

REVIEW of Simone Pouwels, Head teacher Trillium International School Paris

As headteacher at Trillium International School in the western suburbs of Paris, I am responsible for the educational program of our school. I felt the need to support a charity project which would be a learning experience for all participants involved. Since this school year 2019/2020, we have been working with Friendshifts, which help children in different parts of the world to learn from each other through communication.

Our school is in touch with children in Togo who live in an orphanage in Kpalimé.

There have been several exchanges through art projects, letters, cards, photos and videos. We have also received a treasure chest with everyday objects used by the children in Togo to have a better understanding of their daily lives.

Marieke vd Laan (founder and chairperson of Friendshifts) has visited our school on a few occasions and prepared lessons about Togo for different age groups. Her lessons were interactive, age appropriate with plenty of audio/ visual material and activities.

As a school, we organized a bake sale fundraiser and a donation drive to support the orphanage in Togo.

This exchange provides our school and community with an opportunity to explore other cultures, traditions, customs and beliefs. Such opportunities make us view the world in different perspectives, it broadens one's horizons and teaches us about understanding and tolerance. And at the same time we take pleasure in communicating with children our age in a different part of the world and help build their community.

We are frequently in touch with Marieke and it is wonderful and encouraging for our school to see (through her videos and newsletters) how our support makes a difference in the lives of children in Togo.

As a headteacher I highly recommend any school to team up with Friendshifts as they have proven to be a reliable and trustworthy partner throughout the school year.

Their mission benefits both our students as well as underprivileged children around the world.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our experience with Friendshifts.

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