

## **VOICE OF THE YOUTH**

### **Memorial LOIBL-North 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

We are very grateful to be part of today's commemoration. We, the young generation feel obliged to remember the atrocities of the National Socialist regime. This year we organised an exhibition of photos showing images of the former concentration camp Mauthausen. The exhibition was given the title "Von Schönheit hell umflammt ist diese Erde". The pictures were taken by FV Heidelinde Cas-Brunner. Students added expressions chosen as antithesis to the tyranny of the National Socialists, for example: "Happiness and Life", "Memory and Hope". The exhibition reflects the wish for a peaceful coexistence in Europe and the whole world. For today's commemoration we chose some of the texts from the exhibition. Helena Ojsonik's text will be read by Julia Gruber who has already started her internship in Spain.

#### **Meryem Amet: Happiness and Life**

We are very lucky to be standing here today without having had to endure the atrocities of war. We do not live in a dictatorship and we are not suppressed by one.

We are all aware of the fact, that we have to contribute to society to be able to live in a safe country. Happiness has to do with togetherness, like the exhibition at our school. Happiness has to do with support, being a good listener, laughing together and it is about appraisal for each other. We need to unite our hearts in order to change the world. "The most important thing in life are the traces of love which we leave behind when we have to go". I chose this quote by Albert Schweitzer as my message for all of you today. Loving and living life is a way of being happy and by doing so you automatically spread positive vibes.

#### **Mirjam Kroboth: Memory**

Memories are an important part of our lives. They not only help us to learn from our mistakes, they also help us not to forget important moments. That is what we wanted to do with the exhibition related to our excursion to Mauthausen. It is the memory of past times and of the people who had to live during these horrible times. It is the remembrance of all innocent souls that died during the time of National Socialism and that is why it is very important for us to find out as much as possible about their lives. We are convinced that only if you understand and engage in history, you can be prepared for the future.

#### **Helena Osojnik: Hope**

In my opinion the poem "Das Lied von der Erde" written by Jura Soyfer describes the term "Hope" perfectly. Even during the darkest times the poet found a shred of hope and described it with the line "Von Schönheit hell umflammt ist diese Erde, und ihre Zukunft ist herrlich und groß". This line was also taken as the title for our exhibition.

We want to pass on the feeling of hope, because hope helps us, it lets us understand and improve. Without hope we could not continue to live. With every step we take we hope for the better and we hope to have learned something from our mistakes so that we can live a happy life.

English translation: Anna Plaimer, Ilse Geson-Gombos