

**Wednesday 04/03/15**

First, at 8 am, we went in class with Tiina, the French teacher in charge of the exchange program with Markus, a History teacher and a few Finnish students. We watched several videos of Finnish singers, especially one pupil of the school called Robin, who is very popular in the country. He's like the " Finnish Justin Bieber ". We gave marks to each song, from 0 to 5.

Then at 9 am, we took the bus to go to Helsinki. The trip took approximately two hours. The fields were covered with snow, which was beautiful. Along the road, we could see a lot of forest and big rocks.



When we arrived we had lunch in a shopping center to keep warm and dry, and then we started to visit the city.

A guide joined us next to the Olympic stadium.

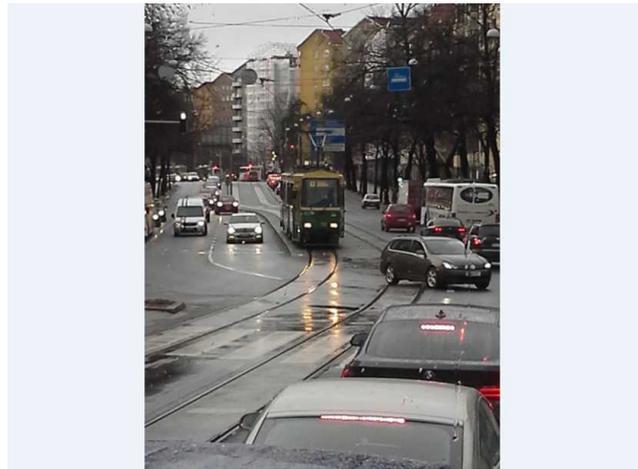
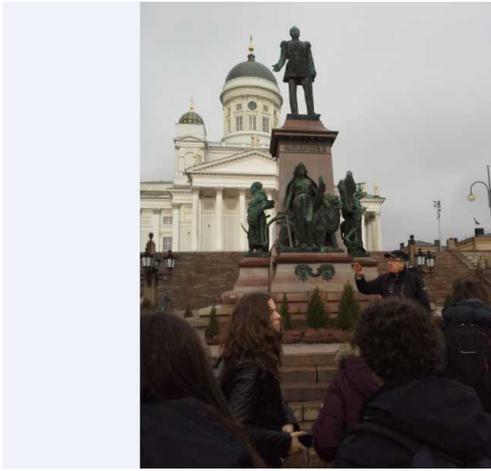
First we saw a organ-like monument dedicated to Sibelius who is considered as the greatest Finnish musician. This year, Finland celebrates the 150th anniversary of his birth. We also learnt that The Finns are fond of music and are rather quiet people. They use music and more generally arts as means of expression.



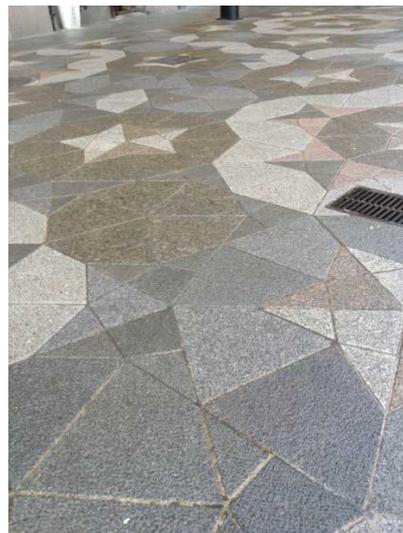
Then we went inside a church which was dug in the rock and covered with a glass and copper dome. It is a modern and beautiful building, very quiet with excellent acoustics.



Later in the afternoon, we had the opportunity to see the contrast with the main cathedral , near the Senate, more traditional with white walls.



Mrs Halbert was not that fond of the guide but she appreciated his information on the paving of a street and its geometric properties !!!



The teachers gave us two hours' free time to walk about and do shopping. There was a huge mall where we could buy all kinds of things. We hesitated between Marimekko and Iitala but in the end we chose .... H&M. Some pupils went to Starbucks, some others went to Hard Rock Cafe or bought, lots of candies ... Then we went back to the bus toward Turku where we arrived at 6 pm. Even if it was raining or snowing, it was a really great day.