GAPP Meeting Minutes

March 31 2014

Attendees:

All families represented

**Exchange Dates Reminder: Wednesday, April, 16th – Thursday, May 8th 2014**

Germans arrive in Chicago on Sunday, April 13th and will spend 3 nights there (see itinerary) and then will come via Lamers coach bus to Wisconsin Rapids.

**Communication**

Phone lists were re-distributed. Attendees were asked to make updates to the information as needed.. Several errors were found again. Frau Timmermann will make changes and distribute a final list will be distributed before the German guests arrive via e-mail and in class.

Frau Timmermann reminded the host families of the need to regularly check their e-mails. Updates and reminders will be sent to families via e-mail if there are changes to the itinerary and to remind families of sack lunch needs, drop off and pick up times. Additionally, Frau Timmermann encouraged families to contact her if there are any concerns with their German guest.

**Itinerary Highlights**

Wed April 16th: Welcome Dinner 5:00 p.m.

Families in charge of organizing the welcome dinner are Hepp and Rustad. Mrs. Hepp passed around a list for families to sign up for a dish to pass. Families were reminded that the dish should be a LARGE one, enough to serve 20 people. We are anticipating as least 100 at the welcome and farewell dinners. Frau Timmermann has decorations available to make the cafeteria festive looking.

Wed May 7th 25: Farewell Dinner 5:00 p.m.

Families in charge of organizing this dinner are Austin and Baumgart. Suggestions were 6 foot subs from Walmart with families bringing a dish to pass. Frau Timmermann was also inquiring about brat and burger prices through ACS food service. Sign-ups and more information will take place via e-mail.

Trips:

Thursday, April 17th 7 6:15 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

This is a No School Day. Parent-Teacher Conferences are in the evening. Frau Timmermann will be late, if able to attend any of the conference time. **Bus Departs at 7:15 a.m**. Frau Timmermann had already distributed the list to the students for them to cross their names off due to conflicts with sports. Permission slips will be sent home after spring break for those able to participate. Snacks and beverages should be sent along, as well as money for lunch on State Street. There is room for two more adults if anyone would like to accompany the group. Costs would be for lunch on State Street. Transportation is a school bus. Please let Frau Timmermann know if you would like to accompany the group.

Tuesday, April 17th Courthouse Tour

Tentative drivers are Newman (4), Ladick (6), Timmermann (6), Kollock (6), Hohl (4), Strub (4), Preuss (6) and Stoffel (6). Drivers will only be needed if there is inclement weather that day.

Friday, April 20th Green Bay/Manitowoc/Appleton 7:15 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

No School Day – Diocesan In-Service. **A sack lunch** is needed for this Germans-only trip, as well as snacks and beverages. There is room for one more adult. Costs would be entrance to Lambeau Field and the Maritime Museum. Transportation is a coach bus. Please let Frau Timmermann know if you would like to accompany the group.

Monday, April 23rd Wisconsin Dells 11:30 – 5:00 p.m.

The Germans will travel by school bus to the Dells for an Upper Dells Boat Trip. Please send along a snack and beverage.

Tuesday, April 24th Cashton/LaCrosse 7:15 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Frau Timmermann had already distributed the list to the students for them to cross their names off due to conflicts with sports. Permission slips will be sent home after spring break for those able to participate. **A sack lunch** as well as some snacks and beverages should be sent along. There is room for two more adults if anyone would like to accompany the group. Transportation is a coach bus. Please let Frau Timmermann know if you would like to accompany the group.

Thursday, April 26th – Departure Day

Please send along snacks and a beverage for the trip to the airport in Chicago.

**Other Organizational Items:**

No family(s) are coordinating a group trip to Mall of America. Plans are being made amongst one another or individually.

Mrs. Sorenson will deliver the cell phones to the chaperones at the Welcome Dinner.

Mrs. Milkey agreed to contact the newspaper for an article about our German guests.

Families were reminded to check their hot lunch accounts and make sure that there are sufficient funds for their guests to use as well.

Families and students were reminded about the proper and improper use of their German partners for homework help.

**Fundraisers**

Market Day Pie Sale

Only 8 families participated in this fundraising event.

Rafters Game

Mr. Buntrock shared information about a fundraiser at a Rafters’ game. Tickets are purchased in a block and would include entrance, a drink, and a hat. Value is $25 for the package. We could earn $5-$10 per ticket. The general feeling was that this would be something to pursue. Permission was received from Mrs. Bond. We just need to avoid conflicting with the Athletic Association’s event at the Rafters’ game. More details will follow at the next meeting.

Brewers Game

Mr. Wanta shared an idea with the group about an adults-only trip to a week-day Brewers game. Cost would be for the ticket (along the 1st base line), bus transportation, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages on the bus and food on the bus. Tickets could be sold outside of the Assumption community. Mr. Wanta asked to meet with Frau Timmermann and Mr. Hohl to discuss dates and other details on Thursday, March 22nd. More details will be presented at the next GAPP meeting.

Both cases had questions regarding ability to sell tickets at Royal Event.

Royal Event

Frau Timmermann passed out a sign up list for help in the kitchen on Saturday, May 19th to make the Schaumtorten. Mrs. Stoffel, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Stashek, Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Preuss and Mrs. Krings offered to help starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 19th. Mixers are being provided by Mrs. Stoffel, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Preuss. Ingredient donation sign ups will occur in the German classes.

Port Edwards Garage Sale: May 19th

Mrs. Sorenson offered the use of her driveway and house for GAPP to either hold a garage sale or sell food at this community wide garage sale. General sentiment was to sell brats and beverages. Mrs. TerMaat, Mrs. Sorenson and Mrs. Freidel volunteered to coordinate this event.

**Cultural Information**

Frau Timmermann passed out a yellow handout with hints and tips for host families. Items Frau Timmermann highlighted were:

English proficiency: Students in Germany have been learning English since 3rd grade so their skills are much better than our students’ German ones. Students learn British English and British pronunciation. You might have to speak slowly and clearly, avoid slang, physically show/demonstrate what you mean or re-word. Speaking in a louder voice usually doesn’t help bridge any communication gaps.

Food/Mineral Water: Germans are used to a much more robust type of bread and mineral water. Similar bread is available at Copps – the Artisan breads (Jewish rye and the Multi-grain). These cost about $4 a loaf. Carbonated, unflavored mineral water is also the type of water Germans drink. Most do not drink tap water. Mineral water is available at Copps and Wal-mart.

Hygiene/Laundry: Show your guests how to use the faucets in the bathroom and shower. This can be confusing. Invite them to give you their dirty laundry. Europeans typically wear clothes more than one day in a row so don’t be alarmed by this.

Time on Skype/E-Mail/Cell /Facebook with Home and Home Friends.

Discourage excessive amounts of time spent conversing with friends and family back in Germany. They are here to be part of your family. Please alert Frau Timmermann if the young person in your home is constantly making or receiving calls to or from Germany. Calling to Germany can be very expensive, especially on a cell phone. Students should use e-mail or Skype to update their families every once in a while.

Church Attendance: Please be aware that your guest may only attend church sporadically, if at all. Keep in mind that most do not adhere to fasting on Good Friday and be sensitive to their needs.

Bathroom Doors: All doors in Germany are shut at all times. Make sure that you and your family members LOCK the bathroom door so that you are not surprised by your German walking in on you since shut doors are normal to them.

Nudity/Foul Language: It might not be uncommon for your guest to walk from the bedroom to the bathroom in their underwear. You might want to provide them with a robe.

Foul language might be used since many young people think it is “cool” or “neat” to use English cuss words. Unfortunately, most do not understand how strong and inappropriate this language is because they do not have the same feel for these words in the foreign language. Please speak with your guest if there is a problem with this so that they understand the impact of using this type of vocabulary.

Guns: Families were reminded that gun availability is very different in Germany than here. It is rare that a family own a gun in Germany. Please be sensitive to the safety of your guest and to the parents’ perspective if/when you allow your guests to handle a gun or gun use is demonstrated on your property.

**GAPP 2013**

Frau Timmermann distributed the revised and approved Trip Refund Policy sheet. The revision allows ask families to commit monetarily in June rather than September. This allows Frau Timmermann to have a better idea of the number of travelers since she starts working with the travel agent during the summer. It also allows for collection of the airfare at a sooner date, since quite frequently, airlines are exercising additional fuel surcharge fees, unless the flights are paid for in a very short amount of time. Frau Timmermann assured families that there is flexibility in this schedule, especially given families with more than one child traveling.

Note: Tentative Travel Dates for 2013 June 16, 2013 – July 12, 2013

 Budgeting Estimated True Cost: $2500/per person

[2011 was $2300, but fundraising reduced it to $1800]

Next GAPP Meeting: Monday, May 21st – 1st Pre-Departure Meeting

Tentative Agenda: Dates, Costs, Payments, Student Expectations, Insurance and Luggage