

a postcard from sosny to switzerland to sosny



when I first arrived in the charlottenhof-area I saw some polish children playing games between the huge chestnut trees in the "avenue" that leads to the former main house with its blue painted door. I was watching them for a while - and I wondered if the project I had planned would really work !?

the idea:

the sosny children draw their impressions of charlottenhof on the frontside of a blank postcard ... how they see it, what they love most about it ... on the back of this postcard they write their adress (johanna marciniak, the owner of charlottenhof, who knows all the children well, will verify all the addresses ...). then, when I turn back to switzerland, I will take along all these beautiful handmade cards from the sosny kids and bring them to a school, where I once was teaching.

the swiss children then would add a little drawing on the back and sign this card with their name.

and then:

stamp, postoffice, postal journey of all these cards back to sosny.

my goal was to create a possible exchange between the children of sosny and swiss children.

the sosny children might answer again ... sending another postcard or a letter to the class in switzerland.

maybe they could even write a sentence or two in *german* with the help from some sosny women who are learning german with some german women from berlin ...

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problems:

I had planned to work alone with the children.

but: I don't speak polish (yet!) and the children don't understand any other language.

it was impossible to tell them , to show them what my intension was, what they had to do.

I believed I could manage it ... but no!

so I needed absolutely help from someone, who translated, explained ... a very nice young man, pawel, did it very well, translating polish - english ... it was a very good team-work.

and the children were drawing with pleasure.

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at the end, we had 36 beautiful charlottenhof-postcards!

and the sosny-kids were very happy that they could keep the remaining blank postcards and all the felt-tip pens ... to create more pieces of art.

*mo richner, birrwil, switzerland*