



Sparkling Science >

## Science linking with School School linking with Science

**Interim Report, August 31<sup>st</sup> 2009**

**Vienna, 1020 – Students investigate the  
History and Presence of their School**

### **LEADING INSTITUTION**

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### **SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION PARTNERS**

Verein für Geschichte der Stadt Wien  
Wiener Stadt- und Landesarchiv

### **PARTNERS FROM ECONOMY AND SOCIETY**

Bezirksmuseum Leopoldstadt  
Schulbuch- und Schulschriftensammlung des BMUKK  
Wienbibliothek im Rathaus

### **SCHOOLS INVOLVED**

Lauder Chabad ORG und KMS, Vienna  
Sigmund Freud Gymnasium, Vienna



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Austrian Federal Ministry of  
Science and Research

## “Vienna 1020” – what has been happening so far ...

The first phase of the project has been completed and we can look back on a successful year:

The project “Mitten im Zweiten” (in the heart of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District) began in the autumn of 2008 in two participating schools, the Lauder Chabad Campus and the Sigmund Freud Gymnasium. The first step was to set up project groups in each of the schools; these groups identified areas of interest around the themes: the history of our school or the history of our district. The project allowed pupils to actively participate in the research process and in this way to become familiar with the work of researchers. The pupils decided themselves how they would approach the theme which led to a host of very different projects being developed at both schools.

While the Sigmund Freud Gymnasium decided to start several smaller sub-projects, the Lauder Chabad Campus opted for one large comprehensive project. Individual classes of the Sigmund Freud Gymnasium concentrated on separate projects and the Lauder Chabad Campus divided its larger project among various classes.

The Lauder Chabad Campus chose to research the history of the school in various ways. The pupils developed their own guidelines for each group and interviewed foundation members of their school, former pupils, current pupils, and their parents. Questions were developed specially for each group. The pupils identified themselves rapidly with their role as researchers, were not shy in their contact with others, and had great fun with their research activities. After transcribing the recorded interviews, the young researchers analysed and interpreted their data and then presented their findings on posters or Power Point slides. The result was a comprehensive representation of the school from its beginnings to the present.



The Sigmund Freud Gymnasium carried out a number of different projects that were developed by individual classes; this gave rise to a number of different research processes.

One of these sub-projects, (The 2<sup>nd</sup> District) dealt with how Vienna's 2<sup>nd</sup> District had changed externally whereby the young researchers focussed on the cultural composition of their district, yesterday and today. The pupils searched for clues in field trips in the district itself and visited the District Museum and historical sites in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

A second group (Humour) used the media of film to illustrate situations which they regarded as representative for their school and the 2<sup>nd</sup> District and this led to very amusing film material. During German classes, the young researchers focussed on humour and the representation of humour in film and then wrote the screenplay for their short films.

How do pupils of the Sigmund Freud Gymnasium actually start to read? This was the question that another group of researchers took up under the theme of "socialising reading". The researchers of this sub-project set about examining historical changes in reading habits by visits to the school library. The pupils developed questionnaires which they distributed in the school. The results were then analysed by them.


A fourth project group (Migration at our school) took up the theme of migration. Does migration play a role at the Sigmund Freud Gymnasium? How are the various religions dealt with? A special questionnaire was developed for these research questions and distributed in various levels through the school.

### The Concluding Presentation

At the end of June both schools presented the findings of their research at Vienna University. The presentations were prepared with much care and enthusiasm. Whether by means of Power Point, posters, short films or speeches, each set of results was presented to the audience in a unique manner.

We look forward to the second year of this joint project in which each school by means of *peer evaluation designs* will research its partner school.





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