



# GESAMTSCHULE KÖRNERPLATZ

My Dear Martina,

First of all I must apologize for my tardiness in responding to all the exciting and wonderful news regarding you, your staff and your school.

My sister has been very ill with cancer this year and i have been very involved in her caregiving. It has been impossible to even consider making plans to travel. She died August 12th and her funeral was last week. I am quite overwhelmed by her passing as we were very close.

But now, this week, i am attending to things that are long overdue, and my heartfelt congratulations to you is at the top pf the list.

What an incredible journey!! What a leader!! What persistence and determination!! There are no words that are adequate to express my appreciation and admiration for what you have accomplished. Your investment of time and effort into the well being of German students, particularly in the well being of migrant and economically challenged students is without parallel.

What a true difference you have made in the lives of so many young people and their families. Not daunted by staffing challenges, you have pushed forward with your vision, that of improving the life chances of all students. You have believed in a teaching method that raises the self esteem of students and allows them to grow socially. You have lead by example with your incredible work ethic and your determination. You never lost sight of your goal.

Incredibly, as well as building up this exemplary model of a cooperative school, you facilitated your school's transition to a regular comprehensive school. The stamina this took on the part of you and your stellar school team is remarkable and i am sure that many sacrifices were made along the way.



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I am so so proud of you. You took the baton from two crazy Canadians and ran with it. You ran far and hard, making the journey, the school, the experience uniquely your own. You created something wonderful and worthwhile. Norm would be dancing in the street with a pils in each hand ... just so excited and so thrilled. It is every trainer's dream that a participant in your training would catch the passion and feel the power and fire and potential of cooperative learning.

Covid has made travel extremely difficult, but hopefully when this fourth waven abates, I can see my way clear to come to Germany. I understand that you are retiring in January. What is the exact date?? Is there a party?? My hope is that I can be there.

For now, I send you my heartiest congratulations and sincerest thanks for everything. I am feeling very overwhelmed by the name of the school and very humbled.

With lots of love and tight hugs,  
Kathy xxoo



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