



Erasmus+



# ERASMUS+ TRIP TO EMMELOORD

## THE NETHERLANDS

2017





## Speech of the headmaster

I would like to welcome you to the Vakcollege Noordoostpolder. Welcome also in Holland. Yesterday you arrived and I hope you've had a pleasant journey. We have guests from: Norway, Estonia, Spain and Latvia. I'd like to know: For whom this will be the first time to visit the Netherlands?

I have seen the program for this week. It is a full and comprehensive program. It promises to become a beautiful week, in which you will discover Emmeloord and the Noordoostpolder. But of course you will also visit Amsterdam, the capital. I've seen also that you will be introduced to our national culture: ice skating. There's a saying: a child who grows up here, learns to ride a bike and learns how to skate. Children skate at nature ice near the house, such as a ditch or a canal. But the question is or we might continue skating in the future now we're dealing with the global warming.

We are here in the Noordoostpolder. And it's possible for us to sit here today. But that was not possible 75 years ago. 75 years ago this area was all water / a sea. We are on the seabed now. In 1942 this area was drained and the villages were built. The whole Noordoostpolder lies below sea level. Emmeloord lies 4.2 meters below sea level. When the levees will break, we will have to swim. The villages were built in a circle around Emmeloord, so that anyone from each village who wants to cycle, can reach Emmeloord within one hour. Most students go to school by bike.

This week you are guests at the Vakcollege Noordoostpolder. A school for secondary education. The educational system in the Netherlands is as follows:

When a child is four years old, the child is allowed to go to school. At the age of five there is an obligation to go to school.

Children at the age of 2 years old can go to the nursery school. That's possible for 2 mornings a week. At the nursery school young children learn to play with other children. They learn social skills.

By the age of four years, children can go to the primary school. There are eight groups or grades. After the primary school, the pupils go to secondary education at the age of 12 years. At the end of eighth grade, the schoollevel of a child shall be determined. Secondary education is divided into levels. The higher levels are havo and vwo, these schools last five and six years. After secondary education the students of the havo continue at the hbo. The MBO and HBO are education for professional training. And the students who had taken exams in vwo will go to the university.

We are here at a vmbo school; This is for students who learn more practically. The students will be here for four years. At the end they will take the exam. After that, the students go to the MBO and follows a professional education. When the MBO has finished the students are ready for work. Or they can go to the HBO.

Now we can see a few pictures of our students. You can see what they are into at school. But the students and Ms. Pool will show you a lot more of our school this week. I wish you a beautiful and educational week.

## **SUNDAY 12.11.17.**

Everybody arrived at Schiphol and all the hoststudents were picked up by bus. The Dutch students came along and met the guests at the airport. It was very nice to meet the hoststudents at the airport and they had a pleasant time with each other in the bus, driving back to Emmeloord. There the students met their host families and everybody was taken to their homes, where they also met all members of the family. The teachers went to the hotel and had a nice dinner.



## **MONDAY 13.11.17.**

In the morning everyone arrived at school at 8.30 where the headmaster had a welcome speech. She presented the Dutch educational system and told us the history of Noordoostpolder. The Dutch students showed their guests around the school and the teachers also got a guided tour of the school. After a short break we had the presentations about fast food. Then we had a healthy lunch with teachers and the students learned about how the Dutch students have their lunch at school (bringing their own lunch with them). During the afternoon we had a guided tour through Noordoostpolder and Urk. We visited a chicory farm and after that we drove to Urk which is an old fisherman's town and former island. On Urk we tried kibbeling and herring, typical Dutch food. A lot of the students and teachers never ate this before. On our way back, we drove along Schokland and then back to school. The students were picked up by their host families. In the evening the teachers had a healthy dinner at a colleague's place. The hoststudents were taken to sportsactivities, musicianactivities with the Dutch students or had a nice time with a group.





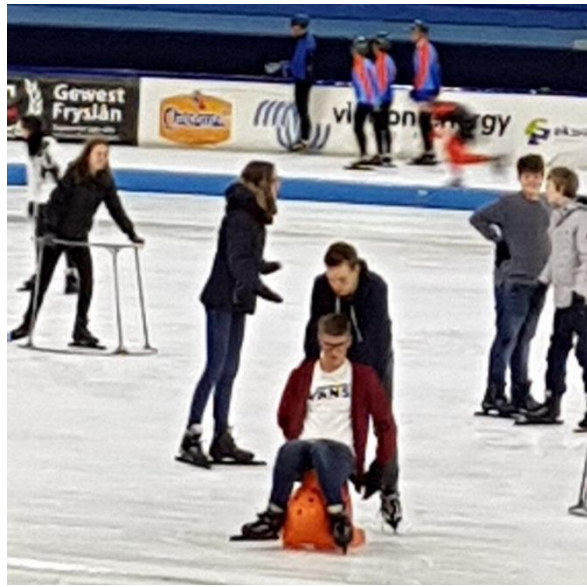
## **TUESDAY 14.11.1 7.**

This day again we arrived at school at 8.30. The guest students followed the first and second lesson with their Dutch host student. The teachers had the first meeting. We had an exchange of best practices, T&L about Quizlet, Google forms, Openshot, eTwinning, updated the digital platforms for dissemination on Twin Space. Our project received a diploma from eTwinning. After a break, the students held their presentations about the survey on lifestyle of elderly people. Then the teachers had a healthy lunch and the students brought lunch from home. When we had finished the lunch we went ice-skating in Heerenveen. The host parents were also involved in this activity.

Everyone enjoyed this sport, learned how to skate with or without helping tools. After this the students went home to



their host families, and the teachers had a dinner.



### **WEDNESDAY 15.11.17.**

Today we went by bus to Enkhuizen, where we first had a nice walk through the town and then visited the Zuiderzee museum. On our way to Amsterdam we had a typical Dutch lunch. Arriving in Amsterdam, we started with a canal tour and got a good impression of the city. Afterwards we had a walking tour to the city centre, and then we had some free time. We finished this day by taking the ferry across the IJ, where the bus was waiting for us and drove us back to Emmeloord. The students were picked up by their host families, and the teachers had a nice dinner.





### **THURSDAY 16.11.17.**

We arrived at school at 8.30. The guest students followed the first and second lesson with their Dutch host student. The teachers had the second meeting, talking about the exchange to Estonia, and we got a digital presentation from a biology teacher about how to use I pads in class. We also talked about the project preventing alcohol and drug abuse done by all schools in the Noordoostpolder. After a short break, the students followed different practical lessons and made alternative protein snacks. The teachers also visited different lessons and then had a wonderful healthy lunch made by students. In the afternoon there were different sports activities: football, free running, dancing, fitness and squash. In the evening most of the students met each other and had fun, and the teachers prepared a delicious dinner at school.



**FRIDAY 17.11.17.**



We met at school at 9.30 and drove to a regional biological farm, where they produce sustainable food. The students were free to go home after this activity, to prepare food for the farewell dinner. The teachers had lunch made of products from the farm. Back at school the teachers had the third meeting writing the evaluation and discussing the next exchanges in Estonia and Spain. In the evening all host families, students and teachers got together at school having a great farewell dinner and everyone involved in this exchange received a certificate.



**SATURDAY**



**18.11.17.**

Today was departure day, the bus drove all the guests to the airport, from where

everybody went back to their home, Norway, Latvia, Estonia or Spain.

Thank you all for your positive input and good collaboration during this week! Thanks to you it was a wonderful experience with great memories! Have a safe trip home!

“Nothing is ever really lost to us as long as we remember it.”