

German Day brings fun to learning languages

Whilst Bendigo Art Gallery is often renowned for its collection of 19th century European paintings and the architecture of William Vahland, it will showcase German culture of a different nature on Thursday 15th October with a German Day program for primary and secondary students. Students from Bendigo Senior Secondary College, Bendigo South East College, East Loddon P-12 College, Crusoe College and Spring Gully Primary School have all been working enthusiastically on a series of performances, tours, gallery trails and other activities ready to share with students from the other schools as a way of fostering cross school communication.

The program is the initiative of the Calder Regional Network of the Association of German Teachers of Victoria (AGTV), led by Felicity Woodward from Spring Gully Primary School and Kristina Dean from Bendigo Senior Secondary College, and supported by Helen Attrill, Education Officer at Bendigo Art Gallery.

The audience will gather at the start of the day to view a number of performances such as poetry, dance and singing, all performed by students. Then there will be stimulating hands-on activities running both inside and outside of the gallery. In the amphitheatre at the front of the gallery, students will build an exciting building in the style of Austrian born architect Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Hundertwasser was renowned for his unconventionally curvaceous and brightly coloured 20th century buildings and designs and students have used his inspiration to decorate many boxes which will be attached like bricks to form the building like structure. Students from Bendigo Senior Secondary College have acknowledged the history of the Fall of the Berlin Wall in their contribution to the wall and will construct 'bricks' that reference the infamous Berlin Wall. The secondary students have been working on designing trails for use inside the gallery and also utilising the architecture of German born William Vahland in View Street and CBD of Bendigo. All primary students will participate in a German Expressionist art activity in the gallery's sculpture court using the same heightened and vivid palette of this important 20th century art movement. The German city of Düsseldorf is famous for its cartwheels and many sculptures and monuments in the city acknowledge this pastime. A Düsseldorfer Cartwheel Competition will be held in Rosalind Park. At lunchtime, students will eat delicious pretzels, provided through kind sponsorship from Audi, Bendigo. Prizes and the German game The "Millionäerskoffer" have been generously provided by the Goethe Institute and AGTV have also provided sponsorship to assist rural schools with the cost of transportation to Bendigo.

Although students will have much fun participating in the various activities they will also improve their German language skills, mix together with students from other schools, and learn about German culture such as art and architecture in the stimulating surrounds of Bendigo Art Gallery and the 19th century architecture of Bendigo.

It is anticipated that this program will grow to become an annual event, with more students finding out about why it is both important – and fun to learn a language.

Program Details:

- 9.30 - 9.50 Students arrive at the art gallery
- 10.00- 10.15
 - Acknowledgment of Country (Marcus, BSSC)
 - Welcome and housekeeping (Helen, Bendigo Art Gallery)
 - Welcoming Speech by (Sarah, BSSC).
- 10.15- 10.40 order of performances
 - BSSC (Dane's song)
 - Crusoe (speech)
 - Spring Gully (Schuplattler dance)
 - BSE (poetry recital)
 - East Loddon (song)
- 10.40- 10.45
 - Description of program and activities (Felicity, SGPS).
 - Students split into 6 groups and move to first activity.
- 10.45- 11.20 – Session 1 (35 mins)
- 11.20-11.30 changeover
- 11.30- 12.05 – Session 2 (35 mins)
- 12.05- 12.45 – Lunch – return to the amphitheatre to collect lunch and pretzels.
- 12.45- 1.20 – Session 3 (35 mins)
- 1.20- 1.30 changeover
- 1.30- 2.05 – Session 4 (35 mins)
- 2.05 – meet back at the amphitheatre to admire the completed installation
- 2.05- 2.15 Prize-giving and farewell.

Further information:

Helen Attrill,

Education Officer

Tel: 5434 6082

E: h.attrill@bendigo.vic.gov.au