

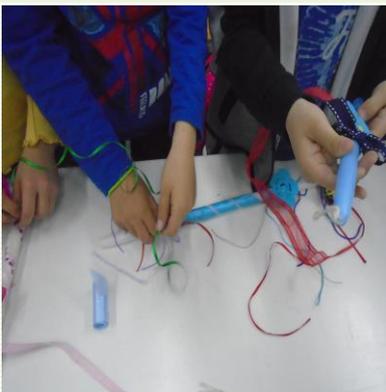
## Volunteering

Volunteering is described as an unpaid activity where people give their time to non-profit organizations or individuals. Volunteering offers vital help to people in need but the benefits can be greater for the volunteer. It combats depression, keeps you mentally stimulated and provides a sense of purpose.

Taking into consideration all the above we tried to inspire our students to be involved actively in the framework of the Erasmus+KA2 project Active and Responsible Citizenship.

Since Easter holidays were close we chose to organise activities connected to the celebration of Easter, which is one of the most important celebrations in the Greek tradition. So working in the Active Citizens clubs they organized different workshops such as

- ❖ Decorating Easter candles
- ❖ Decorating Easter eggs
- ❖ Making carton Easter bunnies
- ❖ Painting Easter bunnies in frames
- ❖ Making flower wreaths
- ❖ Making plate mats
- ❖ Reviving our school garden





### **Decorating Easter candles**

Carrying a candle and waiting for Christ's resurrection on Holy Saturday night is one of the most sacred moments in the Greek Orthodox Church. It symbolizes the new light Christ brought to the world, the light which beat death.

Using various materials which were all brought by the students, they decorated the candles with imagination and creativity. Students of grades 2-6 did their best and created real works of art.

### **Decorating Easter eggs**

In another workshop students of grade 3 painted and decorated foam eggs. They were painted red in the memory of Christ's blood on the cross but also to remind us that red is the colour of happiness. The egg is the symbol of life, connected to Christ's resurrection, the new life to the world.

### **Making carton Easter bunnies**

Grade 3 again using white cardboard, cotton buds and water colours made beautiful Easter bunnies.





**Painting Easter bunnies in frames**

Students of grades 3 and 4 under the guidance of their Art teacher painted bunnies on drawing paper and placed them in carton frames.

**Making flower wreaths**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders with the help of their Art teacher again made flower wreaths out of paper egg cartons. The wreaths are symbols of Spring and happiness.



**Making plate mats**

Our very young students of grade 1 made a collage of our city's most important monuments. The collages were plasticized and used as plate mats.



**Reviving our school garden**

The students of grade 6, which is the last grade in the greek primary school, decided to leave their mark in our school by reviving our school garden. Each student brought a plant and attributed to the decoration of the garden, giving pleasure to themselves and the rest of us, too.





All the above workshops were organized having a single purpose in mind. Except for experiencing the pleasure of cooperation among students, all the products were on sale during the ‘Parents’ Day’, which was held in our school on April 17, 2019. The earnings of this action were donated to a non-profit organization ‘The Child’s Smile’, which provides help, food and shelter to abused children.

Through the volunteering activities of the Active Citizens Clubs, our students actually realized what volunteering means, so they tried to express their thoughts and feelings on paper. Here are some of them:

*Volunteering is when we offer to our fellow man without expecting any reward, just for the benefit of the society. Volunteering is not obligatory and everyone can offer what he wishes.*

*Volunteers can offer things like money, clothes, old toys, medical treatment e.t.c. There are different ways to help. We can take part in volunteering organizations, national and international. For example, The Child’s Smile, Children’s villages S.O.S, W.W.F, Unicef, Medecins sans Frontieres, Medecins du Monde.*

*Volunteering is important because we help our fellow man at difficult times.*

*We would like to be volunteers, too because when we see someone pleased and happy, we feel the same too.*

*Yiannis, Hara, Zoe, Theodora, Francesco*

*Volunteering is not obligatory....*

*Ersie, Emily, Niki, Irene*