

## UNITING GENERATIONS



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The aim of our project is to reduce the generation gap between students and the elderly from the old people's home. In addition, Arcadia Academy is an international school, so the project encourages student's involvement in Montenegrin culture, where both foreigners and locals can share their experience living in Montenegro. Moreover, we want the elderly in the old people's home to be entertained: spending time with children, especially foreign, brings more variety to their life, which has a positive effect on their well-being. In this project we want to unite people of different cultures and ages, so they could communicate with people they probably would not meet in their usual environment and see the difference in their lives, opinions and experiences. We have covered goals such as learning about the elderly people's lives and their experiences and getting to know them by talking and spending time with them. We have also managed to entertain them by conversing with the elders; playing board games; and dancing and singing.

So far, we have visited the old people's home twice and they came to our school once. We plan to carry on meeting with them until the end of the school year once per week. Many students joined us, and some of them knew Montenegrin well, so they helped others by translating for them.

When we went there for the first time, we decided to let people simply talk to get to know each other better. Students and teachers each talked to different people, sometimes with the help of translators, who made the interaction much easier. The people there were glad to see us, and the students did not seem to have any troubles except for the language barrier.



Second time, which was the following week, we brought some board games (chess, checkers, dominos, etc.) with us, because the weather outside was unpredictable. Same as the previous time, students talked to the elderly, and everyone was having a good time. For some

of them, it became even easier to find a common topic to talk about, which showed that the two generations have really do many things in common, despite the large age gap. The introduction of board games helped the elderly people and students bond more easily over topics that might have not been brought up if there weren't any games to play together.

The last time we met, the elderly payed our school a return visit, where we prepared a little performance for them. Each of the years represented different countries, and performed different traditional dances and songs in the language of the chosen country. Preschool had a scene about dinosaurs. After that, students showed the elderly around, telling them about the school and the pupils.

In the future, we plan to keep on visiting the institution until the end of the school year. We have some other activities planned, like basic physical exercise, art workshop, a picnic outside somewhere outside, brunch or lunch, etc. We plan to collaborate with other primary and secondary schools around, so we could be sure, that our project will still be going on even when we cannot visit the institution.

Some highlights of the project would be meeting new people and making new friends who are much older and have much more experience. We had the opportunity to listen to their stories and learn about how they think and how they live their life. Many students were able to realise that even though there is a big age gap between us and the elderly, we still have so much in common, and yet so much to learn from them.

All of the expenses so far such as transportation, food and other materials have been covered by Arcadia Academy. However, we are planning to apply for the UNICEF fund next year so that we could expand the project.

