

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



INDIA-ITALY

26 MARCH 2014 –

4 APRIL 2014



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 PROGRAMME

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 seven member student delegation from St. Mark's Sr. Sec. Public School, Meera Bagh accompanied by Ms. Anita Vohra went on a student exchange program to

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 Italy through exposure and education to the Italian culture.
- To allow students to develop confidence and public speaking skills through presentations, performances, meetings and interactions.

ABOUT ISTITUTO STATALE MARCO BELLI



Istituto Statale Marco Belli is proposed as a strategic institution of higher education that - even in the autonomy of its curriculum - intended to enhance and supplement the curriculum of compulsory schooling.

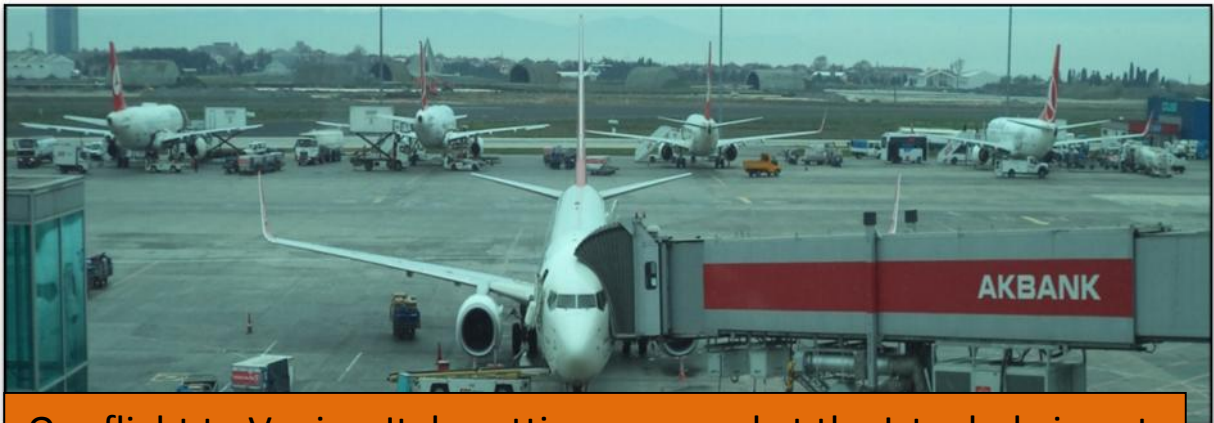
To this end, the programs of the first two years of both addresses Language and Social Sciences are constructed so as to facilitate the transition from compulsory schooling and higher education. The primary objective of the biennium is to exercise intelligence, educating them to the work of analysis and reflection on cultural contents placed at the foundation of our society and peaceful coexistence among peoples.

The knowledge, therefore, are constantly accompanied by proposals for operational training, such as to induce in students the skills of an executive nature. In this perspective, each student is required to deal with the complexity of the universe of knowledge so not only abstract, but functionally to the variety of models applicable.

A school in short, the Marco Belli, who constantly seeks, in assuming the delicate task of educating the young, to combine the most daring aspects of knowledge with an educational program capable of translating knowledge into know-how.

DAY 1

It was March 26, when we took a flight from New Delhi to Venice, Italy via Istanbul. When we landed, we found our hosts were very glad to see us. It was very lovely to meet our hosts families. It took about one and a half hour to reach homes of our hosts families.



Our flight to Venice, Italy getting prepared at the Istanbul airport.



DAY 2



Mementos being exchanged



We showed our culture through a Punjabi Dance



A view near a lagoon in town named Latizana, where Kashish Bansal stayed.

This was the day when we visited the school for the first time, met many teachers and students. The same day we had to present our dance performance but it was in the afternoon.

First, Dr. Milli Paladin, took us all to see the streets of Portogruaro. There is a flea market every Thursday but it was over by 1:00 pm. We visited the Lake of Humini and museum and many different places.

We reached back school at 1:00 pm and got ready for the dance performance. After our performance the Italian students presented their PPT which told us about most of Italy.

The school got over and they took us to the shopping mall.

DAY 3



The flea market in Portogruaro, Italy



Latisana

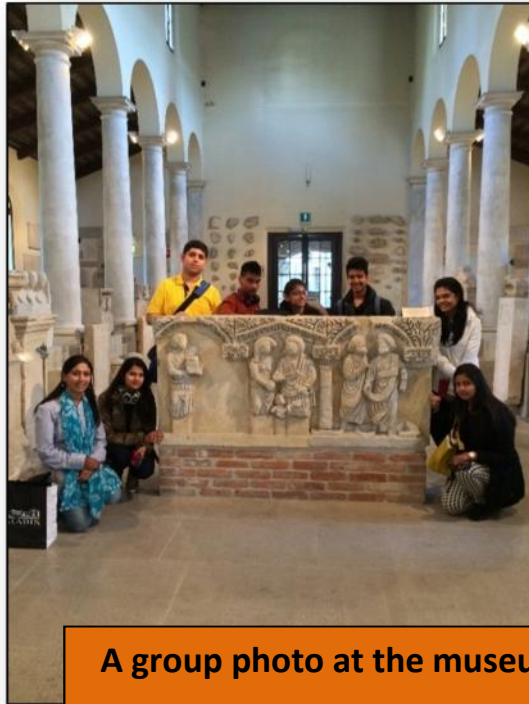
On this day we just roamed about the respective towns where we lived and was introduced to the family and friends in their locality.

As all the hosts lived far away we could not meet each other.

On the first day most the students went for a dinner outside.

Then everyone took rest as were tired.

DAY 4



A group photo at the museum

We all met at ISTITUTO MARCO BELLI, and started for townhall to meet the general Mayor of Portogruaro. It was very splendid to meet them.

We then walked to the Archaeological Museum of Portogruaro. It was very massive. We saw all the Roman findings which were preserved there.

On this day we went to town named Caorle. It was a town with a beautiful beach.

We visited the beach and enjoyed the soft waves of the sea for a couple of hours. This was a great experience.

Then we visited a nearby church.

It was a great day.....



A pose at the beach of Caorle

DAY 5



A pose with Juliet's statue below Juliet's balcony in Verona



Juliet's balcony

This was one of the best day.

On this day we went to town named Verona. Although crowded, this was an amazing town to visit. This was a town famous for the Shakespearean play, Romeo and Juliet.

We visited the famous Juliet's balcony and also touched the Juliet's statue to get love and fortune as the belief says.

Then we enjoyed some shopping and had lunch.

Although crowded, this was an amazing town to visit..

We also met some Indian and Bangladeshi shopkeepers.

Then we all returned home in a private bus.

DAY 6



The beauty of Venice



Gondola ride



We love Italy

On the sixth day we all met at train station of Portogruaro to leave for Venice. Our hosts were not going with us. We were accompanied by our teacher and one Italian teacher. She told us everything about Venice i.e. its history, specialties, etc.. She also took us to a church in Venice.

The specialty of Venice is the ' GONDOLA RIDE ' . We hired 2 gondolas . It was awesome .We shopped a lot in Venice and also clicked many pics and enjoyed a lot there. We were in search of an Indian restaurant in Venice but unfortunately we didn't find it. We had lunch at an Italian cafe. We bought Venice masks from there which had a significant use in history. We enjoyed a lot there. At last when we came back to our train station of Portogruaro, we were picked up by our hosts...

DAY 7

This was a Sunday and this was the day which all the students spent separately with their respective host families.

Everyone spent this day to know the host families more and to interact with them. On this day love bond between the families and the student strengthened.

Some students went to a nearby mountain to enjoy the snow while one went to Marno, a fishermen's city, to enjoy the sea. Some went to see a motorcycle race. While some enriched the time at home learning more about the people.



Dhruv Kohli visiting the mountains



Kashish Bansal at Marno



Sukriti Sukhija enjoying the snow

DAY 8



A group photo in Treiste with Ms.Cristina Simeoni



The boys in Treiste

The day had a temperature a bit high than the usual days so it was a bit hot. After the arrival of the train we all hopped into and left Portogruaro for Trieste.

We were accompanied by an Italian teacher and Nina Baradel who was hosting Aarushi Harjai. After walking through some distance we took a bus for the castle MIRAMARE. We then started walking to the castle MIRAMARE. We saw the entire castle from inside and then we all sat on the seashore and had our lunch and our foodstuff that we had. Then we went to the bus-stop for the bus to the main city. After that we headed for the museum of Stories and Art. There we saw the most famous paintings of North Italy. We got a complete look of Trieste from the terrace of that museum. Then we saw the remains of Roman stadium. After having an ice-cream we all headed for the train station.

DAY 9



The museum at Concordia



At the Caorle beach

Our next destination on this day was Concordia which is a very beautiful city. Most important feature of reaching this destination was that we went on foot. In Concordia we saw the ROMAN FINDINGS which enhanced our knowledge about Italy.

It was nice to visit the church which caught the attention of everyone due to its stunning artefacts, murals and the cozy religious atmosphere. We returned to Portogruaro and were thrilled at whatever we had explored.

Then we went to a mall in Marcon.

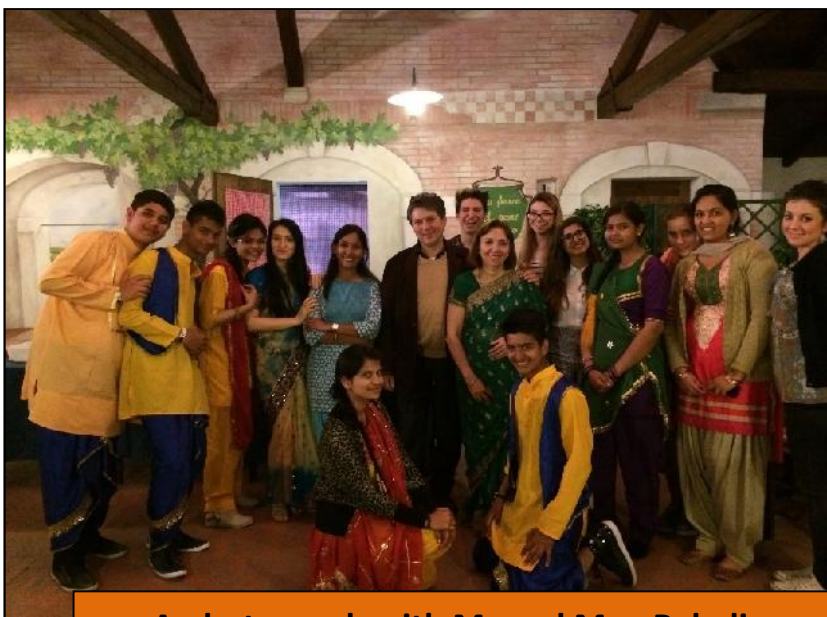
We went to Chinese restaurant after hours of tiresome shopping.

Every one of us bought many things for our beloveds for way back home. Finally we were back home with an eventful day.

DAY 10



A photo with all the families



A photograph with Mr and Mrs. Paladin

In the morning we went to the Portogruaro Thursday weekly market. After spending around 3-4 hours there we went to the Marco Belli School.

Neeri and Guneet gave a listening exam which was held in the class of their hosts. Then we all went back to the houses of our hosts. We all then got ready for the dance that we had to perform at the Paladin Winery. After everyone arrived we all had the grand dinner prepared by Milli ma'am and Anita ma'am. After the dinner we performed our dance. The dance performance was appreciated by everyone present.

After the dance, certificates were given to the respective students and then all the students went to see the working of the winery.

Then it was time to say goodbye as we were leaving the next morning. It was very emotional for everyone.

The day ends.

THE DAY TO DEPART



This was the worst day as we had to leave all our new friends and also ITALY. We had our flight in the morning so we left for the airport individually. At the airport everyone bade goodbye to each other. No one wanted to go back but we all wanted to meet our parents and enjoy our Indian food.



IMPRINTS

FROM OUR HOSTS....

When Dhruv came to my home in Italy it was very funny. The days with Dhruv were the best! We heard a lot of (party) music and we danced a lot. I think that all of this exchange was perfect, but with Dhruv was the most perfect! In fact me and Dhruv now are best friend! The most beautiful memories of the days with Dhruv was when we went to the snow mountain. My heart was full of happiness because I saw Dhruv having fun and it was very rewarding.

-TISO LUCA (DHRUV'S HOST)

When I hosted Kashish it was a great experience because I could show him the tradition here in Italy. He liked our food and our parties. Now for my family he is a new 'son', another member of our family though too far away. When he went back, our house became empty and we miss him alot. It was my first time I hosted a student and it was great. We hope to host Kashish again here in Italy if he comes back. My family and I really enjoyed the experience.

-ELEONORA (KASHISH'S HOST)

My whole family feels that you are very beautiful and your home stay at my house was a pleasure for us. It was a pleasure hosting you. And above all, thank you for all the gifts and your sweet behavior.

-GIORGIA (KHYATI'S HOST)

Sukriti Sukhija arrived here in Italy, at the airport of Venice on 26th of March. At first we were both very shy, but shortly and after a little walk in the centre of Caorle, the place where I live, we have established a dialogue and we have consolidated our friendship. In the course of the week she visited a lot of places like Venice, Trieste, Verona, Portogruaro. Sukriti was a great host. She was always kind, polite, tidy and also a good friend. She speaks perfect English, much better than mine and she helped me to speak better in English. She left Italy on 4th of April and she returned in New Delhi.

-ELENA (SUKRITI'S HOST)

It was a great experience living with Aarushi. She is a very sweet and nice girl. She is very polite. We became best of friends during this entire exchange program. She was very easily able to adapt here. It was very nice to see that she enjoyed a lot here. I also enjoyed a lot. She was a well behaved person. This was a great exchange program.

-NINA BARADEL (AARUSHI'S)

FROM OUR PARENTS.....

It was a wonderful way of learning a new culture and hosting the Italians was a nice experience. Though we had to face a bit of problems because 2 of my guests were vegan but they all were very sweet and we all miss those 10 days.

-KHYATI'S PARENTS

It was a great learning experience for Kashish. This student exchange program gave an opportunity for my ward to explore Italy and make new Italian friends. He enjoyed this program a lot and also learned to live and adapt to new surroundings.

-KASHISH'S PARENTS

We, parents of Dhruv Kohli are very happy with this student exchange program. Through this program, our child came to know many new things. This was a very good experience for our child. We want to send our child again in these types of program but now he is in 12th std. so we can't do any thing. But we like this program very much.

-DHRUV'S PARENTS

Student exchange programme was a great experience for our daughter, Sukriti Sukhija and as well as for us. It is a different and a very interesting way of understanding different cultures and being friends. This programme brought about a sense of responsibility in our daughter. Sending Sukriti to Italy for the student exchange programme was completely of worth. We would like to thank St. Mark's Ser. Sec. School for arranging such an educational programme for the students.

-SUKRITI'S PARENTS

We, parents of Aarushi, were very excited about this program. This was an opportunity for the students of both the countries to know about the culture, ideas, values and customs of each other thus enriching their knowledge. Though sometimes it was difficult but gestures and understanding made it easier to cope up with minor problems. It was an impeccable experience.

-AARUSHI'S PARENTS

FROM THE VICE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



I am happy that our students visited Marco Belli School in Portogruaro, Italy. I believe student exchange programmes are an integral part of school curriculum for students learn a lot about each other.

Our association with schools in Italy has been very strong..We are working with many schools in Italy and we are happy to say that we have so many Italian friends.

I am happy that this exchange programme not only taught our students a lot about Italy, its people , its culture and traditions but it also has taught them to be responsible young students.

I am sure we will continue working with Marco Belli in the near future too and our relationship will be further strengthened because of our joint collaborations.

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE



EFFORTS BY-

1. Kashish Bansal
2. Aarushi Harjai
3. Khyati Kakaria
4. Dhruv Kohli
5. Guneet Dhiman
6. Neeri Batra
7. Sukriti Sukheeja



TEACHER COORDINATOR- Ms. Anita Vohra

GLOBAL COORDINATOR- Ms. Geeta Rajan