

Projects and activities to improve social skills

Frohnleiten, Austria

Mediators

Since 1998/99 students have been educated to be mediators. After a 20-lesson-course they shall be able to bring a conflict situation to a win-win-solution for the conflict partners. Each of them spend one long break every week being on duty. Besides that they have to do their job whenever they are needed.

School parliament

The parliament consists of class representatives and vice representatives of all classes. They come together regularly to bring forward and discuss students' needs and longings. They are supported by a small team of teachers and every now and then (if there is enough money) specialists work with them on moderation methods, rights, duties etc. and so on.

The school students representative is a member of the parliament and is elected by all students.

Social learning lessons

They are done whenever they are necessary.

Get-to-know week or days

They are very popular at the beginning of year one.

Pedagogic adviser

Can be asked to come to school and help with problems. The adviser can work with children independently and individually or work with a group or the whole class to improve the social climate and cooperation.

Activities to increase identification

- school parties (carnival, end of term – organized by the members of the school parliament)
- money collections (Haiti, Thailand, farmers in Brazil, handicapped people
- pointing out outstanding results and extraordinary (social) activities of students
- school newspaper
- creative work and exhibitions at school
- photo competitions
- football matches against other schools
- international football matches with pupils with special needs
- flee-market with and for pupils with special needs
- student library officials
- public performances of the show dance group
- projects (Comenius, student exchange with Hungarian partner school)

Class activities

- library night (Pupils stay overnight listening to stories, reading, telling stories, eat together)
- outdoor activities (week / days)
- excursions and study visits
- school snacks (pupils in year three or four)
- singing Christmas carols in an old people's home in town

Culture

- readings
- going to concerts / theatre / opera / musicals
- slide shows
- theatre workshops

Health

- LEBE (12 minutes reading and 8 minutes moving every day after the 4th lesson)
- Nutrition (projects, information)
- PE lessons with doctor
- Healthy snacks
- “Drink fresh water” action
- Visit to a gynaecologist (girls in year four)

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Velka Bystrice, Czech Republic

Cooperation between the older and the younger students

St. Nicolas day has a long tradition; the oldest children go to the kindergarten as St.Nicolas, the devil and the angel and give self-made presents to the youngest children.

Cooperation during lessons-the older ones write a story, read it to the younger ones, they paint pictures; the oldest pupils also prepare Children's Day for our kindergartens
school dancing club

P-Centre

P-centre helps addicted people, homeless people, people in difficult situations.

They do many actions and programmes for children, focused on main problems of the certain class. We visit this centre every year.After the session they give us a report, the teacher is not present at the session.

Class lessons

Each month each class has a class lesson with its class teacher

- relationships building
- trust building
- problem solving

Cooperation with other schools

Bystřice Project-meeting with schools from other towns called Bystřice
Comenius Project

Sport activities

Culture

We go to concerts

One of the parents regularly has a concert with his band at school

Dancing lessons and lessons of decorum for the oldest ones

Celebrations

We celebrate Easter all together – teachers, pupils, parents, friends

We also celebrate Christmas together

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Landsberg am Lech, Germany

Seminar for class representatives:

Class representatives meet for three days at the beginning of a school year, where they have a seminar about their rights and duties

After that they are able to take responsibility for activities in and outside the school house f.e. organisation of sports events, of parties or collections, or of mutual presents projects.

Students firm:

Here students can buy or borrow school equipment (exercise books, calculators, ruler, rubber, ink, circle, plotting boards). Books are wrapped. T-shirts are printed and activities for Valentine's day are organised

Mediators:

A group of students is instructed to deal with situations of daily struggle between students. They learn how to find solutions for a peaceful cooperation.

Break assistants:

Students try to help to avoid aggressivity during school breaks and arrange for a safe return from school yard to classes.

Tutors:

Older students help the starters to learn the school house, the ways to sports facilities and teachers during the first weeks of every school year. So they feel familiar very soon. They sometimes also help with homeworks and learning problems.

PIT – prevention in team:

Problems in mutual relationships are discussed in cooperation school/ police.

First Aiders:

Every year a group of students is instructed in first aid. They accompany school activities and can help to treat hurts. For all students of form 8 and 9 there is the possibility to attend a first aid course.

Gardening group:

A group of students takes responsibility for plants in and outside the house. They grow herbs for the use in the school kitchen, plant flowers and bushes and take care of the appearance of the school yard. They also refresh an arboretum not far away from school.

Art and creativity:

Walls are painted by students, mosaics are done, big dimensioned paintings are made and shown in public places. During project weeks all kinds of arts can be tried (printing, drawing, working with clay, silk painting, land art)

Benefit activities:

f.e. Collection for Haiti ...

Run for Help: students find sponsors, who are willing to pay for distances, which are reached
Christmas market: the result is given to social purposes.

Culture at school:

Cultural arrangements are brought to school (theatre, readings, dance performances, concerts) or cultural events are visited outside school.

Musical workshop with the Young Americans

Theatre workshop

Practical experience at school:

Benches, pavement, furnitures, curtains, flower pots are made or produced

Classrooms are renovated. During special events some kinds of professional experiences can be made with the help of craftsmen at school.

Fight for good manners:

Working on projects like “GrüBiDa” (The first letters of the German words for “greet-please-thank you”) we make aware the necessity of good manners for a good school climate. We use the help of an special attention to good role models.

Carnival parade/School festivals

Every year we participate in the carnival parade of all schools in Landsberg. Most of the time our school has a topic in common. So we join with a huge group (nearly all our students and teachers).

Participation in image developing projects

To develop self-confidence and responsibility we participate in various competitions, engage in activities appreciated by the public following the motto: Work well and talk about it.

Parents activities

Every two or three month parents prepare and serve a healthy snack during the school break

Catering

Students prepare snacks, drinks and sell them to the others during the breaks. They sometimes are also booked for events out of the school house.

Excursions and study visits

It is very important, that students learn a lot by doing and/or by visiting the places of interest

Teamdays and school camps

Students stay some days and nights together accompanied by their teachers and sometimes with the help of the social worker.

Making of photo stories**Playing with material**

Making of figures out of potter´s clay.

Giacometti figures

You only need pipe cleaners and aluminium foil

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Gioia del Colle, Italy

Projects organized by school...for students:

Get to know days for students: at the beginning of the school year the new students start to know the town, the school and the school mates with the help of sociologists, guided tours and socializing activities

Orientation for future studies at University: students get information on pros and cons of university faculties in the region and in the nation. They get preparation to face the entry tests of some faculties.

Orientation in entrance to promote school: the school presents its programmes, courses through conferences in the schools of the town or the towns where there is not a type of institution like 'Liceo scientifico'

School web site to offer information about lessons, projects, events, programmes, books, meetings.

School web site forum to involve students in discussions about interests, free time, music..

Study visits in Naples, Rome, Florence, Sicily for younger students,

Study visits in Paris, Prague, Berlin for last year students

Mathematical, science, physics, latin national competition

Cultural events: meetings with well known writers, judges, artists

Stage in England for improving the knowledge of English through a course in a college

Projects organized by school... for parents:

Get to know day for parents: at the end of get to know days for students a welcome meeting for the families is organized. During it the headmaster presents the school, the rules and what the school offers. The Mayor of the city welcomes families coming from other nearby towns.

Project "Famiglie accoglienti".Psychologists and sociologists help parents to understand the continuous changes in young generation.

Projects chosen by students...

"Laboratoriando": students learn the exact vocabulary and process of presentation of chemical experiments after they become teachers of younger students

School of Politics: students reflect on the law, the principles of national and international constitutions through the help of experts coming from the local and regional institutions

Theatre in school

Uomo mondo for unity : students prepare a show for collecting money to send to particularly poor countries and eventually they go there for voluntary work.

Health at school : meeting of students with a psychologist at school when they want (once a fortnight)

Health at school:students girls meet doctors and gynaecologists in appropriate centers and surgery to get information on prevention.

PET – First Certificate: exam preparation for getting Cambridge international certifications of English language competences

ECDL : exam preparation for getting certification of IT competences

Biotech: use of technology linked to the knowledge of science, biology.

Students participation in school life

Students' class assembly: every month two hours of lesson are used by students to speak about relationship students-students, students-teachers, class problems, proposals

Students' school assembly: every month one school day is used to speak about social problems, students invite guests , or they watch films, organize sport or art activities

Self organized school time.

Football tournament among students of the school and student of other schools

Collection for population in difficulty (Haiti, Abbruzzo, Third World)

Distance adoption

ConcertsThe Day of Memory to remeber jewish persecution and the meaning of war and violence.

Projects organized by school...for teachers:

Courses for beginners and intermediate users of information technology

Courses for security at school

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Siauliai, Lithuania

Project weeks

These projects are run by teachers. A lot of pupils are involved in it. They have to prepare clothes, art works such as paintings, drawings. Teachers prepare awards for them.

Various competitions, contests

Teachers, students and parents are involved in competitions.

Excursions

Students see places of interest and learn a lot about them.

School camps

Students stay some days and nights together with the help of the social worker and class teacher.

Newspaper

Some students are responsible for it. They have different tasks and do them themselves. Teachers are also involved to help them. Our school's community can buy it.

Cooperation

Cooperation between the older and the younger students.

We invite students from other schools. Students prepare games, songs, various activities and they have an opportunity to communicate to each other.

Conferences

We involve teachers from other schools. They can present their reports and learn something from each other.

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Jastrzebie Zroj, Poland

European Languages Day

We have done the European Languages Day on which we did the quiz concerning the 6 countries participating in the Comenius project. The competition was seen by both students and parents.

Children Rights Day

In November because of the Children's Law we have celebrated the Children Rights Day. Children have read the letters from all over the world, that everyone could hear that children are in danger because their rights are not respected. During the lesson with tutors teachers did with children the topic: What should we do to give children more happiness? The ideas were put down and later on they were introduced by our school theater "Scenka". The play was titled: "The story about the children's rights".

School Council

School Council opened the gallery "The wonderful students". Students are chosen to this group from each class monthly for good behavior or some involving into the part of school life. Tutors are choosing these students.

The Parents School Council

The Parents School Council did the play for students. Students could see the play for Santa Claus Day. They even danced for children with our dance group called "ZEZ".

The school newspaper

The school newspaper "Nasza Buda" and "Małe Wiadomości" also describe the Comenius Steps.

The program: Show your best side"

Pupils can write some nice and friendly sentences about other pupils or teachers just to say that they like someone or greet.

Photo competition:

"My world in my eyes."

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Setubal, Portugal

The School Choir

The choir rehearses once a week at school and gives a few public performances at school, in churches and other schools. The choir is open to teachers, students, parents and other members of the community. Even though there are not students singing in the choir, there are some young adults who were former students. It opens the school to the community, which is positive for the image of the school and the people working and studying there.

English for teachers

An English class for teachers takes place once a week. Classes are open to all teachers, including those who have retired. This is an optional activity and only a few take part on a regular basis. It helps develop a good mood at school.

The English Club

The club is open almost every day and offers a wide range of activities to students – games, exercises, films, remedial work, etc. Some teachers of English run the club. Its main is to help the students overcome their difficulties and increase their confidence as students.

Creative Writing

This project is open to all students. By participating in this project they are encouraged to improve their writing skills in their mother tongue. Students have the opportunity to use their energies in a positive and creative manner. Some very interesting poetic pieces of writing have been produced and made public to the community.

Promoting Health

A project that aims to increase the students' awareness about health issues; some experts have been invited and have lectured students on several topics- nutrition, healthy/unhealthy eating habits, smoking, sex education...

Living Science

Students are invited to participate in science projects that involve doing lab work. The main aim is to provide them the opportunity to experiment new things.

School Sport

Students choose a favourite sport and practice it in the evening once a week; they are part of the school teams and participate in local or national tournaments. Some medals have been won. There are football, handball, volleyball and table-tennis teams.

Library

Several activities are organised to motivate students to use this space. Teachers bring classes to this space often to do research work, to watch videos/films, to visit exhibitions, to participate in quizzes/debates,...

The School Newspaper

The school newspaper (Newspaper Without Name) is published once a month with works (texts /photos/drawings by students and staff). It has a positive image and impact on the whole community.

Project Environment

A important part of this project is the greenhouse. Vegetables are being grown by teams of students and the responsible teachers. The vegetables are then sold to make money to buy seeds and tools. It gives the students who live in a city the opportunity to get in touch with farming methods.

European projects

There are two European projects running that involve different schools from different countries. These projects involve teachers, students and parents and help create a good mood and develop social skills.

Projects are a very important part of school life. By getting involved in projects, students, teachers and other staff, as well as parents, develop a different attitude towards school. It is our belief that projects are essential to create a better mood and to develop social skills. By working in teams with people who share the same interests, the participants realise that school tries to meet their interests and provide them with the opportunity to try different things and develop varied skills. That's probably the most appealing side of school for some. However, as these projects are optional many claim not to have time to join in.