



Department of Education



# **Percorsi didattici per una scuola solidale**

## **Evento-Mostra "Scuole Solidali" La Gabbianella**

"The Little Seagull"  
Weekly Instructive Theme  
16/10/2006 – 20/10/2006  
Città Educativa, Rome - Via del Quadraro 102

"Città Educativa" is an initiative of the School Council of the District of Rome, created  
with funds authorised by article n. 285/97



## **What is the "Città Educativa"?**

The "Città Educativa", promoted by Rome's Department of Education, was created with the aim of becoming a foundation in quality teaching for Rome's city schools, while also fostering their public image through the use of multimedia and information technology.

## **"Weekly Themes"**

This second edition of the "Weekly Themes" project was organised mainly by the Digital Youth Consortium. This 12-week cycle will span the entire scholastic year, instructing participants in best practices for using and applying the latest information and communication technology to scholastic instruction. Each week will deal with a specific theme, on which an instructive training session will be based involving students, instructors and the entire scholastic community. Additionally, educational multimedia will be created and later published in the "Città Educativa" multimedia archive to be widely distributed at all local schools, potentially on an international scale.

This second edition of "Weekly Themes" saw the number of participants nearly double compared to the first edition: almost 10 thousand students, institutional representatives, teachers and other education professionals took part in this rewarding programme promoted by the Digital Youth Consortium.

## **Promoting Education for the 21st Century**

"Weekly Themes" is part of an ever-growing initiative to both reform and renovate the conventional ways in which school is perceived and taught. With the emergence of information technology, traditional approaches to "passive" learning (applied to most Italian schools), are becoming less and less relevant in preparing the "citizens of tomorrow", immersed in a rapidly changing world characterised by a maelstrom of challenges & hurdles no longer avoidable...

More than ever, today's schools must take on the role as INTERMEDIARY between current socio-economic realities and the issues/hurdles they pose, such as:

- Equal opportunities for both men and women by 2005 and universal basic education by 2015;
- Education to promote social tolerance;
- Education to promote democracy, peace and social unity;
- Development of students' entrepreneurial, self-critical and problem-solving abilities;
- Preparing students for a society centred on knowledge and information;
- Innovative teaching methods that take into account the change in the relationship between student and teacher;
- Alphanetisation / description of all information and/or communication technology;

Accordingly, the aim of "Weekly Themes" is to favour and concretely stimulate innovation in Rome's classrooms through the latest teaching methods, identifying weekly key factors in education for the 21st century and offering a varied, multi-disciplinary approach based on the following: a) Leveraging best practices in Rome's schools b) Collaborative learning; c) implementation of lab activities; d) furthering the development of standard school activities.

## **The first "Weekly Theme" – Instructive Measures**



*"Treat the earth well:  
It was not given to you by your parents,  
It was loaned to you by your children."*

*Education in the 21st century poses, among its principle objectives, the creation of a school-environment that prepares its students - citizens of the future - for an ever more "multi" society: multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-leveraging. Also essential is diversity education and how to make the most out of it as an enriching factor, sure to actively engage our youth and enable them to deal with challenges that grow more and more complex.*

*We now live in a global society, dominated by instruments of mass media. Nevertheless, one clear paradox is just how little and how inefficiently such tools are used to increase students' cultural tolerance and receptiveness to peace and unity in the world. Data collected from a recent study done by the University of Rome "La Sapienza" are disturbing in that roughly 30 % of youth between the ages of 15 and 18 were found to harbour strong feelings of racism and intolerance; and it is all the more disturbing just how few truly comprehend how many conflicts exist in the world, beyond those covered by mainstream media. Since 1945, war has killed nearly 27 million and has produced another 35 million refugees, 90% of whom are civilians. These alarming statistics are a reflection on the number of political refugees: according to the United Nations, there are roughly 20 million war refugees in the world at present; of these 20 million, 8 million originate from Asia, 4 million from Africa and another 4 million from Europe.*

*The 1st "Weekly Theme" will attempt to break down in detail some of the excellent uses of new Information & Communication technologies used as tools for cross-cultural development, as well as a means for cooperative / collaborative groupwork. Furthermore, it will serve as an occasion to examine an interactive course made up of colours, ideas and work created by schools that participated in the projects promoted by the "Little Seagull" initiative. On the the last day of the "Weekly Instructive Theme", an overseas charity project will be given to the winners of "Ethical Recognition" by Maria Coscia on behalf of Rome's Department of Education.*

*Over the course of the weekly theme activity, the schools will present the following: SMA "Don Morosini", SMS "Via della Maratona", the 164th CD of "E. Chiovini" and the 5th CD of "V. Alfieri". Following this, students will participate in various interactive instruction sessions in collaboration with the "Little Seagull", the "World Food Programme" and Mondo TV, all members of the "Osservatorio Critico" (Critical Observer) responsible for selecting the students' activities.*



*The Gabbianella ("The Little Seagull") is an endeavour coordinated by associations carrying out overseas charity projects in 80 countries worldwide. Its name is inspired by Luis Sepulveda's "Storia di una Gabbianella e del Gatto che le insegnò a volare" (Tale of the Seagull and the Cat who Taught her how to Fly), the author's portrayal of a popular folk tale.*

*Since 1997, the Gabbianella has worked to develop and safeguard overseas charity works, promoting educational initiatives dealing with world peace and fellowship so that our youth will grow to become citizens that are aware and respectful of cultural diversity.*

## **PARTNERS**



**1st Weekly Theme**  
**"Percorsi didattici per una scuola solidale"**  
16 – 20 October, 2006 - CITTA' EDUCATIVA - Via del Quadraro 102 – Roma

**PROGRAMME**

- 9.30 "Città Educativa" Welcome Ceremony  
*Romano Santoro, Coordinatore Scuole, Digital Youth Consortium*
- 9.35 "Weekly Themes" presentation & brief day overview  
*Giovanni Serra, Weekly Themes Coordinator, Digital Youth Consortium*
- 9.40 The value of overseas charity projects in youth education  
*Paola Moghetti, Chiara Guerrieri, "La Gabbianella" (The Little Seagull) Coordinator*
- 9.45 Presentation of a project realised by one of Rome's schools
- 10.00 Break

10.30 – 12.30 **INSTRUCTIVE SESSIONS**

- Session 1 – *Interactive exhibition dealing with overseas charity "Scuole Solidali", the "Little Seagull"*  
Session 2 – *Food Force, World Food Programme*  
Session 3 – *Multimedia to promote solidarity among different peoples of the world, Mondo TV*  
Session 4 – *Let's Write About Peace!, Digital Youth Consortium*

- 12.30 Closing activities

**BASIC DESCRIPTION OF SESSIONS**

*Each instructive session will last roughly 30 minutes. Students will be divided into four groups, taking turns as they participate in various group activities.*

**Interactive Exhibition on Overseas Charity – "The Little Seagull" project**

*Schools from all over Italy are measured in terms of invention, creation and production of a vast amount of instructive material resulting from a 1-year school course. Together with educators and the "Little Seagull", students will be able to access this material, and above all, take time to consider the message it imparts, discussing and debating concepts such as sustained development, world peace and especially **overseas charity**, as they relate to the best interests of society at large.*

**Food Force**

*A true "role playing" game for 21st Century Education. With this interactive game created by the World Food Programme, students must apply their best strategies to solve humanitarian crises, taking critical decisions to save the populations of the desperately poor, whose lives hang in the balance. Small workgroups will be created in which each student has a given role. At the end of the session, each class will receive a copy of the programme to continue enriching their activities performed in class.*

**Let's Write about Peace!**

*During this session students will have to transform themselves into true journalists to publish their own articles on a Blog, basing their themes on Peace and Solidarity among all peoples of the world. However, the article is just the last step! The students will have to first assemble their redactive tools, organise a topic and then author a concise, comprehensive article.*

**Multimedia applied to cultural unity**

*During this session students, accompanied by Mondo TV professionals, learn how a large Film & Animation company works to sustain cultural solidarity initiatives.*



## **1st WEEKLY THEMES REPORT "PERCORSI DIDATTICI PER UNA SCUOLA SOLIDALE" 16-20 October, 2006**

“La Gabbianella” (The Little Seagull) is an overseas charity initiative for students and teachers of every school system that, since 2001, has offered instructive sessions to educate the public about cultural solidarity initiatives, overseas charity, affirmation of human rights, supporting the ardent will of underprivileged peoples, and lastly, about notions of “richness” and “poverty” in countries ignored by mainstream media. Class projects based on world unity will be selected at the end of each school year, the most significant ones to be awarded with prizes following further evaluation by the judges.

During the 2005/2006 school year “The Little Seagull” undertook two projects entitled “Vola solo chi osa farlo ... miagolò Zorba” (The Only One Who Flies is He Who Dares....Meowed Zorba) and “Viaggio nei Continenti e tra i Popoli” (Intercontinental Voyage among the Peoples of the World); these stories were exhibited at the “Città Educativa di Roma”, an initiative promoted by Rome’s Department of Education, created with the aim of becoming a foundation in quality teaching for Rome’s city schools, while also fostering their public image as much as possible.

The exhibition was held from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 2006 as per the 1<sup>st</sup> “Weekly Theme” entitled “Percorsi Didattici per una scuola solidale”, an initiative of the Digital Youth Consortium. The course entailed a 1-week breakdown of some of excellent uses of new media technology applied to world solidarity, intercultural dialogue and experimental collaborative / cooperative work methods. 8 of Rome’s schools (both Elementary / Grade and Middle Schools), some of whom presented their school projects; all 8 schools were involved in 4 different interactive instructive sessions put together by the “Little Seagull” in collaboration with the Digital Youth Consortium, the World Food Programme and Mondo Tv:

- Food Force: an interactive game in which students apply their best strategies to solve humanitarian crises;
- Let’s Write about Peace!: A session (organised by the Digital Youth Consortium) in which students take on the role of journalist to publish their own articles on a Blog, basing their themes on peace and solidarity among all peoples of the world;
- Multimedia applied to World Solidarity: a session (organised by Mondo TV) in which students learn about a major Film & Animation company’s role in sustaining cultural solidarity initiatives.
- Interactive Overseas Charity Exhibition: an event in which all schools in Italy participating in the “Little Seagull” initiative were measured by their invention, creation and production of posters, designs, books, comic strips, themes, video clips and multimedia presentations resulting from the school year. Guided by the “Little Seagull” volunteers, students attending the “Città Educativa” discovered all of the previously mentioned works, reflecting on the message they imparted, while also discussing world peace, human rights and overseas charity, etc. At the close of the event, the students were then asked to express their opinions about overseas charity, the exhibition of work, the poster contents and the instructive sessions, in an effort to continue engaging them with the topics covered outside the session, solicit their criticisms of the information they absorbed and keep them focused on it.

Comments taken from 210 students who took part in the exhibition, selected for their course feedback value and to give clues as to how the next instructive session could be improved, were found interesting in that, having been written by children as young seven-years-old, they directed students' attentions to topics that are rarely if ever dealt with in school, while also bringing out their genuine desire to know and do something. In reference to the exhibition, some of the children wrote the following:

*"it was great because it promotes children's rights in a fun and entertaining way"*

*"I liked it because I got to find out about other people in the world"*

*"I liked it a lot because the stuff we saw was created by kids"*

*"Interesting and especially engaging"*

*"Well organised and full of nice projects useful in giving Rome's students an idea about world solidarity / unity and the value of diversity"*

*"Very interesting from a cultural standpoint. Looking at the work, I realised that diversity is valuable and needs to be preserved"*

*"The things that struck me more than the pictures were the writings that talked about the lives of the poor. I realised then that when I grow up I will do something [about poverty]"*

*"It really hit me and made my heart cry. But it also inspired me, giving me the inspiration to do something... something concrete"*

Other than commenting on the exhibition, other students had this to say about the contents of the instructive sessions and the value of overseas charity ...

*"Support a kid in an other country to give him/her a better life. Today in the world there are many kids who die because of sickness and disease. Let's support them to give them their lives back / give them a new life"*

...on the importance of children's rights:

*"we talked about children's rights: having a good time, having a home and all the things we have. Everyone's got to have rights"*

*"I find that it takes a lot of love to accomplish these works on children's rights. And I agree with all of you because we are all equal"*

*"I came to see how many rights are not respected"*

*"In many parts of the world there are kids who suffer from hunger"*

*"We saw how kids can't play video games... and they can't watch TV and have to work and can't go to school"*

*"I saw lots of posters dealing with children's rights. They are really great and are the thing I liked the most because those of us [kids] in richer countries have to consider ourselves very lucky"*

*"Yes to freedom and solidarity, but yes especially to peace"*

... on the importance of broadening their own horizons, the children had this to say:

*“I was moved by the pictures showing how they live [and the customs] in countries like Africa and Brazil”*

*“I found out a lot of beautiful and interesting things. I also discovered that even poor kids are happy and imaginative”*

*“I liked the friendship poster with all the people of the world because it’s important to accept everyone”*

*“I was touched by the pictures illustrating how young kids get used for work...so those of us who don’t even want to go to school should examine our consciousness”*

*“we saw some pictures of kids in Africa. Their lives aren’t easy. They start working from when they are very young; they pull carts, look for water to wash themselves and move rocks... I sure hope these things will change one day”*

*“The differences between our two worlds are amazing”*

*“It struck me that a kid who’s only 9 can get up at 5:30 in the morning, clean the house, then go to school at 6:00 without any shoes, get home and then go out over a great distance to get water and firewood ... I don’t see how anyone so young could ever live that way”*

*“I came to see how everything one has is the sum of their wealth, no matter how little... nothing is wasted. They’re not all lucky like we are”*

... and about the “Città Educativa:

*“It’s really interesting because it helps kids get to know peace, friendship and solidarity among their neighbours. It imparts really precious messages”*

*“This session taught me lots about children’s rights and finding out about what they do to have / maintain them makes me really happy”*

*“I liked it a lot. I’d like to do it again when I have more time and I think that it would have done better if it were more publicised”*

The prize ceremony for the 2005/2006 school projects was held October 20<sup>th</sup>, as per the conclusion of the “Weekly Theme” .

