

3rd PRIMARY NEWS

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YOUR MONTHLY FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

March 2012

3rd Primary visits Santiago



The Slovenian team is posing for the camera (operated by Mr. Manuel from Portugal) in front of Santiago de Compostela's amazing cathedral. Don't we look cute in our sponsor's hats?

27th February 2012. Finally the big day had come, a day we had been preparing and waiting for for a long, long time. It was just after the school holidays and we couldn't believe our luck because we got to have an extra week of holidays!

"The day itself started quite differently from what we all are used to. Instead of sleeping in for an extra hour or so, we got thrown up by our alarm clocks at about 5 o'clock a.m. It was time to grab your bags and hit the road because the plane waits for no man" remembers Mr. Verhovšek

"Santiago and Galicia proved to be a big surprise to all. Its beauty and hospitality bedazzle just about anyone", explains Mrs. Vajdič project co-coordinator

A bilateral exchange is what took place during 27th February and 3rd March this year between Lamas de Abade and 3rd Primary School Celje.

It was a planned students' exchange within the Comenius Euro School Links Project and was only the first part. The second part comes in April when the Spanish students visit their Slovenian hosts.

Euro School Links is a two-year Comenius project that started in September 2011. There are 9 partner schools in the project and each year two of the partner schools cooperate more closely and organize two students' exchanges between them.

This was the first of both exchanges and the students participating felt rather special for being given the opportunity to go. The six days spent in Spain were unforgettable and very exciting, giving us an opportunity to learn about the people of Galicia, their culture, heritage and way of life. In addition we got to see some amazing places and experience a lot of memorable moments. In fact we became a part of the Galician people since we got welcomed into their homes and families. Our stay with them also taught us a lot about them as well as ourselves, an experience we will most definitely never forget.

It was not all fun and games, of course. We had our share of work and homework. We spent some time working on a four language dictionary, took part in a photo contest and a treasure hunt in the old part of Santiago, but mostly, we got to spend a lot of time with our newly acquired friends while having fun. We visited some very interesting cities close to Santiago, had a bath in hot springs, ate some delicious mussels, tried loads of other fabulous traditional Spanish food and made some great friends. Before we knew it it was time to leave already and we were very sorry to do so. Perhaps we can go back some day...

Let's see what the students had to say about the visit.

Jošt writes: "Before going there, it seemed very exciting. Because we knew that only a few students would go, I just couldn't imagine that I'd be one of them. So, at the beginning I didn't even really expect to be chosen to go there. But I was very surprised when I heard that I was meant to go to Spain. At that time many expectations arose, curiosity, worry ... Gradually I started to count down the days. And the day of leaving was approaching closer and closer. At the end I was completely beside myself with expectations and enthusiasm. At last – that Monday the 27th of February came and we left for Spain.

We all enjoyed (well, at least I think so) ourselves on our long way there without having any troubles. But upon arrival at the Santiago airport, I was curious to discover to what sort of family I was to go to, how Elena would look like, what kind of car they had, how their home would be, brothers, sisters, etc. Well, everything was fine, according to my expectations and Elena proved to be very pretty. Those few days swiftly came to an end. Every day I experienced something new or interesting (Tuesday – visit to their school, the old town centre and the cathedral; Wednesday – Ourense; Thursday – coast villages and sailing by a boat; Friday – visit to museum of Galicia, Culture city of Galicia)."

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More stories and exciting reading ahead



A stunning sight of the city of Santiago can be observed from the roof of the cathedral. It may look like we're sitting on some steps outside, but it's actually the roof. We assure you.

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„Suddenly I realised that the last day had come. We got up very early in order to arrive to the airport on time. We bade our Spanish hosts farewell – some of them shed some tears as we left. Of course, at home they were very happy to see me back again. But the journey was definitely over and that fact didn't make me too happy. I really liked this trip: to see many new, unknown places, people... Everything passed too fast. Nothing was really wrong, quite to the contrary; we spent a very nice time there. And so we are eagerly waiting for our Spanish friends to visit us.”

„Our trip to Spain was really amazing. We saw a school in Santiago and the old part of Santiago. One day we took a boat ride on the sea and we ate mussels, but I really didn't like them. We visited many other small cities like Pontevedra and Orense where we could swim in a spa. We also got a chance to visit the City of culture of Galicia. The weather was really nice, the sun shone all the time. We also ate some traditional Spanish food like paella and omelettes. Everything was very nice, the people are really friendly and polite and I hope that I get to visit again.”, remembers Nina Žlof.

„This trip was something new for me. I met new people and I met new friends. My family were nice and friendly. I had a great time with them. We spoke about the Spanish, Galician and Slovenian language. They are so different. We had a little problem with English. Some words were very funny and we had fun. I ate traditional Spanish food. And it is delicious. We spoke about my family and they could not pronounce our names. They pronounced my name as Lehla. And now my friend call me Lehla. I met two nice dogs. Everyday I drove by bus to school. On Thursday I tasted mussels. They are good. I had a great time with my host family and with all the people I met. People in Spain are very friendly.”, some thoughts by Lejla Valentič.

Miha Mohorčič describes his experience as follows: *“When I got the information that I'll be going to Spain, I was very happy. On 27th February we drove to Venice. I was afraid because this was my first time flying. We landed safely in Madrid. We arrived to Santiago at 8 o'clock where we met our host families and we had dinner. Santiago de Compostela is a very nice town, much bigger than Celje. The cathedral in Santiago is also huge and very nice. So is the old part of the town. We visited the host school, Lamas de Abade, as well, but I liked our better. The Spanish school is just too big for me. But as a whole I really enjoyed the trip with all the fun we had there.”*

„Spain. We finally arrived to Spain. We waited for that moment for a long time. We had been preparing PowerPoint presentations and our Comenius tree for ages. And now our trip to Spain started. We were all nervous, but we all got on well with our host families. We visited a lot of new and interesting places, we made new friends, and I think we will never forget this experience. All the museums, new cities, hot but windy weather... Sounds dreamy. And it was. In only 5 days, we went to a lot of different cities, we went swimming and to one of the most known cathedrals in the world and what is the most important. we had a lot of fun!

Santiago is an amazing city, and so is the school where we spend a lot of our time. People there are so nice and spending time with the families was something unforgettable. This was definitely an awesome experience and I hope to do something similar for them when they come to Celje.”, thoughts by Taja Rebov.

In conclusion, it's our turn in April to show our Spanish friends our Slovenian hospitality when they visit. Looking forward to it. A big thanks for organizing the trip to Pepe, Pilar and Roberto, as well as Zavarovalnica Maribor for being our sponsor. A. Verhovšek, project coordinator