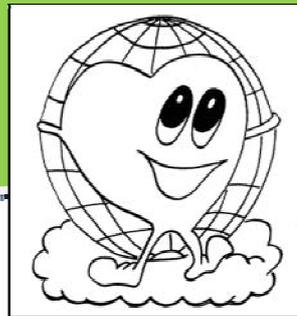


THE HEART



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL MAGAZINE SPIŠSKÉ VLACHY

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**He who has heart is rich.
He who has God in his heart is the richest.**

FORE WORD

Dear Readers,

I was delighted when I received a request from Ľubomír Baloga to write a brief foreword to the school magazine. Every communication medium is intended to help us tell our stories and I hope that these English pages, which became part of the school magazine, are the way how we can share news, education, entertainment and also personal communication.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the creation of the English version of the school magazine.

With many good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ing. Darina Kaľavská

The European Day of Languages



SPIŠSKÉ VLACHY The European Day of Languages is on 26 September. Its aim is to encourage language learning across Europe. Here in Spišské Vlachy we have prepared a program for all grades and ages in our school. For level one (the first grade to the fifth grade) we prepared a show with stuffed animals.

The girls brought tigers, lions, bears, rabbits, fish and so much more stuffed animals to school – including a dragon! The program was located in our school gym. Mats were placed across the gym so the kids could have where to sit. The program consisted of singing, understanding – and guessing games. The girls picked out a random stuffed animal, and showed it to the audience. They had to guess what the animal is called in English, and what kind of a sound it makes. To celebrate languages our team sang an African song, which is called Kumbaya. The audience assisted them in singing. For level two (the sixth grade to the ninth grade) the teachers had prepared a quiz. Each group had their own mat. Every group had to use their intelligence to answer questions about how many languages exist, which country is the most universal with linguists, and which language belongs to which country. It was great to expand our knowledge of other countries and their native languages. We thank all the kids that joined us actively on September the 26th.

Paula Mária Vyšovská, VIII. B

What I like about England; and why I love Slovakia



Common Picture with Peter Melville.

When they asked G.K.Chesterton {1874 – 1936} why he loved his country so much he replied that it was no single thing, but a combination of many small things. He spoke of bitter beer and regional dialects; of winding roads and village greens; of lazy cricket on summer afternoons and of 'messaging about in boats'. Like me, he was a writer, a wit, a fat Englishman, an absent minded man attracted to the Catholic faith and fond of beer. So what is England – or Britain – like in 2013? Here is what I put on the Projector for the children I teach...
(to be continued...)

England

- English people Like Rules: Queues; Regulations {even the EEC rules are enforced!}: we are not usually corrupt (neither Police, Judges, Civil Servants or Politicians).
- We are Boring: We eat Dull Food {unless Indian or Chinese}; We talk about the Weather or Television.
- We Dislike Emotion: Hate Boasting + 'Excitable' foreigners. We are given to Understatement.
- We like 'Dry' humour. Again 'understated': Irony or Sarcasm. {English humour is as sophisticated as any in the World: well, let's be honest, the best}.
- Are 'At Our Finest' in a Crisis: We "Pull together" when "the going is tough". Most people 'enjoyed' the War (1939 – 45); food rationing and the 'Blitz'. {We showed those Germans..}
- Finally: We are not really English...we are Celtic, Saxon, Viking, Norman, Huguenot, Jewish, English, Welsh, Irish and Scottish (United Kingdom). West Indian (Jamaica, Trinidad etc), Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, East African, Hong Kong. Refugees and 'Illegal' Immigrants from everywhere. (& recently) Polish, Bulgarian...Slovakian?

Peter Melville, Spisske Vlachy, November 2013

Christmas Greeting From Budapest

SPIŠSKÉ VLACHY Jozef Gregor Elementary School was our guest for three days having performed three choir concerts in Spisske Vlchy. This event is part of our two schools' dissemination work that follows a former Comenius partnership project that had ended the year before. Jozef Gregor Elementary School took up the name of highly appreciated opera singer Gregor Jozsef who was famous all over Europe and was born in the district where the school in Budapest is. It was the first primary school to have this name only one year after the death of Gregor in 2007. The school has had music speciality classes for more than five decades and at the moment 92 pupils attend the school choir. They mainly



Hungarian students singing unforgettable Africa song.

perform singing church music and chorals, folk songs and sometimes gospels and they regularly take part in regional choir competitions. The upper elementary division conductor David Krisztina prepared the programme and instructed the choir coming to Slovakia. Their repertoire included folk songs, church songs and chorals, also Christmas carols and psalms, and they really provided a hearty and joyous Christmas greeting to us. In return we also tried to compile an interesting and exciting programme for them with sightseeing tours in Poprad, Levoca and of course Spisske Vlchy. The High Tatras offered wonderful scenery for a short trip. Pupils enjoyed the sporty games and team competitions at the school gym and hopefully lasting friendships will be made as they enthusiastically changed their e-mail and facebook addresses. In spring Budapest will host our school children with us going to prepare a concert and performance at Gregor Jozsef School a new meeting that we cannot wait for. We consider the recent meeting a very encouraging event as an outcome of the Comenius project celebrating European values and diversity and gearing both personal and institutional intercultural relationships with the neighbouring nations and countries. We also owe thanks to all our colleagues who worked in this project, to connected institutions and school principal for supporting such event. As for me I can only hope that music could save for each of us remembrances that would outlast school years and slip through the fingers of time.

Your English teacher Darina Kaľavská

Jack and Joe – English Drama

SPIŠSKÉ VLACHY If I asked: "Do you remember those two brothers – Jack and Joe?" I am sure that most of our children's answer would be: "YEAH! THE MAGIC VODARENKY PRUTIK!" This funny drama took place in the cinema of Spisske Vlchy in November 2013. The participants were the older students, beginning with class 5 up to class 9. I know I can speak for everyone when I say it was an experience! The language level was appropriate, so from 13 to 15 year olds there shouldn't



Brothers arguing about the magic vodarensky prutik.

have been any difficulty of understanding. The plot was very easy to understand even for the younger ones whose vocabulary isn't that extensive.... yet.... ☺ Learning English is a long lasting process when talking about second language learners. That's why, in my opinion, it is very important **to read** a lot (which makes your vocabulary raise and realize the sentence structures); **to speak** (what is the foreign language good for if you are not able to talk...?); **to write** (for now you have no idea how many letters, application forms, CV's you will have to fill in or translate in future); and last but not least - **to listen** (watch movies in English, translate the songs; the first step to learn the language is to understand). I'd like to give you a piece of advice: If you found the plot a little bit boring, never mind. The aim was meant to help you develop your language skills. I think it's been fulfilled. ☺

Your English teacher Jane Bekesova