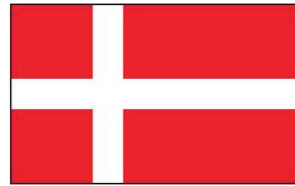


# Comenius Newsletter - October



## What is the Comenius project?

Five schools in four different countries have joined together to create life long learning. The countries which have joined together are Finland, Italy, Denmark and Ireland. The two schools that are taking part in this project from Ireland are St Mark's SNS and Sacred Heart SNS, Killinarden. The five main aims of this project are:

- Develop cultural awareness of other EU countries.
- Improve children's ability to speak and understand some Italian, Danish, Finish, English and Gaeilge.
- Highlight the importance of inclusion and creating positive environments for the benefit of the children (e.g. bullying, racism, stereotyping).
- Create opportunities to further enhance the children and teachers ICT skills through skype, email, moodle and internet usage.
- Organize and cooperative seasonal activities: such as at Halloween, Christmas, Patrick's Day, Easter and a number of curriculum comparisons.

## Who is F.I.D.I?

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F.I.D.I. is our mascot. He is a guide dog.

F.I.D.I. means faithful, loyal, trustworthy and reliable in Italian.



## How is St. Mark's taking part?

St. Mark's will be taking part by:

- Video calling
- Sending Christmas cards
- Writing letters
- Hosting a visit from Danish, Finnish and Italian teachers
- writing a monthly newsletter
- emailing, etc.



## Whats happening in our school?

Currently our school are preparing for our visitors from Denmark, Italy and Finland on the 17th of October. Children in every strand are working hard and learning about these three countries and some are participating in project work. Recently, a third class and three fourth classes participated in an Italian day. Here, the children learned how to cook pizza's, learned the skills involved in Italy's national sport (soccer), learned several phrases of Italian, learned about famous opera singers and participated in art activities about famous Italian artist. Here are some pictures from our Italian day:



## **Pupils voice:**

*Interview with **Emma Brennan** (4th Class - Mr Murphy)*

***What do you know about F.I.D.I?***

I know that Finland, Italy, Denmark and Ireland are in this scheme where teachers go to other countries to learn what they do. The schools from Ireland are St. Mark's SNS and Sacred Heart SNS.

***What is your class doing to help you learn about F.I.D.I?***

We are doing a project about Italy and a few days ago we had an Italian day.

***What would you like to learn about Italy, Finland and Denmark?***

I would love to learn about famous artists, singers and the type of food they eat.

***Which country would you like to visit and why?***

I have already been to Italy and it was great. I would to go to Denmark or Finland because I would like to learn about their culture.

*Interview with **Erinn Hannan** (6th Class - Mr. Daly)*

***Your view on our Comenius project?***

The Comenius exchange programme is when a principal and teachers come to Ireland from Italy, Denmark and Finland. The schools taking part are:

- Ireland: St Mark's SNS and Sacred Heart SNS
- Finland: Koskelan Koulu
- Italy: Istituto Comprensivo 'G. Toniolo'
- Denmark: Bakkeskolen

We are all very excited about our visitors. We will all be involved in Comenius by skyping other classes, sending letters and other things. Good luck!!!

## **Visiting Teachers:**

Every class will be visited by a teacher/principal from the participating schools. We can make them feel welcome by: learning to say 'hello' in their language, learning Irish poem/song, teach them a few words, etc.