

To overcome the boundaries of the school means at hand

There are thousands of issues that arise before children and teenagers every day and are impossible to answer within the usual school routine. These are questions of relationship, socialization, self-realization, the search of motivation and to deal with them, sometimes in a particular sense of "boundaries" of the school. As teachers can do?

The team of the program "teach for Russia" offers its response: we need to engage in social engineering.

"Teacher Russia" — a biennial program of professional training and retraining of school teachers, developed by analogy with the international model of "Teach for All". The program involves graduates of leading Russian universities, with leadership qualities, willing to work with kids and able to teach the subjects of the school curriculum at a high level. They undergo a multistage selection process, an intensive five-week training and become teachers in the Russian mass schools, in the vast majority of cases, remote from the capital and big cities. Within two years the programme team provides them with comprehensive support. The first set of programs held in 2015.

The program organizers once hoped that they attract schools of enthusiasts who will be able to look at the education system with fresh eyes, you'll know what gaps you need to fill, and will do so through a variety of projects. And so it happened.

If people did not seek to overcome boundaries and limitations, they would never have learned to fly.(source: en.wikipedia.org)
About teachers that never gets old

Young teachers, conducted in the partner schools of the program year and outlined the problems that they see, have tried to define them in a causal connection and has developed projects for the solution. Part of the development already has been tested, the part is at a very early stage of implementation. However, it is an experience that you can share and which inspire change.

Edition Newtonew chose four projects of young teachers that help to go beyond the boundaries of the school.

Friends exchange

Arina and Anastasia Sachkov Hvastunova participate in the program "teach for Russia" the second year, they work with teachers in small rural schools in the Tambov region. They understand how important it is for adolescents to find their place in society, to the formation of identity and how difficult it is to do when your social circle is limited to people you know from childhood and which has managed to hang on you "labels".

When everyone knew each other, everyone unwittingly begins to wear labels, as the characters school theater.(source: flickr.com)

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Teacher of the year for children, textbooks, and controversial issues in history

In other words, children are in desperate need of communication beyond their native village. Many children from schools employing Arina and Anastasia, not leaving even a summer camp. How to increase the number of social ties that would help to understand themselves and to find friends?

This issue has encouraged the young teachers to the idea of school exchanges "hi, I'm from Russia too!" to offer students from different cities and villages of our country could visit each other's homes for a few days, during which would be organized an informal joint activities.

The purpose of this exchange is to help children to develop communication skills, to deliver them from the fear of meeting new people and introducing them to the mother country.

The format of these exchanges is similar to the international but does not require knowledge of a foreign language and large financial investments.

It seems that today children do not need to learn to communicate, because they sit in social networks, they have dozens of chat rooms and texting, but, as practice shows, are not afraid to click the "add to friends", but Oh so scared to approach and talk to a stranger.

Arina Sachkov, a teacher in the village school Eye Tambov region

Autumn has got to organize the first exchange. Two girls from the village of Platonovka — ninth-grader Olja and eighth-grader Nastya — went to visit for three days to his own age in the village of Eye, Mache and Light. They visited the classroom "host", together with the local boys watched a movie, cooked a pizza, went to the evening dances. Masha and the Light gave the guests a tour of the Eye and the nearest city of Michurinsk. A return visit to Platonivka was already a meeting of good friends when there are topics of conversation and say goodbye with the promise of new meetings.

Teenagers in a small village are often too limited range of communication to develop communication skills and get to know yourself better. Photo Genis Simakova.

Arina Sachkov said that the presence of the guests was visibly revived classes, at informal meetings the children looked at each other and something new was beginning to perceive the reality, when he acted as tour guides.

Since the exchange should help the development of social skills and reflection, adults should be included in the process of communication to help children cope with new situations and have a positive experience.

We realized that the effect is that children's behavior is really changing, and that children do not always know how to behave correctly in certain situations. But to fall into rigorism you can't, have to jokingly, gently adjust the direction of the conversation.

Arina Sachkov, a teacher in the village school Eye Tambov region

It might be interesting:

I've had enough! Or professional deformation

Although the autumn event can be called only a "test drive" of the project, the organizers have drawn some conclusions about how to conduct effective school exchange.

First, an important preparatory work aimed at determining individual goals guys who are going to visit and going to be entertained. Besides, the teacher have to imagine what communication skills the guys are well developed and which are not, and to consider how to work with it. Secondly, after the trip, it is necessary to understand the experience with your children and with immediate peers and with the class, because everyone must have discovered (and yourself) something new.

The first participants of the project share expectations and experiences.

Third, communicate to build not so simple, if there is a common theme or a common cause. The creation of a joint dance performances, video shoot or a chess tournament (all depends on interests of children) can be a great help.

Fourth, it is important to let know to children that sharing is fun, but it's not. So take part in it those who are willing to put in the effort.

Having the experience exchange between the viewer and Platonivka, the organizers want to extend the project to other participants "Teachers to Russia", especially as the geography programmes. The plans — the 9 exchanges to the end of the school year between Tambov, Voronezh, Kaluga and Moscow regions. Of course, such exchanges require financial resources, which the organizers intend to collect through crowdfunding.

Jump in "Deletename"

Someone from the foreign language teachers are not familiar with this phrase: "Why do I need English? I'm not going abroad". Or: "Where you saw us foreigners?"

Mary Napolskih, English teacher at school in Buturlinovka, third graders once asked: "And how do we know that Canada actually exists?"

Maria decided to tell children the existence of Canada and the benefits of learning a foreign language using video conferencing on the Internet — so there was a project "Tellander".

In tandem every effort to ensure that all together moving towards the goal.(source: s-media-cache-ak0.pinning.com)
From a helpless teacher to a Manager of education

Via the Internet were found foreign colleagues-teachers, wards which would like to communicate with English-speaking students. All were 12 schools from Canada to Sri Lanka, which Russian schoolchildren during the year, phoned, exchanged pictures and video messages.

Technical resources for teleconferences was provided by the school where each class has a computer with Internet access. Even the boys could practice in the school media center.

But the most important resource turned out to be technology, and the time and colleagues, is able to support this idea. Since many children live far from the school and attached to the schedule of the school bus, they can't stay after school, so it has to be perfectly organized — helping class teachers.

Activities should be coordinated with the colleagues from other countries, who have their own curricula and their own worries. If you are planning a teleconference with the African school, there is no guarantee that the day there is not a small flood, and all will have to reschedule.

The result justified these organizational risks. The teleconference was a solution that not only convinced children, in the existence of Canada, but also proved to them that they can speak a foreign language. For each teleconference, the children are thoroughly prepared for: seeking information about another country, city, school, make up the questions — in short, go far beyond a school textbook. Yes, and standard training materials will be more responsible.

Once I was approached by a boy with round eyes in surprise and said he in the letter wrote, "How old are you?", and it's the same phrase as in the tutorial. He was surprised that this phrase is really used that it is useful, and it is possible to get an answer. For the teacher it is very valuable.

Maria Napolskih, teacher at school city of Buturlinovka Voronezh region

Maria with colleagues are thinking in order to devote teleconference the oral account, the solution of mathematical problems (math is the same for all, regardless of language), or physics. Another perspective — teaching Russian as a foreign language. In a world of many schools, where they study Russian language, and students could try themselves in the role of teachers, to help friends with homework and tell them something about Russia.

I believe that "Telecenter" would be an excellent basis for interdisciplinary projects. Interdisciplinary projects in an international group — so it works most of the scientists of the world!

Maria Napolskih, teacher at school city of Buturlinovka Voronezh region

Maria advises to set clear goals for themselves and students and to discuss with children their fears. If it turns out that the disciples are not yet ready for teleconferences, you can start exchanging video messages, or regular mail. In any case, such communication will prove useful far beyond the English lessons, because is great to feel part of a large open world.

Growing up through the active action

Did you notice the discrepancy: adults telling teenagers that they must be independent, and are constantly required to follow different regulations and rules [cheapest essay to buy](#)? To go to school to prepare for entrance to University or College, do homework and take out the garbage because mom says — all this is well and good, but it does not give to feel their responsibility for their own lives.

So the teenager became a part of his life consciously, he needed the space for independent decision-making and for useful actions. Adults constantly give the teenager a list of useful things, but he needs the space for independent decisions. Photo: young Communards wash Leningrad Palace of Pioneers. (source: kommunarstvo.ru)

Graduates of the program "teach for Russia" Yaroslav Mikhalev and Olga Lizunova decided to help high school students to create a life of real useful things through project activities. So the idea of training "Who if not us".

We followed his sincere desire to do in education what resonates with us, what we think is important. Namely, maturing through the activity, the manifestation of the "I" in the case, in the creation. To share created with others, thus becoming a productive member of society.

Yaroslav Mikhalev, a graduate of the program "teach for Russia"

According to the plan of Yaroslav and Olga, in schools or other organizations it is possible to gather a group of 30-40 guys. First, you need to "stir up" their interactive games (it is important that the usual, lay school hierarchical relationship broke up, and build relations of equal partnership), and then all together "brainstorming" to identify the problems that concern children in their surrounding life. Then form groups of 4-6 people, based on children's interest to a particular problem identified that are beginning to work on projects designed to solve them.

Pilot training with students of Tobolsk. To create an informal atmosphere, children were asked to write on the posters their slogans in any form, even in the form of hashtags. (source: vk.com)

School without boredom and walls

In the process, the organizers help to understand adolescents with the competencies they wish to develop. Students learn to work with the resource map and realize that the material resources — not only necessary for implementing their ideas. Another important discovery that they are doing great things start with small, specific actions, and they are quite capable.

To date, Jaroslav and Olga conducted a pilot training with students of the Tobolsk: within four days, the students developed projects and made presentations, now it is the embodiment of ideas in life. The organizers plan to hold classes in the schools "Teachers to Russia".

We want to arouse an asset that wants something, feels and maybe help him along with teachers in the field. Originally planning to carry out in schools, interactive games that the children felt the format when you can move, to Express themselves and argue. Those for whom this format is close, will respond to the invitation to work on their projects.

Yaroslav Mikhalev, a graduate of the program "teach for Russia"

Platform for different

There are situations when one has to overcome the language barrier, and the others, their stereotypes. This happens in schools where there is a question of integration of children with non-native Russian language is a foreign language in the educational environment.

The school of the small town of Belousovo has about 150 of these children (17% of the total). The participants of the "Teachers of Russia" Nikita Savostikov, Nadezhda Sokolova and Fedor Bazhanov and Elena Bakhtina watched how hard these children to adapt to a new environment with different culture and unfamiliar language. In order to to help this process, they decided to organize the educational area in the school day for all students, paying special attention to those who not long ago moved to Russia. The project called "Equally different".

The opening of the school day "Equally different". Photo courtesy of the organizers of the project.

The school day began in October. They are held on Saturdays and consist of three blocks of 45 minutes. First, the guys working in project teams, at the moment there are four: writing a book of stories, documentary theatre, photography and culture festival. Then they are consulted on school subjects in a format "open space", which can be disassembled obscure material and work out the Russian language. The third block of the game. Board games help to develop verbal speech, and sports contribute to socialization. Every third Sunday of the month planned exit interactive tour (for this the Ministry of education and science of Kaluga region emits a special bus).

Children who come with zero knowledge of the Russian language, in the first days meet with interest from other students, but then — often, not only with incomprehension classmates but and resentment from teachers.

Nikita Savostikov, teacher at school city Belousovo, Kaluga region

It might be interesting:

Dina Zitser: the First of September as the funeral

Nikita understands that these issues need to be addressed at the structural level. Therefore, the initiators are working to ensure that the issue of integration of children with a low level of Russian language proficiency were taken into account in the educational program of the school.

The results will be fed three times per year on the festival of cultures, which is open to the local community. While the guys say that the site it is possible to reduce the level of aggression between children, which during normal activities can be quite high.

We often see the manifestation of aggressive behavior of children, they rudely talk to each other, so environment. So we created a strict system of rules, which the children follow as they want to stay with us.

Nikita Savostikov, teacher at school city Belousovo, Kaluga region

For children to learn to communicate in a constructive way, Nikita and his colleagues decided to form the school of the day groups of constant composition, which are found in the breaks between blocks of sessions for team building and reflection.

Young teachers say that the problem of adaptation of migrant children are relevant to many schools, and you can find different options for its solutions. The main thing — to take responsibility and strive to ensure that different children had the same opportunities for learning.

School day off "Equally different". Photo courtesy of the organizers of the project. "All well and good, but where can I get resources?"

you ask.

The participants of the "Teachers for Russia" found support in the face of program partners, participate in competitions for grants in the field of education (for example, in 2017 the project "hi, I'm from Russia too!" won in the same category of the Contest of innovations in education from Institute of education, HSE and "Fishermen's Fund"), raise funds on the platforms for crowdfunding appeal for help to the administrations of cities and villages. Of course, all this requires time and specific skills.

But the most necessary resource, as the heroes of our article are not Finance, and professional community, are able to support you. The program "teach for Russia" this community was forming, so the guys were easy to find a school partner to implement their ideas or consult with more experienced specialists. Usually the teacher is a very lonely profession.

Perhaps to overcome this loneliness is to start, if you have an idea for a great project.