

ECO COTTAGES

Location: Golte ski resort

Date: 23rd – 27th January 2012

Participants: pupils of 6th A and 6th B class



Each year our 6th classes spend five days away from school and take part in a school outdoors programme we call “šola v naravi”. It is a special programme sponsored by the government, however not in its entirety. Each school has to offer at least one such opportunity for pupils to experience travelling away from home and spend some time learning about things outside school. Some schools choose only one possibility for such a programme, ours, however, tends to choose more.

Photo 1: 6th A and B classes at Golte with their ski instructors

III. OŠ Celje offers the following school outdoors programmes: Astro Camp in 3rd class, Swimming School in 5th class, Skiing School in 6th class and Co-existence with Nature in 8th class. As mentioned before, this programme is sponsored by the state and it is fully covered if a school only offers one. We nevertheless feel that programmes like this bring a special challenge and



Photo 2: Learning to ski can also be hard, especially in a snow storm



advantage and strive to have as many pupils attend as possible in as many different programmes as we can afford. We believe that the work accomplished there cannot be reproduced anywhere else, the pupils are highly motivated and leaving the classrooms is such a thrill for both pupils and teachers that learning comes effortlessly, naturally.

Photo 3: We know we're learning and working, but it just doesn't feel like it

To return to our Skiing School at Golte, we had our work cut out for us. There have been so many activities planned for our five days there, no one actually expected us to successfully complete them all. Nevertheless, being as hard-working as we are, we managed to complete all our tasks and have some fun doing them as well. Apart from spending every day skiing from 9 o'clock a.m. to 4 o'clock p.m. with a short lunch break in between, we organized a fashion show and a quiz, had classes every day in the afternoon, organized a hiking trip at night and learnt about the stars, competed in a real skiing competition, created some eco art and actually learnt to ski. All of us! Even those who had never stood on a pair of skis before.



Photo 4: The night, the stars and us

Although we were far away from our homes and school, we still remembered our Euro School Links Comenius Project and decided to use our time together to contribute to it. Our teachers



got the idea of using one of our walks around Golte to collect some natural materials like pinecones, twigs and, little stones and things like that to re-create a small cottage typical of our and our neighbours' mountainsides. We naturally brought some materials with us as well and it was off to work for us.

Photo 5: Working on our cottages

We were staying at a mountain cottage ourselves, so the idea of how a cottage should look like came quite easily. We also had some photos and painting of old cottages scattered around Golte on every wall which made our task even easier. But having an idea and making it into a small piece of art is a whole different matter. We tried to do our best, but you will have to be the judge of how successful we were.



Photo 6: Adding some final touches







The pictures above are but a token of different things we've created at Golte and we hope you at least found one you like. More than the actual cottages and the things we've made during our stay at Golte, we've thoroughly enjoyed stay there and the chance to get to know us and our teachers a little better, to experience the thrill of travelling somewhere and enrich our lives as a result, to get a new perspective of life and the world and the desire to want to achieve and experience more. And although skiing was our first and primary goal it was not even nearly the only one. We can ski now, but there's a world of opportunities and thing yet to learn out there and we're more than ready to meet the challenge!

Photo 7: I may have cut my finger a bit, but I'm ready for more!



Photo 8: See you at Golte!