

BAIA MARE "WORDCROSSING" PROJECT MEETING

Anna Pionetti, Vittoria Maria Sperindé, Alberto Sarti and Clara Vercesi attended the Wordcrossing meeting in Baia Mare from 6 to 10 April with their teachers Giordana Mutti and Adelinda Re. They were guests of their Romanian partner families.

Andrea Accanito has interviewed Clara and Alberto:

Andrea: What was your flight like?

Alberto: We left school at 11.30 and arrived in Baia Mare at 22.20, because the flight was delayed. We flew from Bergamo to Cluj Napoca. When we arrived we were exhausted, excited and a bit nervous because we were going to meet our partners.

Andrea: What was your impact with your host families like?

Clara: The families were really warm and welcoming, also if I had communication problems. In fact nobody spoke English apart from my partner, but this didn't happen to my schoolmates. Anyway, I didn't expect them to be so warm and kind. I was happy and really impressed.

Andrea: What activities were you involved in?

Alberto: We gave a presentation on the book we had read the month before; it was *Travels with Herodotus*, by Kapuscinski, a Polish writer. Then we saw the presentations of the other partners and met a Romanian writer. The following day we visited characteristic places in the area, and spent the last day at school.

Andrea: What did you visit on the second day?

Clara: We visited the Maramures region, in particular the Memorial Museum to the victim of communism and to the resistance in Sighet, housed in a prison that from 1948 was used for political dissidents. We were shocked at learning how many jails for dissidents there were in Romania. Then we went to 'Cimitirul Vesel', the 'Happy Cemetery', in Sapanta. There we admired amazing tombs with crosses with bright blue, white, yellow and red decorations, scenes from the daily life or occupation of the deceased, and humorous lines for epitaph. We also saw Orthodox wooden churches with a tall spire in the middle and paintings and carpets inside.

Andrea: How about the last day?

Clara: That was really spectacular! Each group presented songs, dances, costumes and traditions of their countries. We had great fun.

Andrea: What did you appreciate most of your trip?

Alberto: Getting to know lifestyles and habits different from ours, and meeting new friends. Due to the different languages spoken by all our partners, we had to speak English, so we have improved our communication skills. Also, hearing people speak in their mother tongue has made us curious and willing to learn more languages. The relationship with the teachers has become stronger, and also the friendship in our group. We have made a lot of new friends and we hope we'll see them again.

Andrea: Would you suggest this experience to others?

Clara: Definetely yes. I would suggest it to everybody, in particular to students who are a bit shy or have doubts about the project. At the beginning I was not sure about my choice, I was afraid I would not get on well with my partner, that I might not feel at ease with my family, in particular in a country I imagined so different from ours, but in a short time you get to know them and you have warm feelings toward all the students. At the end I was sad and leaving the families was really difficult.



← The last day

The Happy Cemetery

