

The Comenius news

" Parks and public gardens of our cities"

Special Number 2. March 2010

INTERVIEW TO VISITORS OF OTHER COMENIUS COUNTRIES

We are Carlos, Jaime and Aida in Year 6 of Primary and have taken advantage of the visit of a few teachers from Italy and Greece to do a small interview to them.

Interviewees: Marilena from Italy and Iro from Greece.

. Do you have same schedule in your school than here?

- *Marilena*: Our school starts at 8:10 in the morning and finishes at 13:10. This is the first option and then we have the second option. Children can be at the school from 8:00 in the morning until 16:00 in the afternoon. So eight hours a day from Monday to Friday.

- *Iro*: Our first lesson starts at 8:30 in the morning and the last lesson finishes at 13:30. But for those children whose parents work for a long time, school starts at 7:00 in the morning and finishes at 16:15.



. Which languages do you study besides yours?

- *Iro*: We study Greek, of course, but also English, French and German. The students have English lessons, they are compulsory, and then they choose between French or German. So they learn two languages. They start in the 3rd grade with English and in the 5th grade with French or German.
- *Marilena*: In Italy our second language is English and our children start with this foreign language in Year 1, when they are 6 years old. And then in Year 5 they can have extra afternoon classes of French or Spanish. We have three hours a week of English from Year 1 to Year 5.

. What kind of games do your children play in the playground?

- *Iro*: They play football, basketball, volleyball,... They also play hide & seek, running,...
- *Marilena*: In our school they can't play soccer, but they do. They also play hide & seek, board games like chess and cards.

. How long is breaktime in your school?

- *Marilena*: In the morning we have 20 minutes brake from 10:10 to 10:30. And then for the children who stay in the afternoon they've got a brake from 13:30 until 14:00.
- *Iro*: We have our first brake from 9:40 to 10:00, that is, twenty minutes. And then we have the next brake from 11:30 to 11:45, for fifteen minutes. And then five minutes brake at 12:30.

. What activities do you do in your school we do not?

- *Marilena*: I think we do the same activities. I don't think we have different subjects from yours.
- *Iro*: The same in Greece.



. What activities do the children like more?

- *Iro*: Children love sports, art, theatre and dancing. Parents organise extra lessons for children to learn traditional dances.
- *Marilena*: Our children also like sports, music and art. They like English too, specially in the first classes where they do lots of games to learn English. They like dancing, computers and singing. They like singing very much.

. Have you got a dining room in your school?

- *Marilena*: Yes, we have a big cantine where our children eat every day. We have two cantines, one downstairs and one upstairs. Four classes eat downstairs and six classes upstairs. About 200 children eat every day at our school.
- *Iro*: We don't have a dinning room. Children don't eat at the school, but at home.

. What typical festivities or celebrations are in your country?

- *Iro*: We celebrate Carnival. We have Christmas and Easter holidays. At the celebrations we have theatres, songs and dances. On 28th October we have the National Ceremony and in March 24th. We have a special celebration for the end of the year in June 15th. The last day of the school we make a big party.
- *Marilena*: We have Christmas and Easter, of course. But in April we celebrate the end of the First World War and our children don't go to school. May 1st is also a festivity and June 2nd is the celebration or the Italian Republic. December 8th is also a Christian celebration of the Virgin "Inmaculada Concepción".

Thank you for answering to our questions. Thank you for being so friendly.
Thanks to you.

