



# INEPS

## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2003 Volume 2 Number 6

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PRODUCTIVE SCHOOLS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### 15TH ANNUAL INEPS CONGRESS HELD IN HAMEENLINNA, FINLAND

With the last vestiges of winter still showing through patches of snow and partially frozen lakes Finland warmed up to play host to the 15th Annual INEPS Congress. Over 50 delegates from nations all over Europe and the United States came to Hameenlinna for the 6 day Congress. With the absence of our president, Jacques Bonnisseau (France), our able vice president, Angela Passa (Greece) presided. While old friends renewed relationships, new members created them. Workshops and seminars covered a variety of topics dealing with different aspects of Productive Learning and also the growing problems with the rising immigrant populations and how to absorb them. The delegates made site visits to a variety of educational facilities in Hameenlinna including Technical and teacher training institutions and public schools. They also had a chance to practice PL in one of the forests of Finland. The Administrative Council met several times and presented its report to the General Assembly. Amid all the work there was still time to socialize and catch up with what was happening in the various communities. And because as educators we share the belief that learning can and must be fun we ate well and enjoyed ourselves immensely. Our hosts built in time to see the culture of Finland, feel the wonders of the sauna and eat a medieval dinner in a genuine medieval castle (with only spoon utensils). The one unfortunate event that might have brought catastrophe to the congress was when Finland played Sweden in ice hockey. In spite of the heat of the moment, sportsmanship and brotherhood prevailed and disaster was narrowly averted.



INEPS on the march.

A little night music from our hosts



photos courtesy of Angela Passa

#### INEPS set itself the following goals for the coming year.

1. To provide Staff Training in the methods of Productive Learning
2. To continue to encourage student and staff exchanges
3. To sponsor the International Student Congresses
4. To sponsor the Annual INEPS Congresses
5. To continue update and communicate through our List Service on the internet
6. To continue to support old members and seek new memberships
7. To examine and continue to develop the concepts and methods of Productive Learning
8. To seek additional funding sources



FINLAND



Visiting a school site in Hameenlinna.

Just few words about the congress. I think that the main treasure of this (and other) congresses is the possibility to learn, when you think that you are teaching. It seems to be the difference from other congresses. And I think that the whole atmosphere of INEPS shows what PL is. How? For example by working with newcomers. They never are alone, everybody is supporting them by questions etc. This atmosphere of friendly family is so natural to everybody (we use it as special PL method with students.) I am sure that it teaches sometimes better than all the workshops and seminars.  
....My best. Olga

#### KEEPING IN TOUCH:

As you finish up the school year and do your school summaries please take some time to highlight (with pictures) what you have done for the Newsletter at [bschles36@aol.com](mailto:bschles36@aol.com).



#### IMPORTANT E MAIL AND WEBSITE ADDRESSES:

INEPS WEBSITE -  
[www.vilafrancavirtual.org](http://www.vilafrancavirtual.org)  
IPLE - [iple@sonett.asfh-berlin.de](mailto:iple@sonett.asfh-berlin.de)  
NEWSLETTER -  
[bschles36@aol.com](mailto:bschles36@aol.com)

#### CITY AS SCHOOL IN NEW YORK CITY CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY.

On May 4th City As School in NYC celebrated 30 years as the flag ship program in productive learning. There were over 140 persons including alumni, current and past administrators and teachers attending the festivities held in a restaurant where an ex student was the chef.