

## Ms Dorothee Albrecht's Visit to Suncity School

6.08.18 – 17.08.18



Ms. Dorothee Albrecht (Teacher of French, English and German as Foreign language at Reiffenstuel Realschule, Traunstein in Germany) visited Suncity School from 6.08.18 till 17.08.18 to understand the Indian educational philosophies and share her experiences and knowledge with the students of Suncity School.

She was given a traditional Indian welcome in the school and attended a special German assembly. She enjoyed the German folk songs which the children had prepared for her and later accompanied the German learners for a Library tour at Max Mueller Bhavan (Cultural center of the German Embassy in New Delhi). She participated with the learners and German teacher in an interactive workshop at the Library and had an opportunity to browse through the diverse collection of German books.

Ms Dorothee attended foreign language, English, History, Art and Music classes. During some of the classes she showed a Power-point presentation about Germany highlighting aspects of culture, tradition and daily life. The presentation was followed by a talk on cultural similarities and differences between Germany and India. The children were allowed to ask her questions at the end of the talk and were later given a worksheet to solve based on the presentation.

In the German classes she demonstrated the art and tradition of wearing a Dirndl (Traditional Bavarian dress). The children learnt how a Dirndl depicts whether a woman is married, single or a widow by the way the apron is tied. The youngest German and French learners of Grade V had a combined activity in which they learnt to sing the popular French rhyme “Frère Jacques” and its German version “Bruder Jakob” and learnt it using a famous European musical technique called Kanon (canon). The children thoroughly enjoyed the story of the French monk (in the song) and the Canon technique of singing.

During the History lessons of Grades IX, in which the discussion about national socialism and the Second World War is a part of the curriculum, Ms Dorothee shared accounts and experiences of her own family and friends during that period. This was an excellent opportunity for the children to understand how the war had impacted the minds and hearts of German people and scarred their lives in several ways even today. Deeper interactions followed and Ms Dorothee also mentioned the subtle relation that exists between nationalism and patriotism.

In the Art lessons Ms Dorothee learnt about traditional Indian art forms and also practiced some Gond and Warli art with the learners of Grades III and IV. As she plays musical instruments herself she especially enjoyed the Indian Music lessons and learnt about Indian musical instruments like Tabla and Sitar.

She even witnessed the Independence Day celebration and Grade VI Parent walk-in and was impressed by the enthusiasm and spirit of the participating children.

She also enjoyed a weekend excursion to the Taj Mahal and a visit to the Kingdom of Dreams where she bought souvenirs and relished the flavours of authentic Indian food.

On the whole it was an enriching experience for our German guest Ms Dorothee Albrecht, the learners and teachers of Suncity School and a cultural exchange experience in its true essence.

## **ACTIVITIES/ EXCURSIONS PHOTOGRAPHS**

### **1. Excursion to Agra**



2. Visit to Max Mueller Bhavan Library and interactive workshop with library staff.



3. Excursion to Kingdom of Dreams



4. Showing Power-point presentation in Grades VIII , VII , V





5. Demonstration of traditional Bavarian dress “Dirndl”

