

An International Week

After the Swedish and the Polish experiences, the Comenius Project 'Bridges' held its international meeting in Italy from 1-5 May 2011. Each group arrived at different times and places (some in Orio and others in Milan).



My guest for the whole week was a Swedish girl, Joanna. Immediately at the airport we had a wonderful feeling and from that special moment our adventure started. The Swedish group arrived in the evening and in a couple of hours Joanna was tasting her first Italian ice-cream. She really enjoyed it!

On Monday, after school, some of us organized a short visit to Milan. Our guests were so impressed when they arrived directly under the *Duomo* and even more when we got to the roof terrace and we admired the breathless view of Milan and its suburbs. The golden *Madonnina* was shining on our heads.

On Tuesday our guests (and a part of the Italian students) had a lot of fun. For us school all day long! They went to Montisola and Iseo. Since it was a sunny day, some of them even had a swim in the fresh water of the lake. After this hot day spent at the lake, Joanna was a little sunburned and it was so funny when her mother called and told her that in Sweden it was snowing!

On Wednesday we went to discover some nice places in the Upper City of Bergamo. We "invaded" the Old Square and the two churches near it. After that, we enjoyed the romantic and view of the Lower City and the mountains from *La Rocca* (the castle in the Upper City). But the special touch arrived in the evening; on the way back by train we organized a big "Hollywood pizza"... obviously in Treviglio.



The trip to Venice obliged us to get up very early on Thursday morning, but we had a marvellous day there. This trip to Venice was important to mix the whole international group with Italian students: Cupid played a great part, too!



This experience gave me and my family the opportunity to have first-hand experience of what "hospitality" really means and we tried to explain all the possible differences between our customs and traditions. Joanna really enjoyed my mother's delicacies (lasagne, roasted meat and cake!) and she was really impressed by our school timetable, so short and with its particularities. For example, she loved my "*libretto scolastico*", a student's personal school record book with all the marks and a

means of communication between the teachers and the family (in Sweden it doesn't exist), and she was surprised to find out that music lessons for us are usually private (Swedish students can practice every instrument at school).

It was great speaking English all day long (also in dreams, incredible!) and I had the feeling I could overcome my limits, and have a slice of the world, with its marvellous variety, in my hand at my disposal.

That's why I think that "Bridges" is really the right name for this project: English made us walk into new worlds!