

9th Primary School of Limassol (K.A')

International Day for Tolerance – 16 November 2017

"Tolerance is an act of humanity, which we must nurture and enact each in own lives every day, to rejoice in the diversity that makes us strong and the values that bring us together."

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay

The International Day for Tolerance is marked every year on 16 November in order to create awareness about the principles of tolerance. It is a day for respecting the cultures, beliefs and traditions of others and understanding the risks posed by intolerance. It is a day for respecting people with disabilities. The understanding and acceptance of people with disabilities is an essential characteristic of a good citizen and an essential component of a good education.

Within this framework, we set some goals and organized specific actions to promote our students feelings of acceptance. Specifically, a day with people with Special Needs took place in each first grade of our school. On November 16, 2017 during the International Day for Tolerance our A' Grade students hosted to our school children from the Day Center "Mario's' Home". In the "Mario's Home" adults with special needs are preoccupied.

All together were involved in various activities: cooking, crafts etc. Also, they spent quality time together during the breaks. The first grade students were bonded and connected with the children's of "Mario's Home".

Aims of the activities about Tolerance Day:

- To reflect on the meaning and personal relevance of tolerance
- To begin to understand the importance of tolerance
- To identify values of tolerance
- To reflect carefully on the meaning and significance of tolerance

The following photos are from the cooking workshop. The children there made chocolate candies accompany with their buddies from "Mario's Home" and they treat the school children's and teachers.



Below there are photos from the handicraft workshop.



Everybody had a wonderful time!



Following the event (that took place on the 16th of November), in the coming few days the students had produced different kinds of creative assignments and activities.

The children wrote about their feelings. Also, some children became journalists and interviewed their classmates about the emotions and thoughts they experienced during the Tolerance Day. The following are examples of students' work.

Interviews:

1. *Maritina: What did you do with Panos?*

Maria: I helped Panos cut his handicraft and make his Christmas paper basket. I finished sooner than the others did and I realized that Panos had some difficulty in cutting it properly. So I helped him and he was excited. I became his hands and we all finished on time.

2. Maritina: How did you feel about helping Panayiotis cut his handicraft?

Demis: I felt very happy because he felt happy doing things with us. I wanted to help him because he couldn't cut it properly. When his handicraft was finished, Panayiotis was feeling beautifully and I was very content.

3. Maritina: Why were you so happy at the end of the day?

Odysseus: I love them, they are people like us and they are my new friends. I would like to visit their school soon or go on an excursion with them someday.

Concept maps of feelings and thoughts:

