

Visit to the school Liceo Scientifico Statale "Gregorio da Catino" in Poggio Mirteto

From 22 to 24 April 2009 a group of our students from class 8S in Fisksätraskolan visited the general secondary school in Poggio Mirteto, Liceo Scientifico Statale "Greforio da Catino", as part of the Comenius project.

Poggio Mirteto is a charming little town about 45 minutes north of Rome with local train. The surroundings are hilly, green and beautiful. Very many of the people in Poggio Mirteto get their income from farming vegetables, fruit and berries. You could get the impression of only fields, but there are a lot of trees in the area too. It is like meditation just to look out and around and enjoy the area. The only thing one would avoid would be biking because of all the hills, and the traffic. Apart from the little town, there are lots of villages around on the hills, so the area is spread out.

The students stayed with very hospitable host families who organized several parties for their guests.

Before this meeting all partners had agreed to prepare an investigation on the damaging effect of pollution on historical monuments. The Swedish participants chose to investigate how pollution affected the old electric power station, Boberg's generating station at Djurgården in Stockholm. The whole process of the work is presented in a leaflet that is sent around to all the partners. At the meeting the students also showed a PowerPoint presentation to the rest of the partners and a lot of other Italian students in the school. It was very impressive to see them standing in front of everyone and full of energy present their work.

During the stay the whole group of about 70 people went by local train to Rome and on a guided tour at the Colosseum. Everyone was taken by the ancient building and everything that had taken place there.

Then we had a guided bus tour around the ancient aqueducts, spa and other antique buildings in Rome. The last day we had a walking guided tour in the centre of Rome around the Spanish steps, Fontana di Trevi and Pantheon. The students had great opportunities to mix with the rest of the students, make friends and exchange cultural experiences, and they really did.

It was very pleasing for a Comenius contact person to hear the students plan for meeting with their new friends during summer.

The relationship between teachers and students is relaxed but respectful in Italy.

And their way of eating is very different from ours. They start with a small, sweet breakfast; have a small dish, then a big lunch and a huge, late dinner. You could get used to both their way and ours.

Our overall impression of the Italians is that things work out somehow. Their way of handling things may be different from ours, and the results are not always the way it was planned, but it will. It does not necessarily be how it was planned, but it will work out.

We are now curious to get to know the Cypriot ways....

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