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Why(r)us the Virus ***German Edition***

A reassuring tale for preschoolers about COVID-19 safety precautions

Leesburg, VA (December 23, 2020) – Local author and illustrator Kathleen Finnegan has released *Why(r)us das Virus*, the first of three translations of *Why(r)us the Virus*. The children’s book was written and illustrated by Kathleen to help preschoolers understand some of the changes created by the pandemic, *Why(r)us the Virus* provides gentle reassurance and simple explanations for the need to wash hands and wear a face mask during a pandemic. Kathleen’s friends from her years in Europe are providing the translations as a joint effort to provide children and parents around the world with tools to help manage pandemic anxiety.

“When I released *Why(r)us the Virus* a German friend of mine reached out with an offer to translate the book into German” Finnegan relayed. “She said that there just weren’t any books like this available in Germany, and since the pandemic was global, she wanted to help.” Two more friends stepped forward to translate the book into French and Spanish. The French version will be available by the end of this year. The Spanish version will come out in January 2021.

Finnegan has also provided free teacher’s guides and activity guides that can be downloaded from the book’s website at <https://www.whyrusthevirus.com/activities>. Currently the guides are only available in English. “My oldest daughter and my son-in-law are teachers, and they combined their efforts to produce an excellent guide for Whyrus Week” said Finnegan. “The week guides the class through daily informational activities to help encourage hand washing, face mask wearing, and reassure the student that there is hope for an end to the pandemic.”

The German version of the book is currently free on the Kindle (until December 27) The paperback and hardback formats are available at most online book retailers. The epub version of the book will be released in January. A similar promotion for the Kindle version will occur at the end of the year.

Finnegan and her husband have lived in Leesburg for over 20 years, but prior to that lived around the world during his career as an Air Force officer. They raised 4 children who all graduated from Loudoun County Public Schools. She worked at Dodona Manor (the George Marshall House) during its restoration, then worked in IT for both Loudoun County Public Schools and the Town of Leesburg before retiring in 2018.

For more information, please visit <https://www.whyrusthevirus.com/>.

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