

**Ve dnech 11. – 18.2015 pobývala skupina 18 švédských studentů a 2 učitelů z partnerské školy Vasakolan, Gävle - Švédsko na gymnáziu v Chotěboři. Den před jejich návratem domů byli požádáni o zápis svých dojmů a zážitků z pobytu. Přeji příjemné čtení.**

**D. Caltová**

### **Czech Republic, the Sunday**

We had a hard time waking up on Sunday, but we managed to make the train at 9.30 to Jihlava. We didn't know what was ahead of us until we reached our destination. It was exciting to see what they had planned for us... The Zoo. Dua was especially intrigued by the tigers, and Linnea was disappointed to see that there were no turtles out for the season yet. We were surprised to witness the infinity of the facility, it just went on and on! The visit at the zoo surpassed our expectations and the weather was also on our side.

Our next stop on the journey was the shopping mall. We had lunch and began shopping. Neither Dua nor Linnea bought anything (except for food). The mall was big and we enjoyed spending time there.

The moment we had all been waiting for was finally here. It was time for lasertag. We were divided into different teams - Czechs and Swedes. The outcome of these games was satisfactory, the Swedes won. We laughed a whole lot and had a great time together!

Apart from this wonderful day we have had a lovely stay here in Czech Republic. You have a really nice country, and we can't wait to come back in the future. Our school experience was eye opening! We give the exchange an overall grade of 1 (the highest of course). It has been truly amazing and we would like to thank you all for everything. Memories for life!

We hope to see you again sometime, and good luck to all of you in the future!

Best wishes, Linnea and Dua

### **Exchange 2015**

This exchange has been a really good experience and we have had a lot of fun.

When I arrived at Saturday night I was welcomed by the host and we went to their home to unpack. Then they took us out to a pub to enjoy the Czech publife. It was a fun night.

They prepared tons of activities to make sure we would enjoy Czech to its fullest potential.

We have played lasertag, bowled, been to a zoo, biked, grilled and lots of more. I have had a great time here and they took really good care of us.

The families were really nice and even though they couldn't speak English they tried their best to communicate with us and made the best out of the situation.

I have seen and learned a bit of how the school works in Czech. We have been on math lessons, physics lessons and even a Czech lesson where they tried teaching us the language which was really good and interesting.

I can definitely say that this has been a great experience and that I have enjoyed it!

By Timothy Seitola

## **Exchange With the Czech Republic**

The exchange between the Gymnazium of Chotěboř and Vasaskolan in Gavle has been amazing. The first day after we arrived was clearly and without doubt the best. This because we were all together playing Lazer Game and shopping. That way we all got to know each other more, both inbetween the Swedes as well as the Czechs.

Another great day was when we went to the silver mine and to the Sedlec Ossuary, which was both very exciting and educational. We also had a very nice moment at our lunch time, where we sat in a beautiful park and enjoyed the wonderful weather. The packed lunch our hosts gave us for the trip was very pleasing and with great taste, not to mention that it had a touch of Czech tradition.

To visit the Gymnazium of Chotěboř was a great experience, for example when we visited different lessons and learned more about the Czech school system. This school is great, especially with the beautiful garden you have, in which you can easily see that a lot of effort has been put in to keep it in such nice conditions.

We are very pleased and thankful for our visit in your marvellous country and outstanding school.

Thanks again for everything the teachers and the host students planned for us, it could not have been better.

Good luck for coming years with new exchanges!

Best wishes,

Jessica Lindberg and Linnéa Anderzon, N21

## **Good week in Chotobor**

The week in Czech Republic has been very nice. We have done many different things during our stay here in Czech Republik. The host family that I lived with were very kind and I really liked them all. It was a good family to stay with. I really appreciated that they put more time in what we did and that they planned everything very good and we always have something to do. The school of Chotobor is a very nice school. The students and the teachers are very nice they all treated us with respect and love.

They have done a lot of things for us while we were here and because of what we have done we have always laughed together and this trip is an experience that I will always remember.

Enis Yilmaz

## **Student exchange in Chotebor**

The overall experience with the exchange program was absolutely amazing. One of my favorite days was Thursday, when after school, me and the other Exchange students went to play Softball. Sadly, the Czech lost with like 100-0 but that is okay, it was only a game. The game went well, and it was a pleasure to enjoy the game in the sun, and spend quality time with each other. After the game, we spent some short time in a Chinese Pub, where we cooled off with some cold beverages. After that, me and my Exchange student ate amazing spaghetti and drank some very good local beverage as well, talking and watching his little brother play computer games. We are really good friends with Hampus and his correspondent, so after dinner we went over to their house, to play Fifa and enjoyed some snack and beverages. (I really like Czech beverages. Cheap, and amazing quality)

The Exchange program really exceeded my expectations. It's a beautiful memory that I am very thankful for. My Exchange student and his family has been absolutely amazing, they have taken very good care of me, and were really nice, helping with everything and making sure that I was well. The activities during the day were well planned and really fun, and I got to see cities, and attractions that were jaw-droppingly amazing. The Czech students were amazing, really nice and fun. We got to know each other's culture, sort out some difficulties, and spend amazing time with each other.

To keep it short, I would like to thank everybody for this amazing week, but especially my exchange student, and host family. I hope that they had an equally good time in Sweden, and that maybe some day, we'll see each other again.

I feel that I won't be able to express how thankful I am, and the amazing time I had with this short letter. However, thank you, very very much.

Thanks again for everything, and I wish everyone a bright and amazing future, and life.

Best wishes,

Tamas Vass.

Na zdraví!

## **Cultural differences**

I have had an interesting time here in Czech republic. There has been many new experiences and a lot of differences in culture compared to Sweden. One thing that I noticed early is that almost none of the houses are built of wood. In the swedish countryside most houses are made of wood and painted red but here you find houses in a lot of different colors and many are made of bricks. The second big difference with the houses are inside. When the people in the family I was staying with left a room they turned off the lights. My friends all said the same and we guess it is because they want to save electricity. In Sweden we usually leave the lights on if we are not leaving the house or going to bed. I also noticed when I was shopping that not many doors have automatic closing and that you have to close them for yourself. In Sweden almost every door at a public place like a shopping center has automatic opening and closing. In Czech it is also possible to smoke inside at most restaurants and bars, that is forbidden everywhere in Sweden.

The schools are also different in a few ways. Czech schools have a bell that rings at the start and end of classes which we do not have in Sweden. At first I thought it was a fire alarm. The schooldays are much shorter here in Czech too. Here the school usually ends around 13 to 14 o'clock and then you eat lunch. In Sweden we eat lunch a bit earlier and schooldays can end at everything from 13 to 16 o'clock, usually around 15 to 16. Most people bring a snack to school here in Czech which is more uncommon in Sweden.

One of the biggest cultural differences is alcohol here in Czech. You can buy it everywhere, it is really cheap and beer is cheaper than water. In Sweden you can go to bars and drink alcohol when you are 18 which is the same in Czech but in Sweden the prices are 5 times higher. If you want to buy alcohol and bring it home you can find it in most supermarkets here in Czech and you need to be 18 while in Sweden there is only one store called Systembolaget that can sell alcohol and you have to be 20 to buy anything there.

It has been a very interesting week here and I have enjoyed my stay here in Czech Republic

## **My visit to the Czech Republic and Chotěboř**

### **The family**

I have had the pleasure of staying with an exceptionally good family, which gladly took me into their home, and had me become part of their family. Their domestic cats also, after a short while, accepted me and saw me as part of the family. One of them even went as far as wanting to sleep in my room, and in my bed. The knowledge I have of cats suggest that this is a very good sign of respect, trust and comfort from the cat. I also got to spend a good amount of time with her stepfather, which was the one I came to know best, judging by our billiard night and deep conversations there as well as during our family visit to Panský Dům during Wednesday night.

I also got to tag along for the dance competition Taneční Skupina Roku. I also got to meet a few of Martina's dance partners, who were all very nice. I would have liked to spend way more time with them than I did.

### **The Activities**

We got to do a whole variety of things during our visit to the Czech Republic. My favourite thing was by far the visit to Kutná Hora and the Church of Bones. That was the most epic, thematic experience I've had during the entire week. Especially the Dark Cellar of the Church of Bones – that was a thrilling and nerv-tingling visit. But I'm glad that we did it.

Other stuff we did included excursions to various museums, a visit to the dark tunnels of the Silver Mines, a slightly rainy visit to the Doubrava River and some activities in the Ecology Club of Gymnazium Chotěboř. However, this were not the only things we did - unfortunately, the visit included a great deal of school classes. These were very tiring and not very exciting, to say the least. It was totally OK when we had two lessons during the Tour of the School-day, but having an entire day just being lessons? Not okay.

The final thing we did was to explore Prague, which in this moment of writing we have not yet done. I can only expect that it will be good, and hopefully not too harsh on my poor feet.

### **Evaluation**

The visit to the Czech Republic was a lot different from what I first had imagined. But it was for the better, and I am very satisfied with everything we have done. However, I will leave for Prague tomorrow with a slight feeling of anxiety – since I still feel that I have not done anything that this country has to offer. I would very much like to return here not too long from now, perhaps tag along with my friend when he goes to visit his grandparents in Olomouc, and ask that we drive through Chotěboř on the way there. Either way, I am confident that this is not the last I will see of the Czech Republic. I will be back.

### **My week in the Czech Republic**

My week in the Czech Republic has been more than I ever hoped for. This much thanks to my beautiful host family and host student. We were a perfect match, sharing music taste and a love for good food can is sometimes be enough to break the communication barrier.

My favorite memory is when me and Adela went climbing after school. Long story short I thought I was going to die. Another memory I remember well is me and Adela's father jamming and messing around with our guitars and together playing everything from Jimi Hendix to Queen.

All I can say about this trip is that the Czech students spared no expenses on us, always taking us somewhere and finding activities. Everything the Lasertag to just a simple barbeque, it has been awesome.

For this final part I would again like to thank Adela for opening up her home to me and thanks to her beautiful family once again. This is the reason the trip was so successful, Adela and her family.

Thanks You for everything.

Sam Shahni N2J Vasaskolan.

## **Student exchange program in Czech Republic**

My experience in Czech Republic has been great. We've had a good program with a lot of activities such as traveling and seeing attractions. I think that Czech exceeded my expectations by far, I'm impressed. It's a memory for life and for that I am very thankful. I am grateful because my host family took very good care of me and were genuinely very nice. I did not have to do much of an effort because they helped me with everything.

I would like to thank Petr and my host family and I wish them the best future. I hope Petr had it as good in Sweden as I've had it here, it's been a journey.

I have learned a lot because of this exchange program. I've learned about cultural differences and different living standards. Sweden and Czech differs a lot when it comes to dining and snacks, Czech eats a lot more sweet things than Sweden.

I don't know how to thank you enough, because I'm forever thankful for what I have had the chance to experience.

sincerely,

Hampus Holmberg

Na zdraví!

## **Sunday**

On Sunday we woke up at 8.30 and we took the bus to the train station. There we met a few of the other Swedes and Czech students. We took the train to Jihlava and went to the zoo. There we saw a lot of fantastic animals like tigers, girafes, zebras etc. After two hours at the zoo we had some food at the shopping mall, CityPark, and we also had some time for shopping. After that our Czech hostes took us to a scary location, but it turned out to be more fun than we thought. It was lazer tag time, Sweden againgst Czech Republic and of course we Swedes won. After a very sweaty game we went back to the mall for some more food. Bella went home and Andrea stayed at the mall with Dua and Enis and had a great time laughing.

Our visit here in Czech Republic has been a pleasant surprise even though we had our not so good moments. Sunday was the day we had the most fun.

Bella and Andrea

## **This have been a fun trip with new experiences and many interesting meetings.**

My host family have been very friendly and helpful. The food here in Czech Republic have been delicious and it is fun to explore different food cultures, and the culture in general of course. In the beginning of the exchange they took me on a trip to a castle that looked like something out of a fairytale.

One day we went to a silver mine in Kutna Hora, and that have been the best excursion on this trip so far. It was interesting and it felt a bit adventurous walking around so far underground. The city Kutna Hora was very picturesque. The same day we also visited a church with a chapel full of bones. While it was an interesting visit, I found the display of so many dead a bit morbid.

I have also been spending some time in your school and the geopark. It is a nice school and I especially liked the indoor climbing wall, but I have some problem orientating and finding my way inside the school. Everyone in the school have been lovely.

I hope we will continue the exchange between our schools.

With Best Regards,  
Amanda Nylén

### **Thursday – Lessons, presentations and softball**

Started the presentations at about 8.00, the girls who talked used good English and well adapted terminology. It was nice to learn about the energetics around Chotebor and in Czech. Big shoutout to David C, Petr A and Lukas F for making the powerpoint in the start, a shame they werent able to do the presentation themselves.

After everything about the energy resources we had Czech lessons. The girls who taught us were very good and were very patient with us. We weren't the most quiet class, but I think that is okay considering that we weren't able to pronounce one word correctly. This made us laugh a lot and we had a great time learning about the differences between our two languages.

Thirdly we had math and it was a very good class. We already know that the Czechs are better or at least ahead of us when it comes to math. So it was really nice of them to work with the same things we do, in this way we could participate in the class. The teacher also had a very nice way of teaching, he made you understod the logic in different mathematical laws and formulas. This made is so much easier to easy solve different equations and problems.

The Physics lesson was also nice. The teacher didnt make it that too advance though. The way he set up nine different stations where students had to perform different experiments, was although a very nice way to at least understand much about physics.

After School we went to a grass field with some Czechs and Swedish people and we played softball until about 18.30. It was a great way to spend time together.

I want to thank my Czech family for taking care of me both when I was healthy but also when I was very sick. Im very thankful for everything that they did for me and I've had a great time with them. I also wanna thank all teachers and the governments from both Chotebor and Sweden for making this trip happen. And of course I wanna thank all the students from Chotebor for making the best out of this little holiday for us.

Much love,  
Jens Tomas Jonathan Bergqvist

### **Thursday in school**

The presentations from the Czech students about energy in Czech gave many insights of how that area differs from Sweden. We also learned about how the school were working to save energy and recycle most of their waste and that is maybe something we can bring to our school in Sweden. The

presentations was only held by two students and it would be better if more students held the presentations. The lesson in Czech was learning and it was fun that they included the class in their presentation. It felt that it was more of having a fun time than learning in a serious way but I thought it was rather nice. Lesson in math could have been more adapted to our visit, now we just sat on the side but maybe it was to show us how teaching is done in Czech. The laboratory in physics was fun and we could talk to some of the other students about their experience in school and we could see how they do different laboratories and how it differs from Sweden.

In the afternoons it would be fun if the students were planning more activities together, and maybe the school could help with this, but maybe it shouldn't be mandatory. But spending time in a bigger group in the evenings is more rewarding for everybody in my opinion. We spent the afternoon playing softball with some other Swedes and Czechs and it was very fun.

Transportation works rather well but buses between the cities could go more often, but that isn't something the school can control.

In general I think this Exchange has been very fun and I have had many new experiences.

Axel Lundkvist N2J

## **Our over all experiences in Czech Republic**

We both lived with Tereza Legatova and we have had a great week so far, but are now feeling a little home sick. The food has been amazing and the family could not have been nicer. The activities with the school was not always so fun, but we were able to enjoy most of them. The trip to Kutna Hora was the funniest.

### **Wednesday**

The day started with an amazing breakfast where we were served croissants, newly baked bread, yoghurt and fruit. Then her mom drove us to the bus stop and from there we took the bus. When we arrived to school we met up with the others and walked together to the CHSS factory. There we watched a presentation about the company, which contained some history of the Czech Republic and that was interesting. After the presentation we went on a tour around the area, which was kind of boring and because of the noise inside the factory we were not able to hear what he said most of the time.

After that some Czech students had prepared some activities for us in the school's geopark. This could have been arranged better because most of the time we didn't know what to do. Then we had a maths lesson, it was kind of difficult to understand what the teacher said so we mostly observed. After that we went to eat lunch in Chotebors centrum, it is fun to try some local food. It is amazing how cheap the food is here.

Then we learned about some Czech easter traditions, like painting eggs and whipping girls. This was very interesting and different from the Swedish Easter. We think it is fun to learn and get to know other countries traditions, that is why we are here, to get to know the country.

Then we took the bus back home and then ate icecream outside on her terrace in the sun, it felt like summer. Later we drove around to watch some animal like statues, a church and the park where Bohemia and Moravia meet. We ate dinner with her mom at a restaurant where they serve very tasty pizzas.

We had a great day and ate lot of good food.

Sandra Färdig and Louise Ekman, Vasa Skolan, Gävle, Sweden.