

A Wonderful Tradition: *Schultüten*

There are many German traditions I like, but my favorite tradition is the *Schultüte*! I also like the *Oktoberfest* and the Christmas festival quite a bit.

Why the *Schultüte* you ask? Well, because it's kind of a little celebration to show that one is starting elementary school. One can decorate this *Schultüte* with subjects that one has learned in kindergarten and the SES. Other interests and topics are also allowed.

My friends and I made a little game out of it. Who would designed the coolest *Schultüte*? There were so many different subjects--for example, Star Wars, Harry Potter and all the *Schultüten* were designed with bright colors, motifs and patterns.

I remember making the *Schultüte* with my mom and filling it with lots of candy and school supplies for the beginning of the

school year. We covered the *Schultüte* with cats since I was in the "Cat Class" (*Katzen Klasse*) at the SES. Although this is a German tradition, my relatives and friends from different countries and cultures made the effort and took the time to help me make a special *Schultüte*. On my *Schultüte*, I painted the flags of the different countries from which my family come: Colombia, Germany, and South Africa.

This tradition was very special to me because my entrance into first grade was exactly 65 years after my grandfather started school in Berlin. He also experienced the tradition of the *Schultüte* when he started school.

For me, it was and still is a very symbolic tradition to experience.

For this reason, the *Schultüte* tradition is one of my favorite memories that I have experienced in my school life.

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A *Schultüte* ("school cone"), also known as a *Zuckertüte* ("sugar cone") in some parts of Germany, is a large cone-shaped container made of paper, cardboard, or plastic.