



ACTIVITY DEBRIEF

NAME OF THE ACTIVITY: Polish – India exchange entered its second phase of Indo Polish exchange program with Skoła Podstawowa NR1 W Konstancinie Jezornia, Poland

DATE HELD: May 30- June 13, 2019

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Ms.Kamalpreet Bhullar, Ms Pramila Dutt

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

- cultural exchange
- Globalisation and Internationalism
- Collaboration
- Critical and independent thinking
- Accepting- changes and diversity

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

- Day-1-A warm welcome and a brief introduction by each student about their partner from India set the ball rolling for the second Indo- Polish Exchange between RVS and Szkola Podstawowa. Ridgeans very proudly walked on stage, adorning their new uniform, as if announcing- here we are- the best! Colours chosen by each student were painted on hand. Handprints of each pair of students was carefully planted on a sheet of paper indicating - bond for-ever. Instant connection was made in school environment by our children as the vibes and layout of the school is so close to RVS. An introduction to Decoupage- an art form was enjoyed by our group of students and teachers. Creativity and talent was showcased through the delicately painted boxes. Each box had a story to tell which made it even more interesting. The final installation clearly indicated one goal but different perspectives- different countries and people yet united for humanity. This was Day 1 for RVS at Konstancin-Jeziorna, Poland.
- Day-2- Yet another joyous day goes by in this beautiful country. We are certain and we say this on everyone's behalf that so far Poland is breathtaking, both in the beauty it presents to us and the excitement it induces in us. Over this weekend, each of us have visited several places-old castle ruins, the seaside, various parks, shopping malls etc. This has given us a chance to spend quality time with our partners and their families individually. Furthermore we received the

opportunity to explore the cities more, and of course buy things we fancy :p. We are sure each and everyone one of us are grateful for the hospitality they extend, and can't wait to visit many more places in the following days.

That's all, dobranos :)

- Day 5-Visit to the UNESCO world Heritage site, Touran got our children into a mode of exploration. Together with their polish counterparts they all ensured that the tour guide answered all queries be it style of architecture- Gothic or Baroque

History of the Knights, economic activities and even the intriguing 'Leaning tower of Poland'

Observing cobbled streets, roof tops, cellar and even the hinges and handles of the huge doors got them to connect the famous 'Hogwarts' to the old city of Touran. A refreshing delight was the visit to the ginger bread museum and preparation of the 'Piernikow' the famous Touran delicacy. The charged up knights from Touran waved out to the old buildings of the Heritage site on the banks of Vistula thanking them for a promising day!

- Day-6-The purest air, steeped in a fragrant balm of sunbathed resin, the quiet whispers of the evergreen trees-Konstancin-Jeziorna is blessed with mother nature. To fill the lungs with fresh air and treat the eyes to the green cover the students explored the park through a treasure hunt cracking the QR codes and finding the treasures - a great way to learn the Polish history and culture.

Walking and getting fit while enjoying the pristine forest was a refreshing delight for our children . Though their technology clocked in 10000 steps their energy levels and radiant faces showed no sign of exhaustion. It definitely was the clean air and the de stressing forest of Konstancin, a health resort of Poland.This was day 6 !

- Day-7-The Polish Exchange- A Complete package

After a peep into the routine and functioning of a school the Ridgeans got an opportunity for a campus walk to the Vistula University in Warsaw. (Vistula is the main river of Poland meaning 'flowing Slowly')Getting an insight into the pedagogy, curriculum, multiculturalism, industry placements and infrastructure got many of our students hoping to come back to Poland for thier college.

An interaction with the vice- chancellor helped widen their perspective of importance of studying art and music along with economics or computer sciences- a model followed by the American system of education famously the Liberal Arts Education. May their aspirations and desire bear fruit and they like the Vistula slowly flow and find their destination.

The exchange is a wonderful beginning- experiences which will help them understand the ebb and flow of life and teach stability like the Vistula.

This was day 7!

- Day-8-Warsaw- Old City Exploration

Blue skies, crisp air and the backdrop of pastel coloured buildings rebuilt to their original architecture after the devastation of world war II was a perfect setting for our team of twenty Polish and Indian partners to set out on an exploration. The game was an intellectual one and was an investigation into history and culture of the old city 'My first guide of Warsaw' was created by students thorough codes, questions and tasks. The students moved around the cobbled streets all with thier gadgets in hands which were substituting lenses as they explored Piwna street, Barnicki palace and King Sigsimund Vasa.

A fantastic way to observe buildings, trace history and collect facts- in present day tech language the outcome was like an interactive screen, one needed to just click on names of polish- indian partners and out came information!

- Day-9-The children visited the City Town hall and got the golden opportunity to meet the mayor of Konstancin Je Zirona. There they got to know interesting facts about the city and about the architecture of the Town Hall itself.

The next in line was the polish dumpling making activity. It was held at one of the polish host family's restaurant .f

They all were amazed to see and learn about the polish dumplings which turned out to be very different from the food we have in India.They all had a wonderful time making and eating dumplings but soon they all left with their respective parents to prepare for the prom.

They all reached the school around 4:30 in their traditional dresses for Indian dance performance. It was crowded with many parents and others who were eagerly waiting for prom dance to begin.

First it began with the polish traditional dance ,which they had been practicing for so long . Followed by our Indian dance which everyone enjoyed .The third dance was again the polish traditional one. Later everyone was thanked and applauded for their efforts .

Last but not the least was the disco time which all the children were eagerly looking forward to. They all danced and dance. During which they also came accross new polish songs and dances.

The Prom day turned out to be a whole new experience for all of them. All the students are looking forward to more such experiences in the days to come.

- Day-10-Leadership @ the Polish Exchange

Our endeavour in the past 10 days has been giving varied experiences to our students. Its these episodes/ encounters which help them understand different perspectives, collaborate and creatively engage themselves in conversations. To keep this alive the students spent a day at the Town Hall interacting with the Mayor of Konstancin, who elaborated on the history and functioning of the townhall and the administration of Konstancin.

Experiencing a true cultural exchange-preparing the Polish dumplings and dancing instep with Polish and Indian music at the Prom night was definitely an affair or an experience which in future will help them exchange ideas during and formal or informal interactions- that is making 'conversations' which is an iintegral part of any leadership style.

This was day 10 !

- Day-11- A naturalist in this tech world!

Just think about it...

How are we supposed to care for the environment when we can't view the basic relationships between trees, water, plants, turtles, frogs, and everything else in the balance of nature? Thus what we need is our naturalist intelligence skills to make a come-back if we're going to restore the best possible future.

In a world driven by technology, being a naturalist is a somewhat rare aspiration. Most people never think about nature as being worthy of careful study in the same way you might study business or sports or music. Ridgeans got yet another opportunity to explore the Białowieża National Park in Poland. An experience which may change the way they look at the world and balance it with technology! Our students are getting back to their own country with a promise to create more green cover and restore forests.

- Day-12-Discovery- Science and Beyond

Visit to the science museum was all about discovery not only of scientific concepts but also of self. Students were engrossed in exploring the scientific principles set up as machines, their interest in science was evident form their eagerness to find answers to the concepts displayed. The calmness of the planetarium and the star gazing under the

night sky projected, got many to contemplate on the depth of the universe and the intriguing creation of the 'Power'. An extension of the connect to nature was the visit to the roof top garden on the university library. The science learnt at the museum came alive as students realised the application of some concepts in the development of the immaculately designed garden. A walk down the greens, the sharp sun and yet the cool breeze got all to sit together under the tree on the soft green grass and just very quietly absorb nature and connect within for self discovery.

Day-13-The Last Day

The cherry on the cake was the last day at Konstancin. It always is that as the time for departure gets closer all of us want to hold on to each minute, so was the case with all students and teachers alike as they set out boating together on the lake. The stillness of water and the nature around seemed to be wrapping us together tightly in similar thoughts - the trip, one of the most rewarding experiences in every ones lives. The day ended with a very special farewell attended by all host families. As the students shared their experiences with all , emotional surge for all couldnt keep tears away! The children posed with their Polish parents calling them 'Dad ' and 'Mom' , this got us to realise how long and far have we walked together- may the Polish India bond always be alive.

WHAT WENT WELL?

- The Polish Exchange program to School Podawastawa NR1, meaning Primary school NO1 is a public school and RVS went into the second cycle of exchange with them. A truly rewarding experience for the teachers and the taught.
- The trip was a fine balance of all four Cs of Education, creativity, collaboration ,critical thinking and C Communication. The entire experience brought out the above through various experiences. The same has been summed up day wise as above

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT NEXT TIME THIS ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE:

- Teacher selection – seniority in school could be considered.
- The administration team could be given an opportunity to observe facilities and school functioning
- Teachers looking at an opportunity to learn has to be as a teacher exchange as with students getting into classrooms to understand pedagogy becomes difficult
- Teacher selection process needs to be defined- performance based and interested teachers may submit their statement of purpose and selection to be accordingly done
- Team for planning of trip should have – International Exchange co ordinator, teachers visiting and the teachers who have returned after the exchange along with principal and head admin

Way forward at RVS

- The entire planning has to be done much in advance in order to make an experience as rewarding as for the RVS children
- Polish looking at English vocabulary building

Listening and speaking skills

Creative writing

Can we have the English week planned during that time

- Indian Culture- cuisine
- Bollywood- polish dance- fusion
- Art- block printing- professional help
- Visits- agra- Jaipur

Jum corbett park

Delhi Darshan – Humayun tomb and Lodhi Garden

Gandhi Museum- Tees January marg- with guide

Overnight at Tijarra Fort

- Teachers – better residential experience
 - Dinner with seniors- special experience
 - Gifts
- Evening of families
- All children to preferably carry cash card for ease of expenditure at transits. Teachers should have cash card for refreshments/ water or any other requirement of children.

- Gifts- Polish families went overboard for gifts. Limits have to be set.
- Make student leaders to implement Polish learning at RVS, especially, visual and performing arts.
- Best practices brought in by teachers brought for facilities and academic development to be considered for implementation.