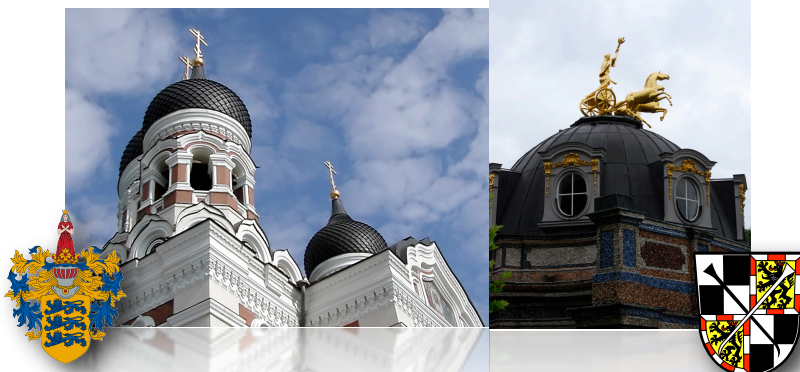

Comenius Project



Tallinna Majanduskool & Staatliche Berufsschule II Bayreuth

Visitors from Estonia

Class WIN10C interviewed our Estonian guests - Here is what the students found out

We had the pleasure of interviewing Mrs Elen Raudsepp an Estonian teacher who visited Bayreuth in the course of the Comenius exchange project.

Estonia is a small country with only 1.3 million citizens at the coast of the Baltic Sea. Its capital city is Tallinn which is located at the northern coast. This is also where Elen Raudsepp comes from. Mrs. Raudsepp has two daughters, who are 16 and 18 years old. She started teaching in 1994. Her subjects are German for beginners and business ethics, because she works at a business school in Tallinn.

She chose the German language as her subject because she thinks it's very logical and therefore easy to learn. Apart from that she loves to read German literature like books from Heinrich Böll or Thomas Mann. Her favorite German dessert is the traditional Stollen. Nevertheless, she wouldn't want to live in Germany at the moment, because her husband isn't as big a fan of Germany as herself.

The differences between the Estonian and German school systems are: Before Estonian children have their first day in school they have to pass a qualifying examination. This means they already have to know the basics in mathematics and how to read and write the Estonian language. Then they visit the elementary school for nine years. After that they have the choice to either leave elementary school and go to a vocational school or go to school for another three years to get the qualification for studying at an university. Estonian vocational training takes

place in school only. Their sole chance to learn something about working in an enterprise are practical trainings, each about 2 months. In her spare time Mrs Raudsepp likes to go to theatres to see entertainment ballet and modern dance shows. Furthermore her family owns a cottage where they sometimes spend their holidays. There she also loves to do gardening.

On 13th January, we met Christian Brazier from Tallinn, Estonia. Originally, he comes from England, then he moved to Finland and eventually went to Estonia because of his wife. Together, they have got two sons (15 and 17 years of age). Christian works as a teacher for English and general business at an economic school in Tallinn.

He has already been visiting Germany 3-4 times (he went to Stuttgart about 26 years ago) and also has lots of German friends. This time he went from Tallinn (where they had -20 degrees and 62 cm snow) via Riga (Latvia) to the moderate climate of Frankfurt; his intention was to plan the roadmap for the Comenius exchange project. At the moment, he is staying at a hostel of the Red Cross near the town hall for only a few days. Estonian trainees are at school during the whole school year and are doing internships in their summer holidays. Apart from this, the Estonian school system is quite similar to the German. The first final exam is taken in 9th class and afterwards, the students have to choose the following school.