

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

INDIA - SLOVENIA



21 SEPTEMBER 2013

To

1 OCTOBER 2013



GIMNAZIJA
PTUJ





ABOUT SMS

The students of SMS are trained to handle curricular and co-curricular activities simultaneously. Care is taken to instill self-discipline in their receptive minds. They are schooled to become responsible leaders with a commitment to society. Under the canopy of the school motto “Loyalty, Truth and Honor”, the students, the staff and the management of St. Mark’s endeavor not only to enable students to compete with others for a place in the professional outlets, but also imbue them with social awareness, pride in their rich cultural heritage and a sense of responsibility towards the nation.



SMS GLOBAL PROGRAMME

The SMS Global Program is an initiative by the school to equip the students with a global perspective. The educational experiences offered in this program in the context of real world issues will widen their horizons and enrich their lives, which will stand them in good stead. SMS believes in giving learning opportunities beyond geographical boundaries, which allow our students to network with their peers overseas and make connections with what they have learnt in the classroom with the real world.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

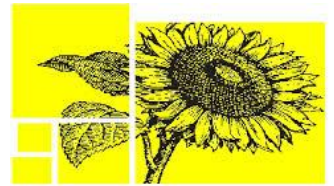
Student exchange programs are educational and cultural opportunities for the students of SMS. During such exchange programs, students live with host families where they are exposed to the host country's culture and language. Not only the academic and social development of the individual student plays a significant role in exchange programs, but also the foreign policy interest of each country that sends or receives exchange students. Exchange programs present a golden opportunity for students to visit and live in different countries and gain crucial experiences and skills for their later careers. Such programs help in building relationships and strong bonds with student's abroad. Cultural Exchange Programs bring schools and classrooms together and bring in united strength into the students that benefit humanity.

*A ten member student delegation from St. Mark's Sr. Sec. Public School, Meera Bagh accompanied by **Ms. Geeta Rajan** went on a **student exchange** program to **Gimnazija Ptuj, Slovenia**.*

The main objectives of this programme were:

- To equip our students with a global perspective. The educational experiences offered in this programme in the context of real world issues will widen their horizons and enrich their lives which will stand them in good stead.
- To give learning opportunities beyond geographical boundaries which allow students to network with their peers overseas and make connections with what they have learnt in the classroom with the real world.
- To deepen student's knowledge and appreciation of the culture of Slovenia through exposure and education to the Slovenian culture.
- To allow students to develop confidence and public speaking skills through presentations, performances, meetings and interactions.

ABOUT GIMNAZIJA PTUJ



GIMNAZIJA
PTUJ

Gimnazija Ptuj is one of the best Slovene grammar schools and is located in Ptuj, a small town in the east of Slovenia. It was established in 1869 and will be celebrating **145 years** of its existence in 2014. In 2001 the school moved into a new modern building. The school prepares students for university and includes a European class and a Sports class as well. There are about **660 students** at the school and the staff consists of 75 **teachers**. The students can choose from a range of foreign languages: English, German, Italian, French, Russian and Chinese. A lot of them e.g. **A SEF ACES, Alpe Adria, ENO, ES** take part in various international projects, e **ALP, IDAL and others**. **The school belongs to the group of ASP net (UNESCO) schools**. Varied activities and exchanges in our school are regularly presented in local and national media. **The headmistress of GIMNAZIJA Ptuj is Ms. Melani Centrih**. The motto of the school: **HARD WORK, CREATIVITY AND TOLERANCE**



Gimnazija Ptuj

OUR RELATIONS WITH GIMNAZIJA PTUJ

It all started when our Global Co-ordinator, Ms. Geeta Rajan met Ms. Alenka Ketis during the MI World Conference organised by Millennia Institute, Singapore in May 2013. During discussions, it came into notice that both St. Mark's School as well as Gimnazija Ptuj share the same vision and ideologies. It helped both the schools to initiate an online collaboration (working on a magazine) <http://anax1em.pressmart.com/StMarksSchool/>. The success of the online collaboration led to the student exchange program with St. Mark's School visiting Gimnazija Ptuj in September 2013 to be followed by the visit of Gimnazija Ptuj in March/April 2014. We look forward to strengthen our relationship by continuing with our collaboration with the school both online as well as in the real space.

REACHING PTUJ , SLOVENIA

It was on the 21st of September that we left for Slovenia. We boarded the Lufthansa flight to Graz via Frankfurt.



Slovenia.. We are coming !
At Delhi airport

We reached Graz on 21st morning. It was about one and a half hour drive to Ptuj from Graz airport. We reached Gimnazija Ptuj where we saw our hosts with their families eagerly waiting for us. They gave a warm welcome and after exchanging pleasantries we went to our homes with our new families.



Meeting our hosts and their families

DAY 1

21st SEPTEMBER, 2013



The magnificent vineyard



Tasting the Slovenian snacks



The Church

• Visit to the vineyards

Our first day in Slovenia was marked with a visit to the private vineyards of one of the hosts Spela. The place was on a hilltop endowed with beauty and natural magnificence. We ate fresh grapes and some of the traditional Slovenian snacks. Also we came to know about the winemaking process. We were enlightened about the entire process of making wine. We also saw different wines, which were hundreds of years old. It was really interesting to know all that. Interaction among the hosts and the students and playing games was followed by an unplanned visit to the church.



Interacting with our Slovenian friends

DAY 2

22nd SEPTEMBER, 2013

• The Zice Carthusian Monastery

Sometimes we come to a place that simply astonishes us. When we look around we have a feeling that time has stopped and that we have entered another world, an unforgettable dimension. Such feelings can be experienced when entering the mysterious world behind the walls of Zice Monastery. During our visit we were provided with headphones which had pre-recorded information regarding the monastery. We not only enjoyed our visit there but also captured beautiful pictures of the monastery with our Slovenian friends.



The Zice Monastery



Time to click some photographs!

DAY 3

23rd SEPTEMBER, 2013

• Representing SMS At GIMNAZIJA

Student exchange programs are all about exchange of cultures among countries, and to be the representative of one's own country is a proud feeling. We got a chance to showcase Indian culture.

We spent several days of hard work preparing our presentation involving PPTs, a dance number and a poem on our school.

Day 3 of our trip was the performance day that commenced with the exchange of mementos between our Global Co-ordinator Ms. Geeta Rajan and the Principal of Gimnazija Ptuj, Ms. Melani. Presentations on Our School, Our City, and Our Country were presented in front of the Principal, Teachers and a group of students. Our Slovenian friends also showed us some presentations on their city and culture.. The poem on Our School by one of our fellow students and our dance performance was applauded by the entire audience.



Performing on " JAI HO "



Geeta ma'am and Ms. Melani exchanging mementos

• Visit to Ptuj

Ptuj castle along with the Ptuj hill is considered to be one of the major tourist attractions in Slovenia. It was settled in prehistoric and Roman times and was first owned by the Lords of Ptuj and then the Leslies. The castle art gallery boasts of some of the most beautiful and permanent collection of the traditional costumes worn during the Kurent's carnival. On the ground floor, visitors can inspect musical instruments, which were used in the past by wealthy Ptuj noblemen and citizens. There was also a collection of instruments from all over the world. First floor displays furniture, tapestries, paintings, and small everyday household objects used by the nobles. The festival hall houses the collection of Turqueries. Overall, the collection gives the evidence of the lavish lifestyle lived by the royal families of Ptuj.



Ptuj Castle



Inside the Castle

DAY 4

24th SEPTEMBER, 2013

• Attending classes at GIMNAZIJA



We reached school early at 8:00 a.m. as we had to attend classes with our hosts. We attended different classes such as English, Slovenian, physical education, and mathematics. It was a great experience as we got a chance to know about the education system in Slovenia. We even interacted with other students and they were all very excited to know about our school, city and culture. For us, wearing the school uniform was a sign of uniqueness and prestige.

• Meeting the Mayor

We felt honored to meet the mayor of Ptuj, Mr. Stefan Celan. He greeted us with lots of love and respect and even gave a wonderful speech in Slovenian language, which was then translated, for us by the Teacher coordinator Ms. Alenka Ketis. A special mention by Mr. Stefan about Mahatma Gandhi and quoting one of his famous quotes also gave us a surprise. After an interaction with the mayor we were also given refreshments and were gifted with a short guidebook of Ptuj and a keychain by the mayor. It was a day we will treasure forever.



• Workshop at School

After having the honor of meeting the mayor of Ptuj, two students of our school along with one of the hosts visited a Primary School to interact with students over there and answer their questions related to our country, culture, cuisine etc.. It was a really fun-filled experience and was good to see the students' excitement to know more and more about India. They really enjoyed learning some Hindi words & listening to Bollywood music. We also showed them the Indian currency (INR). It was, then, time for everybody to attend workshops based on Climate and Friendship in the school library. We along with our co-hosts were firstly provided with some statistical data related to climate of Slovenia, which we had to interpret and prepare some graphs. Then we, along with our respective hosts, made posters showing the similarities and dissimilarities of both the countries. It was education with fun in true sense.



Mixing learning with fun!

DAY 5

25th SEPTEMBER, 2013

• Trip to LJUBLIJANA

We went to Ljubljana on the first day of our mini tour in the country. Ljubljana is the capital of Slovenia. It was the main attraction for conquerors like ROMANS and NAPOLEON. One could see the remains of world war and the devastating effect they had on the city. The city was renovated when a serious earthquake took place. The architecture is same to that of Venetian buildings.



Knowing more about the city from our guide



At the University of Ljubljana

• At The National Institute Of The Republic Of Slovenia

We were honored to get the opportunity to go to the National Institute of the Republic of Slovenia. There we were told about the role of the organization which was to encourage the development in the field of education in Slovenia up to pre-university - covering all kindergartens, elementary schools, secondary schools, music schools, and student boarding schools.



Geeta Ma'am with the Institute's official

• At UNESCO



Geeta ma'am with Ms. Marjutka
Hafner

We visited the UNESCO Office i.e. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. We all had a wonderful opportunity to meet the Secretary-General Ms. Marjutka Hafner who made us feel very comfortable and was really friendly with all of us. We all sat at the conference room in the office and interacted with her. She told us a lot about Slovenia and how UNESCO has contributed to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through education, science, and culture. She even requested for special treatment to all of us at the Skocjan Caves. Overall, it was a great experience for all of us.



During the meeting at UNESCO office

• At LAKE BLEED

Slovenia has only one island which reigns in the middle of the lake Bled which has the emerald-green water sparkling in the sunshine. It is just like something that one sees in a storybook landscape, a lush little island with a church spire peeking out over the greenery, snow covered Alps beyond and, on one shore, a steep cliff atop which looms a formidable castle. It was a heavenly feeling to take a trip across the lake in the traditional Pletna boat and relax in the atmosphere.



The beautiful Lake Bled



Enjoying the Pletna ride



It's picture time!



A splendid view from the top

DAY 6

26th SEPTEMBER,

• Drive to THE VRSIC MOUNTAIN

We went to the Vrsic pass, which is considered to be a high mountain pass across Julian Alps. The chilly winds made us shiver but the beauty of the vicinity did not allow us to get back into the bus. We clicked a lot of pictures and adored the beauty of the place.



Feeling the chilly winds at the Vrsic Mountain Pass

• VALLEY OF THE SOCA RIVER

An exceptionally marvelous place, endowed with peace and serenity, showed a masterpiece of nature. Our walking through the green meows and the breath taking sight of the blue glittery waterfall brought us to a new world in the cradle of the mother earth, which touched our minds and hearts.!



The Waterfall

• THE KOBARID MUSEUM (WWI)

The world war museum was the most exciting part of the trip. We got to see so many things of the history like the weapons used by the soldiers, their clothes and even the things they used in their day to day life. We also got to know the story of a soldier who had half face who got married and gave birth to a boy. His son wrote a book on his father 'My father without a face'. It was a learning experience for all of us.



The Kobarid Museum

• Drive to IZOLA

After visiting various places all day long we finally left for Izola, where we had booked our hotel. It was basically a villa with three connected rooms for all ten of us. We were so happy to see a kitchen in of the three connected rooms as we could finally cook Indian food in Europe! We cooked our ready-to-eat Indian food and had a hearty dinner with Geeta Ma'am. We spent two nights in that villa. In the morning we also went to see a beach nearby.



Indian Food finally!



DAY 7

27th SEPTEMBER, 2013

• VENICE TOUR

Venice is one of the world's most beautiful cities and a dream destination for everyone. It was our dream that came true. We reached Venice by a ferry and saw various tourist attractions such as St. Mark's Basilica, the Grand Canal, the Piazza San Marco Doge's Palace and the Rialto Bridge. We even went for a Gondola ride and enjoyed a lot. Eating pizzas, ice creams and the shopping made Venice even more special for us.



Going to Venice by a ferry



The famous Gondola ride!



The Rialto Bridge



St. Marks Basilica

DAY 8

28th SEPTEMBER, 2013

• Sightseeing at PIRAN

On last day of our mini tour we went to Piran, the oldest town in the country. We had a look of the whole town through a telescope on the roof of a castle and then walked to the tip of the town. The glimpse over an old market was wonderful. We even met a man who was a big fan of Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustaaad Zakir Hussain. Though it was a small town it gave us numerous memories.



The entire view of Piran



• THE SKOCJAN CAVES

The Skocjan caves are a unique natural wonder, the creation of Reka River. The Skocjan Caves remain the only monument in Slovenia and the classical Karst region on UNESCO'S list of natural and cultural world heritage. One of the most beautiful experiences was offered walking inside and exploring the caves. It was truly an example of natural beauty with great aesthetic value. We had some awstrucking moments. Although we had to walk a long way back ,we enjoyed through the green meadows and ,of course, the rain droplets.



Inside the caves

DAY 9

29th SEPTEMBER, 2013

ZAGREB

On Day 9, we had a guided tour to the city of Zagreb, capital of the Republic of Croatia. We travelled there in a bus along with our host buddies. It was raining and was fun to walk in the streets of the city with umbrellas. We had some local sightseeing followed by loads of shopping. We are glad that we explored not just Slovenia but the neighboring countries as well. We reached Ptuj at 6:00 in the evening and spent rest of the time with our host families.



Church of St. Mark, Zagreb



Spending time with our Slovenian friends in the bus



Down The Streets

DAY 10

30th SEPTEMBER, 2013

• THE FAREWELL

Finally it was time to say goodbye to our friends and their families. They were emotional moments. In a short while, we had got so attached to them. We had formed an everlasting bond with the families. Everybody was reluctant to leave. Our Slovenian friends will stay forever in our hearts and will be thoroughly missed.



The hugs, kisses and tears

• Sightseeing at GRAZ

After saying the final goodbye to our hosts and their families we left for Graz in Austria. We had sightseeing in Graz. We saw the Opera house, Town hall and other major parts of the city. Unfortunately, it was raining so we couldn't visit the castle. We did a lot of shopping in Graz and after lunch we headed towards Graz International Airport.



Going around the town in rain

I FEEL SLOVENIA

Student Exchange Program to Slovenia,
It was a fun mania.

At every spot,
We got to learn a lot.

Our hosts were really nice and caring,
Visiting the caves was very daring,
But it was all right,
As in the end we saw a beautiful sight.

Lake Bled was much fun;
It felt amazing under the sun.

The host families, teachers and all the people were really
good,

They even told us how they earned their livelihood.
Meeting the mayor of Ptuj and going to the UNESCO office
were things of prestige and honor

These are things we would savor.

The exchange was full of adventure;
We all would like to thank our mentor.

The entire trip was very nostalgic,
The time there passed like magic.

The time spent in Slovenia would be cherished forever,
And will be forgotten never.

BY: - PULKIT KOHLI

IMPRINTS

- **FROM OUR HOSTS...**

Everybody in our family likes to meet new people, new cultures and their habits. When we heard about possibility to host a student from India, we did not hesitate. First two days of hosting Mehak were very polite from both sides. She was almost like a part of our family. It was pleasant to take her around to places we have not been for a while. All of us have established that the greatest difference between us is the distance that apart Slovenia and India. We gave something but gained a lot. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to host Mehak.

- **KAJA CAF (Mehak's host)**

We all found a lot of differences and a lot of similarities .At the end, we are all students that like to chat with our friends and use our mobile phones everywhere we go. After this exchange we all know something more about each other and about different cultures. I hope our Indian friends enjoyed their stay here in Slovenia. We are all looking forward to meet again in India.

- **PIA MERNIK (Twinkle's host)**

I think we spent some great time together and we all taught a lot of new things, meet a lot of new and different people. I have the best memories from that exchange and I will never forget it. I will miss my guest Malika, I had great time with her and she told me a lot of new things. I think I made a friend for lifetime and I really hope we will stay in touch, although we're miles and miles apart.

- **TAMARA MAJCEN (Malika' host)**

- **FROM OUR PARENTS....**

We feel proud that our child represented his school and country through this student exchange program. It was a great learning experience for our child as well as for us. We are happy that St. Marks gives exposure to the children and helps them to emerge as global citizens. He learnt about a new culture and experienced a different lifestyle which would not have been possible if it would have been any other trip and not a student exchange program. We thank Ms. Geeta Rajan for giving our child this opportunity.

- **PULKIT'S PARENTS**

We, as parents, are very proud of our child that at a very young age he got the opportunity of going to a completely different nation and staying with a stranger family and learning about their culture and values. The experience has been wonderful for not just our child but also for us. When we found out that our child has been given the opportunity to explore another part of the world we were very happy with the fact that our child would be able to learn new things and meet new and different people which would help him become a better and more independent person. We would like to thank the school authorities and the host family that made my son comfortable and made his trip a wonderful experience.

- **RAGHAV'S PARENTS**

It was a great opportunity for my child to go for a cultural exchange programme. She was able to learn a lot of new activities and developed new views through this programme. She met different kind of people in Europe and got to know about their lifestyle, religion, and about their culture. I am very grateful to school and to Ms. Anjali Aggarwal that she arranged for this cultural exchange programme.

- **MANVEEN'S PARENTS**

IZ MESTNE HIŠE



25. OKTOBER / VINOTOK 2013

ki so na maturi v šolskem letu 2012/13 pokazali izvrstno znanje in sposobnosti ter dosegli najvišje rezultate, in sicer **Stašo Florjančič**, **Klemna Petka**, **Tino Tumpej** in **Naceta Zavrtnika** (Gimnazi-

ja Ptuj), **Evo Križanič** in **Tineta Suška** (Ekonomška šola Ptuj) ter **Dejana Šmigoca** (Strojna šola Ptuj) ter jim podelil spominsko priznanje grb na steklu Mestne občine Ptuj.



Dijaki in njihova profesorica iz New Delhija

Dr. Štefan Čelan je **24. septembra** sprejel delegacijo 10 dijakov, starih 16 let, in njihovo profesorico angleščine **Geeto Rajan** z zasebne šole St Mark's Senior Secondary Public School iz New Delhija iz Indije, ki so bili v času med 21. in 30. septembrom na izmenjavi v Sloveniji. V okviru izmenjave so jih gostili Gimnazija Ptuj in njeni dijaki, ki so se prav tako udeležili sprejema skupaj z **Alenko Ketiš**, profesorico angleščine na Gimnaziji Ptuj, in **Branko Šijanec**, profesorico geografije.

Udeleženci 30. kongresa Evrop-

ske zveze rejcev govedi lisaste pasme in predsednik Evropske in Svetovne zveze rejcev govedi **dr. Jozef Kučera** ter organizatorji kongresa s Kmetijsko-gozdarskega zavoda Ptuj so bili na sprejemu v Mestni hiši **18. septembra**. Ptujski kmetijsko-gozdarski zavod, ki letos obeležuje 60 let delovanja, in zbornica ter Zveza rejcev govedi lisaste pasme Slovenija so organizirali 30. mednarodni kongres evropske zveze rejcev govedi lisaste pasme prav v naši pokrajini in v našem mestu. Ob tej priložnosti je udeležence in predstavnike organizatorjev sprejel tudi župan Ptuja.

Pravna sredstva zoper povzročitelja

Nekaj vtisov naših novih prijateljev:

»Ptuj je zelo majhno mesto z veliko manj prebivalci kot Delhi. Uživala sem v okolju, ki me je obdajalo. Zagotovo zelo umirjen kraj.«

»Imeli smo srečo, da smo naleteli na poroko, ki je bila na Bledu. To je bila prva krščanska poroka, ki sem ji bila priča.« *(Twinkle Pawar)*

»Lepota mesta, spokojnost narave in ljubeznivi ljudje so mi dajali občutek, kot da sem v nebesih.« *(Manveen Kaur)*

»Zgodovina Ljubljane je bila dih jemajoča.« *(Riya Khurana)*

»Slovenci radi jedo hrano v čim bolj prvotni obliki. Pri nas, v Indiji, hrano veliko bolj začinimo.« *(Diksha Solanki)*

»Sedaj vem, kako pomembno je biti točen. In ja, zelo veliko smo morali pešačiti.« *(Malika Sani)*

»S to izmenjavo sem se naučila biti samostojnejša in manj odvisna od svojih staršev.« *(Khushali Khosla)*

»To je bilo deset fantastičnih dni mojega življenja in z veseljem bi bila še enkrat del tega programa.« *(Sakshi Sondhi)*



Dijaki iz Indije na obisku na ptujski Gimnaziji

Dijaki in profesorji Gimnazije Ptuj smo v času od 21. do 30. septembra gostili 10 dijakov in dijakin ter profesorico angleščine, Geeto Rajan, z zasebne šole St Mark's Senior Secondary Public School iz New Delhija, glavnega mesta Indije.

Ela Vidovič, Tamara Majcen

Foto: Denis Hrga

Neposredne stike s šolo iz Delhija je profesorica Alenka Ketiš navezala z indijsko profesorico v Singapuru, na praznovanju 10-letnice šole MI. Šoli sta se dogovorili za izmenjavo, saj sta obe zainteresirani za mednarodne projekte. Šola iz Delhija sodeluje prav tako kot Gimnazija Ptuj v projektih ASEF (Asia Europe Foundation) in Azijsko-evropske učilnice (Asia-Europeclassroom NET).

Gostje iz Indije so prispeli v Slovenijo 21. septembra dopoldan. V soboto smo vsi, gostje iz Indije s profesorico in slovenski gostitelji s profesoricama Alenko Ketiš in Branko Šijanec, obiskali družino Cvetko na Kogu, kjer so nam prijazno povedali vse o pridelovanju vina, nas popeljali na ogled kleti ter nam ponudili domače dobrote. V nedeljo smo obiskali Zičko kartuzijo. V ponedeljek smo gostom razkazali šolo in pripravili predstavitev šole, Ptuja in države. Indijski dijaki so nas s plesom in predstavitev svoje države popeljali v daljno Indijo. Popoldan smo jih peljali na grad in na voden ogled mesta Ptuj, ki so ga pripravili dijaki naše šole. V torek so se naši gostje iz Indije z nami udeležili dveh ur pouka. Dopoldne nas je v Mestni hiši sprejel župan Ptuja dr. Stefan Čelan. V vodenih delavnica na šoli smo ugotovljali podobnosti in razlike med državama ter med našim in njihovim načinom življenja. Popoldne smo jih peljali nakupovat v Maribor. Od srede do sobote so dijaki iz Indije z njihovo profesorico potovali po Sloveniji. Ogledali so si Ljubljano, Bled, Krajnsko Goro, dolino Soče, muzej v Kobaridu, Izolo, Piran in Škocjanske jame. Obiskali so tudi Benetke, saj so njihovi starši želeli, da obišejo čim več krajev in držav v tem delu Evrope. V soboto so se pozno popoldan vr-

nili k nam. V nedeljo smo si skupaj ogledali še Zagreb.

In tako je prišel ponedeljek, dan slovesa. Poslovnili smo se, žalostni, da se moramo raziti, pa vendar veseli, da smo se spoznali. Sedaj vsi nestrno pričakujemo začetek aprila, ko jim bomo vrtili obisk v Indiji.

Med izmenjavo smo spoznavali, da je med nami kar nekaj razlik. Indijski dijaki so veliko manj samostojni kot mi, tudi pravila obnašanja so v njihovih šolah strožja. Velika razlika je v hrani, naša hrana je veliko manj začinjena, zato jim ni najbolj všeč. Tudi po načinu življenja se razlikujemo, njihov je precej bolj umirjen in preprost kot naš. Povedali so, da so odnosi v družinah drugačni, oni se s svojimi starši ne pogovarjajo tako odprto in o vsem kakor mi. Predstavili so nam, koliko različnih festivalov imajo v Indiji ter koliko različnih religij. Nasploh so se Indijci izkazali za zelo prijazne, zabavne, zanimive, samozavestne in pozitivne osebe. Med nami so se spletile prijateljske vezi, za katere upamo, da jih bomo ohranili skozi vse življenje. Zagotovo pa je bila to nepozabna in zelo poučna izkušnja, ki je nihče od nas ne bo nikoli pozabil. Vsaka izmenjava nam omogoči spoznati tujo kulturo od blizu, iz prve roke izvedeti, kako živijo ljudje v neki drugi državi. To so doživetja in izkušnje, ki jih ne pozabimo, naučimo se sprejemati drugačnost.

Za konec pa še nekaj vtisov naših novih prijateljev in ene izmed gostiteljic:

»Ptuj je zelo majhno mesto z veliko manj prebivalci kot Delhi. Uživala sem v okolju, ki me je obdajalo. Zagotovo zelo umirjen kraj.« (Geeta Rajan)

»Imeli smo srečo, da smo nateleti na poroko, ki se je odvijala



na Bledu. To je bila prva krščanska poroka, ki sem ji bila priča.« (Twinkle Pawar)

»Lepota mesta, spokojnost narave in ljubeznivi ljudje so mi dali občutek, kot da sem v nebesih.« (Manveen Kaur)

»Zgodovina Ljubljane je bila dih jemajoča.« (Riya Khurana)

»Slovenci radi jedo hrano v čim bolj prvotni obliki. Pri nas, v Indiji, hrano veliko bolj začinimo.« (Diksha Solanki)

»Sedaj vem, kako pomembna je biti točen. In ja, zelo veliko smo morali pešati.« (Malika Sami)

»S pomočjo te izmenjave sem se naučila biti samostojnejša in manj odvisna od svojih staršev.« (Kushali Khosla)

»To je bilo deset fantastičnih dni mojega življenja in z veseljem bi bila še enkrat del tega programa.« (Sakshi Sondhi)

»Za sabo imam že veliko izkušenj z različnimi izmenjavami, potovala sem v različne evropske države, vendar se mi nobena izmenjava ni tako vtisnila v spomin kot zadnja – imela sem namreč izjemno priložnost gostiti vrstnico iz New Delhija.

»Biti gostiteljica dijakinje iz Indije je bila zame edinstvena izkušnja, saj mi je razširila obzorje, omogočila mi je spoznati delček indijske kulture, prav tako pa mi je pomagala, da cenim stvari, ki so se mi doma prej zdele samoumevne. V izmenjavah, v katerih sem sodelovala do sedaj, velikih razlik med nami in tujimi dijaki ni bilo, razkorak med indijskim in slovenskim življenjem pa je vendarle velik. Velikokrat nehoti označujemo svojo kulturo za "normalno" in v okviru svojega življenja in navad določamo "normalnost" oz. "normalnost" drugih kultur. Izmenjave nam omogočajo, da doživimo drugo kulturo, kot da smo del te in ne kot opazovalci. Naučijo nas sprejemati ljudi, ki so bili vzgojeni drugače in v drugem okolju. Res je, da so razlike številne, vendar se jih moramo naučiti sprejemati brez predsodkov in zadržkov v naših glavah.

Najpomembneje se mi zdi, da se dijaki zavedamo različnosti kultur, da drugih ne označujemo za nenavadne, ampak da jih sprejmemo z odprtimi rokami in se iz vsake izkušnje veliko naučimo.« (Nuša)

Frizerski salon

Brigita

Osajnikova c. 3, Ptuj • T: 776 45 61, 779 29 61

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OUR EXPERIENCE

Cultural Exchange Program to Slovenia provided us with an experience that changed our worldview and helped us gain a unique combination of multi-cultural and social exposure during our formative years. We were invited to Gimnazija Ptuj, Ptuj, Slovenia for a Student Exchange Program. Our Global Coordinator, Ms. Geeta Rajan, escorted us. The main aim of the exchange program was to create awareness about their inter-cultural similarities and differences between Asian and European countries, thereby leading to a better understanding and appreciation of one's own culture and nation. This was achieved through various activities, interactive sessions and creative workshops held at Gimnazija Ptuj under the guidance of the Slovenian coordinator, Ms. Alenka Ketis. We learnt about the teaching and learning methodologies in European schools. The program provided us with a global experience to explore a new country and also the home stay program with the Slovenian families taught us discipline and tolerance, and further developed a sense of mutual respect. Going on an exchange program was an intense learning experience as we had an opportunity to visit the Zice Carthusian Monastery, Mayor of Ptuj, UNESCO Office, Ljubljana, Bled Lake, Kranjska Gora, Austria and Croatia. The tour to Venice by a ferry was truly a memorable experience. In a short while we got attached to our hosts as well as their families; they became an integral part of our lives. The exchange program thus helped in strengthening our bonds with the people of Slovenia. All in all we will, throughout our lives, cherish the stay with the host families, the food, the beauty and nature of SLOVENIA. And we all could feel the LOVE in SLOVENIA.

A Word from our Principal

- MS ANJALI AGGARWAL



At St. Mark's School, we believe in promoting global peace and harmony. We strive to prepare the students to live in a global society for we understand it is the need of the hour to produce global citizens. Moreover, St. .Mark's School aims to extend students' awareness of the world in which they live by opening them to the diverse heritage of human thought, action, and creativity. Student Exchange Programs teach our students to live in harmony with all in the world. I am happy that our students visited Gimnazija Ptuj in September 2013. The students also worked with each other on the magazine i Magzz-Making Myself Heard..I look forward to the visit by the delegation from Gimnazija Ptuj in March/April 2014. I also wish both the schools continue to collaborate in the future too.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

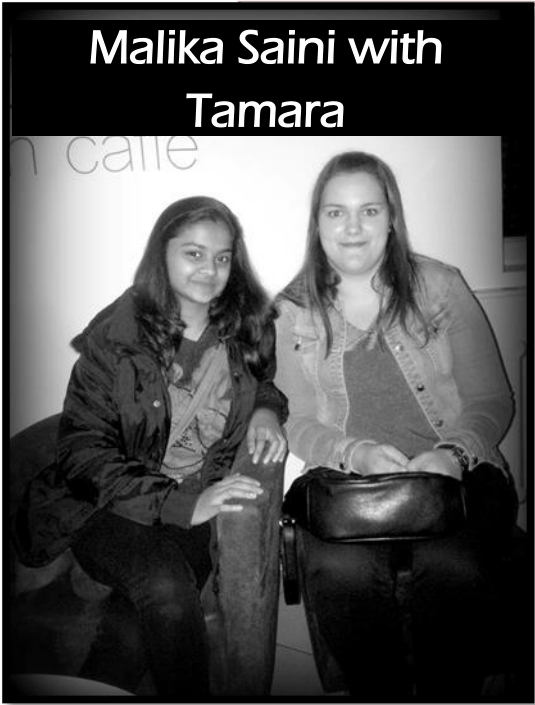
We pay our sincere gratitude to our Principal ma'am, Mrs. Anjali Aggarwal of ST. MARK'S SR. SEC. PUBLIC SCHOOL, MEERA BAGH, NEW DELHI, and our teachers for their support and guidance in making us what we are today.

We wish to thank the faculty of GIMNAZIJA PTUJ and also MS ALENKA KETIS for giving us this golden opportunity to be part of The Cultural Exchange Program.

We acknowledge the role of Asia Europe Classroom Network (AEC-NET) in bringing classrooms closer and teach students the real meaning of education.



OUR FRIENDS FROM SLOVENIA...



Pulkit Kohli with Spela



Manveen Kaur with Sanja



Mehak Bhatia with Kaja



Raghav Aggarwal with Nejc



Sakshi Sondhi with Ella





REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND SPORT

Masarykova cesta 16, 1000 Ljubljana



Organizacija Združenih
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Ms.Anjali Aggarwal

Principal
St.Mark's Sr.Sec.Public School,Meera Bagh

Ljubljana, 6.12.2013

Dear Ms. Anjali Aggarwal,

I am writing to you regarding the collaboration of one of our Unesco ASPnet schools – Secondary school Gimnazija Ptuj and St.Mark's Sr.Sec.Public School. This cooperation started on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the MI School in Singapore since both schools are active in the ASEF projects as well as in the Asia-Europe Classroom NET.

Even Ms. Irina Bokova, Director - general of Unesco was impressed by the projects Homeseek 1 and 2 and Somewhere Out There in which both schools took part during the previous school year.

I was also very pleased to learn that your school has won the ASEF ClassNet Gold Award and I am, of course, delighted that Gimnazija Ptuj and Prva gimnazija Maribor were contributors to it.

Gimnazija Ptuj hosted 10 students from your school, accompanied by prof. Geeta Rajam this September and I met all of them during their program. We had a very lively discussion about your school, education process and we discussed the differences and similarities between the two countries and people. I must admit that I was impressed by their knowledge, their stands and their ability to converse and express themselves and I would like to congratulate both you and your staff for having such fine young people in your school.

I strongly believe that exchanges like this contribute to promotion of global peace and harmony and I applaud both schools for their virtual as well as face to face exchanges efforts in this respect. I am convinced that the visit of the Slovenian students and prof. Alenka Ketiš in March/April 2014 will enhance our cooperation and further our common efforts for the dialogue among cultures and civilizations.

With warm regards,

Marjutka Hafner

Secretary-general of the Slovenian
National Commission for Unesco

EFFORTS BY:

Name of the Students (*In Alphabetical Order*) :

1. Diksha Solanki
2. Khushali Khosla
3. Malika Saini
4. Manveen Kaur
5. Mehak Bhatia
6. Pulkit Kohli
7. Raghav Aggarwal
8. Riya Khurana
9. Sakshi Sondhi
10. Twinkle Pawar



Teacher Coordinator – Ms. Geeta Rajan