

## Private Christian School “Petko Rachev Slaveikov”, Sofia, Bulgaria

This December came with heavy snow to Sofia, but in our school, Christmas preparations were already in full swing. We started with a competition among all classes for the nicest Christmas classroom decoration. The theme was, “White Christmas”. Students and teachers together put a lot of effort in this endeavor, and we all shared in the fun and joy of the beautiful results.

Our first graders also came up with a Christmas initiative. They developed and implemented the idea to collect toys, buy presents, and create beautiful Christmas cards and candles for a local orphanage. Most of the pupils were very generous in donating their own toys to less fortunate children and invested a lot of effort in preparing nice things for them.



*БЯЛА КОЛЕДА в I-ви клас*

Christmas is also a great time to show appreciation and love, so we wanted to use this opportunity to express our gratitude towards our teachers. They have been faithful, loving, and devoted to their work and the kids. We really want to emphasize how much we appreciate their continuing dedication and professionalism and especially because we cannot yet provide the salaries that they deserve. In this regard, we are very thankful, first to the Lord, and also to our generous donors, who helped us give all our teachers Christmas bonuses. The parent committee also encouraged parents to raise some funds for a special Christmas celebration in honor of our teachers.

As Christmas is also a time for celebrating the family and coming together, we decided to hold a special celebration for all kids and their parents. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, we will

gather at school and hold Christmas performances in song and dance by all classes, as well as a Christmas sale with homemade goodies, handmade Christmas decorations, toys, and books from home.

On an academic note, we have been blessed with a new partnership – with the “Bible League, Bulgaria” foundation. With their help, we will be able to hire a new teacher for our Christian Ethics class. She has a degree in Theology and extensive experience in teaching children the subject of Religion and Christian values. Her name is Snezhana, and she will be able to start in January.



*БЯЛА КОЛЕДА в Предучилищен клас*





#### Prayer needs:

1. We still need to hire one more teacher to help us with the afternoon classes of the kids. Please pray that God will send us the right person and will provide for the necessary finances.
2. Please pray for all these events that we have planned for December. We pray that they will not just be a mere entertainment effort but a chance to direct our minds to Christ, Who is the reason for all the celebrations and for the sustenance of our very school.
3. Please pray for continued motivation among our teachers in their work, so that despite the everyday challenges of the job, they will keep doing it with joy and love.

#### NEEDS:

At the very entry of our School yard, just in front of the main entrance, is located a big ugly utility building. It is a metal construction used as storage and for many years we have been struggling to make it look better.



This year a group of parents initiated a total makeover of this building. In the last years in Bulgaria an artist named Nasimo – graffiti writer, became very popular with his big size graffiti art on public buildings and places. We invited him to develop a project for our utility building and he agreed.



Nasimo's art





This project will help us not only to create a more aesthetic and welcoming environment for our kids but will also help us popularize our school, as all Nasimo's projects are posted online and his works are followed by many people.

The development of an art project, the materials and the painting of the whole building will cost 550 euro. The parents are ready to cover 200 euros of the costs and we still need 350 more euros.

In the last years in Bulgaria a scary tendency has been developing – young kids being overweight and living a non-active life. More and more kids prefer to stay in front of the computers instead of playing outside. Even the Government started putting efforts in resolving this problem by increasing the number of mandatory sports lessons.



The school sports field as it looks now

This year our school has hired a full time sports teacher, who is not only giving the mandatory lessons but also everyday there is one additional hour for sport games for the children between 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The problem that we face is that our school does not have good sport equipment and facilities. Our sport field is covered with old cracked asphalt, with grass growing in the cracks. All the basketball hoops are broken and there is no volleyball net. We are also lacking sport equipment as different kinds of balls, hoops, cones, skipping ropes, etc.

In order to renovate the school sport field and make a new multifunction field for volleyball, soccer and basketball (20 m long and 12 m wide) with special artificial grass for sport's fields it will cost 5600 euro.

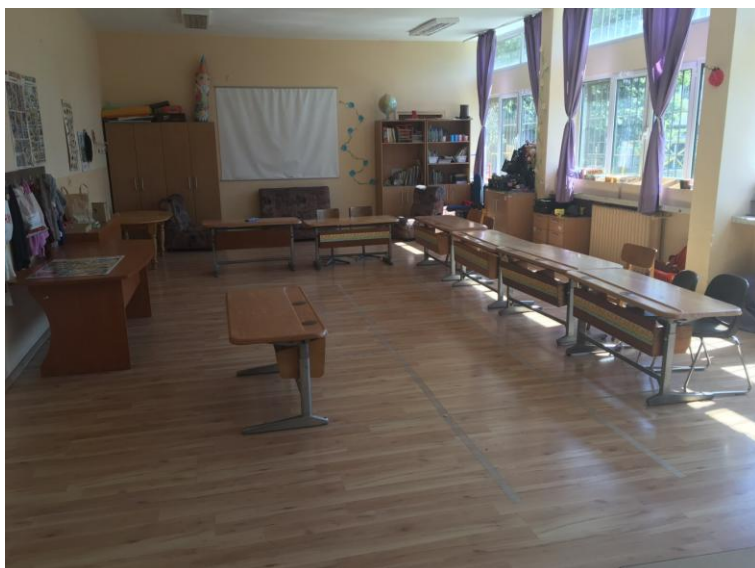


In order to buy all the necessary sport equipment for our school will need additional 200 euro.

Another problem that we face is the lack of locker rooms, so that the children either have to come to school dressed in sport wear or undress in the restrooms, which is not convenient at all. In order to provide a two (for boys and girls) locker rooms with 10 lockers each we will need 1000 euro.



One of the weaknesses of our school that not only we, but also our parents recognize is the poor condition of the school facilities. The classrooms are covered with old and already worn out laminate as you can see on the pictures.



We also use second hand desks and chairs that were donated to us many years ago and most of them are in a bad condition already. Especially for our preschool group we would like to have new furniture that is developed for their needs. We would also like to change most of the chairs we are using at the moment as they are scratched, broken and a mix of many different kinds.

In order to change the laminate of 4 rooms (each of them about 60m<sup>2</sup>) we will need 2400 euro. For

new desks and chairs for the preschool group, we will need 500 euro and for 40 new chairs we will need 700 euro.

Another need that we face every day in the teaching process is the lack of interactive and creative teaching materials. Especially for the English lessons we need posters, colorful flash cards and games. In order to provide the materials that we need for a more successful learning process we will need 300 euro.