the English Offspring

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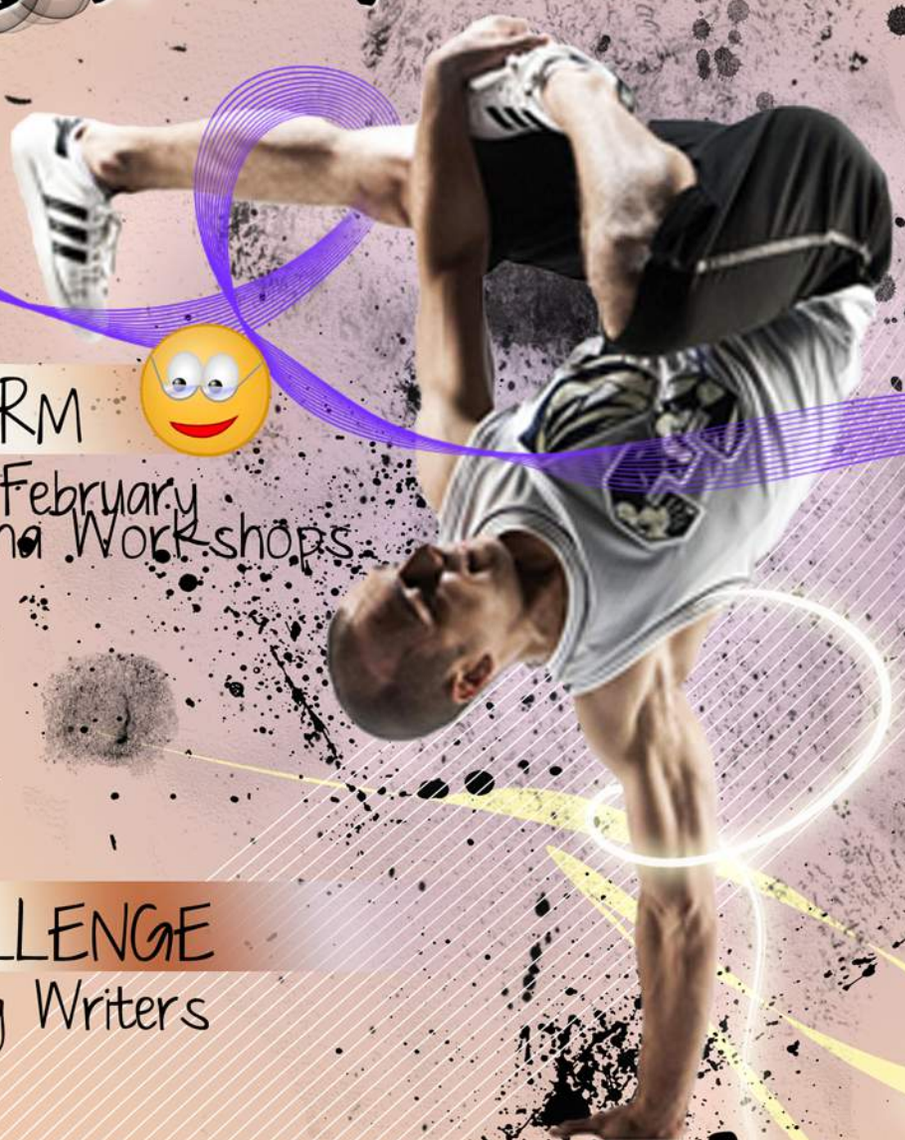

INFORM

15th of February
Haretiana Workshops

ENTERTAIN

Exam bloopers

CHALLENGE

Young Writers

Street Dance

We are the champions!

"SPIRU HARET" National College, Bucharest

"It is our MISSION to inform, entertain, challenge and develop our students to aim high!"

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Like a Spire We Aspire

We are almost ready with the rehabilitation of our school; it's been almost two school-years since the building site has turned our school life upside–down. Hopefully, what will come after will mean a new school in new clothes and with a new attitude. In our recent years we have known moments of glory but also of decadence which I guess is but natural. This is the order of life, the wavy rhythm which alternates both the good and the evil. I believe that now it is our chance to aim high and to stay there. Our school will soon look young again and we hope technically equipped with the latest gadgets... but we need to make a change in our attitudes. And this is not an easy task. Nor is it smooth. But it is urgent.

Those of us who have accepted things for too long should look inside themselves and try a new perspective: the questioning mood, the longing for a better condition. I suppose it is easy to say "let's change", but so difficult to accomplish it. We need an impulse such as this spring (actually just like us, this spring seems to postpone bringing in the real change). It is spring time and time to be different. Look at our classrooms! The walls are shiny white at the upper parts but already dirty at the lower because some naughty bragging bully young mate of ours has thrown with different dirty stuff only to prove.... yes, to prove what? Or, look at some desks drooping and impaired, as if suffering although recently brought in. And I will stop here.

However, these examples would not bother me that much were they not the consequence of an equally painful attitude: carelessness, indifference, immaturity. I have seen none of us standing against such behavior. Many of us record such manifestations, disapprove of them, but go on accepting them but minding their own business. Actually, I feel it is time for us to make these people's voices heard, to encourage them to make their point and to be respected. Otherwise, I am afraid that mediocrity and non-value will continue to grow and will take over and one day we will wake up but not be able to do anything.

I know many people who share my point of view but they seem to have grown old and to accept the situation as it is, hoping that one day they will leave school and live in a better world. I would like to tell them that if we do not change school, education and the way we think and work, life after graduation will not be different. On the contrary, it will be worse. The same bragging bullying irresponsible guys will have the guts to impose their behavior and the really valuable ones will be silent again, silent like a spire ... hoping that one day ... which will never come ....

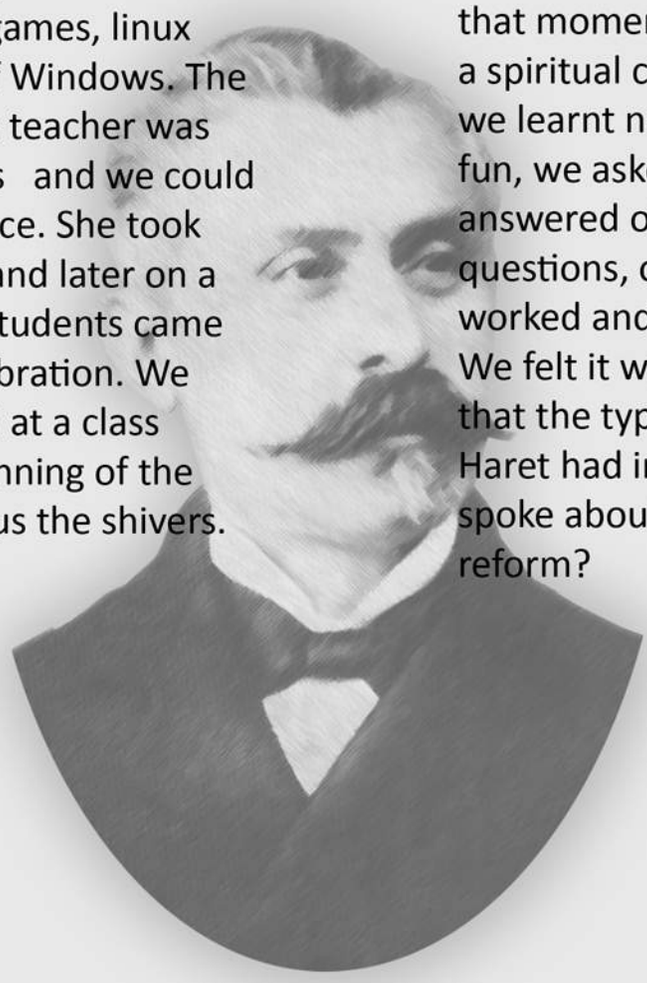
My considerations, short as they may be, are an impulse to change. I feel we can start with the new clothes of our school, with the spring which finally will blossom all trees and aspire to a change in attitude. Otherwise, why the new school clothes, why the spring? But, like a spire I aspire...

Madalina Spoiala

Spiru Haret Day seen by 9A Students

It happened on the 15th of February, on a cold winter day which did not announce anything special. However, it was not an ordinary day as it was the celebration of Spiru Haret and it turned out to be outstanding.
Early in the morning the students were swarming in their classrooms, in the labs and on the halls with the final arrangements for their activities.
At 9:30 in the morning the Romanian department held an interesting and challenging activity in honor of Lucian Blaga, the great Romanian poet and philosopher. The event consisted in a short presentation of Blaga's work and his contribution to the Romanian culture. The presentation was held against a soft musical background. Some students recited fragments of Blaga's poems while a really talented fellow was playing the guitar thus taking all of us into a realm of peace and thoughtfulness.
The next activity "English my love" was meant to continue Saint Valentine's Day and to celebrate LOVE. The students, from both 9 A and 9 F, played games with LOVE expressed in 53 languages as their main catalyst. Then, we went on to learn about the "famous couples in the world literature"; some students acted the celebrated stories, others chose to narrate the events, but we all felt that love was in the air. Orpheus and Eurydice, Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler, Odysseus and Penelope enchanted us with their stories and … some of us even found out they are not the only and the first ones on earth to be in love. I would say, some looked quite skeptical that such models of love could have existed. It was fun especially when we were invited to write a short definition of love: the boys were a bit embarrassed and, on balance, preferred to put on an air of connoisseurs. We're wondering if next time any of us would fancy telling or acting their own love stories….
Of course, the day went from one event to another and after a two-hour break, the history and logic teachers ran a challenging movie "Agora" which raised a lot of questions for the students to ponder on.

Also a lot of students gathered in the informatics laboratory, each of them eager to present their "home-made" sites and brag about their originality and quality. They ranged from "about viruses" to videogames, linux and the history of Windows. The computer science teacher was finally proud of us and we could see that on her face. She took pictures of us all and later on a group of former students came to join in the celebration. We finally felt relaxed at a class which at the beginning of the school year gave us the shivers.



Meanwhile, other students and other teachers were involved in their own projects….
As freshmen, it was the first time we had taken part in "Colocviile Haretiana" and we felt that from that moment on we belonged to a spiritual community. That day we learnt new things, we had fun, we asked questions, we answered other people's questions, our teachers and us worked and had fun together. We felt it was a full day. Was that the type of education Spiru Haret had in mind when he spoke about the educational reform?

Andreia Hendea
Alina Cretu

The Junior Prom

Of course, it was a thrilling night! And that's also because it happened on the 31st of October, right on the day of the so popular Halloween, when the magic and naughty spirits descend upon us, making us energetic and impatient for fun.

As people entered the grand ball room of the Turabo Club, colorful lights blasted like fireflies and lured them to the dance floor. The music made the atmosphere crazy, just perfect for dancing. Although there was little space left as the room was getting crowded, everyone fell under the mesmerizing music played by our school's bands. The beautiful and lively Cosmina Păsărin who presented the event encouraged the students to feel the beat and live the moment.

The King and Queen contest lasted almost the whole night and everyone was impressed by with the participants' costumes, talent, choreography and, of course, sex-appeal. The girls' dances were sensational but let's not forget the hard-working boys. The chosen Queen was Ana-Maria Țone. The second and third places were won by Rădulescu Patricia and Aura Badea. The charming King was Tudor Neagu and the second and third places were taken by Alexandru Cercel and Vlad.

We also had a fabulous Popularity Queen, Andreea Vizitiu, and a charismatic Popularity King in the person of Dragoş Voicu Dirjan. Congrats to the winners and also to the rest of the contestants for the hard work they put into impressing us on stage.

Somewhere around midnight the famous singers Matteo and Christian D made their entrance electrifying the atmosphere. The music took complete control. The crazy night culminated with a " which side can scream louder?" contest. To slow things down, a few students chosen from the active audience were asked to show their best moves.

Later, around one or two o'clock in the morning, the famous singer Puya made his grand entrance on the stage relighting the fire in everyone's souls, making the ones who were tired jump to their feet and start a new dance round. The show was dynamic and more colourful than ever. Puya sang his famous hits and a variety of foreign songs which washed on the audience like energy waves.

But, alas, the party had to come to an end. Even the most enduring dancers had to return home to recharge their batteries. Of course, on the way home they could still feel the pulse and beating of the raving music.

Alina Cretu
Andreia Hendea
Andra Iordache

English My Love

The National Olympiad – the English section
How does it feel to take part in such a contest? Well, as a contestant it can be a bit overwhelming. There you are, a long way from home in an unknown city with no familiar faces. But this depends entirely on the situation, as it might not be the case at all!
The National Olympiad in 2011 took place in the City of Iasi, historically speaking one of the most important cities in the country, having played key parts in the formation of modern-day Romania. Visiting it is a blast, and you really shouldn't miss out on this.
The accommodation was really good, with comfortable rooms and generally well-organized activities and schedule. The first three days were mainly about the grand opening and the three tasks (Writing, Listening and Speaking). The fourth day meant the end of the contest, with a feedback session from the teachers who had marked the papers. For the better part of the day, the contestants were taken on a tour of the city, visiting the Union Museum, the Ion Creanga Memorial House (otherwise known as the "Bojdeuca") and the former headquarters of Junimea, the most famous Romanian literary society ever.
It really made for a brilliant end to a brilliant event. All in all, the organization was great, the locals were friendly, and visiting the city was a novel experience.

Gabroveanu Ionut-Ovidiu

We are proud of:

Our mates who scored high in the English Olympiad 2010-2011

1. Ionut Ovidiu Gabroveanu, 11 A, **Prize I**, Qualified in the national contest
2. Florian Andrei Csolsim, 11 G, **Prize I**
3. Timotei Cristian Pana, 9 A, **Prize I**
4. Andrei Caraiman, 11 F, **Prize I**
5. Razvan Ionescu, 12 F, **Prize III**
6. Alina Cretu, Carmen Papa, Raluca Marin and Andra Iordache – **Honourable mention**

And boast with:

Bianca Cojocaru and Cristian Andrei Herea who were awarded Prize II in the Magic Words, Dream Worlds competition for their achievements in English poetry and, respectively, drama.

Also with:

Simona Mocanu, Paul-Traian Craciunescu and Aurora Boureanu who were awarded Prize I, Prize II and, respectively, Prize III in the British and American Culture and Civilization Competition for their exquisite projects .

We are really proud of all our students who accepted the challenge of taking part in competitions and proved maturity and respect for thorough work by their mere participation.

Magic Words, Dream Worlds

« Magic Words, Dream Worlds » was a great success in Bucharest, with more than 400 students registered into the competition in all the three main sections: Poetry, Short Novel and Short Drama.
Registrations were available between 5 and 14 January 2011 and the deadline for compositions was between 7 and 9 March 2011.
The winners, announced on 7 April 2011, are the following:
For the first section, Poetry:
• Ursachi Adela, from Colegiul National Iulia Hasdeu, with the first prize (96 points) for the poem "Surrealism";
• Cojocaru Bianca, from Colegiul National Spiru Haret, with the second prize (95 points) for the poem "The Queen";
• Nanu Ana, from Colegiul National Bucuresti George Cosbuc, with the third prize (94,5 points) for the poem "Winter Gardens";
• Damian Brindusa Mihaela, from Colegiul National Iulia Hasdeu, with the first mention (93,5 points) for the poem "My Dream World";
• Toader Ioana, from Jean Monnet, with the second mention (93,5 points) for the poem "Nuit Blanche";
• Demetriade Adina, from Colegiul National de Informatica Tudor Vianu, with the third mention (93,5 points) for the poem "Dream(a)world";
• Pais Gabriela Denisa, from Colegiul National Bucuresti George Cosbuc, with the fourth mention (93 points) for the poem "Symphony of Dreams";
• Soare Madalina, from The International Computer High School of Bucharest, with the fifth mention (92,5 points) for the poem "The artist is dying".
For the second section, Short Novel:
• Popa Diana Ruxandra, from Liceul Teoretic Nicolae Iorga, with the first prize (100 points) for the novel "At the Gates of Hell";
• Gatea Ana, from The International Computer High School of Bucharest, with the second prize (99 points) for the novel "The Rant of the Lonely Wish";
• Gane AndreiMihnea, from Colegiul National Mihai Viteazul, with the third prize (98 points) for the novel "Infinite Dreams".
• Ristea Victor, from Colegiul National Gheorghe Lazar, with the first mention (97, 5 points) for the novel "Enchanted Bonds";
• Todor Alexandra, from Colegiul National Ion Creanga, with the second mention (97,5 points) for the novel "Magic words, dream worlds";
• Trandafir Alexandru, from Colegiul National Bucuresti George Cosbuc, with the third mention (97 points) for the novel "Dream Worlds";
• Vald Radu Cristian, from Colegiul National de Informatica Tudor Vianu, with the fourth mention (96,5 points) for the novel "The Dream Realm".
And for the third section, Short Drama:
• Balaceanu B/Stanciu M, from Colegiul National Mihai Viteazul, with the first prize (92 points) for the drama "The Magic of Christmas";

Windows 7 Installation Tutorial

How to …

Does your PC lag? Every time you open up your internet browser millions of windows pop up? More than half of your applications close unexpectedly or they do not start at all? This means only one thing. Your PC is infected and the safest way of regain control over your computer is to reinstall the operating system. And lucky for you I will show you step by step how to do so.

First of all, I should mention that for this article I chose to install Windows 7 because, if you want to listen to music, watch movies, play games, surf the internet, keep in touch with friends or use any other applications, this is the best operating system that is out on the market.

To install Windows 7 on your personal computer you must check if you have the minimum requirements to run it:

- **1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor.**
- **1 gigabyte (GB) RAM (32-bit) or 2 GB RAM (64-bit).**
- **16 GB available hard disk space (32-bit) or 20 GB (64-bit).**
- **DirectX 9 graphics device with WDDM 1.0 or higher driver.**

If you are not sure about your hardware you can always enter on www.microsoft.com and search for "Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor". It will tell you if you can or cannot run Windows 7 on your PC.

CAUTION! Back-up all your data before proceeding. (e.g. If you are planning to install your windows on drive C:\ then you can move all your important data to D:\)

Part 1 (Booting up)

Insert the Windows 7 DVD into your DVD-ROM and restart your computer. During the startup you are asked to **PRESS ANY KEY TO BOOT FROM CD**. When prompted press any button on your keyboard to start the installation.

Part 2 (Language and Keyboard input selection)

On your screen will appear a window that will ask you to choose:

- **The language to install;**
- **Time and currency format;**
- **Keyboard or input method;**

After choosing your preferences click NEXT to continue.

Part 3 (Installation)

Press the big INSTALL NOW button, tick the "I accept the license terms" box and click NEXT to proceed. Here the screen provides you two options: UPGRADE and CUSTOM (advanced). You will choose the second option: CUSTOM (advanced). Now all your hard drive partitions (e.g. C:\ , D:\ etc.) are listed on your screen. Choose the one you want to install Windows 7 on, click "Drive options (advanced)" then FORMAT and finally NEXT. Windows 7 is now installing! It should take about 45 minutes more or less depending on your computer's performance.

Part 4 (Post install configuration)

Now that the install process is completed you are prompted to enter a USER NAME and a COMPUTER NAME. Fill in the blanks and click NEXT to proceed to the password set up screen. It is recommended to protect your user with a password but you can leave the spaces blank and click NEXT. What follows it is the Product Key Request Screen. Here you are asked to enter the product key of your windows. (For more information about the product key and where to find it check out www.microsoft.com) Click NEXT to go to Help to Protect and Improve Windows Screen and choose Use Recommended Settings. Finally you are asked to choose your time zone. Do so, click NEXT and you are done. You have successfully installed WINDOWS 7!

Now that you have a clean install of WINDOWS 7 I suggest you install an antivirus software to protect against malicious applications so that your PC will run at optimum performance.

Andrei Manea

How to..

Notebooks

So, what is a notebook? For those of you not familiar with, it is an extremely lightweight personal computer. Notebook computers typically weigh less than 6 pounds and are small enough to fit easily in a briefcase. The notebook computer usually has all the functionality of a desktop, but it is less powerful, more expensive, and has greater portability. It offers you more access to the Internet, a way to watch movies and even a way to work while you are away on business trips.

The history of notebook: The first notebook computer was introduced in 1981 but they were very expensive and not as versatile as they are today. IBM and Epsom both placed versions of portable laptops on the market in 1983. Even with more models emerging, notebook computers were an item often associated only with high profile businessmen. It wasn't until 1995 when Microsoft introduced their operating system Windows 95 that the world of notebook computers exploded. This operating system along with advances in technology that allowed notebook computers to function in the same ways as a personal computer led to them dropping in price and more consumers buying them. What where the improvements made? A better battery, whose life lasted much longer. In addition, they were now able to hold more data, so they could be used for more concepts at any time. As for today, you see notebooks everywhere, held by everyone, and they are here to stay.
I've noticed a lot of people looking for pros and cons of the notebook, so it seems to be an important statement in its description. I will, of course, start with the bad parts. Firstly, the notebook has compatibility problems, as most of the times it is not possible to use one manufacturer's components in the laptop produced by another. Secondly, the upgrading is a problem due to both technical and economic reasons, it is limited. And thirdly, the performance; RAM is shared between program memory and graphic adapters in laptops. Overall, notebooks can also pose health hazards, because of the temperature generated.
Going back to the pros: the source of power is usually a single main battery. They are capable and powerful, but less than desktop computers, and also much more expensive; compactness and mobility are added.

Otilia Tugearu

We Are the Champions!

Alexandra Uţă
9A

The National Street Dance Cup for High Schools

The past couple of months I had the best time of my life. Why? Well that's what I'm going to tell you about.

Once a year the "One Beat" company organizes the "National Street Dance Cup for High Schools", where every high school is represented by its own crew in the battle for the big prize. The event took place in the "Princess Club" in Bucharest and it lasted 4 weeks. Every week the crews were given a task. The first week we had to create a show with a specific theme, the next one the task given was to imitate an artist, then we had to make choreography on an imposed musical collage and in the big finale we performed the first show, the one with the theme.

In the first three stages of the competition there had been just high schools from Bucharest while the final stage brought together crews from all over the country, like Constanta, Brasov, Bistrita and so on.

I am very proud to say that my crew, representing "Spiru Haret" National College has won both the Bucharest and the National finals, receiving a prize which consisted in 1600 euro and also in products such as schoolbags, notebooks etc.

I must say that the atmosphere in the club was fantastic, people were having a great time dancing and watching the crews' breathtaking performances. During the breaks between the performances the stage was never empty. Professional dancers from the Jackpot crew were constantly entertaining the public with special prepared choreographies or just freestyle dancing.

All in all, to me this was a great experience that I had a lot to gain from.

Interview with Lucretia Ciobanu

All of us have seen the secretaries in movies, in high heels and tight skirts, black- rimmed glasses on their noses, just signing some papers and bringing coffee to their boss. Well, I guess, real life is not that glamorous. School secretaries are being assaulted with papers, statistics and managing an awful lot of work. I was curious to find out what a secretary's job really requires and went to make an interview with the head secretary of our school, ***Ms. Lucretia Ciobanu****.*

Q: Why did you choose to work in a high school?
A: I suppose life chose for me and I grew to like the choice. Now, I like school life and its permanent hum. I like the naughty skinny ear and tongue-pierced in knee-torn blue-jeans teenagers who are not afraid to say "no" to anyone and to believe that they are the most important beings in the world. I like their courage which people lose in time….

Q: Have you ever thought of working in a different place?
A: Actually, I have … many times, but I realized I wouldn't feel I belong to any other place as I do here. In time I have come to like my comfy office with heaps of documents on the shelves. I like young people and their being cheeky sometimes, as long as fellows like you don't exaggerate …. I feel younger among you and now I am addicted to school and students … even to your teachers sometimes … ha, ha … since I realized this I have never given school leaving much thought.

Q: How do you get along with the pupils? Sometimes you scream at us or snub us….
A: (Laughs) I do. But that's because I love young people like you. And you feel the challenge. I'm sure you wouldn't like an angel-like secretary, would you?

Q: Do you consider this job as being exhausting?
A: Yes, it is really exhausting. A lot of people get in my office and all of them want something and right that moment and sometimes I feel I cannot cope with everything, but finally I do…. And there's always Megdonia, my colleague…. Besides, my work involves a lot of responsibility… school documents, exams, etc. I need to concentrate a lot on what I am doing.

Q: Did you toy with the idea of being a teacher?
A: No. I don't have your teachers' patience. And I like what I do. But who knows? I've learned that nothing is impossible.

Q: What does this job involve?
A: It involves a lot. You have to be mentally resistant and also to have maximum power of concentration. I have deadlines and a large amount to work, I relate to many people and institutions. I know your private problems and sometimes I get involved in solving them.

Q: So, do you cope well with the stress?
A: Yes, as long as you put your heart and soul into something, you will succeed.

Q: What do you need to become a secretary? Do you think students could take turns giving you a helping hand?
A: You have to like the kind of work, to have computer skills and lots and lots of papers. And you have to know people and to want to help them, but also to be able to tell them "no" when you have to. I know sometimes people misjudge me, but in time they realize I am very generous and always ready to help. As for the second question, yes, I believe it would be great experience for some of you to get involved, but I guess you never have time and you haven't even done your homework, so… . Besides, I might frown at you ....

You're right. For now, that's all, but I will come back. Thank you for your time.

You're welcome!

Need a Hand?

Our high school might learn something here

Cosmin Obretin -12 B Interview

Q: First of all, what does your volunteer work consist of?
A: Well, I for one, am a volunteer at " Youth for Youth", an organization that deals with different youth issues, my part being about reproductive health. Other projects would be about preventing HIV/Aids, and discrimination.

Q: What inspired you to do this?
A: Honestly? Curiosity. It was more of a random choice, I went to NGOs where they show you the sections in which you can work.

Q: How often do you commit?
A: Usually we have activities in parks or schools. For example there's a program of 3 hours taking place during tutorials.

Q: And how does this affect your spare time?
A: Basically this is my free time, it relaxes me, I love what I do, actually this is what motivates me most.

Q: What do you think are the most beautiful aspects of volunteering? How about the disadvantages?
A: Firstly you develop your skills, get qualifications and diplomas that look good in your CV. And especially the people I meet and make friends with. And the downside is the well known lack of financial motivation, I mean you are given money but you use it in the campaign.

Q: What did you learn from this?
A: First I had learned that to help solve a problem you can only contribute to solving a small part of it. For instance, I personally cannot change everyone's behavior; however I can help by informing a small group of people. Secondly, I understood that all people are wonderful and of course I broadened my group of friends.

Q: Why do you think volunteering is not too widespread in Romania?
A: I think volunteering is widespread, but not many people are willing to volunteer, about 12% of the country is actually involved in these kind of activities. Perhaps the reason is the lack of information, since there isn't too much propaganda on this topic, and the first time someone hears about volunteering they immediately think of garbage gathering, house constructing, when actually everything is based more on communication.

Q: Has anything changed in others' opinion towards you after you began volunteering?
A: I do not think volunteering has changed the opinion of others towards me, although some took an interested in volunteering. I often influenced persons that weren't actually my friends and they were eager to know how they could involve in what I did, in volunteering.

It is imagination that is the beginning of all great creation

From the second our universe was created, mankind has advanced significantly. All our lives we have tried and tried and many times succeeded in proving many different things either for our own satisfaction or for the others' or even for the sake of science. From birth to death has man worked in order to evolve both technologically and spiritually, always hoping and managing to leave something useful behind for others to benefit from. All this could not have been possible if our mysterious, fascinating human brains were not gifted with the unlimited vast power of imagination.

Firstly, I believe that imagination is the very core of all that exists today that we desire or sometimes despise, of all lying before our eyes. Everyday our imagination is working, never stopping whatsoever. When we read or write books, watch a movie or even direct it, when we draw, paint or play we are helped by it. Buildings, cars, computers and parks, everything needs an idea, a basic concept before it is created and later on developed and improved all with the help of imagination.

Secondly, I'd say that imagination helps us not only to create or do research, but also to comprehend life by understanding feelings, emotions and different reactions. It helps us socialize, condescend, have a point of view and develop it through ideas, take decisions that influence our lives.

Another point I would like to make is that imagination can be a very strong ally whenever you feel alone or sad. By inventing and creating your own dream world in which you can escape from the daily routine your life will significantly improve by making you feel more relaxed, free and at peace. You can always evade in writing or reading by imagining the world hidden in the book or even by dreaming or falling into the amazing world of music. This fantastic world of music gives you self-fulfillment, energy and makes you ready for anything.

Imagination is something without which the world as we know it today would not have existed, nothing would have been created and physically spiritually was possible.

ANTON CODRUTA NICOLETA
Clasa a XI-a A

Q: What projects have you completed so far?
A: We didn't launch any projects so far, but I will apply in a program called "Youth in Action" with an intercultural exchange of teenagers. There'll be partners in this project people from Turkey, Bulgaria, United Kingdom, Austria and the Netherlands.

Q: Do you think that through volunteering you could find a job?
A: Basically getting involved in volunteering activities makes it almost impossible not to find a job in the domain you're part of or in the organization you belong to. I mean you need a lot of dedication to take part in activities and this is the main quality the employers are looking for.

Q: Are you among those who want to have a job through volunteering?
A: I thought studying at the faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, I can be employed as a trainer, so I'll probably finish college and work in the field where I work as a volunteer.

Q: Last but not least, do you think that you're a special person through what you do?
A: As I told through volunteering I learned that every person is special so why would I not be one?

Reporters
Andreia Hendea
Alina Cretu

Little Forget-Me-Not

The sun shining, the summer breeze slowly caressing the trees' leaves and the clouds simply smiling to the kids playing, that's just an ordinary day here in this little hidden village in the hills. I'm introducing you to 5-year-old Sam. They say that when you're 5 your imagination has no limit and the world is your playground! Sam just thinks this is true.

So here he is wondering aimlessly on the village paths. As he walks he suddenly hears some weird noises coming from the grass. He quickly jumps over the fence and stumbles upon a small kitten playing with its own tail. 'That's so dumb' said Sam to the kitten 'What's so funny about that tail?' Not understanding the cat's game he reached to grab its tail. The kitty of course got scared and the next second scratched his hand with its claws. Little droplets of blood appeared on his hand and Sam got angry with the cat, while tears burst from his eyes.

On the same path, a girl in a cute white dress, about the same age as Sam, accompanied by her lamb. As she got closer she heard someone sobbing, so the girl went over the fence to see what's wrong. 'Are you crying?' she asked. 'Boys don't cry!' he said angrily to her. The child glanced at Sam's hand and immediately reached in her little bag for something. The boy was staring confusedly at her, while she pulled out a strip of cloth and carefully wrapped it around Sam's wounded hand. 'Thanks.' he said with a blush, and she just smiled at him. After a moment of awkward silence, Sam realized that he hadn't introduced himself 'My name's Sam, what's your-' and he suddenly got interrupted. The girl forgot all about her lamb which was getting further and further away so she had to run to get it back. 'I have to go!' she said while going over the fence, 'Wait, what's your name...' he was left behind with this last question on his lips.

Sam looked back at the kitten and noticed it was now playing with the mysterious girl's bag. In her rush she had completely forgotten and left it in the grass. He knew he shouldn't look through her things, but maybe it would help him return it to her. Sam slowly opened it and only found a few forget-me-not flowers wrapped in a handkerchief. When he looked closer he saw something written in its corner. 'Haley' said Sam in a low voice.

Alina Cretu

Eternal Shine

Once upon a time there was a small fragile flower. The flower was planted somewhere around the center of the town where the air was polluted. She was tired of living in a crowded, dirty place. Suddenly a rock fell hard on her, stealing two petals. She was feeling miserable now and hopeless. In a moment a boy appeared and crouched beside her. The boy felt guilty for hitting the flower so he started apologizing and talking to her. The flower seemed a little better.

After the incident the boy came every day to see the small white flower. He told her all kinds of things and she quietly listened to him. For over a year the boy would and visit the flower and she was shining and emanating happiness through her beauty. She had a habit of waiting for him every day for he was very dear to her.

Nothing lasts forever and their friendship wasn't an exception either. The boy had to move to another part of town and stopped coming to the flower. However she never ceased waiting for him, shining brightly, eagerly looking forward to the next day. Not even the rain, the fresh mud after a rainy day, the trash that resided on the pavement or the changing of the weather stopped the flower from hoping to see the boy again.

Many years passed since then but the flower didn't wither, but continuously glowed. One day , as she was waiting as ever, a man around his thirties passed by the flower, only to stop a few meters away before turning to her. The flower immediately recognized the boy, who was now a handsome man, and started to shine, glow, glitter, do everything a happy flower could do. The man smiled like a child and sat beside her like in the old times and began talking to her.

After staying with her a few hours he had to take his leave. The flower thought that she will be left behind but instead he took her with him. He planted her in the garden of his house. Again they were together and their bond was unbreakable.

A few more years passed by, the man had a wife and two children and the flower watched over them as usual. She didn't seem to "get old", however she knew that when the man will die, she will also wither, but she was happy because no flower has ever lived such a long time, so long that it almost seemed like an eternity.

Andreia Hendea

Poems

by Aim B

The Queen (childhood's Avenue)

on the 23rd of October 2010

She, who's walking down my childhood's avenue -
a tousled-haired girl in her oldie shoes.
she, who's aiming at the beautiful and,
one time, clear horizon
and without fear, denies ever-afters.
She's a docile beast, pain's been caught inside her
and though she might be bleeding,
These walls can't stand the slaughter.
But I can see her trembling - and it's not the rain;
Through the dim lit misty, I see her dripped to wet.
Her clothes - now, really tight her body -
Reveal her womanhood and the child who's dying.
These drops must be too heavy for her tired shoulders
and yet, they are alibis for her to drown the auras.
She, who hits the walls in which her pain's been settled
and whose ache hits back, into her bones so fragile;
The Queen of dramas - the one, but not the only
who suits so many persons in this carnival of stories.
So, Oldie Edge of Heaven, allow me to commit
everything left pure, to you and to your treat,
for I'm no longer willing to be cut in fight -
I'm the docile beast, yes, I'm The Queen inside.

Random shot

on the 2nd of November 2010

So here I am, my love - half free, half undefined,
Dressed up in your nude, but covered by your eyes.
I burn in ephemeral and yet, I'm not afraid -
The dawn has taken shape of a humming shade.
The gun is loaded, love - I'm imperfection itself,
Which eyes will never see and words will never tell.
You may pull the trigger - you know I will not fade.
I'm stuck on your retina, as footprints are on sand.
You tied my hands, my love - strongly, behind my back,
with all of your damn latches - no chain could hurt so bad.
You hate with love, my love and lie me with the truth,
You gave me all and yet, I've never been given you.
A random shot, my Lord! A falling leaf, a sigh.
Yes, you can do it, love, but ... look me in the eye.

HOW TO THINK LIKE A CHILD

An invitation to write

When we speak about children, a lot of us think about toys, something that reminds us about them, so, the first STEP to think like a child ARE the toys. You are never too old, too mature for the dolls or the small cars.

When Christmas came some of us had a toy train of which we were so proud when we were just little chidren. We used to lay it in the centre of the room and in everybody else's way. Some of us still have that train, our childhood fingerprints on it. Maybe the engine had received too many kicks and it's too deteriorated to be used again but I think we could, in memory of those bygone days, take it again, shake off the dust, run it in a corner of our house and play with it as we were doing a cuple of years ago.

The old teddybears can't ever be replaced. You can't ever get tired of them. They always remind us about our childhood. At the same time, they are the most sought-after presents for the people who we love.

In the famous toy shops downtown the big shelves are full of toys. When you come in you meet weasels which sing and flash their eyes at a single tap of your hand. On the left there are the singing dragons which draw out their neck, but whose tail you have to pull to see what they can do. The dancing cows are on the same shelf with the dogs with the fluttering ears, but their drums are a little bit empty because all the people who had come just to have a look had operated them.

The biggest craze is at the electronic toys department where a proper queue has built up. A lot of fathers can't wait to study them, saying that they are just testing the new models. Tenth of little helicopters are buzzing in all directions like a swarm of bees, much to the delight of the boys who can'tget hold of a remote because they „aren't old enough".

At the dolls department the mothers are criticising the big head of the dolls and are trying to pull the brown bear's tongue. The bear is taller than a man.

Visit the toy shop and think like a child again!

STOICA ALINA
9 A

Black Rose

An invitation to write

My dear sweet rose,
You are so beautiful!
Your tiny gentle petals
Drowning like marble
In a sea of reflection.

A gleam of selfishness
Makes me want to take you.
Your sweet tears
Are caressing my cheeks.
I could stare at your poor soul
Forever.

And why are you so black?
My love, you're shining too!
Such mesmerizing look,
And such long dark hair.

When I wrap my fingers
Around your cold neck,
Your look touches my soul.
Ah, sweet fear in your eyes-
You start trembling in my arms
You're all sweating and white.

Only I can make you fear-
Fear of the sweet kiss,
Fear of the shining blade.
Don't worry, little one,
The shorter life I'm giving you
Full of happiness it shall be
Until the crystal water dies.

Now... my sweet, black, dried rose;
Why are you so cold?

Iordache Andra

THE SOUND OF THE UNIVERSE STARS SING AT NIGHT

When we look at the sky, we see other worlds. Little stars pulsating in the Universe, keeping it warm for us. But are we aware of the sound we hear at an unconscious level of awareness?

The first thing we see when we look up is the sky . Daylight reveals the clouds, but it is night that gives us the true face of the Universe .

Thousands of stars are there on the sky, waiting for us every night ! We see them, dreaming that one day we could touch them and meet other life forms . For decades we have been trying to understand the mysteries of life itself . We have always searched for the extraordinary things, but we have never thought that the Universe itself is alive! Living with us and in us, literally.

NASA has been launching satellites for many years now, upgrading them with modern technology. This technology includes instruments sensitive to magnetic and electromagnetic signals . Using these "probes", NASA was able to apply filters over planets and stars, recording the magnetic field generated by each one. Using special software, they were able to encode the magnetic readings into audio signals. A few minutes of audio signals represent a work of NASA's discovery would explain why humans have an affinity for space and why we are so fond of our planet. Every time we look at a star we are being bombarded with all types of radiation from the outer space. If we had better ears, we could actually hear the Universe sing!

Another strange fact is that every galaxy has a different "song" . There aren't two galaxies with the same audio signal.

It is said by Indians and Buddhists that we are in a constant connection with the world itself : we take our heart's pulse from the planet, the Earth takes it from the Sun , the Sun takes it from the solar system, the solar system takes it from the galaxy, the galaxy takes it from the Universe itself. Well, the audio signals sound like songs, but if you take a closer look , they sound like heart beats.

CRISTIAN SPOIALA 11 A

Miss Brill

By Katherine Mansfield

part 2

Behind the rotunda the slender trees with yellow leaves down drooping, and through them just a line of sea, and beyond the blue sky with gold-veined clouds.
Tum-tum-tum tiddle-um! tiddle-um! tum tiddley-um tum ta! blew the band.
Two young girls in red came by and two young soldiers in blue met them, and they laughed and paired and went off arm-in-arm. Two peasant women with funny straw hats passed, gravely, leading beautiful smoke-coloured donkeys. A cold, pale nun hurried by. A beautiful woman came along and dropped her bunch of violets, and a little boy ran after to hand them to her, and she took them and threw them away as if they'd been poisoned.
Dear me! Miss Brill didn't know whether to admire that or not! And now an ermine toque and a gentleman in gray met just in front of her. He was tall, stiff, dignified, and she was wearing the ermine toque she'd bought when her hair was yellow. Now everything, her hair, her face, even her eyes, was the same colour as the shabby ermine, and her hand, in its cleaned glove, lifted to dab her lips, was a tiny yellowish paw. Oh, she was so pleased to see him—delighted!

În spatele rotondei erau copacii subţiri cu frunze galbene ce cădeau, iar printre ei se putea vedea doar o linie a mării, iar şi mai departe, doar cerul albastru şi norii cu inserţii aurite.
Dum-dum-dum du-dum! Du-dum! Dum du-dum dum dah! Cânta orchestra.
Trecură două fete tinere îmbrăcate în roşu, s-au întâlnit cu doi soldaţi în albastru, au râs puţin, şi-au plecat mai departe, braţ la braţ, pe perechi. Apoi, două doamne de la ţară cu pălării caraghioase din paie, serioase, conducând măgari frumoşi de culoarea fumului. O călugăriţă palidă, rece, se grăbea undeva. O femeie frumoasă îşi scăpă buchetul de violete, un băieţel a alergat să i-l ridice, ea l-a luat şi l-a aruncat de parcă ar fi fost otrăvite. Vai de mine! Domnişoara Brill nu ştia dacă să admire aceasta sau nu! Acum, chiar în faţa ei, cineva purtând o haină de hermină s-a întâlnit cu un domn îmbrăcat în gri. El era înalt, rigid, demn, iar ea purta haina de hermină pe care, probabil, o cumparase când înca era blondă. Acum totul, părul, faţa, chiar şi ochii îi erau de culoarea herminei sărăcăcioase, iar mâna, în mănuşa-i curăţată, ridicată să-şi tamponeze buzele, era ca o lăbuţă gălbioară. Oh, era aşa de încântată să îl vadă – minunat!

(Translated by Domnica Chisca)
12C

English in tears? No way! The Global English Project

One step closer to the exams. But are you ready? English in use, sweating over the if clauses, connectors in opinion essays and the word that fits into three sentences in one go. Is this hard work or what? Wait! On top of everything, "Write a literary essay to discuss the role of the setting in …" Oh, no. English used to be something else, not… this.

And then we remembered everything, the dear old English classes with a game, a role-play and loads of fun, this year when the Global English Project rolled out. The joined forces of the British Council and the English teachers in our school brought the smile back and reminded us that whenever you take pleasure in learning something, you will take pleasure in using it. And the fun in learning English also told us that there might be something in coming to school after all…

Still looking for a test? Some better context to illustrate the sequence of tenses? Maybe you want to visit the UK for free? Or you are in need of a friend to chat to in English proper, not in Romenglish? If the answer to at least one of these questions is yes, then
Go to the source of it all, http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/

Anton Codruta Nicoleta

PLACES TO HANG OUT ...

Hard Rock Cafe Bucharest

Are you still feeling cold chills running down your spine following the past winter? Would you like to sit back, relax and enjoy unique drinks while listening to the world's greatest hits and admiring things you have never thought seeing?

If you are a teenager whose asset is curiosity and you are trying to find new spots to enjoy the company of your friends, our proposition might just be what you were looking for.

After a survey that has been conducted in our high school and its vicinities, many teenagers confessed that they like places with good music and a nice atmosphere. Many places combine these two features but after a long deliberation with the whole team, we

chose the Hard Rock Cafe Bucharest not only because it is praised by most of its visitors but also because it's situated right in the city centre, by the Herastrau Park entrance.

The most astonishing thing is that this HRC is one of the biggest in whole Europe and it exhibits a unique thing in the world: Michael Jackson's original jacket he wore in the "Thriller" music video back in 1982. It also has a full wall dedicated to "The Beatles" and crazy number of original signature guitars exposed on the walls and all over the place!

So what are you waiting for? Finish up your homework and join hundreds of other teenagers at one of Bucharest's coolest places: the Hard Rock Cafe!

POPESCU VLAD-RADU

ZIDARESCU RADU-MIHAI

BLOOPERS

Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements.

learning to speak Latin.

What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common?

Unusual names

(c) Tracey says

$(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{8})$ is an irrational nu
$(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{8})^2 = 18$
I think that if you square an
number you always get a ratio

Tracey is wrong.
Use an example to show that Tracey is wrong.

She's a woman

What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?

He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for Bicycles.

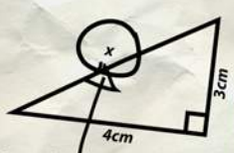
Steve is driving his car. He is travelling at 60 feet/second and the speed limit is 40 mph. Is Steve speeding?

He could find out by checking his speedometer.

The race of people known as Malays come from which country?

Malaria

2. Find x



Here it is