



Clean Plate Challenge – An Initiative of the DSKL Student Council

By Ainara Zander



Students from DSKL showing their clean plates. Well done, girls!

In the West, around 4.4 million tonnes of food products are discarded each year. This amount of food would be sufficient to feed 8 million people a year. Recently, the student representatives of the German School Kuala Lumpur (DSKL), decided to act on this.

The school's management had alerted the students to the "Clean Plate Challenge" project and they were determined to run the campaign at DSKL for a week in mid-October 2018. The "Clean Plate Challenge" initiative aims at reducing wastage of food at schools by raising awareness amongst members of the school community.

A number of students got down to work immediately. They weighed the food that has been discarded every day for one week. The results were staggering: food waste from four lunches would have been sufficient to prepare meals for 60 persons. Posters were created to present these findings.

On the following Monday, everyone completely cleared their plates during lunch break, and the amount of wastage was halved from 6kg to 3kg.

Students and teachers eagerly took part in this project, thus significantly reducing food wastage. A number of students even proposed to remove the trash bin, in order to entirely avoid discarding food.

Finally, on the last day of the campaign, a count was made on the empty plates after lunch. The outcome was spectacular: 83.3% of 150 students completely finished the food on their plates.

The objective of this campaign was to raise awareness in school about the amount of food products that is unnecessarily discarded every day and how easy it is to avoid food wastage. Through this campaign, it is also hoped that everyone is now encouraged to implement zero food wastage in school and also at home. 



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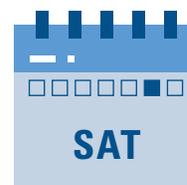
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