

Rundbrief



Fall / Herbst 2014

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Liebe FreundInnen und KollegInnen,

Warm wishes for this fall season. May this academic year bring you continued happiness, a renewed commitment to student learning, and ample opportunities to make your teaching practice even stronger.

Many fantastic events have happened over the last year and there are several more to come in 2015. A few highlights:

- The OATG is now a **recognized member of the Ontario Teachers' Federation Curriculum Forum**. As a member of this initiative, OATG members and German teachers at all levels can be better informed of best practices, evolving pedagogy, and professional learning opportunities. **Further, the OATG can advocate on behalf of German and International Languages teachers at all levels** with this important group. <http://www.otffeo.on.ca/>
- The OATG is **hosting the 2015 Canadian Association of Teachers of German conference** in downtown Toronto in February. All members are welcome to attend and experience outstanding learning opportunities from your peers from across the country.
- The OATG will have an active presence at the 2015 **Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers** (co-hosted by the OMLTA and France's FIPLV) congress in March **in Niagara Falls!** Our annual dinner meeting will be held overlooking the Falls at that conference.

There is much more to report, so enjoy this latest issue of *Rundbrief*. I am so proud to be President of this great association and to work on our collective behalf. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions, comments, or contributions.

Liebe Grüße, Jimmy Steele

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Your membership dues help to sustain the work that the OATG undertakes on behalf of all students and educators of German across Ontario.

Your 2015 membership dues can be submitted by cheque at any time by mail to our treasurer. Don't forget: your dues are tax deductible!

This year's memberships end on December 31, 2014.

See the last page of this *Rundbrief* or our website for a membership form.

OATG Initiatives

Comicwettbewerb

We have the results of the 2014 OATG Comic Contest!

We had a very wide range of entries for this contest - some were done on the computer, and some were beautifully drawn by hand. Some were submitted by elementary school students as young as five, and some by students in grade 12. Our shortlisted artists are reflective of this great diversity of submissions, and we would like to congratulate everyone for their creativity and effort.

The following students received cash prizes and a selection of German-related goodies:

First Place: Dominique Miller from Appleby College in Oakville for “Reise nach Deutschland”. Dominique received the top prize of \$100.

Second Place: Gabriel Sharma from Bowmanville High School in Bowmanville for “Willkommen in Kanada!”. Gabriel received \$50 in prize money.

Third Place: Jane Du from the Woodlands School in Mississauga for her untitled comic. Jane received \$20 in prize money.

Runner-up goodie bags were sent to the following students/classes, in no particular order:

- The students of Diefenbaker Public School for their series of Comics on “Obst und Gemüse”
- Max Schramp and Stephanie Kleinschmidt from Westmount Secondary School in Hamilton
- Jane Cao and Soojie Hong at the Woodlands School in Mississauga
- The grade 7 class at DSS Richmond Hill
- DSS Etobicoke for their series of Comics entitled "Bauen und Wohnen"
- The Unterstufe B at the Friedrich-Schiller-Schule
- Zoe and Ariana at Keele Street Public School
- Marija at Keele Street Public School
- Cara Baum at the Woodlands School in Mississauga



Gabriel Sharma, 2nd place recipient.

Many, many thanks to all of you for your participation!

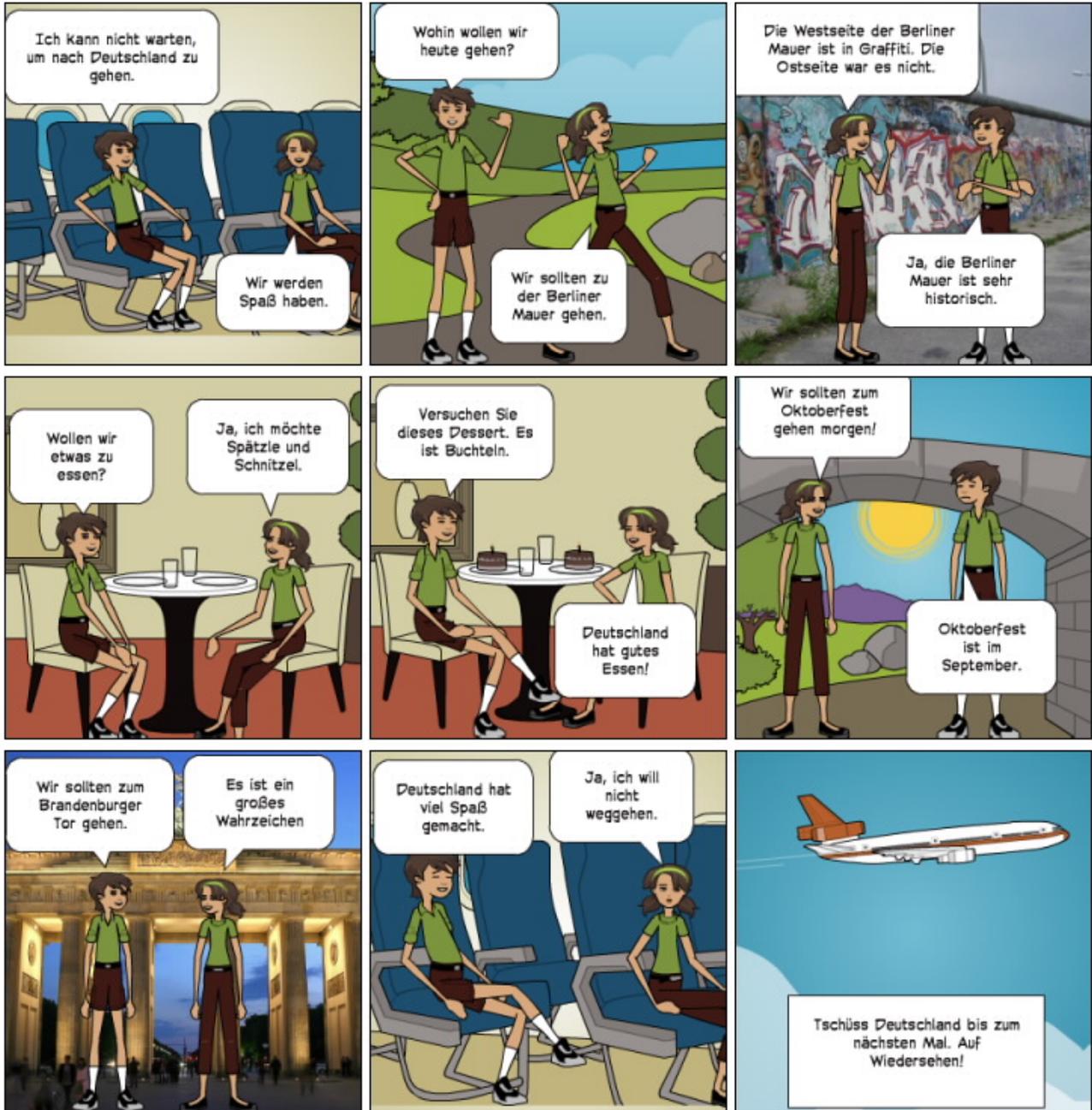
-Nicola Townend, OATG Past President

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German Comic for OATG Contest: Reise nach Deutschland

von dominique_98



BILDQUELLE(N):
3: GERMANY.jpg
7: GERMANY.jpg

Fortbildungswochenende 2014

The OATG is grateful for the support of the KVDS (Kanadischer Verband Deutscher Sprachschulen), whose kind leadership allowed us to hold our annual Professional Development Weekend together. Isolde Winter, Ilse Spangenberg, Ursula Kessler, and their team coordinated a sensational series of events from Friday, October 24 to Sunday, October 26 at the German International School Toronto. The weekend began with a sumptuous reception at the Goethe-Institut Toronto, whom we thank for their hospitality! Many thanks to the Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany, who provided wine for the reception. Teachers from across Ontario, Québec, and Atlantic Canada attended several outstanding workshops over the weekend from Friedrich Broeckelmann (ZfA), Helma Kroeh-Sommer, Martina Kumanatasan (University of Toronto), Ruth Koeller (Goethe Books), Nicole Knapp and Marje Zschiesche-Stock from the Goethe-Institut, and the KVDS Executive. In addition, the over 70 attendees shared best practices in large and small groups, as well as engaged in dialogue to support best

practices in German as a first, second, and International Language programs. It was an excellent weekend for the OATG and KVDS members who took part.



Ontario High School German Contest

The 2014 Ontario High School German Contest was held on Saturday, April 12 at Harbord Collegiate Institute. Dozens of students from eight schools in four school boards across Ontario took part in this year's amazing event. **We were proud to welcome schools from North Bay, Hamilton, Toronto, and Halton Region to this year's event!** The OATG is proud to support this initiative.

The top finisher in the senior (Gruppe B) category won an all-expenses paid trip to Germany and enrolment in a four-week “PAD” language and culture course this past summer, all of which was provided by the Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany (Toronto). Gifts and donations from the Ontario Modern Language Teachers’ Association, Munich Reinsurance Canada, the Goethe-Institut Toronto, Mercedes-Benz Canada and many other kind organizations helped bring the total of gifts and prizes awarded this year to nearly \$5,000, including over \$2,500 in cash. The committee extends its thanks to all of its wonderful supporters!

It was an honour to welcome the Deputy Consul General for the Federal Republic of Germany, Aljona Schnitzer, to the event. Other special guests included the President of the Ontario Modern Language Teachers’ Association, Jayne Evans.

Herzlichen Glückwunsch to the winners:

BEGINNER

1. Stephen Chankov – University of Toronto Schools
2. Hamza Ibad – The Woodlands School (Peel DSB)
3. Keeana Mihalín – Harbord CI (Toronto DSB)
4. Elizabeth Shaw – University of Toronto Schools
5. Jens van den Berg – Waterdown District HS (Hamilton-Wentworth DSB)
6. Adam Lam – University of Toronto Schools
7. Marie Kowdrysh – The Woodlands School (Peel DSB)
8. Gavan Beggan – Harbord CI (Toronto DSB)

SENIOR

1. Hanning Cai – The Woodlands School (Peel DSB)
2. Soojie Hong – The Woodlands School (Peel DSB)
3. Jonathan Bernick – University of Toronto Schools
4. Catherine Vlasov – University of Toronto Schools
5. Felix Frontini – Harbord CI (Toronto DSB)
6. Jane Du – The Woodlands School (Peel DSB)
7. Dana Barton – Waterdown District HS (Hamilton-Wentworth DSB)
8. Iloe Ariss – Harbord CI (Toronto DSB)
9. (tie) Emily Long – Waterdown District HS (Hamilton-Wentworth DSB)
(tie) Max Schram – Westmount SS (Hamilton-Wentworth DSB)
(tie) Zoë Parshuram – University of Toronto Schools

Students participate in listening, reading, writing and grammar components, in addition to an oral interview. The contest is geared towards students in their third year of study, but many students have been successful – and even won! – the contest after just two years of instruction.

Beginner students again competed this year, and the future of German in Ontario is indeed bright!

Warm thanks to the OATG members and friends who gave their time to volunteer for Contest Day: Maria-Luise Sebald, Marika Speck, Joan Jay, Bettina Brown, Hannelore Brandner, Terry Maiden, Richard Mehringer, Carol Jackson, Sigi Schranz, and others.

Your contest committee is Lesley Chisholm, Andrea Pils, Anne Popovich, Gabriela Szolnoki-Bourgeois, Nicola Townend, and Chair Jimmy Steele.

The committee looks forward to the 44th edition of the Ontario High School German Contest, **to be held in April 2015 in Toronto!** Do not hesitate to take part next year: e-mail the Committee at james.steele@tdsb.on.ca with any questions and check out the Ontario Association of Teachers of German Web site at <http://www.oatg.org> for full details. **Macht mit!**





ALLES GUTE, JEREMY!

Congratulations to our Membership Secretary, Jeremy Forward, who retired from education at the end of this past school year. Jeremy taught French and German for many years, and most recently has been a vice principal with the Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB.

A long-time Executive member of the OATG, Jeremy has held many roles in the association, including Vice President, during several years of participation and collaboration.

We wish him continued good cheer as he enjoys his retirement!

HERZLICHEN DANK, RON!

Warm thanks to Ron Rhodes, retired from the Waterloo Region DSB, for all of his work as Newsletter Editor. He is stepping away from this role after many years at the helm. His efforts over the last several years have been greatly appreciated!

News from the Goethe-Institut

Informationen aus dem Goethe-Institut Toronto

1. Unterrichtsideen – deutsche Geschichte

Interessante Ideen für den Unterricht sind diesen Herbst zum Beispiel wieder auf der Webseite von PASCH zu finden. Die Homepage bietet Informationen und Anregungen zu unterschiedlichsten Bereichen und für verschiedene Deutsch-Niveaus.

Spannend ist insbesondere eine geschichtliche Unterrichtseinheit: In Erinnerung an den Ausbruch des Ersten Weltkriegs bietet der 100. Jahrestag Anlass zum Austausch darüber. Was wissen jüngere Generationen heute noch aus den Jahren 1914 – 1918? Informieren Sie Ihre Schüler und gestalten Sie interessante und nachhaltige Unterrichtseinheiten zu diesem Thema.

Link für Unterrichtseinheit zur deutschen Geschichte:

<http://www.pasch-net.de/pas/cls/leh/unt/pog/de3363047.htm>

Link für weitere Unterrichtsvorschläge:

<http://www.pasch-net.de/pas/cls/leh/unt/deindex.htm>

2. „Just Add German“ und „Why learn German?“ – gute Gründe für Deutsch

Was ist eigentlich interessant an der deutschen Sprache und Kultur und warum kann es für Ihre Schüler relevant sein, Deutsch zu lernen? Diverse Aspekte und gute Gründe für Deutsch bietet die neue Webseite <http://www.justaddgerman.org/>.

Außerdem möchten wir Sie auf die Aktualisierung unserer beliebten Seite www.goethe.de/whylearngerman hinweisen. Hier finden Sie ebenfalls brandaktuelle Informationen und Ideen, wie Sie Ihre Schüler zum Deutschlernen motivieren können, oder Ihre/n Schulleiter/in von der Relevanz von Deutschkursen überzeugen können.

[Goethe.de/Kanada](http://www.goethe.de/Kanada)

3. Wanderausstellung „Deutschland im Koffer“ tourt durch Kanada

Zugang zur deutschen Sprache einmal anders: Mit der Wanderausstellung „Deutschland im Koffer“, denn sie kommt nach Kanada! Vom 4.11. bis zum 13.11.2014 macht sie halt im Großraum Toronto, am Appleby College in Oakville. Anschließend tourt sie weiter nach Winnipeg, Edmonton und Vancouver.

Mit der Ausstellung haben Schüler/innen die Gelegenheit, auf spielerische Art und Weise sowie mit einer Prise Humor einen ersten Einblick in die deutsche Sprache und Kultur zu erhalten.

Gleichzeitig sollen Sie „Lust auf mehr“ bekommen. Auch für Besucher ohne Deutschkenntnisse ist die Ausstellung durch bildhafte Illustrationen verständlich gestaltet.

Der erste Inhalt informiert über Deutsche und Deutschland. Auf lustige Art und Weise werden deutsche Klischees (eine Gartenzwergeparade) und die Wirklichkeit (beispielsweise durch Fakten oder Ratespiele) dargestellt.

Sowohl über die Eigenarten als auch über den Charme der deutschen Sprache informiert der zweite Koffer. Die Besucher lernen durch Filme, Lieder oder Gedichte, wie man auf Deutsch positive Emotionen ausdrückt. Auf einen Fußabtreter gedruckt, finden sich im Gegensatz dazu deutsche Schimpfwörter. Am Ende weisen ein Buch und ein Film auf die Vorteile des Erlernens der deutschen Sprache hin.



Falls Sie Interesse haben, mit Ihrer Klasse diese Ausstellung zu besuchen, schreiben Sie mir bitte eine E-Mail: ulrike.kugler@toronto.goethe.org

Viel Spaß mit allen Materialien und bei unseren Veranstaltungen!
-Ulrike Kugler, Leiterin der Spracharbeit, Goethe-Institut Toronto

News from the ZfA (Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen)

Liebe Lehrkräfte,

woran erinnert euch unsere DaF-Arbeit hier in Kanada:

Radfahren im Gebirge - immer mühsam bergauf?

Oder an einen Reise auf der „German Autobahn“ - Ungebremst neuen Zielen entgegen?

Das zweite Bild ist sicher zu optimistisch, das erste zu pessimistisch!

Ich denke eher an eine genussvolle Fahrt mit der Achterbahn: Zwar geht es immer wieder langsam steil bergauf, manchmal bleiben wir fast stehen, dann kommen aber die kribbeligen Momente toller Abfahrten!

Wir erleben immer wieder - und vermehrt! - tolle Lernleistungen von Schülern, die Deutsch als völlig neue Sprache erlernen und die sich auf das Abenteuer eines deutschsprachigen Wettbewerbsbeitrags einlassen. Und es ist nicht nur der „Spaßfaktor“: Die Zahlen der Deutschlerner an Schulen und Universitäten entwickeln sich auch - ungleichmäßig - nach oben.

Insgesamt eine schöne Entwicklung, die wir eurer Ausdauer und phantasievollen Arbeit verdanken, aber auch der steigenden Aufmerksamkeit für Deutsch(land) in der Weltpolitik und der weltoffenen Einstellung von immer mehr jungen Lernern.

Auch in diesem Schuljahr wollen wir zu einem anspruchsvollen und motivierenden Deutschprogramm beitragen.

Für Schüler aller Lernstufen gibt es, nun bereits im fünften Jahr, im November den Podcastingwettbewerb der Fachberater. Die Schüler/innen können bis Mitte Februar dreiminütige Videos produzieren und auf der Wettbewerbsseite von Pasch-Net hochladen. Die Ausschreibung mit dem Thema kommt im November. Teilnahme lohnt sich auf jeden Fall:

Jede/r gewinnt und der oder die beste

Teilnehmer/in kann mit dem PAD im Sommer 2015 vier Wochen nach Deutschland reisen. 2014 hat eine Schülerin der UTS diesen Hauptpreis gewonnen!



Für Deutschlerner ab der Niveausstufe A2 führen wir in diesem Jahr wieder - in der dritten Runde - einen Debattenwettbewerb durch. Auch hier gibt es viel zu gewinnen: Deutschkenntnisse und tolle Preise. Der Wettbewerb beginnt Ende Oktober mit zwei Onlinephasen, in denen die Schüler über ein Thema ihrer Wahl diskutieren. Die besten fünf werden dann 2015 zu einer Abschlussdiskussion eingeladen, in der sie nach den Regeln von „Jugend debattiert“ ihre Meinungen austauschen.

Unsere Schüler sind nicht nur bei den Wettbewerben aktiv und kreativ, sondern schaffen auch bemerkenswerte schulische Leistungen: Das Deutsche Sprachdiplom 2 können Schüler an allen registrierten Sprachschulen („Samstagsschulen“) und an der UTS erwerben. Damit erhalten High School - Absolventen den direkten Zutritt zu allen deutschen Universitäten, können also ein beliebiges Fach auf Deutsch studieren. Dies setzt natürlich einige Jahre konsequentes Lernen voraus. Viele Schüler bleiben daher während ihrer ganzen Schulzeit zusätzlich samstags am Ball und lernen Deutsch. Und an der High School erleben wir immer wieder die besonderen Leistungen von Schülern, die bereits nach wenigen Jahren so gut Deutsch gelernt haben, dass sie das DSD 2 bestehen. Nichts ist unmöglich!

Viele weitere Schüler an den DSD-Schulen können am Ende des Jahres ein A2 - oder DSD 1 - Diplom hochhalten und haben damit als Jugendliche bereits einen offiziellen ausländischen Abschluss erworben.

Ein herzlicher Dank an alle Lehrerinnen und Lehrer, die sich mit den Schülern auf die spannende Entdeckungsreise zur deutschen Sprache begeben!

-Friedrich Broeckelmann, Fachberater (ZfA) Toronto

Im Klassenzimmer

Jugendtheater in DaF-Klassen: Toronto DSB Elementary Language Programs

During the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 school years all students in my two JK to Grade 8 classes at Diefenbaker PS and Keele St. PS (Toronto DSB) performed in “Schneewittchen” and “Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten”. The performances were recorded, edited and burned on DVDs by a first year university student studying film at Concordia University in Montreal and a high school student in her final year also specializing in film at the Etobicoke School for the Arts. All students received copies of their performances. Parents provided their written permission to publish video clips on the TDSB web site and www.pasch-net.de.

The idea of having the primary school students perform in a play originated with Carolin Lindner, a Children's Theatre Director with the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad. After the students in both classes selected “Schneewittchen”, Carolin provided the classes with the German dialogue, detailed written directions and wonderful musical scores. Carolin gave both classes valuable advice on staging, student participation, movement, costumes, staying focused and having a good time.



The students enjoyed producing “Schneewittchen” and seeing themselves in the DVD so much that they wanted to repeat the experience again in 2013/2014. This time we produced “Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten”. With the previous year's training from Carolin and gained experience, the students wrote the text, developed the play's directions, and brought costumes and

musical instruments from home.

Performing the two plays was not just fun but also **provided** valuable learning experiences for the students. The following are a number of positive outcomes:

- Participation - every student played a part, all worked towards a common goal;
- Verbal experience - students learned to pronounce German words correctly and produce their designated dialogues;
- Expanded vocabulary - students learned new vocabulary related to the themes, actions and directions associated with the plays;
- Grammar - students discussed what works and why while drafting the dialogue and directions for the second play;

- Focus - students learned to pay attention to the activities of the other students to fit in and play their parts at the correct time;
- Enthusiasm - students and their parents enjoyed seeing and hearing themselves/their children on the DVDs.

Will we perform another play in 2014/2015? Of course – I've already received a number of suggestions for this school year's production. Also Carolin is back from Germany and might give us further directions to make this year's play even better than the previous two plays.

-Maria-Luise Sebald, International Languages Teacher – German, Toronto DSB



SAVE THE DATE! NICHT ZU VERPASSEN!

Canadian Association of Teachers of German (CATG)

National Conference

Friday, February 20-Sunday, February 22, 2015

University of Toronto Schools, Toronto

Meet your colleagues from coast to coast!

Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT)/

Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association (OMLTA)

Spring Conference

Thursday, March 26-Saturday, March 28, 2015

Sheraton on the Falls, Niagara Falls, ON

Two full days - 16 different workshops! - are planned for German teachers!

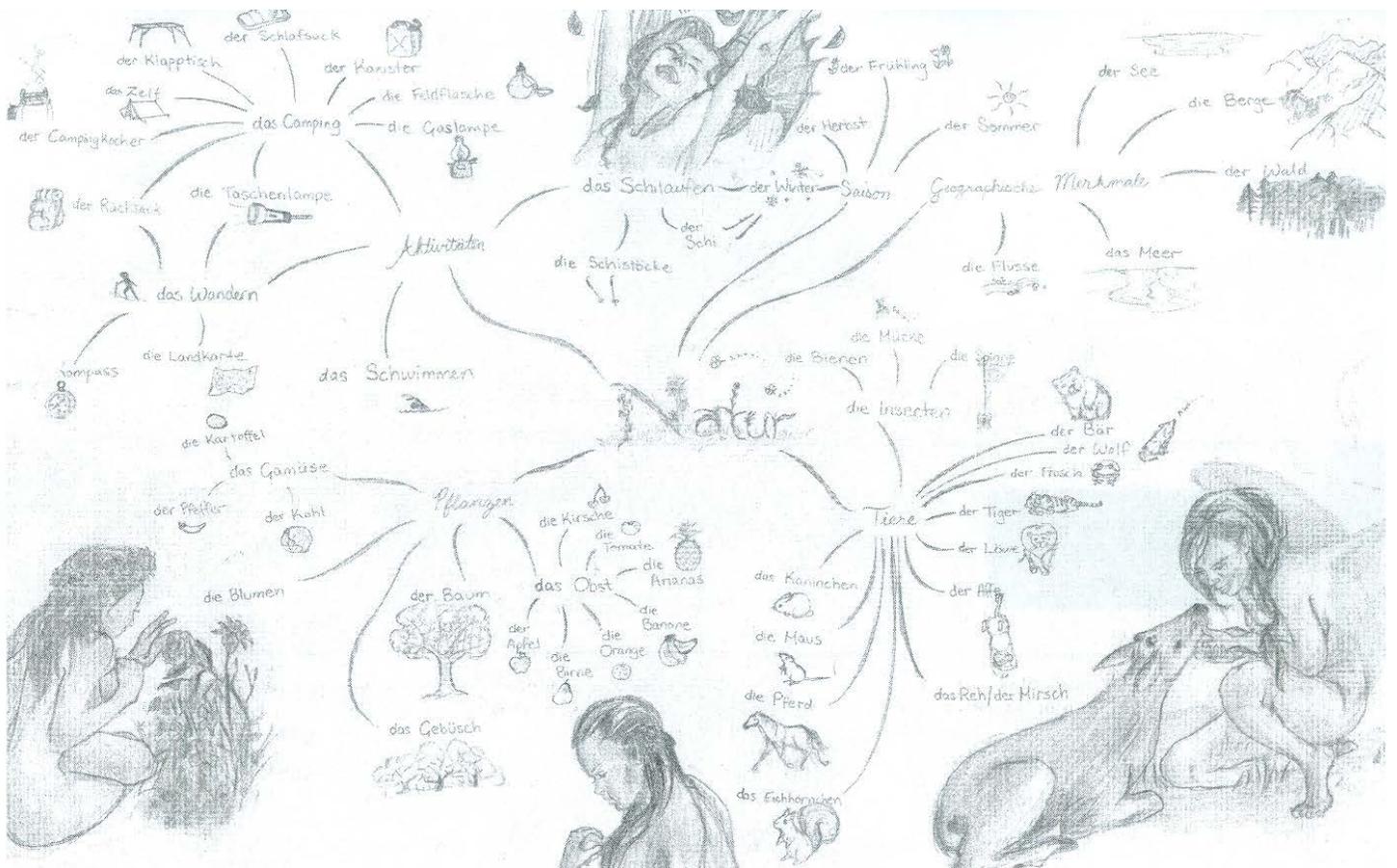
Mind Mapping for Learning Vocabulary

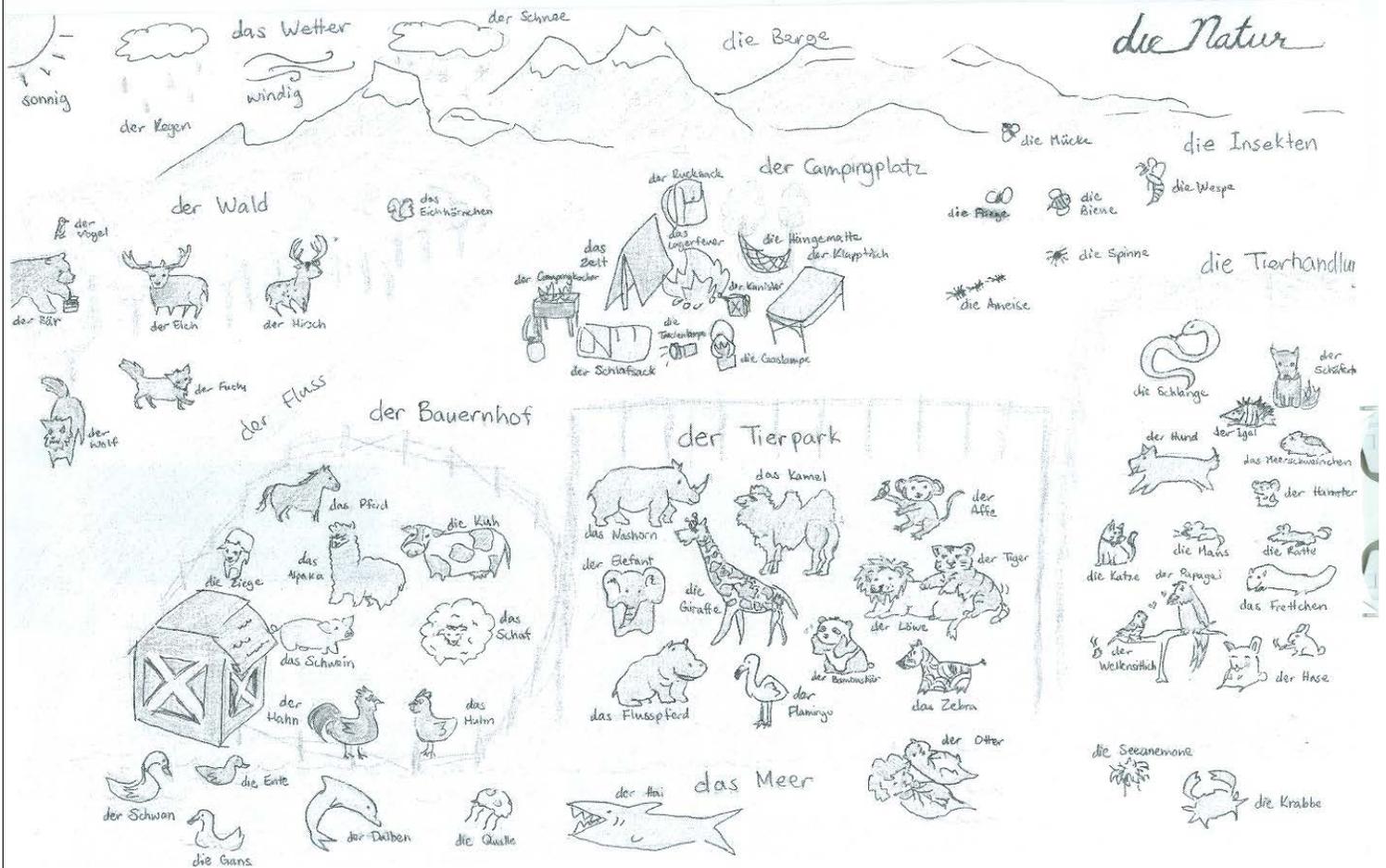
Most of us will remember from our own school days that memorizing vocabulary was always a somewhat tedious and dreary task. During a unit, we would note new words in list format. In the column on the left we wrote the word in the foreign language and the translation would go into the column on the right. Some teachers asked for a third column for pronunciation. However, our brains are not very well-suited to the task of memorizing lists and even the most enthusiastic rote learner who loves to recite what he or she has memorized may encounter difficulty in accessing this random list of words when trying to talk or write about a given topic.

Mind maps is one tool that you can use to provide students with an alternate way to learn vocabulary. It is a **graphic technique** that allows for the new words to be grouped in meaningful categories, together with **mental triggers**, such as colours, pictures and connections. The brain should then be able to store words pertaining to one topic in one location and retrieve the information more readily. It also gives the visual and kinesthetic learners a way to process the new words and for all students it has the advantage of activating **higher-level and critical thinking skills** because they have to go through the process of creating categories, organizing and sorting information as well as making connections between ideas. Besides, it also has the advantage that students can continue to add words that go with the same topic.

Most importantly, have fun trying it out!

-Andrea Pils, Peel DSB





INTERESTED IN JOINING THE O.A.T.G. EXECUTIVE?

The OATG welcomes applications for the following two renewable positions:

✓ Vice President (2014-16)

The Vice President assists the Executive with planning and follow-up for major events (in particular, the Fortbildungswochenende), as well as attending and representing the organization at various events and workshops. Interested candidates should possess strong leadership skills and experience with/knowledge of multiple levels of German language education. Time commitment: approximately 5 hours per month; some additional hours in March, September, and October.

✓ Newsletter Editor (2014-16)

The Newsletter Editor should possess an excellent level of written German, strong Microsoft Office skills, initiative, and collaboration. Time commitment: approximately 6-8 hours in each of September and October.

Executive Members also need to be available to attend our Annual General Meeting, held in Toronto. Contact james.steele@tdsb.on.ca for more details or to apply.

Schon gewusst?

DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service in Canada

The DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service is Germany's national agency charged with fostering international academic exchange. To achieve this end, the DAAD offers a suite of scholarship and grant programs to students and faculty from Canadian universities to facilitate study and research opportunities in Germany. In Canada, the DAAD is represented by an Information Centre in Toronto which promotes the DAAD's support programs and advises Canadians interested in pursuing degree studies at German universities. This office is staffed by its Director, Dr. Alexandra Gerstner, a DAAD Visiting Professor in German Studies and History, and an Information Officer, Mr. John Paul Kleiner.

In addition to its work promoting study and research in Germany, the DAAD has a mandate to promote the study of the German language and culture abroad. It does this primarily through its work supporting the German language and German studies programs at Canadian universities. One key way it accomplishes this is by providing DAAD Visiting Professors to German Studies programs at a number of Canadian partner universities and through a German Studies Research Grant program that facilitates graduate students in their research activities in Germany.

Naturally the DAAD is most interested in seeing German language instruction remain vital in Canadian high schools, particularly since students entering university with some German experience are a natural fit for many of our support programs. If you are interested in learning more about the DAAD, receiving materials for distribution to your students or posters for your classroom, the DAAD Information Centre Toronto would be happy to hear from you.

DAAD Information Centre Toronto

c/o Munk School of Global Affairs

1 Devonshire Place, 207N

www.canada.org/canada

daadca@daad.org

-John Paul Kleiner, DAAD

The logo for DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst) consists of the letters 'DAAD' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

**Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service**

„Frankfurt-Wettbewerb“ 2014: Die Gewinnerin erzählt uns über ihre Reise!

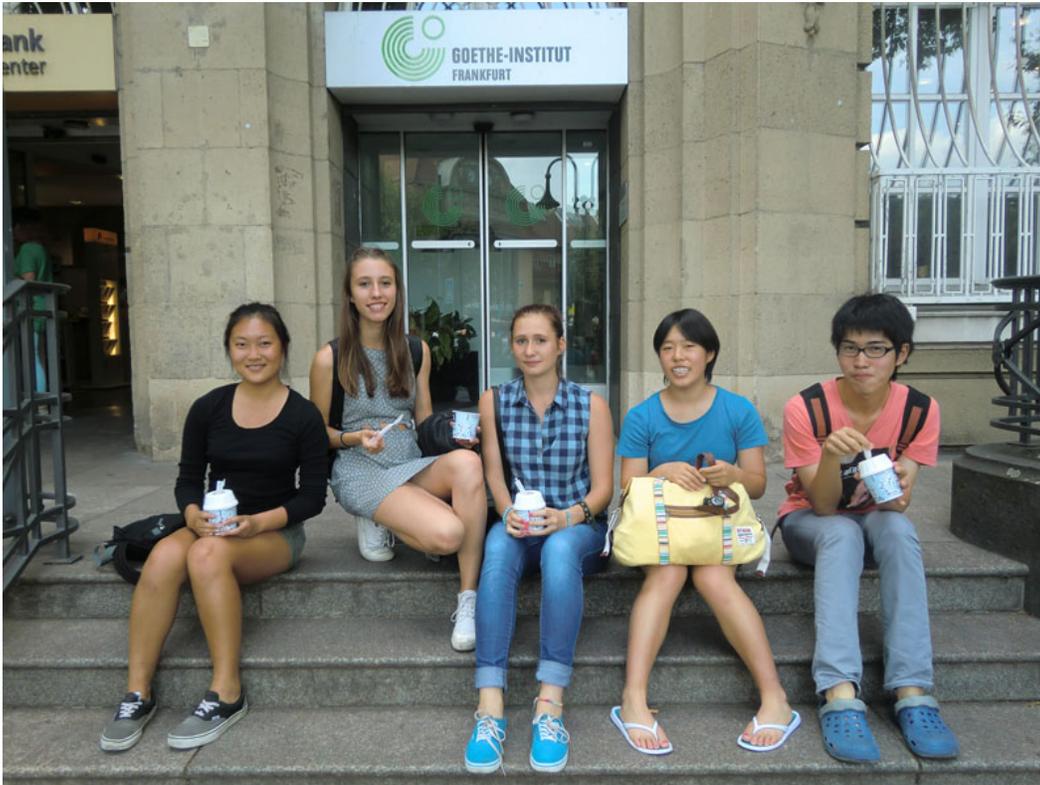
Chihiro Tow from Harbord C.I. in Toronto was chosen by the Goethe-Institut Toronto as the winner of their 2014 „Frankfurt-Wettbewerb“, an essay contest launched in April designed to celebrate Germany’s capital of finance. Her prize: an all-expenses paid trip to Frankfurt and a three-week language course this past summer. Chihiro tells us about her time in Deutschland:

Dieses Jahr habe ich einen deutschen Wettbewerb gewonnen. Ich habe eine Reise nach Frankfurt gewonnen und da habe ich einen Deutschkurs beim Goethe Institut gemacht. Viele Mädchen und Jungen aus vielen anderen Ländern wie Dubai, Nicaragua, und Frankreich waren auch dabei. Der Kurs hat drei Wochen gedauert. Trotzdem habe ich viele Freunde gemacht. Jeden Morgen von 9 bis 12 hatten wir Deutschunterricht beim Goethe Institut. Dann haben wir in einem Restaurant in der Nähe vom Goethe Institut, das „Depot“ hieß, Mittagessen gegessen. Das Essen war immer sehr lecker. Nachmittags haben wir andere Tätigkeiten in der Stadt oder anderswo gemacht, zum Beispiel an den Museen, oder am Fußballstadion! Es hat mir so viel Spaß gemacht. Samstags waren wir frei und ich hatte Freizeit mit meiner Gastfamilie. Ich hatte drei Gastgeschwister: der älteste war Emil, dann Lotte, und die jüngste Lisbeth. Wir hatten so viel Spaß zusammen. Lotte und Lisbeth backen gern und wir backten viel zusammen. Alle waren so freundlich. Es war wie zu Hause. Ich glaube es gibt nicht so viele Haselnusschokoladesorten in Toronto, als es in Frankfurt gibt. Ich habe noch nie so viel Brot und Backwaren in meinem ganzen Leben gegessen. Ich denke, dass jetzt mein Deutsch besser ist und hoffentlich verliere ich es nicht! Ich habe so viele neue Freunde und Erinnerungen gemacht. Es war das beste Erlebnis meines ganzen Lebens.

-Chihiro Tow, Harbord CI

Sincerest thanks to the Goethe-Institut Toronto for providing this opportunity to Ontario students of German.





WEB-TIPPS!

 Like the **American Association of Teachers of German on Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/AATGHQ>) for fantastic teaching tips and articles of interest, especially relating to career benefits with German.

 Also follow your OATG President on **Twitter** ([@broadwayprofe](http://www.twitter.com/broadwayprofe)) for great tweets and articles related to second language learning: <http://www.twitter.com/broadwayprofe>

German Exchange with the Goethe-Schule in Karlsruhe

In 2013-14, twelve students from Waterdown District High School in the Hamilton-Wentworth DSB participated in a school-to-school exchange in Karlsruhe. Here's what one participant had to say:

“This year I was fortunate enough to be able to participate in my school’s German Exchange and I loved every moment. I was able to directly experience a new culture and learn about life in another part of the world. I loved that I could take everything I had been learning in the classroom and use those skills in the real world. I know that my understanding of the German language has greatly improved as has my confidence in using the language. Being able to see new parts of the world and meeting new people was the greatest gift the exchange gave me. Discovering what my partner's life is like was so interesting and I learned a lot about my own life while my partner was staying with me. I realized that there are so many things in my life that I take for granted that are new and interesting to someone else. I would recommend for anyone who really wants to learn a language to completely immerse himself or herself in it and being part of an exchange is a perfect way to do just that.”

-Emily Long, Waterdown District HS

Updates

Canadian Association of Teachers of German (CATG) Conference 2014

DaF-Lehrer aus ganz Kanada finden sich in Montréal zusammen!

This year’s Canadian Association of Teachers of German (CATG) Conference took place in Montréal over the Family Day weekend. The Goethe-Institut Montréal hosted us in their new location, and some of the workshops and presentations took place at the Université de Québec à Montréal. The conference was attended by over 40 delegates representing each of the provincial German associations as well as the Canadian Association of University Teachers of German and the KVDS (Kanadischer Verband Deutscher Sprachschulen). Our theme was “Deutsch verbindet: Interdisziplinarität im DaF-Unterricht”.

The Conference opened with an excellent keynote address from Stephan Jaeger of the University of Manitoba, who discussed how historical topics can be addressed under the broad umbrella of “Landeskunde” in the German classroom. Saturday morning got underway with an excellent workshop by Florian Gassner of UBC, who spoke about his project to empower his students to research and prepare the current affairs topics they would discuss each week in their conversation class. Eva Ledwig of the Goethe-Institut Montréal then introduced us to a group of pre-service German teachers, who were taking part in a G-I sponsored project to help

develop and support the next generation of German teachers. Wieland Petermann and Ulla in der Stroth, from the ZfA in Edmonton and Winnipeg respectively, then presented a number of activities to connect German language learning with general knowledge garnered in other subject areas.

After lunch, Ryan Waldner from the Baker Hutterite Community School in Manitoba opened our eyes to some key features of life and German instruction in a Hutterite colony. After a delicious banquet at a nearby Chinese restaurant, delegates were treated to “Räuber in the Box” a delightful puppet theatre performance, which was sponsored by the Goethe-Institut. Ulrike Kugler and Eva Ledwig of the Goethe-Institut introduced us to one of their excellent DVD resources in their Sunday morning workshop, using selected cartoons from “Kurz und Gut macht Schule”, which is available for purchase through the Goethe-Institut. Many thanks to the organizers for their hard work.



The Annual General Meeting presented reports from all member organizations, an update from the President, **and the election of OATG Past President Nicola Townend as your CATG President for the next two-year term**, and of Meaghan Hepburn from the University of New Brunswick as Vice President. The CATG executive and members thanked outgoing President Barbara Schmenk (University of Waterloo) for her invaluable contributions to the organization.

The 2015 CATG conference will be held this coming February 20th to 22nd in Toronto. A call for papers has been issued, and can be found posted on the OATG and CATG websites. Interested delegates should contact Jimmy Steele at james.steele@tdsb.on.ca for further details. *Seid dabei!*



On September 26, 2014, German President Joachim Gauck (first row, center) visited Toronto as part of a three city-trip to Canada. Fêted in the city, he was greeted by many members of the German-language education community, including OATG Past President, Nicola Townend (first row, far left), and previous OATG President Ruth Renters (second row, far right).

2013 OATG Annual Report

Changes to the OATG Executive

Our fearless leader, Nicola Townend, announced at the 2013 Jahreshauptversammlung that she would not be seeking re-election for her role as President of the OATG. Nicola has served tirelessly as an outstanding President since 2007. Her contributions to countless initiatives are appreciated by all across the province and the country with whom she has worked. The OATG thanks her for all of her time and effort over the years. Jimmy Steele, previously Vice President, was voted as President for the next two years and looks forward to continuing his work with the Executive.

Anne Popovich, an engaged and dedicated Executive member for over ten years, has ended her term as Past President. We are grateful to Anne for her commitment and exceptional good work. She has stepped down also as High School Liaison, and Sigfried Schranz was voted in as the new High School Liaison.

Our Webmaster position, vacant for approximately ten months, is now filled by Stefana Gargova, a PhD student at the University of Toronto. We look forward to working with her.

Fortbildungstag 2013

Approximately twenty educators attended our annual Fortbildungstag on Friday, December 13 at the University of Toronto Schools. We offered coffee and snacks on arrival, and sandwiches and salad for dinner. Goethe-Books was there with a small book sale and was able to provide samples of resources from various publishing houses to those in attendance. We charged attendees \$40 but were able to reimburse parking costs and also travel expenses for those attendees who had travelled more than 70km to attend. Membership dues were collected by those present for the first time in recent years.

We are very grateful to our two presenters: Ulrike Kugler from the Goethe-Institut Toronto, whose presentation **„Wie steht es um Authentizität in neueren DaF-Lehrwerken? Eine Reflexion über Authentizität im Fremdsprachenunterricht“** was outstanding, and Christopher Eckart from Westmount SS, who presented a dynamic piece on **„Motivierung in der DaF-Klasse“**, with support from one of his students.

Jahreshauptversammlung 2013

Our Jahreshauptversammlung was held following the Fortbildungstag with eleven members present. In addition to the changes in the executive already mentioned, the following was discussed:

- Treasurer's Report and Netzwerk Deutsch funding request (2013 and 2014)
- Potential collaboration between OATG and CASLT in order to explore partnering with the latter's national conference in Niagara Falls in March 2015

- Attending OMLTA 2014 Spring Conference
- A celebration and appreciation of Ruth Renters' outstanding work in the last ten years at the Goethe-Institut and an official welcome to Ulrike Kugler in her new role.

Contests 2013-14

Following the success of our 2012-13 poster contest, a Comicwettbewerb was launched in October 2013, which would be open to all high school German students. Entrants were asked to design a comic in German on any topic or theme. Entries close in March. The top prize winner will receive \$100 and will also see their comic shared electronically and possibly on paper to be distributed to German teachers at a later date. Prizes for runners-up will also be given.

As the Ontario High School German Contest was suspended due to the labour action of the public secondary school teaching staff, the German Consulate in Toronto kindly arranged an essay contest for students of German as a second language. The theme was „Meine Welt im Jahre 2030“, and the winning essay, from Brianna Pillsworth at Bluevale CI in Kitchener-Waterloo, was shared by the OATG and on the Consulate website. Brianna won a PAD-Reise to Germany for her efforts.

The Ontario High School German Contest will be held again in April 2014 at a high school in Toronto and the PAD-Reise for the winner of „Gruppe B“ category is confirmed, thanks to the generous support of the Consulate in Toronto. A Beginner category will again be held in order to celebrate the successes and interest of our first-year German students.

Outreach and Professional Development

Jimmy Steele attended the CASLT Languages Without Borders conference in Winnipeg in April as a representative of the OATG. All German language workshops were attended. A report on these workshops was presented in our newsletter, *Rundbrief*. Funding for his participation was largely thanks to a bursary from the ZfA, and the OATG thanks Wieland Petermann and his team for their support. Additional support was provided from the Goethe-Institut Toronto and the Netzwerk Deutsch funding. It was chosen to send a representative to Languages Without Borders, as many educators had received mixed messages about attending professional development opportunities during the labour action; further, registration costs were lower for Languages Without Borders than the OMLTA Spring Conference.

Finally, the Goethe-Institut Toronto took the initiative to create an exciting opportunity for varied stakeholders in DaF-Unterricht: a *Besucherreise* to Germany, based primarily in Berlin and Jena, under the title **“Best Practices in Teaching Foreign Languages in Germany: An Exchange Between Canadian and German Education Experts”** The G-I contacted and liaised with CASLT in order to develop a list of stakeholders in German language education in various regions across Canada. Under CASLT's leadership, a delegation of 12 individuals was formed, including the OATG's Nicola Townend. Other delegates from Ontario were:

- Dr. Michael Salvatori, Chief Registrar and President, Ontario College of Teachers
- Dr. Enrica Piccardo, Assistant Professor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto
- Constantine Ioannou, Executive Director, International Language Educators Association
- Jean-Gilles Pelletier, Council of Ministers of Education of Canada
- Guy Leclair, Executive Director, CASLT

Nicola Townend was sadly unable to attend this *Besucherreise*. Jimmy Steele was able to take part at the last minute as a replacement and to share the perspectives of the OATG and other provincial teachers' association members. A full slate of visits to multiple stakeholders, including the consortium of Bundesländer Ministers of Education, bilingual elementary and secondary schools, universities promoting Master's programs in second language pedagogy, and the Berlin state education quality assurance office, in addition to panel discussions with representatives from the Council of Europe, Goethe-Institut Berlin and Toronto, and other associations, took place over five days.

The follow-up has been completed: the Ontario delegation, led by Michael Salvatori and Jimmy Steele, consolidated key information about German language education in Ontario, with the goal of collaboration on strategies for Werbung für Deutsch, access to authentic programming, and how to best serve Ontario young people in this realm across all panels. The G-I has already begun work on a Canada-specific strategy that focuses on decision-makers in the realm of secondary education, including guidance counsellors and school administrators.

The OATG extends its most sincere thanks to Uwe Rau at Ulrike Kugler at the G-I in Toronto, Ruth Renters for proposing the opportunity and completing several months of work on this initiative, and the G-I staff and partners in Berlin and Munich, for this exceptional experience.

OATG Dinner Meeting at the OMLTA Spring Conference

Our annual dinner meeting for OATG members, partners and friends of DaF-teaching took place again on the Friday of the OMLTA (Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association) Spring Conference, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Toronto Airport. We had more attendees this year than in previous years, and those in attendance included representatives of our close partners the Goethe-Institut Toronto and the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Toronto. Thanks to Netzwerk-Deutsch funding we were able to offer drinks and a buffet dinner to attendees, who had a rare opportunity to connect and share news about our German programs in our respective cities and schools. This event is a highlight for the OATG membership, as we are able to capitalize on the fact that some teachers from outside the Toronto area are attending the OMLTA Conference anyway.

We officially thanked and toasted Patrick Carter (former OATG Treasurer), Lesley Chisholm (retired, North Toronto CI), Carol Jackson (retired, Lawrence Park CI), and Branka Popovic

(former OATG Vice President; retired, Appleby College) for their contributions to German-language education and the OATG.

At this conference we also partnered with the Goethe-Institut Toronto to set up and staff an information booth for both days of the conference. We greeted teachers and other people interested in the German language, informed prospective new members about the services of the OATG, collected new contact details for our now annual email *Rundbrief*, and promoted the value of German language teaching in Ontario. Further, the winner of our 2012-13 Poster Contest had her poster distributed to members and interested teachers at our booth.

Rundbrief

The OATG newsletter *Rundbrief* continues to be prepared once annually and sent via email to our full mailing list of almost 100 email addresses. This is particularly important to keep in touch with those members of our community who live outside the Toronto area, and who therefore have more difficulty attending OATG events in person. Excellent contributions from various educators and Goethe-Institut staff from across the province were published in this issue.

OATG Website

The OATG website is up and running again. We are still interested to see how we might link the OATG site to the CATG website, without losing the look and feel of our site.

Final Words

The OATG continues to endeavour to provide excellent professional development opportunities and support for German teachers of all levels and panels across the province. We are grateful for the continued support of our members, and the collaboration with the Goethe-Institut, ZfA, CATG, PASCH-Schulen Network, and other stakeholders. **Wir bedanken uns herzlich!**

Respectfully submitted, Jimmy Steele (OATG President 2013-2015) - February 16th, 2014

Visit us online:

<http://www.oatg.org>

- ✓ **Need to confirm your e-mail address with us?**
- ✓ **Know a colleague who would be interested in OATG news and opportunities?**
- ✓ **Have a submission for the next issue of *Rundbrief*?**

Be in touch with us anytime:

james.steele@tdsb.on.ca



OATG Executive Members (2013-15)

President (2013-15)	Jimmy Steele	Toronto DSB
Past President	Nicola Townend	University of Toronto Schools
Vice President (2014-16)	Vacant	
Treasurer (2013-15)	Christopher Eckart	Hamilton-Wentworth DSB
High School Liaison (2013-15)	Sigfried Schranz	Halton DSB
Membership Secretary (2013-15)	Jeremy Forward	Retired, Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB
German Consultant	Friedrich Broeckelmann	ZfA (Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen)
Goethe-Institut Liaison	Ulrike Kugler	Goethe-Institut Toronto
Webmaster (2013-15)	Stefana Gargova	University of Toronto
University Representative (2013-15)	Alexandra Zimmermann	Wilfrid Laurier University
Newsletter Editor (2014-16)	Vacant	

Save the Date!



February 20-22, 2015 – Downtown Toronto

An e-mail with registration information will be sent in the coming weeks.



The Annual OATG dinner meeting will be held on Saturday, March 28 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Niagara Falls. All members in good standing are invited! To attend the CASLT/OMLTA/FIPLV World Congress, sign up at www.caslt.org.

**Call for Papers
CATG-Jahrestagung**

Toronto, Ontario, 20. - 22. Februar 2015

Deutsch macht Spaß!

Wie können wir Deutsch attraktiv machen?

Für die Jahrestagung der Canadian Association of Teachers of German / Association Canadienne des Professeurs d'Allemand, die in Zusammenarbeit mit der Ontario Association of Teachers of German (OATG) stattfindet, bittet der Vorstand CATG-Mitglieder und andere Interessenten um Vorschläge zu praxisbezogenen Vorträgen und Workshops, die sich mit Spaß beim Lernen im DaF-Unterricht und im DaF-Bereich befassen.

Deutsch gilt als schwere Sprache, und zudem stehen viele Lernende heute unter Druck, was ihre Fächerwahl angeht: Sprachen gelten häufig als weniger profitabel im Vergleich zu anderen Fächern. Beides führt dazu, dass Deutsch als Unterrichtsfach seltener gewählt wird. Diesem Imageproblem widmet sich die CATG-Jahrestagung.

Bei der Tagung steht die Frage im Mittelpunkt, wie man den Deutschunterricht so gestalten kann, dass das Deutschlernen sowohl Spaß macht als auch dazu beiträgt, Lernenden eine grundständige Bildung zu vermitteln, die nicht nur auf das Sprachenlernen selbst beschränkt ist. Dies eröffnet ein breites Spektrum von möglichen Vortragsthemen:

- Unterrichtspraktische Vorschläge und Berichte über Unterrichtsprojekte, die die Lust auf das Deutschlernen wecken bzw. erhalten können;
- Ideen für den Deutschunterricht, die eine Verbindung von Deutsch und anderen Fachinhalten ermöglichen (z.B. Projekte zu politischen, historischen, interkulturellen oder wirtschaftlichen Themen);
- Werbung für Deutsch
- Im Deutschunterricht lernt man nicht nur Deutsch: Übergreifende Lernziele des Deutschunterrichts in Theorie und Praxis

Vorschläge zum Tagungsthema werden bevorzugt, jedoch werden auch andere im Auswahlverfahren berücksichtigt.

Angehörige der folgenden Verbände sind automatisch Mitglied der CATG:

Atlantic Council of Teachers of German (ACTG)
Association des Professeurs d'Allemand du Québec (APAQ)
Ontario Association of Teachers of German (OATG)
Manitoba Teachers of German (MTG)
Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of German (SATG)
Alberta Association of Teachers of German (AATG)
British Columbia Council of Teachers of German (BCCTG)
Canadian Association of University Teachers of German (CAUTG)
Canadian Association of German Language Schools (CAGLS)

Wer keinem dieser Verbände angehört, kann als Mitglied in die CATG aufgenommen werden. Mitgliedschaft wird bei TeilnehmerInnen und Vortragenden vorausgesetzt.

Um einen fairen, blind-reviewed Auswahlprozess zu ermöglichen, formulieren Sie Ihr Abstract (ca. 200-300 Wörter) in Word-Format bitte so, dass es Ihren Namen nicht enthält, und geben Sie in Ihrer E-Mail Titel, Namen, Schule/Universität und Kontaktadresse an. Ihre Beschreibung sollte deutlich machen, ob Sie einen Workshop oder einen Vortrag halten möchten, und was KonferenzteilnehmerInnen erfahren oder lernen werden. Der Vorschlag darf in deutscher, englischer oder französischer Sprache verfasst werden; der Vortrag oder Workshop selbst sollte jedoch in deutscher Sprache gehalten werden.

Bitte schicken Sie Ihren Vorschlag an:

Nicola Townend, CATG Präsidentin

ntownend@utschools.ca

Einsendeschluss: 30. November 2014

CATG kann Reisekostenzuschüsse nur in begrenzter Höhe vergeben. Wir raten deshalb dringend, sich bei Ihrer Institution um Fördermittel zu bemühen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Nicola Townend

Präsidentin, Canadian Association of Teachers of German (CATG)/L'Association Canadienne des Professeurs d'Allemand (ACPA)



