

## “We shape today the tomorrow we imagine”

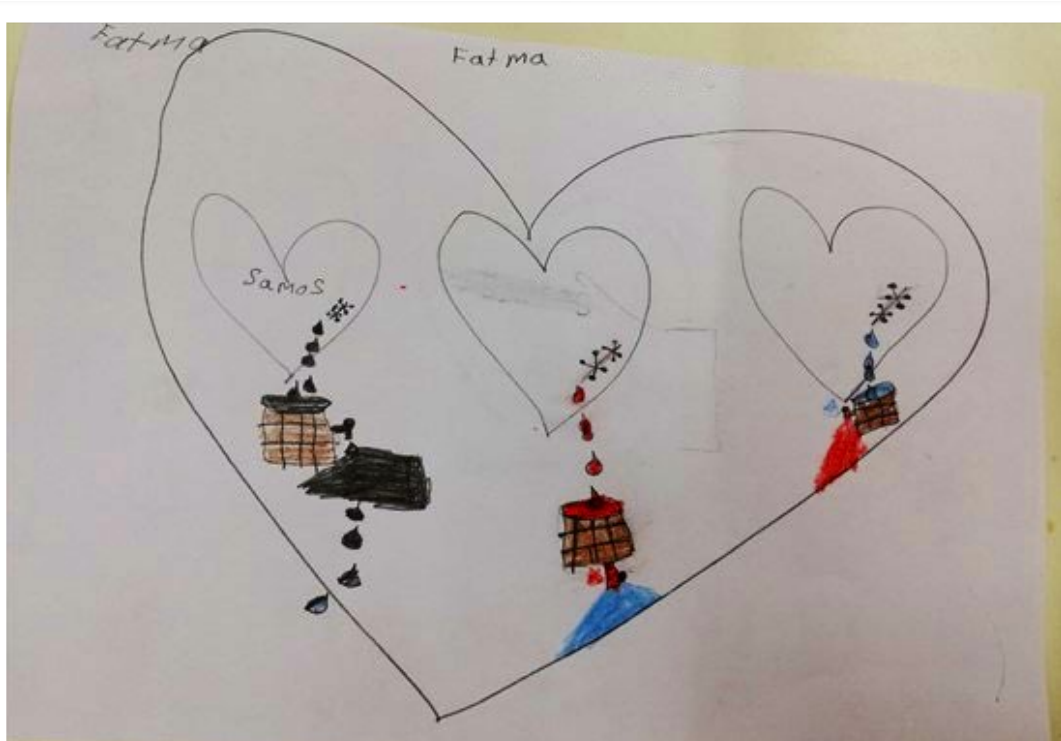
On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, a student competition was held entitled “We shape today the tomorrow we imagine”. Students from all over Greece took part, including our own, young students, who attend the Non Formal Education Center in Samos. The children were therefore invited to capture through video, poster, painting, comic or text how they’ve envision their future! What are their views, dreams and ideas so that we can all together bridge the gap between the future we want and the one we are walking in.

We are, therefore, very pleased to present to you in this issue of our newspaper the creations with which our children took part in the school competition!



### Protect our dreams...

Paria (8), Mohammad (8), Mohammad Kasra (8), Said Ali Reza (7), Masooma (9) and Sara (9) they were all born in Afghanistan but met for the first time in a small classroom on the island of Samos. When their teachers asked them, how do they imagine their future to be like and what are their dreams, the answers they received were not very optimistic. Then they remembered an old Native American fairy tale in order to help their students to chase away their nightmares and start having peaceful dreams again. “In this tale an old wise Native American once helped the children of the village to get rid of their nightmares with the help of his dream catchers.” And on this occasion the children began to create dream catchers to chase away their nightmares and be able to dream again full of optimism.



### “My heart thinks”

Fatma, 9 years old from Syria took part with her painting entitled: “My heart thinks”. “How do I see my future? What I want?” I’m thinking. I think with my heart. My heart is huge. It holds three hearts. They are all patched. The first heart thinks of the present. This heart is raining stones. It is Samos that deprives us of our education and basic needs. The second heart thinks of the past and it rains flames. It is Syria. My homeland, which I love. The third rains water. Water that flows and cleanses our wounds. And it symbolises the future to come. And I see a home in this future to live with my family. That’s how I want to see my future. With love for all the people. Wherever they are from. With whatever they have inside their hearts. This is how I see my future, but also the future of all children. With love.

### “For the new homeland”

Fatima, 13 years old from Afghanistan took part in the school competition with her very meaningful painting entitled: “For the new homeland”. Fatima, therefore, lives with her family in the camp. In the painting she presents her and her younger brother in a cage. Because with her own eyes she sees the camp like a prison. A cage, which keeps her imprisoned and excluded. That does not let her escape and claim all that she wants. Their needs, for which her and her family left their homeland. However Fatima knows that all this won't last forever. It won't last long, yet. Because soon, they will leave this place. They will “escape” from this prison. From this cage. And they will be able to fly again. And be able to claim everything they want once more. All that they have the right to want. The house they dreamed of. The New Homeland. The one that no one will be able to deprive them of again.



### “The right to dream”

Omar from Syria, 11 years old, took part in the school competition with this wonderful sketch entitled: “The right to dream”. Omar sends us portrait of him sitting on the edge of a cliff... thinking about his future and his family. The future that the war in Syria took away from him. In this corner of the world he starts dreaming again. The dreams that some people deprived him of. Maybe temporarily. Nevertheless, they are deeply rooted in his heart and soul. And no one has the right to deprive them of it anymore. The right to have a home, a decent home for him and his family. Right to proper education and equal opportunities. Right to Peace, Love and Hope. And most of all right to dreams. Like all the children of this world!



### Origin of Dreamcatchers - Dreamcatcher and Sunset

Dreamcatchers have their roots in a North American indigenous tribe, the Ojibwe. An ancient Native American legend says: that the Mother Spider weaves her web over the beds of the babies and toddlers of the village every night, in order to trap the evil dreams and spirits there. And with the first light of dawn they disappear along with its web. Dreamcatchers consisted of a wreath made of willow, pine or poplar. Their outer ring symbolised the cycle of life and sun. While their web symbolised the spider web, but also the union everything has with each other in the universe. Usually in the center of the dreamcatcher there was also a bead or a small piece mirror that represented the spider and that was the place where the bad dreams of the children were trapped. And finally, its wings symbolise the wind and the wisdom, as well as the first wings of the child in adulthood.