

An aerial photograph of a school building complex. The main building is a large, light-colored structure with a dark roof, situated in a clearing surrounded by a dense forest of tall evergreen trees. A paved area with a few cars is visible in front of the building. In the foreground, there is a smaller white building with a red roof and a green lawn. The text "Kausalan koulu" is written in white cursive across the upper middle part of the image.

Kausalan koulu

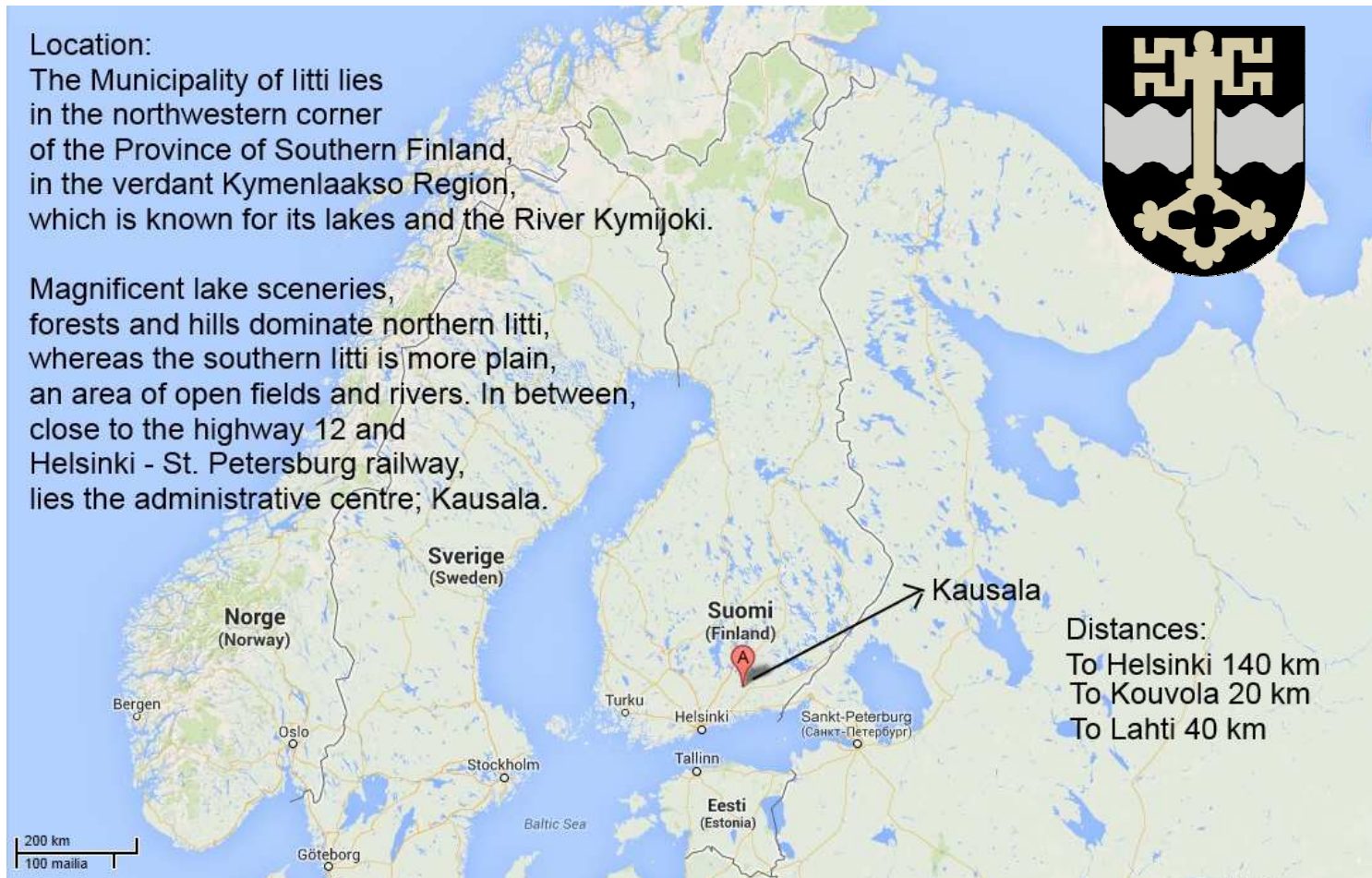
Kausala lower comprehensive school,  
grades 1-6

# Municipality of Iitti

## Location:

The Municipality of Iitti lies in the northwestern corner of the Province of Southern Finland, in the verdant Kymenlaakso Region, which is known for its lakes and the River Kymijoki.

Magnificent lake sceneries, forests and hills dominate northern Iitti, whereas the southern Iitti is more plain, an area of open fields and rivers. In between, close to the highway 12 and Helsinki - St. Petersburg railway, lies the administrative centre; Kausala.



Distances:  
To Helsinki 140 km  
To Kouvola 20 km  
To Lahti 40 km

# Municipality of Iitti

- Population on February 2013: 6 953
- Area 685,09 km<sup>2</sup>, whereof 97,26 km<sup>2</sup> is lakes and rivers
- The Ridge of Salpausselkä splits Iitti to northern "lake district" and southern area, which has less water
- Agriculture has a big role in Iitti. There are a number of factories in Kausala and some small business.
- Iitti is very vital in culture. The Iitti Music Festival is very known in Finland (in June). The vitality is because of the history in Iitti
- We have five lower comprehensive schools (grades 1-6) in Iitti.



# Views of litti



# Kausala, the administrative center

A faded background image of a large, multi-story building with a prominent clock tower. The clock tower has a square face with a clock and is topped with a flag. The building has a brick or stone facade and large windows. In the foreground, there are some plants and a street lamp.

- Kausala is the biggest village and the administrative center of litti. Population of Kausala is more than a half of litti's population, about 4000 people.
- Our school is located in Kausala as well as The litti upper comprehensive school (grades 7-9) and The litti High School.
- All schools are under the municipal board of education. We don't have any school boards in our schools. However, every school has its own group of parents, which co-operate with their schools staff and try to support their school in many different ways.

# Kausalan koulu

- a lower comprehensive school (primary school)
- 230 pupils, which are coming from a very typical Finnish social background. There are only a few immigrant pupils in our school.
- 12 classes, two classes in every grade
- headmaster
- 12 class teachers, a teacher of foreign languages (English and German) and a teacher of special needs
- six school assistants
- our school is originally built in 1930 and renovated a couple of times. The last renovation was in 1995.
- Web connections: <http://peda.net/veraja/iitti/kausala> and <https://fi-fi.facebook.com/pages/Kausalan-koulu/147194395369703>



# Our Comenius history

- Coordinating project 1996-1999 between three (four) schools:
  - St Mary's R.C. Junior School, Grangetown (Middlesborough)
  - Ecole Henri Wallon, Grasse
  - Kausalan koulu, Iitti
  - Grönänskolan, Hässleholm (only in the beginning)
- Two attempts to be accepted to Comenius with three-four partners 2012 and 2013
  - 2012 none of us got permission
  - 2013 every school, except Kausala, was accepted
  - The reason why our application was rejected: the amount of applications was quite high and the quality points of our project were too low.

# Pros and cons and why to Erasmus+

- Pros
  - Our staff is very experienced and the earlier excellent PISA-results are result of that strength ;), OK at least partly...
  - We have a lot of know-how in teaching some special areas as: music, sports and visual arts
  - The amount of pupils in the classes is suitable to effective teaching and learning
  - New national curriculum takes effect in 2016 with new, fresh aims
- Cons
  - The average age of teachers is rather high (over 52) in our school
  - There has been only a little development in teaching methods in last decade
  - Computing skills are not widely in effective use among teachers in teaching
  - The decrease in tax assets reduces the funds of education
  - The amount of pupils with special needs grows all the time
- Why to Erasmus+?
  - New, fresh ideas for teaching
  - Seeing, learning, telling others
  - Erasmus+ offers international perspective to our pupils and staff
  - Gives opportunities to development (school and individual)



# Some pictures of our school Computer lab



# More computers and the school library



# After-school activity (grades 1-2) with school assistants



# Our dining hall, a lunch from 10.30 to 11.30 o'clock



# Valentine`s Day decoration



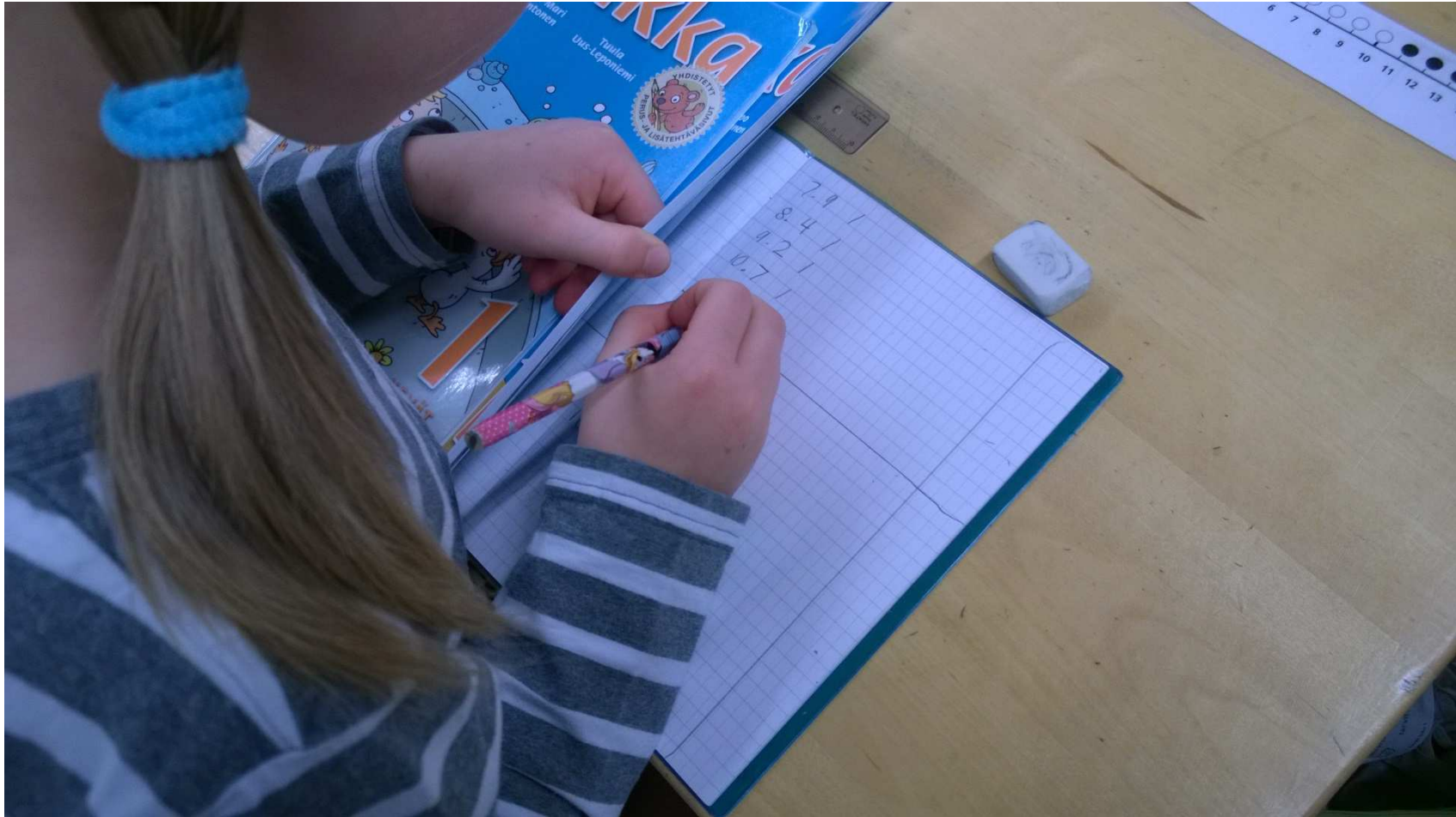
# Woodwork in the show



# First grade, maths



# More maths





# Second grade making groups



# Fourth grade



Special needs school is walking alongside  
with us in the same school building



# The break!



# Some pictures from our activity day with the parents





Together we stand...



...and we are ready to Erasmus+!

