Answer Week Report 1, Step 1

Quick Tip:

a. Every year in our country, Cyprus, an event called “ Radiomarathon” is running for a week, dedicated to people with special needs. The purpose of this event is to gather money, so that people with special needs and their foundations could be helped. Apart this major purpose, there is another important purpose, the acceptance and offering love to these people.

b. So, during this week, we discuss the whole matter with our pupils and how we can help and show love to these people. We wanted to offer optimism, happiness and hope to people with special difficulties that live in our region and also show to them that they are acceptable to be our friends. The idea is to create relationships with these people and to become friends with our pupils. This trial is described in the following steps :

Step 1: We discuss with our pupils about the people with special needs, we saw some pictures and videos of them.. Examined the people's needs and problems, and their way of living into foundations. We decide to organize a special day and invite some of these people in our school.

Step 2.: With the help of our teacher/facilitator, we contacted the administrative people of “Theotokos” foundation, a foundation where they live some people with special needs, but not heavily dysfunctional and asked them whether they can visit our school to spend the day with us.

Step 3 : After the acceptance of our invitation, we started planning our activities about this day. We created welcome posters and art-crafts to express our ideas and feelings about them. We also started thinking about the games and activities we could play with these people.

Step 4. We called and sent letters to the parents, the Parents’ Association and the Communal Board to sponsor our event by offering cakes, juices and other meals or drinks as well as other materials we might need for this day.

Step 5. We decided to welcome them with music and dancing, so we appointed to a dance teacher to help us for this activity and she kindly accepted our invitation. We also wanted to entertain them so we appointed to a performer to play guitar and sing about us, and she kindly accepted too.

Step 6. We created some crafts in our lesson Design and Technology to give them as presents to remember our school.

DIFFICULTIES: It was difficult to find sponsors for our activities, so we asked for volunteers to help us, and they kindly accept to help us.

The people with special needs had difficulties to communicate with our pupils and play with them, so their interaction with them was drawing, enjoying the music and their body language.