



CHAPTER

3RD NEWSLETTER OF THE PROJECT
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND PROMOTION OF TOGETHERNESS
AMONG EUROPEAN READERS



Tough year behind us

Dealing with Covid-19 and online learning

Very soon after the last mobility of our project, in Spain in February 2020, the borders were closed and a lockdown was declared, which is still present to some extent year and a half later.

Although much more is known about the virus than in early 2020, we still fear of the infection and the possibility of spreading it further. In that atmosphere, we reached the end of August 2021, the deadline by which our project was originally supposed to be completed. All partners requested for the extension and successfully got it, so we hope that the next school year will be more relaxed and fruitful in terms of activities.

Although all partners were extremely often in online teaching mode, we still managed to complete some of the planned activities, and we designed a number of new ones that sought to maintain the spirit of the project in the students and teachers involved. This newsletter provides a brief overview of all these activities.

who are we:

Ekonomiska skola
Pozega, Croatia

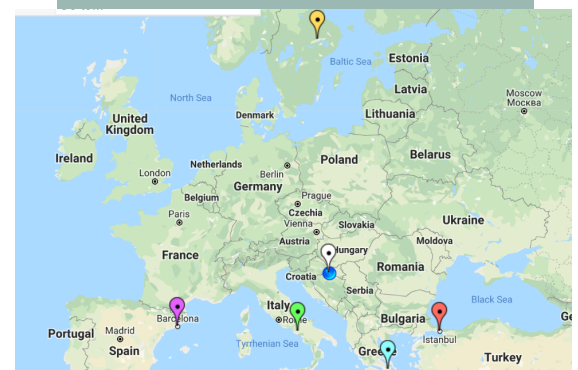
I.P.S.E.O.A. RUSSO Italy

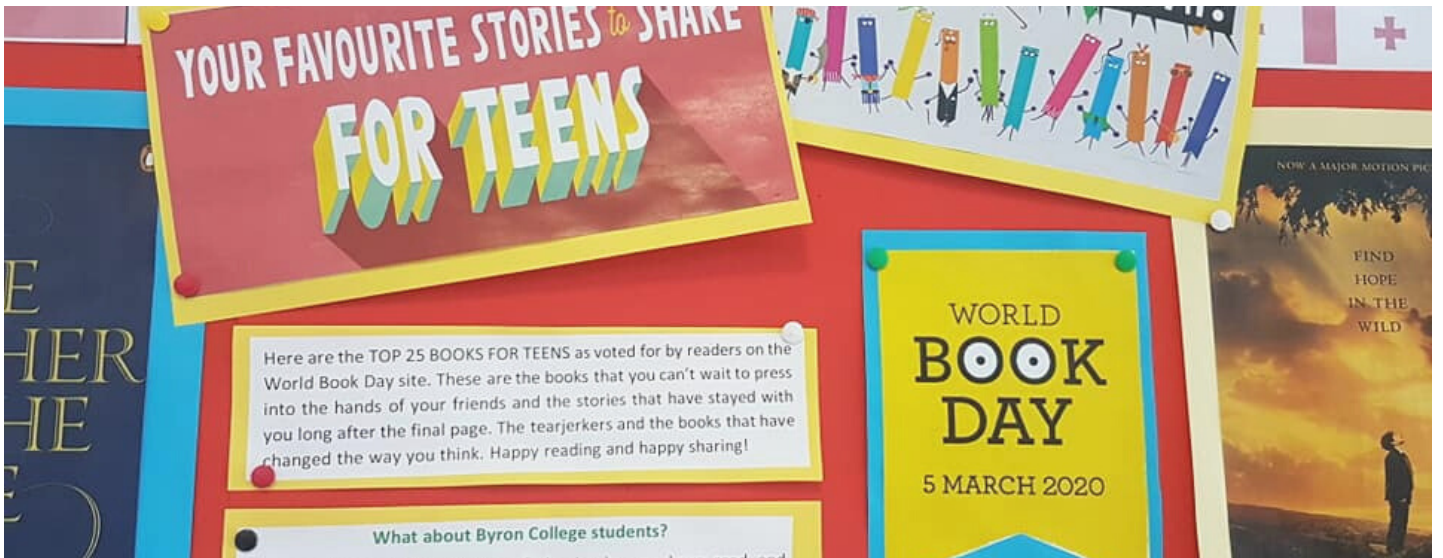
Byron College Greece

Burhan Felek
Anadolu Lisesi, Turkey

Carlforsska gymnasiet
Ekonomi/Handel
Sweden

Institut Miquel Martí i
Pol Spain





Books: the best way to keep our mental health

Over the past year, many schools have sought to mitigate the effects of lockdown on students' mental state precisely by encouraging reading. Through project activities we also promoted books worth reading and disseminated examples of good practice, both on our Lets get reading website and at some local events.

While we were physically in schools, we managed to maintain our literary corners and tried to serve our literary recommendations to people who are not directly involved in the Chapter

project.



About the project

Chapter is an Erasmus KA2 project between secondary schools from Croatia, Greece, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Turkey that addresses students of ages 15-19 who are studying English as a foreign language. The main aim of this project is to develop students' literacy, reading, knowledge, digital and cultural skills with reading, writing and the acting out literary pieces belonging to the participating cultures.

The main goal of the project is to develop students' reading habits through international partnerships, especially important in our digital era in which young people read less and less and...

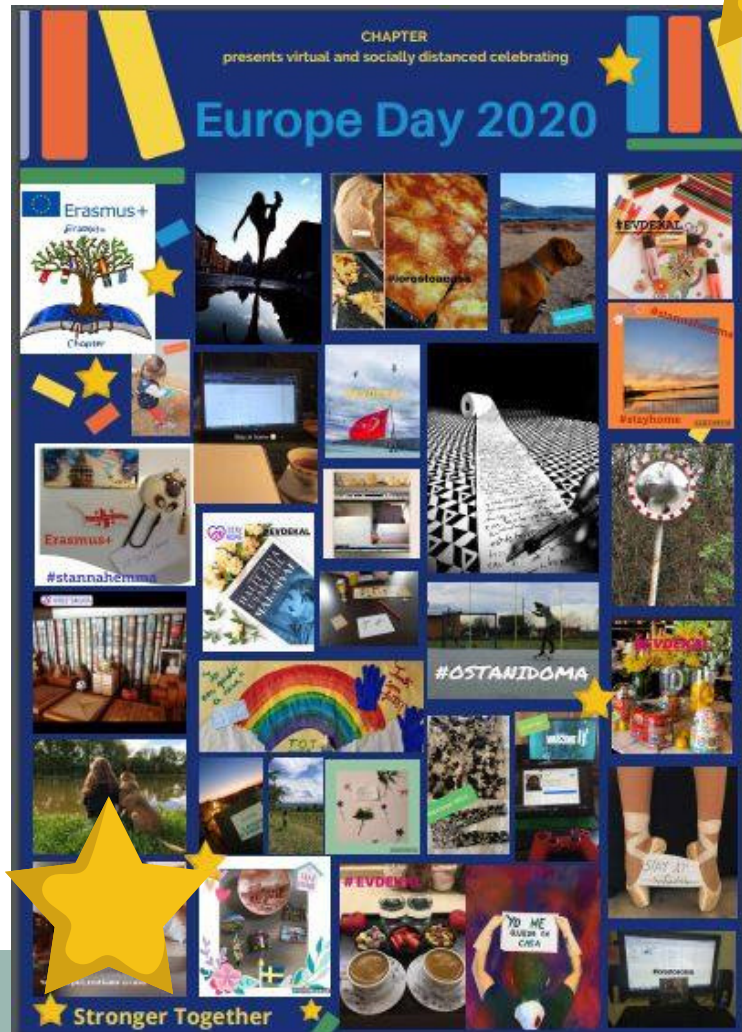


*"Reading is to the mind, what exercise is to the body."
Joseph Addison*

Celebration of Europe Day 2020

This online celebration we prepared was a nice opportunity to remind us we are still all together in this absurd situation, and that it is necessary to take care of ourselves and others.

Towards Europe Day we shared photos showing us spending time in self-isolation. It was the time we had not been physically going to school for 7 weeks, and in those times it seemed like forever! Some partners could go outside their homes, but some could not. The term of social distance became almost normal. We got more connected to our families and nature, we played social games more often, we enjoyed computer games and Netflix, and of course - books. We agreed on gathering photos of students' everyday occupations in self-isolation and created a poster for Europe Day celebration, by the motto of the European Union Stronger Together, as well as hashtags #staysafe and #staynegative.



We are very proud our e-poster participated in the Europe Day 2020 celebration #EuropeansAgainstCovid19 hosted by European Parliament, European Commission, EESC - European Economic and Social Committee and the Council of the European Union!.



European Day of Languages 2020

Competition organized by Byron College in Athens

In the beginning of September the teachers of the project team held the first virtual meeting after the summer holidays and discussed the upcoming activities, primarily those related to the European Day of Languages. We were very worried about the current situation, happy about being together again, hoping to meet live as soon as possible.

Till those times we continued with organizing blended activities. First of them was celebration of European Day of Languages. Our Greek partner, who was in charge of supervising the activity, sent us a handout with instructions.

The students designed posters about any country they would like to visit. The poster should tell us which country it is and some facts about it e.g. reasons why to go there, the sights to visit, things to do, which language/s is/are spoken there and what makes it/them unique, what expressions would be important for the holiday there. Each partner team sent to Greece one poster they considered as the best one in their school, then Greek partner school presented them all in their school corridor. Rest of us also got the opportunity to present them as digital exhibition, and later, when we returned to normal classrooms, on our literary corners.

Next activity related to Day of languages was **presentation of reading and translating competition prepared by our Swedish partners** by the end of last school year, related to famous Harry Potter serial. Congrats to the winners in each partner school!



Original text

The sphinx sat down upon her hind legs, in the very centre of the path, and roared: "First think of the person who lives in disguise, Who deals in secrets and tells naught but lies. Next, tell me what always lies far below the sea, The middle of middle and end of the world? And finally give me the sound often heard During the search for a hard-to-find word. Now string them together, and answer me this, Which creature would you be unwilling to kiss?" [...] "Sphinx... er... sphinx..." said Harry, pacing up and down himself. "A creature I wouldn't want to kiss... a spider!"

J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Bloomsbury, London, 2000, pp.548-547



Covid-19 does keep our bodies in our countries but our hearts and minds do travel anywhere we wish!

Christmas time

All together videoconference

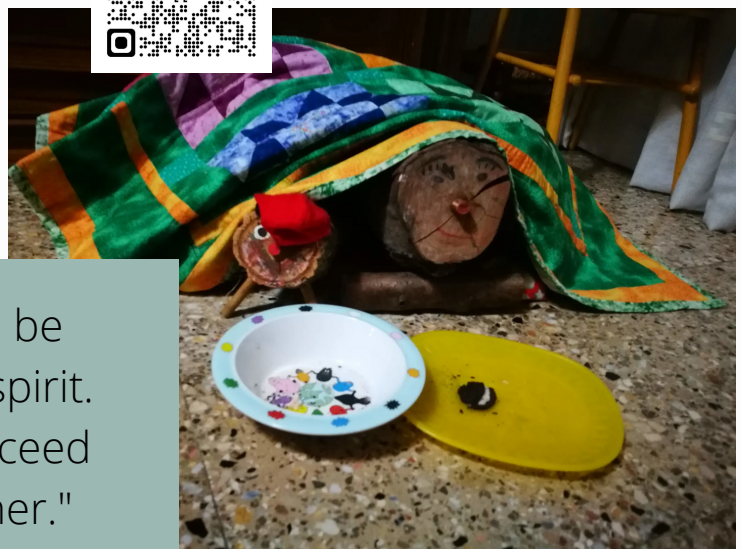
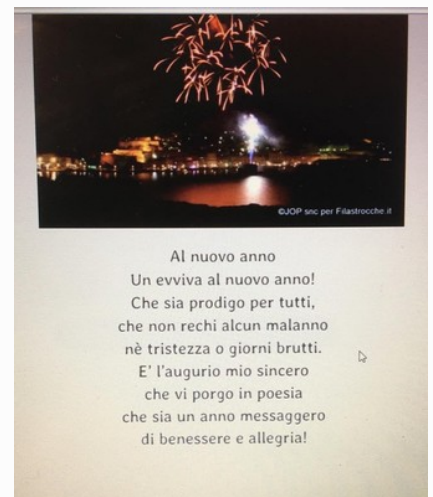
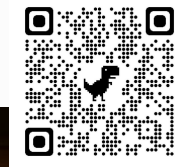
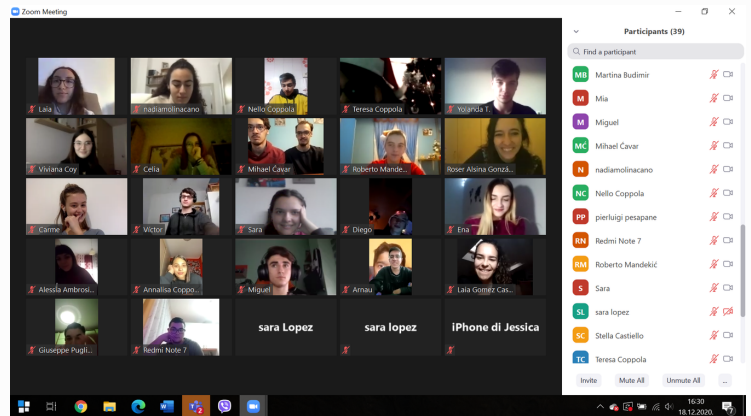
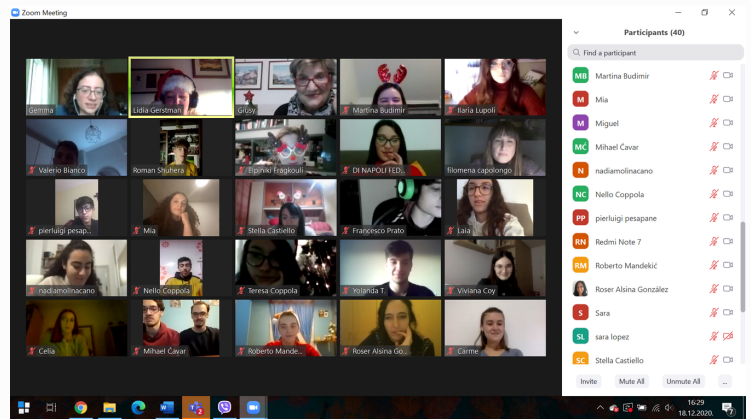
This year we had a different Christmas than usual. We spent our Christmas at home far from our friends and relations so our Christmas conference with our project partners was really nice and pleasant. We were so happy to be able to exchange our Christmas greetings even if at a distance!

Each country performed a song or dance online each from their homes, or they prepared short presentation with tidbits and quiz on it. It was very fun and warm harten experience!

All project members were invited to join Wakelet collection of greetings and Christmas thoughts, as well as photos and videos on how they celebrate this holiday in their families and countries.

More on it, as well as on our other project activities, you can find in our Twinspace:
<https://twinspace.etwinning.net/93532/home>

"However we Italians are trying to be strong and to keep our Christmas spirit. The virus like the Grinch won't succeed in stealing our caring for each other."

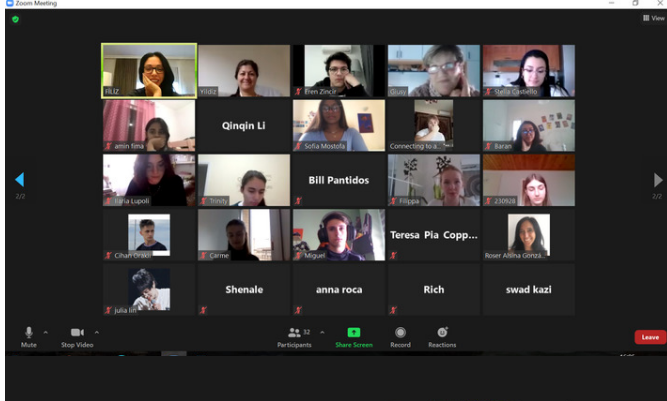


Spring traditions

One more all together videoconference since we very much enjoyed it last time :)

Another videoconference of all schools involved presented the spring traditions of our nations, as well as some other nations as we also have one multinational school in the project. Over 30 participants, students and teachers, actively participated and expressed their satisfaction with the socializing and sharing cultural tradition.

By researching and presenting our cultural heritage, we have once again realized how much we have in common, that customs and traditions are the same or similar in many of our nations.



Martaki

- March is considered to be the first month of spring and here in Greece we have a tradition for its arrival. The tradition is called "Martis" which means March in Greek.
- Greeks weave a bracelet from red and white string on the 1st of March and wear it till the end of the month.
- Red symbolizes vitality, health and love, life and courage, and white is the expression of love, purity and joy.

The Nevruz holiday

The Nevruz holiday has been the most important source of our written culture. It has an important place in the literature of all Muslim nations, especially Persian literature.

Walpurgis night in Sweden

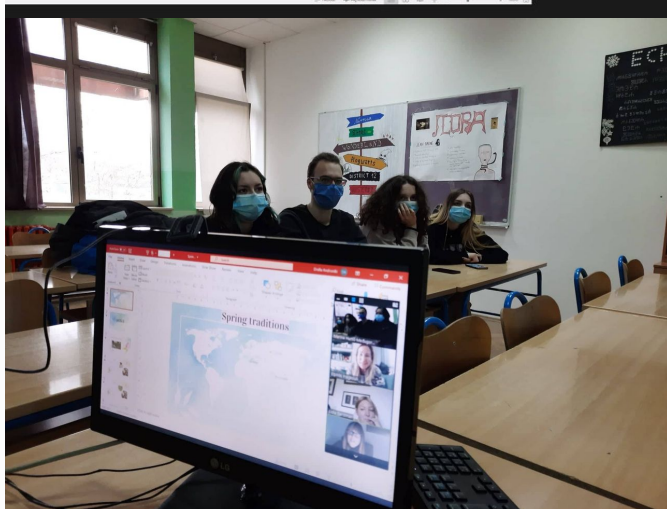


On the last day of April, Walpurgis Night (Valborg) is celebrated throughout Sweden to celebrate the arrival of spring. This is done by lighting large bonfires and singing songs celebrating the arrival of spring.

The Swedish Walpurgis eve originates from the Middle Ages, when the administrative year ended on 30 April and this was cause for great celebration for merchants and craftsmen with dancing.

All Walpurgis, farm animals were also let out to graze, and ever since the early 1700s bonfires have been lit to scare away predators. People also feed guns, shook cowbells or yelled and screamed to keep the predators away.

During current times, the 30 April is when students can be relieved that exams are almost over and only a few lectures remain before term ends. For students, Walpurgis Eve is a foretaste of summer. Choir singing is a major part of the festivities, the students put on their characteristic white caps and sing songs of welcome to spring, to the new greenery of the year and to a brighter future. Choral singing is a popular pastime in Sweden, and on Walpurgis Eve almost every choir in the country is busy.






Teachers meetings

Maintaining the spirit of our project

Coordinating teachers meet regularly to discuss the current situation in each of the partner schools and discuss upcoming activities. Most of us spent school year 2020/21 combined in an online and onsite environment, and some unfortunately completely online. It was interesting and comforting to share experiences, find out how other schools cope with the challenges of the pandemic time, hear about efforts being made to maintain interest in Erasmus+ and particularly in the topic of our project.



By the beginning of school year 2021/21 we are all faced with the situation that we have to change the students project team to a very large extent or completely.

We wish all the students who collaborated in project activities and mobilities that left us and their schools a successful continuation of their education, finding the ideal job, a handful of trips and - let's not forget - meeting many interesting books!
You were great! 



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."