

SO ECO GREEN 4TH COMENIUS MEETING PIETARSAARI, FINNLAND

JANUARY 28TH - FEBRUARY 1ST 2014

MECHATRONIKAI SZAKKÖZÉPISKOLA, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Students' participation in the school

Class committee/class group delegates are chosen at the beginning of the school year. They should be hard working and well behaved students and show a positive example to the others. They are in close relation with the class teachers.

Their roles are:

- ❖ to solve conflicts between classmates
- ❖ to report and inform class teachers about problems, requests
- ❖ to promote students' interests
- ❖ to help organize class activities (trips, visits to museums, theatre and cinema)
- ❖ to inform their classmates about school life, problems
- ❖ to facilitate dialogue between students and teachers at class level
- ❖ to help with administration
- ❖ to mobilize the others
- ❖ classrooms and corridors decoration
- ❖ look after notice boards in the corridors (usually each class is responsible for one next to their classroom)

Students' Council or the Students' Government is made up of the class committee members, who choose their president. It is directly subordinated to the principal. Its main role is to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between the management and the students at school level. One teacher is usually in charge of helping the students.

Its roles are:

- ❖ to (help)organize school events, competitions, cultural activities
- ❖ to communicate students' needs, problems, requests, suggestions to the management
- ❖ to (help) organize school days, School Leavers' Ball, Graduating students ceremonial farewell to their alma mater
- ❖ to look after the central notice board
- ❖ to help organizing commemorations and celebrations of historic events
- ❖ to inform about current events

Waste-paper collection

In order to protect the environment we organize paper collection at least twice a year (autumn, spring). A lot of people living in the neighbourhood (our school is situated on a big housing estate) help our action. The money goes to the Mecha Green Circle and it is usually spent on useful prizes for students at competitions, paint, trips.

Mecha School Days are usually organized in October and last for two days, when instead of lessons, students can take part in many activities. There is a competition among classes for the Mecha Cup. It includes different types of tasks – waste paper collection, culture quiz, crosswords, music, logic, cooking, art, handicraft, etc. On the official opening ceremony the president of the Students' Council receives the key of the school from the principal – he who has the key is the master/owner of the building.

Initiation ceremony

Each school year, students in the 10th form are “accepted” citizens of Mechatropolis. This is a traditional event and it is done with a nice ceremony after which the new citizens have a feast of sweet bread and cocoa. Parents, old students often attend the event.

The **Football Championship** is organized during the night of the second day (usually a Friday so that everybody can sleep the next day). Each class (team of 6 students) takes part. The students bring food, cakes and soft drinks and organize class buffet, have LAN parties and support their teams. Sometimes parents join and spend the night in the school talking to teachers, making sandwiches, playing cards. In the Greek Theatre films chosen by the students are shown all night long – so everyone can find something interesting and entertaining. It is a great opportunity to let students know each other better and be welded together.

Cake Baking Competition is now a traditional and very popular event in our school, which usually takes place on the last day of school before Christmas holiday.

Students (mothers, grandmothers) bake delicious home-made cakes which are sold on the Christmas sale.

Each class of students gets a “stall” that they decorate as beautifully as they can in order to attract “customers”. An impartial jury will select the best and will award prizes. The jury will take into consideration taste and form of the cake and decoration of the stall.

The collected money is given to the Students’ Council and the school Studio.

The **Christmas tree** in the main hall is usually decorated on the 5th of December. On December the 6th we celebrate the day of Saint Nicholas who brings children sweets and other small gifts. On that day, a student or a teacher disguised as St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) gives each student a special candy/fondant called “szaloncukor”. The students also decorate their classrooms and the corridors.

Open Gates is the name of the event which is organized to recruit new students. It is a day when primary school students and their parents visit the school and take part in different activities and lessons thus they are informed about school life and educational possibilities. They are shown around by senior students who also answer their questions.

A **School Market** is organized each year by the City Council. This is a schooling event where secondary and vocational schools promote their institutions. Visitors (8th form students and parents) are given yearbooks, leaflets, brochures containing the fields of study, main subjects, admission requirements and possibilities for further education. Short films and photos about the school and school life are screened.

Different **Sports** competitions are organized at school level: football, basketball, volleyball.

Túró Rudi running is now a traditional event. Students and teachers run around the school and after each lap they are rewarded with a healthy and delicious Túró Rudi – chocolate coated cottage cheese bar.

School competitions

Chemistry and Physics experiments prepared and presented by students.

Teachers' Day and Children's Day Cooking competition

In Hungary Children's day is celebrated on the last Sunday of May and Teachers' Day is the first Sunday in June. In our school we celebrate the two events together. Students prepare a short programme and give each teacher a flower. In return teachers present them with home-made cakes. Students cook in groups, usually outside in the courtyard of the school and invite teachers and classmates to taste and eat together.

Assistants/helpers are chosen by teachers (or the students offer themselves) to help during the year or term preparing the necessary illustrative materials for the lessons: maps, dictionaries, books, ICT devices, sport equipment, experiments, photocopies, etc.

Mecha TV and the **Studio** provide music in the breaks, the sound and light for school events, are responsible for the maintenance of the electric devices. They record school events, take photos which are put on the school's website and Facebook profile. They are helped by a teacher and the system administrator.

Cleaning and Painting Day is usually organized at the beginning of the school year. Students, teachers, parents and family members help cleaning and painting the building, classrooms, corridors, the fence to make the environment friendlier.

Students' participation in the community

Social actions

It is declared in the Public Education Act that communal service is compulsory for each student during the 4 years of secondary school. They have to volunteer 50 hours and get a certificate. This can be done individually, in group(s) or with the class, sometimes organized by the school and students can choose to do several things:

- ❖ visit orphanages and take small presents (books, toys) to the children
- ❖ volunteer for the Children's rail
- ❖ help clean parks and playgrounds, kindergartens' courtyards
- ❖ environmental actions like protecting the chestnut trees (this year 16th November 2013)
- ❖ charity actions like Santa Claus Factory
- ❖ "work" in Santa Claus factory
- ❖ help old people with shopping or housework

Collection of old clothes is a permanent action organized by the Red Cross. They set up containers at many shopping malls and hypermarkets, so that anyone can bring used/old clothes to help those who are in need.

Santa Claus Factory is a donation system which has been helping people in need for many years. Especially in the period before Christmas the organizers would like to draw attention to those who are socially disadvantaged.

Teachers, students and workers of the school join this campaign and bring old toys, books (children's stories). Class teachers collect the donations and a group of students and teachers take them to Santa Claus Factory. Donations will be distributed before Christmas to children in need.

With this campaign we would like to strengthen the willingness to help, which is very much needed nowadays.

Rubbish collection, park cleaning From time to time our students help cleaning the parks, playgrounds, green areas in our district and around the school.

Save the Chestnut Trees!

The chief gardener of the Novotel Hotel has been working for 20 years to save the chestnut trees in the hotel's park. These beautiful trees are exposed to the wreak destruction of a special moth, which survives the winter and in the spring destroys the tree leaves.

The best protection against this pest is to collect the fallen leaves and burn them.

The students and teachers of the school have been taking part in this environmental action from the very beginning.

The organizers provide hot tea, soft drinks and sandwiches and take care of the pleasant atmosphere.

Those who bring their own brooms and rakes are rewarded.

Parents, grandparents, siblings are welcome.

Cultural and Sports activities

Students participate in different **school contests** (mathematics, electronics, chemistry, reciting, drawing, etc.) and **Sport competitions** at local, city or national level. **Vivicittá**, half marathon road running competition and the Citadell running are very popular with the students.

Márk Boldizsár, member of the Cső-Montage Budapest Futsal Club Újbuda and of the Hungarian U21national team was awarded the prize for the best sportsman. In his free time he trains 7-year olds and takes photos. He finished third in an international photo competition- Europe Our Home.

Students' Scientific Conference is organized among schools. Students prepare presentations, give lectures in different topics, which are judged by a professional panel of experts/teachers.

A star is born is a competition where they search for talented students who are good at singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, stand-up comedy, reciting poems.