

Organic fruit & snack scheme in primary schools

Summary of project:

In many primary schools in Austria, pupils usually bring their snacks from home. This is an additional job for parents to organise and sometimes, they are not always nutritious. Because of this, the primary school Meissnergasse decided to do something to address this. Together with an organic farmer and a bakery, they arranged to serve high quality organic fruit and other snacks in their school. The aim was that each class would get its own snack-box and each day, pupils would get a different organic snack. Through this, it was hoped that pupils would start to understand where their food comes from, get know to local food producers and be inspired to start growing their own herbs and fruits in the school garden.

Who is involved

All of the teachers, pupils, parents and the headmaster of the school were involved. Also the farmer who delivered the fruit and vegetables and a local bakery were involved. Austrian organisations Ja! Natürlich, Support for landscaping schoolgarden: die umweltberatung and the vocational college for gardening in Kargan were involved in the set up and Gutessen Consulting offered additional project design input and support.

Key steps

Initially, the PTA and teachers discussed the need for the project. A survey of typical snacks and drinks at school was carried out and asked the question “what do pupils, teachers and parents want?” After that, a “snack plan” was made with the bakery and the farmer. Pupils tried and assessed all of the proposed new snacks. Organic fruits were the most popular. The popularity of the fruits led to the school being a pilot for the Vienna School Fruit Scheme, where free school fruit is offered to all pupils in primary and secondary schools in Vienna once a week).

Most of the pupils in Meissnergasse school had never been to a farm and 80 percent are children of migrants. Therefore, the second important step was to make the pupils more aware of Austrian agriculture and food production. The school hosted workshops in the classroom with nutritionists and with a farmer, as well as visiting the bakery that produced their own rolls. They also visited their link farm.



Assessment of snack assortment

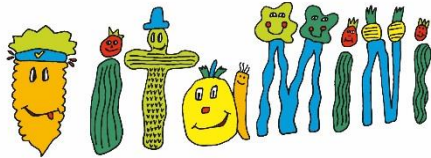


Visit to bakery Geier



How are the children involved?

Children played a vital voice in the creation of the snack scheme. They created a project-logo “VITAMINI” and wrote articles for the school-newspaper promoting the project. They planted their school-garden, ran activities during the summer school-festival and had workshops and visits with farmer and the bakery.



Girls bringing their Snack-Box to the classroom

How is the project linked to food and farming?

The subject of the project was based around local, healthy and organic food. All pupils had the chance to grow food in the school garden, as well as visiting the farmer and the bakery.

How is the project linked to the school curriculum?

The project linked to biology, gardening, nutrition, handicrafts and involved lots of team work skills.



For further information: www.gutessen.at

