

# **WHAT'S UP??**

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## **EXCHANGE PROJECT**

**St.-Jan Diest –**

# **BELGIUM**

**IES Pío del Río Hortega 1º & 2º**

**BACH –**

# **SPAIN**

**PART 2 : DIEST-> PORTILLO**

**16/3/2014 – 23/3/2014**

# NOTEBOOK

**Friday 21/03/2014**

Today we went to visit the old town of Portillo. At first we had some classes, like Idiomas and gym. After that we left the school to go to the oldest part of the town. We saw the old wall of the city built by the Romans. We could climb the old gate to enter the village. We went to see the old water reservoir, used in the medieval ages. We also saw the castle of Portillo. We went all the way to the top, so we needed to climb a lot of stairs. When we reached the top, it was time to go to the water well. We reached a level of 32 meters underground. The last visit was to the pub, which was previously a church. We got a drink for free from the parents' council. In the evening we are going to have dinner with the whole group and after that we're going to have a party.

## **The arrival in Spain**

At 11 o'clock everybody came together to take the bus to Zaventem. When almost everyone was there and the bus was waiting, only Tom was missing. Finally we arrived at Brussels Airport and checked in to take the plane. After a trip of two hours flying, we arrived in Madrid. The bus brought us to Portillo where the Spanish people were waiting for us. We went to the house to put our bags and to meet the family. Then we went to a local pub to have a drink and there was a rock concert. At 10 o'clock, most of us went to a restaurant to eat a pizza. After that, we went to another bar to drink something. Tired after this long day, we went home to sleep.

By Kato Minten & Melissa



# ***TRIPS IN SPAIN***

## **TRIP TO SALAMANCA:**

On tuesday we went to Salamanca, a city which is near Valladolid. In the morning we visited the old part of Salamanca. It was like a tour all over the city where spanish students give a description of the most popular monuments like the University where we had to look for a frog that was in the fachade over a crane, but lot of people didn't found it.

Also we visited the main square, the Major Square which is very beautiful, a very big old market, the jardin of Calist and Melibea, the house of the swells where we entered. We went up to the Ieronimus that are the towers of the cathedral of Salamanca and we had to walk a lot of stairs but when you are at the top you can see all the city and it's fantastic.

In the evening we had free time before 18:00h, most of the people went to eat to Mc Donalds or Burger King, then some students went to visit more monuments, others to take photos, some girls wanted to go shopping and others prefered to stay in the place dancing and drinking beer.

We arrive to Portillo, and then at night we met all together in the same pub to see a football match between Atlético Madrid and Barça. When it finished we drank something and started to talk. After that we returned to our houses.

By María Cubero & Elena Sanz

## **TRIP TO MADRID:**

We went to Madrid and visited the main monuments. After we had some free time and saw the different shows in Plaza Mayor. Moreover, we went to the museum of Reina Sofia, and there we saw the Guernica, a painting by Picasso, also we met a female painter from Valladolid. In Reina Sofia, there were several paintings of Salvador Dalí. When we finished, we had free time, and we went to eat and to the "Puerta del Sol", where we took some photos. After that, we went back to Portillo and when we arrived, we had some drink in the bar and went home. It was a tired day.

By Elisa Rodriguez & Estíbaliz Gonzalez

# ***INTERVIEWS TO OUR BELGIAN PARTNERS:***

**INTERVIEW BY LUCÍA GUTIERREZ & ADRIÁN DE LA FUENTE**

## **What do you think about Spain?**

I think it is a very beautiful country, with a lot of friendly people. I like the little streets in some of the villages like Montemayor de Pililla. Also, people were very kind and I learn some typical things that you do in Spain.

## **Do you think things are cheaper here?**

Yes, many things were cheaper than in Belgium, things like clothes and drinks. For example: I bought 9 things for 120 € and in Belgium you would have 4 things. Some clothes you can buy for 25 € in Belgium and in Spain it are only 20 €. Food also is cheaper, normally you pay 4€ for a piece of pizza and in Spain its 1 €.

## **Have you ever visited Spain before? Which cities? Would you have liked to visit any other cities here?**

Yes, we have visited Barcelona, Gerona, Mallorca, Torrevieja, Salou, Lloret de Mar, Cambrils (Cataluña). Also some of us want to visit Barcelona and another important cities to see more monuments.

## **Is Spain as you expected?**

Yes and no. Everybody thinks that it is always 25°C in Spain, but now I know it can be cold in Spain. I thought the people were very friendly and nice in Spain and that was definitely true.

**What do you think about the Spanish culture? Is it very different to the Belgium one?**

Yes, the times for dinner and lunch and the traditions are very different. Also after lunch in Spain you can do a 'siesta'. It's different than in Belgium because we haven't got it.

**Are the eating times very strange for you? At the end of the week did you adapt to it?**

At the beginning it was very strange and I was very hungry in the day, but at the end of the week I was already adapted but it is still weird to have dinner at 22h.

**What about parting in Spain? The drinks that young people drink here when they go parting, are they very different than there?**

The parties in Spain were very nice and funny. I think that the drinks are the same; the only thing is that in Belgium everybody drinks beer.

**What city do you prefer: Salamanca or Madrid? Why?**

Salamanca. Because we saw some beautiful buildings and visited a nice cathedral. Also we bought there a lot of things. We think that we just visited just a few things in Madrid.

**What are the main different between the two countries? And what about high school?**

The main difference are the eating times. Also the village, yours is very small and cozy, mine is full of cars. The high school in Diest is bigger, but that is not a big difference. The main difference is that when you have a break, you can walk out of school and go to a shop or something, we can't do that in our school.

**During the afternoons, we think that you do more activities than us, what can you say about that?**

Yes it is true but I think it is because you have lunch at 15.00 and dinner at 22.00. In the meantime you can do your homework and relax. Normally we have a drink after dinner, but you have dinner at 22.00, it is very late to have a drink after that.

### **What was your first impression when you arrived? And the guesthouse?**

At first we were nervous but when we met the family and our partner everything was great. They were very kind and nice. The houses were very beautiful and the weather very calm.

### **Would you like to visit Spain again in the future?**

Yes, to visit Madrid and other countries and also to meet our partners again. We would love to do that, maybe this summer

### **Did you like the activities you did here? Would you have liked to do any other? What was your favorite one?**

I liked the activities, most of all the paintball. It was the first time for me, so I was a little bit afraid, but I think it was very nice to do that and it was awesome.

## **INTERVIEW TO BREGT AND NIKKIE, BY LAURA ESTEBAN AND ANDRÉS GARCÍA**

### **Why have you participated in the exchange program?**

**Nikkie:** It seems fun to come here and meet new fantastic people and also making new friends which I hope are going to last forever. Also learning more about Spain, its culture, its tradition and some of its cities. I am so glad that I did the exchange

### **How has your week gone?**

**Bregt:** Very good, in general. I think we have had very nice weather, although the parties were the best part of the trip. I don't know about Nikkie, but I like the girls from here. I also think that we had a great group, and that has made the interchange way better. I think Portillo is a beautiful city, and that the visits to it were fun. I'm glad that I lived up the village, because it is where the castle is and, the sights are impressive. I really liked the Blues café, and the Sacristia, because it is a very cosy place.

### **Are life, food culture, timetable, etc, very different from Belgium?**

**Nikkie:** We have more school hours, we make up to seven hours each day, but on Wednesdays we only have four hours of class and then we can go home. We eat in

the high school, and here we ate after high school. I think this is because here the timetable of the day is like a couple of hours delayed, and that means everything is two hours later than in Belgium. Here you also drink a lot of milk, and we don't drink so much. The clothing when it is too hot it is also different here. My last difference is that everyone in Belgium goes by bike to school, and here that is very rare.

### **What do you do on a normal day? Compare It to a day in Spain**

**Bregt:** I usually get up at 7 a.m, but here I am waking up at 7:45 a.m. although school starts at the same hour in Spain and in Belgium. Here you can go out of school during the breaks. In Belgium we eat at school (not on wednesdays because we only have four hours), but here you have lunch after finishing it. After school I make my homework, then I have dinner and later I go to the shelter with my friends. I return home before we do here, because I have to wake up earlier for school.

### **Do you have any type of hobby ? How many time do you spend on it ?**

**Nikkie:** I am part of the KSJ of my village, Zelem, which is a kind of scouts club where we do different activities and trips together for almost three hours a week. I also love dancing. I have been taking dance lessons until last year, one hour a week. I also practice cycling every day to go to school even for moving in my village.

### **What do you think of our village specifically and the others cities in general?**

**Bregt:** Salamanca is a very beautiful city and its always interesting to see a student city like Leuven, for example. I am glad I found the frog in the wall so I can pass my exams. I went to Valladolid by car, and I think it is a great city, because it has many different things and there is more people than in a typical Belgium city. Madrid and Valladolid are similar cities. In the other hand, Madrid has much people who is always busy, and it is a very loud city too. Although we had fun during the general explanation of the city, the museum was a little boring.

### **What was the most strange/shocking thing you found about Spanish culture?**

**Bregt:** For me, the most shocking aspect was your timetable, and especially the later hours of having dinner, which is about three hours later than ours. Another thing was your tradition of running bulls which I have never heard about before.

### **How has this experience in Spain influenced you?**

**Nikkie:** We made new friends which was maybe the most important thing. This trip has also made the bond in both groups, the Spanish and the Belgian, stronger; as well as the bond between every participant of the interchange.

## **SPORTS IN SPAIN VS BELGIUM -> CONVERSATION BETWEEN ALEJANDRO SANZ & RODRIGO VS TOM & MICHIEL.**

**Alejandro and Rodrigo :** Do you practise any sports at Belgium?

**Tom and Michiel :** I play football (Tom), and we both like cycling and outdoor sports.

**Alejandro and Rodrigo:** Are there any differences between the ways they are practised in Spain and Belgium?

**Tom and Michiel:** In Spain football has more importance than in Belgium. Here it is always in TV and papers. In Belgium there is more variety, and although it is important, so are basketball, cycling, horse-riding...

**Alejandro and Rodrigo:** Here also basketball and tennis, as well as F-1 racing and motorbikes are important, but there is a big difference with football.

**Tom and Michiel:** We like Spanish sports, although here nobody does horse-riding, and cycling is not so important.

**Alejandro and Rodrigo:** Did you notice any differences between P.E classes in Spain and Belgium?

**Tom and Michiel:** in Belgium they are longer, and we have more variety, such as dancing, team sports, gymnastics...

**Alejandro and Rodrigo:** in Spain we have some in the year some weeks of each sport or activity together, we don't split activities in the whole year period

**Tom and Michiel:** Anyway, there are not big differences between sport in both countries.

**Alejandro and Rodrigo:** So do we think.



# ***OTHER TOPICS:***

## **MUSIC:**

The music is very important in an exchange. It's important in the parties or for spending time in a travel. I think that the favorite music of the Belgian people is the techno because they try to put it all the time. Also there is others likes in music like reggae, rap, house...

I think that the Belgian people love dance with music, they dance in a different form of the Spanish people. In the nights we go to the pub and they put music to dance, it's very funny they are dancing in crazy form when we are sitting.

I think that they like the same kind of music because we listen techno too.

**By: Guillermo Aguado & Mario de León.**

## **PAINTBALL:**

The last Wednesday most of the people, both Spanish and Belgian, went near Valladolid to do something new: paintball.

At the beginning, when the monitor was explaining us how it works, all seems to be so frightening. However, when we started the first battle immediately we saw how funny was. We were divided into two groups, mixed Spanish and Belgian girls and boys: the blue team and the brown team. They gave us the equipment, very important to not be damaged, and the ammunition, colorful balls. The game started!

After many battles, we were very tired, but we resisted until the last ball. In each movement, we tried to win the battle, but only one team could win. This time, the brown team was luckier. Although there were no real winners and losers: just a great afternoon! The battle blows weren't given importance and we finished taking a drink all together.

**By: Lucía Izquierdo Calvo & Paula Alonso Ferrero**



## DINNER PARTY:

On Friday, all the Spaniards and Belgians met in Portillo to have our last dinner all together. Every parent of the Spaniards students made a typical meal of Spain, like Spanish omelette, croquettes, mushrooms and cake. We ate a lot and have fun and a really good time. But when we were going to go to Arrabal to the party, Eduardo's partner, Brent, felt too sick and went home. We all went to Deblau's pub.

At first, at the pub there weren't many people. But in less than an hour the pub was full and we all danced and laughed a lot. We all enjoyed that night and at 5-6 o'clock in the morning we came back home.

**By: Inés Ortega & Natalia Maldonado**

# WHAT WE'VE DONE DURING THE WEEK:

From Monday to Thursday we went to some local pubs in the evenings and some nights to drink something together.

On Friday, we have dinner in Portillo at 21:00 with all the people of the exchange, including teachers. We ate Spanish food that our parents had cooked for everyone. It was a good time.

After that, at midnight, we went to Arrabal to the party. There was the high school party where all the students of every village were to have fun and meet Belgian students. Most of us went home at 5-6 at night after having a big party.

Saturday night began with dinner at the bar which is next to the institute, Kache. After dinner we all in the same party bar. The party went as planned. Being the last night all we wanted to enjoy it and so we did. There was lots of dancing and laughter and above all we were passing it all together great. It was a very good last night we could hopefully repeated.

**By: Susana Santos & Mónica Catalina**

# THE WEATHER:

During the week of the exchange, the weather in Spain was good, better than when we were in Belgium, although it's true that it was on October and in Spain was on March.

During the week of the exchange the weather was warm for the date, but that was good because we could be in the street and Belgium people could enjoy the warm temperatures that they didn't have in Belgium at those days. However, some nights also rained a bit.

This warm temperatures make the Belgium people wore summer clothes in the mornings because the temperature for them was warm. That made a big difference with us because we continue wearing winter clothes because it was cool in the mornings.

To sum up, I think I prefer the Spanish's weather and I think it's better for an exchange than the Belgium one.

**By: Eduardo Garnacho & Marcos Alfonso**