



NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Several years ago Melissa Sanfiorenzo, a graduate of City As School in New York City, had been working on a project photographing and interviewing INEPS students all over Europe. She intends to put them all together in a book and hopes to be able to renew her work on this project this coming year. Given the outbreak of the recent civil unrest in France we thought it might be a good opportunity to print this selection in the INEPS Newsletter and invite you our INEPS readers to voice your thoughts and opinions on its relevance to our endeavors in reforming our educational systems and on what role we might play in the future. Please send your comments to us at bschles36@aol.com.



MELISSA'S JOURNAL

FARES AIT KHELIFA

PARIS, 2003: I arrived in Paris in the beginning of the year 2003 and it was exciting for me to meet up with Sophie Eberhard, Wolfgang Molitor and Christian Yanin from the INEPS network. They were really nice to me and cared so much for what they did, day in and day out. I want to give special thanks to Sophie who helped with the translation from French to English and my whole stay in Paris.

While in Paris I met a student by the name of Fares Ait Khelifa who was great. He was a student at La Ville Pour Ecole. Always with a big smile, he showed an enthusiasm for what he was learning and was happy to be in the program. Why? Well ...

Fares was from Algeria, which makes this more of an interesting story. I had the chance to talk with Fares about how it felt to come from Algeria to Paris and start his life over and about his goals, dreams, and what new things he was learning and what it was like to be living in one of the most romantic and beautiful cities in the world.

Fares grew up in Algeria and heard about La Ville Pour Ecole in Paris through a friend he had met at some Cultural center in Algeria. After hearing about the program he went home to talk with his family about this Alternative education program in Paris and how he would like to start learning French. He was lucky because his father currently had been living in Paris. So, his family gave him the chance and agreed to let him attend the school. He had no idea about this program and was excited to leave Algeria and move to Paris with his father.

He started attending La Ville Pour Ecole and was introduced to a lot of new and exciting programs. He started with internships and now has experience with plumbing, radio broadcasting, editing, and video. He took lessons and workshops within the school and started making some of his own personal projects. This was all new for him and done in one year and a half.

I asked him if he ever had any of these experiences before and his eyes lightened up and he said, "No! Never!! In Algeria there is no way to discover about jobs or internships through school. There are very few possibilities, internships means working for me. In Algeria in order to start an internship, you have to go through a higher level of school."

I asked him what has changed since he has been in Paris and he said, "I'm self confident now. Before I use to depend on my family, but now I feel independent. I am able to do a lot of new things without help from my family."

Last question! What advise would you give to some other student or person who was to come across an opportunity like this one? His reply,

"They should know that they will have the chance to discover different subjects and work in fields of their own interest. They will have the possibility to meet great teachers and have a reflection about their futures.

They must not miss this chance to be a part of this school and to take all the possibilities they could. If there is **no Motivation**, if they don't care about school they will fail. You always have to be self confident or you will fail."

"Hang on to life most importantly, have self confidence and never give up!"

Melissa Sanfiorenzo



Fares Ait Khelifa