



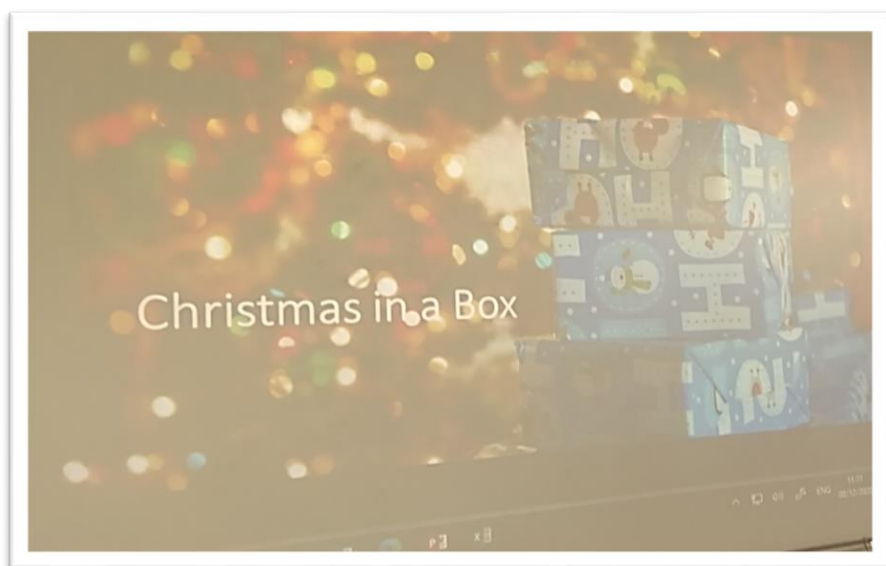
POLITISTIKO ERGASTIRI AYION OMOLOYITON



NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2020

CHRISTMAS EDITION





Short introduction: Politistiko Ergastiri Ayion Omoloyiton, in order to honour and celebrate Volunteering Week, declared as such the first week of December by the Pancyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council, we invited our volunteers of the project "Unity-iOS, Education Volunteers" to take initiative and organise activities at the schools where they volunteer to raise awareness about the act of volunteering.

Volunteering Day at the Primary School, Ayion Omoloyiton by Francesca Dorrell

"Christmas in a Boxes"

In the occasion of the Volunteering Week that took place the first week of December, the volunteers of Politistiko Ergastiri Ayion Omoloyiton had the opportunity to organize, develop and implement a personal project related to our voluntary service in the schools.

The project is called "Christmas in a box" and it has been carried out in the schools of **Ayion Omoloyiton** and **Eleneion Primary School**.

The aim of the project is to raise awareness among children on the values of solidarity and sharing during the Christmas period. This initiative was already a project commonly implemented in Primary Schools in Belgium, and now the volunteers are trying to spread this wonderful project, here in Cyprus!!!

First of all, shoe boxes were collected from donations of our surroundings and from shops which were willing to support this initiative. Every classes of the primary school decorated and filled shoe boxes with non-perishable goods and small treats in order to donate them to people in need.

The core idea is to promote values of volunteering and giving that's the reason why students were suggested to bring one item or more chosen from an attached list.

The goods collected are essentially nonperishable products such as pasta, rice, beans snacks, chocolate, drinks but also hygiene products, toys or other items.

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**ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙ
ΑΓΙΩΝ ΟΜΟΛΟΓΗΤΩΝ**



The volunteers have also encouraged students to make a Christmas drawing or a handmade item which will be put in the box and will contribute to make this a special gift. After the goods were collected we worked on the decoration of the boxes with one class during art lesson. Decorations were made out of children's drawing, wrapping papers and old ribbons.

Who is going to receive it? These boxes are going to young refugees that live in Nicosia. We have established a partnership with "Hope for Children" (HfC), CRC Policy Centre, humanitarian and independent NGO also involved in European Solidarity Corps projects. Their mission is founded on the principle of promoting and protecting the rights of children.

The "Christmas Boxes" prepared by children in schools will be given to young refugees hosted by HfC. They are 40 in total and we hope to give to each of them for Christmas.

In January we will share pictures and videos of the initiative together in order to have a follow-up! We are very proud to promote this project, especially for Christmas!

Christmas is coming!!!

"It's a nice way to rediscover the Christmas's spirit and to exploring volunteering"



Volunteering Day at A' Primary School of Dali by Adam Mičinec

The concept of my activities was to connect sport activities with talking about volunteering and some words associated with volunteering (languages, friends, culture and activities). Therefore, I organized two slightly different options - for younger kids and for older ones, to make it easier for the younger children.



So, I thought of 4 different activities to be organized on the school playground (running, jumping, doing squats and one other different type of running): each student (separated in 4 groups) had to visit every spot and do the specific activity. On each spot there were also different pictures with the words mentioned above, related to volunteering. When they completed the sports activity, they could take the picture and go on to the next spot. This was the same for every age group

With older kids we got to a group and used a board for putting the pictures there and then we discussed it. I was asking them, what do they think volunteering is about, why do we do it, if we don't get any money, what do they imagine if someone says culture and so on. With younger kids we used A3 paper to stick the pictures in the classroom (they could color the paper after, if they wanted to) and we also had an easy discussion about volunteering.



The activity worked very well. I was happy that the children were very enthusiastic about all the activities and they enjoyed them a lot. The discussion about volunteering was obviously a little bit hard, mainly because of translating from English to Greek and then from Greek back to English, but thanks to teachers from our school, I think most of the kids understood the main idea. In fact, sometimes I was really surprised and impressed that even the youngest children could imagine what volunteering could be about. The word "culture" is particularly a difficult one to discuss as well, but if I told them

"culture is for example about clothes you wear or buildings you build in your country", then they got the idea very quickly and started to provide other examples: "I think culture can be about dancing, singing...". And then you could see that they got the point.

With the meaning of "volunteering" it was the same: a lot of children knew that it is some kind of work, where you don't get paid, but you do it because you like something, you want to get to know some new stuff or you just want to help someone (or you just have a lot of money and a lot of free time, like one child said...!!!).

I also wanted to go a little bit beyond and I tried to explain why it could be also useful for themselves to volunteer, to be helpful or open-minded at least. I tried to show them with specific examples how this programme helped me personally - to find new very good friends, to improve my English, to get to learn some Greek so the people here in Cyprus can understand me better and of course, to get to know all the beauties of this island (nature, people, a way of living).



***We would like to take
this opportunity to
wish you Merry
Christmas from our
organization and our
volunteers!***