

HOW TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN

OUR CONFIDENCE

On 17.12. 2012 regular school project of the sixth graders from Aleko Konstantinov School who were trained by the program ‘‘ Lions Quest’’ took place . The program supports the development of character, social and emotional life and civic values.

The theme of the session was ‘‘The three- legged stool of confidence.’’ Through brainstorming the students identified the characteristics of the self- confident person and defined the term ‘‘confidence’’ - to believe in yourself and your abilities. With the help of group games the kids learned about the three factors which can help build confidence in themselves -namely to develop their skills and demonstrate respect for themselves and others, and last but not least- to show responsible behavior. The children showed interest in the discussion in which they talked about their successes in school activities, sports and club activities.

The classroom was turned into a place where students were able to take steps towards achieving self- confidence and desire to grow in a spirit of cooperation and teamwork.

WE GAVE JOY

Christmas Eve and Christmas are some of the brightest and most awaited celebrations- they gather the whole family at home around the table and turn into a string of unforgettable moments. Children eagerly wait for Santa Claus to bring them gifts they covet. And adults are feverishly preparing for the holidays, absorbed in urgent tasks and culinary preparations. Homes sparkle with multi- colored lights, decorated Christmas trees and shiny tinsel.

But there are some for whom gathering with people close to their heart at the family home at Christmas is just a memory. For them to hear the voices of their children, to be embraced by their grandchildren is the only gift they long for.

With the concert of the students of the third C and D grade held in the nursing home on 8 Peshtersko Shosse Str., Plovdiv, we wanted to

greet the residents, to warm them with our attention, to give them a bit of the Christmas spirit. They welcomed us eagerly. They rewarded each performance with applause. Along with their smiles we could see tears in their eyes as well. The children felt special and welcome guests, who in turn were greeted, hugged and kissed. They “sourvak” , sang, recited, played and danced. They were given sweets and gratitude as a reward. But in fact, their biggest prize was their desire to give joy, the most important lesson- a lesson in generosity, empathy and goodwill. The ”SMALL CHANGE- CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN” campaign ended in December. The result of the raising of the coins in our school was more than impressive- BGN 684.12! Every year, the campaign becomes more extensive and effective. The children from all grades participated actively and Aleko Konstantinov School took the first place in raising money in Plovdiv. We would like to thank all kids, young and grown, who showed their commitment to the idea of helping those in need once again.

STUDENT WORK

MUMMER MASK MAKING CONTEST

In Literature classes the fifth graders study folk celebrations and customs. They are introduced to the Bulgarian traditions and discover the power of speech in ritual songs, blessings, good wishes, oments, etc. But celebrations are not just words. The most important thing about them is ritual and customs, as well as action sequences. One of the most interesting celebrations is the Forgiveness Day, or as it is called here, Shrovetide. It is remarkable with its mummers parades which are typical for all parts of Bulgaria.

During their literature course, the fifth grade students prepared a contest for making mummer masks. They showed creativity, emphasizing the most characteristic feature of the mask- that is should be scary, in order to chase evil spirits away.

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