

Xenophobia – Musical Movement Fighting Fear 2017-20

Erasmus+ Multilateral School Partnership Project

Minutes

3. International learning and teaching activity (C3)

Sunday 19th of May until Sunday 26th of May

Hosting school: Immanuel-Kant-Gymnasium Lachendorf, Germany

Participants: 146 students and teachers from Germany, Greece, The

Netherlands, Poland and La Réunion,

(see list of participants C3)

Sunday: 19. 05

Arrival of all teams

Monday: 20.05., 7.40 hrs. – 16.30 hrs.

On Monday there has been a first getting-to-know-each-other game led by Monika (teacher) and Frederick (student). The official welcome at the school stage has been opened with speeches by Mr. Mollenhauer (headmaster) and Mr. Hanke (vice), Mr. Ostermann (mayor), Mrs. Kammerlohr and Ramezan (student). There have been instrumental and vocal contributions by the school big band and the school choir. In the afternoon every participant found its group to work with: orchestra, choir, dance, stage scenery, actors act I and council of the wise. The group work finished at 16.30 hrs.

Tuesday: 21.05., 7.40 hrs. – 16.00 hrs.

Tuesday began with the group work as on Monday. The coordinators met. After lunch the group of guests and hosts (students and teachers), 50 people, went by bus to Celle. The actors (20 students) and a mixed teachers team took part in a theatre workshop at Halle 19. The second group visited the Schosstheater, the backstage area with costume and wig workshop (guided tour).

There has been free time in the city of Celle. Teachers had dinner together.

Wednesday: 22.05., 7.40 hrs. – 17.40 hrs.

The same mixed group as on the day before together with five more German students of the AG intercultural dialogue started with an introduction about the history of the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen by David Reinicke at school. At 8.40 hrs. the group of now 55 went to the Bergen-Belsen Memorial site and museum by bus. Two groups have been guided through the exhibition and the site. Together we went to the Obelisk, passing the Jewish and Christian commemoratives and laid roses at cenotaphs in different languages.

At 12.30 hrs. the bus started to Flettmar, where the canoes, each with nine to ten persons (mixed groups) went on the river, resisting the cold weather. During the last km the sun showed up a little and a tired but happy group arrived after four hours in Oppershausen at 17.40 hrs.

Thursday: 23.05., 7.40 hrs. – 16.30 hrs.

On Thursday during the rehearsals the exhibition has been proved, stage design was finished, and the coordinators met.

Friday: 24.05.

On Friday, the coordinators met for the detailed planning of the meeting in Naaldwijk and La Réunion. Agenda points have been fixed and a jam session of music teachers has been decided. There has been rehearsals and a general rehearsal until lunch time and free time until 16.00 hrs., when the actors and musicians started with warming up and mask. The performance on stage started with a short headmaster's speech at 18.00 hrs.

There have been 230 visitors in the audience and 140 active participants mainly on or behind the stage. The stage performance of act 1 and the council of the wise has been impressive for the audience and even the participants. The after-show-party, while everybody has been invited to stay for dinner and the hosting parents shared tables with the teachers from all participating countries has been an opportunity to exchange impressions and to enjoy the very good cooperation of all participants and the families.

Saturday 25.05.: Family day for students and free day for teachers. The planned trip to Hannover failed because everybody needed some rest

Sunday 26.05.: Departure

Celle, den 06.06.2019 Birgit Kammerlohr

Epilogue: extract of letters to Lachendorf after the arrivals of teams at home

Dear all, we've had a wonderful week in Germany during the C3 activity. The German families were excellent hosts. The students were impressed of your school and it was a great experience for them to take part in the musical. They made new friends.

Also, they learned a lot about the second world war history from their visit in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and they enjoyed the paddling in the river Aller. I think their visit in Germany will be an unforgettable experience for them. We teachers were impressed that so many students from 5 different countries worked together (actors and singers, dancers, choir, orchestra, council of wise) trying to achieve their best and they did as the final performance was amazing!

To put it in a nutshell, the week wasn't just great, it was perfect. From the caring families, the friendly Erasmus students, the teachers work cooperation to the pleasant atmosphere in and out of school. All along the journey to Lachendorf, deep down in their hearts our students were excited and afraid of what it would be like. Their fear vanished straight away when we all met at school and excitement increased day after day. Seeing our international teens mix, work together, help each other, share fun times was such a pleasure. Learning and teaching makes sense! So let's keep up the good work!

For three of our students it was the first trip abroad. Participation in the project gave them an opportunity that they would never have. Every student had a great contact with the host family. The attitude, huge commitment, sense of humor and family care made our students change their minds about the way Germans are. ;) What we have learned is how to treat students with different problems, how to motivate them, how to stand on their side, give them a chance, even if they are not the best at what they do, how to appreciate their efforts. We have learned that we should trust our students more. Can't wait until our next meeting.

Katerina Aggelopoulou, Michèle Chollat-Traquet, Monika Marek

