



Tajikistan School Connectivity Project

NEWS

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The Tajikistan School Connectivity Project for Central Asia has established 24 Internet Learning Centers (ILCs) in secondary schools across Tajikistan. The program's main goal is to increase global dialogue and educational opportunities by installing modern computer equipment with Internet access in schools, as well as developing training and learning projects for teachers and students.

Tajikistan School Connectivity Project activities include:

- teacher training on using computers and the Internet in classroom teaching
- US school partnerships on civic education projects and teacher exchange
- public access and programs for community members and disadvantaged groups
- development of sustainable practices for schools and communities



World War II Veteran Saidov Kodir from Fayzabad City told connectivity students his story.

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Oroville High School and Tajikistani Students Bring History to Life

In January, Connectivity students from the US and Tajikistan were working on their new educational activity called Personal History. This activity gave students a chance to study historical events that were experienced by members of their families and communities through news, television, or firsthand experience.

Students were asked to think about events outside of their own country or ethnic groups on a more global scale.

Connectivity students, in teams with their partner schools from the US, selected the most interesting and important history topics for them and their country. Most of the school teams selected World War II and Cold War topics, because students discovered that these events connect the US and Tajikistani people more than other topics.

Tajikistani schools also made presentations on Terrorism and the Afghan War. Students interviewed officials, people on the street, and Afghan War participants, which opened a door to the history and modern life of the world.



Connectivity Student from Isfara talking with a Hukumat representative about the Soviet era.

In the US, students and teacher George Thornton from Oroville High School in Washington explored the way historical events impacted their community.

By asking family and community members about what historical event impacted their lives the most, and about other outstanding events and inventions of their time, students learned about the fascinating history surrounding them.

Just by having an interest in history and asking questions, students were able to learn about the impact of the Vietnam War, the Cold War, President Kennedy's assassination, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Gulf War, and other major events. It was a valuable lesson that large historical events affect average citizens profoundly, even years and decades later. And you never know the impact of these events - until you ask!

Please visit our website http://www.connect-tajikistan.org/en_sc_oral_history.html to see Connectivity students presentations.



World War II Veterans Warren Tindale and Glen Saunders came to talk with the class and share their stories. McKinleyville High School, McKinleyville, California

RI-SOL and UNICEF Empowering Youth in Rural Communities

On January 15, RI-SOL and UNICEF began an Internet learning program on the subject "Empowering Youth in Rural Communities". This project involves 180 students and teachers from 15 rural schools of Tajikistan. These trainings are provided by the local staff of RI-SOL in the Internet Learning Centers of Isfara, Istaravshan, Kurgan-Tyube, Sarband and Vakhsh. Over 10 weeks teachers and students will participate in 40 hours of trainings on Saturdays and Sundays on computer and Internet use as well as participation in Internet forums and lessons on public health and hygiene.

The students are active participants of UNICEF's "Water Sanitation and Hygiene" project and have learned many important issues on household water security, water and sanitation in the school environment, how to keep water clean, and how to stay healthy and many other questions. As a result of these courses they are now quite experienced in public health and hygiene issues but lack the computer skills, knowledge of the Internet and ways to pass their knowledge on to a wider and larger audience.



On-Site Educator Zebo Muradova explaining Paint program to students from school #23, Kolkhozobod.

The goal of this training is to increase computer capacity and skills among youth by training them with basic computer and Internet skills (Microsoft Office, email, educational online forums, and Internet use) so they can develop their skills in sanitation and hygiene, as well as share them with others in their schools and communities. At the conclusion of the project, students will participate in developing a project website. And later the website will be handled by the off school activity department of the Ministry of Education.

Even after the first lessons the students were amazed at how quickly they understood how to use the Internet and on the first day already posted messages on the Internet forum: <http://tojikiston.com/connect/forum/viewforum.php?f=12>.

By the end of the 10 weeks they will have created websites based on the lessons they learned at their trainings with UNICEF. This project is a great example of how the Internet can help pupils share information and learn from each other.



The first searching steps of girls from Isfara School #57 on the Internet.

Connectivity Students from Gulyakandoz Help Orphans from their Community

On January 21st all Muslims celebrated Qurban Bajram (Eid-al-Adha), one of the most sacred and important holidays in Islam. During this festive day people visit their relatives, friends, neighbors, the elderly and orphans. Part of the tradition of the Qurban holiday is to feed the poor and orphans in your community.

In Gulyakandoz there is a boarding house which is located in Degmay village. 75 kids live there, some of them from single-parent families whose fathers were killed during the war in Tajikistan, and some of them are from poor families. Their parents brought them to the boarding house because they can't feed and treat them anymore, but all of the kids are sick - physically and mentally.



Connectivity student feeding a sick child at the Boarding School in Gulyakandoz.

On Monday January 17 Connectivity students from Gulyakandoz School #16 decided to help the inhabitants of the boarding house with a hot homemade meal. The best family meal is *mastova* - rice soup. Students brought all the ingredients from their houses, as their parents also contributed to the effort. The School #16 cook, Usmon Aliev, cooked *mastova* for the boarding house.

The boarding house director Oliya Azizhodjaeva allowed the students to feed "the patients" by hand. It was not easy for them to see their eyes full of "waiting" for their portion. The students also brought some bread and gave it to everybody.

Cook Usmon told a friend, Rustam Bobodjonov, who is the cook from School #6 in Gulyakandoz about this visit to the boarding house. Cook Rustam offered to bring the students back to School #16 by car. He said that next time he would help the students to cook and will bring the students to the boarding house with his own car.

For their next visit to the boarding house on February 22nd, Connectivity students from Gulyakandoz plan to cook milk rice porridge and feed all departments of the boarding house.



The Boarding House's inhabitants

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