

# *Integration through Sport*



STUTTGART



# *Integration through Sport*



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## Foreword

by Dr. Wolfgang Schuster, Lord Mayor of Stuttgart



**W**e are Stuttgart: 170 nations living together. Almost 40 percent of the Stuttgart population has an immigrant background, and when it comes to children, it's almost every second child. Stuttgart – a microcosmos of the United Nations – has been reaping the benefits of immigration for many years now, in our day-to-day life, our culture and sports – and not just in professional sports. Nowadays children and young people from the most diversified countries play together in our youth teams.

That is why it is so important for me to encourage sport as a special gelling agent to promote and advance integration. There are two universal languages which can break down any frontier, and these are music and sport. Both inspire and bring pleasure to people, providing a bond that can only be experienced in a community. So it is obvious that music and sport can be used to bring people together, a

foundation for integration. In Stuttgart we have been doing just that for about ten years now. The mutual feeling of togetherness in sports, whether it's after a victory, a sorry defeat or simply during training, welds together and forms a basis for understanding and communication.

As we heard at our congress "Integration through Sport" on January 22 and 23, 2007, other European cities are experiencing the same. Sport is the ideal way of conveying the five values: respect, tolerance, peace, solidarity and fairness. With this in mind, the congress participants adopted a manifesto, which also appears in this brochure.

A city can only have a positive future if all the citizens can identify with it, if – no matter where they originally come from – can say "I'm a Stuttgarter". Here it's not the colour of their skin or the country on their passport that

counts, but how each single person is integrated in this community and to what extent he or she has a sense of belonging. In the "Stuttgart Pact for Integration" all groups actively playing a part in our urban society are committed to this integration process and embrace it as a mission for everyone. Integration through Sport is a vital aspect of this work.

This brochure deals with 15 examples of how Integration through Sport can succeed. It is citizens of our city who sustain these projects through their own personal commitment, creating a friendly togetherness across the ethnic frontiers.

However, these examples also show that it really isn't too difficult getting people together via sport. Whether it's the overweight youngsters who, thanks to a sports club, not only start having fun in their workouts, but also find new friends, or the pre-school children learning German by singing songs with the other children and then plucking up the courage to join in their games.

My thanks go to all the people who play an active role in making Integration through Sport work. The excellent quality of life, the low crime rate and above all the contentedness of our citizens are the positive outcome of this work. So I would kindly ask everyone involved in sport to continue this excellent work for the benefit of us all and for the future of our city.

Talking to the people who are actively involved, it is obvious that their work gives them a huge sense of fulfillment and recognition. At the same time it's encouragement for all of us. Therefore, I would be delighted if this brochure could prompt sports clubs and schools to follow these examples and create even more projects. New ideas are always welcome. May this togetherness long continue.



Dr. Wolfgang Schuster  
Lord Mayor of the City of Stuttgart

# ***Manifesto***

*Integration through Sport*

*Actively living together side by side in our cities*



On 22 and 23 January 2007 the congress “Integration through Sport” took place in the Stuttgart Town Hall. 350 participants from throughout Europe got together to exchange their experience and find out about the Stuttgart projects. Dr. Wolfgang Schuster, the Lord Mayor, closed the congress with the joint adoption of the Stuttgart Manifesto on “Integration of immigrants in Europe’s communities through sport”. Here is the wording:

## Introduction

In our urban community we are experiencing a many-sided change process arising basically from four factors:

- globalisation
- demographic change
- technical developments
- shift in values.

1. **Globalisation** changes our working life, our day-to-day life and our population structure. Globalisation opens borders, not only for goods, services, finances and information, but also for people from all over the world. This way our cities are becoming more and more international.

We are therefore required to integrate the newcomers into our town life and at the same time provide them with fair chances in our midst. We all have to make every effort to ensure that our living together does actually work – and this particularly through sport.

2. The **demographic change** means that we all have a good chance of living longer and staying fit and healthy well into old age. At the same time, less children are being born.

The demographic shift also changes the demand for services, particularly in sport. This increasing number of “young senior citizens” is people who want to lead an independent, self-determined life for as long as possible. At the same time, in view of the decreasing number of children, every child must be given the advancement and education he or she needs for a fair chance for the future.

Our cities have to provide our children with the freedom and facilities to play. Traditional forms of sport and new exercise trends are there to improve the health of young and old, and at the same time sport offers many ways of bringing the generations together.

3. **Developments in technology** make both our professional and private life much faster and lead to an increased media consumption. More and more new media technologies mean a whole surge of information, entertainment, games, films and communication networks. This also means a major change in behaviour, especially in children’s and young people’s behaviour. Using these media for hours on end every day can cause difficulties in concentrating, posture problems, passivity or aggression and lead to social isolation. To get children and young adults away from the television and computer we need sports programmes that turn sport into a shared experience.

However, to overcome anonymity and isolation in front of the television, there has to be programmes for older people available in their neighbourhood, so that they can still keep active together, even as they get older. Such sports programmes can also be common ground for young and old.

4. The **shift in values** in our society means an increasing diversity in living arrangements. With more and more individualisation, the number of people willing to commit themselves on a long-term basis is on the decline.

This does not just affect marriage and the family, but also public

organisations such as sports clubs. Many people cocoon themselves in their own sphere of interests and live in “their own” little world. More than half of the households in major cities are in the meantime single households; complete families with children are now a small minority. However, individual freedom and social responsibility go together.

Sport can play a vital part in showing active solidarity with disadvantaged members of society, people with disabilities, children, older people. This is especially the case when the people use their own personal freedom for a voluntary commitment for a social and sporting togetherness in our clubs and associations.



At the opening of the Congress the “Footwork Pioneers” get enthusiastic applause from participants and guests. Among them (front row, from r.) Dr. Thomas Bach (President of the German Olympic Sports Association and Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee), Minister President Günther H. Oettinger, Lord Mayor Dr. Wolfgang Schuster, Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble (Federal Minister of the Interior) and Ulrich Bohner (Executive Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, European Council in Strasbourg).



## Targets

We see our cities as communities, collectives of old and young, healthy and sick, people with or without disabilities, people with German passports and people with other passports. Even if our urban society is becoming more and more international, multi-cultural, older, more individualised and more medially networked, our target must still be to develop our cities as communities or collectives.

That's why today more than ever we have to actually live this coexistence among the generations and among the nations. And that's where sport comes in. Sport can bring over the values that are absolutely imperative for living together.

"Sport, like music, is something universal, something that is understood all around the world, regardless of social, ethnic or religious difference. Not only is sport universal, but also its values." (IOC President Dr. Jacques Rogge). Just as the Olympic rings are intertwined and linked to one

another, so too are the five values sport can convey in a special way: respect, tolerance, peace, solidarity and fairness.

These values are of vital importance for integration in our city communities. These values cannot be conveyed by simply learning them in theory – abstract and isolated. Particularly for children and young people, it is important that these values are tangible, an experience that can be shared by doing. Sport can in many ways make these values come to life.

## 1. Respect

Respect for others, regard for their person, their input, their abilities, their achievements can, at the same time, make it easier to show self-respect.

The great variety of sports, the differentiation according to age, disabilities or not, gives everyone the opportunity of paying tribute to his or her opposite number for his or her effort – no matter what passport or social status they may have. Going by the motto of Pierre Baron de Coubertin: "...the most important thing is not to win, but to take part... not the triumph, but the struggle".

Mutual respect is shown for the achievement of others; but respect is also important for oneself. For instance self-esteem can be nurtured by one's own self-discipline and personal responsibility by doing something for your own health through sport.

Sport therefore makes a valuable contribution to a culture of respect for others and personal responsibility.

## 2. Tolerance

The complexity of the differing lifestyles and moral concepts various nationalities have, the change dynamics which cause pressure to perform and a compulsion to adapt can sometimes lead to an aversion or a defensive stance towards other people, otherness or indeed anything that is different. Playing sports together and sharing this experience is not only something that bonds people from different social and national backgrounds, but it also helps break down prejudices.

This makes it easier to show respect for others, for their different life stories and cultural history, their different experiences and ways of life. Both the social and sporting side of life in our sports clubs makes this mutual understanding easier.

And so sport can make a valuable contribution to a culture of understanding and acceptance of “being different”.

## 3. Peace

With the thousands of medial “role models” portraying aggression and violation, it is hardly surprising that young people tend to try and solve conflicts with violence. Sport is an excellent way of relieving aggression through exercise. At the same time a sporting competition is an important way of demonstrating that the other team is not the bad enemy, but a fair opponent to be met with in a contest with clear rules and regulations. And since the players often come from various countries and have different social backgrounds team games play an important role in a peaceful coexistence.

Sport therefore makes a valuable contribution to a culture of social harmony and peaceful coexistence.

## 4. Solidarity

Above all, team games create a togetherness spirit that crosses all social classes and nationalities. This sharing experience is also an important counter-measure to cocooning in one’s own little world and becoming isolated in front of the media.

The joint struggle to win, the shared effort to reach the target promotes team spirit and a sense of responsibility for others.

Sport therefore makes a valuable contribution to a culture of mutual help and trust.

## 5. Fairness

Observing common rules and regulations is an essential prerequisite for living together fairly and peacefully. One of the basic rules is equality, i.e. equal treatment in observing the rules and the same right to participating in sport – regardless of social status or nationality.

Since the rules of the game apply for everyone the right to participation is at the same time a definite 'No' to social exclusion and discrimination.

Sport therefore makes a valuable contribution to a culture of fair play and social participation.

## Mission

Sport can and should be able to offer everyone a home. Therefore, it is important that the people responsible in politics, in the society in general and in the sports organisations give enduring support to the integrative function of sport.

1. Based on the principle of subsidiarity, it should not be the state or town council who are directly supported in their work, but the non-commercial sports organisations and clubs. These can for the most part only exist due to the personal commitment of the people of our towns.

In clubs it is possible to realise integrative programmes geared towards these values. However, a lot can also be done for Integration via Sport in our nursery schools, schools, companies, youth clubs and cross-generation communities.

2. The municipalities are therefore required to support the sports

associations and other public interest sports organisers in their work, above all by providing the necessary infrastructure, sports halls, sports fields, swimming pools and other public exercise places, e.g. schoolyards, playgrounds, jogging circuits, hiking trails, etc.

Public subsidies are also necessary to ensure a high level of quality in the sports programmes – from both a sporting and social point of view – and to include a wide range of demand-driven sports and exercise. This should include differentiated offers according to age and neighbourhood for recreational sports – leisure, therapeutic and fitness sport – as well as a separate range for competitive and professional sports.

3. Integration through Sport remains a dynamic learning process, in which sports associations and clubs as well as politicians, above all municipal politicians, are called upon to make a contribution to a future-oriented development in sport. And this also in the light of changing leisure activities

and new sports trends plus an increasing professionalism and commercialisation of sport.

In order to make Integration through Sport work, sport must not be seen as an isolated social sub-system, but an integral component in the development of our city life. Apart from the advancement of the infrastructure and financial promotion of sport, it will in future be all the more important to intensify sharing our experiences, to learn from one another by best practices and always find new ways for actively living together in our cities so that integration that does not just exist on paper, but is indeed very much alive.



# *15 good examples of how Integration through Sport is 'alive and kicking' in Stuttgart*





# ***Switch to grammar school***

*Wrestling combined with language training  
especially for resettlers*



Many of the wrestlers in the 'Kraftsportverein Stuttgart 1895' are resettlers. A combination of sport training with language courses and tutoring is a way of improving integration, especially for children. It certainly worked for Kiril Dieser, who came to Germany from Kirgistan, and is now a pupil at a grammar school.





Without the help of Adolf Rager (r.), President of the 'Kraftsportverein 1895', Kiril Dieser (l.) would not have managed the language course.

## Contact

Many of the wrestlers in the 'Kraftsportverein Stuttgart 1895' are resettlers. A combination of sport training with language courses and tutoring is a way of improving integration, especially for children. It certainly worked for Kiril Dieser, who came to Germany from Kirgistan, and is now a pupil at a grammar school.

When he passed the entrance examination for the grammar school Kiril Dieser was absolutely delighted and came running to tell Adolf Rager, the President of the 'Kraftsportverein 1895': "I'd never have managed it without the language course!" In 1999 the blond lad came with his parents from Kirgistan to Germany when he was just five and a half. His father was a member of the German-speaking minority there, his mother is Russian. Kiril was able to understand Russian and also talk a little but his German was better. However, spelling was not exactly his strong point, which soon proved to be a problem at school.

Initially the family stayed in the Stöckachstrasse in the east part of town. A friend got the sporty young boy interested in wrestling so he joined KV 95 and learned this sport from scratch, training twice a week. When the family moved to Neugereut in 2001 it was difficult. How was Kiril to get from there to his training in Dachswald/Vaihingen? To begin with, his mother brought him and collected him again.

When a special course for resettlers was offered in the Waldburg School in Stuttgart-Rohr offering wrestling training combined with a language course and tutoring – that was just the thing for Kiril. The courses were funded by a municipal project "Our Youth's Future" and organised by the Kraftsportverein and the Junior District Sports Association. Every Friday it was first of all wrestling with the German language from 4.30 - 6 p.m and then real wrestling from 6 – 7.30 p.m. The language course helped Kiril improve his written German.

### **Kraftsportverein 1895 Stuttgart e.V.**

Adolf Rager  
Teufelswiesen 1  
70569 Stuttgart  
Tel. 0711/68 41 19  
[www.kv95.de](http://www.kv95.de)

However, Kiril's mother then found a job in the city centre so she could no longer take her son to training. So that meant that the ten year-old had a long train journey alone in the late evening, which understandably his mother was not too keen on. That was where Adolf Rager came in, he wanted to help the promising young wrestler.

For six months he drove Kiril every Friday from the south part of Stuttgart to Neugereut. "I'm only doing it for the sport," he stressed, because he doesn't like a fuss being made about his commitment.

In the end he was not able to hold on to the talented lad. When the project with the language course finished at the end of 2005, Kiril gave up wrestling. Now he plays football for TSV Steinhaldenfeld – the sports field

is only a stone's throw away from his home. In the meantime he is in Grade 7 of grammar school at the Jörg-Ratgeb School. There's a lot to be learned and since the Abitur has been shortened to eight years, there's not much free time left.

Adolf Rager still has a lot to do with resettlers from Russia since most of his wrestlers come from the Ex-Soviet Union. The KV 95 men's team have been promoted twice in a row and will be playing in the Wrestling Association League next season.

KV 95 is the German Olympic Committee's only support point in Stuttgart in their initiative "Integration through Sport". The club receives a subsidy and in return they help around 30 programme participants to find an apprenticeship or internship.

# ***Sport and life coaching***

*Rosenstein School: Sport Group as  
part of an integrated concept*



Sometimes they do sports,  
sometimes they cook and  
sometimes they just talk. At “Fit  
for Fun” in the Rosenstein School  
achievement is not what counts.  
The girls from Grades 7 – 9 simply  
enjoy being together once a week  
in a regular group.



At "Fit for Fun" in the Rosenstein School girls of all sizes get together once a week with a teacher and a social worker. The main thing is having fun together.

## Contact

It was difficult to find girls who were willing to join a sports group going by the name of “XXL”, and it wasn’t until the name was changed to “Fit for Fun” that a group of girls got together. For the boys the original name was okay from the start. The idea behind this project at the Rosenstein School, (an all-day school for Grades 1 – 9) was to encourage precisely the children who don’t do much exercise or those who have weight problems.

In the meantime ten girls from Grade 7-9 get together once a week. The sports teacher is supported by a social worker who can give them a special back-up. She is the one they can pour out their hearts to, if they have problems at school or at home. Sometimes they simply talk during their meetings. Cooking together is also an important aspect. “They don’t necessarily know what’s healthy and good for them,” explained Jenny Holland, the sports teacher. The girls have to learn how to be aware of what they are actually eating, for

example finding out when and why they reach for sweets and chocolate. And they come to realise that often they snack and nibble unhealthy things out of sheer boredom or because they’re worried about something.

On average they do some kind of sport every second week – sometimes volleyball to loud music, skipping or floor exercises with bands. The girls really enjoy it. They get a certain buzz and are extremely friendly to one another. The Group is important for them. The exercise gives them – especially those who don’t otherwise take a lot of exercise – a more positive feeling within themselves.

The boys’ Sport Group kept the “XXL” name. “These were more unrelated outsiders who were thrown together,” said Jenny Holland, “but in the meantime they’re an established clique.”

The “XXL” and “Fit for Fun” projects at the Rosenstein School are part of a

**Rosensteinschule**  
(Rosenstein School)  
Ingrid Macher  
Nordbahnhofstrasse 120  
70191 Stuttgart  
Tel. 0711/25 60 461  
[www.rosenstein School.de](http://www.rosenstein School.de)

comprehensive educational concept. Most of the school children come from an immigrant background and many parents do not pay too much attention to a balanced diet or physical exercise. The idea is to involve these more, for instance, with paediatricians or nutritionists taking part in parent-teacher talks.

The concept of the “socially effective” school provides for a clear code of conduct and anyone violating this, must be aware that there will be a penalty to pay. This is, however, clearly stipulated in the rules and the code of conduct is

generally observed. Politeness and good manners play a very important role at the Rosenstein School.

Just recently the school received a exceptional tribute with the special prize “The Good Idea” from the Alfred Toepfer Foundation. The award-winning project “Friends create success” . Here ex-pupils of the Rosenstein School with an immigrant background, and who are now successful in their professional life, act as a sort of mentor for the students in their last two and half years before finishing their schooling.

# ***Achievement is not what counts***

*Shared social experience in sport: Football in Hallschlag*



Every Friday in the Altenburg School in Hallschlag school kids can play football on an informal basis and always with the same contact person. Older children help the younger ones, the aim is that the kids learn to deal with one another on a peaceful and friendly basis.





## Contact

The football that's on offer at the Altenburg School does not rank among competitive sports. The team leader, Thomas Krombacher, explained that some of the children who play football with him would certainly not be able to play in a regular football club – because they would not quite make the mark. But they are keen and ambitious, and the Grade 5 and 6 guys run like mad after the ball. Winning is the name of the game and there are some wonderful scenes, but what's more important is that everyone is involved – even those who are not quite so sporty. And if the smallest of the bunch scores a spectacular goal, the bigger guys are there to give him a hug and show how much they appreciate him.

The trainer told us that it had taken a bit of time but now the group does more or less organise themselves. They form their teams quickly and then there's no problem, everything gets going.

The City of Stuttgart and the District Sports Association set up the programme "Shared Social Experience in Sport" in selected districts of the city for children and young people, who basically didn't know what to do with themselves in their free time. Every Friday in the Altenburg School (Lower School with pupils from Grade 5 – 9) "the kids can kick a ball around from 1.30 – 3 p.m. and get some exercise without any stress or fears," is how Krombacher summed it up. What is important is that there is always the same contact person who has an eye on everything, and that the group is manageable.

Since it's in the early afternoon most of the footballers are pupils from the Altenburg School. Only now and again do other kids drop by and play. It's important for Krombacher that the kids organise the game themselves and make their own regulations: "Many of the children don't even know normal rules of behaviour. It starts with actually acknowledging the others and simply saying hello."

### **Gemeinschaftserlebnis Sport**

("Shared Social Experience in Sport")

Thomas Krombacher  
Fritz-Walter-Weg 19  
70372 Stuttgart

Tel. 0711/2 80 77-657  
[www.gemeinschaftserlebnis-sport.de](http://www.gemeinschaftserlebnis-sport.de)

One target is to bring these young people together, regardless of their social background, whether their parents are immigrants or not. Krombacher explained that as a rule there is no direct conflict due to nationality, but a certain tension can be felt, and when it does come to the clinch, family origin does play a part. Krombacher: "Then the Turks tend to wind the Greeks up, the eastern Europeans and resettlers banter with the Swabian kids." Right now the team is made up of 16 boys from ten different countries.

In Hallschlag there are many disadvantaged families so that young people, whose parents are not able or willing to pay for club memberships, can still benefit from this sport project. For many it's the only opportunity to take part in sports outside the school curriculum, but it's easy to find access to it because it takes place in the school gym they are familiar with. Sport is, however, not the only objective. As Thomas Krombacher explained, "the aim is to improve team work, self-confidence, fairness and social competence."

# ***The trainer learns something at the same time***

*Sambo training at SV Gold Blau Stuttgart e.V.*



In the past it was often the case that resettlers stayed among themselves in their sports clubs. But that has changed with sports such as sambo attracting more and more people who do not speak Russian, German is slowly becoming the common language. So this way everyone can benefit, even the trainers who can learn German from their pupils.



## Contact

Sambo originated in the Soviet Union – Samosaschtschita Bes Orushia is the full name and means “self-defence without weapons”. It wasn’t until the 1990s when many resettlers came to Germany that this type of sport caught on. It was originally developed by the Red Army as a type of close combat, but the sports club SV Gold Blau teaches it as a martial art, i.e. without any blows and kicks. Technically speaking sambo is similar to judo and wrestling but with different rules.

SV Gold Blau is the sports club for the German Youth from Russia (Deutscher Jugend aus Russland). In the training rooms on an industrial estate in Feuerbach it’s mostly Russian that’s spoken – or German with a strong accent. During the training Boriss Malkin, the current German sambo champion, gives his instructions and tips to the kids in Russian which they can understand. They practise throws and leg levers, which unlike in judo, are permitted. If one person falls the struggle continues on the mat.

No matter how impressive Boriss Malkin is in a physical sense, when it comes to talking German it is easy to see that he is very unsure. But when training adults he simply has to



Makaev prepares for a throw.

engage with this foreign language. As time went by more and more people without any knowledge of Russian started joining in, and today they can all vouch that Malkin’s German has improved immensely. And to make

### **Deutsche Jugend aus Russland e.V.**

(German Youth from Russia)

Ernst Strohmeier

Landhausstrasse 5

70182 Stuttgart

Tel. 0711/2 84 94 80

[www.djr-stuttgart.de](http://www.djr-stuttgart.de)

sure he doesn't get out of the habit, Arthur Renz, President of the Baden-Württemberg Sambo Association only speaks German to Malkin, although communication would certainly be easier in Russian.

The Sambo and Judo Associations work closely together. They organise joint training courses, sambo athletes often have a belt in one of the Japanese martial arts. More and more judoka are being attracted to sambo and so this form of sport is slowly coming out of the Russian-German

niche. This can also be seen in the national league: Russian is no longer the predominant language.

Ernst Strohmeier, President of the Association German Youth from Russia, is pleased that integration has taken a different turn. Initially SV Gold Blau was a pure resettler club which, for example, also organised the successful project "Boxing in the East". The main idea here was to get the young Russian Germans off the street and give them something to do in their free time. What happened was that the resettlers just stayed amongst themselves, which was not the desired effect. "Clubs for immigrants is not what we need, it's important for the newcomers to contribute to how our society develops. That's why I'm so pleased that always more and more non-Russian Germans are joining our club."

Trainer Boriss Malkin explains a sambo technique.



# ***Georgios doesn't like swearing***

*Good manners are important at the  
Children's Football Academy*



Since the football World Cup last year in Germany, more and more children have shown an interest in playing football in a club. From the word go the MTV Children's Football Academy wants to show the youngsters that the important thing is not the struggle or winning, what football is all about is being part of a team and being able to depend on your fellow players.





## Contact

**G**eorgios Metaxarakis was born in Crete and came to Germany at the age of 23 and, in the meantime describes himself as a “Half Swabian”. He leads the MTV Children’s Football Academy, which was founded in 1993 as the first of its kind in Germany. “Academy” sounds a bit grand – all to do with achievement and elite – but here any child wanting to play football is welcome. However, there are different groups so that everyone can train to the best of his or her abilities. And the secret is in the mix. “If ten Turkish guys turn up, no way are they going to be in one team,” Metaxarakis makes that quite clear. In the Junior A League more than 50 percent of the players are German, which is way above the average in most football clubs.

Metaxarakis explains that sport is really not the most important thing in a Football Academy. “What’s most important is the children: their social behaviour, manners, health and well-being. If everything’s okay there, then

there’s no problem with the sporting achievement.” Because this is his motto, he selects his trainers very carefully. They have to go through a trial period of six months and then, if they’re good enough, they will be accepted. Of the 22 graduates from the neighbouring college of physical education he only selects the top two.

Metaxarakis emphasises: “Trainers have to be able to cope with children and train with them in a way that suits them and their situation.” With



Substitutes’ bench.

**Kinder-Fußball-Akademie**  
(Children’s Football Academy)  
Georgios Metaxarakis  
Am Kräherwald 190 A  
70193 Stuttgart  
Tel. 0711/63 18 87  
[www.mtv-fussball-akademie.de](http://www.mtv-fussball-akademie.de)

the little ones there is always lots of romping around. "It's too early to start teaching them back four formations etc." The trainers are of course heroes for the little ones. "They really copy how you behave and react." For Georgios Metaxarakis the children's manners are also very important. But he has to laugh as he tells us, that newcomers to the club, calling other members names, are always immediately warned: "Hey, watch out, Georgios doesn't like any swearing!"

Georgios Metaxarakis with his Minis.



It's very important for him that the parents are part of the project and he likes to get them involved, get to know them and wants to know if his football kids are doing okay at school: "School is important and has top priority." The Academy caters for all age groups – from the Minis, whose jerseys still come down to their knees, to the A Junior League. In the last three years there's been a close connection with VfB Stuttgart with the talented players from MTV being able to have a trial period with the Bundesliga juniors. But if that doesn't work out – and that's often the case – there is always an open door at MTV. And that is what trust is all about.

# ***Ballet – an international language***

*In Weilimdorf ballet tuition is affordable for almost everyone*



**Anca Popescu was once a solo ballerina at the Opera House in Bucharest and has since built up a Ballet Group in the sporting community of Weilimdorf. For the past fifteen years she has been guaranteeing her élèves an excellent ballet education. Half of her pupils come from an immigrant background – not that it is of any importance here.**



Almost 50 percent of the girls and women Anca Popescu teaches in Weilimdorf come from an immigrant background – but nobody's actually counting.

## Contact

Integration through sport? But we just don't do integration," said Victor Popescu, the head of the Ballet Group, quite puzzled and went on to explain how living and working together just goes without saying here. "We don't even ask if someone has an immigrant background. After all ballet is an international language." Many of the girls and the few boys that Anca teaches were born in Germany, but their parents often come from another country, but that is really not important.

More than 20 years ago Anca and Victor Popescu came to Germany from Romania. She was a solo dancer at the Bucharest Opera House, and she knew she would stay true to ballet also in Germany. "If you love dancing as I do, then there's no way you can live without it," she says. In 1990 she decided to set up a ballet group at the SG Weilimdorf sports club. In this part of town there was nothing like this on offer at that point in time so the club's officials were all for this idea. Now she teaches 70 children and adults every week.

"I'm very pleased with how everything works out," she said. Her pupils only have to pay the normal club membership fees for their ballet lessons, so those who otherwise could not afford private tuition can also benefit from excellent training. This way social and ethnic barriers can be avoided.

These ballet lessons can open up a whole new world: it's only a very few girls and boys who start dancing with professional or competitive ambitions, mostly it's only to enjoy the exercise and gain some elegance. Ballet increases body awareness and offers easy access to classical music – something many youngsters would otherwise never get to know.

The ballet groups are also a cultural enrichment for Weilimdorf, often performing at festivals or events. Anca Popescu always manages to include all the boys and girls, giving them all a role so they can make their own contribution to the entire project. This not only consolidates the

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feeling of belonging but also the self-assurance of every child.

To ensure that these performances are successful Anca Popescu has also got the parents involved – mostly the mothers. Initially they sewed the costumes with their daughters, but in the meantime a seamstress – who happens to come from Indonesia – has taken over this job. The parents are also involved in taxiing the

dancers etc. and also in the stage work. So here yet again local networks have been set up.

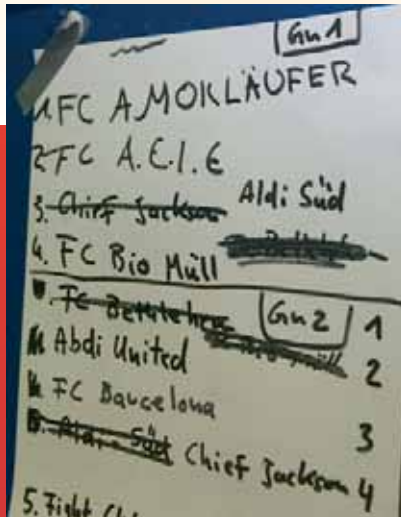
Speaking of networks: Anca Popescu has kept up her connections to former colleagues from her days as a professional dancer. Many of these also now have ballet schools and so she has been able to offer her students from Weilimdorf something quite special – exchange programmes and performances in Italy and Russia.

Perfect posture: Anca Popescu helps correct the details.



# Everyone has to take a turn at being the referee

*"The little Zidanes": Every Friday a football tournament in the Youth Centre Anna*



It's not easy being a football referee and having to make unpopular decisions. The footballers in the Youth Centre Anna learn that pretty quickly because they all have to take their turn at being the neutral one in the game. That can also mean making a decision against your friends. And anyone who's been in that situation will probably think twice before shouting "Fix!!" at the referee the next time.





Mehmet, Abdi, Serkan, Lokman, Zaim and Ingo (from l. to r.) are all regulars at Youth Centre Anna. "They're all Swabians," says the Youth Leader.

## Contact

**F**C Biomüll versus Aldi Süd: They're certainly imaginative the 20 or so youngsters that play in the weekly football tournament on Fridays in the Youth Centre Anna in Bad Cannstatt. It's a three-a-side game with knee-high goal posts; find your team and then go – the lads between the age of 12 and 16 give all they've got. They don't make it easy for their opponents, but it's always a fair game.

The referee is one of their own kind. Everyone has to have a go and get to know the other side of the coin, making sure everyone sticks to the rules. Anyone who makes an unpopular decision and comes into a cross fire of criticism has to bear up, and this way he learns what a lonely job refereeing can be.

However, if a conflict does appear to be brewing on the field Thomas Eisele, one of the members of staff, will put his foot down and make the decision. But this is not often the case.

"Some of our guys have an amazing talent." Sabri Sakalli, head of the youth centre, is delighted with the idea he had four years ago when he started the "Little Zidanes" project. They are really committed, after all a couple of them want to be professional players. With the weekly tournaments many of them have found new friends at the youth centre. Although there are almost 30 nationalities Sakalli stresses: "They're all Swabians. They see themselves as Cannstatter. And now and again when we cook here then it's always the local favourites on the menu – Maultaschen, Spätzle, sausages and lentils, but of course we use beef or turkey so the Moslems don't have to miss out."

Sometimes there are disputes among the young people and their different backgrounds can also be an issue. "Of course we're confronted with prejudices," Sakalli explains. It might only be that someone looks different. "But the kids have to learn that ethnic barriers can be broken down by sport and a common goal." Also Thomas

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Abdi, the ref misses nothing.

Eisele underlines: "They should concentrate on the game." By the way, the various cliques that have emerged are hardly ever based on nationalities but more on completely different criteria, for instance the gear they wear.

The youth centre's leader sees their mission in improving the quality of life

for these youngsters. "For some of them Anna is their second home. Here they have the space and freedom they often don't have at home." Other sports are also on offer, for instance kick-boxing or dancing, which again is more for the girls.

In summer Thomas Eisele cycles round the various playing fields to 'advertise' the tournaments and rouse the interest of other youngsters who have nothing to do with the youth centre. Those who win a tournament get a voucher for activities in the youth centre, for instance half an hour surfing in the Internet. This way the kids and young people can feel at home here instead of hanging out on the streets. "We can see that the kids appreciate it," said Eisele. "They really enjoy it if adults take an interest in them and guide them through their free time."

# ***Learning trust and confidence***

*Ameisenberg School: Climbing project improves the atmosphere at school*



Once a week a small group of pupils from the Ameisenberg school take the Waldau climbing hall by storm. On the one hand this sport poses a challenge to the kids, but on the other also gives them a boost. They have to overcome their fear and be able to rely 100 percent on the others.



Ahmet still has a long way to go. His well-being depends on Kristina and Erenğül holding him carefully. Teacher Sonja Osswald (from r.) checks that everything's ok.

## Contact

Ahmet has worked his way well up the climbing wall, but now he's stuck up there twelve metres above the ground and doesn't really know where to go from there. His classmates down on the ground give him tips: "Go for the foothold up on the right!" Easier said than done! Very carefully and more or less in slow motion he manages to get a safe grip and reaches the top of the wall. Phew, done it! His heart's pounding – and although his pulse is racing he can lean back and slowly abseil his way down.

A few seconds later he's hovering just above the floor, still held firmly by two girls from his class. He knows that he can trust them, they'll take care of him as long as he's on the climbing wall and his life is "hanging by the thread" which his classmates have in their hands. They all know the risk involved.

Sonja Osswald is the instructor of the Grade 5 children; she is a maths and sports teacher in the Ameisenberg school (Grades 5 – 9) and herself an ardent climber keen to pass on her

passion for this sport. A girl from the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade helps her with the supervision. The climbing project is for all classes from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade.

The teacher can hardly hold them back, that's why she trains one group at a time for six to eight weeks and then it's the next group's turn. The project doesn't cost much for the schoolkids. During the day they can use the climbing hall for only 2.50, which is well below the regular price.

For safety reasons she only takes a maximum of eight pupils to the climbing centre. After a short introduction it's not long till they are on the up, because practice is what it's all about. "When it comes to climbing they're all there 100 percent," said Sonja Osswald, "and I certainly get the feeling that they learn to treat one another differently, in a more responsible way."

That is also the educational intention: they all learn to overcome their fear, get to know their abilities and their

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limits, get a sense of achievement and have to rely absolutely on another person.

The Ameisenberg School has a high percentage of immigrant children because they have two international preparatory classes. Foreign children coming to Stuttgart receive special courses and language training to put them on the right tracks for the rest of their schooling.

One special feature is the cooperation with the John Cranko School. This

internationally renowned ballet academy has pupils from all over the world, who first of all learn German in the Ameisenberg School. After a year's tuition their level of achievement is assessed and many change to other schools.

With so many different pupils sport is a great boost for integration because language proficiency is not to the fore in sport. That's why in Grade 5 and 6 the children have four periods of sport a week. Swimming plays a very important role because the ballet pupils are not allowed to do other school sports – the risk of injury is too great.

Don't panic! Even it doesn't look like it, Simone has everything under control, thanks to Sena's help (from I.).



# ***Playing football in the middle of the night – with policemen***

*That's ok in Neugereut*



The right solution to a problem need not be expensive. In Neugereut it was enough to open a school sports hall for young people to improve the contact between the kids, social workers and police. Cooperation instead of confrontation – and it works here! It is important for the young people to get the feeling that they are being taken seriously.





A different way of getting rid of aggression: in Neugereut it's a hard game – but always fair.

## Contact

And the 'aggro' escalated with damages to property and confrontation with the police. These pressured down on the kids, who in turn felt they were being provoked and simply continued to play up.

The problem was obvious. In that part of town there was enough to do for the smaller children but not for the teenagers, especially not in the evenings. So something had to be done. It was quite easy: once a week the young guys can play football in the sports hall of the Jörg-Ratgeb School. Two people from the mobile Youth Welfare Unit and the Youth Centre supervise the football, that's part of the agreement. At the same time the two of them get to enjoy really good football because the kids play really well and are totally committed. One of them already has an offer from the regional football league. "Playing together, they've really improved", said Susanne Bross from the Mobile Youth Welfare Unit in Neugereut.

This project reaches a wide spectrum of 40 kids and young adults, spanning an

age group from 16 to 27, and at all school levels. There's an established group of 15 – 25 players from 15 nations. One thing that stands out is how fair they play and deal with one another.

This project brings people together who would otherwise have nothing to do with another – because the age difference is too great, or the clique would somehow put a spoke in it. But once you've played in a team you soon get to know one another and without any prejudices.

"This project gives the kids the feeling that they're being taken seriously," says Susanne Bross. Accommodating the kids in this way without asking anything of them or without making conditions, has stood the test. The situation in Neugereut is more relaxed and the relationship between the kids and the police is much better. The police keep an eye on them just to see how the football's going, and not so long ago the police challenged the kids to a game and lost – 1:2.

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# ***Night shift round the basket***

*Streetball – faster and louder than basketball*



Midnight basketball tournaments have a long tradition in Stuttgart. In December 2006 the tenth anniversary was celebrated with the best of Stuttgart's streetball players getting together to find out who's best, and there was a surprise at the end of the day (night).



## Contact

Streetball is like basketball, but only here two three-man teams play with one basket, which makes everything really fast – a team can score a point any second. For the spectators it's a real challenge for many reasons. Since there's only one basket in the game, several matches can run parallel. The fact that the players don't wear team jerseys – after all they know who's who – means the spectators can easily lose track. The loud hip-hop music causes the adrenaline level – which is already high – to soar up even more and fires the spirits and drives the players.

Midnight basketball was started to get the kids off the street, to stop them hanging out and getting up to "no good". The project was a success from the word go. To begin with there were as many spectators as players with cliques cheering on their heroes from their particular part of town. "The audience has changed," explains Dominik Hermet, who organises the tournaments for the project 'Sport Something to Share'.

"It was certainly wilder before." Over the years a whole new scene of excellent streetball players has emerged and they now compete against one another every three weeks or so in various halls in Stuttgart.

Nowadays at a tournament what strikes you is the nervous tension in the air. Despite their demonstrative coolness, many of the kids cannot hide the fact that winning is important. The rituals they use when they greet one another and the way they dress could be from a hip-hop video clip, the atmosphere is very friendly and the teams are a mixed bunch. There are kids from lower schools, from grammar schools, girls too and lots of nationalities, but there are no "ethnic" teams.

Anyone expecting problem kids here will have their hopes dashed. The players are highly motivated and in good shape. "Of course there are rowdies," Dominik Hermet is frank, "but not only rowdies. The idea is

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that the hard cases get together here with other level-headed kids. They have to learn that winning is important, but it's just as important to be able to lose."

The tournament starts and the "Fantastic 5", a team of three young women and a male substitute are up against an all-man troop. It sounds unfair, and it is unfair – for the men: in the course of the tournament the "Fantastic 5" bowl their opponents over, thanks also to Kosta Karamatskos. The 20-year-old used to be a regular in the tournaments and is now a professional with Kirchheim/Teck in the second basketball league. The "Fantastic 5" are the winners of the tournament.

"It was hard work more than anything else", says Karamatskos looking back on his way to becoming a professional. Werner Schüle, the President of the District Sport Association of Stuttgart comments: "There are some very talented youngsters among the streetball players who have also played briefly with professional clubs, but most of them don't have the discipline you need to survive in the professional business."

Those responsible are proud that some of the kids have since taken things into their own hands, organising such events as the basketball series "Tha Shiznit".

# **Breakthrough thanks to “La musica”**

*Pre-school combines music, dance, movement and fun*



In the day care centre Sattelstrasse 73 in Untertürkheim it goes without saying that throughout the day the children have several phases where they can really move and exercise, and then have sport once a week. This is good for all the children, but especially for those who have difficulties with the German language.





## Contact

The first day in the kindergarten must have been sheer hell for three year-old Marco: so many children he didn't know, no one spoke Italian, he could hardly speak any German and, in any case, he didn't want to be away from home. As soon as his mother moved only a few yards away from him he started to cry – and then for hours on end.

It had been a long time since Karla Ulbrich, the head of the day care centre Sattelstrasse 73 in Untertürkheim, had that feeling that a child simply wouldn't make it and become a part of the group. "With Marco it hadn't occurred to me that he would like to listen to music or dance. He was very timid and was almost frightened by the other children."

But when you see him today – just three weeks later – it's hard to imagine that everything was so difficult to begin with. When the movement number comes, Marco takes the centre stage. He laughs, sings and dances – there's no stopping him. And how did

this happen? One day Marco saw the other children dancing and for the first time stopped crying. Gizem, a little Turkish girl, took his hand - he had finally got the hang of everything. Now when Marco wants to dance he points excitedly to the cassette recorder: "La Musica!"

In the case of Maria, also a three-year-old, with a Greek background it was the other way round. This very lively and inquisitive little girl cried when she, as the newcomer, didn't get "her" position when it came to the movement number. She wanted to be up there in the middle of everything. But it didn't take long and soon she was playing happily with the other children.

Of course there is an educational concept behind all this, one that goes by the neat name of "How does Lisa get to Pisa?" The songs that the kids really love also improve their language skills as they learn to count, learn the days of the week and the tone of the language. To make sure it doesn't get

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boring there are always new songs, dances and texts. All the children in the day care centre have an immigrant background so it is all the more important that the communication is in German.

The centre has been cooperating with the local sports club TB Untertürkheim

for three years now. Once a week they go to the sports hall for “psychomotor exercises” – where the children can let off steam in games of skill or coordination. “Today there’s much more movement in the kindergarten than four years ago”, explained Karla Ulbrich, “and the children are much more concentrated after their sport.”

Marco and Maria, the two newcomers in the pre-school.



# ***Broaden your sports horizon***

*Sport Spectrum: every two weeks  
a new type of sport*



In the Gottlieb Daimler Grammar School (GDG) sixth graders can get to know unusual forms of sport in the "Sport Spectrum". The idea behind this is to improve contact to the local sports clubs and that the children can broaden their sports horizon.



## Contact

**F**ootball, handball, basketball – these are the sports that most school children know. But water polo, hockey or fencing? Or how about acrobatics in a circus? Maybe they've heard about them, but certainly never had a go. In water polo it is pretty rough going, even the bathing caps have ear protectors; sailing or rowing is literally “no plain sailing”, it can be pretty choppy – these are all new experiences that can be made in the project Sport Spectrum. New sequences of motion have to be learned and new rules, too. I mean, who among us knows what actually goes on during a baseball game?

The sixth grade students in the Gottlieb Daimler Grammar School in Bad Cannstatt can select Sport Spectrum as a voluntary extracurricular activity. This means that every two weeks they have the chance to get to know and practise a different kind of sport for two hours. Sometimes they can do this at school, but often the pupils have to go out to the sports clubs. At the moment 39 students are involved in this project – that is two thirds of their year. Once

registered then they're committed and this year the demand was so high that two groups had to be formed.

With this extra-curricular group, Lutz Arnold, sports teacher at GDG and the founding father of the Sport Spectrum, wants to give his pupils the opportunity of gathering experience they might be able to use later in life. Once they've tried out a sport it's only a few pupils who actually become members in a sports club. “There are enough reasons for this,” explains Arnold. “Some are already tied up in sports clubs, and with the shortened school time there is quite a lot of pressure on the pupils and many of them don't want to have their free time scheduled as well.”

Arnold is convinced that on a short-term basis this project was well worth while: “Two thirds of the kids had two additional – different – sports periods a week and so did something to combat the much lamented lack of movement. And it wasn't just the sports aces, lots of other kids who are not quite so sporty joined in.”

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This project is also seen as a link for cooperation with the local sports clubs, where these can present their programme and the sports they have on offer. On a long-term basis this could improve the local network.

At the Gottlieb Daimler Grammar School there are children from 27 different countries; there are no language or integration problems, which certainly has something to do with the type of school and level of education.

The school has a long tradition as a sports grammar school. The students always take part in "Youth for

Olympics" and in the past some have even reached the national finals. The school's basketball team is at the moment the vice-champion of Baden-Württemberg, and its sport concept was commended among the best twelve for the National School Sport Award.

For the students who are not exactly the sports aces the Sport Spectrum still has some advantages: "Everyone can find something where he or she is as good as the rest or even better," says Lutz Arnold. "Rowing requires coordination and strength, the high ropes course or circus projects calls for dexterity. So there's something for everyone."

# ***Winning by backing down***

*A whole class learns mutual respect in six months*



Combat with fixed rules, meditation and rituals – these are the building blocks of conveying “Learning values through martial arts”, a programme that has been running at the primary and lower school Gablenberg since spring 2006.





## Contact

**N**o you'll never take our queen!" calls Peter Besenfelder and knees on the mat. The police officer from the Ostendstrasse station in the east part of Stuttgart is one of the trainers in this values project. The opposing "queen" sits on the other side of the judo mats and has to be conquered. The seven pupils from Grade 9 b from Ostheim School take on the challenge. The girls are in there too with all their courage and first manage to stop the attack by clinging tightly to the judo suits of their male opponents. However, despite the police back-up the girls lose this round.

Always one class - divided into groups, so that the gym is not too full – train once a week for six months. Partners in this cooperation project are the police station Stuttgart-Ost, the school, the Mobile Youth Welfare Unit Stuttgart-Ost and the Youth Centre Stuttgart-Ost. The Land Baden-Württemberg finances the trainers' courses. The cooperation partners and sponsors provided

money for the mats, equipment and suits. There are no costs for the school children, a deposit for their judo suits is all they have to pay. Participation in the course is compulsory.

And why this project in Gablenberg of all places? "People always expect such a project to be triggered off by something concrete," said Eddy Götz from the Mobile Youth Welfare Unit, "but that's not the point. It's all about respect, something that many pupils have lost somewhere along the way. Even their language is violent. We want to show them how to stick to clear rules and to accept and internalise these values."

That's why the training is not restricted to martial arts. The children learn elements from judo and jiu-jitsu, but the programme also includes tai chi and meditation. Rules and rituals are important, and simply learning to be still when someone is speaking is for some pupils a real challenge. To begin with, there's a lot

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of giggling during the relaxation exercises, but a reproachful look from the trainers is enough to stop this. Work is more concentrated when it comes to combat techniques, even if the girls clearly still have inhibitions about using physical force. It is different in the kata, a sequence of stylised combat movements against an imaginary opponent which are carried out synchronously and accompanied by screams; here the girls can be heard quite clearly, too.

Training with the stick improves dexterity and concentration.



An analysis of the project carried out by the Esslingen University for Applied Sciences showed that particularly the quieter and more reserved pupils really benefited from this. They get a better feeling for their own body, can defend themselves better and, above all, learn to set limits. The screaming during the kata also has a liberating effect.

Particularly for the boys it's something quite special to be able to pit their strengths against adults on the mat. "Something that's not possible in real life," says the police officer Besenfelder.

Anyone who stays the course and participates punctually, regularly and actively receives a certificate at the end, which can then be used for job applications.

# ***Kick-about on the schoolyard***

*Mentors as role models for the younger pupils*



Once a week Grade 8 students from the Primary and Lower School Ostheim offer football training for the primary school pupils with boys and girls having a kick-around together on the schoolyard. The Mentor Programme improves the solidarity in the school and the older pupils take on a certain responsibility.



Faruk, Henok and Onur (from l.): The three 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students donated the 1000 Euro they won in a mini football tournament for a new sports hall for their school.

## Contact

**G**udrun Greth's eyes light up when she tells us about her pupils. Three of them: Henok, Faruk and Onur from the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade recently came in third at a mini football tournament and won

1000. When the school rector asked them what they wanted to do with the money: should it be divided equally among the three of them, or were they planning a big party for the whole class? They answered somewhat surprised: "What? It's for the new sports hall of course!" Gudrun Greth was speechless.

Here another example of the social competence of her pupils: the three boys had also been part of a team in another tournament, and although they came in last, they received the "Fair Play" trophy.

Henok, Faruk and Onur all started as typical "street footballers", they didn't play in a football team, just kicked around on the schoolyard. So that their obvious talent could be advanced, Gudrun Greth suggested they join a football club.

Onur and Faruk, whose parents come from Turkey, now play in a football club, Henok – born in Eritrea – has since trained to become a mentor. Once a year the Ministry of Education offers this training programme in the scope of "School Sport Mentors in the Lower School". In the meantime all the other mentors have since finished school at the end of Grade 9, so that Henok is the only one left.

Gudrun Greth hopes there will be more mentors next year, because one alone is simply not enough, to take care of the youngest pupils. She would also like to see more girls involved. If the mentors carry out their tasks reliably they receive a certificate which they can include in their job applications.

The 600 pupils at the Primary and Lower School Ostheim come from 76 different countries. Gudrun Greth and her colleagues have an enormous commitment to their pupils, conveying them the right values and helping them to integrate. This includes projects such as "Inspiration Ostheim"

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where immigrants like the rapper Afrob and the soul singer Fetsum, who both started their careers in Stuttgart, tell how they managed to make it. They made a recording of a song with some pupils and are now working on a play dealing with the subject of migration.

Gudrun Greth would like to see her pupils getting involved in a sports club

when they're still in primary school. She sees here a great chance of becoming integrated in society. That's why she tries to get successful athletes to come into the school and campaign for organised sport. The boys would like to see somebody from the football first league club VfB Stuttgart, and their absolute favourite would be the coach Armin Veh.

Football training for the primary schools – everyone's there – boys and girls.



# ***Elite Sport School***

*Schickhardt Grammar School: It's hard to be exceptional here*



**“Elite Sport Schools” are for children with outstanding athletic abilities where they are aided and assisted to meet their individual requirements. One such a school is the Schickhardt Grammar School.**





The Chinese trainer Ma Kun, a professional table tennis player, demonstrates the correct posture and hold. Then it's soon routine.

## Contact

Just how good Anita is at table tennis can be seen best of all when she's really challenged. When her Chinese trainer Ma Kun plays one hard ball after another just over the net, she really comes into her own. The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade student with Cambodian parents returns every ball precisely, and it's a really exciting match.

Two Chinese table tennis professionals, Ma Kun and her partner Mu Hao, train the table tennis club at the Schickhardt Grammar School. They play in the regional league for Sportbund Stuttgart, and their contract also includes teaching here. Most of their pupils (boys and girls) are in the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, but some are older, and more than 30 percent have an immigrant background. Some of them display this self-confidently by wearing jerseys in the colours of their national team.

From the start the two trainers take care of every single protégé. So that

they understand the correct techniques and also learn these properly, Ma Kun und Mu Hao play with them, showing them the right grips and leading their hands. After only a few rallies they get their first sense of achievement. A bit of filing on posture and then things get serious: at the tournament it's everyone against everyone, also the big ones against the little ones. The demands and standards are high but that certainly steps up the learning effect.

For children with a particular talent in sport the Schickhardt Grammar School is a popular address, because here they know they'll get the support they need. This also applies for the pupils whose main focus is not necessarily on sport or those who are not quite sure of their talent. If the necessary interest is there, the school sees to it that the pupil joins a sports club.

In 1989 the school set up a sport profile class and the young people

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who opted for this automatically had sport as a main subject. In their chosen sport some pupils are members of the district or national squad. In "normal" schools this often leads to problems. The regular matches and time-consuming training often take their toll on school performance. This is all well taken care of at the "Elite Sport School" with exemption from lessons for competitions or matches being a matter of course. But the pupils still have to do their workload, learning during their free time at sports camps.

In the tournaments it's everyone against everyone.



When they return from their training camps the young athletes are given what the teachers call tracking tuition in their main subjects. This programme also includes homework supervision.

From the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade four periods of sport a week are compulsory. The sports teachers have, of course, an immense advantage with this accumulation of so many outstanding athletes: "During our P.E. lessons we can do things that simply wouldn't be possible in another constellation. There we often have to spend time teaching the rudimentary techniques, but here we can work on advanced tactics," said sports teacher Knut Radke. "The kids get up there on a roll and develop their own ambition, for it's difficult to be something exceptional and really outstanding in your sports achievements."

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