

Poland hosts the third Comenius meeting in Katowice (13.-17.10.2014.)

Enthusiastic activities for raising enthusiasm at school continue! We have waited for our last meeting with great eagerness and excitement! In Katowice, city in the South of Poland, we had five interesting days making friends, enjoying workshops, presenting our work to teachers, students and parents of the host school and all partner schools.

The Croatian team members were Josipa Vlahović (7a), Sunčica Matić, Rebeka and Ingrid Vlaho-Oršulić (8c), teachers Ivana Pudar Pećar (Croatian language), Žana Govorko (Chemistry), and Meri Glavinić, our Headmistress.

After interesting topics studied and presented in Croatia and Turkey, (Local food and Folk dances), the topic in Poland was Music. We have worked hard, with great enthusiasm, eagerly and in a hurry, for almost two months, to prepare for the third project week in Poland. To honor the host country, Sunčica, Rebeka and Ingrid prepared Chopin's piano pieces, while Josipa prepared a flute performance by Croatian composer Bobić.

The girls have also prepared PWP's about Poland, about Croatian and Polish composers, our famous „Two cellos”, and about the ways music influences our brain. Their mentors were English, Chemistry, geography and IT teachers- Ms Šutić, Ms Govorko, Mr V. Barbir, Ms. Marković. Preparation of a video reportage "Dream about Dalmatia“ created by Ms Pudar Pecar (Croatian l.) was great fun. Everyone also enjoyed the singing rehearsal in preparation for their live performances.

We chose to sing *Tu non llores mi querida*, by Goran Karan, as we found that he is very popular in Poland. We sang it in three different languages, it was quite an international performance, appropriate for partner meetings! With great pride we recorded our teacher Selma singing "Providenca“ behind our school near the sea. Teacher Ivana joined her in singing “O da mi je cimentati more“.

Details of the Croatian team presentations at the international evening held on October 14th can be seen in the attachment.

The journey and visit

We started our journey on Saturday afternoon, rested in Zagreb, continued towards Poland on Sunday morning. We made a short stop for sightseeing in Wien, and arrived to Katowice in the evening. Teacher Danusha with two host families were waiting in front of „Jan BRZECHVA“ primary school, smiling, impatient to take the girls to their homes.

On Monday morning our girls with their new friends attended classes in our Polish partner school. The teachers visited Aushwitz, a horrifying historical place where millions of people were killed during World War II.

In the afternoon, we attended a welcome evening at the school, and enjoyed a tasty dinner prepared with utmost care by Polish parents. Everything was excellent.

On Tuesday, we all enjoyed a very well organized welcome program, and the rich dance and song performances both the teachers and students put significant effort in.

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During the International dinner, each country team shortly presented their national music; and many parents and other guests enjoyed this beautiful mosaic of presentations, songs and dance celebrating and sharing our music tradition.

On Wednesday we visited Krakow, the city with the most significant historical and cultural heritage in Poland.

We were especially impressed by the salt mine Wieliczka where we saw a stunning cathedral made of salt, located 135 meters underground.

We used the following day to get to know our hosts' school a little better; we attended some lectures, got informed about the Polish educational system, while the teachers had their second meeting and discussed details about the next trips (to Czech Republic and Slovakia).

Sports competitions were organized for students during the afternoon; and the teachers went to visit the biggest brewery in Poland- Tyskie.

Feeling fulfilled and enriched by new experiences, we returned to our town and our school, hoping to have an opportunity to participate in more of these kinds of trips and projects in the future. We believe this is a great way of learning how to respect differences and exchange ideas. Furthermore, we feel even more motivated to participate in school activities at home, after having experienced how other schools in Europe work.

We hope many more teachers and students get an opportunity to actively participate in this and other school projects because every such experience broadens horizons and creates new friendships around Europe.