

:: ROMANIA...

:: The Shapes and Symbols among the centuries in my homeland... ::



formed, the students were asked to come in front of the audience and show the outcome of their work. The first group had to suggest the message of the text by means of a drawing: students from Romania, Finland and Holland contributed to creating a wonderful graphic rendition of the historic moment presented in the text.

The second group encompassed students from Italy and Romania and their task was to associate rhythms and sounds which would communicate the message of the text. They chose Queen's "We will rock you" as their starting point, and actually enchanted the audience with their sense of rhythm and rhyme. The third group was meant to create a dramatic approach to the text in the form of a dialogue and students from Spain and Romania became for a second historic characters such as soldiers digging a ditch and even Caesar himself, discussing the way in which Alesia could be defended from enemy raids. Another group had to describe the natural environment presented in the text, and the students from Greece analyzed in detail the way in which natural elements were used as a form of protection, as they appeared from the fragment. One more task was to mime the content of the text and the group was made of Bulgarian and Romanian students who delivered a playful representation of the actual digging, hiding, and attacks that were said to have taken place. Finally, students from Turkey and Holland were given the task to rewrite the text as if they were the authors and they focused on minute details such as the use of suffixes and prefixes and sentence structure.

The entire process was carefully watched by the coordinating teachers who made sure that all the groups had understood the exact request of their task and offered additional information when necessary, and all final products were analyzed by the other students. The outcome was delightful, all the students involved enjoyed the activity and showed the best of their creative and cooperative skills. The final stage of the workshop was held by Greek teacher Kalliopi Xanthopou who organized a shadow theatre during which students were asked to play various roles about equality, justice, friendship, peace. Then, they had to perform certain roles behind a white curtain: their native country, rivers, mountains which connect different countries and peoples. The activity ended on the rhythms of the European Union anthem, when all the participants held hands and created a bridge of friendship.

C.

COMENIUS PARTNERSHIP PROJECT
"BEYOND WORDS"

Project Meeting at "Constantin Bratescu" National Pedagogic College, Constanta, Romania. The third meeting of Comenius Partnership Project "Beyond Words" was held in Constanta, at National Pedagogic College between 13th and 18th of April, 2010. The activities were developed according to the project requirements: "The communication of concepts, ideas and universal values through the alternative language of art."

Workshop: "The Shapes and Symbols among the centuries in my homeland". "Constantin Bratescu" National Pedagogic College, Constanta, on April 15th 2010. The workshop whose target participants were the students from all partner countries, was structured into three parts: firstly, all participants were invited to share their presentations on a range of topics such as their country of origin, their city/town and their school. Secondly, they were divided

into six groups and were asked to perform different tasks which involved written and communication skills. Thirdly, they were asked to take part in the shadow theatre activity, held by Greek teacher Kalliopi Xanthopou. To begin with, Romanian students Emil Petru and Ionut Tunescu delivered presentations on Romania - picturesque county and Constanta - the dream city between past and present as well as a final insight into the National Pedagogic College "Constantin Bratescu" - European School. Students from the other partner countries Spain, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey, Holland, Finland and Italy, delighted us with similar presentations regarding their country's specific signs and symbols. All these presentations were extremely well received by the audience and they were followed by a Q-A session during which students could find out more information about the topics presented.

After a ten-minute break, students were asked to take part in a game called "With and without words", which represented the most creative part of the workshop. The basis of the game was a short text from Caesar's De Bello Gallico. All students received a copy of the fragment discussing Caesar's works around Alesia, and they were divided into six groups, each group encompassing four or five students. The tasks they received were meant to emphasize various skills and trigger imaginative responses. Twenty minutes later, putting together their individual ideas regarding the manner in which the tasks could be per-