



## SCHOOLS IN COLLABORATION



**For several years Vaggaskolan in Karlshamn and its partner schools in Nomme and Haapsalu have been working to bring students from respective schools the aim of widening their range of experience. Recently, Heinola has joined the project.**

How do we collaborate? In the current project students from Karlshamn visited partner schools in Nomme, Haapsalu and Heinola at the end of September. They spent 3 days in each town working together with students from the local schools to produce a show, which will be performed in front of live audience. The next stage of the project will be a working meeting for all participants in the project. The project has three parts called art, music and drama.

In the art part students try to express what is typical of the region using images, colours and forms to capture the essence

of our "home". During the workshops young people can explain, discuss and get to know each other's surrounding.

Music is a language that everyone understands and can use to make him to be understood. The pleasure of singing and playing together opens many doors to mutual understanding. During the workshops the students will work towards the performance of the joint concert.

The drama part of project also uses places we come from as a starting point. Local tales and the destinies of people from our regions are the materials, which are used. The purpose of these workshops is to create an understanding of what gives us special cultural identities and what, from the other hand, unites us.

One of the objectives is to extend the project beyond our schools to other groups. The young people taking part in

the project come from different social system and they are enriched by being a part of the other students' lives and sharing their own daily life with their new friends. The workshops will bring understanding of the fact that although we lead different lives we do in fact share a place in history and the world. The students will pass this knowledge and like rings on the water it will be spread even wider.

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## EDUCATION REFORM IN KAUNAS

**Kaunas is the second by size city in Lithuania. There are 222 educational institutions by different types in our city, in which work 6 113 teachers and 53 911 pupils are educated.**

Educational Department coordinates process of development in all educational institutions of Kaunas. 17 specialists are working in administration. They coordinate such programmes as development of pre-school education, integrating pupils with special educational needs into mainstream schools, health and ecological education, child socialisation and prevention of crime (establishment of Day Centres for pupils), programmes of professional qualification for head teachers and teachers, transition to ten year compulsory basic school. There are 88 Kindergartens, 14 Primary schools, 2 Compulsory basic schools, 47 Secondary schools, 2 Youth schools, 1 Adult education centre, 38 schools of compulsory education.

Education reform started since 1991 in Lithuania. The second stage of reform starts as transition to a ten-year compulsory basic school (there was a nine-year compulsory school up to now). The Education reform documents provide for twelve-year secondary education. Two versions are possible: foundation of upper secondary schools and choice of profile in secondary schools. There are 7 upper secondary schools in Kaunas. 2 secondary schools started transition to upper secondary school. 12 secondary schools take part in experiment of teaching by the profile in our city.

Reconstruction of educational contents in all levels of education – from pre-school to upper secondary school – also is important for us. In addition to the national curriculum, there are also individual curriculum's. Besides national programmes, there are strengthened programmes for different subjects in 38 secondary schools. English and Mathematics programmes are the most

popular. Schools of compulsory education create opportunity for development of pupil's artistic, sports and other skills.

Professional qualification of head teachers and teachers is very important and requires the special attention. Kaunas Teachers Culture and Education Centre coordinate methodical activities qualification programmes. Club for future teachers was created for 16-18 years pupils who are interested in teacher's profession. Kaunas educational institutions have an interest in sharing and spreading their experience. They are interested in exchanging information with educational institutions of other cities and are ready to take part in the international projects.

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