



Newsletter

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TGS Summer 2010!

by Alessandra Granziero, TGS Eurogroup Committee

One more TGS summer has just come to an end and leaves pleasant and nostalgic memories in our hearts.

Interesting enough, the airport is the place where you best understand it. As a member of TGS Committee, you feel you owe a greeting to the students both at their departure and at their arrival. In both cases, you realize that the actors and the feelings are exactly the same: parents, students, leaders and a lot of heartfelt feelings.

When it is time to leave for the UK and you are checking everything is ready, hanging out schoolbags and lists of host families, you understand that parents are rather worried; they are about to offer you the most precious of their goods. They have chosen TGS among a number of other associations and it is becoming true.

Promises are about to become everyday life and any subtle inconsistency might spot their children's holiday.

Second, there are the students: in some cases they might be forced to join TGS adventure as their parents' choice and are therefore leaving with different concerns. They receive TGS schoolbags where they move all their hand-luggage content in and they are suggested what to put where by their parents. Furthermore, they are given a few more advices by their parents. And you hear them say "I know..." with a puffing attitude.

Third, here are the leaders: now it's their turn. They have been trained but it seemed theory; now it is becoming a 24 day life. 24 days: isn't a 24 day holiday rather long? Perhaps too many days. The check-in passed, they're in charge of all.

Then they all come back. 24 days may go by very quickly. And here they are, the same actors of three



and a half weeks before. Parents: anxious and noses up to check the timetables monitors. They are silently counting down the moment they'll hug their children and impatiently waiting along the courtesy line in front of the sliding doors. Children: they get off the aircraft and approach the check-in area as a kind of ritual which they attend just before parting. This time tears roll on their faces! Their parents might well have bright eyes because of emotion, and rightly so, but the children... you could not guess it! They are the same children you met on the departure day: a good number left full of enthusiasm but some of them must have been rather sceptical. They have changed their mind since they left.

Then the leaders: look at their eyes. They are happy and enriched, they feel sorry as it's time to part, but, honestly speaking, they are also looking for a bed to rest on. They have been working hard, with care and satisfaction.

Three main pieces of news in TGS Summer 2010:

1. A new center was re-opened. We are speaking of Coulsdon which we used to go to in the past but that was closed a few years ago. Now we are back with the youngest students, younger than those in Caterham.
2. Our holiday lasted 24 days in every of our four centers whereas we used to stay shorter with younger children. It means a 45 hour English course for all our students. Generally speaking, when they go to school in Italy they attend 2 or 3 English classes a week (less than one hour each). Therefore, the period of time they spent at school in UK equals 15 weeks of English class in Italy – in other words, 4 or 5 months of school.
3. While our groups were in UK, we published a post a day on our blog, the TGS Whiteboard. We regarded it

as a way to keep in touch with the students' families and friends who wanted to keep an eye on how the holiday was going on. It was really rewarding to receive such favourable reports both online and at the airport. The number of daily visitors has positively increased due to the fact that they could find daily news from England and pictures of our students updated weekly. Now it still works as a log diary, easy and pleasant to read and useful to better understand the TGS proposal.

TGS Committee visiting our groups in Summer 2010 refers it was good job. Our collaborators (the general manager, local agents, school agents, host families, the leaders, etc.) generally share the same point of view. Therefore we would like to THANK you all for making even this summer that special. Thanks to your work, we can now start to plan TGS summer 2011.

Before leaving you with the feedback of one of our online visitors, we would like to say that our blog is only available in Italian at the moment. Should you have any suggestions, note or funny episode you would like to tell us, please don't hesitate to email at blog@tgseurogroup.it. It will be great to share 'the English side' of TGS on our blog!

We would like to thank TGS Whiteboard staff for their daily post. Thanks to their work we've shared our children's experience. You've allowed us to know their activities day by day and we've felt reassured and interested in what was going on. We have often wished we could be there too... Can you think of any similar experience for grow up people too?!

Thank you very much, TGS!

Marta's aunts

We will be in touch soon. Meanwhile take care.

TGS Whiteboard: tgseurogroup.wordpress.com

TGS Eurogroup Calendar 2010/2011

www.tgseurogroup.it

<i>TGS Eurogroup Committee Meeting</i>	<i>3-5 September 2010</i>	<i>[Marina di Venezia, Venice]</i>
<i>Youth Ministry Salesian Conference</i>	<i>19 September 2010</i>	<i>[Mestre, Venice]</i>
<i>TGS Leader Summer 2010 final meeting</i>	<i>10 October 2010</i>	<i>[Mogliano V.to, TV]</i>
<i>"Corsa dei Santi" (All Saints' Run)</i>	<i>30 October - 1° November 2010</i>	<i>[Roma]</i>
<i>TGS Agents' Forum + TGS Committee Visit to the UK</i>	<i>3-7 November 2010</i>	<i>[UK]</i>
<i>TGS "Friendship Meeting" - 34th edition</i>	<i>9 January 2011</i>	<i>[Mogliano V.to, TV]</i>
<i>"Youth Meeting" - Salesian Youth Movement</i>	<i>27 February 2011</i>	<i>[Jesolo, Venice]</i>
<i>TGS Leader Summer 2011 "Welcome Meeting"</i>	<i>6 March 2011</i>	<i>[Mogliano V.to, TV]</i>
<i>National TGS Assembly</i>	<i>19-20 March 2011</i>	<i>[Roma]</i>
<i>1st TGS Leader Summer 2011 Training Meeting</i>	<i>19-20 March 2011</i>	<i>[Torreglia, PD]</i>
<i>"Su e Zo per i Ponti" (Up and Down the Bridges)</i>	<i>10 April 2010</i>	<i>[Venice]</i>
<i>2nd TGS Leader Summer 2011 Training Meeting</i>	<i>16-17 April 2011</i>	<i>[Asolo, TV]</i>
<i>3rd TGS Leader Summer 2011 Training Meeting</i>	<i>22 May 2011</i>	<i>[Mogliano V.to, TV]</i>
<i>TGS Eurogroup Summer Courses 2011 presentation</i>	<i>11 June 2011</i>	<i>[Mogliano V.to, TV]</i>
<i>TGS Eurogroup Summer Courses</i>	<i>(dates and centres to be confirmed)</i>	<i>[UK]</i>
<i>TGS Leader Summer 2011 final meeting</i>	<i>9 October 2011</i>	<i>[Mogliano V.to, TV]</i>

All Together Again... Better Friends Than Ever!

by Igino Zanandrea, President of TGS Eurogroup

This is the catch-phrase celebrating this year Up and Down the Bridges (Su e Zo per i Ponti) held in Venice on 18th April 2010. It is meant not to remain a sequence of words; it reveals the spirit of our hearts, working as volunteers for this run, while welcoming and guiding the huge number of participants through the Venetian "calli". People coming to Venice for the traditional non competitive walk have gathered year after year for this special occasion and are attending this edition to respect a friendship, membership and solidarity link.

Furthermore, each year we reinforce our friendship towards Venice. The walk is no longer a walk on itself as a number of additional appointments are scheduled: Don Dino Berti School Prize, the Literary Route, the Holy Mass celebrated early in the morning before the walk, the 'Write in Venice' competition and the video competition called "Short on the Run" to list a few examples.

But this is not all: there were two more appointments this

year we cannot avoid mentioning.

The night before the Up and Down the Bridges we had the Prelude to the Walk. It takes place on Saturday evening from 8.30 p.m. in Piazza San Marco just outside the entrance to the Museo Correr. It is a special tribute to Venice and anticipates the Sunday festive mood through literary trail, video projections, choral singing and other surprises.

This year we also supported a charity project called 'Hard Rock Cafè and Su e Zo per i Ponti Together For Haiti' to raise money and help the Salesian missions in Haiti. Special and limited edition pins are sold in Piazza San Marco and at Hard Rock Cafes store in Venice. Part of the income is to be sent to Salesians in Haiti to rebuild the area after the dreadful earthquake last January.

Once again the Up and Down the Bridges is meant to be an unforgettable day with friendship and charity purposes: "All Together Again, More Friends Than Ever!"

Breaking News

*It's now official! The next edition of "Su e Zo per i Ponti" will be held in Venice on **Sunday 10 April 2011!** Why not planning a journey to Italy on the occasion? We'll be very pleased to welcome you in Venice on that day!*

