and places of workshops

All neccessary files in a zipped archive

Australian package (450 KB)

German package (450 KB)

For Australian teachers:
Aim and idea (in English)
Expression of interest (in English)
Project steps (in German)
Check list (in German)
List of possible topics (in German)
Data handling (in English)
Data handling (in German)
Entry form (in English)
Template for teachers (in English/German)
Template for students (in English)

For German teachers:
Aim and idea (in English)
Project steps (in German)
Check list (in German)
List of possible topics (in German)
Data handling (in English)
Data handling (in German)
Entry form (in English)
Template for teachers (in English/German)
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