

Humanists in astronomy

Marcin Kromer Secondary School in Gorlice – one might think it is just one of many schools of the kind. It is the oldest secondary school in the district. It was brought into being during the reign of Franz Joseph in 1906. The school is located in one of the most beautiful buildings in Gorlice which came into use in 1913. It got its name in 1918. Marcin Kromer Secondary School is modern when it comes to education and traditional in terms of upbringing – it is friendly and demanding at the same time. (picture 1) In this kind of school one person, Mr Robert Góra, the physics teacher, decided to break the stereotype associated with physics and astronomy teaching. And this is where the story of changing the attitude of humanities students towards science starts. It was started by a student Aleksandra Rzepka who took part in the National Contest for a paper on astronomy and astronautics. She got a very warm welcome at the 39th OMSA and received an audience award. Her work “The black hole – the real story” was written in verse. (picture 2) Below there is a short fragment of her work:

“A long, long time ago:

A galaxy was playing

Making black holes

Everyting was locked inside

Even the light.

It’s an unusual mystery

That’s a boundary

With no way back

The surface called the events horizon

Made some people’s dreams come true.

John Michell

Was the man who studied the mystery.

Once the theory of relativity was created

In Einstein’s finest times.

The first solution to his equation

Used to describe the black hole

Was found by Karl Schwarzschild in 1916.

Yet people observing it from a distance

Considered it a curiosity” (...)

The success would not have been possible if it was not for Mrs Ewa Wachowicz, our school graduate (Miss Poland, runner up in Miss World contest and TV cooking shows producer) who sponsored the whole stay of Alexandra in Grudziądz. In order to express the gratitude a group of students (Aleksandra Rzepka, Aneta Ptak, Anna Augustyn and others) directed by Mr Robert Góra organized a so called meeting with the stars – a look at the stars from poetic and musical point of view connected with meeting Mrs Ewa Wachowicz. The students prepared suitable decorations and took care of the atmosphere during the event devoting their free time to it. (picture 3, 4 and 5)

To keep up the momentum the students and their teacher decided to test themselves in another contest – this time international, combining art and astronomy “Ars Astronomica” which was organized by Astronomia NOVA association. They won the first prize for the song “A small – giant step” they wrote and recorded themselves. They even recorded a video to it. You can see and listen to it on youtube at <http://youtu.be/oQ648jyKzqM>

Mrs Ewa Wachowicz was impressed by the students’ creativity and their artistic achievements. She decided to promote them on TV and on her Facebook profile.

The students and Mr Robert Góra decided that next year they are going to publish a collection of stories on space entitled “Astronomy in verse” and record a CD with songs devoted to physics and astronomy. To make these plans come true you need a suitable financial support so they decided to spend the following months looking for sponsors who could help them in this respect – any help is welcome (if you are interested, write at glinik4@onet.eu).

You can find more information on the school and the students’ achievements on our school’s website www.kromer-gorlice.pl and on our school’s official Facebook profile.

As you can see anyone may get involved in science – all you need is a suitable approach to a student that enables them to express their creativity. May this motto, so actual nowadays, be an encouragement for everyone:

“Nowadays more than ever before science seems to be the key to survival for both our planet and ourselves as a nation and for our welfare and safety. The time has come to start treating science as one of the most important spheres of life” - Barack Obama

mgr Robert Góra



picture 1



picture 2



picture 3



picture 4



picture 5