

## The Peace Run

Last week our school was visited by athletes carrying the Peace Torch. The students were really excited since they couldn't figure out how the torch was being carried all over the continent without ever dying out. The day of arrival was rainy, the waiting was tense.

Would the torch bearers come? Would the rain put out the fire? The children kept asking these and many other questions since the morning.

The athletes came exactly on time and their words and song left unforgettable impression in the minds of the kids.

Here is what the students of Class 4B shared about this day.

Mihail: "When I touched the torch, I felt a strong flame in my heart. It was the peace flame which lives in all of us and awaits its awakening."

Nikolay: "The moment I touched it I felt as if I was a part of a huge peace organization."

Krasimira: "I listened to the song and I imagined all people around the world living peacefully and happily, extending arms towards each other in a brotherly manner, while the fire of the peace torch is shining on them."

Yasen: "When I touched the torch, I closed my eyes and felt warmth in my heart."

Vasko: "I felt that I was a part of an all encompassing wave of friendship and hope for peace for humanity."

Yoanna: "Only good people with hearts full of love take part in this relay. This is what the Peace Torch symbolizes – love, kindness, responsibility. It is a great honor to be a part of something so important. We had the chance to feel better and more responsible. This event touched my heart. I am happy that I was a part of it."

*Nina Tareva – class teacher of Class 4B*

## **We are in Europe**

**We Are in Europe** is a new section of the electronic version of Aleko Online. We got the idea for it when Plovdiv succeeded in its candidacy for European Capital of Culture for 2019. In this section we will be going on a quick trip through the EU countries and will pay particular attention to their notable sights, traditions and culture. What makes each of them distinct? What do they have in common and how does each country contribute to the European family?

Bulgarian culture has been known around the Balkans and in Europe for a long time and it has been a link between ethnicities. Our country is at crossroads. Since it has been created Bulgarians has been “absorbing” foreign culture, considering it and adding it to their art. But it is important for us as a nation that we have given something to the world too. If we look at any area of culture, we will see that the Bulgarian production is accepted and highly rated. There are no national boundaries for our talented artists, musicians, opera singers, poets and writers. There are numerous historical sights and landmarks in the country as well as museums and monasteries.

The beautiful Bulgarian nature and the hospitality of the Bulgarians are well known. We have things to offer to Europe, we also have things we can learn from it.

*Angelina Veleva – English language teacher*

## **In the Art World**

### **Eternity Address in the Old Town**

The beginning of the celebratory period in the Old Town this year coincided with the Independence Day – 22nd of September. 15 ancient clocks from the Old Plovdiv collection gave the symbolic start of the celebration at 17:00 PM sharp.

The seven days were full of events, art exhibitions and concerts, including the Autumn Crafts Fair.

The book Vazov Outside the Canon and the exhibition “Ivan Vazov. Plovdiv Chronicles” were presented at the Danchova House. The exhibition showed all the gifts, documents, photographs and paintings, which were gifted to the patriarch of Bulgarian literature by grateful citizens of Plovdiv.

10 master smiths, including 2 from England and 2 from Macedonia, took part in an ein plein air iron smithing event named We Forge the Future of Europe Together. They swung their hammers over ten mobile forges. Lazar Manolov, a native of Plovdiv currently living in London, came up with the idea for the first of its kind ein plein air iron smithing event.

The Painting Made by Many project was presented at the Danchova House. It includes parts of the works of over 500 artists from all over the country, including 50 from Plovdiv.

The latest edition of Music Days at the Balabanova House fest was opened with a concert by the Brass Orchestra of the National Guard.

Eternity has its own address – the Old Town!

*Mariya Raykovska – primary school teacher*