

Hamburg Rally – Discovering the city!

Tuesday 19th May 2009



I volunteered to help with the first BerenbergKids Rally last year. I enjoyed the **exciting** event so much that I could hardly wait for 19th May this year, where I would join the children once again to discover the city in which we live.

At two o'clock, 25 children assembled in Berenberg Bank's lobby and were swiftly led into our in-house bistro, 1590, where they were served light refreshments. What a commotion! The children were really excited and kept asking when they could begin! Before setting off though, the children had to be split into groups and explained the rules of the rally. Teams consisted of four or five children and each accompanied by one representative from Stiftung Mittagskinder and one Berenberger. Ulrike Ninnemann and myself were joined by two girls and two boys between the ages of seven and eleven. Before the start, we had a short period in which to get to know the children and we realised fairly quickly that they were clearly very eager!

Then we were off! The five teams set out one after another. The 'Gänsemarkt' Square was our starting point, followed then by the Town Hall, through the "Europa" alleyway and then back along the Alster lake with the 1590 Bistro as our ultimate goal. The children were to complete questionnaires along the way at 31 different 'stations'. Questions allowed children to get to know their city's history and sights as well as focussing also on the memorials constructed for different poets and composers. We adults also learned a great deal and discovered many new things – I can honestly say that I never knew some of the facts!



The chamber of commerce, the "Mellin-Passage", the St. Petri Church and the Lessing memorial were, amongst many others, places of particular interest, where the children asked passers-by or workers at the various stations if they could help answer their questions. Throughout the rally, the children were on top form and very proud each time they successfully completed a station. They were particularly keen in answering questions about the façades of houses and there was many an

opportunity to stop and take photos!

Luckily, the weather was completely different to that of last year – we were blessed with beautiful blue skies and the sun shining. In two and a half hours, our team successfully finished the course and headed back to Bistro 1590. All teams returned somewhat exhausted and feeling rather hungry. Hotdogs, apple juice and ice cream filled their stomachs and with a smile on their face, each child received a personalised certificate to rapturous applause. The winning team were awarded a boat trip in Hamburg, which will be organised by BerenbergKids in the coming year.



Once again it was a fantastic event, where everyone was in good spirits all day and the children left on a happy note. All in all, it was a successful afternoon – one which I will remember for a long time to come.

(Written by Jenny Máté)

Teilnehmer von Berenberg: Jennifer Barckhan, Christiane Gerlach, Katharina Hartwig, Susette Mantzel, Jenny Máté, Ulrike Ninnemann, Mandy Popp, Mareen Utech

