

More News about the Youth Exchange Arrowhead Park High Schools/Las Cruces/USA Albert-Schweitzer-Schule/Nienburg/Germany

After a very successful three-week fall visit by sixteen students, one teacher and the principal of Albert-Schweitzer-Schule in Nienburg, Las Cruces's German sister city, the second phase of the student exchange has started: Fourteen Arrowhead Park High Schools (APHS) students and their teachers are making preparations for their three-week visit to Nienburg in May and June of this year.

As has been mentioned in a previous article on this website, the youth exchange takes place within the framework of the German American Partnership Program (GAPP) and the Las Cruces-Nienburg Sister Cities Affiliation. APHS-GAPP students and parents have been hard at work with fundraising to make the trip affordable. Besides two German gift basket raffles, a golf tournament, and participation in the Mesilla Valley Maze "Oktoberfest 2015", there have been two book fairs at Barnes & Noble (B&N) under the umbrella of Las Cruces Sister Cities (LCSC). (B&N allows only two organizations per school to hold book fairs. Since the APHS Honor Society and the Health Occupation Students of America already do book fairs every year, APHS-GAPP has needed another sponsor, namely LCSC.)



July 2016: The proud winner of the "Gummibärchen Guessing Contest" with a happy APHS-GAPP student

In mid-July, when the new school year had already started at APHS, GAPP students and parents drew many B&N customers during a three-day book fair to their colorful display on the student exchange and on LCSC. Two attractions were a huge gift basket with German specialties and a big jar with authentic Haribo “Gummibärchen”. Young and older kids (into their nineties) were invited to guess “Wie viele Gummibärchen?” B&N requires that book fair groups also provide entertainment in the children’s section. So with assistance of APHS-GAPP, kids could listen to “deutsche Märchen” (German fairy tales) read in English; they could color pages with German castles; or they could play German games where they picked up quite a few German words. B&N subsequently donated a percentage of the purchase amounts that the exchange group had helped generate.

In mid-December, the GAPP group organized a second B&N book fair under the LCSC umbrella. Luckily, APHS students were already on their winter break and could put all their energy into creating interest among B&N shoppers for Sister Cities and the student exchange. As in July, students gave out beautifully decorated bookmarks to potential customers to remind them about mentioning Sister Cities and the youth exchange at check-out. There was an even bigger jar with “Gummibärchen”, and many people - young and old - had fun guessing the number. In the children’s section, kids could color pages with traditional symbols for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Eid. They could also listen to a winter tale. – Even though this fundraiser took place in the middle of the week, it was really successful because many shoppers came to the store looking for Christmas presents.

All APHS-GAPP students, teachers and parents would like to thank Las Cruces Sister Cities for lending their name to hold two successful fundraising events.



December 2016: Some APHS-GAPP students waiting for their B&N customers