

A VISIT TO PLANGEROSS, AUSTRIA



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Sannat Primary

1/02/2015 – 7/02/2015

The Gozo College Sannat Primary School participated in a Comenius project in Austria between 1st February and 7th February 2015



We had the opportunity to evaluate and observe the Austrian's educational system and compare it to our own educational system by observing lessons and giving presentations in the classroom.

The Head of School, Peter gave us a very warm welcome and thanks to him we had an amazing experience. We met together with all our partner schools and discussed our project and how each school is to participate in the project. Our understanding of different cultures grew as we learned how to encourage our students to respect and appreciate pupils of different abilities, nationalities and races.





We delivered a presentation to the students about the Maltese islands and shared information about our school, our culture and our identity as citizens of this small Mediterranean island. We also sang a 'Rainbow Song' where the students realized that all colours of the rainbow are important, hence all cultures form one beautiful world.

We highly recommend this Comenius projects to other schools. It really broadened our perspectives and gave us fresh insights into ways of teaching and learning.

This was our day-by-day programme:

Sunday 1st February 2015

Travelled to Austria

Monday 2nd February

We met the whole group and discussed the week's program. We also discussed what is being done in our respective schools regarding the current Comenius project. In our case both Qala and Sannat schools planned to involve students in musicals with an anti-xenophobia message.

Tuesday 3rd February

We discussed various topics such as the running of the school, teaching and learning styles adopted by the school, the curriculum framework and we were also shown around the school building. There is a very small number of children in the school and in one class there are children of different ages. We learnt what strategies the teacher use to reach all children. The children are encouraged to work quietly in a group while the teacher is working with another group.

Three teachers from Ireland did a presentation about their country. They also had a song with the theme of peace and harmony.



Later children helped in cooking a traditional Irish recipe.

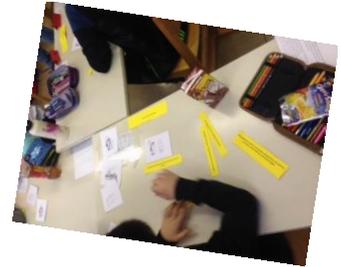


In the afternoon, the whole group explored the village together with the students. We learnt about their culture and traditions.



Wednesday 4th February

The whole group met at school again and the Dutch did their presentation. After a photo story about their country we all took part in a quiz. It was about the geographic differences between Holland and Austria. We were impressed with the high level of discipline while the groups of students were competing against other groups.



The Dutch, together with the students prepared a traditional soup which we all appreciated in the freezing temperature.



Thursday 5th February

It was our turn to do the presentation at school. We showed them a photo story about our schools and talked about the methodologies and resources used in our schools.



Students listened to peace rainbow song. It is about all the differences in our life that form unity and peace. The colours of the rainbow represent the difference in cultures. They are all important to form one united beautiful world.

Then the children were given a hands-on activity. It involved a fun drawing activity that promoted peace and unity.



The children later helped us prepare a traditional Maltese drink 'Imbuljuta'



Friday 6th February



We visited the Kindergarten class. The teachers talked to us about the daily routine in their class. Forming a cohesive, cooperative, caring group is the biggest social goal to be reached during the kindergarten years because it is the context for everything that children do and learn at school. Teachers emphasize appreciation and respect of each child individual unique attributes as well as the similarities and differences that abound among appearances, cultural traditions, holidays, families, homes, and food of peoples all around the world.

We attended a mass at the village church where all the school children participated. We noted the great respect the children shown during the mass.

On the same day, an evaluation meeting was held. We were all asked to give feedback about the week's experience. We conclude the meeting by agreeing that we as teachers should work hard to develop an environment in which to teach primary school children to appreciate and respect all cultural, ethnic and racial differences.

We should be role models and teach that there is nothing to fear and much to be learned and valued about all people, regardless of these differences.



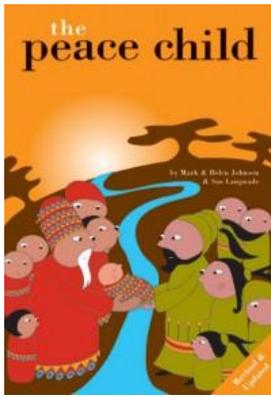
Saturday 7th February

Travelled back to Malta

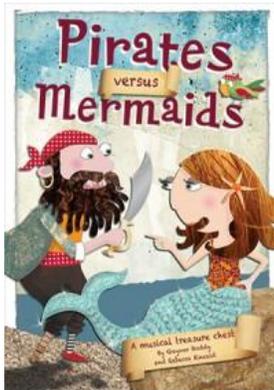
Issues to be followed up by Malta or follow-up activities with tentative time frame

Sannat School – ‘The Peace Child’ Musical

Qala School – ‘Pirates Vs Mermaids Musical



'The Peace Child' is about two different tribes with a river which is keeping them apart. They are enemies and each tribe believed that they are the superior. Journalists visit the desert and came up with a good plan – to build a bridge. This bridge was a symbol of hope and unity. A child was born and both tribes united together and became one big family.



'Pirates Vs Mermaids' is a musical where the opposites meet. Pirates always say that mermaids are useless and Mermaids think that Pirates aren't useful. They changed their mind when Pirates need the Mermaids to teach them how to swim while Mermaids needed the Pirates to catch a crocodile. They learnt that even though they can never be the same, they need each other in life so respect, unity and peace are essential in life.