

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

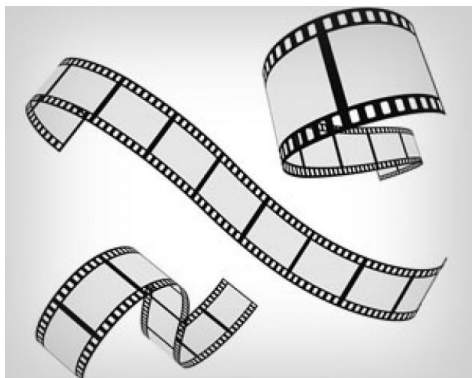
We are a state school which is located in Göle/ARDAHAN with the population of about 20.000, in the northeast Anatolia surrounded by pine trees, crystal clear air and rivers. Göle is above 2100 meter above sea level. So winter conditions are really severe. But we managed to change this disadvantage into a great advantage. For instance our students can ice skate on 6 months frozen rivers☺. We have indeed many natural and historical values worth to see like Ani Ancient City, Castle of Devil, Çıldır Lake, Sarıkamış Ski Centre, Şavşat Sahara National Park, Kalecik Castle and so on. Our school has both primary and secondary level students whose age range is between 4 and 15.

THEME

This project is about sharing each other's cultural items in a real life experience such as dances, songs, motivations and difficulties that students faced during their education life.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The project focuses on making cross cultural connections by living a real life in foreign cultures. In our project, all the participants are going to prepare a scenario about student's daily life in their own countries. This scenario is



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include cultural items and other participants will be the actors and the actresses. Let me explain it in one specific example. Imagine that we are 4 participants which are Turkey, Participant A, Participant B and Participant C. According to our scenario, we need 5 students to act in our

short film. That means 5 students in each participants. Students will act in this film and they will get the real life experience in other cultures. Thanks to these role students will be able to share dances, songs and culture, learning from other countries at the same time. After filming all participant's cultures, these films will be uploaded on a website. This website will enable us to evaluate the best film by voting anonymous volunteers. The most positive voted film will be sent for the international short film festivals.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR THE PROJECT

A) Sightseeing tours of the historical and natural places nearby

1. Ani Ancient City



The Monastery of the Hripsimian Virgins, in the ruins of the city of Ani, Turkey, on April 19, 2011. The monastery is thought to have been built between 1000 and 1200 AD, near the height of Ani's importance and strength. The Akhurian River below acts as the modern border between Turkey and Armenia.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2014/01/the-ancient-ghost-city-of-ani/100668/>

2. Çıldır Frozen Lake



Lake located 45 km away from the Ardahan city center in a height of 1956 mt above sea level and covers an area of 25 km². Lake freezes in the late november due to the very tough and cold weather conditons and ice depth exceeds 1 mt. The ice of the lake stays on surface until the beginning of April. Especially in winters when the lake is freezed many people all around the area come to visit it for ice fishing, ice skating etc.

3. Şeytan Castle



Şeytan Castle (Turkish: *Şeytan Kalesi*, Georgian: ქაჯობ ციხე) is a castle in the Çıldır district of the Ardahan Province in Turkey.

4. Karagöl

Karagöl-Sahara is a national park in the Şavşat district of Artvin Province, Turkey. It is located in the Black Sea region and formed by two separate areas, namely Karagöl and Sahara plateau. Karagöl is located at 45 km from Şavşat, while Sahara plateau is 17 km from the town.



B) Learning how to cook local dishes



Preparing goose is a really tough job. It takes time and needs effort but it really has a different taste than any other fowl. First, after they slaughter the goose, they clean inside and out. They pull all the feathers up and wash and drain for a while until it dries completely.

Then they rub the goose inside and out with plenty of salt. They put some really heavy material on it to drain all the blood for a week .

When it comes to cooking, they cut goose into parts like breast, legs, wings, neck...If you want to roast it as whole, definitely you could. But here, some people divide it into parts first before cooking.

C) Doing seasonal sports



Sarıkamış Ski Centre 50km away from Kars, is on a muddy mount in Sarıkamış county. In Sarıkamış Ski Centre there is one 844m long teleski facility and two ski houses. The ski season in Sarıkamış Ski Centre is from December to April and the thickness of the snow in Sarıkamış reaches upto 50-200cm. In the centre the track length is 1200m. Also a 2 quartet teleski has been procured by the Ministry of Tourism at Cıbıltete in Sarıkamış Ski Centre.

D) Joining local festivals

1. Balçeşme Kite Festival



Here we have about 6 local festivals. One of them is “Balçeşme Kite Festival” which is unique for our school and celebrated by the whole town at Balçeşme highland. Our partners from all over the Europe will come to join and learn (with teachers and students) the festival and by joining this

festival participant will be able to get chance to improve their friendship.

2. Ardahan Local Folk Dances



E) Workshops about motivations and difficulties of the students as a perspective of other partners

By joining this project, students will be able to get chances;

- To learn and join local in foreign countries' festivals.
- To learn to dance traditional dances from European countries.
- To improve their empathy skills though the other cultures.
- To produce solutions for the difficulties that students face.
- To change natural and local handicaps into the advantages
- To foster English skills.
- To learn about other countries' traditions
- To promote our own culture in different counties.

RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

Through these activities, children will learn about other countries' culture and traditions by living these cultures as a real life. Thanks to these experiences participants will be able to;

- improve their self-confidence on facing other cultures.
- get a new aspect for the peace and friendship.
- improve their empathy skills through the other cultures, which enables them to look different perspective for the problems that they face.
- produce solutions for common problems of students.
- improve their language skills in an authentic way.
- behave more motivated when they face with the difficulties in their education life.

At the same time, they will acquire an awareness of the similarities and differences of each other's cultures.

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