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Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

Chronology of our school partnership with an Israeli school

Aug. 5, 1992

Initial correspondence from the office of the Standing Conference of State Cultural Ministers in Germany (KMK), Educational Exchange Service (PAD). We learn that the Cultural Ministry of Saxony-Anhalt has informed our school by letter on July 28, 1992 that it has been selected as a German partner school for the "East German – Israeli school partnerships" program.

Sept. 6, 1992

Our answer (questionnaire and application for financial assistance).

Sept. 15, 1992

First information afternoon for interested students.

Sept. 22, 1992

Letter from the KMK. Information that our data had been forwarded to the German Embassy in Tel Aviv and that they would look for an appropriate partner school. When information arrived from Israel, they would forward it to us.

Oct. 1992

Numerous telephone conversations to inquire whether an Israeli partner school had been identified. The answer is unfortunately always negative.

Oct.-Nov. 1992

The teachers responsible for the exchange visit Israel and attempt to find a school through personal contacts. Yad Vashem offers its assistance. Further unsuccessful attempts; then contact with a teacher from a school in Ein Gedi. She is very interested, but her students' parents have substantial reservations about sending their children to one of the new German federal states.

Dec 1, 1992

Conversation with the educational exchange service. Nothing new, since the Israelis still have substantial reservations.

Dec. 27, 1992

Information arrives from Yad Vashem that a student group with their teacher would be visiting one of the old West German states in July, and could stop in Halle for three days en route to Auschwitz.

Jan 1, 1993:

We write to this teacher that we are delighted to have been contacted, and ask her to send information about her school to the secretariat in Bonn in order to apply for funding.

Jan 22, 1993

Letter from the educational exchange service (PAD) in Bonn that the search for suitable exchange schools is to be routed exclusively via Israeli officials and not via the PAD.

Jan 29, 1993

During a special session of the Lower Saxon state legislature, we meet with Mr. Bubis, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. He agrees to support us, but unfortunately he too is unable to help.

Feb. 17, 1993

Conversation with the PAD and information that the exchange cannot be funded for July, since it is not a pedagogical exchange program. The Israelis have not yet been able to arrange a partner school.

March 1, 1993

Letter from the Israeli teacher that her school administration has agreed to an exchange and supports the students' visit to Halle. Suggested schedule: arrival on July 12 or 13, departure on July 16 or 17. The school is located in Ein Gedi Kibbutz on the Dead Sea. The letter stated: "I hope that it will be interesting for your students to meet Israelis from a kibbutz on the Dead Sea. Ein Gedi is a beautiful place and in the future, your students will be welcome there."

March 8-12, 1993

Theme of the school project week: Israel past and present.

March 25, 1993

Meeting at the Halle Jewish community with a guest speaker from Israel, the state assembly president, the school director, and several teachers and students from our school.

May 1993

The teacher from our school responsible for the exchange meets with Israeli teachers at an educational course and discusses the details of the July visit.

June 5, 1993

Telephone conversation with the teacher in Israel. Recent events in Solingen and other towns have caused the parents of her students to refuse to let their children travel to Germany. So the group will not visit Halle. The Israelis are not afraid that our students will be xenophobic, but that something might happen to the group in Germany in general. The teacher regrets the situation, but cannot see any other possible solution. Instead of stopping in Germany, the group will go directly to Poland and from there to Prague. Our students, who had prepared intensively for this meeting, are very disappointed and saddened, although they also understand the decision.

End of 1993

Information from the PAD that a partner school has been found. It is a junior high school in Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv. We begin frequent written and telephone contacts.

March 1994

Meeting of facilitators of the educational exchange service in Erfurt, participated in by both our teacher and the director of the Israeli school. The director then visits Halle and our school. He meets cordially with students, parents, and the faculty.

The actual exchange begins:**April 19-May 2, 1994**

Our first visit in Herzliya, with fifteen students and two teachers.

June 23-July 6, 1994

Exchange visit by the Israelis in Halle.

Sept. 17-Oct.1, 1995

Second visit in Herzliya, with fourteen students and two teachers.

Oct. 11 - 23, 1995

Exchange visit by the Israelis in Halle.

Another, exchange was planned for 1997. Unfortunately it never took place, since there were fewer subsidies and the financial cost to the parents would be too high. Moreover, the parents felt that the current situation in Israel was too dangerous to allow their children to participate in the exchange. In addition, the impending closure of our school did not exactly encourage activities; too many other events had already failed, and we couldn't prevent the school from closing. Thus the exchange tradition came to an end, which we would never have foreseen a year earlier. However, the "Israel" project group goes on. Their work with the exchange and the subject of Israel has made a deep impact on all the students involved. Many of the students subsequently visited Israel on their own, some even for long periods of time, and have continued their contact with our Israeli partners.