

# WHAT HAPPENED IN TURKEY IN 2013?

## WE HAVE A CHAMPION STUDENT!

**Muhammed Talha Aydoğan**, who is one of our students at high school, became **the Champion** and won a **gold medal** in **Istanbul Taekwondo Championship** between 22-24 March 2013. There were 243 competitors from 123 schools. Our talented student fought very bravely and became the 1st.

After becoming the champion in Istanbul, he got the right to take part in **Turkey Taekwondo Championship**, which was between 2-5 July 2013 in Kayseri. There were 1680 competitors from 72 cities. Our champion student fought very successfully, and won his 2nd gold medal.

Our young champion participated in **European Taekwondo Championship** in Bucharest, Romania between 20-24 August 2013. He won several matches against his opponents, but he became the 3rd and got a bronze medal.

We congratulate him, his family and his coach for their victories. We are really proud of him. We wish him the best luck in the following championships.





## IT WAS A DREAM FOR 150 YEARS, NOW IT IS REAL!

**29 October 2013** was a very important day for Turkish people, because “**Marmaray**” was opened on that day. It is an undersea rail tunnel under the Bosphorus Strait and the modernization of existing railway lines from [\*Halkalı\*](#) on the European side to [\*Gebze\*](#) on the Asian side, which is a distance of 76 kilometres. The construction started in 2004, with a target opening date of April 2009. After delays caused by the discovery of historical and archaeological finds, which proved that **Istanbul’s history dates back over 8,000 years ago**, the first phase of the project opened on 29 October 2013, the Republic Day in Turkish history. It is *the first rail connection between Europe and Asia*. It represents *the world's deepest undersea [immersed tube tunnel](#) (60.46 metres)*.

The name *Marmaray* comes from combining the name of the *Marmara* Sea, with *ray*, the Turkish word for *rail*. The Turkish press has compared it to the *Silk Road*. The passengers loved it so much that 5 million people travelled through it in the first 15 days!







## WE RAN FROM ASIA TO EUROPE!

Our directors, teachers, students and parents joined **the 35th Vodafone Istanbul Eurasia Marathon on 17 November 2013**. They ran across Bosphorus Bridge, between two continents. It was a very beautiful day and there were no cars on the bridge, so they had a great time while they were walking, running, chatting, laughing, watching the spectacular view from the bridge and taking a lot of photos. They finished the marathon successfully and promised each other to meet at the same place on 16 November 2014.

Here are some facts about **the only marathon between two continents** in the world:

- The first Eurasia Marathon was held on **1 April 1979**. Some people thought it was a funny joke for April Fools' Day!
- The distance of the marathon for the athletes is **42.195 kilometres**.
- The total award for each year is about **\$ 1 million**.
- On 17 November 2013 **120,000 people** from **97 countries** in **6 continents** ran (or just walked!) in the marathon.
- In 2013, **Kiprotich from France** won the men's champion title, **Chesir from Kenya** won the women's champion title. Congratulations to both of them!
- The countries that have won the men's champion titles are: Turkey (11), Kenya (11), Ethiopia (7), Great Britain (2), France (1), Denmark (1), Zimbabwe (1), Lithuania 1.
- The countries that have won the women's champion titles are: Russia (6), Ethiopia (5), Romania (4), Ukraine (4), Turkey (1), Great Britain (1), Belarus (1), Kenya (1).
- According to the competitors and reporters, it is one of the most interesting and enjoyable marathons in the world.
- It has been **in the Golden Category of the Marathons for 3 years**.

## 35<sup>th</sup> **Vodafone Istanbul** Avrasya Maratonu Eurasia Marathon



**17 Kasım November 2013**







