

FLASH!

ELENA GHIBA BIRTA NATIONAL COLLEGE ARAD

MAY 2016

FLASH GOES BILINGUAL

EDITORIAL

Why bilingual ? Why not multilingual?

A recent decision made by the current editors of this school magazine led to a surprising consequence on its status of: as of this issue, Flash will turn bilingual. The decision has met the usual number of opponents and supporters. The former may have a point when they say that back in 1992, when its first issue was released, Flash was the only English school magazine in Arad. Why change such a long tradition? The reasons are not too hard to find, but some of them are hard to mention. We have to admit that in the last four years since Flash went online there haven't been many students interested in its making. Gone is the enthusiasm or the passion of the older days! It has been more and more difficult to find

students to write articles for publication. Perhaps, they are too busy with more thrilling activities, perhaps they lack intrinsic motivation, since nothing palpable may come from being a journalist for a school magazine. Who knows? We'd better not go deeper into the causes that led to this unfortunate situation, putting an end to the discussion here, for now. So why bilingual? Why multilingual? Don't you think it would be great to have the opportunity to learn more foreign languages in our school? Wouldn't it be great to be able to learn other languages besides English, French, German and Spanish? Why not a bit of Italian or Russian? We live in a global world in which communication is a must. Sometimes English is not enough and we need other languages to interact. If you learn other languages you will become more flexible and appreciative of other ways of doing and looking at things. According to specialists in the field, "if you are multilingual, you have the advantage of seeing the world from different vantage points and this is crucial in today's world.. More than that, understanding other languages, other cultures will help us understand your own language and culture to an unexpected extent. To sum up, learning other languages will help you communicate better, get a complex perspective on the world, and appreciate your own language and culture at a deeper level of appreciation of your own. In the end, you will come to terms with yourself, too.

Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own. –Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



WHAT'S IN ? WHAT'S OUT ? EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EGB STUDENTS AND BEYOND !

THINGS THAT DEFINE US M&S& F (MUSIC, SPORTS AND FOOD) by Vlad Bradau

A teenager is a complex creature: a mixture of feelings, hobbies, passions and talents all gathered in the same person. There are many things that define us, as a group, among them M&S&S.

We all like music. It doesn't matter whether it's pop, rock, hip hop, rap or classic. It's a good way to relax and escape from the daily routine of our lives. When we talk about music we should mention the concerts that attract crowds of people, an opportunity to meet other teenagers who share our tastes in music.

Paradoxically, although we are said to have a strong tendency of being lazy, we are very keen on sports. We like to practise team sports because we can socially connect and have fun or we are interested in fitness or aerobics as we want to be fit and proud of our body. In order to be fit we also have to eat healthy food. This doesn't necessarily mean that it has to be expensive. If you follow some tips you can eat healthy food without wasting money: buy fresh food and freeze it, eat whole grains and many proteins and fibres. Reorganise your fridge and use the leftovers.

Anyway, it doesn't really matter what music we listen to, what sports we practise and what we can afford to eat as long as we enjoy the best years in our life.

ON PHOBIAS By Cornelia Mates

A phobia is an intense and irrational fear of a specific object or situation. Our generation's biggest phobia is the fear that we can't live a day on this planet without a mobile phone. Most teenagers spend almost half a day on their mobile phones, texting, taking pictures, listening to music. Although there is no specialised term for this phobia, it does not mean that such a phobia doesn't exist. Perhaps one day someone smart enough will come up with a catchy word for it.

As many teenagers nowadays live in the city all their lives, some of them are surprisingly afraid of animals or birds which are familiar to those who live in the countryside. However, the biggest fear we have to face nowadays is the fear of being isolated, the fear of not being integrated in some groups, all symptoms of social phobias. These are fears that involve other people or social situations, such as anxiety, uneasiness and fear of embarrassment or humiliation in public.

To be honest, almost everyone has an irrational fear or two. The good news is that phobias can be controlled and cured. Self-help strategies and therapy can help you get rid of your fears. Or use this approach: try to ignore your fears and it will all be alright in the end. The fears may disappear. Or not.

CELL PHONES, COMPUTERS, SOCIAL NETWORKS By Gabriela Dragusin

Any teenager these days would certainly claim that living for a while or just a few hours without phone, Facebook or compute is hard to accept or imagine. What's more, it is not only teenagers who feel this way, but adults too. Wherever you look, you see someone texting, speaking on the phone, accessing their Facebook account, or fussing about a perfect Selfie moment. Now is this a bad thing? Shouldn't we be in touch with the latest technology, the latest trends, in general? Of course, it is not a bad thing to use the latest developments in technology to your advantage, but when we become obsessed and addicted to them, we certainly have a problem. Just take a test, refrain yourself and see how much time you can resist without checking your phone. Isn't it hard? Aren't you tempted to check your messages every other minute? And then there is the computer... Forget homework, forget learning and school....all of them can wait until we have finished the level of a game, and in this way, another day passes and we haven't done practically anything.



Have you ever wondered whether spending less time on the phone or on the computer allows you much more time for other things, for friends and family, for going out, for doing things that really matter? Our parents and grandparents did not have phones and computers, but they managed to be happy, to have friends, to study, to have fun to live their lives to the full. They managed to do all of these without feeling that they were not able to survive without gadgets. How did they do it? It may be a mystery we'll never want to unravel.

Étudier en France par Georgiana Darău

Étudier à l'étranger est une façon d'ouvrir les yeux sur le monde, tel qu'il est. Partir et faire des études dans un autre pays que la Roumanie nous permettent de découvrir un nouvel environnement, tout différent de celui que nous avons été habitués. Apprendre une nouvelle culture, parler une autre langue nous offrent une expérience de vie exceptionnelle. Cette expérience va avoir un profond impact sur notre développement personnel et va nous aider grandir, mais aussi, cela nous permettra de changer complètement nos perceptions sur le monde.

Choisir la France, pour continuer ses études est vraiment un des meilleurs choix parce que le système d'enseignement français s'appuie sur un réseau de formation très diversifiée et spécialisée: licence-master-doctorat (arts, droit, lettres, langues, santé, économie, sciences, gestion sciences humaines et sociales, technologies), des Écoles d'ingénieurs (chimie agronomie, biologie, informatique) et, aussi, l'Institut d'Études Politiques (Sciences Po), qui se base sur une approche pluridisciplinaire des sciences humaines et sociales et une forte ouverture à l'international. De plus, l'État français offre plusieurs aides aux étudiants français ainsi qu'aux étudiants étrangers. Il n'y a aucune distinction entre les étudiants étrangers et les étudiants français: les exigences d'accès sont identiques, les diplômes délivrés et les frais d'inscription sont les mêmes pour tous. Les frais d'inscription à l'université sont très raisonnables: 350 euros par an en Licence et 522.2 euros en Master. Aussi, un étudiant peut bénéficier de l'aide au logement, de la sécurité sociale, de tarifs réduits pour les loisirs et le transport. Sur un autre plan, la vie étudiante est la plus importante.

Ce n'est pas facile pour un jeune étudiant de partager son temps d'étude, ses besoins essentiels et sa vie quotidienne. C'est pourquoi, dans son campus il va trouver tout le nécessaire. Chaque campus a une Restauration universitaire (RU) où il peut manger aux prix raisonnables, des résidences universitaires, où il peut se loger au prix modeste (jusqu'à 350 euros par mois). Aussi, dans chaque campus il y a une Bibliothèque Universitaire (BU) où il trouve et peut travailler tout ce qu'il veut. Pour l'aider à s'accommoder et à s'intégrer à la vie universitaire, il y a plusieurs Associations étudiantes où on peut adhérer et se faire de nouveaux amis. Il y a toujours des soirées des étudiants qui sont les meilleurs moyens de se détendre et de s'amuser avec ses nouveaux amis.



Enfin, étant une ancienne lycéenne du Collège National Elena Ghiba Birta qui, désormais, fait ses études de psychologie en France, à l'Université de Lorraine, j'encourage vivement les jeunes à faire leurs études en France. L'inscription à la faculté n'est pas difficile. Elle se fait juste en ligne, à partir de 20 janvier jusqu'à 31 mars, sur le site www.admission-postbac.fr (là, vous trouvez toutes les informations concernant l'inscription). Il est nécessaire juste un moment de curiosité et de courage de faire sa demande et vous pouvez devenir un étudiant en France, c'était mon cas.

Franchement, ce n'est pas de tout facile d'étudier dans une langue étrangère, d'être dans un nouveau milieu, de se faire d'autres amis, mais cela en vaut la peine. La satisfaction personnelle et professionnelle que vous allez ressentir plus tard est incontestable.

INNATENDU*par Daiana Rimmel*

Quand la nuit s'affirme
 Même le dépanneur ferme.
 La ville reste sans aucun éclairage
 Et la poudrerie commence délirante
 Pendant que le vieux chafouin,
 Dans son petit appartement, allume sa
 lumerotte.
 Et n'étant pas très vigousse,
 Il prépare un ristrette doux.
 En attendant, il regarde par la fenêtre ...
 La pluie a commencé à dracher
 Comme une armée de tortues
 Un champagné connu traverse la rue
 Quand un jeune fada le frappe avec son tap-tap
 Si inattendu !

(participation au concours Dis-moi dix mots)
**Pique-nique francophone poétique
 #Haikunoi2016 – des Haïkus japonais**

C'est ici, brillante,
 En passant par mes yeux éteints
 La lumière furieuse de l'Univers
par Gabriel Pauliuc

Même sans graviter sur la Terre,
 Je tomberais amoureux de toi
 Comme le soleil dans la mer
par Daniel Incicău

Le parfum des fleurs
 Le monde est plus beau
 Sans parfum, ça sent bizarre
par Andreea Opris

L'astre de la nuit
 Il nous montre le bon chemin
 Quand on est perdu.
par Georgiana Lipovan

Une journée à Paris*par Dennisa Iovănut*

Pendant les vacances d'hiver de cette année je suis allée visiter la capitale de la France, Paris, la ville lumière. Pour le confort de mon voyage, j'ai pris l'avion. Dès mon arrivée à l'aéroport Charles de Gaulle, un jeune homme chafouin qui n'était que le chauffeur d'un taxi, devait me ramener à mon hôtel qui se trouvait au bord de la Seine. L'hôtel offrait une vue irréprochable. Sachant qu'à Paris il y a plusieurs climats différents et que le temps est en général pluvieux, je n'ai pas été très surprise ce jour-là quand j'ai assisté à une poudredrie inimaginable.

Comme je suis arrivée vers minuit il n'y avait pas de restaurants traditionnels roumains ouverts et plutôt que d'aller manger en d'autres endroits, j'ai préféré acheter quelque chose à manger des petits dépanneurs du coin de la rue.

Le lendemain je suis sortie en ville pour boire une boisson chaude dans un petit café et après avoir bu un bon ristrette j'ai décidé de faire un petit tour. Alors, je me suis promenée toute seule pendant des heures, dans des ruelles insolites, après avoir fait la queue trois heures pour pouvoir visiter les catacombes. C'est un endroit très étrange et hors du commun que j'ai toujours voulu visiter. Le long d'un enchevêtrement de galeries obscures et de couloirs étroits, j'ai découvert une mise en scène de la mort avec les ossements disposés en un décor romantico-macabre. Ensuite, je suis rentrée à hôtel pour me reposer un peu. On m'a donné une lumerotte (une lampe qui diffuse une faible lumière) parce que ma chambre était trop sombre.

Après avoir pris un autre café, j'ai décidé d'aller voir la Tour Eiffel. J'y ai vécu un moment magique et romantique. J'ai voulu aller au sommet, mais je suis arrivée trop tard pour pouvoir acheter des billets. J'ai rencontré une femme qui venait de Timisoara, qui parlait comme un champagné mais qui était une personne vigousse et gentille. Elle m'a proposé de faire un tour avec un tap-tap. Le conducteur de cette petite voiture était un fada et on n'attendait que la fin de notre voyage. Plus tard, il a commencé à dracher. Voilà ma première journée à Paris.

(participation au concours Dis-moi dix mots)

Pourquoi choisir le français? par Renata Almasi

Au fait, que nous évoque le français? Le français c'est la mode, c'est l'histoire et la culture? C'est des baguettes, des bérets, du fromage, du vin et des grenouilles? Oui et non, le français c'est aussi Edith Piaf (la célèbre chanteuse française de music-hall), Victor Hugo (poète, dramaturge et prosateur romantique), Voltaire (écrivain et philosophe français), Balzac (écrivain réalistes qui a eu beaucoup influencé la littérature roumaine), Baudelaire (le poète qui a marqué toute la poésie moderne), Proust (et sa suite romanesque *À la recherche du temps perdu*) et bien d'autres.

Les Français ont marqué bien leur présence dans presque tous les domaines : dans l'air avec Airbus, sur la terre avec le TGV, dans le monde de la Formule 1 avec Renault, dans le cinéma avec les réalisateurs Jean Renoir, Luc Besson, les acteurs Juliette Binoche, Marion Cotillard, Daniel Auteuil, Jean Dujardin et ainsi de suite.

Le français a eu un impact sur le monde entier, et une histoire riche. La langue française est une langue parlée par beaucoup de gens. Cette langue a une sonorité et musicalité uniques, elle a un rythme particulier. Le français est la langue de grands écrivains et philosophes. En outre, c'est la langue de l'amour. Je suis sûre que tout le monde a entendu parler de ce stéréotype. Pourquoi est le français la langue de l'amour? La langue française est la langue de l'amour selon moi, parce que c'est, à la base, celle des troubadours (langue d'oc) et celle des seigneurs (langue d'œil, fleurissant dans le culte de l'amour courtois -Tristan et Iseult, le mythe arthurien....).

La France est renommée pour son patrimoine culturel parmi les plus prestigieux dans le monde. On peut pas voyager en France sans visiter Paris, Versailles, Mont Saint-Michel, les châteaux de de la Loire. Il ne faut pas oublier la France profonde, ses traditions, ses musées, son art de vivre, la cuisine, la mode, les bistrotts...

Pour moi, apprendre la langue française est une sorte de fenêtre ouverte sur une civilisation qui a enrichi le monde. J'espère que le français m'ouvrira aussi les portes de la culture, de la communication, de l'économie, de la politique, du sport, du tourisme, des médias. En somme, je crois qu'il va jouer un rôle essentiel dans ma connaissance du monde.

Autrement dit, je veux apprendre le français pour connaître un monde nouveau: un monde de la liberté, de l'égalité et de la fraternité... .

J'aime la photographie par Mihaela Ionescu

Au long des années, l'homme a éprouvé le besoin de créer de l'art pour exprimer ses sentiments, pour trouver le sens de sa vie ou le bonheur. Une des plus anciennes formes d'art est le dessin, suivi par la peinture, ou bien *la grand-mère de la photographie*, comme j'aime l'appeler. Par l'intermède d'une image on peut transmettre des sentiments, enseigner, se divertir, et ce qui est le plus important, illustrer l'histoire.



La photographie, cette nouvelle méthode de transmettre un message visuel, est devenue la plus négligée peut-être depuis que les nouvelles caméras font presque tout. Mais, une photo prise à présent représente-t-elle autant qu'une peinture?

À mon avis, dans toute leur hâte et manque d'attention, et ayant le désir d'un succès facile, les gens oublient d'enrichir les images, de les remplir de leurs sentiments, de leurs passions. Ils oublient de mettre en évidence une touche personnelle, la vision unique qui comptait autrefois.

L'art du présent se concentre plus que jamais sur les choses de la vie quotidienne et l'homme essaye de trouver la beauté autour de soi. L'art doit exprimer des états d'âme et il doit changer nos émotions. Cela ne dépend pas d'un jugement de valeur imposé par une galerie d'art ou du jugement sur la potentielle signification des œuvres d'art. À mon avis, on perd l'essentiel- on ne dit pas ce qu'on ressent

en regardant une certaine œuvre d'art. Ne nous concentrons plus à comprendre, essayons plutôt de sentir! Comment peut-on échapper une telle attitude? Peut-on changer la photographie de sorte qu'elle ressemble plus à la peinture ? On devrait fermer nos yeux. Fermer les yeux et ouvrir le miroir de l'âme quand nous prenons une photo. L'une des plus importantes choses en ce qui concerne l'art est qu'il vient de l'intérieur.



Apprenez le français par la musique par Iulia Bandac

On dit que la musique est la langue des émotions. La musique a toujours accompagné les plus grandes joies mais aussi les moments difficiles de notre vie. Il ya des chansons, qui n'ont pris aucune ride au fil du temps, et qui continuent de nous émouvoir. De plus, écouter de la musique c'est apprendre une langue d'une manière plus facile, plus intéressante. C'est pourquoi j'ai choisi pour vous trois chansons très connues, en effet trois chansons qui puisse rendre l'essence de la culture française. Ecoutez-les et apprenez ses mots: la langue française sonne plus belle que jamais.

LA MER

La mer qu'on voit danser le long des golfes clairs
A des reflets d'argent,
La mer, des reflets changeants, sous la pluie.
La mer, au ciel d'été confond
Ses blancs moutons
Avec les anges si purs
La mer bergère d'azur infinie.
Voyez près des étangs
Ces grands roseaux mouillés
Voyez ces oiseaux blancs
Et ces maisons rouillées
La mer les a bercés
Le long des golfes clairs
Et d'une chanson d'amour.
La mer a bercé mon coeur pour la vie.

SOUS LE CIEL DE PARIS

Sous le ciel de Paris
S'envole une chanson, hum hum
Elle est nee d'aujourd'hui
Dans le coeur d'un garçon.
Sous le ciel de Paris
Marchent des amoureux, hum, hum
Leur bonheur se construit
Sur un air fait pour eux.
Sous le pont de Bercy,
Un philosophe assis,
Deux musiciens, quelques badauds
Puis les gens par milliers.
Sous le ciel de Paris
Jusqu'au soir vont chanter, hum, hum
L'hymne d'un peuple épris
De sa vieille cite.
Sous le ciel de Paris
Coule un fleuve joyeux, hum hum
Il endort dans la nuit
Les clochards et les gueux.
Sous le ciel de Paris
Les oiseaux du Bon Dieu, hum hum
Viennent du monde entier
Pour bavarder entre eux.

JE NE REGRETTE RIEN

Non! Rien de rien
Non! Je ne regrette rien...
Ni le bien qu'on m'a fait
Ni le mal
Tout ça m'est bien égal!
Non! Rien de rien ...
Non! Je ne regrette rien...
C'est payé, balayé, oublié
Je me fous du passé!
Avec mes souvenirs
J'ai allumé le feu
Mes chagrins, mes plaisirs
Je n'ai plus besoin d'eux!
Balayés les amours
Avec tous leurs trémolos
Balayés pour toujours
Je repars à zéro .
Non! Rien de rien ...
Non! Je ne regrette rien ...
Car ma vie,
car mes joies
Aujourd'hui,
ça commence avec toi!

THINGS THAT DEFINE US: MUSIC

By Alexandru Caraneant

Opinions on music differ substantially. People have different tastes in music but each type or style of music has its own impact on them. Music can be relaxing, angering, soothing, energizing or simply melodious.

There are so many types of music out there today: rap, pop, rock, country, indie, alternative, hardcore are just some of them. Any musical style sends out either good or bad messages that have big impacts on how we act. People usually become friends with others who have the same taste in music as the rest of the people they hang-out with. However, some people may not want to associate with those who have different tastes in music, because they'll argue non-stop about what they think is better.

Furthermore, music can serve as a catalyst for new ideas. When people listen to the lyrics of a song, they learn about all sorts of things going on in the world and they become more open-minded because they're exposed to other people's experiences. More importantly, people can use music to express themselves, in ways they can't express themselves ordinarily. You can usually tell how someone's feeling by the type of music he or she is listening to at the time. It's a tool used by many. Groups of people around the world gather at concerts and venues to show what their interests and likings are and to experience a sense of belonging. It is great to see how many people have the same preferences as you. I can personally relate to the effects that music has on its listeners and users because it's a big part of my life. Every day I listen to the words and sounds of different singers/bands with contrasting ideas and opinions. To be honest, the music I listen every day helps me shape my personality and makes me become who and what I want to be.

HIGH SCHOOL by Denisa Talaba

Flashbacks. Memories. Pictures. Fights. Hugs. Anger. Tears. Smiles. Love. Friendship. Just a few simple words to describe the four years I spent in high school. None of them can accurately describe how it felt, what I felt about it. Yes, past tense, since the last month in school comes to end faster than I've ever imagined. It is one of those moments when you need to say something meaningful, but words do not come. Highschool? Maybe the best years of my life, maybe the place, the people who

will always stay in my mind, in my life, in my soul. Moments I will never forget High school? The stage in life when you discover the world around, when you try to understand the true meaning of life, when you are bullied or loved and when you find out who you want to be.

What will my last day in school be like? Terrifying. Horrible. Wistful. And what hurts the most is that some paths will drift apart. Our purpose in life is different and it leads us to various places. The hardest thing is to say goodbye to the one you used to be, to your teachers who were there for you all those years, to your friends with whom you shared the greatest moments until the end.

High school has helped us grow, start friendships for life and prepared us for life. You make hundred of plans for the future and when it comes for them to get shape you realize they can't. They need to change. They must change because your dreams and aspirations have changed too. You promise to travel with your friends around Europe, you plan to go together to the same college and when the day comes, you see that all of these have become impossible.

If the first day of high school was emotional, the last day will be heartbreaking because of those dear people I will leave behind. When I was a fresher I was curious and hopeful, then, one day I would become someone I would be proud of. Now I am grateful for everything I have learnt during the four years of highschool. I have learnt how human beings can be, how some things are more important than other, I have grown, I have developed myself, my personality and my skills. And today, I know what I should do and what I have to do. I have found myself. And this is crucial in anyone's life: to know who we are. This is what high school has made me do.

On leaving school, all I can do is memorize the faces of my classmates and teachers one more time...Life goes on, I am aware of its inevitability. I also know or feel that thinking back to what it was cannot be but bittersweet. Memories. Flashbacks. Pictures. Friendship. Love. This is high school.-the best days of my life so far.

PEOPLE WHO DARED: ANDY GROVE**by Iulia Bandac**

Andy Grove (1936-2016) was an immigrant who survived both the Nazis and the Communists to become the quintessential American capitalist, a role model for doing business in the twenty-first century, a man who dared. Andy Grove was chairman and CEO of Intel in its years of explosive growth. During his career, Intel became the model for Silicon Valley, which in turn became the model for the entire world. Andy Grove is the recipient of The Time's Man of the Year award- an icon of the promise of the American life.

Andrew Stephen Grove was born as Andras Istvan Grof on 2nd September 1936, in a middle-class Jewish family in Budapest, Hungary. At the age of four he partially lost his hearing. When he was eight, Hungary was occupied by the Nazis who deported 500.000 Jews to concentration camp. His parents saved Andras from the Nazi, forging his identity documents. The family went in hiding but Andy's father was arrested and taken to to an Eastern Labor Camp. At the age of twenty, during the Hungarian Revolution Andy Grove managed to cross the border to Austria, leaving his family behind. He arrived in the United States of America, in New York City. He got married to Eva Kastan. Andy Grove was a very good student. He received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the City College of New York in 1960, then he earned a P.H.D in chemical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. In 1967 he wrote a college textbook on the subject, 'Physics and Technology of Semiconductor Devices.' While working for Intel, Grove transformed it from an ordinary manufacturer of memory chips into one of the world's dominant producers of micro-processors. He also became known for his motto: ' **Only the paranoid survive**' and wrote a management book with the same title.

He lived modestly without expensive cars or an airplane. Time Magazine called him 'the person most responsible for the amazing growth in the power and the innovative potential of microchips'. He died at his home on March 21st 2016.

TAKING THINGS FOR GRANTED: YAHOO!**by Paula Blaj & Raluca Florea**

It all started at Stanford University, in January 1994, when Jerry Yang and David Filo, two Electrical Engineering graduate students created a website named "Jerry and David's Guide to the World Wide Web", later on Yahoo!". It was a directory of other websites, organized in a hierarchy. The yahoo.com domain was created on January 18, 1995. Yahoo! grew rapidly and diversified into a web portal, followed by numerous high-profile acquisitions.

Why Yahoo? The founders claim they selected the name because they liked the word's general definition, as *in Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift: "rude, unsophisticated." Other say that the name Yahoo! is simply an acronym for "Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle".

Jerry Yang and David Filo found they were not alone in wanting a single place to find useful Web sites. Before long, hundreds of people were accessing their guide. Word spread from friends to what quickly became a significant, loyal audience throughout the closely-knit Internet community. Yahoo! celebrated its first million-hit day in the fall of 1994, registering almost 100 thousand unique visitors. Its URL was akebono.stanford.edu/yahoo.

The first logo of the company was red with three icons on each side. Yahoo is one of the most popular sites worldwide. There are more than half billion consumers every month in more than 30 languages and Yahoo had an income of US\$-4.74 billion in 2015. The headquarters of the company is in Sunnyvale, California.

Having a Yahoo address can help you benefit from some other services such as: Yahoo! Directory, Yahoo! Mail, Yahoo! News, Yahoo! Finance, Yahoo! Groups. Yahoo operates a portal that provides the latest entertainment, news and sports information. Yahoo Mobile offers services for email, instant messaging, mobile blogging and information services and alerts.

EGB GRADUATES ABROAD
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
 By Alexandru Vlad

Astonished, speechless, overwhelmed. In the very moment you see yourself among the huge skyscrapers of New York, you feel like a child who sees Superman or Mickey Mouse at his own birthday party. That happened to me the moment I got out of the cab in the heart of Manhattan, New York. I could not move, I could not say a word, I just stopped right there, in the middle of the crowd, looking up at that infinite of lights and colors and realized I have never felt so alive ever before.



Beside the buildings, streets and lights that take your breath away every time you have the chance to admire them, the city of New York has an energy you will never feel somewhere else, and this energy, these feelings are the true spirit of the city. No matter how you feel, sad or happy, the city somehow tells you, "go out there, start living, do not lose the chances you have got", and you really are lucky if you have the chance to live, even for a few months in the city that never sleeps. And these months are going to be a time of change in your life, because even if you will not get to change the life of New York, New York will definitely change your life one way or another.

First you are shocked, amazed but then, as you spend more time, you start to notice other things that do not make you happy. You see huge piles of trash as you walk down the 5th Avenue, which is the most expensive street of the city, you feel the disgusting smell of garbage in the hot summer days or you might even come across the not-so friendly rats, as you walk in the city during the night. But as you grow to be a part of the city you realize, that these all, the good and the bad, the luxury and the filth, make the city so special

I guarantee that what you will feel and see there, will make these bad points insignificant. Wondering on the streets of New York I met people, American people or people from all over the world, in parks or coffee shops, who notifying my accent, cause yes, Romanians have a funny accent for American people, asked me where I was from. Afraid of the reaction I might get, I hesitatingly answered. But the reaction was exactly the opposite of what I expected.

During the many times I let myself wander on the American people, could stay and listen for hours things about Europe and Romania, engaging in the conversation with an unexpected interest. For them, Romania is the country of beautiful castles, amazing nature and of course, Dracula, and nobody will look down at you, judging you, things very common here in Europe.

Another interesting thing about the people is that they seem to be full of life, always with a smile on their face. Once called the gateway to America, New York is home to a large variety of cultures, which all influence the spirit of the city somehow. Even working there was a pleasure, people treat you very nice, appreciate the things you do, and make you enjoy doing what you have to do.

New York, is the place where I really grew up to be an adult, the place where I made new friends or made stronger bonds with the friends I had, the place that changed me and offered me an amazing summer. It was also the stage for amazing memories that will forever remain in my heart. New York can be called the city of extremes, you may even experience a culture shock at first, but as soon as you start feeling the city and open up, you will see its magic and fall in love with it again and again.



TEACHERS & STUDENTS: THE BENEFITS OF THE MALTESE EXPERIENCE

by Geanina Iovin & Ana Diana

Twelve EGB teachers had the opportunity to take part in a mobility within the Erasmus + program during the current school year and spend two fruitful weeks on the beautiful island of Malta. As a result, we benefit from a new approach to teaching and learning, applying what our teachers have learnt in terms of using the modern technology in class.

We the 9th E graders are lucky to experiment such novelties at four subjects: French, English, Geography and ITC. We have asked our teachers about their stay abroad and it seems that for all of them, the Maltese experience was extremely rewarding. There have been several activities we did based on the course our teachers took abroad. First, a Power Point presentation focusing on the geographical aspects of Malta introduced us to this country and its assets. We've found out that Malta is a Southern European island country comprising an archipelago in the Mediterranean Sea. Only the three largest islands, Malta, Gozo and Comino are inhabited. Malta lies 80 km south of Italy, 333 km north of Libya and 284 km east of Tunisia. The country covers just 316 km², with a population of 450.000. The capital of Malta is Valletta, which at 0.8 km², is the smallest national capital in the European Union. Malta has two official languages: Maltese and English. Malta's location has historically given it great strategic importance as a naval base. A succession of powers, including the Phoenicians, Romans, Moors, Normans, Sicilians, Spanish, Knights of St. John, French and British have ruled the islands. Malta became independent in 1964 and was admitted to the European Union in 2004.

The origin of the term Malta is uncertain, and the modern-day variation derives from the Maltese language. The most common etymology is that the word Malta derives from Greek word *meli*-honey. The Greeks called the island Melitē meaning "honey-sweet." possibly due to Malta's unique production of honey.

Of course, there are so many things to say about this beautiful island which is still unfamiliar to most of us accustomed to go no farther than Greece during our summer holiday, but we hope, one day, we will manage to explore it for real.



Gradually, we were introduced to the wonders modern tools and technology could do to both teaching and learning. Some teachers took part in a course titled *Practical Methodology for Teachers Working with CLIL and Technology*, while other teachers participated in another course titled *ICT Tools for Teachers Working with CLIL*. And so we did a geography lesson in English based on a CLIL approach. Later on we got involved in a larger project, using various tools: we used *storybird* to boost our creativity and came to learn in a different, more interesting way. We were tested while using *socrative* and somehow things seemed easier and funnier than we had thought. In the end, we created our web pages using *wix* and it was fantastic to be able to create something new from square one.



Our teachers were pleased with the way we responded to this new approach to teaching and learning. We will surely integrate the skills we have acquired in our daily classes when the new school years starts.

To sum up, we need to say that the project our teachers took part in helped us discover that teaching and learning can be challenging and fun if all parts involved really want to get out of our comfort zone.

**INTERVIEWING PEOPLE:
MONICA IGRET & FLORINA DRONCA
NEW LOOK HAIRSTYLISTS**

Q: *What does hairstyling mean to you?*

M: It is an art, it is an attempt to find a balance between the personality, the lifestyle and the physical appearance of a person. It should result in harmony, in a state of wellness for all parties concerned.

F: To be a hairstylist often implies counselling, sometimes a bit of therapy, in an attempt to help clients feel good about themselves and remediate the things they don't feel happy about.

Q: *Why did you choose to become a hairstylist?*

M: At first, I was influenced by my father, but later on I discovered my talent, my passion for hairstyling and I started liking what I was doing.

F: I followed someone's advice, as I didn't know at the time what I would like to be exactly.

Q: *What are the advantages of being a hairstylist?*

M: There are many. You are always in, you work in a pleasant environment, people come here to relax and to experience positive feelings. Somehow, you get to take part in all the major moments in your clients' lives: weddings, all sorts of anniversaries, engagement parties, etc.

F: That I do what I like is my number one advantage. My programme is flexible. I believe it's what I really need. I'm in the right place.

Q: *Are there any disadvantages in this job?*

M: Yes, there are a few, such as having to work on holidays or sometimes during the weekends.

F: Perhaps having to stand while working is difficult, but you get used to it, eventually.

Q: *Is there an ideal client? Did you refuse anyone?*

M: I prefer people who are relaxed and trust my skills and desire to work on their image. I like clients who are willing to collaborate and try new things. I usually don't refuse anyone, but sometimes I say no to those who insist on hair damaging procedures, ignoring my advice.

F: I prefer people who trust me and my skills, people who are open-minded, communicative and not afraid to try something new. I have never refused anyone, I'm trying to help my customers feel good about themselves, when they leave us.

Q: *What are your feelings on coming to work in the morning? And when you leave work?*

M: I am an early riser, very energetic and alert and so I enjoy coming to work. When I leave the salon in the evening or late afternoon I feel a bit tired physically and mentally, because working with people is quite demanding.

F: It's like coming home, we here are a large family. On leaving I am pleased with what I did.

Q: *Would you choose the same job if you could go back in time?*

M: Certainly. I had various opportunities in the past, but I chose to stay here and be what I am, because being a hairstylist makes me feel good.

F: I would probably choose the same job, though there was a time when I would have liked to become a doctor.

Q: *Do you think you are a successful person in your profession?*

M: Yes, I think I am, I have managed to reach all my goals in this respect: I have my own beauty salon, I take part in international events where I can meet the best hairstylists worldwide, I teach, trying to give back bits of experience.

F: Yes, I think so, as long as I evolve and the results are visible.

Q: *Do you have some advice in mind for those interested in becoming hairstylists?*

M: Well, the only thing I can say is that they should need to find pleasure/ joy in doing this job which also implies much effort, ambition and determination.

F: They should be patient, willing to work hard and learn new things every day if they want to be good at what they do.



Q: *What are your likes and dislikes?*

M: I like people who are beautiful inside and outside, people who know how to enjoy living their lives, while respecting the other around

F: I like the time I get to spend with my family, the time when I am pleased with my work. I dislike people who judge other people, strongly believing they know better, although, of course, they don't.

ON SHERLOCK HOLMES

"My name is Sherlock Holmes. It is my business to know what other people don't know."

by Gabriel Pauliuc

Sherlock Holmes is the greatest fictional detective of all time; he is a man with exceptional powers of observation and reasoning, a master of disguise who is possessed of an uncanny ability to establish the truth. He is also an enigma. Initially, Holmes appears to be almost two-dimensional – a brilliant brain and human calculating machine with no personality or emotions. Conan Doyle said in an interview that "Sherlock is utterly inhuman, no heart, but with a beautifully logical intellect." And in "The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone" Holmes himself declares, "I am brain, Watson. The rest of me is a mere appendix". It may have been Conan Doyle's intention to create a cold robotic character with no human feelings and the mind of a computer. If so, he did not succeed – and thank goodness, as such a character would not have been very interesting, let alone inspire the affection, and often adoration, that Holmes does. This public fondness is, to some extent, due to a natural inclination to fill in the blanks about him in one's imagination – an innate tendency to believe that someone denying they have any feelings must be hiding a deep well of emotion. But it is also because of the undeniably deep affection Holmes inspires in others. And every now and then, Holmes gives fleeting hints that the loyalty and fondness are returned. Conan Doyle also hints that there is a complex character beneath the cool exterior. On a number of occasions, Holmes lets a culprit go free once he feels that natural justice has been served, rather than subjecting them to the full letter of the "official" law. The picture Conan Doyle creates, and the one that makes Holmes so endlessly compelling, is the suggestion of hidden depths. He may be a person of extraordinary nobility who sacrifices his own feelings in order to serve the greater good by using his skills in detection. Or perhaps he is a man whose sense of inadequacy and inner pain lead him to bury his feelings and throw himself into his work. It is possible that both are true...

ON LEAVING SCHOOL

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all".

by Claudia Varga

I feel that my high school years have taught me to go confidently in the direction of my dreams and that the distance between an idea and reality is represented by actions, and not by simple words. I strongly believe that high school is the open door (in)to the rest of my life. This experience called "high school" has marked the most fascinating years of my life so far.

All the people I met, the moments I lived, will be some of the best memories in life. I can say that high school is the place where I have formed the strongest friendships and even though we are a very small group, we have been together for many years and shared moments that have influenced our lives in a special way. Looking back, I can see that it was through high school that many things changed in me that made me become the person I am today.

The last days of my high school career are fast approaching and I can only imagine how I'll be feeling when I step out of this high school. I didn't think that the graduation would come that soon. Now, this time is finally nearing and I cannot believe that it has come this fast.

College represents the next step of our life and in order to embrace it, we have to think for the last time what high school really meant to us. Let's never forget the bonds that we've created, the lessons that made us ask questions, the teachers who saw beauty and intelligence in us and the moments that made us laugh.

High school has played an important role in our lives: it has made us grow, become aware of what we want, of what we could do, of the many opportunities we need to consider when choosing the path to follow in the years to come.

All in all, high school has made me learn from my mistakes, taught me how to control my emotions, how to deal with different kinds of people and to develop my skills. It was a lovely period of time that I will never forget.

ON ROMEO AND JULIET

By Eduard Gafton

**“What's in a name? that which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.”**

What is Romeo and Juliet about? If I tell you the story Romeo and Juliet does that answer the question? The fact is that it's about many things. It doesn't matter how many times you read or see the play, every time you do you will find things in it that you didn't see before. There are common themes in all of Shakespeare's plays, but in addition to those, each play explores its own issues, which are dramatised in the language, the actions of the characters and in the setting. Although these themes were perfectly suitable for the Elizabethan era, their appeal today cannot be denied.

The Generation Gap is a recurring theme. As both Montague and Capulet are full of hatred one for another, a new generation, represented by Romeo and Juliet is eager to put an end to the old feud between their families. It's too bad that both Romeo and Juliet have to die before their families reconcile. Love is, of course, the heart of the play. Now, this part of the play is more often than not criticised by many reviewers. I think their criticism is quite superficial. Juliet is indeed very young, but back in the 16th century girls used to get married at 14. Romeo does fall in love with Juliet quite too quickly, but then again, such is teenage love. Desperate, passionate, crazy! Mercutio also mocks Romeo's love but I think Romeo responds in an gallant way. "He jests at scars that never felt a wound." Mercutio never felt love, so for him it's very easy to make fun of love and this explains his rowdiness and his character, actually.

Fate is present from the very beginning: "...star cross'd lovers." Romeo also mentions the presence of fate in the stars, the skies and even the dream he claims he has. Both Romeo and Juliet seem very well aware of their fate, but they are blinded by love. Fate is also what changes the play drastically. Romeo is banished, Juliet's letter doesn't reach its destination, Romeo drinks his poison too soon, Juliet wakes up too late from her apparent death. In the end, death released them from the binds of love. For many people, Romeo and Juliet is just an old story, which has no appeal to today's world, but it's Shakespeare's style of writing and the beauty of this love that should be appreciated.

Romeo's and Juliet's words are an ultimate declaration of foolish love. Of crude, raw, love. We may think today that foolish love and love at the first sight are far-fetched. Perhaps they are, but admitting that, we deny ourselves the chance to be passionate. I believe that modern society has lost something on its way towards wherever it may go: its ability to love. Let alone love desperately, passionately.

**SHARING EXPERIENCES, INSPIRING THE
NEXT GENERATIONS**

By Raul Petcut



A few days after the soon- to be EGB graduates delivered their presentations officially during their exam for what we call "atestat," three of the most popular and talented students of their generation were invited to share experiences with a group of students, all freshmen. The 9th E students stood in awe, while listening to Silviu Soit, Gabriel Pauliuc and Eduard Gafton who put up a show, while presenting the results of their work in a funny way, still very professional. Their English was fluent and flawless, including their accent, bordering an impeccable British posh, and the coherence of their speeches was stunning. Silviu is one of the greatest debaters in EGB, while Edi and Gabi are our star speakers in public speaking competitions. All in all, it was an inspiring experience for us, the 9th graders, and we were proud to have been schoolmates with such accomplished students.

We wish them all the best and we are grateful to them for showing us that being great is possible. If they can, can we?

EGB GRADUATES ABROAD

By Alexandru Grosman- Vrije universiteit
Amsterdam



There's a whole world out there, that's just waiting to be experienced. My journey started rather early, when I was sixteen. It was never about getting material things, but about investing in myself – and I had good parents that supported me all along. Not sure how I got there, I just know that I wanted to get insights about everything, life, academic field, professional world, and new cultures. Going abroad was the best decision I have ever made; mostly because it got me out of my comfort zone and changed me completely. Long story short, after being an exchange student in Norway, I decided that getting my bachelor degree in a different country would allow me to accomplish all this. And so it was, but there's more than meets the eye. Fast-forward a few months, I am in the Schiphol airport, completely lost and just about to realize that I am completely alone, that I do not know anyone here and that I have no idea what to do next. Being high-season, Amsterdam was completely packed, so a hotel would not do it. I ended up couch surfing on a boat in the northern part of the city for about a month. That was something that no one in their right mind would do. The boat was the beginning of a very different me, that does not go by any plans anymore, but rather goes with the flow. Through that I met people from all over the world, heard many stories and indirectly experienced a lot. University was about to start, and that was the real shock: a system that promotes active, contradictory debate and teaches you how to be self-sufficient in all aspects. There is no one to check on you, whether you write down anything, when you show up, when you leave and how you use your time in classes. It all boils down to the exams, which are very strict. This is a massive difference from the Romanian system where you are monitored and often forced to take notes.

The Dutch system gives you complete freedom over your time and life and that explains many things: a better economy, a bigger number of entrepreneurs, better justice and more freedom. It also teaches you to have a life beyond the university, to get involved in social events, to innovate, to contribute, to develop your own ideas. I ended up living in various parts of Amsterdam. The people that I met in the process are now among my best friends. After getting used to university, I realized I had enough time to get a job, something that is very easy provided that you are able to think on your own and that you are willing to. I got involved in the startup ecosystem, something this country is specifically amazing at. After maintaining a recruitment website and co-organizing the biggest startup festival in the world, I went further and joined some huge accelerators and venture capital structures. The Dutch system teaches you how to be independent, determined, and how to aim high.

I recently joined The Next Web, one of the biggest tech media publications in the world. This company keeps teaching me so much every day: there is no structure, there are no bosses, there are no rules. You are allowed to do anything, you are encouraged to have your own ideas and speak up your mind when you feel like it – and there is always someone to listen and act. Employees are allowed to sleep at work, and very close communication is something everyone is constantly working on. There is a very strong sense of unity among everyone and a lot of freedom at the same time. There are no fixed working hours and no one to criticize your actions. Yet it all works, it makes people way more productive and pushes them to work even harder than a normal system – just because there is a sense of trust, and a sense of duty that comes with it, making them strive for general growth. Getting out of my personal bubble was the best thing that ever happened to me. It would be for everyone, yet not many have the courage to take the steps and make it happen.

Don't plan, just dream – and act. My favorite quote fits the situation: *"I'd rather regret the things I've done than regret the things I haven't done"* – Lucille Ball

ENGLISH VOCABULARY MADE EASY by Bogdan Borod & Flavius Leonte

Have you ever had problems in finding the right words to express your opinion or merely ask for something? I bet you have. I have struggled with the English vocabulary ever since kindergarten. Well, I think it's time you stopped worrying about learning hundreds of words. And, by the way, stop learning the whole dictionary by heart, it is to no avail ! All you need is just a few words. These words will be always right in any context you may want to use them.

One of these words is **thingamajig**. According to the Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary, **thingamajig** is 'something whose name you have forgotten or do not know'. It is a noun used 'to describe items that either you can't remember the name of or that don't actually exist'. Now, let's see how this word functions in full sentences: *Pass me the thingamabob, I wanna change the channel! Can I have that thingamajig... that thingamajig right on top of the thing...you know the thingamajig?*

If the meaning of the word **thingamajig** the first sentence can be clearly guessed from the context (*thingamajig* means here remote control), in the second sentence it means whatever you want. It seems that **thingamajig** can replace any word you would like to use and cannot find. Ignorance, a lapsus memoriae, a lapsus linguae (a slip of the tongue), all of them can be overcome with the help of one word that says it all, a word that has it all.



This word has quite a lot of synonyms:: *dingus, doodad, thingamabob, thingummy, whatnot, whatsit, whatchamacallit*, but they seem to be less poignant than **thingamajig**. In the end, all I want to say is : have a great thingamajig once school is over ! I hope I've got it right, have you?

WORDS OFTEN CONFUSED: "DISCREET" & "DISCRETE"? by Erika Per

Dicreet and *discrete* are homophones, that is words that sound alike, but are different in meaning, spelling, or both. Just like many other homophones, they that can be very confusing. *Dicreet* means "showing reserve and prudence in one's behavior or speech". *Discrete* means something quite different: "distinct, separate, unrelated." Both words come from the same Latin word *discretus* meaning "separated." For most of the English history, *dicreet* was more frequently used, but today *discrete* is much more frequently used than *dicreet*.

Let's see two examples of the way these words are used in full sentences: "They balked when the company hiked its price a few bucks a month, and they absolutely howled when Netflix tried to separate DVD rentals and online streaming into two *discrete* services." – "Munro is a great writer; a wise writer; a free and brave, exacting, transformative, generous, and profoundly *dicreet* writer."

ON PORTMANTEAUX by Anamaria Dragos

Have you ever used a portmanteu? Or better said, do you know what it is? Well, although you may not be familiar with the meaning of this word, you will be surprised to see that portmanteux are part of your every day vocabulary. Here are some examples: **sitcom**(from situational and comedy), **brunch**(from breakfast and lunch), **Brexit**(from Britain and exit, **Français** (French and English mixed up to humorous effect), **workaholic**(from work and alcoholic), **blog** (from web and log), **biopic** (from biographical and motion picture), **newscast** (from news and broadcast).

The word "portmanteau" was first used in this way by Lewis Carroll in the book *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871), in which Humpty Dumpty explains to Alice the creation of the unusual words in *Jabberwocky*. Humpty Dumpty explains the practice of combining words in various ways by telling Alice: *You see it's like a portmanteau—there are two meanings packed up into one word*. Since then, lots of portmanteux have appeared in both standard and non-standard English. Words such as Eurasia, Microsoft (from microcomputer and software), Oxbridge are portmanteux.

STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

By Diana Avel

Brighton Secondary College Australia

I don't know how many of you know me, so let me introduce myself: I'm Diana Avel, an ex student of your school. I moved to Melbourne, Australia last year and I'd like to share my views on the Australian school system. I landed here on the 18th of January 2015. I didn't have any trouble with adjusting to the Australian time zone, but it took me around a month to get used to the big distances.



To be honest, the first day of school was terrible. All schools have uniforms here and the students wear it with pride. The uniform is pretty strict. You don't really get a choice, you have to wear the same clothes as everyone else. Everything is the same, from socks to school bag. At first I didn't like the idea of not being able to express myself, but then I realised that not having to worry about what I'm going to wear the next day is so chill and makes things so much easier. Girls are not allowed to wear make up, or have their nails painted, it's fair enough. Going back to the first day of school, I was a bit ashamed to wear the uniform at the start, but when I entered the school's gates for the first time and saw that everyone was dressed the same, I suddenly started to feel better, like I was already one of them. The school itself is made of more buildings, and a lot of green space. The class times are also differently structured. School starts at 9am and it ends at 3:15pm. We have 2 consecutive classes, usually the same subject, 20 minutes break (called recess), 2 consecutive classes again, a 45

minute- break for lunch and then two more classes. We are not allowed to spend the lunch and recess inside so we have to go outside on the grass, or actually, anywhere in the school's yards. I didn't know anyone on my first day at Brighton Secondary College. It was a shock to find that I have different colleagues for each subject, even if we're in the same year level. We all have individual timetables. It took me around a week to memorize where all the classrooms were, and to memorize a few of my colleagues' names. The subjects are also a bit different from the ones in Romania. The school allows you to do 6 subjects, at choice. In year 11 and 12 English is the only mandatory subject, you can choose the rest. I chose Music, Drama, Maths Methods (second degree mathematics), Chemistry, Biology, for year 11. There are 3 types of English students can choose: normal English, English as a second language and Literature, for those who enjoy reading a lot. Almost the same thing is going on for Maths (which is not mandatory from year 11). There are 3 types of Maths: general, for those who are not really good at it, but don't want to give it up for good, Maths Methods, for those who are good at it and Specialist, for those who want to do pure mathematics. Our school organizes after school free homework help, where teachers help students with their homework.

A thing I have found very interesting is that all students are divided into 4 "houses", just like in Harry Potter. In each "house" there are smaller groups, called mentor groups. Each group has a mentor teacher. Mentor is like a gathering each Monday and Thursday, 20 minutes before lunch, where we talk about different topics, about life in general, and how to manage our time. One of my favourite things here is that every talent is encouraged. Arts, drama, music, sports, sciences, debating, it doesn't matter what, there is an after school club for everything, even yoga. Every year competitions between "houses" are held in school or outside of school. The house that gets the most points by the end of the year wins a free camp. I can't say that the school is easier or harder here than in Romania. I can only say that it's different. A year has passed since I moved here and I was able to easily blend in and become one of them thanks to their friendly environment, and thanks to the knowledge I came here with, the one gained in Romania.

MY EXPERIENCE IN THE USA

by Flavius Mazilu

Universitatea de Vest din Timisoara

My last summer was great, for sure. I was in the USA with „Work and Travel”, a program which allows students to work and gain experience in the USA. I was in New York for 4 months.



I can't describe how amazing that city is. The lights all around you, huge buildings everywhere, crowds of people, noise, people from different countries everywhere. Every time when I had a day off I visited the city and every time I couldn't help marvelling. My biggest dream had been to visit NYC one day. And my dream came true! The best view was when I went to the rooftop of Rockefeller Center at 70th floor. At that moment I knew that someday I would return to NY because I left my heart in that city... I tried to see other places in the USA, such as Niagara Falls and Boston. Niagara Falls is really huge with big amounts of water falling again and again. Boston is very clean, with amazing buildings and nice people. But there are things I didn't like in the USA: the food, the dirty streets at night, the stench coming from the garbage cans. Another thing that I disliked was that I didn't feel safe on the streets because crime is high in NYC.

I had a great work experience. I worked at a restaurant, and it was not easy because of the numerous people who came there every hour. My boss and my managers were very kind to me, organizing a lot of things for me and the people who worked for them: movie nights, parties and trips. So, my summer in the USA was a dream come true: I made some money and I made new friends from various countries and cultures. The United States is amazing, New York is magic. I had the time of my life in NYC because I was given the chance to live my dream.

OPENING NEW HORIZONS

by Melisa Nunciu

Aurel Vlaicu University

Almost two years have passed since I graduated from EGB. I am now a student here in Arad and I would like to share with my former schoolmates and teachers the great experience I had in Portugal last year. It was a study programme, of course, not a holiday..

Erasmus + is the European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students. But have in mind that Erasmus+ is more than an academic experience. It represents the possibility of seeing the world with other eyes, to feel and discover new emotions that you never thought about. I spent a semester in Portugal, in the city of Faro. The Portuguese teaching system is quite different from ours, more based on individual research and study, on interactive classes, but it was not hard for me to adapt to this new perspective.

Student life in Portugal is very rich in events because we had an ESN Organization that helped us integrate and discover the city, as well as the country. They organized meetings, movie nights, parties, international dinners and trips- social events so that every student could feel part of a community.

If you have opportunity to get in an Erasmus + program, I honestly recommend you to participate in all these activities and to travel as much as you can because you will make a lot of new friends and discover new parts of your personality and abilities that you have never been aware of before. This programme may make a difference in your life. After my stay in Portugal I can say that I appreciate more the simple things in life.

So dare to open new horizons for yourself, be independent, grow, develop and have fun while on an Erasmus+ programme.



A DAY OF NO IMPORTANCE by Eduard Costea

One moment that comes to my mind belongs to a day of no importance. It was a sunny day, nothing out of the ordinary, nothing at all. I had just finished my classes and I was heading home when something happened. Something that would change my way of thinking, I used to be a rational human being, as rational as you can be as a teenager living in the 21st century, but what I am going to tell you turned me into someone else, someone the old I could not totally relate to, someone I cannot simply define. What happened that day? I was waiting for the traffic lights to turn green, when I saw a boy crossing the street. A car was speeding toward him, there was no way it could stop at such speed, and then the car hit the boy. Or, that's what I thought was about to happen. I was petrified with fear. No words came from my mouth. While standing by the traffic light incapable of doing anything I saw the car passing through his body on its way to wherever. The boy looked like he didn't notice it. He kept on walking without looking at me. I don't know why, but I was happy that he ignored me. I wasn't sure if I was dreaming or not and so I pinched my cheek to make sure I was awake. It hurt. I was not dreaming. I turned to look at the boy who did not seem disturbed in any way and I tried to find a reasonable explanation of what I had seen. I couldn't, still cannot. Anyway, it was the moment that led to a deep change in me. I had never believed in ghosts and things like that, but what I witnessed that day was, without a doubt, the ghost of a boy. I didn't tell anyone about him. Let's be serious! Nobody would have believed me, they would have said I was crazy. I kept it a secret, but, from then on, I have been trying to come to terms with the idea that there are things beyond our understanding, beyond the grasp of our rational sphere. What about you? Do you believe that there are things which can't be explained rationally? Perhaps, someday, you'll see something similar to what I saw and want to tell the world about it. But in the end, you don't, you won't. They will think you are deranged, moonstruck, a psycho, as mad as a March hare and other synonyms. Can you live with that?

BATTLE OF THE DAWN by Alex Iepure

It was the third week of the war against the Vebia empire, known for the savagery and cruelty of its army. It was near dawn, and after a battle that lasted over five hours, the soldiers of the Leoning kingdom were exhausted. Not only that but they lost over half an army and their king was killed during the battle. His sixteen years old son Arslan was supposed to succeed to the throne and lead the army. Arslan was not used to that, he wasn't the best fighter in the world and he was considered pretty soft. The soldiers didn't trust him, thinking that he is not fit for this role. Arslan was ready to give up the throne to somebody else, but Daryiun, one of the greatest fighters and an incredible strategist of the Leoning empire, talked some sense into Arslan and made him realise that he should man up and prove that he can follow in his father's footsteps. Dawn came, and with it the overwhelming Vebian army was approaching. It was almost three times as numerous as the Leoning army. All Leoning soldiers were frightened, but Arslan knew what he had to do. He mounted his horse and rode to the front of his army. He knew that if his soldiers were to follow him, he had to speak from his heart, and so he did. Arslan told them to think about their families back home, about their friends and about their fallen comrades, he told them that they had to fight otherwise they would disappoint all of them. There was no way out. Either they fight or their entire world will perish. After listening to the speech, the soldiers pulled themselves together and followed Arslan into the battle. Arslan's ability to motivate his warriors and Daryiun's great strategy led to the defeat of the Vebia in a battle which lasted only two hours. The battle has remained in history as the battle of the Dawn. A year later Arslan had conquered the Vebia empire, freed all the slaves, and transformed his kingdom into an empire. People were happy under his rule. Unfortunately, things didn't last. Nothing good seemed to last in those times. But that was long ago, in a land far, far away, a land that was not known for happy endings.

FASHION AND TEENAGERS

by Alexandra Maduta & Alexandra Chis

They say that we, the teenagers of the 21st century, are very sensitive when it comes about fashion. Some say that we are obsessed with what's in and we have become slaves to the latest trends, no matter how unsuitable they may be. I have to admit that there are some teenagers who buy things only because they are fashionable and refuse to wear anything else. However, most of the teenagers nowadays know how to choose what's acceptable for them or what makes them feel good about themselves. There is nothing wrong in wanting to know about the new trends in any domain, including fashion. Perhaps you'll find something interesting, exciting, something to show off your personality or improve your image.

So, let's forget about the ongoing debate and focus on what's in this year. Of course there is too much to say and we have to limit our selection to four items. We hope you'll find them useful and worth mentioning.



First, it's the sundress. According to Glamour UK, this sort of frock has unlimited appeal. It's an 'easy breezy timeless summer staple, in all different shapes, sizes and prints'. It's an item that is both chic and comfortable. You may find it hard to believe but another fashionable item this year is the backpack. The humble rucksack has been given a new look thanks to Burberry,

who embroidered each model's initials into their canvas and nylon wares. It would be great if we the EGB students will be able to wear personalised backpacks to show off school pride, wouldn't be?

Two other items popular today are the long earrings and the tiara. The earrings should have a shoulder-grazing length, preferably in a mismatched pair. You can wear these earrings with or without a tiara. Many designers have included a tiara among the trendy accessories this year. Maybe an ornate headband would be better for school, but come holiday, we'll all be finding our urban prince, while wearing a tiara. Or extra-long earrings, or anything else capable of making us look in and always beautiful.

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

By Gabriela Dragusin & Alexandra Rosu

The current school year is nearing its end. We can't believe that almost nine months have passed since we came to this school and met our classmates for the first time. September 2015 marked the beginning of our high school years, the beginning of the best years of our lives. Back then we were so excited, so eager to see what was in store for us that we paid little attention to the *clouds* that threatened to change our pinkish perspective on school life. Fortunately, most of us did manage to wake up on time and start taking school seriously, but it was not easy for us. It is even more difficult and frustrating for those who are still hiding in their cocoon, refusing to face a reality which is neither pink(white), nor black, but something in between.

Thinking back, there are many good things that happened to us this school year. We made new friends, we worked as a team/ group/class, we did a lot of activities together and it was fun. We did something each month: the Freshmen's Ball, the EGB Halloween Party, the Language Day, the Teachers' Day, Thanksgiving, Romania's National Day, Christmas, Valentine's Day, 8th of March, the Spring Flowers Festival, Europe Day and soon Childrens' Day on June 1st.

Among other things we have managed to contribute to this issue of our school magazine, though we know very little about writing articles in English, French or any other language, including Romanian. Well, at least we tried.

LESSONS TO LEARN**By Casian Butean & Eduard Costea**

We have been there twice this year. Each time it was not something carefully planned or mandatory. Whoever wanted- or felt they wanted to help children in need- took part in our activity. We paid a visit to the 1st grade pupils, at "Iosif Moldovan" General School. It is difficult to find the right words to describe what we saw there, what we felt, who we met and how a heartbreaking experience it was just to be there. It's hard to imagine that there are children in our city, in our county who lack the basic things to survive in this world. Their families, some mono-parental, cannot provide for them. Some parents do not work, there is no money the children to be fed, clothed or be sent to school properly. In spite of everything, these children know how to be happy and enjoy the little things we take for granted. When they saw us, when they received the modest gifts we brought, they were ecstatic.



They were thrilled when they got a bar of chocolate, a cupcake or some pencils, crayons and notebooks. The smiles on these children's faces are hard to forget. We take everything for granted and we do not know how to enjoy the simple things that happen to us every day. Happiness, enthusiasm or just feeling good about something seem more and more difficult to attain for most of us.

We keep on being cranky all the time, angry and dissatisfied, complaining about school, parents, teachers, friends, the whole world. A generation of grumpy teenagers, aren't we? Why? It's too difficult to answer. Maybe another time. The aim of this article is to invite more students to find time to spend with children like the ones we visited this school year.



We believe that meeting with such children and other like them may help us see the world and our lives in a different perspective. It may teach us how to be good to ourselves and to the people around, who knows? One thing it's sure, though, these children have taught us a lesson we'll never forget.

Let's consider the following imaginary exercise: reflect on the two pictures on this page, by comparing and contrasting them. Choose words from the list below to do your task: colourful, excited, happy, bored, thoughtful, well-dressed, modern technology, bars of chocolate, casual clothes, smiles, white, faces, backs, indifference. Write a 250-word reflective essay based on your own observations, if any. Why if any? Perhaps because most teenagers choose to ignore reality To preserve their peace of mind and their carefree lifestyle, they tend to hide their emotions until they forget they had them at some point. It's cool to be unfeeling nowadays...

FLASH – EGB'S STUDENTS NEWSLETTER, MAY 2016

EDITORS: VLAD BRADAU, IULIA BANDAC, PAULA BLAJ, EDUARD COSTEA, GABRIELA DRAGUSIN, RALUCA FLOREA, ALEXANDRA ROSU, RAUL PETCUT, COORDINATED BY LIVIA MARINESCU, ALL FOR AND FROM COLEGIUL NATIONAL ELENA GHIBA BIRTA, ARAD