

F2F TEAM BLOGGING: febbraio-marzo 2014

II NOSTRO TEAM BLOGGING E' STATO COSI' STRUTTURATO:

PARTNER SCHOOLS:

Israel - Beit Jann Comprehensive School, Teacher: Zmorrod Kabian

Israel - Seligsberg Adam, Teacher: Hilia

Italy - Liceo Scientifico "Fermi", Bari, Teacher: Maria Grazia Tundo

USA – De Smet High School, Teacher: Yajaira B. Guedez

Week 1 (3rd – 7th of February, 2014):

- School: Beit Jann Comprehensive School
- Question: **What makes my community unique?**

Week 2 (10th – 14th February, 2014):

- School: De Smet High School
- Question: **What makes me, Me?**

Week 3 (17th – 21st February, 2014):

- School: Seligsberg Adam
- Question: **What influences and inspires me?**

Week 4 (24th – 28th February, 2014):

- School: Liceo Scientifico "Fermi", Bari, Italy
- Question: **What does the word “faith” mean to me?**

Qui di seguito riportiamo alcuni interventi di un interessante scambio comunicativo, a partire da un post della scuola israeliana *Beit Jann Comprehensive School*, scuola di impostazione religiosa drusa, una dottrina complessa di origine islamica.

Il dialogo si sviluppa verso imprevisti esiti (si giunge alla discussione sugli svantaggi e vantaggi delle scuole miste rispetto alle “single-sex”, come lo è quella americana, gestita da Gesuiti).

In tal modo si evidenzia come l’apertura di mondi sconosciuti faccia sorgere un interesse reciproco davvero molto elevato e come la comunicazione segua correnti sue proprie spinta dal coinvolgimento emotivo e cognitivo.

In classe, in parallelo, abbiamo affrontato l’argomento leggendo gli articoli indicati dalla docente americana nel suo commento.

What makes my community unique?

[View](#)[Edit](#)

posted by [Yara Kablan 1](#) on Mon, 03/02/2014 - 3:15pm

What's community? What is it to communicate?

"to communicate is to live as a group"; "it's to have relations with others"; "it's to share our lives with others".

These are answers I've been getting lately, but in my opinion to communicate is to have the same religion and traditions in where a group, small or big one, of people live together, it's to respect each other.

I'm Yara, I live in Beit-Jann, a small village that's stated in the north of Israel, people from my village are all Druze, that's my beloved community.

I'm making this blog in order to tell you special things about my community and to show that it's unique and one of a kind.

First of all, I'll talk about the customs, I believe that in almost every community religious people wear different clothes from the non-religious ones, so they do in my community, but what do we wear?

Well... Non-religious people are freely allowed to wear anything they want as long as it's acceptable, but religious people wear long clothes, a long skirt and a long shirt, usually the colours of their clothes are black or dark blue..

Also they have to cover their head, women wear white scarf and men wear white religious hat, or a hat with the colours: green, red, yellow, blue and white.

Also I want to tell you about one of the traditions, although it's religious too.. Religious men and women go to worship in a special place that only them are allowed to get in to it, every Sunday and Thursday at night.

And there, they read in religious books, it's a way to be connected spiritually with the religion, I haven't tried this before but I've been told that it feels amazing and comfortable.

If I continue telling you about my community, I'm sure it'll take forever, my community is really full of special and unique things and I'd like if you could know them all.

I'm so proud of being one of the people who live in this amazing community.

[Chat \(3\)](#)

Posted by [Luke Trautman](#) on Wed, 05/02/2014 - 2:06am

Yara,

Hello my name is Luke Trautman and I am a junior at De Smet Jesuit High School. I would like to say that you did a great job on your blog and the quote at the beginning did a good job to indicate what you were going to discuss. I just have a couple questions for you. First, what is Druze? Is it the name of your community or a religion? Also, How do you feel about the customs on what people are allowed to wear based on their religious status in your community? I'd love to learn more about your community!

[helpful](#) [like \(3\)](#) [reply](#)



Posted by [Yara Kablan 1](#) on Wed, 05/02/2014 - 3:20pm

Hi Luke, nice to meet you.

I'm really glad you liked my blog, I worked really hard on it to interest people, and seems like I succeeded. :D

Anyways, Druze is the name of the religion, my community is one of the Arabs communities in Israel, but it's usually called "Druze" so Druze is the name of the religion and the community.

About what non religious people wear, I prefer what they're wearing now because it's acceptable anyways, and nobody complains about the customs.

But the religious people, the custom is traditional since long time ago, and it makes our religion much special, and in my opinion my community should keep this custom forever.

Hope I could answer your questions and if there's another one I'm ready to answer.

Thanks for commenting and sorry for the late reply. :)

[helpful](#) [like \(1\)](#) [reply](#)



Posted by [Maria Grazia Tundo](#) on Wed, 05/02/2014 - 9:00pm

Dear Yara,

I'm a teacher at a Scientific High School (Liceo Fermi), in Bari,
Italy: <https://www.facetofaithonline.org/school/liceo-scientifico-e-fermi-di-bari>

I'm really interested in your post and would like to know what you mean when you say "religious" people. Are they special people in your community, who cover particular roles (like priests or nuns in Catholicism) or are they believers who are strongly committed to their faith?

Thank you for the precious information you are sharing with us!

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Posted by [Iryna Hudyma](#) on Wed, 05/02/2014 - 9:40pm

Really an interesting question=)

[helpful](#) [like](#) [reply](#)



Posted by [Yara Kablan 1](#) on Thu, 06/02/2014 - 7:19pm

Hi, nice to meet you, I'm really glad you're interested in my blog. ^^
Well.. I think they're believers, about half of them are strongly committed to the religion and the faith and the other half of them are committed even stronger, it depends on how religious they are and their religious status between all of the religious people.

I hope I could answer your question and I'm ready to answer any other question. :)
Thanks for commenting and sorry for the late reply! ^^



Posted by [Stefania Giglione](#) on Fri, 07/02/2014 - 7:42am

Hello yara. I have a question to ask that doesn't concern your post but that do concern communities and qualities of a community and that came to my mind since we start the project of "team blogging". I was thinking is your school an only male school or, vice versa, an only girl one?

I was thinking this because one of the school we are doing team blogging with is an only male school (The one in USA) and I was questioning myself about the reasons of this choice.
This question is also opened to other students so if you would like to answer: thank you!

[helpful](#) [unlike](#) (2) [reply](#)



Posted by [Yara Kablan 1](#) on Fri, 07/02/2014 - 8:23pm

Hi again, Stefania, well I expected this question and sure I'd like to answer it.
My school is females and males school, all the schools in my community are females and males schools, it's amazing to have brothers and sisters in your class, not only sisters or brothers.
I'm glad you asked this question and I want to apologize again for the late reply. :)

[helpful](#) [unlike](#) (1) [reply](#)



Posted by [Stefania Giglione](#) on Sat, 08/02/2014 - 12:23pm

Hi friend :) don't worry, I know you are really busy and thank you for the reply!
I completely agree with you, and for this reason I asked the question, I want to know the reason why a school has to be an only male one or an only female one, I am really curious and I hope that students from "De Smet Jesuit school of St. Louis" will answer me!

[helpful](#) [unlike \(2\)](#) [reply](#)



Posted by [Yajaira Guede](#) on Mon, 10/02/2014 - 8:21am

Hi,

My name is Yajaira Guede. I am the instructor at De Smet Jesuit High School. Yara, I think you have done a wonderful job in your blog presenting your community and answering the questions posted on the great comments of other students. Stefania and you were both curious about why there are single-gender schools. I can tell both of you that there are important research papers supporting the benefits of all-boys or all-girls schools. The best study on this topic was sponsored by the U.S. government in 2005. The research demonstrated "a single-gender school advantage by far" over coed schools. The review showed that "positive results are three to four times more likely to be found for single gender schools than for coeducational schools in the same study for both academic achievement and socio-emotional development." Based on other studies, when kids of the same gender are together, they give themselves more mutual support, a sense of community and greater confidence. Thus, they participate more and are more engaged.

U.S. government research points to less gender-based harassment, less delinquency and other student behavior problems, increase in community involvement, positive self-concept among children, more positive student role models, more leadership opportunities, and higher career aspirations. Children in these schools put more value on grades and leadership. These schools also allow more opportunities for social and moral guidance.

I hope these comments help to see the benefits of single-gender schools. Please review the following link: <http://primacyofreason.blogspot.com/2012/03/benefits-of-all-boys-and-all-girls.html>. It has references to the research done on this topic. Let us know your thoughts about the research behind single-gender schools and thank you for a wonderful question!

13 Comments



Posted by [Yara Kablan 1](#) on Mon, 10/02/2014 - 6:58pm

Hi, nice to meet you.

I'm glad you liked the blog and thanks for your encouraging comment. :)

Also, I want to thank you for the precious informations, but in my opinion the single gender schools have negative sides too, if the school is both genders then I think it'll be easier to communicate and to be exposed to the society, and since the school is like a house for every student, then it's better if the school is both genders school, like sisters and brothers.

I just wanted to say my opinion because I enjoy having brothers in my school.

Again, thanks for commenting and the informations really helped me.

Sorry for the late reply. ^^

[helpful](#) [unlike \(2\)](#) [reply](#)



Posted by [Yajaira Guede](#) on Mon, 10/02/2014 - 8:33pm

Hi Yara,

Thank you for your feedback. I really like how you see the school as a house with brothers and sisters. I am also a mother, and I know that sometimes parents feel that their kids (daughters and sons) have different needs, so we look for ways to help them with those individuals needs.

These individual needs is what single-gender schools are trying to focus on. Research reveals that boys and girls learn in different ways. There are gender specific educational styles and expectations for teacher-student relationships. Boys and girls bring different needs and goals to the classroom. Success in an all boys environment or in an all girls environment requires that we, the educators, identify the differences in how they develop and embrace the educational opportunities distinctly beneficial to each gender. My students soon will share with you their positive experience here at De Smet!

Thank you again for keeping your blog active. The conversation is great!

[helpful \(1\)](#) [like \(1\)](#) [reply](#)



Posted by [Maria Grazia Tundo](#) on Mon, 10/02/2014 - 9:44pm

Dear Yajaira,

thank you for the article you have suggested reading. It is interesting, but I'm not completely convinced. I attended a Catholic single-gender private school and my memories are awful.

I felt bored, far away from the real life that I felt was flowing outside; furthermore, later I had plenty of problems in the relationship with boys, whom I felt either strangers or enemies for a long time. I don't relish this kind of experience and I've never wanted my daughter to attend a single-gender school, because life is turmoil, even conflict, and being exposed to differences teaches you to face reality while protection is a hinder to growth.

I don't feel like generalising of course, but what I underwent has made me biased for sure!

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Posted by [Yajaira Guedez](#) on Tue, 11/02/2014 - 12:10am

Hi Maria!

Thank you for your interest on this topic and for sharing your experience with us. Your perspective helps me see that the experiences in these single-gender schools are different among countries and it is possible that these experiences have improved over the years. Currently, we have around the world better prepared, knowledgeable teachers and well equipped schools. I like for our students to know that those factors make a difference.

As I told Lilac, let's see what my students will share about their school. I do not want to take away from them the spot light! I will jump again into this interesting conversation after they give us their perspective. :)

Thank you Yara for facilitating this stimulating conversation!

Warmly, your friend

Chat (2)



Posted by [Lilac Naffaa](#) on Mon, 10/02/2014 - 9:48pm

Hi Mrs. Guedez!

I'm Lilac from Yara's highschool, really glad to find this exciting conversation.

It's both interesting and unusual to hear about your type of single-gender schools and its reasonable principles, all in the hopes of getting a better education and care for each individual.

I personally wouldn't want to attend a single-gendered school, with all my respect of course, since having brothers, like Yara said, would give both of the genders more opinions and more exposure to the society. Although, the research shows the opposite. But since our community is small and partly religious, I don't think this type of school would show different results.

According to Yara, it affects their social relationships and communication with the other genders. Can you tell me whether or not that is true? Do you notice weird social actions when different genders interact with eachother? Or is it that they are used to it? I'm excited to hear from students who experienced this special educational gender division. And I really appreciate you opening up the subject more and explaining due to our curiosity.

Thank you! Have a nice day!

[helpful](#) [like](#) [reply](#)



Posted by [Stefania Giglione](#) on Wed, 12/02/2014 - 9:40pm

Hello Michael, your post was extremely important for the clarity I needed about this topic. I really like when people talk about things that are completely different from the "world" I live in and I am opened to new perspective! Your school as you said is really good for all the activities it allows to do, for the teachers with high preparation, and also for the dedication it allows you to have during the school year. I really liked the way you explained that and don't worry if you have repeated a concept, it was a way to explain it better!

I go to a coed school and I like going to that type of school because I like having the opportunity for spending most of my time with both girls and boys, since I don't have too much time to do it during the weekend. Also, but it is just a personal thing, going to a coed school allowed me to know the person I love and I don't know if by going to a single gender school I would ever meet him. By the way, thank you again for your great point of view, hope to hear you again!

[helpful](#) [like \(1\)](#) [reply](#)



Posted by [Francesco Gentile](#) on Sat, 15/02/2014 - 10:26am

Hello Yara, I really liked your blog. I would like to tell you something about my community (I am catholic). Although there are special clothes for religious people, clergymen tend to wear them only in formal occasions. In fact in their daily life they are dressed like common people. In the past it didn't use to be like that, but nowadays I think that religious people have changed, in order to be closer to common people. I will give you an example: one of my teachers at school is a priest, but, when he goes to work, he is dressed like every other teacher.

In my opinion the aim of this change in the way of dressing of clergymen, is not to make people think of church as a separate part of the society!

[helpful](#) [unlike \(2\)](#) [reply](#)