

**Primary school  
„Miroslav Antić“  
Belgrade,  
2007-06-03**

My name is Dolores Grbić and I am an English teacher in Primary school “Miroslav Antić”, Belgrade. Mr. Anthony Asael with his *Art in All of Us* Project visited the school on 4 May 2007. and made a tremendous impact on the children.

Our school is one of many in Serbia that promotes and uses modern methods of education. We give our best to help our children grow up to be happy, healthy, and educated. However, we are not so fortunate to have means and send our children to school trips around Europe, or even further. Everything that they know about the world they have learnt from books and television. Because of the past happenings in neighboring countries, and in Serbia as well, people are traveling to Serbia less often. This is just one of the reasons why the children were so aroused by Anthony’s visit.

The workshop started at 9 a.m. The children (aged 9) were eager to meet Anthony, so there was no need for me to break the ice and help children or Anthony start communicating. At 9.05 a.m., we already had a noisy but warm and friendly atmosphere. There were 30 children, so you could here 30 questions at the same time. Anthony was well prepared. He was calm and loving. All of their questions were answered. The children asked about his traveling and his experiences. Somehow, they were most interested in statistics and numbers. The common questions were: “What is the biggest/ smallest/ coldest/ hottest... country you have visited?” Anthony had good knowledge of numbers so he was able to answer the questions about the heights of some mountains and population of some cities.

The children enjoyed Anthony’s anecdotes. The one that they are still retelling is Anthony riding a bike in Africa.

Although the children were anxious to hear more about the countries Anthony had visited, we had to finish the session and go out to take some pictures. It was quite interesting to watch the children taking pictures following Anthony’s instructions. They were “armed” with imagination and ideas, as Anthony told them to be, and started making funny and amusing poses to each other. They were monkeys on trees or models from Paris. They all had the chance to be photographers and models. They were free to experiment and Anthony helped just a bit.

The final hour of this workshop was maybe the most interesting one. The children were in five groups and Anthony gave them photographs that the children from all over the world had taken. The photographs were fascinating. The intriguing and unusual portraits and landscapes caught the children’s attention immediately. When they had examined and discussed the photographs, Anthony gave them a task. They had to guess where the photographs had been taken. The fervent discussions began. The children had only the help of Anthony’s map of the world. After they guessed correctly and got points for their group there were some loud cheers given. When they did not know the answer and Anthony had to give it to them, they were astonished.

After the workshop, children felt inspired to find out more about their friends in other countries. They kept asking when Anthony would be back again and told them more about his travelings. They felt that Anthony brought something of the world to their class.

Now, the children are looking forward for the next school year because then they will join the *AiA Pen Pal Program*. I feel that the children were privileged to meet Anthony and be a part of the project. They were suddenly a part of the world and felt very close to the children who were miles from them.

No school should be deprived of this wonderful experience.

Many thanks,  
Dolores Grbić