

“In Such Moments You Want to Fly”

Aleksandra Burnos, teacher of English, Gymnazia 67

On 16-17 May a conference was held. The Pushkin Trust has been realizing some great projects and this is one of them. It has helped international cooperation between schools of Russia and Ireland.

Teachers and students had been preparing for this conference during several months, from October to May. The topic of the conference was “Let it fly”. A great number of interesting works were made under the guidance of teachers. The students were able to show their skills translating texts, doing research, painting and drawing, writing poems. The children wrote compositions, made presentations and films on topics connected with everything that can fly, float both literally and in a figurative sense. My students in Grade 9 even had an opportunity to work as reporters at the conference. They attended sections, where the works were presented by students from schools of Saint-Petersburg, Moscow and Khabarovsk and then on the second day they made a report in front of everybody to present what they had seen and liked most of all. Those who didn't visit one of the sections could get information what was shown on the other section. So everybody could have a full picture of what was in both sections. It is important to mention that the students made their presentations both in English and in Russian.

Every year such reports of account are held in different cities. We were lucky and happy to hold the conference in our school this year. Students and teachers from schools of Moscow and Khabarovsk came to visit the conference. There were also representatives of the Pushkin Trust in Ireland.

Being a teacher of English I had a great opportunity to communicate with colleagues from other schools. Especially I was happy to talk to Anne MacErlane. We had a conversation in English about Ireland and about Saint-Petersburg.

During all the conference everybody felt its friendly atmosphere. In such moments you want to fly. You understand how much you love your job and how much you can give to your students and to yourself through your working.

The most important thing is to develop your personality and learn something new, the world around, the people.

It is possible to say that the preparation for the conference was the mechanism which helped me and my students to “fly higher”.