



### **A day in the village Byurakan**

For my first day in Byurakan Parandzem, Mariam and I arrived with a bus to the village, which is located in high mountains. Compared to Yerevan the air is much better there. Anna Hovhannisyan picked us up and explained the story of her village. Together we walked to the art school. There we met many children from all ages from the neighbourhood, most likely Elementary Age, though everyone is invited to attend classes in the art school. The art school does not only offer art classes but also foreign languages classes. Soon I will also teach the participants English in the art school.

On this day Mariam Dashtoyan leaded the art class in which we painted first stones together in order to practice the artistic skills of the children. Afterwards they learnt the names of fruits, colors, and shapes in Russian by playing a game. I was surprised how motivated and active the children were to paint, play several games and to learn Russian words. Because of that the art house is a great possibility for the children and the locals to get access to art and learning a foreign language but also to meet and play with other children from the neighbourhood.

After we finished we were invited from the Hovhannisyan family to their home. They welcomed us warmly with lots of delicious Armenian food. Moreover Anna presented us the Dried Fruit Company which belongs to her family. They use a special method to dry the fruits. Instead of using electric energy they dry the fruits with solar energy. To get them dry, the fruits are stored behind glass and above black stones. The black stones are special Armenian stones which keep the warmth of the sun during the day and turn it over to the dried fruits in the night. Because of this natural drying method, the vitamins won't be lost and the fruits keep their sweet. That's why for me these dried fruits taste way much better than the ones from the supermarket in Germany.

Nicole