

International project “Reaching out through Skype”

On Monday 12 October, 2015 the celebration of the European languages day was held in Alytus Adolfo Ramanausko-Vanago gymnasium’s library. It was organized as a video chat with Hungary, the Netherlands and Georgia as a part of the international project “Reaching out through Skype”. Each country had to prepare a presentation about theatre, acting and some facts about their schools. The chat between countries lasted two hours and there was a separate video chat with each country and all of them had 15 minutes for their presentations.

Alytus Adolfo Ramanausko-Vanago gymnasium students were well prepared for this event by English teacher Virginija Gaižauskienė. They talked not only about theatre but also presented their town, its geographical location, the Lithuanian language, their school and its advantages. This presentation was very useful for other countries and they got to know more about our country and town culture.

To begin with, gymnasium students Domas Turčinis and Eimantė Arbutavičiūtė talked about Alytus and our gymnasium, after that kids that learn different foreign languages at school introduced the six languages they can learn by talking in that language and discussing about the best ways to learn them. And to sum up the language topic Lina Kunigiškytė presented the Lithuanian language. Inesa Karkauskaitė and Domantas Skrabulis played the fragment from the Shakespeare’s tragedy “Romeo and Juliet” in Lithuanian, so this way they could show how our native language sounds. Then some teenagers who attend theatre clubs told about the values that theatre helps to develop and why they are so attached to the theatre.

The final part of the video chat was also very exciting. A group of girls and musicians played the song of each country: Hungarians heard their school song, Dutch heard their song “Nielson” and Georgians were very happy to hear their popular song “Suliko”.

Other countries had prepared almost identical program: each school played the fragment from “Romeo and Juliet” but not in English, they talked in their national language. Students liked it better this way because they could hear how the same lines sound in four different languages: Lithuanian, Hungarian, Dutch and Georgian. Also each school prepared something special. For example, Hungarians sang the English song about a tourist visiting Hungary. Dutch showed pictures with their national dishes.

But everyone agreed that the most extraordinary program was prepared by Georgians. They presented their city, school, best places to visit in their country and younger students played the musical extract. But the most welcoming feeling for Lithuanians was when Georgians sang the Lithuanian song “Saulelė tekėjo”. Students were well prepared for the song and even sang it in our traditional way – canon. Anyways Georgians were not the only ones that sang the song for us. Hungarians also sang a song and the special one – the hymn of Alytus Adolfo Ramanauskas-Vanago gymnasium.

As the topic of the Skype meeting was theatre, at the end of the event Jonas Gaižauskas taught students about another language – about the language of theatre, which can be shown by movements of the body. He acted philosophical sketches “Life” and “Master of the masks”.

The event was very useful for students because they got a chance to communicate with other countries and get to know other cultures. Also it showed how beautiful and useful it is.

Reported by student Simona Balkauskaite (16)



