

For example, the introduction of microcomputer technology allowed the use of specific microcomputer programs in teaching, which were created in cooperation with special education teachers by an independent worker - an audio-visual technology operator at the school. The headmaster of the school fought long with the ministry to create such a systematic work place, and in 1986 it became a reality, and the school, as the first among special schools for hearing-impaired children, began to use microcomputers and audio-visual technology. The new content of mathematics teaching was dealt with nationwide. The provision of additional group listening devices and the equipping of all students with individual listening devices made it possible to improve the use of hearing perception in the process of creating and developing speech.

The establishment of a school psychologist's workplace, an audiovisual operator, and a clinic for a specialist physician-audiologist contributed to the comprehensive care of hearing-impaired children in school conditions. The clinic, the first of its kind in schools in Slovakia, carried out audiometric examinations, including the then-absolutely novel voice audiometry in conjunction with a special audiometric workplace by Siemens. Regular use of the swimming pool, school bus, themed excursions, participation of our students in sports events integrated with hearing students, and school-wide cultural and social events, contests, and games allowed students to expand their life experiences, develop their language skills, and enrich the emotional development of deaf children's personalities.



Photo: Gong 2/1987, str27

From 1991 to 2000, Mgr. Vladimír Kohút led the school. He took on the role of principal during the revolutionary transformation of our society. During this challenging time, especially for education, the modernization of the educational process for hearing-impaired students continued. Six classrooms were equipped with color television sets and video recorders.

The school also owns a video camera, which is used to record video recordings of various school events, students' activities, and individual teaching units. Three preschool classrooms had television sets. To improve activities both in and out of the classroom, specialized rooms were established and equipped, including a room for rhythmic and physical education, a gym, a school speech therapy room, and an audiology room for hearing tests using computer technology.

In 1992, the Special-Pedagogical Consultancy was established with jurisdiction throughout the eastern Slovak region. Its mission is to address hearing and speech disorders in children, provide professional and methodological support to these children who are in family care, and provide professional and methodological support to regular preschools that have hearing-impaired children. This has required and still requires a significant amount of financial resources and human effort. Thanks to the civic association Friends of Hearing-Impaired Children, sponsors, and especially all employees of this school, we are able to maintain our facilities (interior and exterior) at the desired level, even in this economically very complex time.

The professional growth of our teaching staff was also ensured through knowledge gained from professional seminars held at hearing-impaired education centers in Berlin, Munich, and the Van Uden center in the Netherlands. We also must mention the visit of special educators, deaf educators, from Kaunas, Lithuania, with whom we exchanged experiences from the educational process.

At the national level, new professional knowledge was presented at the deaf education days, which took place in Lučenec, Kremnica, Bratislava, Levoča and Prešov.

A group of teacher-authors worked creatively at the school for deaf students. Evidence of their good work includes the fact that one of them was invited by President Václav Havel to Prague Castle on the occasion of Teachers' Day. This was Mgr. Vladimír Kohút, who in 1992 was awarded the "Minister's Prize" by the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of SR for his long-term teaching activities and the preparation of textbooks for hearing-impaired children.

Mgr. Jozef Belanský also worked at the school, he was the author and co-author of 4 Slovak language textbooks for deaf and hearing-impaired students and the author of 4 Slovak language textbooks for 6th-9th grade special primary schools. He also authored workbooks for these textbooks.

Mgr. Peter Borovský documented his professional knowledge from his teaching activities with hearing-impaired children in a work entitled "The Use of Sign Language in the Teaching Process of Hearing-Impaired Children". With this work, he took first place in the regional round of the teacher reading competition in 1995.

Weekly exchange visits by students and staff to foreign countries also contribute to mutual enrichment with new knowledge, experience and experiences. Specifically, these cities are Vác in Hungary and Bydgoszcz in Poland. School nature stays also enrich students with new valuable knowledge about life and nature.

Students have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in a rich club activity, for which we succeed, although not very successfully, in obtaining workers outside of our school. The results of club activities are presented by students every year in arts and crafts activities, where they place in leading positions at the national level.

The collaboration of our students with the well-known dance group FORTE was also successful. Modern dances performed by hearing students together with our students were a great success. Our students present their cultural program at various social events in the city.

For the harmonious development of personality, it is important to develop not only the spirit, but also the body. That's why there is rich sporting activity at the school. Similarly, in the cultural area, our students participate in various competitions with their hearing peers on a regional level and mostly end up in top positions. Through sports, we also establish new contacts with the surrounding world. To date, we have already held the 10th edition of the International Tournament for Deaf Students Under 16 in Mini-Football. In previous editions, deaf representatives from Algeria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Croatia, Israel, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Ukraine, USA, and of course, representatives from Slovakia have participated. The record will also show that in 1999, we were the organizers of the 35th edition of the National Sports Games for the Hearing Impaired Students. The entire course of the games was successful, which in this difficult financial situation in education was not a given. It required a lot of diplomacy and organizational skills from all school employees.

As for international cooperation, it's also good, since from 1995 to 1999, our school was regularly visited by the Consul General of the Czech Republic, Dr. Karel Horák. His visits helped us maintain closer contacts with sister schools in the Czech Republic.

A very significant event was in 1998, when our school was visited by the President of the World Federation of the Deaf, Liisa Kaupinen from Finland, with her entourage. She took away only the best impressions from our institution. A similar valuable visit took place a year later, when we were visited by representatives of the World Federation of the Deaf agency (representatives from Japan, Canada, the USA, Australia, Russia, Spain, Italy, the Czech Republic, Finland, and Sweden).

**Starting from the 2000/2001 school year, our school had a new principal, Mgr. Peter Borovský, and starting from March of the 2002/2003 school year, the first woman in the history of this school, Mgr. Jana Kunderáková, became the new principal. The necessary renovations of the school building facades and other large or small repairs are beginning as part of the preparations for the 100th anniversary celebration of the school in October 2005. The school receives a new name on this occasion - Pavol Sabadoš Elementary School and Boarding School in Prešov.**

**Starting from November 2006, Pavol Sabadoš Elementary School and Boarding School in Prešov is merged with the Secondary Technical School for the Hearing Impaired. The full name of the new school from November 2006 is: Combined Pavol Sabadoš School and Boarding School in Prešov.**

