



**Arab Orthodox Christian Community
Romania**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR CHILDREN (DPAC)

ACTIVITY REPORT

Liceul Tehnologic Transporturi Auto, Călărași

(High School of Auto Transports Technology), Călărași City

9 – 20 November, 2012

Theme: *"Stop Violence Against Children"*

Venue: Liceul Tehnologic Transporturi Auto, Călărași, Romania

(High School of Auto Transports Technology), Călărași City

Date: 9 - 20 November, 2012

Participants:

- 1) 60 youth (15-18 years old, 60 boys)
- 2) 5 adults (5 teachers)

Facilitators:

Prof. Irina Bîrjoveanu

Prof. Mihaela Ciorcilă

Prof. Constantin Nicolae,

Director prof. Claudia Pavalasc,

Vice-Director, prof. Iană Ecaterina

Activities:

1. Posters contest
2. Exhibition of posters
3. Workshop – “Why violence?”
4. Flasmob - prayer circles

Activity description

Between November 9th to November 20th 2012 **Liceul Tehnologic Transporturi Auto Călărași** together with the Arab Orthodox Community in Romania celebrated the "World Day of Prayer and Action for Children". Based on the theme "Stop Violence Against Children", the DPAC activities were carried out by children (aged between 15 -18 years old), for the first time at this high school.

The activities were focused on the following aspects:

- Domestic violence;
- Violence in schools;
- Psychological abuse against children;
- Consequences of violence;
- Importance of prayer.

1. Between 9th and 16th of November 2012, the youth realized and brought drawings and posters on the theme "Stop violence against children". This way they had the possibility to express their own vision about the theme. At the end, the 2 winners of the posters competition were awarded.

2. With all the works realized by the young participants, from 16th to 20th of November, we organized an unusual exhibition in the school hallway: all the drawings and posters were caught with hooks on strings, for more visibility, in order to draw attention to each person in school on DPAC activity.

3. On November 20th, it was organized first a short workshop. At the beginning, the teachers presented the "World Day of Prayer and Action for Children" using a PPT presentation and then the participants watched a short movie with the title "Imitation". Starting from this, the professor of religion and the youth had a discussion about psychological abuse against children, about what means tolerance and which are the role and importance of prayer in our context.

4. In the same day, almost 65 young people participated on a Flashmob called "Prayer circles" in the schoolyard.

First, they formed with their bodies the word prayer and then they made 2 circles of friendship standing without moving for 2 minutes and saying a pray for all the children who were the victims of violence. This way the participants wanted to send the message that all the people are the same and the violence breeds anger, pain and conflict, that's why we have to chose peace and friendship.



Outcomes

A. Participants

From the children responses to the evaluation questionnaires we could extract the following:

- They liked the theme of poster contest and the idea of an unusual exhibition; now, they appreciate more their talented colleagues.
- They have a better understanding of the importance of tolerance and of the benefit of a nonviolent attitude in family and at school.;
- The students said that education can be attractive with this type of activities but they would prefer a partnership with a high school with girls;
- For the future, they would like to work in pairs for their projects.

B. Facilitators (Teachers)

- a) Logistics – the materials and the awards were the the school’s contribution; they were adequate for activities we have made, but it was better if we had more resources for awards;
- b) Positive/negative aspects:
 - The children surprised us – many participants at the posters competition demonstrated that they have talent and great ideas;

- The youth cooperated very well for the flashmob, they were dynamic and enthusiastic;
- A transfer of knowledge, of attitudes and values was realized;
- Thus, all the teachers involved approved that this kind of activity is an alternative teaching method, both attractive and modern.