

# Petar Berislavíc

## Primary school, Trogir

The story of the Stone Beauty



# Who are we?

We are a group of teenagers from Trogir and we go to Petar Berislavić Primary School in Trogir. It is a nice old town in the south of Croatia, on the Adriatic coast. We like foreign languages a lot, but English is our favourite. This year we have started a project and our goal is to write about us, our school, its past and the subjects we learn at school. The pages that you are about to read will tell you more! Have fun and tell us if you have liked it.

The Berries



## The Berries team:

Slavica Amula, 8.c

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Dear reader, just to let you know, the pages are yellow because that is the colour of the Sun and Trogir is a sunny town. The blue wavy line is for the colour of the Adriatic Sea.

# Our school and its past

Our school is more than 100 years old. The school building is situated in the old town centre, right on the sea front. First, let's go back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Back then, children in Trogir didn't have a proper school. Boys and girls attended separate classes.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the authorities decided to build a new and modern school which would suit the needs of pupils and teachers. At the time Croatia was part of the Habsburg monarchy. The authorities decided to start building on the south side of the town, right on the sea front.



The original design was made by one of the most famous Croatian architects Ćiril Metod Iveković. The building is a beautiful example of late historicism and neo-gothic architecture.



The first stone was laid by the archbishop Filip Nakić on May the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1909. The same year the Habsburg crown prince Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sofia visited Trogir and the building site.

The school was opened on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1910. Today it is a neo-gothic building, made of quality white stone from Dalmatia.

At that time there were six classrooms in the building, three for boys and three for girls, a staff room for the teachers and two offices.

Because of the stone it was built with, the school got a nickname – the Stone Beauty.





**The plaque says that the foundations were laid on May 3, 1909.**

Croatia became an independent country in 1991. The following year the school was named after the brave duke and bishop Petar Berislavić. Petar Berislavić lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. He was born in Trogir. He fought the Turks courageously and died in one of the battles in 1520. There are many schools in Croatia, some of them are brand new, but our school is the best of them all and we like it very much!



**Class 5 with their teacher in the year 1952.**



**More than 60 years later, it's the year 2015.**



# Our school today

Today, there are 700 pupils in our school. Even though our school is old, we have got everything we need. The building has got two floors, an attic and 18 classrooms. There is also a small gym, a library and a staffroom. The school library has a large collection of books. Pupils like to spend time there and talk to the librarian. A lot of teachers work at school and they teach different subjects. They are kind and friendly to their pupils. We have a small garden in front of the school. There are some flowers in the garden.



**The school library, on the third floor of the school building**

## Schools in Croatia

Children in Croatia start their education at the age of six or seven. Most Croatian schools work shifts. This is because in some towns there are more children than school buildings.

The first shift starts at 8 o'clock in the morning and finishes between 12.30 and 1p. m. The afternoon shift starts at 2 p. m. and finishes at 7 p. m.

The school year has two terms. The first term starts at the beginning of September and finishes at Christmas. The second term starts in the middle of January and finishes in the middle of June. The Christmas holidays last three weeks and the Easter holidays last one week. The summer holidays are the longest and they usually last 10 weeks. Children like it because summers in Croatia can be very hot.

Children in our country don't wear school uniforms. They usually come to school in jeans, shirts and sweaters.

Education in Croatia is paid by the government. There are also private primary and secondary schools and parents pay a fee if they want their child to attend a private school.

## THE CROATIAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

<b>Age</b>	<b>6-7</b>	<b>7-10</b>	<b>11-14</b>	<b>15-18</b>	<b>19 &lt;</b>
<b>Type of Education</b>	Pre-school education	Primary school		Secondary Education	Higher Education
<b>Type of school</b>	Kindergarten	Primary education		Secondary schools	University
<b>School year</b>	/	Class 1-4	Class 5-8	Class 1-4	

The primary school is divided into lower classes (ages 7-10) and higher classes (ages 11-14).

### A TYPICAL TIMETABLE IN CLASS 7

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 - 8:45	RELIGION	ENGLISH	GEOGRAPHY OR SCIENCE	MATHS	ART
A FIVE - MINUTE BREAK					
8:50 - 9:35	ENGLISH	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS	HISTORY
A FIVE - MINUTE BREAK					
9:40 - 10:25	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	CROATIAN	CROATIAN	CROATIAN	PHYSICAL EDUCATION
10:25 - 10:45	B	R	E	A	K
10:50 - 11:30	CROATIAN	CROATIAN	TECHNICAL EDUCATION	RELIGION	GEOGRAPHY
A FIVE - MINUTE BREAK					
11:30 - 12:20	HISTORY	MUSIC		SCIENCE	ENGLISH



# SCHOOL SUBJECTS

In Croatian primary schools there are compulsory and optional subjects.

The compulsory subjects are Croatian, Art, Music, English, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, Technical Education and Physical Education. The optional subjects are Religion, Computer Technology, German and Italian.

At the beginning of the school year pupils get a timetable from their head teachers.

In a typical day, pupils can have 5 to 6 different subjects /classes depending on their timetable. Pupils get grades throughout the school year in all subjects depending on their knowledge, how hard they work and whether they do their homework or not. In Croatia students get grades from 1 to 5. 1 is the lowest grade one can get and 5 is the highest.

They have tests in most subjects at least twice every term. At the end of the school year each pupil gets a final grade in each subject. The final grade is based on his/her work throughout the school year.

Pupils can also join the school sports club or the school choir. There are also classes called Young Historians, Young Chemists, Young Mathematicians and Drama group. Pupils attend these classes because they want to learn something more, take part in projects and competitions.



**The view of the seafront from the Biology classroom**

# What do the pupils think about their school?

Hi, my name is Slavica. I am 13. If you ask me, our school is OK. My life would be boring without it. At school I have 15 different subjects. My favourite subjects are Croatian and Art. I don't like Maths very much. It is difficult and we get loads of homework every week. Most teachers are patient and give good marks. I like teachers who are fair and honest. They teach their subjects well and are always ready to help their students.

Slavica Amula, 8. c.

Hi, my name is Lana. I go to Petar Berislavić Primary School in Trogir. Maybe holidays are too short. My favourite subject is biology. I don't like physics because it is too hard. I like our biology teacher. Her lessons are always interesting and fun. What I like most is doing science experiments. The teacher is always ready to listen to us and she's really patient. Besides, she's fair. I have good marks. I like my school and the teachers.

Lana Rubelj, class 8. c

Hello, my name is Vanja and I am 11. My favourite subjects are Art and English. They are very interesting. I like doing sports and going on school trips. There are 18 pupils in my class. We are good friends. I like good and fair teachers. I also think that we should have more holidays.

Vanja, class 6.c

My name is Sara Katić. I am in grade six. I go to Petar Berislavić primary school. My school is very old. It has a lot of students. All classrooms are beautiful, but the English and Art classroom are the most beautiful. I would like to have lockers for our books. I love all subjects, but my favourite is music because I play the violin and I go to music school. Sara Katić, 7.c

Hi, I am Stefan. I go to school Petar Berislavic primary school. I like my school. But sometimes there are problems . Some older kids bully younger kids. Luckily, this doesn't happen very often. Sometimes we get a lot of homework. I really love English, Art and P.E. I don't like Croatian, Maths and Geography. Some teachers are strict and others are nice. My class is fun but sometimes goes wild... but still it's not the worst... I think.

Stephan Arapović, 7.d