

Rede anlässlich des Schuljubiläums unserer Partnerschule Kallavaden Lukio  
in Kuopio, Finnland

## Hyvää iltaa (Guten Abend)!

Dear Mayor, dear headmaster, dear staff, students and friends  
of Kallavesi High School.

It has been 37 years now that Kallaveden Lukio and  
Gymnasium Himmelsthür have been connected in a partnership  
that our predecessors started.

The world was a different place then:

Finland wasn't a member of the European Union yet and  
Germany was still divided.

And it wasn't plastic waste drifting in the oceans or global  
warming that worried people in our countries but much rather  
the nuclear arms race

In the 1980s people obviously didn't know anything about  
communication via internet. Our forerunners at lake Kallavesi  
and river Innerste had to rely on writing old-fashioned letters  
and making long distance calls via landline to organize the  
exchange that has brought together hundreds of Finnish and  
German students over the years.

But although the means of communication may have  
undergone technological progress it is only due to the friendly  
relations having grown, lasted and been revived over all those  
years that the exchange between our two schools has been  
able to contribute to the European project and to international  
understanding for such a long time.

Of all those who have been committed to this project I would  
like to mention only four names: Leena Peura and Liisa Siltanen

on the Finnish side and Wilfried Kroll and Klaus Veh on the German, who started it all in September 1982.

To continue on the path they paved seems to be all the more important at our stage in history at which the respect for human values that is our shared aim seems to be challenged by hatred and divisiveness all over the world.

That is why we really enjoyed hosting your students in April while ours visited here in August.

We were also glad to welcome Eija Venäläinen und Hanne Lyytinen among us when we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our school last year. And it is a great honor for Uwe Monselewski and me to be here on the occasion of your 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We wish Kallaveden Lukio all the best for the next 140 years and that you may continue on your way to prepare your students for the demands of the future.

We would be really glad to be your fellow travelers on this road.

Hyvää juhlapäivää (Herzlichen Glückwunsch zum Festtag)!

G. Lauter