

## **Happened on this day...**

*Daria Pestić*

*daria\_pestic@yahoo.com*

Primary School Frana Galovića

Školski Prilaz 7, Croatia

**Keywords:** *general culture, students, history, important people, “Happened on this day...”, primary school, poster presentation*

### **Abstract**

*The paper describes the activity "Happened on this day...", and shows this activity was presented to students.*

*Activity consists of two lists with description of events and people. The first list shows list of events with short description and names of people who were born or died on the particular day, the description of them in a few words and the year they were born or died. The second list provides descriptions of important people with their photo.*

*The aim of the activity is to familiarize students with various information that can be considered a part of a general culture, and for which there is no particular class and also that information provided is linked to their living environment. A short survey was conducted for this paper.*

### **Introduction**

From the beginning of school education children are taught various information about science, history and culture of our world. Often information from various subjects look unrelated. Teachers are rarely in a position to connect the information and facts that they are teaching about with other subjects or sources of information.

As a child I was always interested in TV show “TV calendar” and always I found out new information and facts about things I learned in school but weren’t mentioned in the classes. (Wikipediija, 2017) Thinking about that I decided to offer something similar to my students and the “Happened on this day...” was created.

First I have created the poster with two lists of people and a list of information about what happened. The first list on the left side of a poster presents important people that were born on a specific date. This list contains the names of the people, their occupation or achievement and a year they were born. Then in the middle there is a list of important events that happened in the history of the world that contains year and description of the event. The last list on the right side of a poster presents important people that died on specific date. That list contains the names of the people, their occupation or achievement and year they died. On all the lists names of people or keywords for events are underlined in different colours to be easier to spot and understand.

After some time, the second poster was created. The lists with only names of people weren't enough, as students needed more information. That is why this list is composed of pictures of people, their name, dates and places of birth and death if they are no longer living and a short description of them. For some famous people I provide more information depending on their life achievement and impact on the whole world.

The goal of activity is to provide students with an interesting source of information from the general culture, to interest students for information about the world that surrounds us and that do not get through regular classes and help them link information with regular lessons and interest them for further research.

### ***Literature Review***

Most of the information for the posters is taken from Wikipedia.org site. (Wikipedija, 2016) There are many controversies about whether its information is accurate and up-to-date. Today information on the site is more accurate and after all it can be verified on other sites or books. The one of advantages of Wikipedia is its license - Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License. (Wikipedia, 2019) This license allows to **Share** – copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format and **Adapt** – remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The user needs to follow terms for free use that are Attribution – it must be given appropriate credit, provided a link to the license and indicate if the changes are made and **ShareAlike** – if the information are remixed, transformed, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. There are **no additional restrictions** – it is not allowed to apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. (Wikipedia, 2019)

The use of poster method for this activity was the easy choice. Posters are colourful, attractive learning media which can enhance the learning environment. (Osa & Musser, 2004) Most of information people absorb through eyes and visual materials are very good for learning.

Students that learn with methods that include posters show better results in learning and academic success. (Coşkun & Cevat, 2018)

As a centre of dissemination of information in the school the libraries need to include many different techniques to successfully provide all needed information to the students. Posters, besides being one of important techniques, are good way of creating encouraging, learning and exploring atmosphere in the library. (International federation of Library Associations and Institutions, 2015)

In their work Osa and Musser differentiate four main groups of learning posters: posters that illustrate a concept or thing, posters that demonstrate a process, posters that differentiate between similar things and posters that capture interest and stimulate emotion. (Osa & Musser, 2004)

“Happened on this day can be put in the group of posters that capture interest and stimulate emotion considering that one of the goals is to inspire students to do research on their own and that information that they read about are close to them in some aspects of their life. (Osa & Musser, 2004)

To be an attractive and effective teaching tools, a poster that promotes learning will have some or all of the following characteristics. (Osa & Musser, 2004) The learning poster will: motivate and inspire students to learn, stimulate interest in the topic, effectively illustrate a concept or skill, give teacher guidance on how to use the poster, provide reproducible material for student use, provide directions for

hands-on activities and provide suggestion. These posters have most of mentioned characteristics and the goal is with constant development to incorporate all of the characteristics.

### ***Research***

For this paper the research was conducted and the hypotheses were verified.

H1: The students read the poster for some time.

H2: The students read the poster regularly.

H3: The students like the way the information is presented.

H4: The students like the information they found out on the posters.

H5: The students sometimes do research on information they found on the posters.

#### a. METHOD

The research was conducted using method of focus group. The group was composed of 6 students and the conversation was guided by researcher. Parents of the students signed consent that allowed students to participate in the research.

#### b. QUESTIONS

The focus group discussed the following questions.

1. When did you start reading "Happened on this day ..."?
2. How often do you read "Happened on this day..." and on what occasions?
3. How do you like "Happened on this day..."?
4. Do you think that "Happened on this day..." is useful and interesting?

### ***Data Analysis and Discussion***

The students were interested and eager to participate in the research. Sometimes their answers answered two of the questions.

For the first question when did they start reading "Happened on this day ..." the answers were different. Some of the students started reading the posters when they were first placed on the notice board 2 years ago. Others noticed it much later during last school year. The reason for much later notice might be the placement of the posters during first school year when they were placed on less visible place. During the second semester the new notice board was placed in the hall in front of the library and more students were able to see posters.

The second question was how often they read "Happened on this day..." and on what occasion. The students said that they read posters mostly when they were near the library. They read them when they are waiting for other classes in front of the library, when they are returning books to the library or when they have a free period. Some of the students come to read posters every day, not only when they are near the library.

The third and fourth questions instigated the biggest discussion and some answers overlapped. The questions were about how they like "Happened on this day..." and do they think that "Happened on this day..." is useful and interesting. On the posters they like to find out new and intriguing information about famous persons that they didn't know, they like the look of the posters and they like that new information encourages them to research more about the new things they found out.

Talking about these two questions encouraged students to express their thoughts and ideas how to improve and what they would like to see on posters. They would like posters to be bigger and more colourful. They would like to find more information about historical events, and not only about people. Some information they found out before they learn about them in the classes so they would like for

information to be more related to their subjects. Descriptions of people should be more comprehensive, and have little less numbers of people covered on each poster, and if possible they should be adjusted for younger and older students. They even suggested the bulletin or polls and the results to be published on school website, newspapers or on the notice board.

### ***Conclusion and Recommendations***

This activity enriches students' knowledge and lives with short and interesting information. The students themselves find this activity valuable, useful and fun. They wish more information and suggested different design that would made this activity more appealing. The research showed that students like and need this kind of activity and also that they can, with their ideas, improve development of activity in the future.

The object of this paper is to encourage other librarians in spreading this activity in their schools. I'm sharing this idea with others in hope of developing it so it would be one of interesting parts of students learning life and a new way of learning. Everyone can develop activity how it suits their needs, preferences or creativity.

## REFERENCES

- Coşkun, İ., & Cevat, E. (2018). The Effect of Teaching Activities Done by Using Activity Based Posters on the Students' Academic Achievements, Retention Levels in Their Learning. *Universal Journal of Educational Research*, str. 585-597. doi:10.13189/ujer.2018.060402
- International federation of Library Associations and Institutions. (2015). *IFLA School library guidelines* (2 izd.). Den Haag: IFLA - International federation of Library Associations and Institutions.
- Osa, J. O., & Musser, L. ( 2004, Summer ). The Role of Posters in Teacher Education Programs. *Education Libraries*, No. 1, pp. 16-21.
- Wikipedia. (2019). *Wikipedia:Text of Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License*. Preuzeto 22. June 2019 iz [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Text\\_of\\_Creative\\_Commons\\_Attribution-ShareAlike\\_3.0\\_Unported\\_License](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Text_of_Creative_Commons_Attribution-ShareAlike_3.0_Unported_License)
- Wikipedija. (2016, may 29). *Wikipedija*. Retrieved from Izabrane godišnjice: [https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedija:Izabrane\\_godi%C5%A1njice](https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedija:Izabrane_godi%C5%A1njice)
- Wikipedija. (2017, august 22). *Wikipedija*. Retrieved from TV kalendar:[https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/TV\\_kalendar](https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/TV_kalendar)

### ***Bibliographical Note***

Daria Pestić holds master degree in Library and Information Science and Pedagogy from Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. She works as a school librarian at Elementary school Frana Galovića. Her research interests focus on application of new technologies and methods of learning in school library services and users' education.