

New paths to starting out in life

The successful transition from education into working life is a challenge for schools. The prospects of young people play a significant part in dictating the future. To support schools with this great responsibility, the Robert Bosch Stiftung has

launched a program for intermediate and secondary general schools in Baden-Württemberg. To celebrate the launch of **SENTA! Schule, Entwicklung, Arbeit**, principals and teachers from the 32 selected schools discussed means of providing a successful start in life with prominent guests, including education minister Helmut Rau.

Prix de l'Académie for Tomi Ungerer

The artist Tomi Ungerer was awarded the first Prix de l'Académie de Berlin. The prize, which is sponsored by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, honors people who strengthen the cultural relationship between **France and Germany**.



Language learning made easy

In this school year, students from 17 secondary general schools in Baden-Württemberg once again took part in the competition **Wir reden mit!** The students perform plays, make films, or create their own magazines – and in doing so, they are learning to use the German language. The aim of the program is to promote good relations between young people, with or without an immigrant background, and to enhance both their linguistic and social skills.

Setting new standards for schools

German President Köhler honors Wartburg elementary school in Münster as Germany's best school

Berlin | bgu | Most people in this world undergo a life-changing event at the age of five or six. They start to attend school. All of us have different memories of our school days. Some remember them fondly – friends, nice teachers, and exciting school trips – while others would sooner forget them – exam pressure, report cards, boring lessons, and bullying. Of course, the last need never happen, if schools focus their attention on the pupils and all of their efforts on developing well-educated and well-rounded individuals.

Wilhelm von Humboldt once formulated this ideal and many

"I don't have any more rights than the other students, but I do write letters to the chamber of crafts, for example."

Hannes Götde, fourth grade

schools have proven that it is far from unrealistic. To honor these schools and show others how it should be done, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Heidehof Stiftung joined forces with the magazine *stern* and the German TV channel ZDF to present the annual German School Award. The third awards ceremony was held at ZDF's Berlin studio in December 2008. German President Horst Köhler took personal charge of the ceremony, underlining that education is a top priority for him.

Learning without grades

This year, the main prize went to Wartburg elementary school in Münster. Its pupils learn without grades, but with far greater success than at the average German elementary. The school's recipe for success involves teaching the



School can be fun: German President Horst Köhler and the delighted winners at the awards ceremony. Photo: Lautenschläger

children to take responsibility. Fourth-grader Hannes Götde is just one example of how closely the pupils are involved in the school's work. At the awards ceremony, the "president" of the school parliament explained that, while he had no more rights than the oth-

er pupils, "I do write letters to the chamber of crafts, for example."

The laudatory speech delivered by Christoph Bosch, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and shareholder of the Heidehof Stiftung, underlined why this school is a worthy winner:

The German School Award

Taking education to new heights

In 2008, the slogan of the third annual German School Award was "Taking education to new heights." The prize money of €230,000 is higher than other awards of its kind, and this year attracted applications from 250 schools. Following a multi-stage selection process, seven schools were presented with their awards in Berlin. In addition to Wartburg elementary school in Münster, these were the elementary and secondary general school Altigen in Ammerbuch, Schloss Neuhaus grammar school in Paderborn, Bonn-Beuel comprehensive school and the Vossberg school in Rastede. The Jury Prize went to Bremerhaven workshop school in Bremen, while the Academy Prize was awarded to the Berlin elementary school Grundschule im Grünen. The purpose of the German School Prize is to honor exemplary educational performances and set new standards for the development of schools and teaching in Germany. The basis for the award is a comprehensive understanding of education.

► For more information, visit www.deutscher-schulpreis.de

"Time and time again, it has proven that it is well ahead of its time, not to mention hackneyed Zeitgeist debates – with free activity and independent study since the 1970s, through integration classes, percussion, string and brass instrument classes, and an elementa-



Child's play: Children have a big say in their education at Wartburg elementary. Photo: Barth

ry school workshop in which teachers can learn from and with one another."

Six other schools also received awards, each of them presented by famous names from the worlds of sports, media, and culture. These celebrities included Olympic gold medalist Matthias Steiner, actor Herbert Knaup, WWF Deutschland director Eberhard Brandes, and the singer Clueso, who once dropped out of school but was visibly impressed by the commitment of the teachers.

No losers

While seven of the 14 nominated schools did not win an award, they all left knowing that they are now members of the German School Award Academy – an ideas factory set up to promote the development of German schools. There are no losers in the German School Award. Every school benefits from the competition – even those schools which did not apply. The selection procedure, jury discussions and public awards ceremony show how exciting school can be. As one guest, an associate of the Lower Saxony school authority, proclaimed: "I'm a winner every year!"

Germans and Poles look to the future

Berlin | lkc | Education as a location factor and the reform of educational policy as a task for the future: These were the two overriding themes of the third discussion forum, on "Germany and Poland in Europe," which took place in Berlin in December. The forum was opened by speeches from the two countries' foreign ministers, Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Radosław Sikorski. During the subsequent dinner, the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, Kurt Liedtke, explained the relevance of company founder Robert Bosch's educational concept: Investments in people, their training and development were an ever-present part of his entrepreneurial activities.

The round-table discussion that followed the next day involved some 40 experts from the worlds of science, politics, business, and civil society. The focus was on trends, perspectives, and challenges for educational policy in the light of demographic developments and the situation in the labor market. The second part of the discussion addressed the subject of brain drain – that is, the migration of scientists to other countries. One interesting aspect was that, even on the Polish side, this issue was not simply treated as a negative development – despite the significant impact on the country's elite. Particularly with regard to the formation of a European knowledge society, it is of decisive importance to regard this phenomenon as a pan-European "brain circulation."

In closing, Poland's minister of education, Katarzyna Hall, described her vision for educational reform in the context of the "ideal school." For a modern education system to be successful, efforts must be based on the needs of society and the economy and must focus on the promotion of talent.

Stories of those who help others

Outstanding journalistic contributions to civic involvement honored

Stuttgart | rj | Plasterer by day, boxing coach by night: Almost every evening, blond giant Tommy Lange leaves work and steps into the ring. At a sports club in Bremen, he teaches young people how to throw the right punches and block effectively. But Lange is much more than just a boxing coach. He also instructs the youngsters in discipline, fairness, and respect – values that are as important in sport as they are in education or occupational training. Many of his young protégés have problems in life – be they at home, at school, or with the police. Lange has experienced the same sort of difficulties first hand, which is why the young boxers accept and respect him.

Back to life

Joachim Schoss, on the other hand, has always been at the top – until the day that the successful Internet entrepreneur had a serious motorcycle accident. But Schoss, today severely handicapped, is fighting his way back into life. He has

established a foundation to promote the interests of people with disabilities as well as an Internet portal in which these people can meet and chat.

The two men could not be more different, but the Internet pioneer and the boxing coach do have one thing in common: They fill a gap in our society, by giving up their time to help others without financial reward. At the end of 2008, at the Bosch Haus Heidehof, the focus was on those who documented and recorded these people's stories with cameras and microphones: the journalists. For the first time, the Robert Bosch Stiftung's €35,000 Journalist Prize for Civic Involvement was awarded for contributions from all three categories: print media, radio, and television.

Lorenz Wagner was honored for his portrait "Die zwei Leben des Herrn S." (The Two Lives of Mr S.), which was published in the *Financial Times Deutschland* and traces the manager's rise, fall, and new start without a hint of sentimentality. In his report "Durchboxen"

("Boxing Through"), Till Oepert from Radio Bremen Television captured the raw microcosm of the youngsters and their coach. Radio journalist Regine Beyer received her award for the SWR feature "Als die Nachbarin im Treppenhaus saß" ("When the Neighbour sat on the staircase"). It tells the story of the writer's own efforts to help her

elderly neighbor and how this benefited both their lives. The Marion Dönhoff award went to Kerstin Eigendorf for her "Bürger machen Politik" ("People make Politics") series, published in the *Westfalenpost*. The reports tell of people who take matters into their own hands, to prevent the closure of the town swimming pool, for example.



Dedicated journalists (from left): Prize winners Regine Beyer, Lorenz Wagner, Till Oepert, Kerstin Eigendorf. Photo: Kern

A golden opportunity in the healthcare sector

Stuttgart | trb | Many pupils with qualifications from secondary general schools are facing a difficult time in today's training market. Esra Ertugrul is just one example. Shortly before leaving school, the German-born Turk had still not managed to find a training position. She wanted to become a nurse, but her qualifications made that impossible. Other applications also proved fruitless. But then, Ertugrul's teacher told her about the model project called "Service Assistants in the Social and Health Care Sector."

The project was set up by the Robert Bosch Stiftung in 2007 to offer professional opportunities to underachieving general school graduates, who would otherwise have no chance of gaining a training position. A one-year occupational training program was devised in conjunction with a group of ten providers of geriatric, disability, and nursing care. The aim is to help the young people acquire social and professional skills that will greatly enhance their future employment opportunities. The

trainees do not provide nursing care, but other forms of assistance, such as running errands or helping with housework.

On November 1, 2007, Ertugrul began her support worker training at the Geriatric Rehabilitation Clinic of the Robert-Bosch-Krankenhaus (RBK) in Stuttgart. She works in the occupational therapy unit and helps patients to regain their physical abilities. "Esra does not replace any therapists," explains Petra Koczy, head of therapy at the Geriatric Rehabilitation Clinic. "She offers motivation and support, and the patients are very grateful for her help."

Ertugrul passed her final examination in fall of 2008 and was promptly re-employed by the RBK for another year. The 19-year-old has taken full advantage of her opportunity: "I would love to go back and study for my intermediate school qualifications, and then perhaps train to become an occupational therapist."

The second year of support workers began their training on October 1, 2008.