

Kigala ✨ preschool

notes from our parents!

"open house" ...my daughter's last words before she fell asleep the night before the first open house at her school: "Kigala"

What had started out as a German playgroup, mainly organized by mothers, have turned into a certified, multilingual preschool, offering a German immersion group, English speaking groups and soon too come a Spanish immersion group, with dedicated, caring teachers. And most important, a place for children where they can flourish is seen, where they are encouraged to explore, learn and build community...a place that validates who they are. It is a project in progress growing and expanding in different ways.

And my daughter definitely enjoyed her open house. She was proud to show her school to her English speaking friends. Speaking English with them and German with her German friends is natural for her. At the open house, the happiness and ease of the children was most inspiring. You could see that for them it is not only their school, they feel at home in their cozy rooms and the huge auditorium, which looks like an artist's studio. Their artwork and photos of daily activities can be seen everywhere, validating and honoring their unique processes, works and ideas. You can find the stories they create together, written down by teachers and pinned on the walls or in little books they make. Their work, thoughts, concerns and unique processes are visible and validated.

And of course it was a fun day with lots of different things to do, see and experience. There were little puppies to pat, arts and crafts with natural materials, face painting, games and a magnificent bubble show, where children could experience how it feels to be inside a bubble (well, one after another). And of course the food; homemade German cakes, German pretzel-rolls from my favorite bakery Roeck-enwagner, German potato salad and to round it all up, and Mexican specialties. I loved to overhear a conversation about future tree houses and colorful play-houses. It was wonderful to see people connect and get inspired; to see people being at home sharing different cultures and languages and where cultural boundaries dissolve.

Like the children are watching the little seedlings in their gardenbeds grow, we watch Kigala grow. Many flowers could be seen at the open house. The most beautiful ones were the building of community, the welcoming warmth and of course the happiness of our children.

Marion Leib, parent