

Dear friends,

The school year is over and the school is very quiet now. The year was full of difficulties, challenges and lots of blessed moments. Our students did excellent job and finished successfully the school year. Some of them took part in different national competitions and took very good places. It was a real pleasure for me to see the names of some of our students - Nikola, Katrin, Radostina, Lora in the best students in the city and district list. Others represented us in sports - Bistra is a champion in eurhythmics and Lorita in skiing. All students worked on important projects and showed them in public.



Of course the most important event was **the school concert**. It had two parts - some students showed their achievements in different areas and the musical *It's Cool in the Furnace*. Some parents also took part in the first half of the concert. One of the most impressive things was the emotional words of Valentin's mother. Four years ago none of the family believed that Valentin could achieve anything because he is ill with cerebral palsy and has a deficit in learning. Now their hearts are full of gratitude cause their son is able to read, speaks a bit of English and received a prize for a good mathematician.

In the concert for the first time was sang the author song of Eva Kitanova who passed away in 2009. She is the daughter of one of our colleagues. Our teacher in Music Gergana Balevska wrote the music. Nothing can fill the emptiness left by the death of the child but the song was an acknowledgement for her. The musical was something exceptional. After its end all people stood up and applauded the actors. The story of Daniel showed us again how faithful and awesome is our God.



**The visit** of teachers and students from River school in England was very important for our students and teachers. It was a changing time for our students. The children spent three amazing days with their new friends learning new things, growing up and having fun. After this visit they became more open and bold in what they are doing and in trying to make a real difference. The visit was a real blessing and we are thankful to all the students and teachers for the time they spent serving us and for being a blessing for us. It is a good beginning for a long-lasting relationship.



**The training** of our staff is a really important part of our work. During the year we organized seminars and trainings. A real help for us were our colleagues from River school. They helped us in learning new things and understanding better the students with special educational needs - those with dyslexia and autistic spectrum disorder. We also learned how to be good encouragers for our students.

Four of our teachers went to the conference of EURECA in Germany. This was a priceless experience for us. One of our colleagues said: "I am again really impressed by the conferences of EURECA. The places where they held their seminars are really beautiful and picturesque! This year the schedule was very well balanced - the work in small groups, the interesting and funny evenings and the time for relaxation were balanced so that we didn't feel tired or bored. I am amazed by the hospitality of the whole team of the Evangelical Alliance in Blankenburg. I am thankful to Reinhard Holmer and his whole family for the support, care and smiles they gave us during our stay there and to all the servants as well.

**The change** - we waited for a few years to **move to a new building**. And now we can say that God has heard our prayers. A few days ago we hired two stores from the building of the Chemistry Secondary School. It is near to our present building and it will be good for the parents. The condition is not very good and it will need renovation before the beginning of the new school year so that we can start normally. The rooms are big and our prayer is to fill them with new children. So now we have the challenge to move to the new building and to take a license for a High School. This means lots of documents and long nights without sleep and of course lots of money.

Unfortunately I have to share my worries about the situation we are in. We have parents who still haven't paid their tuition. We, on the other hand, still haven't paid the rent for the building we are in now and the salaries of the teachers as well. The amount we have to pay as a rent for the building is 10 000 USD without the interest we owe for arrears. The possibility to be taken to court is very real and I pray that God we lead us out of this safely. And together with this we have to start paying a rent for the new building. With the deficit we have it is difficult to hold our teachers also.

I know that each beginning is a difficult one and that each change is painful and what is more the change in the hearts of the children, their parents and our whole society. This gives me confidence to keep on believing and trusting to God's faithfulness and grace.

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Thank you for your support, love, care and prayers.

*Blaga Popova*

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*“The Heart of Education is Education of the Heart”*