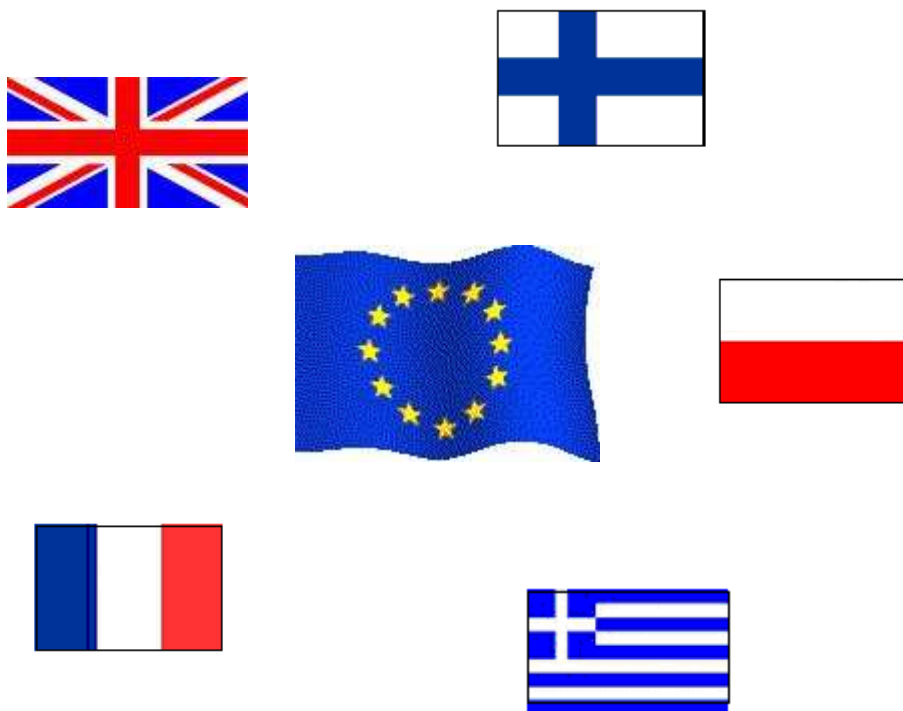




Education and Culture
Lifelong learning programme
COMENIUS

We learn about our comenius project partners' traditions

The project's final product made in Primary School N° 3 in Krosno within the international Comenius Programme "Four seasons for Europe: how seasons influence our lives". The present project is carried out with the assistance of the European Union. The content of the project as well as the materials used do not reflect the European Commission or National Agency's standpoint on the given matter, that is why neither the European Commission nor the National Agency are responsible for the product.



The Project title:
**„Four seasons for Europe: how seasons influence
our lives”**

Time of the Project realization: 1st August 2005 – 31st July 2008

Schools participating in the Project:

- James Brindley Community Primary School – [Great Britain](#) – the project coordinator,
- Ecole Publique Evequemont – [France](#),
- Hannuksen Koulu – [Finland](#) (until 31st July 2007)
- Jäälin Koulu – [Finland](#),
- 8th Demotico Scholio Aghias Paraskevis – [Greece](#),
- Maria Konopnicka Primary School N°3 in Krosno – [Poland](#).

Together with the partner schools we have planned to put into practice the international Project Comenius tasks and to learn about chosen traditions and customs of our countries.

Here is the list of the chosen festivals – traditions in the order they take place during the school year.

No	Name of the festival		Country	Date of celebration
1.	Bonfire Night – Guy Fawkes Night		Great Britain	5th November
2.	„Andrzejki” St. Andrew’s Night		Poland	29th/30 th November
3.	Epiphanie – The Tree Kings Festival		France	6th January
4.	Greek Carnival Monday of Lent		Grece	January/February 41 days before Easter
5.	Kalevala Day		Finland	28th February

Bonfire Night

5th November



Guy Fawkes Night or Bonfire Night is a British festival celebrated on 5th November to commemorate unsuccessful plot against king James I.

On this day a group of plotters tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament. There was Guy Fawkes among the plotters who volunteered to set fire to the gunpowder barrows placed near the Houses of Parliament. However, the plot was detected, the House of Lords was safed and the plotters were executed.

Today the English have big bonfires throughout the country, they organize picnics and have firework displays. Children prepare big dolls, dress them in old clothes and then walk the streets carrying the “guys” and shouting “A penny for the guy”! They buy fireworks with the money they collected and they throw the dolls into the bonfires.

Food is an important element of Bonfire Night. People cook potatoes in the bonfire. They are called “jacket potatoes”. Toffee apples are also popular.



Here is a popular rhyme connected with the festival:

**Remember, remember,
the 5th of November
Gunpowder Treason and plot ;
I know of no reason why
the Gunpowder Treason
Should ever be forgot.**

Bonfire Night in our school.

4th and 5th class pupils had a chance to find the information about Bonfire Night on the Internet on their Information Technology Circle. Using their abilities they wrote short texts about the British festival in the word processor. On 5th November 2007 a group of dressed up children from class 5a under a supervision of the teacher of English – Ms Romanowska – made a short presentation to all our school pupils concerning the British festival, its traditions and ways of celebrating it in Britain. At the end of the presentation each class got a puppet of a “guy” and a British flag.





Andrzejki

29th/30th November

If somebody asked where these autumn traditions were from, the answer would be difficult. One of the versions concerning the place of fortune – telling origin connected with the mystery of revealing the future is Greece. Ethnographers, archeologists and historians suspect that St. Andrew's Day celebrations come from the south – east islands of the Aegean Sea called Sporad.

In Polish written sources of information you can find the first mention about fortune – telling in the text from 1557 by Marcin Bielski which says:

*"Pour some wax on water
You will see your future"*



Wax pouring has been known until today. You tell fortunes pouring hot wax through the key hole onto cold water. The setting wax form different shapes on the bases of which we tell one's fortune. After taking the wax from the water we view it the light so that it casts its shadow on the wall and in this way the picture is big. Then you can turn the wax around and see interesting and fabulous pictures. They can look like crowns so the one who poured the wax might be a sovereign. When the wax cast is similar to a flower, its owner might become a famous gardener. You can make such stories on and on...



Another way of fortune – telling is **throwing the pieces of peeling of an apple**. A person who wants to know the name of his future husband or future wife peels an apple and throws it behind him. The shape of a letter the peeling takes means the letter of a would be wife or husband.

An interesting play is also a **queue of shoes**. The participants of the play take off one shoe and make a line of them. The one whose shoe goes out of the room first is going to get married first. There are separate lines of girls' and boys' shoes.

You can have a good laugh while telling fortunes with rings. You tie a ring on a person's hair. Then you hold the other end of the hair with your first and fifth finger and try to place the ring in an empty glass. Shaking of your hand causes hitting the edge of the glass. The number of hits means the number of years that separate us from getting married.

Telling fortunes with sticks is for those who like playing in water.

You need a bowl of water and two sticks. You stir the water in the bowl with your left hand and you throw the sticks into the water with your right hand having in mind the name of your beloved. If the sticks hit each other, it means marriage in the nearest future.



Where do the names "katarzynki" and "andrzejki" come from? The first one is a girls' festival of 29th November on St. Andrew's Eve and the other one is the time of boys' fortune telling on St. Catharine's Eve on 24th November.

The Night of Fortune – Telling in Primary School No 3 in Krosno

St. Andrew's traditions have been celebrated for years in our school. Close to the "name day" of St. Andrew a party for classes 1-3 and then for 4-6 is organized. All the pupils dance to music in a school gym which is specially decorated for this occasion. There are stars, keys, black cats as the fortune telling symbols.



Older pupils under a supervision of a teacher prepare fortune telling activities for their younger mates. They dress up for fairies and wizards and they tell fortune to all volunteers. The pupils learn about the names of their beloved, about their future status and job and how they will travel. There is a lot of fun during the fortune telling games. Very often there is a raffle as an additional attraction of the night where all tickets win.

After dancing and fortune telling all pupils go to their classrooms (usually nicely decorated) to have some refreshments prepared by their parents. They exchange impressions after the exciting night. The most important thing is that every party like that one is a chance to spend a wonderful time together and to celebrate the old but up to dated St. Andrew's tradition.



Epiphanie

The Three Kings Festival

6th January



On 6th January **The Three Kings Festival** has been celebrated in France since 14th century. The festival called also **Epiphanie** is a public holiday in France. It commemorates the visit of The Three Kings (*les Rois mages*) who brought gold (*l'or*), myrrh (*la myrrhe*) and frankincense (*l'encens*) to the New Born. On this day there is a specially prepared cake (*la galette des Rois*) served in every house. There is a porcelain figure hidden in the cake. A person who finds the figure (*la fève*) in his piece of cake becomes a king or the queen of the ball. It also signifies good luck and happiness in the beginning year. The custom is celebrated in houses as well as at work, even at Elysee

Palace where the president of France resides.

La galette des Rois in the south – west of France is a kind of a yeast cake baked with dried or fried with sugar fruit. In Provence it has a shape of a ring and in Paris the loyal to the old recipe bakers bake it with a light leyer – shaped dough rich in almond cream. Each cake has a surprise – a little figurine called *feve des Rois*. In the old times the surprise was a broad bean seed. On 7th January in 17th quarter of Paris in a Hotel and Gastronomical School the best royal almond cake contest takes place every year in which you can find little figures of Jesus, Mary, Joseph and some animals.



This cake was served during the meeting in France in December 2007

The Three Kings Festival in the French School

In January after the Christmas break at school in Evéquemont they celebrated Epiphanie. All the pupils made and decorated their crowns which they could take home. They were all treated to galette. Chloé became a queen because she got the piece of the cake with a surprise.



The Three Kings Festival in our school

We learnt about the traditions of The Three Kings Festival from the newsletter prepared by the pupils from the school In Evequemont as well as from the Internet. We watched the photos taken in the French school during Epiphanie in 2006.

On 5th January there was a carnival ball in our school and then the pupils and their parents heard about Epiphanie. 6th class pupils told everyone about French customs and traditions related to this festival.



Next, two representatives from each class were treated to the cake with a surprise which was a bean seed.



Galette with a surprise was won by Kinga and Mateusz. They were chosen the queen and the king of the ball. They were festively crowned by Mateusz and Maciek. After that they sat on the prepared thrones.



Apokria



Carnival Time and the Monday of Lent

The Carnival time- APOKRIA_ as we call it in Greek lasts three weeks. It is not on a fixed day each year. It depends on the date of Easter. This year, 2007, the period of carnival starts on the 28th of January and finishes on the 18th of February. Monday the 19th is called Monday of Lent – KATHARI DEFTERA in Greek- and from that day on there is a 50-day preparation for Easter.

The Origin of Carnival

APOKRIA means in Greek “stop eating meat” just like the word “carnival”, which has its root in the Latin words “carnem levare” meaning “let’s raise the meat from the table.”

However, before you stop eating meat you must be full of it and that’s why during carnival time people in Greece eat a lot of meat, drink wine and have fun. They disguise and they meet at each other’s houses, where they enjoy themselves by telling jokes, singing and dancing.

Symbolically this period marks the transition from winter to spring, a wonderful period of entertainment and resting of people in time and place.



First week of carnival

The 1st week of carnival is called “Profoni” or “profounousimi” because people announce the coming of the carnival period. In the past there were messengers, who traveled in the villages and notified the householders, especially the poor ones to do everything in order to provide meat for the family. If there was plenty to eat and drink, the spirits would be high, all miseries would be rejected, the land would be fertile in spring and the harvests very good.

Moreover, the landlords would have a chance to show off in society and make their families proud of them.

Second week of Carnival

The second week of carnival is called “Kreatini” and it has given its name to the whole period. Eating meat is at a peak this week and especially on Thursday – “Tsiknopempti”, when the smell of scorching meat is a must in every house. This smell is supposed to send away the evil spirits, which plot against the family or consider it poor and vulnerable.

The same custom may have its roots in ancient Greece when people offered up sacrifices and the smell rose in the air to reach the gods and satisfy them.

Third week of Carnival



The third and last week is called “ Tirini Evdomada”. This week is kind of a bridge between the complete eating of meat and the next week- that of the big fast or Lent. People now eat dairy products (milk, butter, cheese and cheese pies), they organize parties, play traditional games and have great fun.

Disguising also plays an important role. Very often people like to make their own costumes and masks and don’t forget, behind the masks people feel free to sing and dance and tell jokes and why not, sometimes exceed themselves.

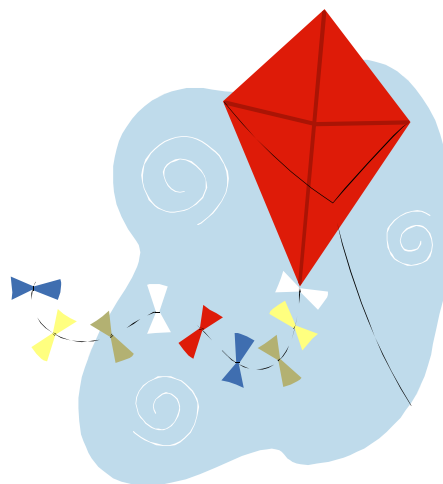
Various customs all over Greece

In various cities in Greece there are different customs during the carnival period.

- In the island of Zakynthos they have “parlates”. Masqueraders stand up and say funny things about the people of the town or the politicians. Others act out short theatrical plays in the streets.
- In Naoussa they have “Boules”. Men dress up as women or in traditional costumes and dance and sing with the music of the drums all over the town.
- In Kozani, a city in the north of Greece, people have the custom of “Fanos”. They put on masks and costumes with lots of bells. They light fires in the streets and they sing and dance around them.
- The most famous carnival in Greece is the carnival in Patra. It’s got a big parade with wonderful floats and groups of masqueraders. Some of the popular games are “treasure hunt” and “chocolate fight”, during which the carnival king and queen throw chocolates in the air from their floats and people fight to catch as many as they can.

Monday of Lent

The Orthodox Monday of Lent, which is a similar day with the catholic “Mercredi des Cendres” is the beginning of the very strict preparation for Easter, during which people don’t eat meat at all, but mainly fish and vegetables. On Monday schools are closed and usually people go to the countryside where they have picnics and if the wind is good they fly their kites. The flying of the kite is a beautiful custom, which symbolizes the raise of the souls in the sky. It is believed that the higher one manages to fly his kite the luckier he will be. This custom is one the most favorite ones especially for the little kids.



How the Greek school celebrated the carnival

The pupils from the Greek school carried out the following activities in the carnival 2007:

- They made beautiful collage depicting the main characteristics of the season (dressed-up people, masks, kites, dancing and fun)
- They made two beautiful posters dedicated to the Monday of Lent with lots of kites flying in the sky
- Participated in making their own kite workshop



- Learnt how to dance a traditional dance called “Gaitanaki”.



“Gaitanaki” finds its origin in Italy and was danced mainly in the islands of the Ionian Sea, which, because they were in Italian occupation for some time were greatly influenced by them. Later the custom was spread all over Greece. “Gaitanaki” is a wooden pole with colourful ribbons tied of it. By doing specific steps the dancers aim to wrap the ribbons around the pole and then unwrap them again.

- They also collected recipes for sweets and delicacies of the period.
- They enjoyed some of these delicacies and had fun during their fancy-dress party in their school.
- They made a DVD presenting the scenes of their carnival celebration at school.

Carnival in Primary School No 3 in Krosno

Thanks to the film we got from the partner school in Greece and the extensive information from the Greek school website we learnt a lot about the carnival celebrated in Greece and the way Greek pupils spend it.

During the carnival ball on 5th January 2008 the 4th class pupils told everyone about the way carnival is celebrated in Greece.



Then, 3rd class pupils presented a traditional dance 'gaitanaki'. The audience liked the dance so much that the dancers had to give an encore.



Obviously there were other dances as well and everyone had great fun.



Kalevala Day

28th February



The name Kalevala can be interpreted as the lands of Kaleva (who was the mythic ancestor of the Finns). It is a book and an epic poem consisting of folk songs – cantos or chapters (Finnish runo) and legends which the Finn Elias Lönnrot (1802-1884) compiled from Finnish and Karelian folklore in 19th century. The Kalevala is held to be the national epic of Finland which is credited with some of the inspiration of national awakening and is thought of as great influence on the present culture and art.

The poem tells the story from the creation of the world till middle ages and consists of different plots taking place both in the real and fantastic worlds. It describes the lives of the characters and the fight of the two hostile tribes for Sampo – a magical mill. Some chapters describe rituals, songs and sorceries from the pagan times. The main characters of the poem are Väinämöinen, Ilmarinen, and Lemminkäinen. The Kalevala was translated into many languages and published in many countries.

The Kalevala Day is celebrated on 28th February (Elias Lönnrot signed the preface of Old Kalevala on 28th February 1835). The Finns hang out national flags then. Numerous statues in town parks as well as paintings in public buildings remind the Finns about their national heroes. Everybody in Finland knows and loves their Kalevala.



Illustrated by Nikolai Mihajlovich Kochergin, 1967

The Kalevala Day in the Finnish school .

The pupils from the Finish partner school learn to sing songs about The Kalevala, they read extracts from the epic poem, they prepare and then act out plays about the Kalevala. They also make art works depicting the lives of the poem characters. They hang out a national flag on the school building.

The pupils together with their teacher prepared a booklet for all the other partner schools about the characters of the Kalevala and a short biography of the author – Elias Lönnrot. The booklet is illustrated with the pictures made by the pupils.

The learners supervised by the teacher prepared a song about the Kalevala, they learnt to play some tunes to the poem on their national instrument called kantele. Each partner school got a film with a recorded song sung by the Finnish pupils.



Pupils of Jäälin Koulu are playing their traditional instrument called kantele and are singing a song about Kalevala.



The Kalevala Day in our school


On 28th February there was The Kalevala Day celebrated. Class 4 pupils supervised by their class teachers (Ms Samborska and Ms Niepokój) prepared an interesting performance about the fabulous country of Finland. There was a computer presentation shown including the most important information about the country as well as the photographs depicting beautiful landscapes, characteristic animals, nature symbols of Finland, the seat of Santa Claus in Rovaniemi and an ice and snow palace in Kemi.

Finlandia to państwo w Europie Północnej. Graniczy od zachodu ze Szwecją i z Bałtykiem, od północy z Norwegią i od wschodu z Rosją.



Szkoła Podstawowa nr 3 Krosno 2

Klimat Finlandii jest surowy, lata są krótkie i niezbyt ciepłe, a zimy długie, mroźne i śnieżne.



Szkoła Podstawowa nr 3 Krosno 9

W fińskim mieście Kemi od 1996 roku rocznie budowany jest lodowy pałac królowej śniegu.



Szkoła Podstawowa nr 3 Krosno 16

Zorza składa się ze smug o jasnoniebieskich, zielonych, fioletowych lub czerwonych barwach. Kolor jest uzależniony od warstwy w atmosferze, w której ona powstaje.



Szkoła Podstawowa nr 3 Krosno 13

The pupils and the teachers heard about the Kalevala and saw a computer presentation with its summary and the illustrations to different editions of the Kalevala.



Było morze, a w morzu unosiła się bogini Ilmatar. Na jej kolanie kaczka złożyła jajo, które stukło się, dając początek ziemi, sklepieniu niebieskiemu, Słońcu, Księżycowi i gwiazdom.

Szkoła Podstawowa nr 3 Krosno 10

Ilmatar urodziła Väinämöinena, najważniejszą postać Kalevali. Przychodzi na świat dorosły, od początku nazywany jest "mężem" i "mocarzem".



Szkoła Podstawowa nr 3 Krosno 11

The school choir under the supervision of Ms Wysocka sang a song in a very difficult Finnish language to the melody recorded by the Finnish pupils and played the kantele - the Finnish folk instrument. We also heard the Finnish national anthem.



Also, there was a short lesson of Finnish.



Michał Frączek performed a famous ski jumper Janne Ahonen and was interviewed by Michał Delimata.



Another attraction was Santa Claus' visit whose part was acted by Jakub Gałuszka.



There was an exhibition related to the Kalevala and Finland prepared at our school with the connection of the Kalevala Day where you could see the illustrations to the Kalevala drawn and painted by the Finnish pupils from the partner school Jäälin koulu. Also, we organised a contest about Finland for 1-3 and 4-6 class volunteers.