

Environment Week in Andebølle.



The week from the 18th to the 22nd of October in Andebølle was dedicated to a special and important topic: the environment. For 5 days normal activities and classes were replaced by meetings, group works, lectures, short trips, movies and documentaries dedicated to subjects such as global warming, recycling, sustainable life, good and bad ecological behaviors, and much more.

Day 1. The “environment week” started with a debate on the main topic followed by a work in groups about energy saving and wasting. The students had a list of different goals to achieve and to do this they had to experiment on the proper and on the wrong use of electricity. The teachers also showed them the data



on energy, heat and water consumption of Andebølle school, explaining to the students that even a small action everyday (like turning off the light when we don't need it or throw the garbage in the right trashcan) can really change things. The group work consisted of three goals: boil a liter of water using three different tools (kettle, microwave oven, hotplate) and measure the energy consumption through a special equipment; make a cup of tea and boil 1 kg of potatoes. After the experiments,

the students watched a National geographic documentary called “Human Footprint” focused on the huge amount of resources of any kind (food, drinks, raw materials, etc.) that every human being uses/abuses during his life. The documentary shows also the consequences of this use/abuse (mainly garbage that we leave behind us): indelible marks that inevitably change (and sometimes contribute to destroy) our planet.



Day 2. The second step of this didactic week was a day “out of the house”, consisting of two short trips in the South of Fyn. The first one was a visit to a local factory that recycles old bricks to make new ones. After a short tour in the bricks factory, the school visited to the so called “Self-Sustaining Village” (Den Selvforsynende Landsby), a small village build on the principles of an ecological lifestyle that respect and try to save our planet. All the inhabitants (at the moment 19 families) are growing their own food (through animal breeding and agriculture), are using alternative systems to heat their buildings and to produce electricity, are building their house according to permacultural values, and so on. All this to proof that a different and more sustainable lifestyle is possible. Back to the school, the students watched “An Inconvenient Truth”, the

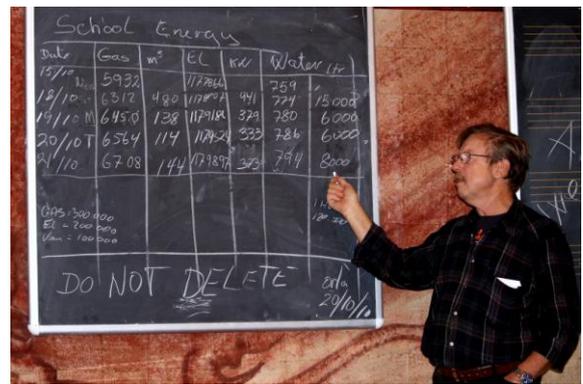




Oscar winning documentary about global warming and the danger that lurks behind it for human beings and for the Earth.

Day 3. On Wednesday the group work continued, followed by a lecture about recycling techniques and technologies. The students watched a series of short movies about recycling in Denmark, to learn how

this process works and how can we do things right just sorting our garbage properly. The videos were the starting point for a short debate about differences and similarity that exist between Denmark and other Countries on this subject. The



The intercultural atmosphere of Andebølle, with students from all around the world, gave everyone a chance to share opinions and experiences with the others. Also for this day the teachers chose a movie to show: it was a documentary about designing houses according to ecological principles and respecting the nature and the environment.

Day 4. The fourth day started with a lecture. It was a tutorial on how to prepare non-chemical dyes for different purposes. The students learned an alternative way to paint the wall of a house or to paint a picture using natural dyes made mixing common ingredients like



eggs, oil, milk, chalk, non-chemical colors and so on. Some of the students tried to use this dyes to paint something and they were satisfied by the results, showing a great interest and curiosity for this techniques. The afternoon was, then, dedicated to another “out of the house” activity: a visit to a brick factory that produces huge quantity of bricks used to build houses not only in Denmark but also abroad.



Day 5. The last day of the week about environment and ecology was divided in two parts: in the morning, as usual on Friday, the students were engaged in another “out of the house” activity. This time it was a visit to a local recycling station where all the materials



(plastic; paper; steel, aluminum, iron and other metals; glass; batteries; and so on) are collected, sorted, prepared to be processed and finally re-used in different ways. Through this process, a lot of materials considered “trash” can be transformed in new products. Recycling helps to save energy, to lower air and water pollution levels and, of course, to reduce the amount of raw materials used by human beings to create new products. The tour in the recycling station was the chance to explain to the

students how important it is to sort different materials and to be a part of the recycling process. Back in Andebølle, the students participated to the final step of the “environment week”: the evaluation. In this phase everyone was able to express their opinion about the whole week: some students admitted that they learned something new and that the topic of the week, the environment, is an important subject. However, the activities were not exempt from criticism. Some students said that the week was too heavy and sometimes boring; others complained about the lack of different viewpoints on topics



such as global warming and climate changes; others suggested to have more practical activities after the lectures or the documentaries. In the end the students confessed that, even though the “environment week” was interesting, they actually missed Andebølle normal classes (music, art and design, film and media, theater, psychology) and that they were happy to come back to the usual life in the school... perhaps with some more knowledge and awareness about the importance of taking care of our planet.



Lucia D’Addezio