

## The Sky is the Limit\_Issue 3

### NORWAY

#### NORWEGIAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

*By Janez RAKOVEC, Blanka PLESTENJAK and Janez SUHADOLNIK*

Norwegian children start primary school at the age of 6 and finish it when they are 12 or 13. In the primary school they have no grades, the teachers only write comments about their knowledge and progress.

When they are 12 or 13 they go to lower secondary school, where they start to get grades. In this time their grades and location will determine in which higher secondary school they will be able to go. They finish lower secondary school at the age of 16.

It is interesting that Norwegian students in lower secondary school achieved some of the best results in mathematics – they are in top 10% in the world.

Upper secondary school is similar to our high school. It is optional, so students choose it only if they want to do so. Students enrolled in upper secondary school are 16 to 19 years old.



#### VOSS UPPER SECONDARY AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL – VOSS JORDBRUKSKULE

*By Janez RAKOVEC and Janez SUHADOLNIK*

During our exchange we were a part of educational process in the upper secondary school in Voss, named Voss Jordbrukskule. In this year the school has a completely new building, which we like a lot. It is modern, spacious, vibrant and has a lot of cool rooms in which students hang out and do their work. One of the rooms is in shape of a rocket ship, because new, revolutionary ideas are created up there 😊 (by the students and teachers).

Otherwise we like the way school includes a lot of practical work in their programme: practical skills in agriculture, gardening, forestry, traditional use of nature, outdoor activity, wilderness experiences and extreme sports, wildlife and environmental management. Most of the time, no matter the weather, students spend outside (in the forest, on the school premises ...). In our opinion students here are more motivated for learning, they follow the instructions and do not use their mobile phones. They do the activities and tasks seriously and very enthusiastically.

Besides we have noticed that the teachers count on their students' responsible behaviour – they let them do a lot by themselves and trust them that they will act responsibly. We think students are more responsible because of that.

The experiences we gained are very important to us and we would do the exchange again if we could.