



Ten students and two teachers visited Beerfelden in Germany on 24th to 28th February as part of the *Take a Chance: Let's Dance!* project. This was the first meeting of all the schools involved and it proved to be both successful and enjoyable.



Our students were hosted by families of the German dance students and were looked after very well. They had a hectic programme of events during the three full days which included: a dance presentation by each school, a logo competition, a dance workshop with a professional dancer, trips to Heidelberg and Frankfurt where they performed flash mobs. The winning logo from Newpark was designed by Aoife O'Reilly in Second Year and was chosen by the students and parents who attended a pre-trip performance in the school. Unfortunately we were not successful in the competition which was won by the host school.

Thanks to the Art teachers and all the Second Year students who worked so hard on the entries.

The next trip is to Venice in Italy and a different group of ten students are due to attend from the 2nd to 6th May 2014. We are busy making 70 friendship bracelets for all the participants which have been designed by the talented Daki, one of our SNAs. In the meantime Ms Ní Fhaoláin and Ms Brennan are putting the students through their dance steps to ensure they are the best they can be for the Venice meeting.

There is a website for the project, www.takeachanceletsdance.eu, which can be accessed through the day-to-day section of the school website under the Comenius tab. Excitement is building and we look forward to hearing the stories and seeing the pictures from the trip. Another evening performance will be held for parents and friends before the Venice trip (date and time to be announced). Here's wishing the teachers and students a great time.

John O'Neill



Dancing in Germany

On the 24th of February I went to Beerfelden in Germany for the as part of the EU Dance Project. There were four Second Years and six First Years on the trip and we stayed for five days. We all had great fun and made friends from the other countries in the project—Germany, Italy and Turkey.

Every day we learned a new dance. It was hard but the main thing was to have fun. We met Rafael Antonio, a choreographer from *The Voice*. He taught us a dance routine to 'Dark Horse'.

The trip wasn't all about dancing: we travelled, made new friends, learned about other cultures and, most of all, had fun. On the Thursday we went to Frankfurt where we did a flashmob. It was great fun since everyone made fun of themselves, including me. That night we had a party.

Leaving on Friday morning was hard since we had all got close to our new friends, but thanks to 21st century technology we can all stay in contact with each other.

Pamela Paus

Next Stop: Venice!

Our trip to Germany was exciting and fun. Our First and Second Year dancers did a great job with their performance and as we had the youngest group there they were well looked after and much appreciated.

Our agenda for Venice is very different with mostly senior students coming on this trip. Each country has a job to do and ours is making bracelets with the themes of friendship, love, freedom, fun and enjoyment as gifts for all the students. We have almost finished making 70 bracelets with our very own expert jewellery maker, Daki, who is coming to Venice with us. We even had hammering and polishing sessions in the metalwork room with Mr O'Neill for the infinity symbol.



Ms Brennan organised a workshop with Irish Dance Theatre of Ireland and from there we were inspired to get a hip-hop piece ready. Fifth Year Molly McAlister is doing all the hip hop teaching with zest and flair. We have the Rueda de Casino (Cuban salsa) almost ready. Our dancers will also chose poetry which will be inspired by the dance. Ms Corcoran, Ms Brennan and Ms Johnston are going to work with us on this.

We are nearly there ... and with all the dancing at break-time, lunchtime and after school most days we will be pretty fit for summer! And it will be hot in Venice in May: perfect for tasting the famous Italian *gelato*.

Fiona Ní Fhaolainn