



INDIE-project in BRITISH COUNCIL BRUSSELS

Dear Pitzemburger,

This year our school participates in a project of the British Council (BCC).

This international organisation focuses on the educational and intercultural relations between the United Kingdom and the rest of the world. Our school has chosen to be part of the INDIE-project, short for 'Inclusion and Diversity in Education.' The aim is to unite policy makers in the field of education and inclusion, head teachers and young leaders (pupils) from eight European countries. The participating countries are Germany, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Spain, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and of course, Belgium.



This project provides the opportunity to exchange ideas and develop best practice guidelines on building and developing diverse and inclusive schools. The first step towards this ambitious objective was taken at the end of November. Our school selected 10 pupils of the third year to attend a four day training session organised at the British Council in Brussels. The ten potential future leaders were: Boukich Elias (3E63), Broecks Tara (3A17), Chahbouni Fouad (3B17), De Ley Kristof (3E63), Hidalgo Gonzalez Silvio (3F32), Ndirembako Hakim (3D64), Kuyucuoglu Sammi (3C62), Van Keer Lindsey (3A12), Van Roy Yana (3E36), and Velez Gutierrez Amparo (3D64). The training focused on inclusion and diversity, with elements such as project management skills, communication and team working skills. Our stay was very inspiring and fruitful. At the end we came up with a school charter, and the blueprint for a project at our school. We also chose a young leader to represent our school at the following meetings, Yana van Roy. The next big step was the INDIE-conference which took place in Brussels, at the European Parliament on 29 February 2008. The delegates of our school were young leader Yana van Roy and head teacher Mr. Van der Auwera. During the conference international policy makers, head teachers and pupils from all participating countries discussed the subject. Between two and five young leaders from each country met and drew up a Charter on Inclusive Schools together, outlining the challenges and questions they see in this field for policy makers and heads of schools. This Youth Charter was presented to the policy makers and head teachers, who discussed the issues raised and, in response to the student voice, made a declaration on the management of diverse and inclusive schools. Keynote speeches were presented by Frank Vandenbroucke, Vice-Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister for Work, Education and Training and Odile Quintin, Director General DG Education and Culture, European Commission. Very important people!





In the light of the INDIE-project we have erected the **'Help the Mobile School'**-project to stress the diverse and inclusive character of Pitzemburg.

What?

The Mobile School (MS) focuses on the aid of street children, in especially third world countries. During the first trimester members of the MS came to our school to explain their intentions. We were baffled by their lecture. Through a fundraising at school we want to support this organisation. A mobile blackboard that is used in the field will be shown in the hallway of the school between 5 and 16 May.

Who?

The pupils and teachers that have put their shoulders under this project are: Boukich Elias, Broecks Tara, Chahbouni Fouad, De Ley Kristof, Hidalgo Gonzalez Silvio, Ndirembako Hakim, Kuyucuoglu Sammi, Van Keer Lindsey, Van Roy Yana, Velez Gutierrez Amparo, Miss R. Basile, and Mr. T. Nelissen.

How?

To raise funds we are going to organise two activities:

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1. Food Days: During lunch you can buy a slice of pizza or a dessert.
2. Basketball tombola: For the democratic price of € 1 you can throw three times and if you score once, you will have the chance to win a prize.

When?

These events will take place on 8, 9, 15 and 16 May.

You?

If you support our project you will ensure a better future for street children around the world. We are counting on you!



The INDIE conference

Somewhere in November 2007, ten students from this school were chosen for the INDIE-project (stands for 'Inclusion and Diversity in Education')

There we did quite a lot of stuff, including listening to (boring) lectures, finding a definition for the word 'inclusion', playing djembé and eating African food.

After spending the 4 days in Brussels with 10 students from another school in Flanders, every school had to choose one person to go to the next part of the project: the conference. In case you didn't get it yet by now, that person was me.

So, in February, the second part of the project started. Me, and the other 4 students representing Flanders (Veronique, Sara, Jeroen en Benjamin.) came back to Brussels. But this time, it wasn't just us.

There were students all over Europe :Germany, Netherlands, Wales, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Scotland, Italy and England. The reason the United Kingdom was split up was probably because English is their native language, so the communication would be easier for them.

Anyway, again, we stayed there for 4 days. We had to write a charter with all our demands from the Education system in Europe. This was a very time demanding activity. We were split up in groups, and in the end, we had to compare the individual charters and combine them into one.

But in between the sessions, we had time talk to the students from other countries, and I guess there were indeed a lot of differences between our schools.

The last day, we went to the Parliament to present our charter. We talked, and adults listened. An interesting change.

And finally, we all went home. For me, it was only a few minutes on the train, for others, it was hours on a plane...

And then, I could catch up with all the school work I had missed.

Yana Van Roy. 3

