



English

my love

Interviews

Projects & activities

Clubs & teams

Our stars

Literary works

Reviews

And much more to go!

11/January 2011



Contents

Editorial (2)
Interviews (4)
Projects & activities (8)
Clubs & teams (14)
Our olympics (21)
Our stars (28)
Our teachers... the freshmen (32)
Literary works (36)
Being a freshman (51)
Reviews (55)

Editorial

As an established tradition now, English My Love appears every year when "Ioan Slavici" National College celebrates its days. This year though we have decided to make a change, and publish two issues, so that you can get a copy of EML in January, not only in May.

Founded in 2000 at the initiative of Mr. Iancu Ștefan the magazine is addressed to the students of our college, but also to the teachers who are interested in seeing the results of our work.

Since 2000 the tradition of this magazine has been passed from one generation to the next. This number comes out with a new layout, being divided into different sections. The traditional sections will catch your attention with interesting information about the new teachers in our school, the clubs, the Olympics, the freshmen students, the sports teams and other articles to read and enjoy in your free time.

The editorial board of the magazine has strived to make it pleasant and funny and we hope you'll like the new issue, especially that it is the first time in EML's history to have it printed professionally.

Diana Vasile, XI D

Interviews

Name: Constantin Martin

Position: School Principal

1. How did you adjust to being the school principal?

I adjusted fairly quickly because I have been a teacher in this school since September 2001 and I was also a school inspector for 12 years, so I knew a lot about the law and school management, teachers and staff.

2. What things do you miss from the time when you were a teacher?

My spare time. My current programme requires me to be at school every day from 7.30 until 15.30.

3. What is your relationship with the students?

When I was a teacher I had a good relationship. In general, students from the classes I taught love History and love the atmosphere created in class. Of course there are exceptions. The reason mostly cited by students was the low marks.

4. What are your plans for the future?

As far as my profession is concerned, I would like to make some changes in school both in developing the educational process and improving the school teaching materials stock. This year we are going to begin a process of total rehabilitation of the buildings and this worries me a little.

5. How would you describe the students in our college?

I must admit frankly that at present the "Ioan Slavici" National College is the most attractive option for the students in the 8th grade, and this is data taken from a survey conducted recently. This is due to the prestige of our school, the quality of

Interviews

teaching and the diversity of the profiles. So I could say that we have mostly good students, some even very good, but like any school we have a few weak ones. I'd like to mention that among those very good students there are students coming from rural areas.

6. What would you like to change in the students' behaviour?

I would like our students to be punctual for all school activities and I would like them to be more involved in the activities taking place after classes.

7. Do you have some tips for us, the students?

I think experience allows me to give some tips to help students. Firstly, it's good if you can make a clear distinction between classes and breaks. Then you should also make a distinction between the way you dress at school and outside the classrooms. I advise you not to miss at all the sports classes, which are very important for your physical development. Furthermore, I think it would be good if you took up a sport in your free time. When possible, you should spend weekends in a nice company, formed especially by colleagues. Students must understand that their activities at school provide the foundation for their future career and they also help them to develop harmoniously.

Interviews

Name: Florica Suciu

Position: School Deputy Principal

1. We know you are involved in and you support many of the students' activities, could you tell us about them?

I don't know if there are a multitude of activities but I have the duty to monitor and sustain all the educational activities, both curricular and extracurricular. Unfortunately time doesn't allow students and teachers to get involved as much as they would like to. There is always a selection of the most interesting activities. I like to be asked for and offer support to our students, mostly when it is about projects which involve an active citizenship.

2. What do you miss the most from the time when you were a teacher?

The activity in class. Now I only teach two classes but I have a feeling of melancholy in connection with teaching, especially at classes from high school where lessons often turn into real debates.

3. What is your relationship with the students?

I think it is a positive relationship; this is the way I perceive it and I hope that their opinion is the same.

4. What are your plans for the future?

I would like our school to continue to be in the top when it comes to the students' options and I would like us to be more present in the community life, both through the school's result and civic activities.

Interviews

5. How would you describe the students in our college?

To paraphrase Călinescu, I would say that students are teenagers from always and from everywhere. They are impetuous, nonconformists, they imagine that they own the absolute truth, but at the same time they are responsible, conscientious. Maybe they aren't brave enough, sometimes they don't have confidence in themselves, and even the society doesn't offer a the horizon they dream of.

6. What would you like to change in students' behaviour?

Education is very important and to be disciplined and neat doesn't mean to stick to the wall when a teacher passes by. You should greet your teachers and wait for them quietly in your desks, you should keep the school and the classrooms tidy, and it would be good for you to show respect for work in general.

7. Do you have some advice for us, the students?

I wrote an article in Muguri magazine addressed to our coming graduates but I consider it is suitable for all students. I would like them all to realize that "to live" means "to know" and you cannot know without studying.

I wish you all that your dreams come true. I also wish you that everything you will do won't be only for your personal and professional completion, but also for the good of society. You might think these are big words, but nothing durable can be built without the consciousness of the future.

Written by: Laura Birtoc, XI D

Projects & activities

“Learning for the society of knowledge”

As some of you may or may not know, our school has recently enrolled in a transdisciplinary project called Learning for a society of knowledge, which is also a contest. The winning schools from all over Romania get modern multi-touch equipment, which can make teachers' jobs easier and enables us, the students, to better understand the lessons we are being taught.

This project was initially thought of back in 2008, when several people wanted to show that Romania can have high quality education, that every student in Romania has the right to know about technology which can offer easier education, and that they even benefit from this technology. The project was finally launched in December 2009 with the help of the “Projects Management Unit of External Financing”, the “Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports”, “Carol I” University of National Defense and SIVCO Romania.

Several students from our school were asked if they wanted to join, and in the end 26 were selected, all of them being from the 11th grade. The students meet once a week and are prepared by the following teachers: Antonela Porumbăcean, Nicoleta Pițig, Agota Lupou, Camelia Ruba, Simona Păcurar and Ioana Văsuț. The first topic to be discussed at the meetings is called “Image and imagination” and it is tackled from the perspectives of various school subjects: history, biology, geography, physics, psychology and mathematics, using videos and presentations to make it easier to explain the subject that is being discussed at the meeting.

At the moment the project is at its early stages, and we are still getting used to what's to be done. We'll tell you more in EML's next issue. But we can all hope and keep our fingers crossed that in the end our school will manage to win this project and get the benefit of having a multi-touch lab installed.

Written by: Cristian Cîmpian , XI D

Projects & activities

Memories from France

I've always liked the French for their warmth and simplicity. And I've always imagined that France resembles the French. I was right, and during the nine days that I spent in the land of France, I met the hospitality of the French, I visited a lot of tourist attractions: museums, castles, a Media-library in Valence, the cathedral St. Apollinaire, I saw how the French people spend their time; I learnt a lot from them. The trip was exhausting (33 hours) but I was rewarded for being patient by being accommodated with a great family. Madame Sophie and Monsieur Christophe make a nice couple, they are hardworking and elegant and their children seem to take after them. Corentin aims to become an engineer, Valentine is very nice and sociable and Gaetan delighted us all with his music and drawings.

Honestly, I was not worried about the following week because we had a program that included us all. But I was a bit nervous about the day which I had to spend on my own with the family, because I did not know if I would be able to understand all the things they would tell me. But the day passed quickly and surprisingly well: we visited the ruins of Crussol and we went to the cinema where I had fun watching "Alice in Wonderland." I really enjoyed myself on a Sunday, when he had a picnic and we went to Vercos. I was impressed by the atmosphere created among us: everyone was friendly and smiling even though some of us had never met before.

Then the entire week I visited museums: Le Musee de Chaussures, craving for the shoes displayed in the windows, Le Musee d'alembic with its wax figures that scared and amused us, Le Chateau de Grignan where I met the mistral - the refreshing cold wind that sometimes blows in Valence, Le Palais Ideal du Facteur Cheval - a special work of naive art, unique in the world, Cartoucherie, the Mediatheque of Valence where I saw old books, very old, printed before the printing machines were invented, and I even made a bicycle tour around the village in which I lived, Malissard.

The ceremony was an endless flow of excitement and enjoyment as, in fact, was the whole week.

This trip to France was wonderful and instructive at the same time and I will never forget it, because it was the first time I have left the country.

Written by: Trif Mihaela, XI E, Translated by: Lorena Avram, XI D

Projects & activities

Impressions from France

A group made up of seven students from "Ioan Slavici" National College in the classes XII D and XI E, winners of "The Spring of Writing" contest were invited in Valence-sur-Rhône, France, to participate at the ceremony held on May 6, 2010.

For a week Romanian students plunged into a linguistic and cultural enrichment of language which has boosted their knowledge about French culture and civilization.

The museums, castles, monuments visited every day have shown us aspects of France civilization and the way in which France respects her heritage, history, culture, nature, and last but not least the man, the French democracy having been for centuries a promoter of the Human Rights.

We walked in Castle Grignan with Mrs. Sévigné, we dreamt near the Ideal Palace of Postman Cheval, we were fascinated by human creativity at Footwear Museum, and we witnessed a very old peasant occupation at the museum in St. Désirat.

The beauty of the landscape of Vercors took our breath away and the Ecologic house at Moutéléger proves France's concern to protect nature. Valence revealed us its ancient history full of mysteries and its unmatched charm.

In France you are impressed by the warmth of the French people, by their spirit of solidarity, by the careful organization in all areas, by their honesty, openness to others and by their "conviviality" which means the art of harmonious co-existence.

Jefferson was right when he said that for each man France is the second home, because this is the birth place of universal values, priceless, that will endure over centuries.

Now the list with the participants:

1. Pop Florica (first prize for report, second prize for poem, second prize for story, second prize for critic)
2. Trif Mihaela (first prize for story, third prize for critic)
3. Pienariu Marcela (first prize for critic, second prize for report)
4. Lup Gabriela (first prize for essay)
5. Chifor Anca (first prize for poem)

Projects & activities

6. Speth Evelyn (second prize for essay)
7. Rus Camelia (second prize for essay)
8. Adambo Romina (second prize for report)
9. Paul Patricia (third prize for story)



*Written by: Mrs Laura Peres
Translated by: Avram Lorena, XI D*

Projects & activities

Eternity lives through us...

To get along with people,
to live among them,
to learn from them.....
to love them.
Start with what they know,
build on what they have.

This is the motto of the educational partnership agreement between “Ioan Slavici” National College, “Lucian Blaga” School and the Kindergarten with prolonged program No. 33, a project whose aims are the preservation of the local customs and traditions related to our specific folklore. This project can represent a challenge, and it also stands for the starting point to other extensive research. Thanks to this collaboration, the children can detect and understand the values from this corner of our country, where the instructive, educational, sentimental and patriotic satisfactions are numerous and often unique.

The activities were extremely varied and interesting. The project reached its peak on the 17th of December, when the classes involved in it from our highschool and their coordinators - Ramona Vagner and Irina Florea - received carolers from the Kindergarten No. 33 and from the 4th A grade from “Lucian Blaga” School. With this occasion, the exhibition of Christmas cards made by students from our highschool, coordinated by their teacher, Irina Florea, was unveiled. The entire activity would not have been possible without the support of our principal, Martin Constantin.

Written by: Raluca Costin, XI D

Projects & activities

“Let’s do it, Romania!”

We are all aware of the increasing problem of pollution, but how many of us actually do something about it? On September 25th 2010, more than 60 students and teachers from “Ioan Slavici” National College took part in the national campaign “Let’s do it Romania!”, in which a cleaning activity was organised.

Although I was expecting it to be a boring garbage-picking day, it wasn’t like that at all. I was surprised to see how many students were involved in this project, starting with 6 graders to 12 graders. The activity was well organised and we all got latex gloves and trash bags before getting the job done. The cleaning wasn’t all that easy because by the end of the day we counted over 100 bags of garbage. It’s pretty sad that some people don’t respect the nature and the planet, and that they throw all kinds of things out of their cars, from cigarettes to clothes and even shoes! Anyway, we were really hard-working and in only a few hours we managed to clean the roadside, which proves that you don’t have to make a superhuman effort in order to do something good for the environment.

And honestly speaking, we really had fun, we laughed and (we took pictures!) we headed for our homes with a feeling of accomplishment. We felt better and happier with us, with the nature and with the fact that we could make at least one cloud disappear. 😊

Written by: Sergiu Bărbuș, XII C

Clubs & teams

CNIS PRESS – English My Love

Creating the school press team was actually Cătălin Vasile's idea (former XI D, current XI C), the one taking care of the looks of English My Love school magazine and the one who made the logo of CNIS Press and the design of our badges. He is not modest, as he should be, but proud of his idea. We received support from Mrs. Ioana Văsuț, who is also the coordinating teacher of the CNIS Press and of the magazine, together with Miss Ionela Racolța.

Diana Vasile was the one who advised us with our articles, the one we turned to when we had a question. For this, but also for her ambition, she was elected by us all Chief Editor, knowing what a team means. One of the editors is Gabriela Ardelean, a very talented student, engaged in various artistic and sports activities, who contributed to the school magazine with articles that are in her area of interests. Our colleague, Lorena Avram, is a person who likes competition and also teamwork, being an ambitious and hard working editor. Paula Buzaș is a friendly person, who gives you a helping hand when you need it and who likes to do lots of stuff. She chose to join our team because she likes everything related to journalism, just like the rest of us. Another colleague, Laura Birtoc, is a cheerful and optimistic student. Being an enthusiastic girl she likes to engage in various activities. She made all our meetings funnier. Raluca Costin's desire is to be a journalist. She can say that her dream came true, because with her optimism and ambition she managed to join the school magazine.

Being a lovely and a shy girl, Bianca Culcean, is eager to be involved in many projects. She managed to integrate easily into our work, doing it just for pleasure. The one who keeps us in a good mood with her presence is Mădălina Maxim. She is a sociable and pleasant person who knows how to combine the work with pleasure, making possible a charming atmosphere in our team. About Andreea Niste we could say many interesting things: she is the president of the School Students' Council, member and photographer in our editorial board. She knows how to make work easier, and she wants to progress, but this "can not be done without desire, ambition, hard work, time and patience", says Andreea. Alina Moiescu is our newest editor. She is very hopeful to catch up with us. She wants to achieve experience in order to practise her English. She is confident in her ability to do the

Clubs & teams

job well, dreaming that one day she will become the Chief Editor of her own magazine.

We only presented the editorial board of English My Love, and each of them turned the 10th issue of this magazine into reality, but CNIS Press also includes our colleagues from Muguri, the school magazine in Romanian, and Info Slavici, our weekly newsletter. We will tell you about them in our next issue.



Written by: Gabriela Ardelean and Diana Vasile, XI D

Who represents you?! – The Student's Council

THE COUNCIL OF STUDENTS is a unique form that represents students in every school, every city, every region and nation and in the entire world...

How was this council formed?

Every class has a president that represents it in front of the teachers or who acts for the students and for their own good, just like a president for his country. Because of that, every school needs to have a student who wants to be involved in extra-

Clubs & teams

schools projects, who wants to represent all the students from his or her school, and who is chosen by them to be their representative.

After all these aspects are solved, in every city is formed a City Council of Students, that represents all the students from the city. But it isn't enough ... and because of this a Region and National Council of Students is formed. Their members have the power to make something good for their colleagues, to represent them and defend them.

In our school, every class has a president that is there all the time for all his colleagues, who is aware of all the existing problems that the class may encounter and because of that students know that they have someone to trust and count on.

But what about the president of the students' council within the school?

We had, we have, and we will have one, year after year.

Two years ago that person was Morar Iris Sabrina, last year - Niste Andrea Dana, and this year - Avram Lorena.

Everyone knew that their president must be a person who needs to be an active pone, and maybe this is the reason why those girls were chosen by their fellow students.

Every year, there were different projects that involved different students, projects that had an amazing impact on their lives and the on the other students' lives, some of the projects were so well carried out that our school can be proud of them.

But we did more than that... Last year, Morar Iris Adina was elected by students from all the schools in our town to be the president of the City Council of Students, and this year the presidency belongs to another student from our highschool, Niste Andreea Dana.

Just like the council in our school, the city council has various projects that involve students from all the schools. Just like the president of a country, like the manager of a company, like the sailor of a boat, the president of students of a class, a school, a city or a region, wants to do what's best for the people that he or she represents. S/he knows that s/he has the power to do something for their colleagues because they gained their trust, respect and support.

Clubs & teams

Maybe next year you will be the one that will represent not only your class, school, city or region, but your country!

“Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success!” (Swami Vivekananda)



Written by: Andree Niste, XI D

THE FOOTBALL TEAM

As maybe all of you know, our highschool has a football team made up of students with a big interest in sports. The team has a lot of members: Suciu Sergiu (XIth F) , Struti Dănuț(XIth F),Țanta Rafael (XIth F),Pop Bogdan (XIth F), Tușer Ionuț (X B), Toma Marius (Xth E), Feher Grațian (XIth A), Raț Marius (XIth E), Iftene Darian (XIth B), Danicico Marco (Xth C).

Their coach is Contraș Alexandru, who is very dedicated to his duties; he always tries to give them good advice, every time the players need them. Maybe it sounds strange, but this football team does not have a captain. However, despite belonging to various grades, the players get along very well and they always pay attention to the coach's explanations.

The players are very well organized and they have weekly practice in the gym of our highschool, every Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. They have participated to a very important school championship organized annually at “Traian Vuia” highschool,

Clubs & teams

where they obtained promising results. This year too they have been training in order to take part in this competition and they hope to achieve even better results.

The atmosphere during the practice is a good one, based on friendship and cooperation, every team player having a strong team spirit and the desire to do their best.

Interviewed person: Suciu Sergiu, XI F

Written by: Avram Lorena, XI D

The Dance Crew

Just like many other schools in our country (and not only) which have a dancing group, our highschool can also be proud that starting with this year, it has a group of talented students ready to delight everyone with their dance.

The idea of forming a dancing group belongs to Dariana Lup from the XIth F grade. Now the group has 10 members :

Bontea Florin – Xth C grade
Buică Alex – Xth D grade
Fanea Mihaela – Xth C grade
Hotico Amalia – IXth E grade
Lup Dariana – XIth F grade
Fusle Andrei – XIth C grade
Pintea Ionuț – Xth D grade
Pomian Emil – Xth D grade
Tripon Daiana – Xth E grade
Zimbru Alina – XIth G grade

Each of them are participating with their own ideas in order to create their choreographies, addressing many dancing styles. Rehearsals are held two times a week, in our club, in the building A of our school.

“During the rehearsal the atmosphere is great, there is always something new to explore and we never give up when we start something until we succeed. As our group is still in its infancy, we have not yet attended a major event, but at the

Clubs & teams

moment we are preparing for Valentine's Day”, declares Lup Dariana, the founder of the group.

Interviewed person : Lup Dariana, XI F

Written by: Avram Lorena, XI D

THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Sport represents fundamental activity for every student, not only because it is healthy, but it also relaxes you. A sport is an organized, competitive, entertaining, and skillful activity requiring commitment, strategy, and fair play, in which a winner can be defined by objective means. Volleyball is an Olympic team sport in which two teams of six players are separated by a net. Each team tries to score points by grounding a ball on the other team's court under organized rules.

Our highschool' s volleyball team was founded through an announcement, posted in November 2009 by the teacher Alexandru Contras. In the first months we were quite clumsy. But after a while, we started to develop our skills and since then everything seems to go increasingly better. First we were just a few girls in the team, that was made up of : Boghy Suciu, Ioana Panțiu, Gabriela Ardelean, Alexandra Bartoș, Oana Pinte, Roxana Ulici, Lorena Avram, Ingrid Feier, Greta Gyori, Denisa Toduț and a few others. But as the time passed by, our team began to form a big family, and students from other classes joined us.

Every training session takes a lot of work, effort, ambition, but it also involves relaxing and having fun. Being part of this team allows me to say that our

relationship is not related only to the team, we became friends as well. “Every match is an unforgettable chance for us, even if it is successful or not. I think that we have never had any fights, because we support each other and because we believe that communication is very important in a team”, said the girls.

Clubs & teams

In the future, the team wants to participate in lots of competitions, and why not, win an important championship. On the 12th February we'll have our first competition this year and we hope for the best!

Written by: Ardelean Gabriela, XI D

The volunteers' club

We all know how important a smile of a person we love is. But what happens if that person has no reasons to smile?

This is the question the students-volunteers of our highschool reflected upon. The teachers Paula Galoş, Ramona Vagner and Adela Filip thought that it is necessary for this world to have people who are able to give simple but important things. That's how the Volunteers' Club was born.

In this first semester, the team of volunteers from our college showed that the joy of Christmas celebration should be shared with others less fortunate, that they have a very big heart which opened for poor children from different Daycare Centers.

Within the "Good Heart" campaign, the volunteers brought the smile to a several number of underprivileged children or with disabilities.

This time the volunteers didn't forget to prepare some entertaining activities for the children they visited, and, to their surprise, the children were happier with the visit and the activities, than with the presents.

The result of their actions being so rewarding and fulfilling, the volunteers are looking forward to the second semester, when they are planning to carry on with their selfless mission.

Written by: Laura Birtoc, Paula Buzaş, XI D

Our olympics

NAME: Liviu Berecz

GRADE: XIth C, mathematics-informatics English-bilingual

1. WHAT OLYMPICS HAVE YOU TAKEN PART IN?

In the 9th grade I participated in the CIA Applied Informatics National Olympics 2009 and in the 10th grade I took part in the same competition, in Oradea.

2. WHAT KIND OF RESULTS DID YOU OBTAIN?

I ranked 1st in the county stage and I went to the national one, held in Suceava, where I got the 26th place out of 61, and my score ranked me as the 13th. In Oradea things were prettz similar.

3. HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU PREPARE FOR IT?

As I am involved in many extracurricular activities, I prepared for only 2-3 weeks.

4. DO YOU INTEND TO ATTEND IT AGAIN?

Yes, I do.

5. HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING AMONG THE BEST?

It is nice to feel among the best. Everybody praises you and you know that you begin to achieve something in life. I feel happy at the same time, fulfilled and privileged.

6. WHO IS THE TEACHER WHO PREPARED YOU?

Mrs. Timea Kabai helped me to prepare for this contest, and I must say that she deserves some of the praise because, as a teacher, it is very difficult to prepare a student for this kind of competition. I can say that without her I would not have succeeded.

Our olympics

NAME: Petra Bokenyi

GRADE: XIth G, Pedagogical major

1. WHAT OLYMPICS HAVE YOU TAKEN PART IN?

I attended the National Olympics in Pedagogy-Psychology.

2. WHAT KIND OF RESULTS DID YOU OBTAIN?

I ranked the 2nd at the national stage, with a grade of 9.

3. HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU PREPARE FOR IT?

I prepared for almost 3 weeks.

4. DO YOU INTEND TO ATTEND IT AGAIN?

Yes, this year I want to attend the Olympics again.

5. HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING AMONG THE BEST?

It is ok ... I am very glad that I got to reach to this performance.

6. WHO IS THE TEACHER WHO PREPARED YOU?

I was prepared by my teacher, Mrs. Antonela Porumbăcean, and I want to thank her.

NAME: Ioan-Florin-Sorin Cosma

GRADE: XIth B, mathematics-informatics

1. WHAT OLYMPICS HAVE YOU TAKEN PART IN?

I took part in the national stage at Geography.

2. WHAT KIND OF RESULTS DID YOU GET?

Well, I didn't get a prize, but it was quite all right. I'll do better next year.

3. HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU PREPARE FOR IT?

I prepared for it 3 hours per day for three weeks.

Our olympics

4. DO YOU INTEND TO ATTEND IT AGAIN?

Yes.

5. HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING AMONG THE BEST?

I am honored. :D

6. WHO IS THE TEACHER WHO PREPARED YOU?

I was prepared by my teacher, Mrs. Nicoleta Pițig.

NAME: Mărioara Mocar

GRADE: Xth G, Pedagogical major

1. WHAT OLYMPICS HAVE YOU TAKEN PART IN?

I attended the National Olympics in Pedagogy-Psychology, at the General Psychology subject.

2. WHAT KIND OF RESULTS DID YOU GET?

A good one :D.

3. HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU PREPARE FOR IT?

I prepared 3-4 hours a day.

4. DO YOU INTEND TO ATTEND IT AGAIN?

Yes, I intend to participate again, because I really like this subject.

5. HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING AMONG THE BEST?

It is a very nice feeling that you are among the best.

6. WHO IS THE TEACHER WHO PREPARED YOU?

I was prepared by my teacher, lulia Pop, and I want to thank her for trusting me.

Our olympics

NAME: Izabela Vanessa Pop

GRADE: Xth E, Philology major

1. WHAT OLYMPICS HAVE YOU TAKEN PART IN?

I participated at the Mathematics Competition.

2. WHAT KIND OF RESULTS DID YOU GET?

After participating in the country stage, I got to the national stage.

3. HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU PREPARE FOR IT?

I prepared for it almost two weeks.

4. DO YOU INTEND TO ATTEND IT AGAIN?

Yes, I do.

5. HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING AMONG THE BEST?

Being among the best has its charm but it requires certain responsibilities, and teachers have particular expectations from you, which is sometimes annoying. However, being among the best is fun.

6. WHO IS THE TEACHER WHO PREPARED YOU?

The teacher who prepared me is Mrs. Eva Botez.

NAME: Sorina Râpa

GRADE: XIth G, animator and mediator

1. WHAT OLYMPICS HAVE YOU TAKEN PART IN?

I participated at the National Olympics for the subject Education theory and classroom management.

2. WHAT KIND OF RESULTS DID YOU GET?

I was situated on the 9th position, with the mark 6.25.

Our olympics

3. HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU PREPARE FOR IT?

About 3-4 hours a day :D

4. DO YOU INTEND TO ATTEND IT AGAIN?

Yes.

5. HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING AMONG THE BEST?

Very good.

6. WHO IS THE TEACHER WHO PREPARED YOU?

I was prepared by my teacher Mrs. Antonela Porumbăcean.

NAME: Ioana Scurtu

GRADE: former XIIth G, Pedagogical major, specialization
extracurricular activities instructor

1. WHAT OLYMPICS HAVE YOU TAKEN PART IN?

I participated at the National Olympics at Pedagogy - Psychology.

2. WHAT KIND OF RESULTS DID YOU GET?

I have taken part in the National Olympics at Pedagogy-Psychology every year since the 9th grade, and I was always with high marks. This year (2010) I got the second prize.

3. HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU PREPARE FOR IT?

I do not know exactly, but I prepared myself constantly for each and every class, and I intensified my preparation in the last week before the Olympics.

4. DO YOU INTEND TO ATTEND IT AGAIN?

I would like to, but unfortunately this year I will graduate.

5. HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING AMONG THE BEST?

At first, in the ninth grade, I was very surprised by the result, but then I got used to this kind of competition, and the results 'overlapped' my expectations.

Our olympics

6. WHO IS THE TEACHER WHO PREPARED YOU?

I was discovered, encouraged and prepared for these competitions by Mrs. Antonela Porumbăcean. I am happy that I did not disappoint her, and that she has been with me all these years. I thank her for helping me from the very beginning and that she believed in me.

NAME: Ionuț Lucian Toma

GRADE: XIIth E, Social Sciences major

1. WHAT OLYMPICS HAVE YOU TAKEN PART IN?

This year I attended the History Olympics and I got the first place at the county stage and then I went at the national one, which was a very good experience for me.

2. WHAT KIND OF RESULTS DID YOU GET?

I ranked almost in the middle among all students, despite the fact that I prepared a lot for it, in order to get a very good result.

3. HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU PREPARE FOR IT?

The time spent preparing was fairly long. I started to prepare intensely in this subject at the beginning of the school year.

4. DO YOU INTEND TO ATTEND IT AGAIN?

Although I did not get the place which I wanted, in the future I want to attend again the Olympics, because I like this kind of competition and also Olympics are a good way to show your knowledge.

5. HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING AMONG THE BEST?

The feeling of being among the best is wonderful, and I recommend other students to try this experience, which, from my point of view, is very rewarding.

6. WHO IS THE TEACHER WHO PREPARED YOU?

Last but not least, I would like to thank my History teacher, Mr. Octavian Onac. Without his support, I would not have reached this performance.

Our olympics

NAME: Mihaela Trif

GRADE: the XIth E, Philology Bilingual French

1. WHAT OLYMPICS HAVE YOU TAKEN PART IN?

I participated in French and History olympics.

2. WHAT KIND OF RESULTS DID YOU GET?

I took the first prize at the county stage both in French and in History, and unfortunately I had to choose one of them, since the national stages took place at the same time. I chose French and I ranked in the middle with 7.33 points.

3. HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU PREPARE FOR IT?

Frankly, about two hours (or less) per day.

4. DO YOU INTEND TO ATTEND IT AGAIN?

Of course. I like to test my abilities in order to get better results.

5. HOW DO YOU FEEL BEING AMONG THE BEST?

I do not consider myself more special or better than my colleagues. Just as I am good at this subject, I am sure that they are good at something else, too. You just have to be ambitious.

6. WHO IS THE TEACHER WHO PREPARED YOU?

The teacher who prepared me is called Mrs. Laura Peres, she is my class-teacher too, and I would like to thank her for everything she has done for me, for preparing and encouraging me as well.

Written by: Lorena Avram, XI D

Our stars

First name: Georgiana

Family name: Marina

Field of performance: folk music

Class: XI D - philology-bilingual (English)

Music has always been her only passion, but she took singing to a new level 4 years ago, when her mother showed her the beauty of folklore. Her talent is a family

inheritance, especially from her mother who has wished for Georgiana to become a great and famous folk singer, so that she would accomplish what her mother couldn't.

From the very first year, she has put a lot of pleasure and love in her work; she has been invited to different TV shows and concerts, and has taken part in contests where she had wonderful results.

Now she is not just a student at "Ioan Slavici" National College, she is also a student in Baia Mare, at "Liviu Borlan" Popular School of Art, where her skills are being refined by her teachers.

Until now, she obtained the 2nd place at "Festivalul Tinereții" from Costinești, 3rd place at "Alină-te dor, alină" from Cicîrlău, 1st place at "Cântă, cântă gură scumpă" from Beiuș, Special award from the professional group "Doina Gorjului" at the Festival of Singing and Playing "Maria Lătărețu" from Tîrgu Jiu and 2nd place at "Cânt și Joc pe Hîrtibaci" from Agnita-Sibiu.

At the same time, this Christmas, she shared with her loved ones a CD which contains 4 carols of her own.

Her future plans are to succeed in keeping the tradition of Romanian people and the authenticity of codrenesc folklore and she also says: "If God helps me, in the future I want to launch an album of exclusive songs from Codru's region, songs that represent me". Moreover, she wishes to participate at the most important festivals where she hopes to prove her talent and to delight the public.

Written by: Laura Birtoc, XI D

Our stars

First name: Iris

Family name: Morar

Field of performance: pop music

Class: XII B - mathematics-informatics

She began her activity in music when she was just 3 years old. She took part in different competitions like Tip Top Mini Top, where she won the first place.

In the years of school, she decided to put her mind just to school, but after she entered the 8th grade, she returned to music and began to sing at the Children's Palace.

In high school she began to take canto lessons at the Popular School of Art. She has won a lot of competitions like Steaua Sătmăruului 2009 (second place), the Festival in Târgu Mureș, "Music of my heart" 2009 and 2010 (second place) and she has also had concerts abroad. For the future, she has a lot of opportunities because she is not just a singer, but she also has her own show on a local television (30* ABOUT US).

We cannot end her short biography without saying that she was the president of the Students' Council of Satu Mare and one of the vice-presidents of the National Students' Council.

Written by: Andreea Niste, XI D

Our stars

First name: Gabriela

Family name: Ardelean

Field of performance: pop music

Class: XI D - philology-bilingual (English)

One of Gabriela`s passions is music. She`s a very talented girl who loves what she`s doing. Her passion started when she was a child, at the age of about 9 or 10, when she started playing the piano. She continued studying the piano for only 3 or 4 years. Although Gabriela is not taking piano lessons anymore, she enjoys playing it once in a while. Now she`s one of the lead singers in "Inedit", the band from Children`s Palace, and she`s been holding this position for over a year.

When I asked her who had influenced her in making this choice and who encourages her, she said: "I can`t actually say that someone or something influenced me, maybe just the fact that I like music, but those who have encouraged and supported me are my parents."

Being a member of "Inedit", Gabriela had the chance to take part in a lot of contests which brought her many awards. She got the first prize at a contest called Muzritm, in Vatra Dornei, the second prize at the "Music of my heart" contest, she had a few showings at Dinu Lipatti Philharmonic, at Real and in many others venues. She says that all these awards were received singing next to her band colleagues, who now became her friends.

What are her plans for the future? "Umm... I can`t say for sure if I`m going to choose a music career... For the future I`m thinking of a career in a field I like, but I`m only regarding music as a hobby or a second opportunity."

We wish our colleague all the best and good luck in everything!

Written by: Mădălina Maxim, XI D

Our teachers... the freshmen

We asked the teachers who came to our school in September 2010 to give us a short interview, and they were kind enough to do it. Here are the questions they answered:

1. Which is the funniest thing that has happened to you since you became a teacher?
2. Why do you think your students love you?
3. What do you like best about this high school and what would you change?
4. If one day a student asks you: "Teacher, please forgive me because I haven't learnt for today, I'm not prepared", what would you tell him? Will you forgive him or will you punish him?
5. Can you tell us a strange/interesting thing about teachers, maybe a secret that students haven't learnt so far?
6. If you hadn't been a teacher, what would you have done, what career would you have chosen?
7. How were you as a student and how do you see the students nowadays?
8. How should the relationship between teachers and students be outside the school?
9. Share with us a naughty thing you did during high school.
10. Which is the atmosphere in the teachers' room? Is it as you imagined it to be during high school?

Our teachers... the freshmen

Name: Simona Păcurar

Subject: Biology

1. I don't know if this is the funniest thing that happened to me, but it is the first going through my mind now: early in my career I attended an educational meeting that took place in Satu Mare and I was asked at the high school entry not to use the teachers' stairs.
2. If you can state that my students love me than you should know why, and if you do know please let me know too.
3. I like the fact that the high school has a festive hall where students can highlight their artistic skills and I want to congratulate them on this occasion and to thank them for the gifted moments. As a change, I would like to reduce the distance between the teachers' rooms if I could.
4. If the student announces this at the beginning of the class and if s/he also has a good reason, I would forgive him.
5. Teachers were once students as well and students shouldn't count on the fact that they forgot this.
6. It's difficult to answer this question because it seems to me that I didn't choose this career but the career chose me. Circumstances pointed me to this career and I was pleasantly surprised of what I found. I can't imagine myself doing something else because I like what I am doing now.
7. From my point of view a lot of things have changed since I was a student, some of them towards the better and some not. It's hard to compare myself as a student with students nowadays, because circumstances and temptations are different from the ones in the past. It's like comparing an apple with a pear. What I can certainly affirm is I could often say that during my highschool period, things were different.
8. The relationship between students and teachers, both in school and outside it, should be based on respect.
9. I don't like to boast about the naughty things that I've done.
10. When I was a student I was afraid to enter the teachers' room, now I look forward to it.

Our teachers... the freshmen

Name: Ionela Racolța

Subject: French & English

1. Although I have been teaching for only 2 years, I have witnessed many funny things when it comes to my dear students. One of these, which crosses my mind just now, has to do with a time when a student in the 9th grade wanted to 'teach' me how to use a paperclip (I don't know why she thought it was such a tricky thing, but she just wanted to be helpful). This made the entire class burst into laughter.
2. Well, they should be the ones who should answer this question. I know they appreciate and respect me; we have a great teacher-student relationship. I always try to be close to them, help them and teach them in a pleasant way. Maybe they realize that they are very dear to me and this makes them love me in their turn.
3. I very much like the people here, both my fellow teachers, and the students. I get along very well with all of them and the atmosphere is great! However, I would love it if there were more resources for teaching materials, for educational trips and so on. I know the financial aspect is a delicate one these days. This is why we, the teachers, try to manage with what we have and be as creative as possible.
4. I would probably forgive him or her, because this could happen to anyone. Everyone can have a bad moment and I don't think the punishment is the best solution. However, I would make sure this does not turn into a habit.
5. Nice question! Don't worry, we don't have any 'dark' secrets.
6. Well, I am also a translator (English and French). These are the two careers I have wanted all my life and I am very happy I can have them both as part of my professional life.
7. It was not so long ago that I was a student. Generally, I was a good, diligent student (however, I had my share of less nice behaviour, let's say). The students nowadays are quite modern, they are bolder than we were a few years ago, but this is not necessarily a bad thing.
8. The teacher-student relationship should be based on communication, on mutual trust and friendship. If so, things would be very good at school and not only.
9. Well, I once skipped my History class, and I told my teacher I had a good reason of doing so: I went to visit the museum. And it was true!
10. The atmosphere is warm and friendly, we sometimes tell jokes and you should know we talk about various aspects in our lives, not just school-related activities (as I used to think as a student).

Our teachers... the freshmen

Name: Lăcrămioara Elena Dîngă

Subject: Social Sciences

1. There were a lot of funny moments; here is a recent one: a student told me 'you are very beautiful today' and I replied 'does that mean that for the rest of the time I'm ugly?'. She said 'yes, no, you are beautiful all the time', I laughed heartily when I heard the first part of the answer and I thanked her for her sincerity. It was really funny.
2. Because I am open, sincere, I treat them with respect and I am a charismatic person.
3. I like that the school has maintained its prestige since I was a student here, the discipline is still maintained and there is rigor and commitment.
4. It depends on the reason, tone, attitude..., but in principle I can understand the student and opt for a second chance.
5. Teachers work a lot and care about their students more than they let them see.
6. I could handle very well various other jobs; I would probably manage a business.
7. I seemed very shy, but I was always ready for crazy things, all within the limits of common sense, of course.
8. Just like in school: natural, cordial, the student should feel s/he has in the teacher a partner, but one with experience and authority, and definitely respecting the limits of common sense.
9. Currently, I cannot think of something concrete, although I'm sure there were a few things.
10. Respect and cordiality, so yes, pretty much the same.

Name: Anca Pașca

Subject: History

1. One of my students (he was in the 10th grade that time) apologized for being late because he had to prepare his breakfast.
2. I guess they love me because I do my job seriously and also I try to be close to them.
3. I like the environment and the commitment.
4. I would forgive him provided that he prepares for the next class.

Our teachers... the freshmen

5. Teachers bond with their students and end up being very close even to the undisciplined ones.
6. I would have chosen a diplomatic career.
7. I was a diligent student, prepared for every class. Sadly, nowadays students are not as preoccupied with studying as they should be, they don't take education as a serious part of their lives.
8. It should be a close one, but without exceeding certain limits.
9. I didn't use to do naughty things.
10. Yes, it is actually how I imagined, a peaceful and pleasant environment.

Name: Dan Pavel

Subject: Religion

1. It's really funny to listen to the students' excuses, which they make up when they want to skip the class.
2. Maybe because they see in me a person close to them, a teacher who doesn't come to school to teach the lesson just for the sake of it being taught, to examine and give marks, but a teacher who conducts his activity in a pleasant and useful way for the students.
3. I like the professionalism of the teaching staff and the education and morality level of the students. In this environment with such teachers and students it's a pleasure to do my work.
4. Well, it depends on how many times the student has already used this excuse.
5. The teachers love their students more than they can imagine.
6. I would have remained with the activity that I perform besides teaching, in the Church.
7. Being still young, things haven't changed a lot since I was a student. Even now as well as back then there were responsible and less responsible students.
8. As far as possible and without pushing the boundaries of respect and good manners, it should be based on friendship.
9. I had some pretty crazy classmates, so every day spent with them was crazy.
10. It's quite a usual working environment, just like in the case of other fields of activity.

Written by: Diana Vasile, XI D

SENDING YOUR HEART AWAY

"I really want to help make ends meet."

That was exactly what Melissa wrote on the paper. She turned to look at him, just to check if he was peeking. As usual, clutching onto a helium balloon, he propped his arms on the railings and watched the night sky sleep.

'I'm done,' she announced, folding the paper into a roll. He turned to her and took the roll of paper over. 'Are you sure this will work..' her voice soft and tired. 'This reminds me of things only kids would believe.'

'Melissa, of course it'd work.'

'But helium balloons only last for a day, you know that..'

'Would you get me the string?' he asked in that sweet voice only saved for her. She turned around to source for a string right near their belongings. He grinned at her, a heart-melting grin, as he tied the note to the bright yellow balloon.

'Balloon, balloon. Please bring Melissa's troubles away to the brightest star, where it will exchange for something happy,' he said to the balloon as he gently let it go.

Melissa watched hopefully as the balloon rose into the air. When the balloon was out of sight, she looked to her side and found Joshua watching her intently, his mega-watt smile still plastered on.

'There. You won't be troubled anymore now that you've casted it to the sky,' he assured.

She still didn't believe it. This was a typical kind of scenerio suitable for a little child instead. Balloons don't bring your troubles away, everyone knows that.

'Joshua..' but still, she appreciated the effort.

'Yeah?'

'Thank you.'

And in reply, she got one of his dazzling smiles.

A new day began and Joshua left home early in the morning.

'Austin..'

'Yes?' the two buddies came to a restaurant for tea. 'Is anything the matter?'

'Actually, I was wondering if you could do me a favour..'

'What favour?' Austin asked.

'You mind employing my friend as part-time?' Joshua meekly asked. The restaurant and all its branches were ran by Austin's family.

'Employ your friend?' yes, Austin was a heir, but afterall they were still schooling, he wasn't officially into the business yet.

Literary works

'Ah, it's alright if you can't, I'm just asking.'

'No no, of course I can. It's my brother's friend right? Yes, sure, of course.'

'Joshua!' she ran to him after class that day.

'Oh Melissa,' he'd join her as they walked to the cafeteria together.

'I've got good news!'

'What about?'

'I got employed at this restaurant, the one Austin's family runs. It's a part-time job 4 hours a day and it offers a good pay.' She excitedly explained. 'Finally I can help my family climb over the financial hurdle!'

'Really? Congratulations! I'm happy for you!' he smiled brightly, 'was this what you wrote on the balloon note?'

'Yeah.' Melissa would reply. 'But no! I think it's just my luck!' she would always add, 'but anyway, really, thank you.'

Melissa smiled sweetly to him, and he flashed his mega-watt grin back.

Time passed.

Joshua had taken her by the hand that day, leading her to the rooftops once again. He handed her a piece of paper and a pen.

'Joshua, I told you it won't work.. I..'

Joshua didn't speak, he just waited. Eventually she gave in and scribbled furiously on the piece of paper.

"If only I could get good grades. Then maybe dad and mom won't have to worry that much anymore."

Joshua did the same thing, he motioned for her to pass him a string, tied the note and a balloon together.

'Balloon, balloon. Please bring Melissa's troubles away to the brightest star, where it will exchange for something happy,' he said again before he set it off to the sky.

Only after the balloon was no longer in sight that he smiled to her. Melissa pouted, if only things were this easy.

Another day passed.

'Andrew.'

'Yeah?' They were at a bar, the five of them, the five good buddies.

'You mind using these as materials for Melissa?' Joshua passed him a stack of notes.

Andrew raised an eyebrow at him. Andrew's parents were old friends of Melissa's parents, having lived near each other for years, Andrew naturally became Melissa's

Literary works

academic helper everytime there were house visits.

'These are potential exam questions I hunted when I was studying that grade,' Joshua smiled, 'don't wanna waste it. If you don't take it it'll prolly go into the bin.'

'Hey, thanks a lot, it'd lighten my workload.' Andrew smiled back.

*

'Joshua! Joshua!' once again Joshua's angel came running to him.

'Hey you!'

Melissa raised a piece of paper to his face. '87 marks! It's an A!'

Joshua laughed, 'Oh! Really!' he took over the piece of paper and gave a careful look. 'Whoa, Melissa, that's great!'

Melissa giggled, 'You know more than half of the paper were spotted by Andrew.'

'Really?' Joshua smiled.

'Yeah! I'm so glad!'

'I'm glad for you too,' another smile.

'This was what I wrote on the balloon note too! But it's not your balloons! I'm just really be lucky!' Melissa exclaimed.

Joshua pouted.

'Alright, alright. Thank you!' Melissa laughed, 'thanks for your effort. I'll get you an ice cream!' She said as she dragged him towards the ice cream stall.

More time passed.

Each and every time Melissa had troubles, Joshua would just lead her to the rooftop where he would give her pen and paper. Each time, Melissa's wishes would be answered, her troubles would be minimized, what she hoped for was definitely fulfilled. Balloons weren't the reason why, she was sure of that. She was merely lucky.

"I really want to experience love."

Joshua thought it would be easy this time. He ran to a flower shop to fetch a bouquet of red tulips before running back to campus.

'Melissa, would you please be my valentine?' he was one step late when he saw Brandon kneel before her.

Joshua's heart missed a beat the second Melissa nodded her head. It then completely sank when Brandon picked her up and spun her in the air.

Literary works

Later that day.

'Joshua!' she squealed.

'Yeah.' His spirits were down.

'You won't believe this! I've never believe your balloon thing works! But.. but..!' anyone could tell she was really happy this time, 'I think I believe it now! It was really those balloons! They fulfilled my wish! Brandon just confessed!' She jumped up and down in front of him. What could he say?

'Really? Congratulations! I'm so happy for you!'

Maybe, it's really the stars this time, Joshua concluded. At least.. at least she's happy. Yes, he knows she's really happy. Joshua tossed the bouquet into the rubbish dump before walking away.

A few days passed, but Melissa was again in tears.

"Why, why can't my parents accept Brandon?"

Joshua smiled at her. 'Don't cry anymore, you won't be the beautiful Melissa I know if your face is tears-stained.' With gentle agile fingers he wiped away her tears and erased all tear-marks on her face. His heart burnt.

'String please,' he said cheerfully. She went over and got him a string.

'Hey balloon! Now that Melissa believes in your wonders, please bring her troubles away to the brightest star, where it will exchange for something happy.'

Melissa watched with tear-filled eyes as the balloon flew away with the wind.

'There. Your problems will vanish whatever they may be.'

Melissa nodded hopefully.

*

'Mistress and Mister Hall, how are you?'

'Aww Joshua, it's so nice for you to come and see us!'

'Actually my parents wanted to pay you a visit but they are very busy so they told me to come on their behalf, and to say sorry to you both.' Joshua explained.

'You're such a filial boy,' Melissa's mother praised.

'No, I'm not that good.'

'Joshua, you're capable, handsome, tall and above all that filial, if you're not good then who is?'

'Yeah, I've always wanted my daughter Melissa to be with you. But she's attached now with this boy.'

'Brandon?' Joshua asked.

'Yes, that boy.'

'Ah, why do you worry so much,' Joshua said, 'Brandon is my buddy. He's a good

Literary works

person.'

'Really?' her father seemed very interested.

'Yes. If I'm capable, filial and as good as you say, then Brandon is double of what I am.' Joshua told them.

'Joshua, are you sure?'

'Yes. I've known Brandon for a long long time. Melissa will definitely be happy.'

Next day at school.

'Joshua! Oh my gosh, I can't believe this!!'

'What can't you believe?' Joshua laughed.

'My parents, they've accepted Brandon!'

'They didn't accept him at first?' Joshua asked with a straight face.

'Oh.' Melissa paused, remembering Joshua didn't know about it, 'ahh it's a long story! But really, it's the balloons I'm sure of it this time!!'

Joshua swallowed hard. 'Oh well, I'm really really happy for you!'

'Thanks, Joshua. Thank you so much for all the care you've always given me.'

'Ah, silly girl..' His mega-watt smile seemed to lose a little shine, but no one noticed.

'Don't mention it.'

*

'Joshua,' Brandon innocently giggled to himself. 'Her parents accepted me.'

'Whose?'

'Melissa's.'

'Melissa?'

'Yeah. I confessed to her the other time but her parents knew about it and objected it. I was worried I would cause her trouble. But now.. her parents are willing to accept me!'

Joshua smiled, 'Yah. Congrats!'

Brandon giggled again, 'I'll propose to her again tomorrow, and ask her to be my permanent date. What do you think of this idea?'

'Hey, are you guaranteed she'll say yes?'

'Of course ! I'm 97% sure she'll say yes.'

'Then of course you have to go for it!'

'You really think so?' Brandon asked.

'Hey, your buddy here is smart, how can you not trust me?!'

'Thank you!'

Joshua gave him a punch in the chest, 'aren't we brothers? Thank you? Thank you? You wanna die?'

Brandon laughed.

Joshua was at the rooftop alone that night. Facing the sky, he looked at the

Literary works

brightest star.

'Is this what you want for her?' he asked the shining thing.

He looked towards a small box beside him, it was filled with all her notes.

Everytime Melissa finishes writing, he would always ask her to get him a string. And it was always that split second where she turns her back that he swaps her note with a fake one.

In that box were all the real genuine notes handwritten by her.

'Joshua. Is this your decision?'

Joshua spun his head around to see Chuck walking towards him. Chuck gazed at the box filled with notes.

'Will you not regret this?' Chuck asked again.

'What are you talking about?' Joshua wiped the sadness off his face and replaced them with joyful expressions.

'Brandon didn't mean it, he doesn't know you like Melissa,' Chuck clarified.

'I know.'

'I can talk to him if you want, just to let him know the full-'

'No, Chuck, don't.'

'But he's officially asking her out tomorrow. It'd be permanent.'

Joshua nodded.

'Melissa doesn't even know you're the one all these while destroying her troubles.'

'I'm not the one. I merely taught her how to cast them to the sky. That star there,' he pointed, 'it did most of the work.'

'Joshua, that star is you.' Chuck pulled the box over and set it in front of Joshua.

'Don't you think she ought to know?'

'I don't see the purpose.'

'I do.'

'Chuck, have you seen her smile. Have you seen her smiles when she's in front of me, and her smiles when she's in front of Brandon? Have you any idea which one is brighter?'

'Have you seen Brandon's smile in front of Melissa, and yours when you're in front of her? Have you any idea which one is brighter?'

'Chuck. You don't understand.'

'Of course I don't!'

'Loving someone doesn't mean you have to own someone, it's a common saying, you've heard it before.'

'Joshua!'

'Chuck, seeing her happy will make me happier. You know that too.'

Chuck frowned. 'Josh-'

Literary works

'She's happiest with Brandon.'

Chuck sighed.

'I'm grateful for your concern. You're right, it's no fault of Brandon's. I'm happy this way, really.'

Chuck nodded.

Fishing out a paper, Joshua withdrew a pen from his pockets.

"Now that I've bade many of her troubles goodbye, I will send her heart away. I wish for her happiness."

He tied it to a white helium balloon.

'Bring this to the brightest star, balloon,' he whispered.

Gently. Reluctantly. Briefly. Joshua released his hold on the note. The balloon rocketed in the night air.

'Her wishes are always fulfilled by you. So who's gonna fulfill this wish of yours?' Chuck asked, watching the balloon disappear.

Laying a hand on his brother's shoulders, he smiled.

Ingrid Feier, XI C

Friendship

There are many valuable things in life, but friendship may be the most important. My personal definition of friendship sounds like this: the people you surround yourself with, have an amazing time with, and laugh with. To live without the experience of friendship is life without living.

There are several qualities that go into a good friendship or relationship: loyalty, dignity, honesty, tolerance and respect.

First of all, friendship is a necessary aspect of every human's life. Despite this necessity, in some cases we are either forced or morally required to end these relationships.

Secondly, let's define what it means to be a good friend. Friends can be described as people who are reliable, who are not enemies or foes, but allies. On the other

Literary works

hand, trust is an issue that every platonic friendship must deal with. Trust is an unwritten rule between friends and it is defined as the firm belief or confidence in the honesty, integrity and reliability of another person.

In conclusion, the human survival is based on friendship and what I am trying to say is that we cannot have a successful life as individuals or as a society without our friendships.

Alina Moisescu, XI D

Homelessness is everybody's problem

Living is easy... Wrong... it might seem this way to an individual that has never experienced being deprived of a shelter, except when going camping. How can it be possible to turn a blind eye when seeing a person lacking the most valuable possession which the ones that own it take for granted – a home?

On the first hand, we might be taken aback by how few people in this world stop for a moment in their hectic lives to tune into the situation of such unfortunate souls. A situation that resembles the one they are experiencing, a plight actually, proves to be unimaginable for us, common people, who fail to notice luck has already knocked at our door. Human mind is fraught with surprises which often render him callous, as he prefers to avoid insisting on homeless people's cases, because it offers him neither happiness, nor relief. After all, what is the point in acknowledging their problem if we will not intervene for improvement? Deep down regret is swelling and the inactive Government sparks off a bitter disappointment.

On the other hand, eradicating poverty could prove to be relieving for everyone involved in those people's plight. It is generally accepted that as inhabitants of this unique planet we are bound to protect it, but the fact that we should also protect our peers seems to elude us. The occasions on which we actually attempt to enhance the welfare of other human beings are scarce or unsuccessful. What if we all contributed to the funds the Government intends to raise or if we tried to

Literary works

assuage poor people's fear or heal their haggard and jaundices faces? Every thought makes a difference.

Finally, judging the world as it appears to us doesn't make it any more peaceful for the ones who regard it as nefarious and unforgivable. Fate chooses randomly, but the decision of helping belongs to us.

Sabrina Matei, XII C

It's not if, it's when!

I recall yearning for a telephone...! I remember striving to get my hands on one to keep myself up-to-date. Looking back, all these hankerings seem taken from a bygone era. I own one, but except from keeping in touch with my family, I hardly ever use it. It's needless to say that the internet has brought about a revolution in inter-human socialization, but obvious as it may seem, what most of its fans are unaware of is that this phenomenon could outshine itself.

In the first place, being able to socialize through a network could have been a great science-fiction subject matter in the previous century. Nowadays, we teenagers thrive on chatting and interchanging information, which is one of the best things about social networking sites. Knowing the answer to a question is just a key-press away makes us think we can get anywhere in less than no time. And it's true because this is what online communication is about: making users to tune into different cultures whenever they feel like it and why not... find out anything they could possibly wish for without leaving their homes. It's a cozy and stress free way of learning.

In the second place, what I'm trying to point out about the future changes of sites such as Facebook or Hi5 is the upcoming boost of the possibilities they offer. I'm positive that given the intertwining of the worldwide cultures, these sites will enclose dictionaries which will allow each user to type into their own language without worrying about mistranslations. Also, what could be really cool are multi-

Literary works

media accessories that imitate one's voice precisely, making conversations as real as they can get.

Getting these sites and the post offices to work together would be great because sending a parcel or some other stuff to a 1st degree friend (for example) would stop being a problem. As for myself, I wouldn't go so far as to associate social networking sites with teleporting or something like that, but I'm sure it's just a question of time until it will change our lives.

Matei Sabrina, XII C

Why live only on Earth?

When most people hear about science-fiction the first thought that crosses their minds is aliens. Now why do you think that occurs? Let's be honest, it happens to anyone since the subject matter of most science-fiction films revolves around space. Have you ever thought there's more to these than meets the eye? That the reasons we think we like them for are a far cry from the truth?

On the first hand, it's obvious that humans have developed a great liking for these films since it's way past a transient fad. It's in our nature to be attracted to something we will never in a million years (no pun intended) experience. People are so fed up with their dull and monotonous lives that they long for freedom of expression. What makes science-fiction films so popular isn't their graphics necessarily, it's the idea of escaping. This universe allows us to picture vivid images and to unleash those inhibitions that trammel our reality. Insisting solely on cast, script or special effects is a recipe for disaster. The message conveyed is crucial because what we want to see are the unseen stories.

On the other hand, this bias for the genre is also due to the possibility of intertwining all the others in it: romanticism, for example, is a recurrent theme even in an action movie, let alone a fictional one. People love these movies mostly because they instill hope, according to some researchers, who claim getting away from it all is soothing for the brain and may even cut down the effects of

Literary works

depression. Of course, it's only temporary, which is exactly the reason why some fans may even gradually develop an addiction, especially young ones, who are most keen on science-fiction.

To what extent do you think we should like them? This increasing popularity not only booms the ratings, but it also proves human mind will always be more lured by the surreal. Science fiction isn't just space, people! It's everything you'll never get to see firsthand!

Sabrina Matei, XII C

Lost

It was a cold, cloudy night when John and ten of his friends were travelling by plane to a foreign town to be taken to a luxurious hotel.

Suddenly, lightning struck the plane while it was above a tropical forest. The plane had to make a forced landing. When the plane got to a lower altitude, it started to hit the highest branches of the trees. Finally, the plane hit the trees themselves and the main body of the plane fell down to the ground spinning in the process.

John and his friends survived the crash, but the other passengers suddenly disappeared. They ventured further in the forest to find the way to the closest road or settlement. They reached a waterfall, looked around and saw a path on the right. They followed the road till one of John's friends was trapped by a bear trap and another was hit by a triggered javelin and remained hanging on a tree.

After they got over their friends' deaths they sharpened some branches to use as weapons, and made a campfire to cook some food that they managed to scavenge from the plane. When they went hunting they were ambushed, one of them fell into a spiked pit, another was hit by falling spikes, another was cut a number of times by triggered blades and the last was dragged by a rope and thrown by a catapult. Finally, when they managed to escape the field of traps they found the exit from the forest.

Literary works

But, when they got out of the forest, they saw a fortified military camp, suddenly, out of nowhere, SEAL Special Forces surrounded them and the squad leader asked them, what they were doing there. John told them that their plane had crashed in the forest. "This is a top secret training area. You haven't seen anything" said the squad leader. They were sent to the luxurious hotel to which they were heading before. On the helicopter they said to each other: "At least we are safe and that's the most important thing!".

Paleoca Mihai, IX C

An unusual story

It was a cold, wet evening in the outskirts of a town. John Newby was going home after work.

On the way home, he had a strange feeling like he was being followed by somebody or even something. What John didn't know is that he was followed by something supernatural that human kind had never seen before.

Meanwhile, John's wife and their son were playing in a room next to the open window which, by the way, was the perfect entrance for the creature. Suddenly, John's wife heard something breathing behind her. As she looked at her son, who seemed to be very scared, she turned around and saw the creature.

In an instant the creature hit them with its huge fist and he killed somebody on the spot. That somebody was Sparky the dog which bravely jumped in front of his owners to save them. At that moment, John entered the house and he saw the monster getting closer and closer to his wife. He grabbed a shovel and hit the monster as hard as he could. At that point, the creature collapsed to the ground unconscious.

Eventually, the family escaped from the house and ran as fast as they could to the nearest police station. The police went to their home, but the monster had already left. John and his wife watched in horror that the creature was not there anymore,

Literary works

knowing that it can return at any time. They immediately left the village and went to another one far, far away. "At least we are all safe and that's the most important thing!", John said to his family as they moved away from the village.

Roland Sinka, IX C

The power of music

"Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music". These were the words of a Russian composer and pianist, Sergei Rachmanioff, who had a very accurate perception of music and understood the importance that music has.

For some people, music is the center of their lives and it is the foundation of how they live. Everybody knows what music is, but most people underestimate the value and the power of it. Whether they know it or not, music can affect most of the people and their behaviours as well.

According to the dictionary, music is defined as "an art of sound that expresses ideas and emotions in significant forms through the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony and colour". In other words, music is a learning therapy and teaching tool. To lead a healthy life we need to incorporate music, whether playing it, listening to it, or using it.

How can different types of music affect people's emotions? Music has many different ways of affecting people. In some cases it is good for the body, both physically and mentally. What's more, music has personalities, which can express what people feel, affect their emotions and be used like a therapy.

In conclusion, music is an art which does two significant things for us: it increases stimulation in the brain and it has a lot of benefits in our mental development.

Alina Moisescu, XI D

Adventure in the Himalayas

Last year, my friend John and his family went, during the summer holiday, in the Himalayas. They wanted to climb Mount Everest because climbing is a great challenge. The weather forecast for the week was good and on Tuesday they started climbing the mountain.

The first 200 meters went on smoothly, but suddenly the weather started to deteriorate. A big blizzard was approaching the mountain and threatened to wreak havoc on their trip. Luckily, John had been watching the sky and saw the storm approaching so he alerted his family.

They started their descent and after half an hour they reached the base of the mountain. They found shelter at a local cabin and stayed there until the storm passed.

When they left the cabin, they went to the airport, bought plane tickets and flew back home. When they got home, John felt relieved that nothing else happened to his family. He said in relief: 'All's well that ends well. At least we're all safe and that's the most important thing!'

Bogdan Bara, IX C

A strange experience

My friend Emily, told me that when she was little, she had a nightmare which scared her a lot. Those things happened until one night, when she felt that someone was touching her on her hand. When she opened her eyes, she saw an old lady who was caressing and telling her: "Now it is the time to let you go, my daughter". From that night on, she did not dreamt that kind of things.

One night, when we were on a trip in Rome, she was sleeping in the same room with me and some other friends. She jumped up from the bed and ran near the window. Our room was at the 10th floor. She wanted to jump from the window

Literary works

because her dead mother was calling her. Meanwhile she was sleeping and she was very tensed. After ten minutes of continuous yelling at her, she finally woke up but she didn't remember anything.

After that experience, my friend suffered from sleepwalking. Every night she was walking inside the house or outside and she couldn't do anything about it.

Ioan Cosma, XI-a B

How the giraffe got its long neck

Once upon a time there was a sad Giraffe that lived in a beautiful rain forest. He was so sad because he had a short neck. He wished so much for a long neck, so that he could reach the tasty leaves at the top of the trees. He got so sick of being teased by the nasty birds that he decided to go and look for help.

The Giraffe went to ask for some help from the Wise Pig. The Wise Pig told the Giraffe to keep wishing and wishing and one day the dream might come true. The Giraffe went home and while he was walking he kept wishing and wishing to have a long neck.

While he was walking home he saw a bunch of bananas hanging on a low branch. His head went right through the bunch of bananas. The Giraffe rose his head and smelled bananas. At this moment, he saw a large and strong monkey up in the tree.

The monkey was looking for some bananas to eat for his meal. Then, suddenly, the monkey smelt bananas and to his amazement he saw a moving banana. He was so amazed that he went to try and pull the banana off the Giraffe's head.

The Giraffe looked around him. Everywhere he looked he only saw leaves. The Giraffe was so happy he could reach all the nice leaves at the top of the trees.

All the giraffes in the rain forest wanted to have long necks so they could reach up into the trees. So it became natural that giraffes have long necks.

Paula Libotean, XI B

Being a freshman

Being a freshman is very interesting.

First, I had to change the place and I met new people and new teachers. During the first days I was shy, but in time I learned to behave naturally and be who I really am. I must say that I'm really proud because I applied to this college, and I reached my goal until now. After a few weeks I feel that I'm already used to my colleagues, to the places, shops, teachers and other students from the other classes. I know from stories that life in school can be also fun and here I can have experiences that might change my life, in a positive way.

I love the fresh air that I feel all the mornings, when I come to school. Every time that I cross the bridge it runs all the memories in my head, all my dreams and all my thoughts about being a freshman here.

I look around me and I see the others like me, following their dreams, and I feel that I'm following mine too. I feel proud because I wanted to reach my goal to be here, to become someone and I think that for now it's accomplished.

I came here to gain a lot of knowledge, to learn everything that teachers can teach me here, because after four years I want to feel that I'm prepared for the next step in my life, university. Even if I am a dreamer, I believe in this school and in all the teachers who will guide my steps.

Written by: Emanuela Crășneanu, IX C

Being a freshman isn't such a terrible thing. You'll get used to it in no time. It's just a temporary state that every teenager has when he starts high school.

For me being a freshman is something unusual. When I started high school I felt like a "small ant" in the big world. In other words I felt lonely. It didn't matter in which direction I looked, I just saw new and new faces. Even when I met my colleagues I wasn't really happy because they were all strangers to me, strangers whom I've never met before. In time, this feeling started to disappear and everything was going back to normal.

Being a freshman

I started speaking with the others, spending more time with them, helping each other and many more. I've made new friends pretty fast. Everything started to make sense.

Besides making new friends, another problem appeared: getting used to my new teachers, with all their requirements. I used to judge the teachers by the way they looked, but in time I've learned that they aren't such bad people, trying to make your school life even worse. In fact, I've discovered that they are very good with me and the others around, as long as we keep learning.

The life of a freshman isn't easy, I admit, but this is how things need to be and we can't do anything about it. It's a challenge that awaits each of us, a challenge that can always end in our favor!

So I advise each of you to think positively about being a freshman because, after all, it's not that bad as we usually think it is.

Written by: Roland Sinka, IX C

I'm Bogdan and I'm a student in the ninth grade, so basically I'm a freshman. I came to this school in September last year and after a month of getting used to life at highschool, I felt that I made the right choice by coming here.

The school is great. It's not a new school and there are some things that could be improved, but everything is fine as it is. The teachers are energetic and show passion towards teaching the students, whether we're talking about maths or music.

Even though the timetable for my class is a little hard, we still manage to laugh a lot and have as much fun as we can. It's true that sometimes the homework we get reaches the sky, but that's a challenge we have to face for being here, and not at any other highschool.

Being a freshman

Even though it has its ups and downs, this school is the best from the whole county and I wouldn't go to any other even if I got paid.

Written by: Bogdan Bara, IX C

It was August. I was at home and I was thinkin' about what the new school would be like. I was excited because a new school was waiting for me, new friends, new teachers. That August passed quickly and the school started.

I will never forget that day; I had been waiting for it for so long. When I got to the new school I was very happy, I started looking for my colleagues. When I found them I realized that I didn't know anyone; I was a bit scared because I'm very shy and I felt very weird. We found our class teacher and she led us to our classroom.

When we saw it we were surprised because it was so small, but it is not a problem because we are 18 in the class and we get along really well and we are good friends now.

The school is huge, but we've got used to it. We have great teachers, and this is good thing, but we have a lot of homework. The profile I chose is very hard but for me it is a challenge. Sometimes I miss my former colleagues but I am proud of the high school I entered.

Freshman life is so surprising and is the beginning of learning new things and helping me to better achieve the goal of becoming someone.

Written by: Alexandra Pîrvu, IX C

Being a freshman

Being a freshman means a whole new beginning, with new teachers, colleagues and responsibilities. You have to start all over again, making friends, earning your teachers' respect and making a good first impression.

High school is harder. As a freshman you have to work hard at the beginning so that you can make a good impression on the teachers, hoping they will go easy on you in the future. You have much more to study and much more hours to spend at school. But it all pays off because in the breaks you have almost complete freedom (almost 😊), and you can make new friends.

The teachers are hard on you and have more expectations from you now that you're in high school. Middle school was nothing compared to high school. You learn new and interesting things but there's a price to pay... you lose more of your free time because it takes you much more time to learn. Well, this is the case only if you want bigger grades.

Being a freshman is cool and exciting. It's much more fun than in middle school, but it's harder as well. And if you can make them both – learn and have fun – you'll see that it's all worth it and you'll have a blast.

Written by: Tudor Hereş, IX C

Reviews

Freedom Writers

Title of Film: Freedom Writers

Director: Richard LaGravenese

Year: 2007

Erin Gruwell is an ambitious young teacher in the first year of her teaching English at Wilson High School. Her enthusiasm is quickly challenged when she realizes that she is faced by diversity in her class. She was given the unruly students who refuse to participate at her class, even though she tries her best to encourage them by using a variety of techniques.

The moment that changes their lives forever is when Erin intercepts and compares a racial caricature of one of her students with the Nazi caricatures during the Holocaust. She is shocked to discover that many of the students have never heard of the Holocaust.

Erin realizes her students are very familiar with violence and they all grew up in gangs. She has the great idea to show them some books, including "Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl". First they aren't very excited, but they soon start comparing their lives with Anne's.

Each student begins to keep his/her own diary, recording his/her life stories. From that moment on, the students of room 203 change from a group of frustrated students into a motivated family. They raise funds and visit many places which change their point of view. Together they manage to bring Anna Frank in their country. She delivers a speech about life and encourages the students to live their lives.

In the end, they compile a book made up of the entries in their diaries. Erin names it "The Freedom Writers Diary". After her husband divorces her, she finds out that she isn't allowed anymore to teach her students in the junior and senior years. She does her best and fights this decision, convincing her superiors to let her continue her teaching.

This is a movie about communicating, about caring and above all - love. I think the real beauty of the movie is the fact that Erin's students lives changed. Erin's love for her students changed their perspectives on life, on their opportunities; their world became better - because they chose to see things differently. The movie "Freedom Writers" is an excellent way of showing the violence and racism that are present on the streets every day. If we look more carefully we can see that racism exists in every country, even in our own. In my opinion, this movie is a good example for everyone, not only for students. It's an educational movie which changes your point of view.

I think that what the unruly students try to write about are a series of unexpected events against ignorance, failure to understand and negative forces in their lives, which will open their hearts and teach them to become their own heroes. Nowadays, teenagers try to create their own world, where they can do whatever they want to, but in many cases they forget the most important thing: in order to gain respect and freedom, you must be an honest and respectful person to everyone, no matter what religion or color that person is.

I believe that the best example in the whole movie is Erin, because she had the courage to move on even if she lost her husband's support. She continued to fight for her students and to believe in them, and the fact that she was an ambitious teacher helped her change her kids from disobedient students into a united family.

It's a movie that really hits home about racial issues and the setting is perfect for teens growing up. It shows that even though the world has many barriers, we can still break them down, and be able to join hands, no matter who we are, where we come from, how we look, what we believe in.

Written by: Gabriela Ardelean, XI D

Editorial Board

Chief editor: Diana Vasile

Editors: Lorena Avram

Gabriela Ardelean

Alina Moiescu

Raluca Costin

Mădălina Maxim

Laura Birtoc

Andreea Niste

Paula Buzaș

Cristian Cîmpian

Graphics: Ingrid Feier

Cătălin Vasile

Thanks to: Mrs. Luisa Morna

Miss Adriana Lung

Mr. Dorel Toduț

Coordinating teachers: Mrs. Ioana Văsuț

Miss Ionela Racolța

