

# Comenius 2013

## Holland

On Wednesday me and four other pupils went to Nijmegen by train. When we finally got there we saw our guest families for the first time.

I was living with a girl named Yvon and her siblings, they lived in suburb called Wijchen it was not far away from Nijmegen.

The first day me and Yvon learned to know each other.

On Thursday we went to the Kandinsky College in Nijmegen it's a huge and really modern school, much bigger than ours. A friend of mine and me had to present our city and school in Heilbronn and after school we went to the ice skating rink I had really lots of fun there.



The next day we also went to school but just for two hours, because we visited the museum Valkhof in Nijmegen which was really huge. We learned a lot of things about the history of Nijmegen and the culture.

After that we went to the gym for like three hours. It was really cool because they taught us how to play squash, then we had to get ready because there was a big dinner in another school in Nijmegen.



Saturday was the most amazing day I had there, first I went shopping in Nijmegen with my exchange partner Yvon and her friends which also had exchange partners from England, Italy and Norway. Together we went to the Lasertech in the city.

And of course on Sunday we had to leave.

For me, it was a great adventure to visit Holland because Nijmegen is a really beautiful city and the Kandinsky College is the coolest school I've ever met.

I would never regret the trip to Holland even if I had to wake up at six in the morning every day.

Natalie Szkatula

# Holland Exchange

I remember when I “applied” for a place for Holland – It was definitely a very good decision. All teachers and pupils had to be at the train station at 8 am. We all met up and waited, till the train arrived. We got into our comfortable train and our Holland – Trip has started!

We drove about 1 ½ hours and then we had to change our train a few times.



When we passed the border, my first impression of Holland were bikes. They were everywhere! It was a big difference between the Dutch and German people. The Germans don't ride bikes at all. Okay – they do but not like the Dutch people ... and especially not in winter!

After 5 or 6 hours, we arrived in Nijmegen. We all came out of the train and I saw my “Exchange Sister” (Claire). I have to admit, that I was a little nervous. I gave her a big hug and then we got home.

I will not tell everything chronically, but I have to say that there was only one negative thing: The museum! I thought that it was a waste of time to go to the museum because I didn't like museums at all, to be honest.

Okay, I'll just continue with my opinion about the Exchange.

I think that it was a very good decision, to go to Holland! I met new people, I got to know a new culture and saw many new things. I will definitely go to Holland again! New school life, new dresses, new food, new traditions, new atmosphere - everything was just foreign but after 2 days everything felt so good and pleasant. When I compare the Dutch and German language, I noticed that both are very similar to each other. I also enjoyed the Kandinsky College. When I compare my school in Germany to this one ... then I feel very small. We also should make our school that beautiful and comfortable. The teachers were also very nice.



I never thought that I would meet such nice people! And I still have contact with them. We all want to meet up in the summer. Can't wait!

I really want to thank the Comenius Club and all the teachers, that I could travel with them. It was a nice experience for me and I think I will never forget that – No, I will definitely never forget that.

Karolina Niedziela

# **My trip to Nijmegen**

## **Wednesday**

There we went to Nijmegen, the trip was very funny but there was a short brake because of an accident. In Nijmegen at the train Station my exchange partner picked me up and I went home with him. At their home they gave me an Atlas and I showed them where I live. After that we went out with a friend of him and walked around the houses. Later we had dinner. Just for me, we watched a German movie with Dutch subtitles.

## **Thursday**

At 8.10 we left the house and we were driven to school. At 8.30 we arrived at school and went to classroom 22, where we were greeted by the Dutch Teachers. Then we worked in groups where we introduced ourselves in a foreign language. My entire group introduced themselves in Norwegian. After that we went in another group where everyone made a presentation about his school and other things. At the time when one group made the presentations the other group learned something about Nijmegen. After this everyone went to the Ice skating ring by bus. After that we went back home. After a short chilling brake we visited a friend where some others with an exchange partner were staying. We played a Dutch game where you must slide wooden chips over a desk in to boxes. If you got a chip into a box you would get points. After two rounds we went out to have fun.

## **Friday**

At 8.30 we arrived at school and I waited to go to the city with all the other people. Then we all went to the city by bus, where we made a short statue sightseeing tour in the rain. After that we went in to the Valkhofmuseum. Then back to the school and from there we went to the Fitness studio. There I played squash, made fitness followed by spinning. And the last part we did together was eating in another Kandinsky school. In the late evening we went to someone's house to talk to other people.

## **Saturday**

In the morning I got up very late and went to the city two times by bike, at the first time to see the river and and cross the river on bridges by bike. I think the landscape near the river is very nice. The next time we went to the city we went with a friend and another exchanger. Then we went to the city by bike and met some other people. We went for a coffee and then we walked around shops, then noon was over. We went home and to go bowling. We ate something at the bowling center and went to someone's house where a lot of exchange people stayed.

## **Sunday**

It was the day to go home by train so everyone had to be at the train station very early. Travelling home was fun because everyone told the others the best things about their time in Holland, that was a lot because nothing was bad.



## A trip to Nijmegen

On Wednesday the 30th of January 5 students and 3 teachers from the Mörike-Realschule went on a trip to Nijmegen.

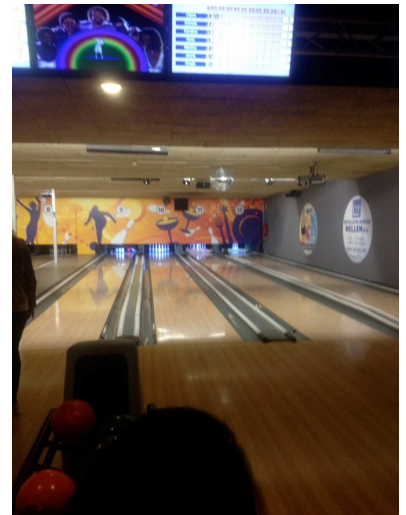
The reason of this trip was to meet students from other countries. We started in Heilbronn taking the train to Venlo via Mannheim and Düsseldorf. After almost six hours of sitting and laughing we finally arrived. The Dutch students (Guest families) were very friendly, so each one of us went to „his“ family.

With Karolina, another student from our school we went to Malden (a little village near Nijmegen) where our Guest family lives. Claire, that's the name of our Dutch student, is a very friendly person. Her family includes the family-father: Roy, mother: Mirjam and her brother Pepijn. They were friendly, too.

The first evening after a short talk we found lots of similarities. Claire likes the same things as me: meeting friends, sports and listening to music. After a short night we visited the Kandinsky College in Nijmegen. We presented ourselves and our school. We met students from Norway, Italy, France and England. After the presentation we were ice-skating. It was very funny. In the evening we visited another Dutch student Sayra and we had a nice evening (that was on „Donderdag“).

On „Vrijdag“ we went to school, and after this we visited the city of Nijmegen and the Het Valkhof Museum . This exhibits many Roman artifacts. After this cultural highlight we went to a Fitness Center. There we played „squash“ for one hour, we had a workout for one hour and one hour of „spinning“. In the evening we had a typical Dutch dinner for all students. The food was very tasty (zeer smakelijk). My host family had guests and they had a son in our age. We laughed a lot and had fun.

On Saturday we had a „Family Day“. We spent the whole day together. We went to a Bowling Center. After so much fun and sports we went to a pancake house. Here we ate pancakes as big as a pizza! After the dinner we visited Giel, a Dutch student, who had guests from Germany, too. This was the last and funniest evening in Nijmegen.



Sunday morning, after the breakfast, our „families“ brought us to the railway station. So we started our way back home after a „sad“ goodbye at the Central Station.

I am glad to be part of the „Comenius Program“ and I am lucky that I had the chance to meet and make new friends in the Netherlands. I'm sure I will meet them again if there is a possibility.