

Eeli Tamminen, Umalkair Mohamed & Toni Rantaniitty | Koivukylän koulu | Vantaa | Finland

Plurilingual Geometry Workshop for 8th Grade Students at Koivukylä School

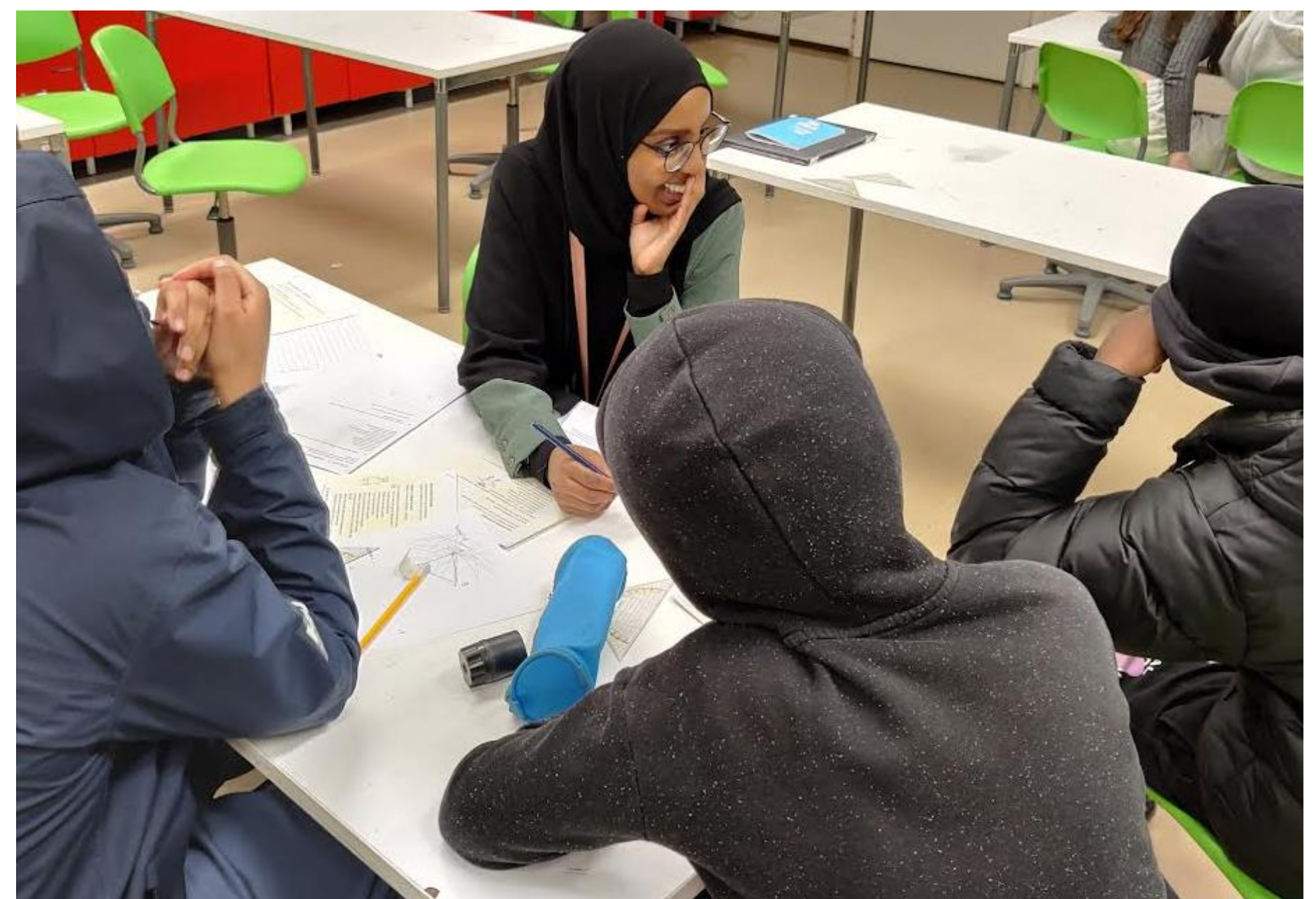
In our comprehensive school 32 different languages are spoken. In addition to Finnish, the greatest of them are Arabic, Russian, Estonian, Albanian and Somali. Language awareness and plurilingualism in education sees student's home language as a strength. Hence mathematics lesson could also be a lesson of students' home languages.

We organized a mathematics workshop in geometry in semester 22-23 in Albanian and Somali. The workshop comprised of translated assignments with which students worked on with the help of an adult. In semester 23-24 we have added Arabic, Russian and Estonian and percentages as a new topic for additional workshop.

We believe that language awareness in education creates an inclusive atmosphere and meaningful experiences for students which supports plurilingualism. In the end the workshops were met with delight by participating students.

Language aware education can suffer from teachers' limited resources and language skills. We wish to acknowledge the workshops would not have been possible without the pivotal help of Eliona Smajli, Eddine Benlamine and Tiina Piirainen.

The opportunity to work in one's own home language was met with delight by the students and adults involved. This calls for greater emphasis on language awareness and plurilingualism in all education.



Umalkair advises students in Somali.



Two students work together in Albanian.