

The CLAP Project – report (16/01/2015)

(from the 1st group from the Czech Republic)

A few months ago our school became a part of the international project Culture, Nature and People – meeting points of Lithuania, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria. This project, which we call „CLAP“, is very interesting. We can meet a lot of new people, talk with them, improve our English, meet different cultures and customs, and have some fun.

The first important activity of this project was talking with Lithuanians and Bulgarians through the webcam. It was very good idea and we looked forward to see our new foreign friends. But in fact, it wasn't very good, because of problems with connecting with other countries. We would like to have another video calling, because it could be very funny.

After that we got a task about the first activity, which we had to do. It was making video about Christmas in our country to show Lithuanians and Bulgarians how people in the Czech Republic celebrate Christmas, what is the typical Czech Christmas food and what are the Czech Christmas customs.

We really enjoyed shooting the video. Our group, consisting of 4 members – Markéta, Natálie, Jirka and Honza, got together, prepared the informations which we wanted to tell and started shooting. Shooting was very long, but very funny. Nobody knows how much hard can be pronouncing the word „video“ and stopping laughing when the camera turn on.

When we finally finished the video, we post it on the Internet. Then we watched Lithuanians and Bulgarians videos and waited for the next task.

The second task was devising questions about our videos to check the others if they remembered some informations about Christmas in the Czech Republic. It wasn't hard. We wrote 6 questions and sent it.

Changing questions was easy. Our group's middleman Honza contact Lithuanian and Bulgarian middlemans, Domantas and Vasil, and they founded a Facebook group for better communication. There we shared the questions, read Lithuanians and Bulgarians questions, watched their videos again, found the informations and wrote the answers. The others did the same.

When the task was finished, we contact some Lithuanians and Bulgarians, mainly the middlemans Domantas and Vasil. They are very friendly. We talked about the project, our hobbies etc. and meet each other. Now we know them more and the communication is much better. We are glad that the 1st group is full of friendly people which want cooperate.

Speaking personally, the project is very good. We would like to meet all these people more, make video callings with them and meet their countries much more. Soon we would like to make a video about our schools – how our school looks, how looks our classrooms, our dining room and so on. It would be great.

To conclusion, we are really glad that the cooperation with the 1st group is easy, good and without problems! We are looking forward to another tasks.

Our questions for Lithuania and Bulgaria:

- 1) What is the typical Czech Christmas dinner?
- 2) Who carries presents for us?
- 3) What does it mean if there is a star inside the apple which we slice?
- 4) What types of cookies Czechs bake?
- 5) Why people get an advent calendar?
- 6) What is another Czech Christmas custom?

Bulgarians' answers

- 1) Dinner is served after sunset (traditionally, it should not be served until after the first star has come out) and consists of carp and potato salad, sometimes preceded by mushroom, sauerkraut or fish soup.
- 2) Czech children believe that Christmas gifts are brought by Baby Jesus (Ježíšek) who comes into the room through the window to leave the presents.
- 3) It means that people will be healthy all the next year.
- 4) Special sweet plaited loaf called „vanocka“.
- 5) In order to make the endless waiting for Christmas Eve and gifts from Ježíšek (Czech version of Santa) a little bit easier, children get an advent calendar in the beginning of December.
- 6) He who fails to give a present on Christmas Eve will be met with poverty. ; He who fasts all day until dinner will see the golden piglet on the wall.; A pregnant woman will know whether she is carrying a boy or a girl once the first Christmas Eve visitor enters the - house. If the visitor is female, she will have a daughter.

Lithuanians' answers

- 1) Fish soup, potato salad, fried carp, god-colored sweet Christmas bread, cookies and gingerbread
- 2) Baby Jesus and parent's
- 3) It means luck
- 4) Ginger cookies
- 5) Advent Calendar is designed to count the remaining days before Christmas Advent period - 24 days before Christmas
- 6) *They didn't know this answer*

Questions for us from Bulgarians:

- 1) What kind of dishes do Bulgarians eat on Christmas Eve and how many are they?
- 2) What is the name of the traditional Bulgarian bread for Christmas?
- 3) What are "Koledari"?
- 4) What does our way of celebrating Christmas has in common with yours?
- 5) Why do Koledari sing songs to the host?
- 6) What is "kravai"?

Our answers

- 1) Bulgarians eat seven, nine or any odd number of meatless dishes on Christmas Eve.
- 2) Traditional Bulgarian bread is called kravai.

- 3) Koledari are bulgarian carol singers.
- 4) In both countries, we unwrap presents which are under the tree, but not at the same time(in the Czech Republic in the evening on 24th December and in Bulgaria in the morning on 25th December. Then you break the bread into pieces just as we cut an apple.
- 5) They sing songs for wealth and health for the hosts.
- 6) "Kravai" are round breads with holes in them

(Our second answer is incorrect)

Questions for us from Lithuanians:

- 1) What events in our school is being held by every year?
- 2) What's the goal of these events?
- 3) What's the importance of "Acoustic Evening"?
- 4) Who can participate in "Acoustic Evening"?
- 5) What are the similarities of your events and our?
- 6) Do you also eat 12 (twelve) dishes in Christmas eve? What's main dish? (Meanwhile in Lithuania it is herring)

Our answers

- 1) Only the event called Acoustic evening.
- 2) The goal of the events is showing student's desire and their talent
- 3) It's a magical event where friends can met themselves and chat and have a fun during the concerts of mostly talented people.
- 4) Everybody who can play an instrument or sing a has desire to show.
- 5) In school we usually don't make any decorations or something else. But on the other hand, we have something like the music show. It's an event, taking place on the last school day before christmas, where the youngest students sing carols with their classmates and another students of our school are watching them.
- 6) No, we eat just one dish and it's also main dish in Christmas Eve in the Czech Republic..