

STUDIES*József Kaposi***3 School-leaving exam as an initiation ceremony to adulthood**

School-leaving exams to this day have the reminiscence of the three functions of ancient community rites: departure, transition and a new adaptation. What explains this virtually unchanging initiation rite? Becoming of age and its ceremonial pronouncement in front of the community may be anthropologically coded and may be connected to the biological phenomenon of reaching sexual maturity and its public acceptance. Parties interested in operating and sustaining school systems have experienced a social atomization and a loss of values in recent decades, so rites like the school-leaving exam are badly needed “compensating for a loss of identity, community, order and security”.

*István Bessenyei***16 Kid and uniform, or what is the message of two school novels?**

Adolescent heroes fight for freedom, against the normative attitude of schools, in pursuit of finding their true self in two characteristic novels of Hungarian literature. Taking place at a military school of the 1920s and at a Calvinist girls' school, respectively, the protagonists of the novels use a code that is fairly obvious for all the characters. In a postmodern age, however, the well-known socialization problems of adolescents are worsened by the fact that their revolt uses the code specifically restricted to the popular mass culture of young people, new networks brought about by technological development and in the restricted virtual territory of peer groups, in other words in a media not accessible for older generations of teachers.

*Csaba Hamvai – Bettina Pikó***30 Social influences of adolescents' subjective well-being in family and school**

Nowadays there is a growing interest in studies which analyze adolescents' subjective well-being and among the factors influencing it, social effects occupy a top position. In this study, the authors have investigated among high school students (N = 881) the link between family and school as two important agents of socialization and adolescents' satisfaction with life. Besides, relationships with friends are also implemented since they are also decisive during socialization in this age group. The results draw the attention to the positive role of parental support, whereas academic achievement and being happy with school may also serve as a resource for adolescents' satisfaction with life. Talking about problems with parents is a significant protective factor, whereas talking about problems with teachers does not contribute to adolescents' subjective well-being.

*Kinga Horváth***43 The climate of the school organization**

This study focuses on the climate of schools as organizations. The author grasps climate through the perception of teachers and intends to find out whether school climate is influenced

by factors like the age, gender and years of work experience of teachers, the size and the type of the settlement (urban or rural). The survey used a climate test developed by Gábor Halász in 1980. The surveying took place in 2003 among ethnic Hungarian teachers in Slovakia.

HORIZON

Veronika Böcsi

51 *About pedagogical bearings of the sociology of time*

Individual careers, school careers and the relationship of families and schools are all greatly influenced by social differences in respect of the use of time. The high esteem of future, the rational use of time and a broad perspective of time facilitate the adaptation to the time order of schools, whereas using different time patterns proves to put innumerable obstacles to one's adaptation to the institutional order of schools. Time, therefore, is a key issue for education as a science, yet we see the odd paper on this topic in the Hungarian educational literature. The present study attempts to fill the hiatus by reflecting on time sociology and pedagogy and their points of intersection as well as the problems outlined above.

Judit Pazonyi

66 *Verticality and Horizontality in Education*

The title of the article refers to the educational principles which include vertical and horizontal integration of intercultural knowledge as well as in-depth scientific and scholarly knowledge of one's own culture, problem-oriented and student-centred learning and an open attitude towards discoveries and inventions. The Comenius Association is a European organisation of educational and cultural exchanges that has more than twenty European member teacher training institutions. Their main objective is to develop further the intercultural aspects in teacher training facilitating horizontal and vertical integration of knowledge in education. In spite of the efforts the members of the organisation make, the teachers and students in Europe do not make the best of the international opportunities that are offered to them. The article tries to explore the reasons behind this problem.

FROM ABROAD

Mária Erika Tódor

72 *Multilingual existence, motivation of learning, knowledge based society*

The present study deals with institutional bilingualism in the context of school structures in Romania where the language of teaching is not Romanian. The first part of the paper presents the socio-linguistic aspects of acquiring Romanian in schools teaching in Hungarian. The second part describes some attitudinal, motivational features of the studied subjects. We consider that such a dialogue between theory and practice offers the condition of outlining qualitative indices of contemporary school ideology and represents a premise of harmonising curricular discourses at both macro and micro level of school management.

MULTICULTURAL FORUM

Anna Imre

85 *Changes in the primary school network and a new prominence of minority education*

This study focuses on the transformation of the Hungarian primary school network between 2001 and 2007 as a result of demographic, financing and legal changes, with a particular interest in small settlements, small schools and minority education. Changes can be observed in terms of fewer school locations, a new system of school maintaining and minority programmes. These trends affect the school network of small settlements to an extent well above the average.

FORUM

Ágnes Gajdó

97 *Precedent in Ráckeresztúr. Modern pedagogical methods in elementary education*

Sándor Petőfi Elementary School in Ráckeresztúr, Hungary, has implemented what we call modern education: pedagogical methods and lessons that are custom-tailored to the individual progress of learners. Each staff member has participated in a series of appropriate in-service training programmes focusing on teaching skills like differentiation, cooperative teaching, integrative education, project method. This study presents the town and the school and lists the latest achievements (all-day programmes for learners, activities for the gifted, summer camp, school library) and long-term plans. The elementary school in Ráckeresztúr is proof that teachers' enthusiasm and their vocation are just as important as financial support.

WORLD VIEW

Ildikó Mihály

112 *"The silent epidemic". Dangers of becoming a school dropout*

In recent years dropout rates worldwide have reached a level that constitutes a threat for future economic development and for the healthy working order of society. This trend, dubbed "the silent epidemic", certainly has its obvious reasons, known characteristics and we learn more and more about the consequences as well. That is why current research focuses on prevention and a wise use of pedagogical and social measures to the effect that more and more students graduate from the school they are enrolled in, and, as a result, find a position in the job market and lay the foundations of lifelong learning.

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