

Annamaria Pocsik

WE ARE FROM NYÍREGYHÁZA

The school we are from bears the name of the well-known Hungarian poet Janos Arany. This name was given to the school at the very beginning of its foundation. We are very proud to be named after this outstanding poet in whose memory we organise Ballade Reciting Competitions where students from many schools of the region take part. The school was founded as a Primary School first in the Josatown in 1976. Its architectural style fits to the environment of the housing estate. The school has a receptive mind to the new and has always adapted the requirements of the years. The four grades Grammar school teaching model was introduced in 1989 and the eighth grades Grammar school teaching model was introduced in 1991. Now we have one thousand students in twelve grades. We prepare our students for secondary schooling then Higher education respectively after the General Certificate of Education they start working in the field they have chosen to be prepared. In the school building one can find everything to make teaching and learning acceptable both for the teachers and students. In the school we have some special classes for the capable children. Fortunately our school has a swimming pool. Its length is 12.5 meter and its width is 25 m. Every child learns to swim in the junior section. These special classes belong to the new sport replacement. This year the swimming pool was totally restored and now it's even more beautiful and comfortable. We pay great attention to language teaching. In junior classes we teach English at the request of parents and supported by the Arany Fund. From year 5 English, German and French are the optional languages to be chosen. The Latin language is taught in the eighth year grammar school.

Each year we follow our traditional programmes. Together with the whole country we celebrate our National Holidays and the programmes are usually prepared by the students with the help of some teachers in charge of:

- October 23 The Anniversary of the Declaration of the Republic
- March 15 Commemoration on the Heroes of the Independence War in 1848-49,
- Commemoration on the Victims of the Holocaust (April 18),
- Commemoration on the Victims of the communist dictatorship (February 25).

Besides we have school celebrations as well.

- The Inauguration party of the „Sparrows” and „Chaffinches”.
- The Autumn Ball- a musical programme of the senior section of the Primary school.
- Schoolleavers' Ball-the third week of December. Students pin on Bands and perform for the teachers and parents.
- Arany Days-first week of March, wreath laying at the Arany relief on the poet's

birthday. This time we have a whole week taking part in different competitions.

At the school we have a Scientific Students Club. Each month they have meetings to discuss the news at the school. In their research work they pay much attention to discovering and learning about the facts from the history of the city. Some are members of the Visegrad Club and they did the work in finding out and preparing materials on the historical events concerning the former Visegrad Three Group.

When in 2002 we were invited to join the already existing International Youth Visegrad Club we were a bit the same name. We started the discussion at school and tried first to go back to history to get more information about the former Visegrad Three Group and about the now existing Visegrad Four Group. The countries forming the Visegrad Four have always been part of one civilization having their own cultural and intellectual values and traditions which they wish to preserve and further strengthen. We fully understand that in order to live in one Europe we have to meet and understand another culture, to get knowledge of living, acting and working in a foreign country. So our decision was made and we gladly and with great interest joined the International Youth Visegrad Club. The members of the newly organised Visegrad Club were from different classes, mainly from the classes 9-10-11 and those with good command of the English language. We elected Szilagyi David the President of the Club, as he was the most suitable one to carry on the tasks. During the following years of our activity he really proved to be a real organiser and leader. He always did everything with great interest in the matter and everybody enjoyed his speeches and especially his nice attention and attitude to the other club members. From the time we became a Visegrad Club we had meetings with the other Clubs each year but in different countries. The meetings were usually very interesting and of great educational value as the meetings were preceded with important preparatory work, a lot of excitement and everybody was looking forward to meeting new and old friends.

The first meeting which was in two countries: Slovakia - Stará Ľubovňa and Poland - Muszyna was of great importance as it was just at the very beginning and we as newly formed Club had opportunities to come closer to the real ideas of this organisation. We all were a little bit even surprised at the events going on as everything was really new for us. At the very beginning in Stará Ľubovňa was the surprise when we were welcomed by the members of the host Club dressed in their traditional regional costumes by traditional offering of Bread and Salt. Each day during our stay in both countries we had possibilities to meet another culture with its peculiarities and national character and all this was extremely new for the members because it was in reality and very close. Visiting near boarder villages, historical places we traced some common facts in the history of our countries. The theme of the seminar „Do we know the culture of the neighbouring countries?“ gave rise to some active research work for the members. They tried to find out as much historical and useful fact about the Polish cultural heritage as they could, in history the names of Queen Kinga and King Bela of Hungary, in literature and as well in music. They understood the importance of all this knowledge as it has the power of building contacts.

And when we welcomed the Visegrad Clubs in Nyíregyháza we as well tried to present and show everything we are proud of historic, traditional and national heritage of our country. At the seminar we discussed some urgent problems. It was then the time when our countries were preparing to become members of the European Community. The reports were on the problems of education and each Club pointed at some problems they have in their education, more attention to be paid to learning and teaching of foreign languages, to provide more interesting, educative and healthy recreation possibilities for young people. These are the most essential problems to be discussed. As we are students we think it is unnecessary to speak about things we have to deal and live with.

The next place for our meeting was the hospitable town of Vsetín in Czech Republic. Before it we had some organising moments. New members joined the Club and we started our preparations. In spite of the really autumn weather we could get acquainted with the riches of the cultural, historical and social life in Vsetín. The visit to Masaryk's gymnasium was really interesting and useful. We enjoyed the sightseeing and the concert given by the Choir of the students from the gymnasium.

New year new sights to visit. This time the beautiful city in Slovakia-Prešov. The place we had our accommodation was in the surroundings of the city, close to the beautiful nature of the region. Our visit to the Rayman Junior High School was very impressive. We learnt about the life of students and listened to students who informed about their international contacts. We listened with great interest especially because everything was carried out in English. Of great importance was for us the lecture on the subject „How to Study in the European Union?”. The next place was the already well known place - Muszyna with its beautiful nature and warm, hospitable people. All the members of our Club like visiting this wonderful place and walk about enjoying the beauty of the mountains, the small river and the cottages.

When returning home from our meetings all the members continued the usual everyday school life with its learnings and different activities. Most members have special activities at school. Some of them are in charge of different school affairs. One of them Sipos Reka who was among the first ones was the President of School Self-Governing Group, now she continues her studies at a university. Pallagi Brigitta was responsible for discipline and studies, she is preparing to become a dentist. Most of the members took active part in all activities and besides achieved good results in studies. If only to mention some names: Compa Attila (studies at a Medical University), Szilagyi David - now a school leaver, a very good and active student (the first President of our Club), Legeza Bence - now he is working hard to take the State English exam, the oral part he already has done, Laszlo Agnes - very nice girl, she pays great attention to improving her English and tries to keep contacts with friends from other Clubs, Szanyi Csilla - as and Borsi Judit a new members they try to do their best to be very active in everything. We have a new President - Pocsik Annamaria. She is a very good student a good organiser and a person who takes interest in many things.

We try to come into contact with media and after each meeting we inform them about the events we took part in. On our school website we as well inform about our Club. It is necessary to mention the importance of the use of the English language for communication which helped many members to feel the importance of learning it and to deepen their knowledge. Thanks to it many members managed to pass the State language exam successfully which was of great help in entering Higher Educational Establishments.

Members of the Club usually get together to discuss the tasks and the problems, their activities in the school life. Now some of them are engaged in gathering historical material for the album we are going to do about the facts from history as concerning the work of the Former Visegrad Three Group.

We think our membership in the International Visegrad Club is very important and useful for all the members and we are really proud of being a part of it.

Editorial note:

Text prepared by a member of the Youth Visegrad Club from Nyíregyháza (Hungary).



Youth Visegrad Clubs on the Bridge 11.09.2004