

ISAAC PERAL NEWS



COMENIUS:

“Renewable energy: a future for our planet”

IES ISAAC PERAL has been taking part in a COMENIUS programme, sharing work and experiences with two secondary schools in Germany and Italy, joined by the same interest.

All the members involved had the chance of meeting each other again in Madrid recently, from 3rd to 10th October, 2009. It was a week full of activities both cultural and scientific.

The project has consisted of three phrases: first, getting information about renewable sources; secondly, experimenting with them; finally, the construction of homemade “devices” running on any kind of renewable energy.

Students and teachers are at the third phase of a hard but motivating research work which is coming to an end next May, when the last meeting will take place in Pavullo. **Noelia Medina.**

(See MEDIOAMBIENTE)

EXCHANGE STUDENTS IN SPAIN

Hana Berke and Adeline Demets.

There are many challenges to being an exchange student in a foreign country. For example, the language when you first arrive, but but what’s most important is your attitude and how you choose to deal with them.

Doing an exchange is a wonderful opportunity that comes with responsibilities, challenges, successes, and rewards.

A part of being an exchange student is to build new friendships with people from other countries. When you’re an exchange student in a foreign country it’s very important to be responsible, and to remember that you are a representation of where you’re from.

(See TEMA LIBRE)



CRAZE: "Zorbing"

It s a daredevil sport to be experienced by people searching for extreme emotions. Ana Polo.

(See SPORT)



 endesa

Las palabras ayudan a construir el mañana



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AN INTERESTING FILM REVIEW:

TWO MILLION MINUTES

By HANA BERKE

"2 Million Minutes" is a documentary film that follows high school seniors that live in India, China and the United States. The movie's focus is to compare and contrast the high school experience of one boy and one girl from each of these countries. The title of the movie is "2 Million Minutes" which comes from (roughly) the number of minutes that a high school student spends in school from the moment they enter school right up until their graduation.

There is a battle being fought around the world for the future of the global economy, in the movie the two students from both China and India seem to be spending their "two million minutes" much more ways that will help them get to the level of success that they seem to be driven to earn. Tim Draper, a Silicon Valley Venture Capitalist said in the movie, "America is the one country in the world that doesn't seem to recognize that it's in competition for the great minds and the capital of the world." In response to that quote I would have to say that I agree. Based on the information provided by the movie, American kids seem more carefree about their future. While the kids from both India and China seemed more driven toward academic success.

It had appeared to me that the kids in India (and China) were consistently more academically focused and advanced. It didn't matter if it was urban Bangalore or the more rural areas of India the consistency in the students was evident.

In my opinion, all lot of it comes down to societies values, and the environment

in which you are brought up. When I got to thinking about this, it seemed like the students in China and India valued academics the way that American's value sports. The problem with this is that the Americans will not be as prepared for economic battles of the twenty-first century.

The kids in China and India seem to have more of an academic success drive because they want to make their life the best it can be, and for many of them, that means getting out of the poverty level that they have had to live in growing up. Becoming an engineer or a doctor etc. can help them reach the goals that they have aspired for their whole lives.

I have to admit that I first I was a bit hesitant and angry that the American students chosen for the documentary seemed a little ditzy and less driven than the students from China and India. However, after I took a look at the bigger picture and realized that the producers didn't just choose extremely smart Indian and Chinese kids, that those four students from those two countries were in fact normal, average talented students that were just like all their peers!

I have really enjoyed watching this movie a lot. I have shared some of what I have learned from this movie with my parents and it has brought up many good discussions (similar to those we have had in class). Seeing this movie and watching as the kids from India and China were so goal oriented and focused really makes me want to find out more about what career I would like to pursue in the future.



SCIENCE ARTICLE

"Baby Talk"

By HANA BERKE

Recently, I discovered a new science website for kids in English called www.sciencenewsforkids.org! It has lots of interesting new science updates on all sorts of topics. After surfing through this site a little bit I found an article about babies and how they begin to learn to communicate. It's actually a pretty interesting topic and I really liked the article.

HERE'S WHAT I LEARNED AND HAD TO SAY AFTER READING IT!

Newborn babies can be really confusing when trying to explain to you what they want simply because they can't talk, walk, or even point at what they're thinking about. However, contrary to popular belief, babies begin to develop language skills long before they even begin speaking, according to recent research. Compared to adults, they develop these skills quickly. It becomes harder for people to learn new languages the older they get, but infants have the ability to learn any language easily.

For a long time, scientists have struggled to explain how such young children can learn the complicated grammatical rules and sounds required to communicate in words. Now, researchers are getting a better idea of what's happening in the brains of tiny language learners.

For decades, scientists have debated how the brains of young children figure out how to communicate using languages. With help from new technologies and research strategies, scientists are now finding that babies begin life with the ability to learn any language. By interacting with other people and using their superb listening and watching skills, they quickly can learn the specific languages that they hear most often.

"The [baby] brain is really flexible," says Rebecca Gomez, an experimental psychologist at the University of Arizona, Tucson. "Babies can't say much, but they're learning a lot."

Another physiologists research suggests that the progression from babbles like "ga ga" to actual words like "good morning" begins with the ability to tell the difference between simple sounds, such as "ga," "ba," and "da."

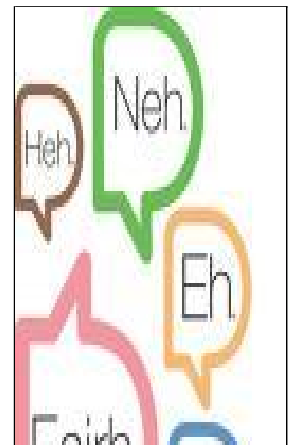
Because babies can't tell a scientist what they're hearing, researchers use a different strategy to check if they can tell sounds apart. In some experiments, psychologists play recordings of a sound, such as "eeee," over and over to one side of a baby. Then, the researchers broadcast another sound, such as "aaah," from the baby's other side. I thought that these methods of learning about babies brains was really cool.

Personally, I have always believed that the younger you are when you start learning something the better you will know it. I can actually relate to this newfound information because when I was a really little baby, before I could talk, my mom taught me sign language. It worked and I could communicate with her. She actually said the words along with the motions, but before I could form the words I just signed it to her. I remember doing sign language when I got a little older, but I have forgotten most of it now because I didn't stick with it.

After reading this article I also thought about how science doesn't mean just working with chemicals in a lab, or experimenting and inventing, it can also be just leaning about human nature. This thought seemed cool to me, and I really enjoyed reading the article.

WORK CITED

<http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/articles/20080116/Feature1.asp>





COMENIUS PROJECT:

SECOND MEETING IN SPAIN (3rd to 10th October 2009)

By Noelia Medina

Our school has been taking part in a Comenius project with two other schools in Germany and Italy for two years (2008-2010), which is called "Renewable energy: a future for our planet". It has been a hard but motivating and interesting work in which both students and teachers have been involved, investigating on renewable sources in order to provide the energy lack, such a "fashionable" matter nowadays because of the dark and uncertain future ahead.

We raised two aims. First of all, we tried to improve the relationship among the multinational groups of students within the slogan "Joined by a common Project". It was not an easy venture because of all the participants' different cultures, ways of thinking and interests. We tried to get it through recreational and cultural activities. Secondly, we tried to provide our visiting friends with information about Spanish innovation, development

and scientific research on renewable energy. It was difficult to carry it out because some of the plants and centres are not open to the public, not only due to security and technical reasons but also, because of the big number of participants. Anyway, we tried our colleagues' experience to be as enriching as possible. It was a very interesting week for all of us, since we had the opportunity of sharing and enjoying a unique experience with our European colleagues. Next May some students and teachers involved in the project will travel to Pavullo in Italy to attend the last meeting. There we will have the chance to draw the conclusions about the second phase of our work consisting of the building of homemade devices running on any of the renewable sources we have been experimenting with since the beginning. For sure, that will be the perfect finale to these intensive working years.



YEBRA:

A nuclear cemetery?

By RUTH ALFONSÍN

It is not a foregone conclusion that Yebra will be chosen for the ATC. Asco (Tarragona), which has 1,714 inhabitants and a nuclear power station, has also thrown its hat into the ring, announcing a council vote to be held this week. Bernuy de Porreros – population 455 – in Segovia is another contender although priority will be given to locations near nuclear installations.

The time limit for the ATC applications expires on January 31 and at one stage the government feared there would be no contenders. That was before the economic recession began to bite, leaving more than four million.

The decision has split the villagers into two groups. On the other hand, the ones who are for the project as a future economic resource for the area and, on the other hand, the ones who are

against alleging that the cemetery will "bring cancer in exchange for money" and thus, disagreeing with the decision made by the local Council.

In our research work to find out more about the opinions of those affected by this decision. We went to the town of Yebra to talk to their neighbours. We could realize through their answers how some of them even feel a little scared because of the different opinions about the matter.

We have interviewed the Mayor, Mr. Juan Pedro Sanchez Yebra, whose own sisters-in-law oppose the scheme, agrees that a far-reaching decision has been made but is confident that ill-feeling will soon blow over.



Soraya: Do you live in Yebra or do you only come to spend the weekend?

Juan Pedro: Yes, I have been living here for 40 years and have always worked in the town or the outskirts.

S: Do you agree with the decision made in your town? Why?

JP: Yes, yes of course, I do. I agree with the project as it would be a very important opportunity for the Council, of Yebra and for

the region, as the Nuclear Power Cemetery Plant would also mean the construction of a research centre and a business park, which would create many jobs. That would be really good for this outstanding industrial area. 500 workers are estimated during the construction and 300 more in the operation. In addition, there would be financial support for the Council, a profitable resource to improve the infrastructures all over the area. I don't think there is any risk at all as the storage is very safe.



THE EXCHANGE TRIP:
"A beautiful experience in Venice"



BY ELINA HEIKKILA AND ADELIN DEMETS.

Unfortunately the first part of the school exchange came to an end. This year all of us participating in it spent a week, from 17th to 24th of March, with our new friends from a secondary school in Venice, a beautiful city. Unfortunately, we had to return to Spain when we were feeling so good though, at first, some of us wanted to come back because we did not feel very well with our Italian fellows but everything changed as time was going by.

It was a very fun week. We carried out various amusing activities and although others were a bit boring, in the end, we found something good out of everything. We strongly believe that to share with other cultures is always positive because it makes you appreciate that not everything is the way you think.

The activities that we liked most were "walking around Venice" including the Doge's Palace, and the visit in Trieste. First, the "walking around Venice" was very special for us because Spain has not got any place similar to this wonderful city. We saw the Rialto Bridge, Saint Mark's square and its basilica.

Secondly, the Doge's Palace is very beautiful and we had to describe the rooms we liked most such as "The Shield Room". The name of this hall comes from the fact that the coat-of-arms of the reigning Doge was exhibited here while he granted audiences and received his guests. The hall was used as a reception chamber and its decorations, with large

geographical maps, were designed to highlight the glorious tradition that was at the very basis of the Venetians power. "The Senate Chamber" was also known as the "Sala dei Pregaldi", because the Doge "prayed" the members of the senate to take part in the meeting held there. The Senate which gathered in this chamber was one of the oldest public institutions in Venice. The room also contains four votive paintings by Jacopo Palma il Giovane, which show specific events involving the Venetian history. Finally, "The Chamber of the Great Council", 53 meter long and 22 meter wide, is not only the largest and most majestic chamber in the Doge's Palace, but also one of the largest rooms in Europe. Here the meeting of the Great Council was held, the most important politically body in the Republic. The walls were decorated with episodes from the most important Venetian historical events, with a special reference to the cities' relationships between the Papacy and the Holy Roman Empire.

The last visit in Trieste was the one we liked most. We went there by coach. At first we went to visit the "Castello di Miramare" a beautiful castle that overlook the sea. Inside the castle we could enjoy "Il Bacio", the famous painting by Francesco Hayez. Later, we went to the "Grotta Gigante" (the Great Cave), which is the largest cave in the world.

Thanks to all our Italian friends.
Now Madrid is looking forward to seeing you again!!!

This is a brief summing-up of the activities carried out:
Wednesday 17th March 2010
The plane landed at 22:10 and we met our Italian fellow. We were welcomed with a billboard. We were all very tired because of the trip, so we immediately went home.

Tuesday 18th March 2010
We went to meet the school the headmaster who wanted to greet us. At 9:30 we caught the bus to go to Venice and visit some important places, such as St. Mark's Square and the Rialto Bridge. The Italian students were our guides speaking a bit in English about the city in general and highlighting some important places. Later, we had free time and we decided to cross the Grand Canal with a Gondola

Friday 19th March 2010
We met at Piazzale Roma to take the vaporetto to go to the Islands of the Lagoon in Venice. We arrived in Murano and we visited the Glass Museum. Then we went to Burano, a nice picturesque fishermen's. Later we went back to Venice to see how its foundations are made.

Saturday 20th March 2010
We went to Villa Pisani in Stra. It was very big and interesting. Then the teachers gave us free time to visit the park and take some photos.

Sunday 21st March 2010
It was our free family day. Some of us went to visit Verona, while others spent the day on the beach or stayed in Mestre, the city where the school is situated.

Monday 22nd March 2010
We went to the Doge's Palace.

Tuesday 23rd March 2010
It was the visit to Trieste.

Wednesday 24th March 2010
We met up at school to write a brief summary about our experience in Venice.



IMMIGRATION (By ANA POLO)
SHOULD ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS REGISTER ON THE MUNICIPAL CENSUS?

TORREJON DE ARDOZ, in Madrid has been in the limelight as the town hall refuses to register illegal immigrants on the census, despite the fact that the central government has said that all towns are obliged to do so. Vic, in Barcelona, also intended to apply the same measure but after a study from government legalists has had to go back on its decision.

Immigrants who arrived in Spain illegally, can request to register as residents in the town (on the census) where they live regardless of whether they are in Spain legally or not, and thus access health care and education for free. This also means that if they manage to avoid deportation for three years and prove with the 'certificado de empadronamiento' that they have been here for that amount of time, they can then request legal residence in Spain.

But Torrejon de Ardoz refuses to register anyone who comes from outside the European Union and who has a tourist visa or no visa at all. But the refusal to register residents on the census doesn't only apply to illegal immigrants but also to anyone who lives in a home where there is not at least 20 square metres per inhabitant, Spanish include, which in these times of economic hardship is becoming increasingly frequent, with families of four (or sometimes more) living in less than 60 square metres, which is nowhere near as dramatic as 20 or 30 illegal immigrants living in tiny flats where they have to take turns to use the beds.

The Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has said that health and education as basic human necessities that can't be denied to anyone, regardless of how they arrived in the country. Vic had to accept this, but will Torrejon de Ardoz?

SPORT OR ADVENTURE

What is ZORBING?

By ANA POLO

Zorbing, also called globe-riding, sphereing or orbing is the recreation of rolling downhill in an orb, generally made of transparent plastic. Zorbing is generally performed on a gentle slope, but can also be done on a level surface, permitting more rider control. In the absence of hills some operators have constructed inflatable, wooden or metal ramps. There are two types of orbs, harnessed and non-harnessed. Non-harness orbs carry up to three riders, while the harness orbs are constructed for one to two riders. Double-harness spheres have different slope requirements, and must only be operated in specific locations. The longer runs are approximately half a mile.

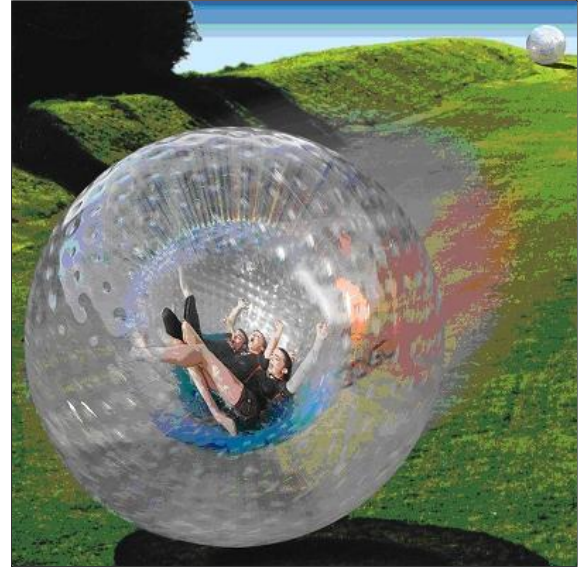
The orb is double-sectioned, with one ball inside the other with an air layer between. This acts as a shock absorber for the rider, damping bumps while traveling. Orbs are lightweight and made of flexible plastic, as opposed to the rigid plastic, for example, of a hamster ball. Many orbs have straps to hold the rider in place, while others leave the rider free to walk the orb around or be tossed about freely by the rolling motion - water can be added inside, and this is commonly called a "water or aqua ride". A typical orb is about 3metres in diameter, with an inner orb size of about 2 metres, leaving a 50-60 centimetre air

cushion around the riders. The plastic is approximately 0.8 millimetres thick. The inner and outer orb are connected by numerous of small ropes. Orbs have one or two tunnel-like entrances.

HOW WAS ZORBING CONCEIVED?

Hamster balls, hard plastic single layer spheres made for small rodent pets, have been manufactured and sold since at least the 1970s. A Russian article on the Zorb mentions a similar device having debuted in 1973. In the early 1980s, the Dangerous Sports Club constructed a giant with a gimbal arrangement supporting two deck chairs inside. This device was eventually cut up for scrap, with some of the plastic remnants used to cover a compost heap. Human spheres have been depicted in mass media since 1990 when the Gladiators event Atlasphears first aired, albeit with steel balls.

In 1994, Dwane van der Sluis and Andrew Akers conceived the idea for a type of sphere in Auckland, New Zealand, calling their invention the "Zorb". With two other investors they created the firm ZORB Limited, and set to work commercializing sphereing.



FOOTBALL

Business or sport?

By CRISTINA GARCÍA-MORALES

Football continues to grow in popularity and wealth. Revenue from TV deals and commercial franchises have made some of Europe's clubs hugely wealthy. The growth in popularity of European clubs in Asia - particularly after the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea has opened up lucrative new TV and merchandising markets for the big clubs.

This level of income allows clubs to buy the best, in terms of ability, and most commercially friendly players. This in turn increases their dominance over the smaller clubs.

Although many of the most famous names grab the headlines, they make up just a small fraction of the 500,000 football clubs in Europe. The role that smaller clubs play in society is a key concern for UEFA - the sports governing body in Europe. As UEFA's spokesman Jonathan Hill put it: "Europe's...clubs are not factories or service providers operating in a translational market for goods and services; they are teams of athletes, linked to their community."



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CLIMATE AND CULTURE

Does climate influence people's personality and culture?

By ELINA HEIKKILA

First of all, I have to say that I'm a girl from Finland, a country which is in the north and where we have dark and cold winters, though at summertime the weather is warm and nights are really short. I have spent one autumn and winter in Madrid, a city in the centre of Spain, a country I had always imagined warm and sunny. That is exactly the truth but I have started to think if my mind has been affected by this climate. Have I been happier during this winter?

Many people suffer from depression and tiredness particularly at wintertime in Finland because of the lack of sunlight. Before coming to Spain, I used to think that it did not have any influence on me, but this winter I have realized that I have not been so tired and I can really go for a walk after five o'clock with the sunlight. That is great! On the other hand, I think that despite the lack of sunlight and the deep cold weather and even the snow, there is a special light in my country and the streets look really beautiful. In Spain it does not usually snow but it is cold. Although there is so much light, which makes me be more "full of beans", it is a

depressing weather for me. It rains and everything is grey like in Finland when sometimes there is not snow.

When I think how the climate has affected me, I do not know what to say because there are other cultural differences between these two countries that have influenced on me too. People here in Spain usually smile and speak more and are more open, what I think it is the attitude we should have in north. The Finnish stereotype is that about a person who does not speak or smile too much. People in Finland should smile more and tell nice things more openly to each other not to look so sad as their days. I think that once you have seen someone smiling you in the street, it really makes the day better.

I don't know if climate affects people and their culture. Anyway, I will keep on thinking about this matter now that my first Spanish spring and summer are coming. Do you think it makes us different?



BEING AN EXCHANGE STUDENT IN SPAIN

by HANA BERKE and ADELIN DEMETS

Being an exchange student has been quite the learning experience, just as we predicted. We've been able to learn so much, not just about the culture, and the ways of Spain, but also about ourselves and how to deal with situations put in front of us. Doing an exchange is a wonderful opportunity that comes with responsibilities, challenges, successes, and rewards.

There are many challenges to being an exchange student in a foreign country. For example, the language when you first arrive. It's so true what they say, the better you are with the language when you arrive in your host country, the easier it will be to communicate and start building real relationships. There are many circumstantial factors that can make a huge difference in your exchange, but what's most important is your attitude and how you choose to deal with it.

A part of being an exchange student is to build new friendships with people from other countries. When you're an

exchange student in a foreign country it's very important to be responsible, and to remember that you are a representation of where you're from.

Since an exchange is a big learning experience there are going to be times where you face obstacles, deal with the things that are troubling you, and get past it. When you being to adapt to your new environment and life, the feeling of success will follow you. For example, some personal success stories of ours are simply just mastering the language. We've still got a way to go before perfection, but we're bilingual and communicated with natives is not longer such a large issue. Other success come from adapting and being a part of your new community, helping teach people about your language, or getting good grades in your new school, etc.

Although you may have had your fair share of struggles during your exchange, we all know that afterwards you will reap the rewards of your hard work.

Having gone through the exchange experience is very rewarding. We feel that already we've become more independent, responsible, and simply just learned so much about life and ourselves. Not only that, but we've also become bilingual! A tool which if we keep practicing it, we can use and carry with us for the rest of our lives!

Lastly, is the reward of friendship. The friends you make during your exchange can be life long ones that you come back to visit again and again later on in life.

Student exchanges are a truly wonderful opportunity. We believe that if you have an open mind and a desire to explore the world through the eyes of another culture than go for it! Learn all that you can and then when you return to your country you can continue to pass on your knowledge.

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