GAPP Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2011

Attendees:

Ashbeck, Joe Fuller, Roxanne Preuss, S.

Becker, David Fuller, G. Schug, Evelyn

Becker, R. Gudelis, Becky Schug, M.

Buntrock, Lori & Todd Gudelis, O. Sorenson, Misty

Buntrock, A. & M. Hohl, Janet Sorenson, F.

Davis, Tom & Carol Hohl, M. Stashek, Brenda

Davis, B. Kollock, Renee Stashek, J.

Eichinger/Parmeter, Sarah Krings, Brenda & J. Stoffel, Julie & E.

Faivre, Jenny & E. Milkey, C. Osterhaus, Mary Jane

Fawley, Marlene &J. Newman, Robin Strub, H.

Freidel, Joan Newman, J. & J Krause, Angela

Freidel, L. Pierce, Shelly TerMaat, Shannon

Freundl, Valerie Pierce, D. TerMaat, H.

Freundl, E. Preuss, John Tiernan, A.

Baumgart, Sarah

Wanta, Mark & Diane

Wanta, J.

Absent:

Ashbeck, K. Kollock,D. Sullivan, T.

Eichinger, A. Milkey, Mr. & Mrs

Fischer/Paltz Families Newton Family

**Exchange Dates Reminder: Thursday, April, 5th – Thursday, April 26th 2012**

Germans arrive in Wisconsin Rapids after school (4:30 p.m.) on Thursday, April. 5th and will depart from AHS on Thursday, April 26th after lunch.

**Communication**

Frau Timmermann introduced Mary Ladick to the group, who planned the itinerary for the Germans’ visit this year.

Phone lists were re-distributed. Attendees were asked to make updates to the information as needed. A final list will be distributed in March.

Frau Timmermann reminded attendees to stay in regular contact with their partners, either via e-mail or Facebook. She also expressed her hope that families have communicated with one another to assure the German parents that their children will be welcome and well-cared for. If there are concerns about lapses in communication, please let Frau Timmermann know so that she can share this concern with her German colleagues and get the situation resolved.

There will be many questions regarding our dress code and prom. The Germans have a copy of our dress code and our prom dress code. This information has been relayed to the German participants. They will question us about it, but please advise them as to what our expectations are. They must adhere to our dress code while they are with us. For prom they have been advised to bring their own shoes. Girls do not have to wear a long dress. In the past dresses have been borrowed from others. Shopping for a prom dress has also taken place here in Wisconsin.

**Bus Ridership**

Those students who ride the bus were asked to sign up so that their partners may also be transported during that time. Frau Timmermann needs to submit this list to the school districts involved with our bussing.

Those who signed up are:

Becker, R. Faivre E, Fawley, J. Fuller, G., Schug, M., Sorenson, F., Stoffel, E.

If you missed signing up, please contact Frau Timmermann so that she can take care of this with the bus companies.

**GAPP Fundraisers**

Frau Timmermann shared the success of our fall fundraising activities and the current balance. Monies in the fund have been temporarily used to make down payments for the Germans’ program items in Chicago. This money will be refunded to us before they return to Germany. Addtionally, money from the GAPP fund will also pay for our half of the two joint trips, Madison & Cashton. Frau Timmermann ordered a total of 15 boxes of Advent calendars or 1060 calendars. All were sold. Additionally, the Christmas tree light collection netted a collection to-date of almost 900 lbs. It was shared that lights from one parish still needed to be dropped off at Express Recycling. It is anticipated that both of these fundraisers will be continued next year, with the calendar ordering possibly being increased to 20 boxes – given the amount of participants in our program. Mrs. Buntrock agreed to coordinate the Christmas tree light collection again, with the collection boxes being set up in November.

No new fundraisers were mentioned at this time.

**Cell Phones for German GAPP Chaperones**

Mrs. Sorenson agreed to check into cell phone options for our GAPP chaperones. Two years ago we were able to borrow three cell phones from U.S. Cellular for our GAPP chaperones to use. There were no fees involved for calling and use as long as they did not call Germany on them.

**Assumption Wear Order**

Mrs. Gudelis and Mrs. Kollock agreed to look into ordering items for our German guests. Typically, families purchase a T-shirt, sweatshirt or baseball cap for their guests. German students also like to purchase additional Assumption wear. Frau Timmermann also offered to share with them the information and order forms used in 2010, which Sue Newton coordinated.

**Itinerary**

Frau Timmermann distributed the itinerary in calendar (blue) and outline (yellow) formats. She went over the various items in the program and highlighted the following:

*Dinners:*

The Welcome Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 5th at 5 p.m. Volunteering to coordinate this event are the Hohl, Stashek, Buntrock and Newman families. Typically, a pot luck has been held in our cafeteria. Frau Timmermann has requested this date with the kitchen.

The Farewell Dinner will be held on Wednesday, April. 25th again at 5 p.m. Volunteering to coordinate this event are the Hohl, Kollock and Freidel families. This event has been held in different locations, CERA park and our cafeteria. Neither charged a fee for our use. In the past this dinner has been a pizza party, grill out or a pot-luck.

With both of these events it is key to remember that we will be serving over 100 people. Dishes to pass need to serve at least 10-12 people. Sign ups will take place either via e-mail or at our next meeting.

*Drivers for Germans’ Field Trip : April 17th*

Except for this date all trips have transportation planned. The Germans are scheduled to walk to the court house for this field trip. Frau Timmermann solicited drives in case of inclement weather. We need to transport 34 people, plus drivers. Volunteering for this in case of inclement weather are: Newman, Ladick, Timmermann, Kollock, Hohl, Strub and Preuss families with the Stoffel family a possibility.

*Joint Trips:*

In order to accommodate all German guests and their GAPP partners, two buses would have been needed to transport everyone to Madison and Cashton. Since the costs for these trips are split between the two groups, this would have doubled the expenses for the transportation since each group would be paying for two buses each instead of one. Frau Timmermann made the decision to keep the transportation at one bus per trip, since in the past not all Americans have been able to go due to other conflicts with classes or extra-curriculars. Additionally, there are six repeat hosts, who most likely will not want to re-visit these sites. For Madison there is the possibility of parents driving separately, since there is no school on that date. However, for the Cashton trip separate drivers are not feasible since the guide comes on the bus for the Amish portion. Attendees names will be drawn randomly as needed.

Frau Timmermann has been granted permission to miss conferences on Monday, April 9th in order to accompany the group to Madison.

Prom is on Saturday, April 21st. All German GAPP guests are invited to attend prom. They do not have to have a date.

**Other Things to Do**

Frau Timmermann handed out a salmon colored sheet with happenings in the surrounding areas and other activities to do with your GAPP guest. She emphasized that the Germans do not need to be entertained around the clock. Hanging out, playing card and board games, watching TV and movies, playing ping pong or pool or even video/computer games (but not to excess) are wonderful ways to spend quality time with the German guest.

Three students (partners Megan B., Taylor S. and Josh K) will be celebrating their birthdays while in Wisconsin. It is important that this day be special for these students, since birthdays are a big celebration in Germany. It was suggested that perhaps someone might want to sponsor a birthday party.

Many families take their guests to the Mall of America. Some have done this on Easter weekend, while others have picked the 2nd weekend of their stay to do this. In the past a family has volunteered to reserve a block of rooms in order to get a better rate. Other times, families have made arrangements amongst themselves. No one volunteered to coordinate a trip to Mall of America.

Another outing families have planned is an overnight at a waterpark in the Dells. The Germans will be taking an Upper Dells boat trip, but will not be spending time on this day at a waterpark.

Final Topics:

Frau Timmermann shared with the group that Mrs. Bond has been reviewing the GAPP program, its procedures, policies and organizational time line. Due to this review, it is likely that Frau Timmermann will be asking for a down payment, not to exceed $500 per student, by the end of May. This will help with Frau Timmermann’s planning over the summer and her work with the travel agent. It also helps collect the flight money earlier, given that more and more airlines are demanding payment in full at earlier dates in order to avoid fuel surcharges.

Mary Ladick distributed information about the adult trip to Landshut in 2013. Any and all parents are welcome to speak with her about the details of the trip.

**Next Meeting will be Monday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m.** in Room 214. Tentative Agenda Items include Cultural Differences, Sign Ups for the Welcome and Farewell Dinners.