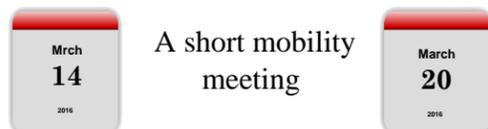


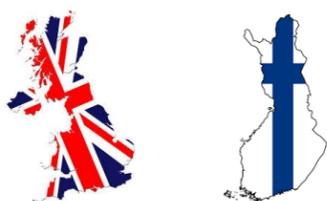
Erasmus + I.M.A.G.I.N.E calendar:



The students and the teachers from Lycée Honoré Baradat (Pau / France) will be meeting in Lithuania.



Mini dictionary



| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Good morning - | Hyvää huomenta |
| Good evening - | Hyvää iltaa |
| Good afternoon - | Hyvää päivää |
| Cheers - | Kippis or hölkyn kolkyn :) |
| What's your name? - | Mikä on nimesi? |
| Nice to meet you - | Hauska tavata |
| Where are you from - | Mistä tulet? |
| Thank you - | Kiitos |
| You're welcome - | Ole hyvä |
| Please - | Ole hyvä |
| How are you today? - | Kuinka voit tänään? |
| Goodbye - | Näkemiin |

Produced by

Elektrėnų 'Versmės'
gymnasium in
Lithuania



From the left:
Rita Grigonienė,
Ilona Švenčionytė,
Anelė Valentinavičienė,
Neringa Laimutytė



What's Up?

Finland

Participating countries:



- Location - Finland is located between Sweden and Russia, it also borders the Baltic Sea, Gulf of Bothnia, and Gulf of Finland
- Capital – Helsinki
- Flag – On a white background, it features a blue Nordic cross
- Population – 5,486,125
- Currency – Euro (EUR)
- Official languages – Finnish and Swedish
- Traditional food – Leipäjuusto, Lihapullat, Hernekeitto, Kaalikääryleet



The coat of arms

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Alajärvi

A small town, Alajärvi, is located in the Western Finland and is part of the Southern Ostrobothnia region, which is one of the 19 regions of Finland. In addition, the town covers an area of 1,056.75 square kilometres of which 47.99 km² is water. The population density is 10.04 inhabitants per square kilometre.

What is interesting to note

is that the town is unilingually Finnish, which means - there are just a few immigrants.

Although Alajärvi is a small town, it has a few shops such as Lidl, Tokmanni and a few others. In 2013 a public natatorium was opened, which also includes a weight-lifting room.



A bowling evening in Alajärvi



In a bowling hall



Mihovilovic Marin

On Monday, after having had a hectic but interesting work session, the participants of the project had the opportunity to try their hand at playing bowling.

All guests were charmed by seeing a beautiful and spacious building, which houses a huge bowling hall and a cafe-bar. The participants of the project were divided into teams and started to play bowling. Although there were some who held the bowling ball for the first time, nobody could have dared to deny that the game fared well. Moreover, each team had a chance to boast of having a game leader. For example, the headmaster, Giacomo Zanellato, from Monselice, Italy, also the coordinators Vincent Samuel from Pau and Frederic Samuel from La Rochelle, France, as well as the members of Finnish team.

After the game, the guests were welcomed to taste Finnish cuisine together with a delicious birthday cake, which was specially baked for Rosa Martins. The participants of the project presented the songs of their countries by singing in tandem.

All in all, the guests returned to Isoniemi with elate with a feeling that the cold and the snow just suddenly melted away.



Music band from Finland



Dear Friends,

It's a pity I haven't written for such a long time. Perhaps you've heard that I'd been badly sick for a few months:((But as you understood I'm full of energy now and would like to share some news of the Erasmus + IMAGINE meeting that took place in Alajarvi school, in Finland on 17-23 January.

So, when the time came to meet up, the teachers of the project together with the school headmasters had a unique opportunity to feel what it is like to live in Finland.

Not only was the cold, but also the nature left all participants speechless on the arrival day. Nevertheless, the thermometer showed minus 25 degrees below zero! Can anyone imagine this:)))

So, everyone was in a rush to get into the vans just not to be bitten by the chill that was felt in the air. Heading to the north, the thermometer column was falling down and as soon as the participants of the project reached Alajarvi it had already been minus 30 degrees.

All in all, everyone had the most remarkable experience despite the fact that the place of the meeting was a real test of freezing cold to all participants, especially to the countries further to the south.

Just a few tips for the future for those who wish to spend the winter time in the north of Finland:

- Carry an IMAGINE star
- Meet up with friends for a hot cup of tea
- Catch the snowflakes and enjoy the fun of winter
- Try the ice-fishing
- Have a picnic on the bank of the lake
- Taste the Finnish cuisine
- Get a warm, colourful sweater and a pair of hand-made socks

Your Santa

Recipe of Karjalan Piirakka (Karelian Pie) With Egg Butter

Ingredients

• 1/2cup butter, melted
Filling:

- 2cups water
- 1cup uncooked rice
- 2cups milk
- salt

Crust:

- 1/2cup water
- 1teaspoon salt
- 1cup rye flour
- 1/4cup all-purpose flour
- Egg Butter:
- 1/2cup butter, at room temperature
- 2hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- 1pinch fresh ground white pepper (optional)
- 1pinch ground ginger (optional)

Preparation

For the Filling:

In a saucepan combine the water and rice. Bring to a boil. Stir, cover, and cook over low heat for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add the milk, cover, and continue cooking until the milk is completely absorbed and the rice is soft and creamy.

Preheat oven to 450°F

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

For the Pastry:

In a medium-sized bowl, combine the water, salt, and rye and white flours to make a stiff dough.

Shape the dough into a log and cut into 16 portions and shape each into a round.

On a lightly floured board, roll out each round into a 6-inch circle.

Spread about 3 tablespoons of filling evenly on each round.

Fold two opposite edges of the pastry over the filling and crimp the edges of the dough toward the center to make an oval-shaped pastry, allowing about 1/2-inch of the crust to overlay the filling and leaving the center of the filling exposed.

Place on the prepared baking sheet.

In a small bowl, stir together the melted butter and hot milk and brush on the pastries.

Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, brushing once during baking, until the pastries are golden on the edges.

Remove from the oven and brush again.

For the Egg Butter:

In a small bowl, cream the butter. Stir in the eggs.

Season with the white pepper and ground ginger, if desired.

Yield: 1 cup.

Cool the pastries and serve with the egg butter at room temperature. Enjoy!



Karjalan Piirakka (Karelian Pie) With Egg Butter

Pekka Kylkilahti's remarks about the meeting in Finland

1. The biggest project meeting of headmasters and teachers of participating schools was held in your school, what steps were taken in order to organise this kind of event?

- Like every organiser knows, it is a lot of work. We (Maria and me) started to work for this meeting in October, on every school-day after school lessons and also on two Saturdays. There are a lot of details you must do before the guests come: transport, lunches, coffee-breaks, dinner, accomodation, dissemination, IT-equipment (Vesa organised), identity cards (Jyrki made), our own app, posters, e-mail correpondence, program (It helped that the official part of that was made by Fred), timetable for everything, budget and invoices for the schools, official paperworks (attendance certificates and etc.), and of course the weather!



Pekka Kylkilahti

2. What challenges has your team encountered? What was that you are the most happy about?

- The challenges: first of all, timetable for everything and transport. Especially the accomodation was quite far away from the school. And secondly, the weather: we hoped for a real winter, and yes we got a REAL REAL FINNISH W I N T E R ! We are very happy that everything succeeded so well (we think so): timetable, transport and also the weather. When our guests arrived from Helsinki at midnight to Alajärvi, it was -35 cold, I thought it is maybe too cold, because the accomodation cottages are normally used at summertime. But the owners of the place, Isoniemi couple had heated the cottages also with fireplaces. Nobody was cold during the night. I think this hard weather was also for everybody an unforgettable and unique experience. I think the most happy I am the feeling, the atmosphere, togetherness among us all during the meetings at school and in the evenings. I must say that in every meeting our togetherness has been really great.





Pupils are welcoming the guests



The headmaster of Alajärven Yläkoulu Heimo Kemppainen



From left: Anelė Valentinavičienė, Pekka Kylkilahti, Maria Hautamaki, Eglė Grigonytė, Arūnas Pliskauskas, Vesa Kantola, Rita Grigonienė

3. How were the pupils involved in the process?

- Our pupils are in so called international club (20 pupils meet every Friday after the school lessons). And they were involved as well as took part in everything we had planned. They also arranged the evening program for French 'geekboys' Jonah and Jorry.

4. How many teachers and pupils are actively participating in this project? Are the parents of the pupils also involved?

- Teachers - there could be more. Three very active teachers, but we also got help for the programs from Saila (main-poster, bags and mental supporter!), Anneli and Jyrki (dinner at Paavola's, winter activities, identity cards), Riitta-Liisa (pupils' play), Urmas (pupils' music), Seija (finnish specialities at domestic class), Antero (roadie and bassist), Hannu (tickets and some translations) and Heimo (headmasters' meeting and letting our school to join in the Erasmus). I think the parents will be involved when they will be the host families for the Elektrėnai and Monselice pupils!

5. Where is your next meeting going to take place?

- On April 2- 9 in Monselice with pupils and on May 8- 14 we will be having guests from Elektrėnai and Monselice.

The headmasters' work session

The work session among the participants of the project in Finland was a kind of special as it involved not only the project coordinators and IT teachers, but also the headmasters of participating schools working under a separate programme.

At first, each headmaster was asked to present his country's educational system as well as the teaching institution. Later on, the headmasters and their representatives were given a range of questions, which were followed by detailed answers.

During the work session, all worrying questions regarding school were also discussed in an enthusiastic way. The main topics were as follows:

1. School drop-outs
2. School failure

Talking about these issues, each school deals with arisen problems differently. All schools have behavioral rules that pupils must follow up. Moreover, educational institutions have their own system of penalties for being absent at school for no reason. The role of psychologists and social educators as well as their work with truant pupils had been discussed during the debate. All in all, the headmasters not only shared their problems, but also sought various ways and means to solve them.



Michel Feauveau



Giacomo Zanellato and M. Beatrice Murcaca



From left: Vesa Kantola, Pekka Kylkilahti, Maria Hautamäki, Heimo Kemppainen, Esa Kaunisto

Frederic Samuel, the leader of IMAGINE project, summed up the work results of the whole week and emphasised that with the help of new ideas the application was developed as well as tested. He thanked all IT experts who had done a great job by showing the teachers how various applications should be created.

After having heard all solemn and warm words, the participants of the project had the opportunity to taste the mouth-watering Finnish cuisine as well as savor some desserts. The time passed swiftly in the whirl of dances and songs. And finally, in a tone of sadness, the participants had to say goodbye to each other with the hope of meeting again.

All participants would like to say a sincere thank you to the headmaster of Alajärvi school, Heimo Kemppainen, to the coordinator of IMAGINE project, Frederic Samuel, to the coordinator of Finland, Pekka Kylkilahti, to the project members Maria Hautamaki, Vesa Kantola, Anneli and Jyrki Paavola and all others who had helped to organise such a significant meeting in Finland.



From left: Johans Besse, Etienne Carnovalli, Frederic Samuel

IT teachers' work session

On 19 January, a high school teacher, Etienne Carnovali, who works at Lycee Leonce Vieljeux, in La Rochelle, presented an original version of an IMAGINE game which had been created together with his students prior to coming to Finland. In addition, the application had to be downloaded to the smartphones of each IT teacher participating in the work session.

Later on, the programming environment of MIT App Inventor was introduced by the team members of La Rochelle. An attractive and at the same time a simple graphical interface of the program was demonstrated, which was easily mastered by the participants of the project. Inspired by the picturesque examples of IT teacher, Etienne Carnovali, the listeners tried to create and test a few simple applications on their own, which could be used for smart devices such as smartphones and tablets.

The next morning, the project participants, who were accompanied by Alajärvi school pupils, were testing the application created by La Rochelle team. The start was given at the school yard, where everyone first danced the Finnish national dance called *Letkis*. Then, the app testers guided by Etienne Carnovali walked towards the lake, stopped by the church and the public library as well as recycling site and some playfields. Furthermore, in every stopping point the participants were able to get acquainted with the purpose and the history of the sites visited. In addition, everyone could answer the test questions. All in all, the program worked perfectly.

On 21 January, the La Rochelle team explained how the game program was set up and how to make any changes within it. And finally, the homework given for each participating team is to check how the program works and in case there's a need - make some improvements.



Frederic Samuel and Rosa Martins



During the IT teachers' work session



IT specialists from left: Jorry Bringer, Etienne Carnovalli, Jonah Alle Monne

Around motivation



From left: Irene Kohenoff and Frederic Samuel

One of the subjects in the Alajärvi meeting was 'Around Motivation', presented by Irene Kohenoff and Frederic Samuel, representing Lycée Vieljeux, the school of La Rochelle, in France.

The session started with the presentation of a slideshow. The group promoted the discussion on the show they were watching. What is Motivation? Is it different for students and teachers?

The whole group was divided into a couple of teams. Each one received the task to answer the following questions:

Task 1:

Do you feel motivated today? To which purpose?

How could we define motivation? Table of boosters and obstacles.

Task 2:

What are the conditions that should bring teachers to motivate pupils?

Task 3:

And you, as a teacher, what makes you a good motivator every day?

Propose actions to recharge your batteries.

Essential qualities for a motivator.

Task 4:

What are the reasons that can bring pupils to motivate themselves?

Task 5:

Think and exchange around indicators showing demotivated pupils (bad family's situation, bullying, social problems, different interests outside school)

The final question was made to sum up the whole subject of Motivation:

How did IMAGINE develop motivation on the students and on the teachers?

Amongst students - besides all the learning and practicing of new knowledges, new skills, - there's always the intercultural interaction with new friends from all the countries, which allows better language skills and self-confidence. Better social skills, tolerance, new experience of life, development of cultural knowledge are also results, as well as learning how to give a second look to environment, to people, to situations.

For teachers, we considered sharing good practices and development of cooperative work.

A farewell evening at Punaisen winery

On 22 January, all participants of the project gathered at Alajärvi Punaisen winery in the suburb of the town, where the festive farewell evening took place.

Esa Kaunisto, who is in charge of supervising regional schools, gave a welcoming speech. Not only did he emphasize the great importance of the project IMAGINE to Alajärvi school, but also to the entire community of the town. He also wished success and patience in pursuing such an important and useful project.

Heimo Kempainen, the headmaster of Alajärvi school, was glad that such a significant meeting of the headmasters and the members of the project from various European countries was held in his school. According to Mr. Kempainen, the discussion on *school dropouts* and *attendance* was put forward as the main concern of each school. Moreover, it was a priceless opportunity to learn from each other's experience.

Pekka Kylkilahti, the coordinator of IMAGINE project at Alajärvi school, was also satisfied with the reached outcome of the meeting. The headmaster, Heimo Kempainen, and the coordinator, Pekka Kylkilahti, handed in some small gifts for all participants of the project. The attendance certificates were promised to be sent later.



From left: Vesa Kantola, Pekka Kylkilahti, Maria Hautamäki, Heimo Kempainen



The members of Lithuanian team

The final concert of Finnish pupils for the guests of the project



During the concert

On 22 January, all participants were invited to the main hall of the school. The headmaster of Alajärvi school, Heimo Kemppainen, gave a welcoming speech, thanked everyone for having the productive work week as well as for the opportunity to gain more experience. In addition, Mr. Kemppainen pointed out the importance of such a meeting as various countries' educational systems and schools had been introduced, compared and contrasted by all participating headmasters of the project.

After the introductory word of the headmaster of Alajärvi school, the Finnish member of IMAGINE project, Maria Hautamäki, presented the pupils who had prepared and showed an amazing concert. Not only did the songs captivate the hearts of all participants, but also the dances, which left none indifferent. Moreover, the pupils performed a short humorous scene from the Finnish everyday life. In the end of the concert, the teachers and the pupils were singing all together. After the concert everyone was so impressed that the applause were able to be heard even hundreds of kilometers away.

The participants of the project left Alajärvi school high-spirited, vigorous and positively emotional.



The fairwell concert

The evening of national dishes at ISONIEMI

On 20 January, after taking part in various active winter sport competitions, the evening of national dishes was held at Isoniemi. All delegations had been carefully preparing for this event. The food products, which were brought by the project participants, became the main ingredients of each country's national dish. In addition, everything was laid on beautifully decorated tables. There was a wide range of tastes such as sweet dishes from Portugal, fabulous duck flavour soups from France, fried sausages from Croatia, Parmesan and other types of cheese from Italy, potato salad and fried sausages from Finland, the Spanish traditional pie as well as Lithuanian sausage *skilandis*, fried bread with garlic and of course, some pork flich.

Not only did the participants of the project taste mouth-watering food from different countries, but also shared the recipes as well as played and sang in different languages during the whole evening of national dishes, which has already become a tradition of the IMAGINE project.



Etienne Carnovalli



Traditional dishes



From left: Giacomo Zanellato, Giuseppe Lamanna, Emilia Balielo

Winter activities in Isoniemi



Frederic Samuel

On 20 January, on Wednesday, the winter sports activities were organised by the Finnish team to all participants of the project.

Although it was freezing cold, everyone gathered at the recreation centre of Isoniemi on the shore of a huge lake. Various winter sports activities were offered: sledging, skiing, skating, snowshoeing or ice-fishing. In addition, the owner of the recreation centre put forward the idea of riding a snow motorcycle with a trailer on a frozen lake, which was not only an unexpected surprise to the participants of the project, but also a very enjoyable one.

Later on, everyone tried their hand at various sports: ski-racing, sledging and ice-fishing. The guests were particularly interested in snowshoes as many of them had never worn in their life before.

Anneli and Jyrki Paavola's, Vesa Kantola, Pekka Kylkilahti and Maria ... were very hospitable. Hot coffee, tea, salad and grilled sausages were offered during the breaks. Moreover, the Finnish team showed how the campfire can be lighted up without any use of flammable liquids just natural resources.

After having had one of the most exciting workouts, the participants of the project dispersed contentedly, but not for long. In the evening, the guests had a chance to enjoy a hot Finnish sauna as well as try the other extreme winter activity – have a swim in the ice-hole of the lake. Unfortunately, only one of the IMAGINE participants, Marin Micholovic, the headmaster of Rovinj, in Croatia, defied the freezing cold and had no fear to accept the challenge.



Rita Grigonienė and Marin Mihovilovic



From left: Maria Rosaria Annunziata, M. Beatrice Muracaca



Winter activities

metal. In addition, the workshop of wood processing reminds a small furniture manufacturing company. The gadget-minded pupils are not forgotten as well. Their workplace is well-equipped with new technologies, where not only theoretical knowledge but also practical skills can be gained.

Talking about the folk crafts, the school has got four weaving looms. Also, there are a lot of sewing machines and other equipment, where with the help of teachers the most miraculous crafts are born in the hands of their pupils. That is why the school can deservedly be proud of the arts and technology teachers, who constantly transmit a huge amount of ideas to their learners.

The participants of the project not only had the possibility to taste various dishes and drinks prepared by the pupils, but also to communicate as well as to share the recipes of baked pastries. Later on, the participants visited the music studio, where the beautiful concert was held. The guests were so excited that became an integral part of playing and singing pupils. It was the most unforgettable feeling, which united the people of various ages from different countries all together in one place.

And last but not the least, the teachers' room, which plays a huge role in the life of school, is adapted to each teacher's needs. There you can prepare for the lessons, share each other's experiences, discuss the day's events, have a rest or just drink a cup of coffee.



The work of pupils



Eglė Grigonytė and Saira Sippola



The participants of the project

A tour of Alajärvi school



During the art lesson

During the work session the participants of the project had the possibility to explore Alajärvi school. A tour of this school took place in two groups. The Alajärvi headmaster, Heimo Kemppainen, was the guide for his international colleagues and Pekka Kylkilahti – for the project coordinators and IT teachers.

Alajärvi school consists of three corps: the canteen, the main hall and the sports hall; the workshops for administration and the music studio; the subject classrooms.

Moreover, the school has been recently renovated – it is bright, spacious and new.

In addition, the school has a rich training base. The classrooms are all adapted to pupils' well-being: comfortable desks, video projectors, computers, smart-boards, tablets. The spacious corridors are equipped with so-called 'rest areas', where the pupils are able to relax, socialize with each other, or read something during the breaks.

What is more, the school has a cosy main hall, where various school events and concerts take place. Talking about the canteen, not only does it have comfortable tables and chairs, but it is also designed in such a way that at the same time a lot of pupils are able to have their lunch there and the food is free of charge.



Finnish girls are welcoming the guests

The Alajärvi school can be proud of having the outstanding complex of arts and technology. The pupils have the opportunity to develop a wide range of abilities in a well-equipped classrooms: paint, embroider, sew, decorate, cook, engage in a woodwork as well as do other activities. Furthermore, there are modern machinery looms at the workshop of

A cosy evening at Anneli and Jyrki's family's place

A cosy evening at Anneli and Jyrki's family's place

On 21 January, the participants of the project had a unique opportunity to visit Anneli and Jyrki's family's place, where everyone was greeted with a big smile. Not only do Anneli and Jyrki teach Physical Education at Alajärvi high school, but also they are the members of the IMAGINE project.

Although the thermometer showed minus 30 degrees, the atmosphere inside of the house was welcoming, cosy and friendly. Anneli, the hostess of the house, gave everyone a short tour. In addition to spacious rooms there is a place for playing billiards, a large music studio and a home cinema. A lot of paintings, handicrafts and simple but lovely interior details – are all eye-catching. Moreover, the children's rooms give away their interests. The whole Paavol's family lead a healthy lifestyle and are good at sport. The last thing but not the least, there is a huge kitchen with a stove, where the hosts of the house bake traditional Finnish dishes.

During the whole evening, the project participants not only tasted mouth-watering, home-made cakes and other delicacies, but also communicated with each other as well as showed a sincere interest in a Finnish way of life, their customs and traditions. The IMAGINE project, as a topic itself, was if not the main subject of discussion, so at least the minor one for sure.

What is more, almost all participants are capable of singing or playing a musical instrument in a superb way. So, the guests had a remarkable opportunity to try out the sound of some hand-made guitars by the host, Jyrki, in a music studio.

And suddenly, the songs of the legendary band called *The Beatles* filled the room up. Pekka, Maria, Jyrki and Urmo were at the top together with Marin Micholovič, the headmaster of Rovinj from Croatia, Vincent Samuel, the coordinator of Pau and Frederic Samuel, the coordinator of La Rochelle from France. No one had even noticed how quickly the time passed by.

All the participants of IMAGINE project would like to say a sincere thank you to Anneli and Jyrki Paavol's family for such a warm welcoming.



Giuseppe Lamanna



Music unites everyone

An excursion to Hoisko Primary School



The headmaster, Antti Joensuu, of Hoisko primary school

On 21 January, the workgroup made of headmasters had a unique opportunity to visit Alajärvi Hoisko primary school. The foreign schools representatives together with the headmasters were welcomed by the pupils of Hoisko school with the Finnish flags in their hands.

The headmaster of primary school, Antti Joensuu, carried out a meaningful tour during which the spacious classrooms equipped with the latest technology were shown. In addition, each teacher has a few assistants, who help in the learning process and the number of pupils in every class is relatively small compared with other countries.

During the breaks, school pupils have a possibility to spend their free time actively. And the view seen through the windows proves it. Despite the freezing cold, the pupils were eagerly waiting for going outside to the school yard to be able to sledge or skate. It was really nice to enjoy watching their games in the snow.

And finally, the school's canteen made a huge impression on the participants of the project. Comfortable, spacious, and bright – the perfect place to have a quiet meal.

Here are some facts:

- Hoisko primary school was founded in the year 1909.
- It is the second biggest primary school in Alajärvi. There are 112 pupils.



From left: Patrick Biteur, Johans Besse, Rita Grigonienė, Manuel Andrade, Cecilia Almeida

- The school has a pre-school class and classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

- There is also a pre-school teacher, a special teacher (special needs teacher) and six 'normal' teachers (luokanopettaja in Finnish, teachers, who teach mainly their own classes).

- In pre-school, the pupils study alphabet/ letters, but not reading. Some of the pupils can read – maybe reading Finnish is quite easy. In pre-school, the pupils have one book. It contains of many kinds of exercises.

- Pupils start studying English in class 3. In this school the second graders have an English club—one lesson per week from January till May.

- Next year the sixth graders will start studying Swedish. Earlier Swedish studies began in class 7.

- The school has its own cook, kitchen and canteen. The classes come to lunch at about five-minute intervals.

- Last summer and autumn Hoisko school had a renovation in the oldest section. It had air conditioning, new floor materials, doors, windows, some new furniture, new lights, white boards, coat-racks in the corridors, new colours / paints and so on.

- New programmes / curriculums will soon be completed and will be taken into use in August 2016. That will happen in the whole Finland. Now the local things for the curriculum are being prepared.



Marin Mihovilovic



During the lesson



During the art lesson