INFOPULS

The National College of Computer Science Students' Magazine Piatra-Neamț

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CONTENTS

INFOBRAND
A year of Microsoft Academy at The National College of Computer Science.....p1
The National College of Computer Science Acknowledged for Exquisite Learning Activities.....p2
The Educational Project FLORA in the Microsoft Expert Educator Program.....p3
A Report on the SES Project.....p3
Performance at Home.....p4
Following the Olympic Champions.....p5
Young Journalists - Heralds of Traditions. Mobility in Prato, Italia.....p6
The Multilateral Project "SOS Water".....p7
LDV Project – "Developing the Professional Skills in Computer Network".....p8
The Bilateral Project Comenius "Building a Better World For Us To Live In".....p9
Romania through Our Eyes.....p10
The Young Entrepreneurs' Club, CNI.....p11
Programmers Say "YES" to Diversit.....p12
Public Speaking.....p12
Global Village – 2013.....p13
The Public Speaking Competition – Or "How To Gain Confidence".....p13
Unique Experiences.....p14
Chouette Enriches Its Record p15
From the CANSAT Experience.....p16
A Trip in Space.....p17
"Physisc – Gate to Universal Knowledge" Workshop.....p18

REVIEWS.....p19

LITERATURE.....p21

HOBBY
AlterBit.....p22
What colour is the talent?.....p23
Fashion.....p24

A YEAR OF MICROSOFT ACADEMY AT THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Present within our daily lives, but also in the most important sectors of business, Microsoft technologies have spread across the world. Be it about using technology with the purpose of informing ourselves, or to engage in interesting dialogues with individuals or groups from around the world, the way in which technology can connect people and how it can share information is amazing. The power of technological education has allowed a rise in the economic capacity of people.

Considering the fact that the suite of Microsoft programs represents a captivating opportunity for educational institutions and institutions for professional training in order to improve understanding of computer use, The National College of Computer Science became in the year 2012, a Microsoft Academy, the partnership being renewed in October 2013. The Microsoft IT Academy program is spread all around the world and it has been implemented in Romania since 2005, by the EOS Foundation – Educating for an Open Society. It is an educational program, dedicated to the beginning of a career and being accessible to all the educational institutions, designed to offer the students of the 21st century the technical skills necessary in obtaining recognized certifications and in order to become competitive in the workplace environment. By participating in this program we aim to connect the information obtained in school with necessary skills for jobs available on the market, to keep up with ever changing technology and to support both teachers and students by offering them opportunities for professional growth.

All the Microsoft certifications can be obtained through the Microsoft IT Academy, and the exams can be taken in the CertiPort examination center authorized inside The National College of Computer Science, Piatra-Neamț. Lecture modules are very well defined; they offer the maximum of flexibility according to the desired path and they allow the quick attainment of new knowledge searched out by directors and IT managers when they wish to get IT specialists on their team.

During the first year of activity within the Microsoft Academy and as a CertiPort testing center, the activities done at The National College of Computer Science have aimed to:

-the completion of courses on the Microsoft platform by the teachers and students;

-the participation of teachers at life-meetings to train regarding the academy, life-meetings held by Gaby Barna, EOS director, or by Microsoft employees;

-the examination of both teachers and students;

-the popularization of the Microsoft Academy and the certificates which students and teachers could obtain;

The National College of Computer Science has benefitted in the first year of activity within the Academy from a number of 30 vouchers for examination and along with the renewal of the partnership from an additional 30 vouchers. Following the activities, there have been given 27 certifications, 25 for teachers and 2 for students.

In the month of June 2013, under the coordination of CertiPro Education, in partnership with Microsoft, The Ministry of National Education and Telecentre-Europe we participated at the Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA Test Fest 2013) certification Festival, festival where there were 40 students who signed up for examination, 21 of whom obtained their certifications.

According to the ministry's order publicized in the Official Monitor on November 5th, 2013, beginning with the year 2014 the results obtained at the CertiPort exams being finalized with IC3 Global Standard 4 certification can be equivalent with the Evaluation of digital competences test, expert level, within the Baccalaureate Exam.

Thus, more and more students interested in Microsoft certifications will be able to take the Microsoft exams within The National College of Computer Science. We wish to create this school year a class with students in order to prepare them for the exams. The classes will address those who wish to obtain during school the advantage of competences and of a set of skills recognized in the entire world, those who wish to improve their level of knowledge, those who wish to gain competences in the field of Information Technology and those who want a better professional position, as well as those who wish to re-orient themselves or to change their career towards a direction with a more versatile opening, with a large demand.

CERTIPORT
A PEARSON VUE BUSINESS
AUTHORIZED TESTING CENTER

Microsoft IT Academy
Program Member

Teacher Gabriela Blaga

Because some of the students at the National College of Computer Science have already had access at these certifications, one of them had the kindness of expressing his point of view, which we, the editors, consider deserves being taken into consideration:

"Within the CertiPort program, we have access to various certifications, among which the Microsoft ones, which split up into two categories: Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) and Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS). Following the passing of any exam from the categories mentioned above, we become members of the Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) community, where we can benefit from a variety of services, special offers, diplomas and we can trade information with other millions of members inside this community.

The Microsoft certifications are some of the most sought after certifications in the IT field. Also, these are equivalent to the ECDL exam which can replace the digital competences exam.

I consider that, if the possibility exists, it is in the advantage of every person interested in this field to obtain the Microsoft certifications, because, more than the ECDL exam, they offer a variety of options to use and improve the skills gained during the program". ***Rareș Arnăutu, the XIIth A class***

The advice given by our colleague is made on an already gained experience, which is why we hope it will become a support in the decisions you will take in this field.

The editors

translated by Horea Guțu, the XIIth E class

THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE ACKNOWLEDGED AS A LEADER OF THE XXI-ST CENTURY FOR EXQUISITE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Education is the most important resource in a global society based on knowledge. Therefore, the partnership with Microsoft offers us, again, through the selection of The National College of Computer Science in Piatra-Neamt to take part in the Microsoft Word Tour School program, the possibility to demonstrate the competitive spirit of our school on the national and international educational market.

Microsoft World Tour School is a worldwide tour launched to celebrate and to present schools which have successfully implemented Microsoft technology and which have been acknowledged as leaders in innovative teaching and learning activities, concerned with improving their students' competences in order to cope with the demands of the 21-st century.

All the 34 schools in the program are elite colleges recognized as global leaders concerning innovation in education, schools which have applied successfully their vision in developing and strengthening, both in teachers and students, of skills and abilities needed for a successful integration in the requirements of the new digital era.

The way towards the selection wasn't easy, meaning sustained activities of teachers and students from the *National College of Computer Science*, to demonstrate their accomplishments in the development of a high-quality curriculum and the creation of a culture of innovation. So, in the last years, we have gained experience through our participation in the Microsoft forums, becoming in turn Pathfinder School and afterwards Mentor School. We have had the chance to discuss with teachers from other countries about issues of different educational systems and about the solutions which innovative teachers apply in each and every case.

Starting from the principle '*your ideas matter*', the teachers' registration in the *Partners in Learning* network allowed them to become members of a worldwide community of teachers who share the amazing things which they do day by day to improve the educational system. The teachers' participation in the educational programs initiated by *Microsoft* meant capitalizing on their professional skills by using information technology permanently in didactic processes. No fewer than six teachers of our school (Diana Bejan, Gabriela Blaga, Carmen Florescu, Mariana Fronea , Daniela Neamtu, Alina Sauciuc) applied in the program *Microsoft Expert Educator* with innovative learning activities from all curricular areas.

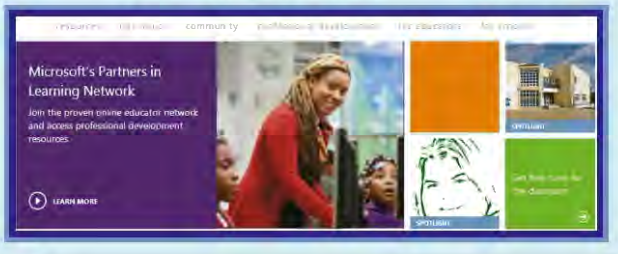
They proved through the activities that they presented, that our school promotes creativity and innovation at all levels, that it aims at training students' leadership skills and last but not least, our school promotes the respect between the educational partners, teachers and students. Mrs Teacher Alina Sauciuc was selected to present the activities that took place in the projects, at the Microsoft World Forum 2014, which was held in Barcelona and reunited elites of the educational domain.

The purchasing of 15 laptops and 25 high-tech tablets and the rearrangement of the multimedia laboratory with modular furniture, gives us the possibility of conducting lessons at any subject using modern and interactive learning methods, in the classroom or outside it. This year, the Microsoft Team has provided us with some presentations of the Corinth programs, designed to help students better understand biology, anatomy, physic and chemistry lessons by means of the virtual world they create.

The Microsoft Academy which operates in The National College of Computer Science and The Certiport Testing Centre, through which the teachers and students have the opportunity to gain experience in IT, are two of our school's achievements which have contributed to its selection for taking part in The World Tour School project.

The partnerships and the scholarly projects, the ingenuous ideas and the involvement in the problems of the local community have demonstrated that we aim for our student's development of the necessary skills that could allow them to cope with the requirements of the 21st century. The welcoming of the other school's delegations will offer us the opportunity to show some of our ingenious applications in the field of education, activities that conform to the requirements of the new era of digital learning and also to demonstrate how the classic educational process can be changed and switched with an interactive, inspirational and relevant one for a world of the future.

Teacher Gabriela Blaga
Translated by: Petru Teleucă, Dragoş Nohai, Iulian Tănasă, Ştefan Zavodnicu - the IXth C class



THE EDUCATIONAL PROJECT FLORA IN THE MICROSOFT EXPERT EDUCATOR PROGRAM

The Microsoft Company, through the program launched in Romania from 2004 to 2013, called Partners in Education, managed to encourage teachers and students to participate in many activities. A component of this program called Microsoft Expert Educator is designed for innovative teachers and enables them to develop their professional skills.

The mission of each teacher was to create a project in which he could combine professional knowledge with new information and communication technologies – ICT.

The teacher was given the opportunity to transcend the classical style of teaching and transmission of subject-specific knowledge so that each of the participants could become extremely creative. Yet, the basic condition was that one had to know how to use the computer, the Internet and any other means of information communication. Any theoretical part, if accompanied by a practical one, is certainly better understood and it becomes more palpable.

The learning activity that I presented and which was subsequently validated by the Microsoft team was 'The didactic trip to Dealul Vulpii' in the FLORA project, in which students studied endangered vegetation and more precisely the species Onobrychis arenaria - the sand sainfoin. Then, we did field research and all the data were processed in a computer lab.

The activity that I presented was chosen by the Microsoft team for a subsequent presentation at the International Forum of Education, which will be held in Barcelona in March 2014.

Teacher Alina Sauciuc
Translated by: Mălina Fodor and Diana Pristavu – the IXth C class

A REPORT ON THE SES PROJECT

Within the time interval January, 20th- February 3rd, 2014 the National College of Computer Science hosted Senior Experten Service - SES, Mr. Karl-Heinz Flammersfeld from Germany. His assignment was to help our college improve the quality of e-learning and it involved the following activities:

- becoming familiar with the Romanian educational system;
- identifying the strong and weak points of using e-learning systems in the educational activities at the National College of Computer Science, Piatra-Neamț;
- building an educational platform that will be used by the students and teachers of the college;
- making a training session with the teachers of all specialties in the college, in order to improve the use of e-learning.

The activity of becoming familiar with the Romanian educational system was done by means of the exchange of experience with the teachers of the "Gh. Cartianu" Technical College, Piatra- Neamț and of the Technical College of Transportation, Piatra-Neamț, by means of direct communication with the headmasters of the 3 colleges and by means of cultural exchange with the History, Geography and Foreign Languages teachers.

In order to identify the strong and weak points of using e-learning systems in the educational activities at the National College of Computer Science, Piatra-Neamț the SES expert assisted in lessons from different curricular areas, in which IT means and educational softs were used. These subjects were: Biology, Computer Science, German, French, Geography, Physics and Philosophy. At the end of each class, Mr. Karl-Heinz Flammersfeld had conversations with the students and teachers about the educational system and the job market.

Mr. Karl-Heinz Flammersfeld, together with the college's IT specialist Mr. Ovidiu Nechita developed an educational and social networking service using the phpBB technology, which was posted on the college's site at the address: http://cni.nt.edu.ro/forum.

The teachers of the college were instructed on how to use the newly created platform: how to register on the platform, how to create and administer a user group, how to post teaching materials and tasks for students, how to communicate directly with the students and other teachers, each teacher having the right to be the administer of their own subject.

As a result of the analysis of the activities that took place, together with the recommendations given by Mr. Karl-Heinz Flammersfeld, the teachers and the students in our college will get involved in collaborative activities, using the newly created platform. In this way, the results of their actions will bring benefits for all the parties involved.

Teacher Gabriela Blaga
Translated by teacher Silvia Morțe

PERFORMANCE AT HOME

Who is not willing to discover new things in certain domains? With all this, it is not enough to have knowledge, as Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "he who acquire knowledge but doesn't practise it is the one who plough the land but doesn't seed it." As it could be observed, the same tactics was used by the students of the National College of Computer Science who made themselves remarked at the national competitions on various subjects.

By far the most significant Olympiad prize was the gold medal won by Vlad Tărniceru (guided by Gheorghe Manolache) at the informatics section, the only one among the 9th students who won the maximum score. Another important prize is that won by Andrei Măzăreanu, who got the bronze medal for the 11th grade. Other students who had qualified: Alexandru Ungureanu, 10th grade (guided by Georgeta Nour and Gabriela Blaga), Alexandru Iordache, 7th grade (guided by Maria Podbereschi), Tudor Tărniceru, 6th grade (guided by Gheorghe Manolache), Mihaela Nechita, 6th grade (guided by Ana-Mirela Mititelu - in computer science, and Cornelia Ţăbârnac – in physics), Daniel Apopei 6th grade (guided by Ana-Mirela Mititelu) and Ştefan Dascălu, 5th grade (guided by Gheorghe Manolache) are among the winners.

Here are some of their thoughts.

Reporter: In your opinion, which was the level of difficulty of the competition?

Andrei Măzăreanu: It was difficult enough to correctly differentiate the participants. On its first day, the problems were oh high difficulty as it was difficult enough to get partial score. But on its second day the subjects were a little bit easier. The differentiating problems had a higher difficulty, being meant to the really well-prepared students.

Reporter: Will all your achievements help you in your future career?

Andrei Măzăreanu: I think they will, as I would like to follow a career in informatics.

Reporter: Has this experience changed you somehow?

Andrei Măzăreanu: It is the first informatics Olympiad I took place in and it made a good impression to me, making me realize how few things I know and at the same time, it made me ambitious to work even hard.

Reporter: A piece of advice for the reader?

Andrei Măzăreanu: I would advise my colleagues (especially the ones of the lower grades) to start studying informatics as soon as possible in they want to get far in this field and to keep working hard. I would also advise them to ask questions when they do not know something and never give up.

But we have not stopped here. We had the ambition to continue and make our present remarked both at the National Olympiad with Andrei Mitrea, 7th grade (guided by Elena Roşu) and at the Olympiad of the Technological Information with Raluca Preisler, who won the second place at the county round at the Acadnet Competition and who shared us a little part of her experience.

Reporter: Hi! I am from Infopuls Magazine. Will you give us an interview?

Raluca Preisler: I would certainly like it.

Reporter: In accordance with what I know, you participated both in a contest and an Olympiad. Could you tell us their names and the ranks you got?

Raluca Preisler: I participated in the national round of the Technology of Information Olympiad and in another contest, Acadnet, in which I won the second place on county round.

Reporter: What was the level of difficulty? Did you face any problems?

Raluca Preisler: The subjects were quite difficult but not impossible. I naturally had to face some problems, because a 12th grade student must use his/her time in more directions. It's harder to focus on what is not directly connected to school activity.

Reporter: Do you finally have any message for those who would like to follow the same way?

Raluca Preisler: As in any domain, interest and perseverance take priority. Mainly, computer science is a domain which quickly changes and has a rough competition. Don't hesitate to ask your teachers what you do not know, ask them for help where you have to face difficulties in order to obtain as much guidance as possible for your future.

Have you ever wondered how many secrets Physics can have? Mihaela Nechita, 6th grade (guided by Cornelia Ţăbârnac) made up her mind to study this subject to the end to figure out the greatest of its mysteries, in this way succeeding in winning the bronze medal at the national Olympiad.

And finally, we can proudly specify both the Mention won by Tudor Vasiliu, 12th grade in Made for Europe Contest and the participation in the National Technological Education Olympiad of Ecaterina Chiriac, 5th grade (guided by Loredana Săndulescu).

Analyzing the previous examples, we can understand that if we have a passion for something special and invest in it, there are very great chances to obtain in a short period of time outstanding results which will certainly bring us personal satisfaction.

Written and translated by
Adelina Popa, the XIth B class

FOLLOWING THE OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS: MIHAELA NECHITA – 7th A GRADE AND ADRIAN PETRU – 11th E GRADE

Reporter: To start with, will you tell us what competitions you took part in and what prizes you won?

Mihaela: I took part in the country Olympiad of Physics in 2013, where I won the bronze medal. The competition consisted of a practical task and a theoretical one. I won the first prize in Kangaroo in 2013, being reworded with a short holiday in an international camp. I won the 2nd prize at the country round of Lumina Math in 2013. The two mathematics contests were of grid type. I took part in Public Speaking Contest and I won the 1st prize.

Reporter: How did you manage to get such a performance?

Mihaela: By permanent work as well as with the help of my teachers. I work three extra hours a day.

Reporter: Has your life being changed since you got these prizes?

Mihaela: I say it has, as you can learn something new with each contest, for example your mistakes which shall not be repeated. More, contests help you to socialize with more persons and even discover their perspective and way of work. And you can get even inspiration.

Reporter: Who has supported you most within this period?

Mihaela: My family, my teachers and some of my colleagues.

Reporter: Will these prizes help you in the future? In what way?

Mihaela: Each contest takes you a step forward, you progress and it gives you the confidence you need in your future as well as for your CV.

Reporter: Will you have a message for the readers who want to follow the same way?

Mihaela: Yes, I will. Overwork is not the solution. Work hard, but with moderation, otherwise you will get tired and not be able to do anything more.

***

You may not have learnt yet, but this year we have among us a colleague (11th E grade) who has an impressive honours list in the domain of informatics. We assumed the curiosity on your behalf and provoked him to tell us something about himself.

Reporter: They know about your performances, but we'd like you to make them known to the readers of our magazine, underlining the ones you are proud of.

Adrian: I am truly proud of one performance in this domain. It was a country contest which had four qualification rounds on the Internet. After these rounds, the best were to take part in the finals where they will win prizes. After three rounds I had low and very low scores. Therefore my chances for the final were extremely low. But I kept on trying to qualify and I did it, being the last, also helped by some others' failures. In the final I got the first rank. Can there be greater satisfaction?

Other significant performances are: bronze medal at JBOI (the Balkan Olympiad of Informatics), a first prize and a few mentions at country Olympiad.

Reporter: What made you choose the National College of Computer Science to continue your personal and professional evolution?

Adrian: It wasn't a difficult decision: the best teachers, bilateral projects, the profile of the college and the very short distance to the college. By far the best choice!

Reporter: What do you expect from the next competition?

Adrian: The first rank, only the first rank .... Leaving jokes aside, I can't say I have any expectations. I hope I will qualify both in the county and the country Olympiad and why not to win a prize. I would like to take part in an international round and win a medal.

Beside this, I also take part in a contest organized by Google consisting of seven weeks to do tasks for the open.soar. community.

Reporter: Your thoughts for your new colleagues.

Adrian: You are the best. A new year full of success! The secret of success is to be dedicated to success.

Written and translated by
Adelina Popa, the XIth B

THE COMENIUS BILATERAL PROJECT "YOUNG JOURNALISTS - HERALDS OF TRADITION" – MOBILITY IN PRATO, ITALY

The Comenius Bilateral Project "Young Journalists – Heralds of Tradition", coordinated by the National College of Computer Science, Piatra- Neamț, in collaboration with ISISS Cicognini Rodari, Prato, Italy meant an unforgettable experience, both for the teachers who were involved, and especially for the students who participated at the mobility in Italy.

Each of us set out excitedly, not knowing what there was in store for us or how we would be welcomed. Although there had been tight connections between the Romanian and Italian students, there was still some insecurity, some anxiety about whether we would still meet as friends back in Prato.

We set out on our journey with high expectations and with the certainty that a big adventure was ahead of us. And we were definitely right, because the first city we visited was the impressive Venice. Even though we experienced the wet weather there, we got stubborn and started walking along the narrow streets, yet magnificent through the greatness of their history. We noticed the remarkable architecture of the buildings, the fact that history felt at home. All the ways led us to Piazza San Marco which impresses because of its lacing in white and pink marble of the Dodge's Palace and the painting of the St Mark's Basilica.

The closer we got to our final destination, the town Prato, the higher our anxiety was getting. Were we going to meet our friends? What about make new others? Were we going to have a good time, or feel homesick? These were some of the questions that were troubling us. And yet... Our arriving in Prato was full of emotions, each of us discovering their Italian friends. For many of us, such an exchange of experience is a unique opportunity during our lifetime and this thing stays into our mind and soul. Well, the first day we spent in the middle of a new family, with daily habits different from ours, was a wonderful one when we learnt to live a little differently.

The official opening of the activities within our mobility took place in the "Aula Magna" hall. The Italian students delighted us with both traditional dances from Tuscany, and Prato especially, and with popular songs. They also made us a nice surprise with a Romanian dance. Being impressed by the positive energy they sent to us, we decided to join them and we taught them how to dance the well known Romanian traditional dance "Braşoveanca".

And so, another day from our visit in Italy ended. The host families did their best to make us feel at home, considered us members of their own families, not considering us foreigners who invaded their space.

The first activity from our program was the visit to the Fabrics Museum from Prato - Museo del Tessuto, which gave us the opportunity to gather information about how fabrics are made the history of printing fabrics, of producing dyes and threads for cloth.

Our journey continued with the visit to the towns Lucca and Pisa. If in Lucca we were impressed by the 44 churches built in white marble, hy the outside wall- known as "the longest wall in Italy" or by the house of Giacomo Puccini, the Duke's Palace, the Clock Tower, the Pfanner Palace, in Pisa we got speechless when we saw the three grand monuments: the Baptistery, the Cathedral and the Tower of Pisa, real architectural masterpieces in white marble.

The most impressive city we visited was Florence, which is incredibly beautiful. A group of reddish roofs and Renaissance splendours, this capital of Tuscany lies among the vineyards of Chanti. Florence abounds in old palaces, towers and amazing churches and art galleries known all over the world, such as the Uffizi Gallery, which houses works of Filippo Lippi, Giotto, Boticelli, Leonardo da Vinci or Michelangelo. We breathed the air full of history; we were greeted by the masterpieces of the Florentine sculptors and architects, and mainly by Michelangelo's outstanding statue of David.

Our mobility ended with a farewell party, where there was much fun and happiness. Our hosts showed us the school's band, which played to us international hits. We were all nervous because this project was about to end and we had to say goodbye to the people who had been close to us for a week. With both laughter and crying, the party ended successfully and at the end we were given our certificates.

In the morning when we left heading back home, each of us carried inside the hope that we would get back in Tuscany, where besides history and culture, we would also find friends...

But what will always be present in our souls is the combination between past and present, between traditions and modernism. The project gave us the opportunity to become familiar with the culture and civilization of the two countries involved, to discover our identity in a multicultural environment. At the same time, it was a life lesson because it gave us the chance to find out interesting things about us as a nation and also about our friends in Italy. We shared information about our traditions, habits, life experiences and we understood that we are alike in a European diversity.

Alexandra Braiş, the XIth F class

Translated by teacher Silvia Morţe

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This web site reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Education and Culture DG
(Name of the programme)

THE MULTILATERAL PROJECT "S.O.S WATER"

When I hear it pronounced "water", I cannot avoid thinking about the project which was held for two years in our school, 2011-2013, and in four more schools from Bulgaria, Germany, Turkey and Greece, the project "S.O.S. Water".

For my participation I am grateful, first of all, to my teacher Elena Genoveva Irimia, the coordinator of the project, who helped me form the team and accomplish all the tasks for a proper development of affairs.

In the beginning I thought that we wouldn't have a lot of work to do. But contrary to my expectations, I invested some time in order to do a good job. I do not regret that, I know it was not for nothing, on the contrary, I have learned a lot of interesting things regarding chemistry, biology and the English language.

Until just a few months ago I had not known how to identify a source of non-potable water or Phytobentos and Zoobestos species in water. Today I am more careful where I fill my bottle and in what rivers I paddle. I won't proceed to explain to you all the tests and procedures that took place during the projec,t so I will jump right to the results.

Also, I would like to invite you to this website (http://cni.nt.edu.ro/sos_water/) where you can find the full development of the project. Alongside this, I made models of schools where I attached our plans for saving water, I conducted different experiments and I participated in a conference where I presented, based on the brochure, the plan of economizing water, the plan of improving the quality of water , comparative diagrams with the properties of water from these five countries and a lot more in front of the mayor from Peristeri, Athens, and a representative from the Ministry of Education. I liked that conference a lot, because I had the chance to show to some influential people, who could easily convince a lot of other people, how to apply a lot of our ideas. For example, as methods to save water, I have to remind you how important it is to take a quick shower instead of a bath in a tub full of water, to do the dishes using professional machines or to use rainwater in institutions, like schools, for the irrigation of leisure parks. Do not forget that it is better to prevent something than to fight it, so I suggest trying the following methods of improving the quality of water, if you do not already use them: do not throw oil in the sink, do not throw trash in the water, it is thrown in special containers and it is good to put filters in public institutions like schools.

Another advantage I had from the project was to participate in the mobility to Greece, where I met again some of the friends I made from the participant countries with whom I had great fun in the trips made to the Acropolis and to the temple of Poseidon, monuments that practically lie on mountain peaks. First we visited the Acropolis, but in order to arrive there and walk along the columns we had to climb the mountain on foot. I cannot recall how much it took us to climb it, but who cares? I was so close to landscapes I had previously only seen on the internet, that two meters or two kilometers meant the same thing to me. I had the same feeling on the beaches close to Athens and on the three-island cruise I took, one of which, the island Hydra, allowed no other means of transport but on donkey or on foot.

My host always saw to it that I was constantly active, by telling me the most interesting details about each historical monument, as I did for her when she came to Romania.

Now I miss all the friends I made, but I also learned that we live in a small world when one of the German participants, Nils Reinhold, surprised us with a visit in our city and when two of the Turkish boys, Kaan Sarioglu and Doga Kilic, returned in our school during an individual Comenius mobility project.

I would also like to thank in the same way all the students and teachers who contributed in one way or another to my involvement in this project. It was truly an experience I will never forget.

Daria Şchiopu, the XIth A class

Translated by Nick Paschalidis, the XIIth E class

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LDV PROJECT – "DEVELOPING THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS IN COMPUTER NETWORKS"

The project "Developing the Professional Skills in Computer Networks" is a LDV project aimed at students that wish to further their knowledge regarding computer networks and their managing. The project consisted of a three-week trip to Germany, during which we took part in networking and German language courses, we worked at a company, Root Solution and, of course, we visited threc cities: Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin.

Obviously, I was one of the students who were interested in the project's theme and I really think that, on an educational level, it has helped me in more than one way.

Firstly, as it was expected, taking part in this project consolidated my knowledge about computer networks, during the classes having learned to manage them on multiple operating systems: Windows Server 2003, Debian and Macintosh. To understand how they work, we used a program that simulated network and server managing. Furthermore, we learned about creating a webpage that was to be hosted on the server, by using CSS, PHP and JavaScript. Thus, we gained a new skill from this project; truly, I became interested in creating webpages, since a well-made website sells very well.

Of course, the project helped me a lot, both socially and linguistically, because I had to communicate in English with the employees of the host company and with the students housed in the same campus, who, just like us, came to Germany with various projects. As a result, I got used to constantly using English, a universal language, in both casual and professional discussions. Besides that, I took part in 40 German language classes, both in my country and during the mobility in Germany. Considering that German is an international language as well, I believe that the linguistic skills gained in this project will help me in securing a job on the European job market.

But work and classes weren't all what this project was about. During the three weeks we had time to visit the cities of Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin as tourists. In Berlin we actually stayed for a whole weekend, and with the help of a guide we visited basically everything there was to be seen: the Brandenburg Gate, the Parliament, The Berlin Wall, the Checkpoint Charlie, the Holocaust Memorial, the German Museum of Technology. I must say that this museum was the one that impressed me the most, because it presented the evolution of technology in every branch and because of the multitude of real-life models of trains, cars, airplanes, bikes, boats, the first types of computers, old models of sowing machines and many others. Even if I had an hour to visit the museum, it wasn't nearly enough to visit it entirely.

However, Leipzig was the city I enjoyed most, because of the spectacular historical center, which I had plenty of time to thoroughly visit. I don't know how it happened, but we had the chance of being in Germany during the Goth festival in Leipzig, during which the city streets were full of people dressed in a gothic and steam-punk fashion. Even if some of my colleagues thought everyone was rather weird, I loved the festival and I'm happy that I had this occasion.

I'd like to end by saying that taking part in such a project has implications in so many domains (professional, social, touristic) so I can only advise everyone that reads this article not to have second thoughts and sign up for the next LDV project that will be organized.

Claudiu Neculau, the XIth A class
Translated by Vlad Ghiurea, the XIIth E class

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A WORTHWHILE IDEA THE BILATERAL PROJECT COMENIUS 'BUILDING A BETTER WORLD FOR US TO LIVE IN'

The last week of the previuos school year... Challenge. Challenge recipient: me. Challenge expeditor:. teacher Mrs Cristina Iftime. Subject of the challenge: creating an essay on discrimination.

The essay I wrote together with my colleague Amelia Hulpoi participated in the contest "Şi pe noi nu ne întrebaţi?" - 'Don't you ask us, too?' - organised by the Ministry of Education and the School of Values Foundation in partnership with the New Horizons Foundation, the Foundation for the Development of the Civil Society, the Agency for Mutual Development, the National Agency for Community Programmes in Education and Job Training, the Resource Centre for Public Participation, and the Romano ButiQ Association. Out of the 58 teams selected after the first round, at the end of the competition, the team of the National College of Computer Science ranked second, and was invited to attend the national conference on discrimination in Bucharest on the 25th and 26th of November.

Beginning of the next school year ... the National College of Computer Science won a new bilateral project (for Romania and Turkey), thanks to the experience and involvement of eacher Mrs.Genoveva Elena Irimia. The partnership had the slogan "Building a better world for us to live in" and comprised two dimensions: a linguistic one (developing communication and interpersonal skills) and a social one (promoting diversity, multiculturalism and equality of chances). The social dimension of this partnership aimed to eliminate discrimination in all its forms and promote tolerance. Three hundred students involved in this project would promote multiculturalism, equality of chances and social cohesion in the community.

The main objectives of the project were to develop communication skills in English and the initiation in the native languages of the two countries involved, to develop IT and media skills in the context of social and linguistic diversity, to help students and teachers acquire knowledge of and promote the EU legislation on discrimination and equality of chances while promoting intercultural diversity, developing teamwork skills and improving the aesthetic, artistic and practical abilities of the participants.

The activities that were proposed for this partnership were the preparation and development of a course that would enable our partner to learn our native tongue (directly and on-line) designed for the students; the creation of an illustrated RO-EN-TR dictionary; the research and gathering of information regarding discrimination inside the partner communities, in tight connection with the legislation of the two participating countries. All these efforts would be materialized in an online guide in three languages: Romanian, English and Turkish. In addition, workshops were organized to propose measures for reducing the effects of discrimination and promoting models of good behaviour. Media coverage and dissemination of the activities, their results and the final products of this project were accomplished through the design and administration of a website and a communication forum for the partners. At the same time, photography and drawing exhibitions focusing on the topics of the human rights and discrimination were organised, and a 2015 calendar was created.

The project started with a meeting between the team of teachers involved in the project and the students interested in making activities in this partnership. The first step consisted in organising a logo contest for the project and undertaking some case studies on examples of discrimination in literature, and soon scripts for short movies (5-10 minutes) were created to promote equality of chances and non-discrimination. At the same time, the INFODEBATE club was initiated and coordinated by teacher Cristina Iftime. For the first three months, the club's activities had as targets the social and racial discrimination. We were going to use as sources of information the contemporary literature and mass-media, trying to emphasize examples of stereotypes which often become criteria for discrimination. The suggested themes were welcomed with interest by the participating students, the first documentation files being already integrated in the participants' portfolios.

We hope that this project will have the intended efficiency and we will become better in a tolerant society, open to diversity and promoting equality of chances.

Antonia Luca – the VIIth A class
Translated by: Antonia Luca, Mihaela Nechita – the VIIth A class

ROMANİA THROUGH OUR EYES

We arrived in Romania, by plane, on the 12th September 2013. This is when we started our Comenius Indivual Pupil Mobility, with the aim of experiencing student life here.

We attended classes, just like our fellow students, we learnt a little Romanian and we improved our English, we had projects and presentations on history, geography, religion and economics. On top of that, we had much homework, more than we expected. Nevertheless we had enough time to play the guitar, to make friends, to socialize and to have fun.

Our first impression was nice about the country. We were curious about the Romanian culture,because before coming here we knew that our nation had some connections and relations with Romania.

Two weeks later, after arriving in Romania, we went to Bucharest, to a meeting with The National Agency of Romania with our mentor, Mrs. Elena Genoveva Irimia. We met our new friends there: one from Italy, one student from Estonia, three students from Hungary and two students from Belgium.

After the meeting, we made a trip to the centre of Bucharest together, where we saw a lot of interesting things. We saw the Parliament building and we were impressed a

lot.

After the trip, we went to the hotel and spent a night there.

We went to Brasov with our mentor on 25th October 2013. After we had arrived there we made a trip in the city centre where we admired the outside of the Black Church and found out about its history. The next day we went to the Peles Castle. It was an unforgetable experience for us, because we saw and we learned a lot about the Romanian Royal family .

Our next stop was at the Bran Castle and we were amazed of how many things connected with our people we could see and find out. We learnt more about the legend of Count Dracula, who was actually, the ruler Vlad Tepes.

We learnt that the Bran Castle was built because the Romanians wanted protection against the Turks.

At the same time, we made a trip to the top of

Bucegi, which was interesting for us because it was the first time we had reached the top of such a high mountain.

In those three months, we had a great time together with our Romanian friends. We had an opportunity to experience Romanian culture. We'll leave here with just good memories.

By : Doğa Kılıç
Kaan Sarıoğlu

„Listen a hundred times, a thousand times think and speak only once" (proverb turcesc)

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THE YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS' CLUB, CNI - PIATRA

Young people believe in the powerful impact which entrepreneurship has in creating jobs, economic growth and improving the quality of life.

Bucharest, May 29th 2013 – Junior Achievement Romania (JAR) has designated on the Romania Athenaeum's stage in Bucharest the winners of the Company of the Year entrepreneurship competition on the pupils' and students' categories, event opened by Mr. Remus Pricopie, the Minister of Education.

The winners were announced on May 29th at the Romanian Athenaeum, within the awards ceremony, an event that marked the end of the Company of the Year 2013 national entrepreneurship competition, the 11th edition, which brought together 27 of the best pupils and student companies from all around the country.

The teams from the National College of Computer Science in Piatra Neamț won the following prizes:

- The prize for the best business idea was awarded to the MisteRo Kamena team which created the MisteRo Kamena (Mysteries of Romania: Kamena) social game. The MisteRo Kamena team consists of: Vasiliu Tudor from the 12th B class, Nistor Claudia and Ceomeică Andruța from the 11th A class, and coordinating teacher Dr. Daniela Neamțu.
- The "Investment of the Year 2013" prize – was awarded by the American Foundation to the YIA Travel Expert team which focused on the touristic advertising of the Bison Land, in Neamț, Romania, by means of a touristic portal and a touristic guide in Romanian, English and Italian.
- The prize for the best business plan made within the "Be Entrepreneur!" program was received by the YIA Travel Expert team for developing two touristic circuits, the plane circuit in Bison Land, Neamț, Romania and the bus circuit in Northern Italy, Verbena, the Maggiore Lake. The YIA Travel Expert team consists of: Albață Vlad-Constantin, Mihăilescu Georgiana-Adriana, Miron Mihaela-Gabriela, Țepuc Ana-Eugenia, Șchiopu Marina-Andreea, Pricop Diana-Elena, Țăranu Paul and Ifrim Andrei-Valentin from the 9th B class; coordinating teachers: Dorina Mormocea, Constantin Pavăl and Nicu Luca.

With the prize "Investment of the Year 2013" which was worth 1500 USD the "Young Entrepreneurs' Club" was equipped. The goal of founding such a club is the development of key skills in pupils through extracurricular entrepreneurial education programs. The partners in this process are Junior Achievement Romania, the Association of Support for People with Special Needs – Luceafărul, Neamț and 14 schools across the country.

Some of the activities of the Young Entrepreneurs' Club in the 2013-2014 school year are:

- Presenting the Junior Achievement educational offer and the registration of 200 pupils in 8 entrepreneurial or financial education Junior Achievement programs.
- Between the 17th and 18th of March 2014 there will be organized, in partnership with the Neamț School Inspectorate, Junior Achievement Romania and the Neamț Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Competition "Today's Youth, Tomorrows Entrepreneurs".
- The "School in a different way" week will be marked by the club's members by spending a day in the "shadow" of a parent or of an employee in a company or institution to learn as much as possible about the work's responsibilities. The pupils' distribution in companies/institutions will be made within the limited number of places offered by the Neamț Chamber of Commerce.
- The participation of the young as volunteers at the organization of local fairs according to the demands of the Neamț Chamber of Commerce.
- The participation to competitions organized locally (Pașcani) or nationally/internationally (The Social Innovation Relay, The Company of the Year etc).

Vlad Albață, the Xth B class
Translated by Mihail Buruiană, the IXth E class

PROGRAMMERS SAY "YES" TO DIVERSITY

At the beginning of June 2013's, the InfoDEBATE Club received a challenge from Romano ButiQ Association, with the help of the Romanian Rhetoric, Oratory and Debating Association. The Romanian ButiQ Association asked us: "If your school said YES to diversity tomorrow, how would that be?" and invited us to participate in the development of the project "Don't you ask us too?".

By implementing this project, the organizers meant to highlight the power of civic involvement and of solidarity among pupils, to offer them the chance to tell the world how they view the differences around them. They provided the pupils with a space to express themselves and an exercise which encourages the expression of opinion about the differences between people and how they are respected in school and community.

Antonia Luca and Amelia Hulpoi (in the VIIth A class) responded to the challenge by writing the essay "An idea that is worth", through which they expressed their point of view regarding the racial and social discrimination of gypsies, sending the authorities the message: Acta, non verba! (Actions speak louder than words). The essay entered the completion with the 47th entry (from the total of 58 competitors in the country).

In the first stage (July-September 2013), the online voting for the ideas presented in the competition took place. The second stage consisted the papers being judged by a jury, which was composed of: Diana Certan (The New Sights Foundation), Cătălina Olteanu (The Agency for Developing Together), Oana Preda (The Resource Centre for Public Participation), Andreea Pătru (The Romano ButiQ Association), Vlad Dumitrescu (The Foundation for the Development of the Civil Society), Vlad Groza (The National Agency for Communitarian Programs in the Field of Education and Professional Training). After the judging ended, our team won the second place in the Country Heat and could participate in the third Heat of the competition, the conference at Bucharest, in November, the 24th-25th, where only the teams which had obtained the first ten scores were invited.

The project does not end here. The Centre of resources for Public Participation (CeRe) is going to put together the messages of all the teams participating at the Conference in a White Paper / Charta Alba which is going to be forwarded to the deciders in the field of education, in order to get changes, projects which will correspond to the needs of the actual generation of pupils.

The project "Don't you ask us?" was implemented by the Romanian Association ButiQ and CeRe, with the financial support of The Civic Innovation Fund, financed by The Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe, sponsored by Raiffeisen Bank and administered by The Civic Society Developing Foundation. For more details, visit http://sipenoinunecintrbati.romanobutiq.ro.

If you want to get heard – get involved, if you want to be listened - get involved, if you want to change the paradigm – GET INVOLVED.

Teacher Cristina Iftime
Translated by Dragoş Ghiurea, the IXth E class

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Up until highschool, I had only participated in English contests that involved writing, or circling, or whatever. I felt like I needed a challenge and when I heard about a public speaking contest, I was thrilled. It was like nothing I had ever done before. I had researched about it and when I saw that the international final is held in London, I was determined to do my best.

At first, I thought it would be a lot easier than it actually was. The first challenge I encountered was writing my speech. I had come to the decision that I should present a few key moments of my life that helped define my character, seeing that the contest's theme was "*Life, the most difficult exam*". After spending countless hours trying to make a decent speech, learning it by heart didn't seem like such a big challenge. But more important than that was teaching myself how to say it; when to make pauses, when to raise or lower my voice, public interaction. Although I don't consider myself a shy person, even talking in front of my classmates was way harder. 30 teenagers, all looking at me, judging me and laughing at me, for all I know. But with the help of my teacher, giving my talk in various classes, I got better. I went from thinking that they were probably laughing at me, to thinking that they were admiring me and that they were genuinely curious about my speech. I had allthe confindence I needed.

Or so I thought. The day of the contest had finally come and in spite of my self-confidence, when my name was called, I felt that my heart sank. Nevertheless, I had a speech to present so I mustered up all my courage as I went in front of the audience to present my story. Everything was going well at first, but as I was progressing through my speech, the pressure was getting higher and higher. I even stuttered once. But the audience, they were all looking so curious, looking like they really wanted to know what I had to share. And that helped me go through with it. At the end, they were all clapping and even though most of them did it out of courtesy, it felt really good. After weeks of preparations, I was rewarded with a score of 95 points out of 100. But I didn't feel relieved. I knew I had to do this all over again, at a even bigger stage, with an even higher stake.

I qualified to the regional heat and all thanks to my English teacher, Mrs. Silvia Morţe, who guided, supported me and encouraged me to do better. But the qualification doesn't bring me any relief. I know I have to do it all over again at an even higher stake.

by Mihail Buruiană, the IXth E class

GLOBAL VILLAGE - 2013

This year again, the Global Education Week and the desire of affirmation motivated the students of the National College of Computer Science to participate in the high school county contest Global Village.

The theme "Go for a sustainable lifestyle!" suggested to them ideas such as the necessity of protecting the environment by reducing pollution and using alternative sources of energy; as well as the consumption of healthy food.

The students who participated in this contest were: Raluca Smău (XI E), Mihut Petruț (XI E) ,Tanasă Andra (XI D), Buruiană Mihail (IX E), Bianca Hogea (XI D), Berbece Răzvan (VII B) and Emilian Lungu (XI D). They were coordinated by the English teachers Claudia Jinaru and Silvia Morțe. For this contest the students created a poster and a play, in English of course, which they presented on Friday, the 22nd of November, at the National College "Calistrat Hogaș ", Piatra Neamt .

Thanks to their intense preparation and the precious time which they spent during the week for practicing the play, the contest day found the studens without emotions, confident and ready for the big challenge. They arrived at the National College Calistrat Hogaș at 14:00 and they decided to rehearse the play for the last time. Between 14:30 and 15:00 the team had time to put a finishing touch on their poster and at 15:00 the contest began. The National College of Computer Science team was the last to present the project but this didn't discourage them at all. The jury gave them high scores for the significant poster, the artistic value of the presentation and the power to convey a meaningful message, for the general impression made by the presentation, the fluency and correctness of the expression in English and last but not least for originality. Our team finally obtained 100 points out of 100, or in other words the first place.

Raluca Smău – the XIth E class

Translated by: Andra Tănasă – the XIth D class

THE PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION – OR 'HOW TO GAIN

Hello there! My name is Răzvan, and after 4 hours of intense thinking, I reached the conclusion that I may be able to tell you several things about the English contest named "Public Speaking". My opinion? The most beautiful contest ever made. Why? Well...it will make you feel confident, then nervous, then helpless, and in the end happy.

On the 24-th of January 2014, I and my colleagues gathered with fresh minds at the National College Calistrat Hogaș to compete against representatives from other schools, and we were ready to rock the stage. We had a surprise because it was not exactly a stage. We were in the middle, of a big classroom. It was good. Our speech had to be 3 minutes long and after we finished it, we received questions about the ideas we had expressed. The teachers who were evaluating us were very serious and intent on finding the best of us. Personally, before the speech, I was very confident, but when I got there, my face was as red as a tomato and I forgot my entire speech. Then I recovered and I tried to give them the most sensitive speech in history. After I finished it, I was very calm.

But then, the time of the results came. I was pretty nervous but what could I do? I heard the scores. I was very happy because it was a better result than last year. All my mates proved to be better. I was happy for them all. Now, I am waiting for the next year's contest in which I can show off my public speaking skills again.

Thank you for reading and merry future to you all!

Written by Răzvan Berbece, the VIIth B class

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES – AUSTRIA

Between August, 9th- 16th 2013, the group made of the students Rotaru Florinela, Ghiurea Vlad, Costrachevici Andra and Cobuz Diana and the teachers Costrachevici Elena and Fronea Mariana, from the National College of Computer Science, took part in the summer camp "GET READY FOR NEW ICT-CHALLENGES" in Wolfsberg, Austria.

During the camp, we took part in courses such as:

-creating a web page;

-enhancing our photography skills;

-editing photos (corrections, enhancements, Photoshop);

-creating a digital photographic portfolio using freeware applications;

-IT courses.

During our free time we had the opportunity of visiting various touristic attractions, such as the Arnold Schwarzenegger memorial house, the Klippitztörl slide, the Wolfsberg castle, Minimundus (the world's most famous monuments, but in miniature), and, last but not least, Gackern Fest, a traditional Austrian festival. We also took part in a one-day trip to Graz, the region's largest city.

The College's delegation was invited to an official meeting with the mayor of the city, Hans-Peter Schlagholz, at the city hall.

Florinela Rotaru, the XIth E class
teacher Elena Costrachevici
teacher Mariana Fronea
Translated by Vlad Ghiurea, the XIIth E class

ANTALYA

Between 27th and 31th May 2013, the teachers Mariana Fronea and Elena Costrachevici and the students Rotariu Ioana and Rotaru Florinela from the National College of Computer Science Piatra Neamt took part and the international "E-COMPETENCE, NEEDS AND DEMANDS OF INNOVATIVE EDUCATION" CONFERENCE in Antalya, Turkey.

The theme of the conference, the need for innovative education, gave us the opportunity to present our paper, titled "Educational Software", in which we aimed to promote some modern methods and strategies of teaching, according to the actual demands of the 21st century's educational system. The professors from the universities who saw our presentation were very open, giving us helpful advice for our future presentations.

We had the opportunity of taking part in the presentations of teachers from various countries in Europe and America, observing their implication in the educational process and the support they offer to their students.

It was a special experience and we hope that we will have the chance to take part in such a conference again.

Ioana Rotariu, Florinela Rotaru the XIth E class
teacher Elena Costrachevici
teacher Mariana Fronea
Translated by Vlad Ghiurea, the XIIth E class

CHOUETTE ENRICHES ITS RECORD
The 1-st Prize and the Special Prize for Eloquence at The Festival of Bilingual Theatre 'Eugen Ionesco' – Buzău

Last weekend the theatre troupe 'Chouette' had the honour of representing the National College of Computer Science at Buzău, for the bilingual national festival 'Eugen Ionesco' which has reached its fifth edition this year. As it is a national festival, the best school theatre troupes of our country took part, and – the emotions were indescribable.

On Saturday we saw the Romanian plays and we participated in the improvisation workshops. We were surprised to notice how talented some little kids could be. Not surprisingly, they took the first prize, their troupe being called 'The little actors'. The other troupes that also participated in the Romanian language section were: '54 de ochi', 'Les Invincibles', 'LMK', 'Dicentis', 'Axis Mundi', 'Charme'. We laughed and we cried with the actors, we applauded until we were exhausted and we congratulated the two lucky winners of the titles: 'The Best Actress' and 'The Best Actor.'

In the evening, in order to forget our emotions and think of anything else but the next day's performance, we told horror stories in the light of the lantern and we played cards. We all got on very well and I had a feeling that the

theatre troupe was going to become a second family for us. Now I still have this feeling.

The next day, we had butterflies in our stomachs because of our ever increasing excitement, but after we participated in the improvisation workshop we relaxed a bit. We had the opportunity to meet an extraordinary lady, internationally acknowledged for her acting talent, who had come all the way from France to Buzău for a couple of hours. After the workshop ended, she praised us in front of our teachers and we were really proud!

Before going out on stage for the competition, we waited a couple of minutes in the backstage, and these moments seemed to us as long as centuries. Finally, we were invited to perform our play, and at the end we were applauded by the public and the jury.

At the end of this 'adventure' we waited breathlessly for the results. The presenter told the name of all the troupes: 'Les Bonbons', 'Les Enthousiastes', 'Les Gosses Talenteux', 'Les Guignols' , 'Loisirs Theatrales' , 'Les Francoforts' , 'Les Voyageurs Francophones', 'Axiopolis,' only ours wasn't mentioned. We started to be anxious. 'What if we don't get any prize? Have we worked in vain?' etc.

Then, we heard like in a dream: 'The First Place,

Chouette from Piatra-Neamt! Congratulations!' What we felt then can't be described: joy, pride, impatience to call our parents. Moments like this are unique.

The surprises did not end there: I received the prize for the best eloquence in French! I couldn't even believe it!

In conclusion, we all lived an amazing experience for which we are grateful to our teachers Raluca Ene, Teodora Hulpoi and Alina Pamfil and we can hardly wait for the next festival!

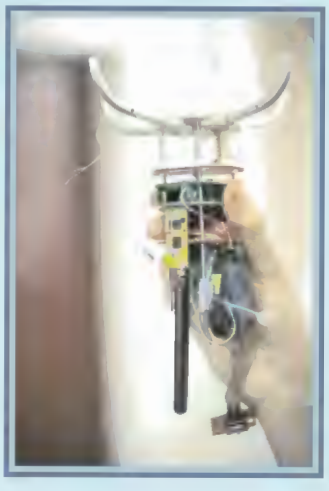
Written and translated by Ingrid Blaj, the VIIth B class

cansats in europe
2013 european competition - infosat team

FROM THE CANSAT

"Yes!" was the answer we gave when our teacher, Diana Bejan asked us if wanted to participate in a competition organized by the European Space Agency. A simple word that would change the way we think. It was about the project CANSAT, a European competition which involves the construction of a miniature satellite that can fit in a soda can. The miniature has to contain the essential parts of a real satellite: sensors and a communication system. Should it be left to fall freely from 1000 meters it must land safely and at the same time accomplish two scientific missions: a main mission imposed by the regulation of the competition and a secondary one that would put our imagination to the test.

Initially we made a team of 10 students – Stefan Aradavoaicei, Matei Bosînceanu, Iulian Botă, Tudor Ciurezu, Alexandru Gherghelaş, Claudiu Roşu, Alexandru Tudose from class X-A and Andrei Mihaieş and Samuel Timofte from class XI-A. Our first challenge was to complete an application form so that we could be accepted in the competition. So we chose the name "Infosat" and set the secondary mission of our satellite as: "simulation of search for favorable conditions of life on other planets". Very soon we found out that we had been accepted in the competition. Next, we had to organize the team. We remained 9 in the team and it was necessary for each of us to know his role, to try to be the best he could in what he was doing and in the same time, to keep an eye on what the others were doing. We had an intense process of documentation because none of us knew about sensors or how to program and place them in circuits.



We learned all sorts of new things and slowly we began the construction of the satellite. We started with simple things like sensors for temperature, pressure and humidity, and then we came to measure the magnetic field and even film the soil at a predetermined time in order to determine its structure. We managed to program radio communication modules so that we could obtain data measured by the sensors from more than 1000 meters in open field. For the safe landing of the mini satellite we used a system formed by two parachutes triggered by a light sensor.

Everything was almost ready and the day of departure arrived. Being very nervous we left to our destination: the military base t'Harde Rocket Range, Netherlands. There would be the place where the competition itself was to take place. After three days, in the evening we finally arrived in the technical University at Delft. There we met the other teams from England, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain. The next day all the teams presented their project. It was surprising to see more than 100 teens gathered in a room, all having the same purpose: discussions about satellites and space. On the third day, the technical inspection of the mini satellites took place. In order to get flying agreement it had to meet the conditions imposed regarding its weight, volume and resistance and we must specify, if there existed, any special conditions necessary for the proper functioning of the CanSat.

The next day was the launching day. We travelled to the military base t'Harde Rocket Range, where the representatives of the European Space Agency were waiting for us. Everyone was ready for the launching. We had the misfortune that the rocket, where the CanSats were mounted, did not function properly in the first attempt. Even so, we managed to register some data and even a short film on a card mounted on the satellite. After a draw, we could take place in a second attempt. This however, did not help us that much either, because our communication system was down and the rocket where the satellites were mounted reached an altitude higher than expected. Although we have not recovered the CanSat, we are certain that it worked.

On the last day the presentation of each team's results took place, which went well, apart from the success rate of the mission. The activity took place at the Space Museum of The European Space Agency, where we had the opportunity to see various exhibits, to experiment with simulators and where we learned about the history of space.

On the following days we returned home with the satisfaction of having achieved such a complex project and from participating in a powerful international competition. We understood that by having willpower and by acting as a team we could get anywhere and only by means of sustained work can the results of which we can be truely proud of be achieved.

Alexandru Tudose, the XIth A class, INFOSAT team
Translated by Nick Paschalidis, the XIIth E class

A TRIP IN SPACE...

A comet heading towards Earth may seriously threaten the existence of humanity! We must find methods of defence and solutions for this problem.

Recent advances in the field of technology have resulted in the possibility of using satellites for this purpose. Scientists maintain that satellites can be launched and strategically placed in orbit in order to alter the comet's path.

Two different approaches have been proposed to change the trajectory of the comet: the gravitational force and the use of a laser. But which of these two methods would be more effective? Or maybe combining them would be more advantageous?

Zero Robotics is a competition addressed to students all over the world, which encourages young people to use their talent and apply the knowledge acquired at school to find the best way to solve the problem presented above. Built on the STEM educational concept (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics), the competition widens the horizons of young people on the concept of "outer space", allowing their imagination to surpass the "limitations" of a spacecraft. It is organized by DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) – USA, NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) – USA, MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) – USA in cooperation with ESA (European Space Agency) – EU.

The challenge consisted in the programming of mini-satellites called SPHERES (Synchronized Position Hold Engage and Reorient Experimental Satellites) located on the International Space Station (ISS). SPHERES are autonomous satellites, equipped with a very efficient propulsion system and a wireless system through which they can be controlled by means of a PC. Their internal structure is exactly the same for all of them, only the outer design can differ a little from one satellite to another.

The competition started online, on a specially designed website in which the teams who signed in this contest tried to solve the problem that was suggested for this year. After a few eliminatory phases of the virtual competition, that simulated the environment in which the SPHERES were moving, the finalists were selected and they competed in a live contest that took place on the International Space Station. An astronaut coordinated the attempts, in the zero-gravity environment of the International Space Station, broadcasting live the competition that was taking place on ISS to MIT, NASA and ESA.

108 teams from the USA and 57 teams from Europe had initially registered in this competition. After the eliminatory phases, there remained only six European alliances, each formed of three teams (from Italy, Belgium, Holland, Spain, France, Germany and Romania) and nine American alliances.

For the alliances from Europe who became finalists, the ultimate competition took place at ESTEC (European Space Research and Technology Centre)in Noordwijk, Netherlands, and for the alliances from the USA at MIT(Massachusetts Institute of Technology), in January 2014.

In this competition, the National College of Computer Science was represented by two teams: IT ACE TEAM (Ilinca Ionescu from the 10th grade D, Tiberiu Arsene, Andrei Bursuc, Cornel Ghineț and Emilian Lungu-Ailenei from the 11th grade D) and CODE::SPACE (Andrei Gavrilă, Claudiu Nohai, Daniel Nechitoaia from the 10th grade D, Petru Acozmei from the 10th grade A and a former student of our college, Vlad Tărniceru). Both teams, coordinated by the teachers Diana Bejan and Gabriela Blaga, reached the phase of the alliances, in which they collaborated with other teams from Italy and Germany.

Every team used knowledge of informatics, physics and mathematics as well as strategic skills to elaborate the program, trying to find the best method for obtaining a better score and implicitly, for advancing in the competition.

No matter what strategy was chosen and accomplished in the allotted time, the purpose remained thesame, the deflection of the comet, either by using the gravitational force, or by using laser. All the efforts we made involved teamwork creativity, originality, the analysis and implementation of new ideas, the application of our knowledge in a manner, as efficient as possible, but also the

acquisition of new information necessary to succeed.

For the both teams, Zero Robotics meant an amazing experience, in which we had the occasion to learn new things, to meet other people and to befriend them, and we also succeeded in surpassing our limits, reaching quite far in the contest and representing successfully both the National College of Computer Science and Romania, in such a large-scale competition.

The IT ACE team was ranked, along with the other two teams that formed the membership of the alliance, on the third place in Europe and fourth place in the world in the Phase of Alliances.

Having reached the final stage of Zero Robotics, held at ESTEC, in Netherlands, the young computer scientists and their partners in the alliance obtained the great performance of coming out second after a close battle against other five European alliances.

Before the matches, the finalists present at ESTEC had the opportunity to meet the astronaut André Kuipers who spent 6 months on the International Space Station and also, to ask him about various curiosities of his profession as an astronaut. Among others, they could find out more about ISS, both by watching a virtual tour and by visiting an exhibition.

The six finalist European alliances were divided in two groups. The NextGen IT Elia Alliance, which the team of the National College of Computer Science belonged to, won this battle convincingly after two obvious victories against their opponents. In the final match, the alliance was defeated by a team consisting of members from Italy, Spain and France.

Nevertheless, the IT ACE team gained a well-deserved second place in this prestigious competition, after many months of hard work and in spite of the fact that it was their first year of attending such an event.

IT ACE Team
Translated by: Cornel Ghineț, Andrei Bursuc, Eliana Grețcu, Loredana Berea, Ilisei Diana – the XIth D class

"PHYSICS – GATE TO UNIVERSAL KNOWLEDGE" WORKSHOP

Have you ever wondered how important science is for students? Maybe yes, or not, but the National College of Computer Science's students surely have. Thus 17 students in the 10th to 12th grades of our school, accompanied and coordinated by the teachers Carmen Florescu and Gabriela Blaga, have taken part in the "Physics – Gate to Universal Knowledge" workshop, held between the 1st and 7th of September 2013 at the Bucharest Faculty of Physics, following a partnership made between the National College of Computer Science, University of Bucharest's Faculty of Physics and the Association of Retired University Teachers at the University of Bucharest.

The activities were held in the Faculty of Physics laboratories, but also at the National Research and Development Institute on the Măgurele-București platform and they had as a main goal the increase of students' interest for science, for physics in general, and to make them aware of its importance in the modern society. We also participated at experimental work in the mechanics, electricity, atomic physics, lasers' physics and nuclear physics at the Bucharest's Faculty of Physics laboratories, but we made study visits as well at the National Institute for Physics and Nuclear Engineering, National Institute for Lasers', Plasma's and Radiation's Physics, Space Sciences Institute and Earth's Physics Institute.

At the "Horia Hulubei" National Institute for Research and Development of Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH) we were shown the TANDEM linear particles accelerator, unique in Romania.

Another objective that we visited was the National Institute for Lasers', Plasma's and Radiation's Physics (INFLPR) where we were shown three research laboratories with industry lasers: the laser processing laboratory, photonics laboratory, laser vibrometry laboratory (used for testing planes' resistance to vibrations) and the exploratory research laboratory.

In my opinion, the pinnacle of the journey was reached when we were shown the most impressive objective on the platform – the ELI project (Extreme Light Infrastructure – Nuclear Physics) under construction – the most powerful laser in the world, which will have a power of 10 petawatts. It's a research laser that will allow, in the near future, the study of some phenomena predicted in theory. It will be used to produce nuclear fusion reactions or a more efficient production of the radioisotopes used currently in medicine and creating new ones.

The final activity of the workshop consisted of a contest held on sections (applied physics, computer physics, science-themed essays and posters), a competition that offered the students talented on certain domains extra chances to promote themselves and to leave a pleasant impression.

Adelina Popa, the XI th B class
Translated by Mihail Buruiana, the IXth E class

THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

The adventures of Sherlock Holmes are a collection of twelve stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. They tell the many amazing adventures of the famous detective Sherlock Holmes and his friend and companion doctor Watson, or at least part of them because as they say, there are many more where these came from.

The main character and the most interesting one is the British detective Holmes who is residing on Baker's street in London but his origins are most likely from another planet, in another solar system, in another galaxy, due to the fact that he displays almost super human qualities of observation and physical fitness. He is a very intelligent man who chose to follow the profession of a detective, which will later come to define him quite fully. As stated above, he is a private investigator who won the genetic lottery and he investigates cases given to him by private persons thus "private investigator". The person who shares in on his adventures is the dentist doctor Watson who is more or less a friend to Mister Holmes, accompanying the famous detective on his adventures. The good doctor is, perhaps, one of the primary things keeping Sherlock sane and grounded into reality, because even great minds need sometimes a friend.

The stories are concise and entertaining, told from the perspective of Doctor Watson who is writing down these adventures. The main point of the stories is to see Sherlock Holmes in action, how he finds every last detail of an intricate puzzle and manages to overcome great odds whilst disregarding the constabulary of London, due to the fact that he is always 2 or more steps ahead of them. It is a good read, especially for those in want for mystery and a little bit of drama.

I feel that a better recommendation for these tales is the fact that there are seldom people alive that are unaware of the existence of Sherlock Holmes; there are even some that believe that he is a real human being, made from flesh and bone and only by reading, at least a few of the dynamic duo's adventures, will one truly know where the legend started and how it might end.

Horea Guțu, the XIIth Eclass

The source of the pictures: the internet

LES CAVES DE VATICAN

Le roman **Les caves de Vatican** écrit par André Gide commence avec la conversion d'un Français qui vit en Italie. Pour son acte, L'Eglise promet de le récompenser financièrement et aussi spirituellement. La situation on entend que le Pape est captif et le monde est dirigé par un faux Pape. La nouvelle arrive aussi en France, ou les parents de la femme de l'homme dont il est question, Anthime, essaye agir. Ainsi, le beau-frère de la femme, Véronique, va en Italie où il apprend être prudent à tout ce qui se passe autour, mais surtout aux gens avec lesquels il entre en contact.

Ici, il rencontre un prêtre, Protos, un menteur qui manipule le bon homme et en même temps continue à répandre la rumeur sur le Pape. Pour apprendre toutes les aventures vécues par les personnages de **Les Caves de Vatican** je vous invite à lire le livre. Je vous promets que vous ne vous ennuierez pas car le décor change à chaque chapitre

Daria Șchiopu, the XIth A class

The source of the pictures: the internet

PARIS IST EINE REISE WERT

Diesen Sommer hatten wir die Möglichkeit, die wunderbare und charmante Hauptstadt Frankreichs, Paris, zu besuchen. Sobald wir in die Stadt angekomnen sind, blieb uns der Atem stehen. Vor der Reise haben wir viele Informationen über die Stadt gelesen und uns viele Fotos angeschaut. Aber in der Wirklichkeit sah alles prachtvoller aus. Auf dem Weg zum Hotel haben wir bemerkt, dass der mächtige Eiffelturm von überall in der Stadt gesehen werden kann. Die erste Sehenswürdigkeit, die wir besichtigt haben, war selbstverständlich der Eiffelturm. Die beste Tageszeit, den Turm zu besteigen, ist in der Abenddämmerung. Das wussten wir und deswegen sind wir am Nachmittag dahin gefahren. Wir sind auf den Turm gestiegen und haben davon die ganze Stadt gesehen, indem die Nacht über die Stadt fiel. Dann sind wir rechtzeitig nach unten gegangen, um die beeindruckende Lichtshow, die täglich nach dem Sonnenuntergang stattfindet, zu genießen. Vom Eiffelturm haben wir die Reise zu Fuß über die berühmte Champs Elysees – Einkaufsstraße fortgesetzt, wo sich die berühmten Pariser Geschäfte befinden. Am westlichen Ende von Champs Elysees haben wir auf dem Markt Charles de Gaulle den Triumphbogen entdeckt, der zu Ehren der französischen Armee errichtet wurde. Der Weg führte uns weiter zu Louvre, zum größten Museum der Welt, das 350.000 Exponate von unschätzbarem Wert beherbergt. In der Kathedrale Notre-Dame,

die sich in der Mitte der Stadt befindet und die meisten Besucher anzieht, fand gerade ein Orgelkonzert statt. Es war eine einzigartige Erfahrung, die göttliche Musik zu hören. Die Basilika Sacre Coeur, der Place du Tertre, das Vergnügungsviertel Pigalle, das Quartier Latin und das Pompidou-Zentrum sind andere voller Überraschungen Anziehungpunkte aus Paris, die die Stadt zu einer faszinierenden Reiseziel machen. Nicht zu vergessen sind der geschmacksvolle Kaffee und die leckeren typischen Croissants, die jeder Tourist probieren muss.

Alexandra Popa, Raluca-Maria Popa, the IXth A class

CITITORUL DIN PEŞTERĂ

de Rui Zink

Tema cărţii este iniţierea în viaţă şi surprinde devenirea personajului narator. Deşi la suprafaţă pare o simplă lectură pentru adolescenţi, naratorul introduce foarte subtil tehnici şi mituri care ne inserează cu totul în spiritul povestirii.

Faust este un personaj din literature germană şi este creat de W. Goethe, care, pentru a căpăta tinereţe veşnică şi cunoaştere absolută, face un pact cu Mefisto şi pentru aceasta îşi vinde sufletul. Această tehnică a folosit-o de asemenea autorul. Naratorul – personaj face un pact cu Anibalector, aceasta fiind ultima lui speranţă şi, astfel, îşi vinde sufletul, adică renunţă la viaţa pe care o avea înainte şi începe să citească pentru a nu fi devorat.

Mircea Eliade susţine în „Aspecte al mitului" că orice iniţiere presupune o dublă naştere şi dublă moarte. Cel care participă la iniţiere se numeşte neofit şi pleacă de la zero (este tabula rasa); pe tot parcursul iniţierii este călăuzit de un mentor. În acest text, mentorul este, de fapt, Anibalector care nu are intenţia să-l mănânce pe naratorul-personaj. Acesta îl călăuzeşte pe micul neofit pe drumul cel bun spre arta cititului şi îi deschide ochii spre o altă lume; cea a cărţilor, a citatelor şi a sentimetelor scrise ca nişte harfe răsfirate ce-n zbor invers le pierzi (mitul luciferic), sub pretextul că altfel îl va mânca.

Prima moarte: alegerea unui drum greşit în viaţă;

Prima naştere: momentul în care se aruncă în apă pentru a recupera harta;

A doua moarte: momentul în care îl eliberează şi se desparte de Anibalector;

A doua naştere: naratorul – personaj devine scriitor.

În mitul labirintului se susţine faptul că în centru se află minotaurul. Toţi cei care au ajuns în labirint au fost mâncaţi de acesta. Singurul care a reuşit să iasă a fost Tezeu, ajutat fiind de ghemul de aur al Ariadnei. Naratorul – personaj este asemănat lui Tezeu, labirintul cu peştera lui Anibalector, iar minotaurul cu însuşi Anibalector. Anibalector este, totodată, Ariadna pentru personajul – narator deoarece îl ajută să iasă la lumină şi să se maturizeze. Ultimul test al maestrului analizează capacitatea de sacrificiu a personajului-narator, care finalizează iniţiere tocmai pentru că a dat dovada progresului spiritual: „Îmi lipsea un prieten", declară mulţumit maestrul.

În câteva dintre citatele din carte se poate observa foarte clar insistenţa autorului asupra iniţierii naratorului – personaj:

„Cum aş putea eu să încetez a fi eu, chiar dacă aş vrea? Să se fi inventat deja chirurgia plastică pentru spirit? Totuşi, e adevărat că cititorul trebuie să ştie a vorbi limba cărţii şi a se lăsa dus de curent, în loc să-şi risipească forţele vâslind contra mareei." – Pentru Anibalector, o carte înseamnă întâlnirea dintre două voci: a noastră şi a cărţii.

În concluzie, povestea este foarte profundă, de asemenea, are efect cathartic (efect purificator) şi este o carte recomandată pentru mulţi oameni, atât copii, adolescenţi, cât şi adulţi, care încă nu au pierdut puritatea şi starea ludică a copilăriei.

Carmen Cozma, the VIth B class

AS THE AUTUMN FALLS APART

as the autumn falls apart
I embrace you to keep your heart warm
above my sins and darkness
above my emptiness
and sadness
deep in me
there's a little piece
a chunched root of purity
a leftover of what i was
the broken key of what i might become
if someone is willing to see beneath that rust
so
sincerely
I am lost
lonely in a world of my own
I just feel like a big wreckage
of something once bright
now broken and dead

so...
darling you might take a chance...

SIRIN

BLOW ME ONE KISS

blow me one last kiss
hit me with your love till I bleed
take my heart
I'm all yours
I'll die in your arms
even if I fear.

SIRIN

HER HEART

her heart was beating to the rhythm of the waves
her soul demanded nothing but the wind.. .

she asked the sea...
can I get lost in your emptiness?

then she asked the sky.. .
can I find my dreams among your stars?

finally she asked the sand...
can you keep my footprints here forever?

she yelled at the top of her lungs...
and I could read in her eyes... "don't let me drown. ..take me away...and let me breath beside your warm soul for eternity"
...

SIRIN

ANOTHER ONE

One cigarette
another one
I inhale that smoke like an animal
I search
in every women
for something
I don't know what
and it hurts like hell
when
empty holes are born in you
and I cannot look for you
anymore

ob darling where are you
I drive fast on empty streets
I drive blind in smoke

I just hope I'll crush
and in a blink
I'll become wild smoke
and wind.

SIRIN
the source of drawing: the internet

ALTERBIT – AN EXERCISE OF SELF-KNOWLEDGE

Do you remember the band of the National College of Computer Science? Are you among those who are curious to know what they have been doing lately? Well for the sake of recollection and renewal of information, I have arranged an interview with the only female member, Ingrid Botescu.

Interviewer: Who is in the band?

The band consists of: Mihnea Gabur –drums, Vlad Bârgăoanu and Andrei Spatariu –guitar, Mihai Pântea-bass guitar and Ingrid Botescu-voice.

Interviewer: Why Alterbit ?

We chose to call our band Alterbit because our favourite music is alternative rock and we like to play with various tunes and alter them, hence "alter" and "bit". Initially all the members were from our high school.

Interviewer: How did you make this band?

Initially the band was formed following auditions in December 2011, organised by the teacher Ciurlea Ionut. The first performance band had nine members, but now we are only five.

Interviewer: What is the mood of the band?

The mood of the band has changed at each stage we have gone through. Initially there were a couple of strict rules that we had to get used to, although we did not know each other very well. Things began to take another shape in time and since we attended the Festival di Italia we congealed better as a band and as friends. If before the festival, the only common points we had were our high school and our band, now we have the habit of getting together once a week. But that came naturally: we glued together like the pieces of a puzzle and we became a little family.

Interviewer: What are your latest concerts?

Our latest concerts took place in summer and autumn: on June 2nd we played in a charity event at Km 0, at CREED, on August 23rd along with another local band Sideways; and on September 13th with Havoc and Crumbling Lighthouse. On August 31st I participated in an acoustic audition at the festival 'The Stone Movie' and our most recent appearance was in the Researchers' Night on September 27th.

Interviewer: What collaborations and projects are you planning for 2014?

In the future we hope to play on holidays as much as we can because now Mihnea is a student in Bucharest and I am in the XII-th grade and I have to focus on learning most of the time. When the possibility arises and we are all available, we arrange a singing session. This is what we hope to do as soon as the Christmas holiday begins.

Interviewer: Do you like what you do?

I love music and I love what I do with Alterbit. For me it was what I have always wanted since I was a kid and I dreamed of playing in front of an audience when I became older. In the band I found myself, I broadened my horizons in music, and in the rehearsal room I met new people from whom I have always had something to learn. It worked like a magnet - the more I played, the more I became attached to the boys in the band and the studio.

Interviewer: What kind of songs do you play?

Our style is alternative rock and we have more and more diverse pieces of music. We have two older songs composed by ourselves " Să fie trecut" (Make it Past) and "Vara" (Summer) – a studio version of the former can be found on YouTube - and lately we have done several covers for well-known songs like: Alternosfera – 'Aruncă-mi' (Throw Me) and 'Flori de mai' (May Flowers); Scorpions - 'Rock you like a Hurricane', Bon Jovi – 'You give love a bad name', Vama Veche - „ Buze blonde " (Blonde Lips) and the beloved song from Jet - „ Are you gonna be my girl".

Has the appetite for live music already taken root? What are you still waiting for? The band is waiting for you to enjoy music with all the events they are going to attend.

Written and translated by:
Ismană Lorena – the Xth A class

THE FESTIVAL OF SOMETHING ELSE – THE LIVING

The Festival of Something Else' came back with the second edition, representing an initiative of The Association for Community Support (ACS) and The Local Youth Council (CLT) from Piatra Neamț.The whole activity took place in The Library Bar, on 27th of October 2013.

This year's edition was honoured by the special presence of the famous comedy actress Mrs. Draga Olteanu Matei. The programme started with an open session dedicated to the unique 'living book' Mrs. Draga Olteanu Matei.

In the activity 'the Living Library', readers had the opportunity to participate in an interactive dialogue about the most attractive books, with famous names of the Neamț community and not only: the city manager (Bogdan Puscasu), the judge (Gabriela Baltag), the supermodel (Barbara Langellotti), the psychiatrist (Dr Roxana Ciocârlan), the youth counsellor (Ana Mîță), the champion (Mircea Ionescu), the volunteer (Sebastian Andrei), the trainer (Dragos Fînaru), the coach (Gabriela Zamă), the rocker (Andrei Onea), the teacher (Mihai Lostun), the television people (Ciprian Solomon and Irina Raica), the award winner (Ana Rotaru), the artist (Angela Szabo), the CNE senior(Tudor Vasiliu), the creative teenager (Horațiu Randasu), the martial arts teacher (Paul Pintilie).

The organizing team was made up of students from all the high schools in the city, as well of students from the National College of Computer Science, Piatra Neamt: Antonio Şalaru-project coordinator & the leader of CLT Piatra Neamt (class XA), Ioana Ianoş (class XC) and Mihai Negură (class XA).

'The Living Library' had more than 100 readers and the inviting atmosphere that was created around the discussions between the readers and the books was an unforgettable one, as those who participated in the activity wrote in the feedback.

It is worth not missing the next similar opportunity because you will have a unique experience that will develop your social intelligence.. ***by Antonio Şalaru - XA***

WHAT COLOUR IS THE TALENT?

My name is Emilian Lungu-Ailenei, I am student in the XI-th D class at The National College of Computer Science. Most of the people know me as 'the boy with talent at drawing.'

I started painting in the VII-th grade, which was my beginning in this domain. Everything started at a drawing lesson when we had to make icons on glass. Seeing that my icon looked nice, I started attending painting courses, guided by teacher MrsCristina Petrariu which saw in me a rough talent. Since then I have constantly focused on the creation of icons for many reasons. One of them is because I feel that in this way I can thank God for this gift.

A few years ago, surfing the net, I saw a video where a street artist was making pictures in spray. At the beginning I was surprised and I said to myself that one must have a lot of talent to do such paintings. One day, I said to myself that I could try it too, but I started wrong, I failed at everything I tried to do and I quit. After approximately half a year, I decided to try again, but this time I succeeded from the first attempt. Since then, I have been surprising people with different paintings each one more spectacular than the others.

Since my curiosity is vast, I have tried many painting styles, from pencil or charcoal drawings to portraits, pastels, plastic hand-carving etc. I have tried almost everything and to my surprise, each time I managed to make something beautiful. But in all those drawings, if one doesn't put heart and soul, nothing good will result. For example, until a few months ago, any portrait that I made couldn't please me. Only when I wanted to make a special gift for a very dear person did I manage to create something satisfactory.

I consider that drawing and painting define my personality. Sometimes I wonder what I could be if I did not have this talent. God gives everybody a gift and our goal on earth is to multiply that "talent".

Many people ask me why I did not choose to go to an Arts High School. For me it is quite difficult to answer, but at the same time, easy. In any period, artists almost can't make a living so I chose to attend a college which could ensure my future, while holding on to drawing as a background hobby, as a leisure activity.

Even if I regard drawing as a hobby, I have tried to reach a certain level of performance. What I am the most proud of is the 3rd place in an international contest organized with the support of NASA and USRA (Universities Space Research Association, - Houston, Texas). Another achievement I remember with pride is the 1st place at a contest organized by The National College of Computer Science.

There is little time left for me until I leave for college and I have to choose what I will be doing the rest of my life. I have thought deeply, I have analyzed what I like and what I don't, and, out of the variety of available jobs, I have chosen architecture. There, science and drawing combine. For me this is my future and my dream. I hope that after a few years I will be able to make a living by what I can really do with pleasure.

Emilian Lungu-Ailenei, the XIth D class
Translated by: Emilian Lungu-Ailenei, Tiberiu Arsene – the XIth D class

SIMPLICITY REMAINS THE MOST SOPHISTICATED THING

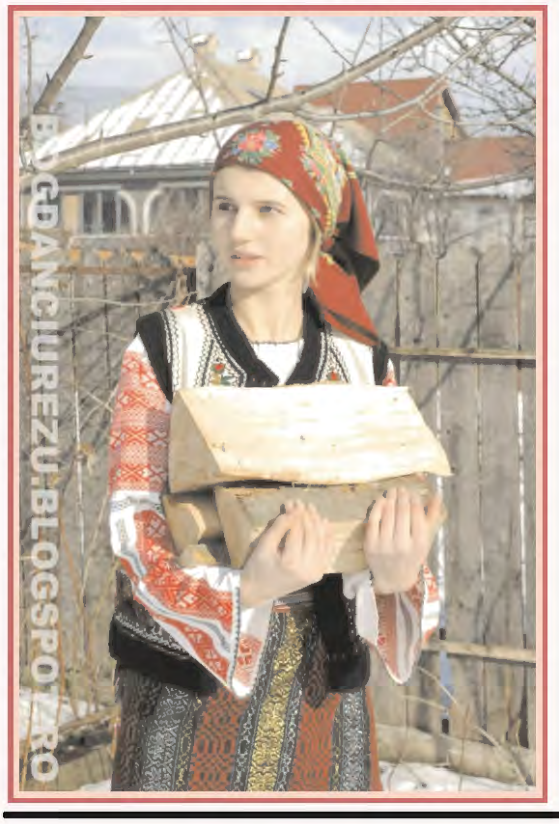
Just as the old Romanian saying goes:" Lupu-si schimba blana, dar naravu'ba" ('Old habits die hard' or 'A leopard cannot change its spots)… that's how Daria following my advice, approached a new style, a traditional one, which was very well outlined by the same flawless talent.

After I have delayed the processing of the pictures for a pretty long time today I decided that it is the moment to get brave and get to work.

I hope you'll like it!

Bogdan Ciurezu, the IXth E class

translated by Horea Guțu, the XIIth E class



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