

## MEETING IN FINLAND BY VIIVI ANTILA

### **Wednesday 12 December**

On wednesday we went to pick our guest up from Hotel Palo. The car ride to the hotel was really exciting, because we had only talked to our guest on the internet and now was the time to meet them.

### **Thursday 13 December**

We came to school at 9 in the morning. We sat to the auditorium and the lights went off. The Lucia performance was starting. I was playing the guitar and Ella, Lotta, Matleena and Joanna were performing the Lucia song in Italian, Swedish and in Finnish.

After that Otto told about the tradition of Lucia and the head of the department Kimmo Kuusimäki welcomed everyone to the upper secondary school of Naantali.

Then Ella, Jade and Tiina told about the Finnish school system and the foreigner teachers had a lot of questions about it!

After Lunch we listened to a lecture about traditons in Finland. In the afternoon we also attended some lessons. The last activity was to play M $\ddot{o}$ lkky, which went great and our guest were natural talents. We also enjoyed christmas tarts made by Eemeli and we drank gl $\ddot{o}$ gi.

At the evening me, Karoliina and Miiro and our Czech guest went to a hockey game. They really enjoyed it and they said that it was really exciting to watch!

### **Friday 14 December**

We started the day by listening to all the students tell about their countries folk stories which were all really impressive.

After lunch we started to prepare some performances of every countries folk stories that we would show to everyone on tuesday. We did that in little groups and we got to design it in every way we wanted to.

In the evening all of the Roots projects members met in a restaurant called Metsätähti were we had our christmas party. We ate amazing food, we had a quiz about Finland, magic tricks and even santa came see us and brought all of us christmas gifts!

After the christmas party we seperated and we went to hang out in smaller groups. Me and my friend went to Lotta`s house. We danced like grazy and played some truth or dare.

The Whole evening was unbelievable and I think it was the first thing that brought us closer together.

### **Saturday 15 December**

On Saturday we went to Turku. We visited the cathedral of Turku and the Turku's castle. After that we got to go on our way to the Christmas market.

During the day me and some of my friends went shopping and of course we took them in to a little shop that they could buy something to remind them of Finland. We actually got Nicholas to buy terva soap.

That night me and Karoliina and our Czech guest went to my grandmother's house to go to sauna and swimming.

### **Sunday 16 December**

At 10 in the morning we pulled warm clothes on and headed to the nature trail of Haijainen. We walked the natural trail to a beautiful laavu which brought a lot of good memories at least for me because I hadn't visited that place since I was a little kid.

We wandered around in the forest, barbecued sausages and stick buns. The nature was so peaceful and refreshing.

Some of us played tag and few people got their shoes wet because we were jumping around a swamp. But the atmosphere was so good that few pairs of wet shoes didn't ruin our fun!

### **Monday 17 of December**

After an awesome weekend we returned to school and started our morning with presentation about all the countries' cuisines. We got to taste amazing new flavors and especially the Turkish food made an impression to me, because I have never tasted anything similar to that.

After eating lunch, we made some art. We had recycling materials and our assignment was to make something to reflect to the upcoming year or the future. The groups had made pieces involving global warming, pollution, the bad effect of media and how we could solve these problems.

The last activity was to go to the Naantali Museum where we made some traditional Finnish Christmas decorations.

From the museum we went and played the Amazing Race. There we got clues about some important locations in Naantali, that we were supposed to find with little groups and pose for a photo in the specific place. The best group photo was awarded on Tuesday.

In the evening some of us went to watch Naantali's figureskating teams christmas show. Everyone got to go to the ice after the performances. There were students skating from Italy, Cypros, Spain, Czech and ofcourse some of us, the finnish students.

Some of the students were skating for the first time and all of them got better with every slide.

From skating we went to Lotta's familys beach house with a little group were we went to sauna and also in to the freezing sea! It was a perfect last night with the most Finnish thing that is sauna and the cold water!

Some of the other groups members had a movie night at jade's place and they watched a scary movie together.

### **Tuesday 18 December**

When we came to school on Tuesday, we started to search photos from the pass week and we wrote things that we saw, experienced and how we felt.

In the afternoon we presented our folk stories. The stories were performed by slide shows, music, a play and even a rap. Every group had their own style and that is what makes us unique.

The amazing week ended on a farewell dinner in Naantali Spa Sea View restaurant. Our guest from Italy and Cypros had all ready left earlier that day so we ate in a smaller group but that didn't ruin our dinner!