

INEPS NEWSLETTER

Season's Greetings to one and all

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PRODUCTIVE SCHOOLS ★ ★

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we walk through the year, it is now time to add my contribution to Bret's marvelous INEPS Newsletter. Time and English language are the enemies for most of us when it comes to writing down our thoughts and sharing them with remote friends and colleagues throughout the world; let's give a try.

FAB (French-American Bridges) Project started between the New York and Paris alternative schools. Beacon High School in NY and lycée Jean Lurçat including La Ville pour Ecole in Paris will work together to share experiences and slowly address the question of training global teachers for global kids. Behind these fine words stand the idea of dealing with two questions:

- We need to frame international curriculums for our students in order to help them step into a larger opened world.

- Teachers will get incredible benefit by being trained in an international context. These statements will not surprise INEPS members who've experienced both for a long time and have been able to measure that *it does makes the difference*. INEPS Youth Congresses, INEPS Seminars and congresses have proved to be a tremendous way of opening schools to new educational patterns.

The future of our schools lies with crossing borders; not only does it bring to education the best practices among alternative schools of different cities and different states; it makes students and teachers understand and appreciate the differences and share the ideas of the only international constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; overcome the gruesome message of nationalism which tears the world apart. Is it too much to say our INEPS community wants peace and respect among people and does not go for any bombing of a peaceful country?

Coming back to more practical questions, you'll be able to find further information about FAB in the web site: <http://www.internationalbridges.org/fab.html>

FAB has started as a bilateral program; nevertheless, the plan is to open the program to more schools in more countries. Email us for us to start planning the coming years.

September 2002 was the opening in lycée Jean Lurçat, a new small school; International Solidarity High School. This was the result of long-term planning started with some INEPS members. The main idea is: what if Productive Learning would be applied to international cooperation, what if basic rules of a school would be the International Declaration of Human Right. That is for the general frame. Then we introduced the idea of making a package for drop out kids who were not doing well in the middle schools "You take a two years package and you then get an opportunity to join a high school". Philippe is the first leader of the school after many years in Lycée Autogéré in Paris, he will appreciate your comments and your support.

As you probably noticed we updated the list of the INEPS distribution list (it was an opportunity for Bret and me to go through all your names and addresses. And it was, "did you hear about him or about her? How are they doing now?" sharing news and comments). We missed many of you and we need just to get the latest update of what is going on in your institution, in your country. Do write and Email Bret (he is great at making our pidgin English look good) to keep the link and make the network know more about itself.

As this message will reach you a few days before Christmas break, I wish you the best holidays not to say the 2003 (second or third year of the millennium depending on how you make your calculation) the nicest and most productive year for you and your beloved ones.

Jacques



Students of Fogelströmska, Stockholm, Sweden

TELECITIES Conference held in Vilafranca, Spain

Vilafranca hosted a conference from October 2nd through October 4th sponsored by TELECITIES, which is an open network of local authorities and business for the cities development through telematics to help facilitate the entry to the information society. The Conference was entitled "A New Educative Model For A New Society". Jens Schneider and Ingrid Bohm delivered a keynote address on the theory and practice of Productive Education as part of the new educational model. Bret Schlessinger served as a moderator for the panel that followed. Most of the delegates and participants were government and business representatives who were promoting and encouraging the further use of the new electronic mediums to enhance the growth of greater democracy and participation by citizens. Josip Alsina and his colleagues are doing pioneering work in Vilafranca to promote virtual educational models on the university and public school levels. It would seem that a natural connection could be made by INEPS with this organization which spans many cities throughout the European Union. For more information visit their web site at: Telecities.org.



ALAN SCHULMAN AT UN DINNER

Our own Alan Schulman recently attended a black tie dinner for the United Nations.



Alan with Muhammad Ali.



Alan with the new Chancellor, Joel Klein and Richard Organisciak, Superintendent of Alternative Schools