

EUMIND (2022-23)

Students Exchange Programme Between Europe and India

“Simple exchanges can break walls down between us, for when people come together and speak to one another and share a common experience, then their common humanity is revealed.” – Barack Obama

The Pawar Public School Nanded City, Pune (PPSNC) participated in ‘EUMIND Exchange Programme’ for the academic year 2022-23 under the leadership of EUMIND School Coordinator Ms. Madhushreela Rakshit. This was the third year that PPSNC continued with the programme involving the teachers and students of Grade VIII & IX.

Eumind is a non-profit school network that creates and supervises virtual exchange projects in which Indian and European students have the opportunity to work together on projects regarding real-life issues such as sustainability and human rights, and creative projects based on theatre and arts.

PPSNC got the opportunity to take part in a project – ‘On Stage’. Both teachers and students who were part of the project put in a lot of hard work and displayed unparalleled dedication. The Eumind project required the use of the website-building tool Weebly as part of the assignment, where the EUMIND School Coordinator had to create a Weebly website. Each group consisted of two teachers and five students. The students were assigned different roles within the project – Leader (Weebly Editor), Editor, Article Writer, Interviewer and Photographer. The leader was responsible to design the page as per the requirements with the help of Scribd (to embed Word/PDF files), Gallery (to add PPT slides), Pictures, Features to include YouTube videos and Columns. The project was further divided into different group assignments with specific guidelines. To begin the assignments, the students in the group had to make

introductory videos which included their first name, their hobbies, and their role in the group. They then had to carry out a research based on the given assignment, followed by comparison and reflection of their work with the partner school's work. Finally, they had to fill the self-assessment after their research with the help of the EUMIND School Coordinator. PPSNC has completed the project successfully with Certificate of Excellence for all the 6 groups.

The 'On Stage' Project had six sub-projects – Local Sports, Local Food, Local Music, Local Festivals, Wildlife and Nature, and Classroom in School Culture. The project team members created a recorded TV Show of about 5-10 minutes with a lot of humour and creativity. An interesting aspect of the project was that the students had to research on the partner school's country and present the TV Shows based on that. Students and teachers put a lot of interest and effort to understand the culture of the partner country. Our partner school for this project was College Alexandra Monnet in Sani Benoit, Reunion Island, an overseas department of France. This project helped in developing a deep appreciation for the culture of the partner country among all the students and teachers involved.

All the groups were very enthusiastic and contributed significantly to every part of the project. The best part of the project was the Virtual Video Conferences with partner schools. Students and teachers had an unforgettable experience interacting with the students and teachers of the partner school, which helped them to know about each other in a better way before they started their respective assignments.

The final part of the project was a physical Student's Exchange Programme to Reunion Islands. Fourteen students – Sachi Mogali, Anvi Jadhav, Jui Dhope,

Shruti Ingle, Bansi Gardhariya, Sneha Gholap, Swarnim Madake, Samyak Pandit, Malhar Shahapurkar, Shlok Pawar, Soham Pore, Sarth Pensalwar, Arnav Gosavi and Vedant Salve - and two teachers – Ms. Madhushreela Rakshit and Mrs. Pallavi Date - got the opportunity to visit Reunion Islands for 11 days. They were welcomed by the host families at the airport and taken to their homes. Students got the opportunity to learn a lot of things – adjusting with unknown families, accommodating with different food styles, different weather, different culture, taking responsibility for themselves, currency exchange, importance of family and of course different schooling systems. As French is the main language in the country, students tried to learn the language as much as possible. They also got opportunity to explore different places. The most exciting experience was visiting an active volcano – Piton de la Fournaise - and getting a chance to witness a volcanic crater. They also visited a museum – Cite du Volcan - which displays all aspects of volcanoes in Reunion Island. It started with a tour of a lava tube, which is a recreation of a gallery formed by a cooling volcanic lava flow. They also had a chance to enjoy a 4D film on a unique simulated experience of Reunion Island from their seats. Heat, vibrations, sound effects and the fourth dimension: it all conspired to transport the students to a whirlwind of sensations to the centre of the earth, where they plunge into the ocean before surfing on the lava. Students also got the opportunity to perform Ganesh Vandana, Yoga, Legim and Bollywood mashup including the Oscar winning original song Naatu Naatu, which was highly appreciated by the teachers and students of College Alexandre Monnet. They also got an opportunity to go on a trek for 12 kilometres through sugarcane fields and dense forest to learn about the history of Saint Benoit. A memorable part of the trip was the visit to the Indian Consulate at Reunion Island and meeting the Consul General – Mr. Jitendra Nath Majhi. It was a fruitful

meeting with lots of discussion about the Student Exchange Programme and the functioning of the Consulate.

The project 'On Stage' left an indelible positive effect on the minds of the students. They learned about the culture of their partner country, got the opportunity to collaborate on a cross-geography project, and picked up life lessons which no amount of class lessons could provide.

Visit the webpage: On Stage: <https://eumindonstage2022pawpune.weebly.com/>

Madhushreela Rakshit

EUMIND School Coordinator

Pawar Public School Nanded City, Pune