

## Promoting German - take the 'foreign' out of language learning

Both the federal and state governments clearly support the learning of languages. It is up to the teachers and other interested allies (incl. kids) to convince the Principal, Leadership & Curriculum teams and School Councils that learning a LOTE (German) brings benefits for the students. Start by believing every child can learn languages and it is fun!

### Open Classroom

- Put regular notices in the newsletter about what is happening in your program
- Give out awards regularly at assemblies
- Send a DVD home with a digital portfolio of products, photos and/or class PPT
- Erect a noticeboard or Litfaßsäule to publicise opportunities for German or traces of German in the community e.g. clippings, articles, posters etc.

### Find authentic experiences for your students to use their language skills

- AGTV Years 5-9 Poetry Competition, Primary Day Out, School Film Festival
- Exhibitions e.g. Goethe-Institut or Galleries, Excursions, Language Trails
- Epals / Penfriends – ideally with students from D-A-CH-L or from other schools
- Performances – school assembly, local shopping centres, retirement homes

### Find connections to D-A-CH-L everywhere you look

- It is inescapable – German can be related to almost anything – be vocal about it!
- Bring in realia or have 5 minute *Werbespots* at the end or start of a lesson
- Enlist the support of other teachers e.g. School Film Festival

### Open Nights / Information Evenings

- Make the German room /area a hive of activity e.g. Tipp Kick, modern GN music
- Colouring competition with a few statements on the back about why learn German
- Laminate a display of student work and photos to use again
- Have food and Gummibärchen – always a winner – and brochures to take away
- Have the kids working on computers and a PPT continually running on your laptop

### Infiltrate the local Kindergartens or feeder Primary schools

- Offer to visit the local kindergartens or feeder primary schools to teach the kids a song or do a craft activity with them e.g. *Ostern* egg decoration, *Weinachten* (many Australian customs have German origins), *Karneval*, *Walpurgisnacht*
- Put pressure on the local secondary school to offer German – P-12 pathway

### Be Media Savvy: Principals love good news stories about 'their' school.

- Prepare reports for school council, newsletters, school magazines, local press, with photos – and send in – appoint a 'Reporter & Photographer' from the class for events – collate good news stories in a classroom museum
- Have information about German and your program ready with photos of students doing things ready to supply newspapers looking for something for a feature article
- Teach the Parents evening – students invite parents and teach them how to order food prepared by the students - with entertainment e.g. singing, skits

### Get political

- Inform yourself about the benefits of learning German and have the facts
- Ask to make a presentation at School Council or Curriculum Committee about the benefits of learning German and the opportunities for German in and beyond school
- Get the aspiring principals and other staff onside with food and staffroom quizzes with prizes to educate them e.g. Famous German-speakers, Fall of the Berlin Wall
- Nominate for Curriculum committees or places where the decisions are made
- Invite local politicians/councillors to open a LOTE day or public performance– and get the local press to come – give them something to do to win votes!