

Monday, 18/12

Today we began our activities at school quite late at 10.00: we were tired because of the long trip. At school we had some presentations about our countries with the other Finns and the French guys and then we went around the school: it was amazing! So modern, really a student's dreamplace!

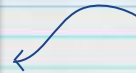
In the afternoon we got split into groups with foreign partners and we played fun games like quizzes and we also experienced virtual reality.



We finished the activities at school quite early, at 15.00, and then after an early dinner I went skiing with my host Jenni and some friends of her. It was a really nice way to end our first day here.



Today we also witnessed a very rare wonderful natural event: iridescent iced clouds



Tuesday, 19/12

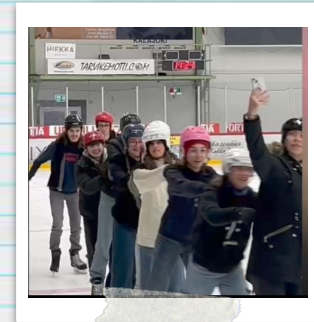
Today we went to school at 8.30 a.m. like regular students in Kalajoki. They told us that we will make a stop motion video with the same groups we formed yesterday.

A video made by a lot of photos played one after the other



After this first session of (not) hard work we all had fun ice skating in the ice rink near the school, which turned out to be also kinda painful both because of the tight shoes and the falls on the floor

In the late afternoon Matteo and I with our hosts and a French girl went home to have dinner and we made some handmade pasta to confirm our culinary supremacy :)



Wednesday, 20/12

Best day of the trip!

After attending a psychology class in Finnish, we worked on our stop motion project.



After a lot of fun, we ate some sausages with the best crepes I've ever had, prepared by the owner of the place and his wife.

Then we hopped on the bus and went to Rautio where we experienced the Finnish traditional smoked sauna.

It was truly amazing! Everything was covered in snow and we were surrounded by nature. There was a river with a bridge and little wooden houses. In one of the houses there was the sauna, so we put on our swimsuit and ran inside.

It's traditional to go into the sauna, then into a bucket with ice cold water and finally into a warmer tub.

Or jump directly into the snow!

...be careful: it's slippery!!





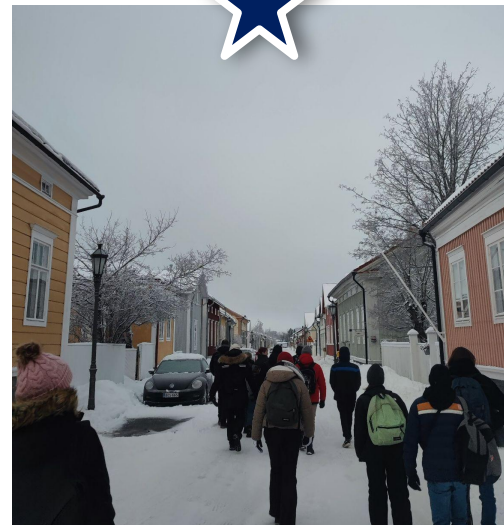
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Thursday, 21/12

This in Italian actually means "cuddle" (Coccola)

After working on our stop motion projects and a long game of Lupus (which today we found out Finnish people LOVE), we went to Kokkola and spent the afternoon there. Since we only had a few hours we went shopping before having to get back to the bus, but it still was a beautiful day (and one of the coldest). I got the chance to get to know better some of the new friends I've made in these days and we played UNO all the way back to the school.

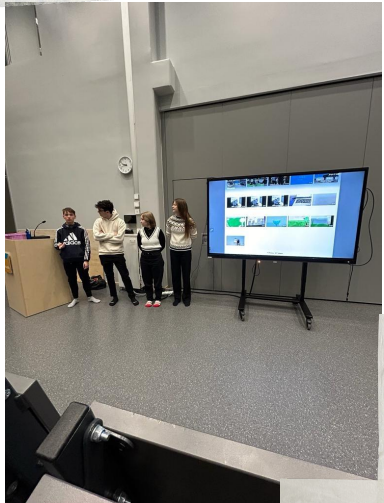


But wait, the day didn't end here! My host, Alisia, and her mum brought me to the local church to listen to some Christmas carols, which were sung both in English and Finnish, and it was a really unique and beautiful opportunity. I am glad I had the chance to share such a beautiful tradition



Friday, 22/12

The last day!!! We finished our stop motion projects and each group presented their work to the others. At the end of the presentations all the students received a diploma and we exchanged many Christmas gifts with our hosts



In the afternoon we went to the "Youth House", a beautiful place where we had a lot of fun playing different games such as pool, table tennis, twister, Lupus etc... And that's not all!!! We also went sledding on a little hill behind the school. In short, we ended our trip in the best possible way!

