

E.U.R.O.P.E

European Unions in Our Pupils' Eyes

The new school year 2013-2014 started with the announcement that the Greek 11<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten of Chania will participate in a multilateral school partnership “Comenius” for the years 2013-2015. We were overwhelmed by this announcement, as our teachers explained that we will make many new friends from nine other European countries. But what is Europe? We set off on a journey to discover and set geographical boundaries through maps and Google Earth. At the same time our parents got informed about the program and everything that will be accomplished, requesting them to be supportive and get directly involved.

The “Comenius” corner, which was created with our teacher’s help, has enabled us to learn about the participating countries and their flags. A big journey throughout Europe - Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, Italy, Latvia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Turkey – the countries which participate in E.U.R.O.P.E. We are excited!!!



The first meeting took place in Latvia. Before that, we took a group photo so that our teacher would present us through it, to the pupils and teachers of the other European Kindergartens. We also prepared portfolios and souvenirs.

On her return, our teacher brought with her our loving puppet-friends “Euro” and “Opa”, which talked to us about Latvia everything they saw there. Beautiful children, fantastic schools and great teachers, were presented to us with the use of Power Point. Traditional dances, songs and games we have never experienced before. “Every child is looking for a friend” is the song we heard and sang in all languages.



But our teacher said that our puppet-friends have to wear traditional costumes. But which one? We saw, observed and came to a decision. We requested our parents' help and we have already started their creation.

The project logo design was a process that excited us. We had to let our imagination lead us to what we would like this logo to be. We thought, drew, painted, cut, glued, assessed and here it is. This is the logo that represented us.





We have already started traditional dancing lessons. We are learning a traditional dance called “Sousta”. It is the name of an ancient Cretan dance which is danced all over Greece and sometimes in the Balkans. This dance originated from the ancient dance “Pirrihio”, a Cretan war dance, and the musical instruments used are a Lyre, a violin and a lute. Boys and girls, holding each other from the shoulders, after they have danced a circle, they get separated in two teams (boys and girls) one opposing the other, making sure that they form couples.



We have also started English lessons. This new language has now become a part of our daily lives. We have learned how to greet, use “magic” words like *sorry, please, thank you*, introduce ourselves and sing. The European Anthem is one of our priorities.

Unity has come to Europe,  
Unity is here to stay.  
Unity is our future -  
Long live Europe, come what may!

North and South will work together  
Just as friends and neighbours should.  
East and West will grow together -  
Brotherhood and sisterhood!

Europe, may your peoples flourish,  
Let the common banner rise!  
Stars of gold and dark blue skies  
Are the colours that we prize.

These days, we started planting a Botanical garden. We will plant trees and herbs of Cretan flora. We will dig, sow, water and record their growth. Then they will be dried up to create a herbarium.



“The view out of my window” is a new challenge for us. New activities, explorations, observations and recordings have already been initiated. Our region’s characteristics are to be recorded and presented to our friends from the other countries. How are we going to make it? That is for you to find out in our next issue....

**THE END**