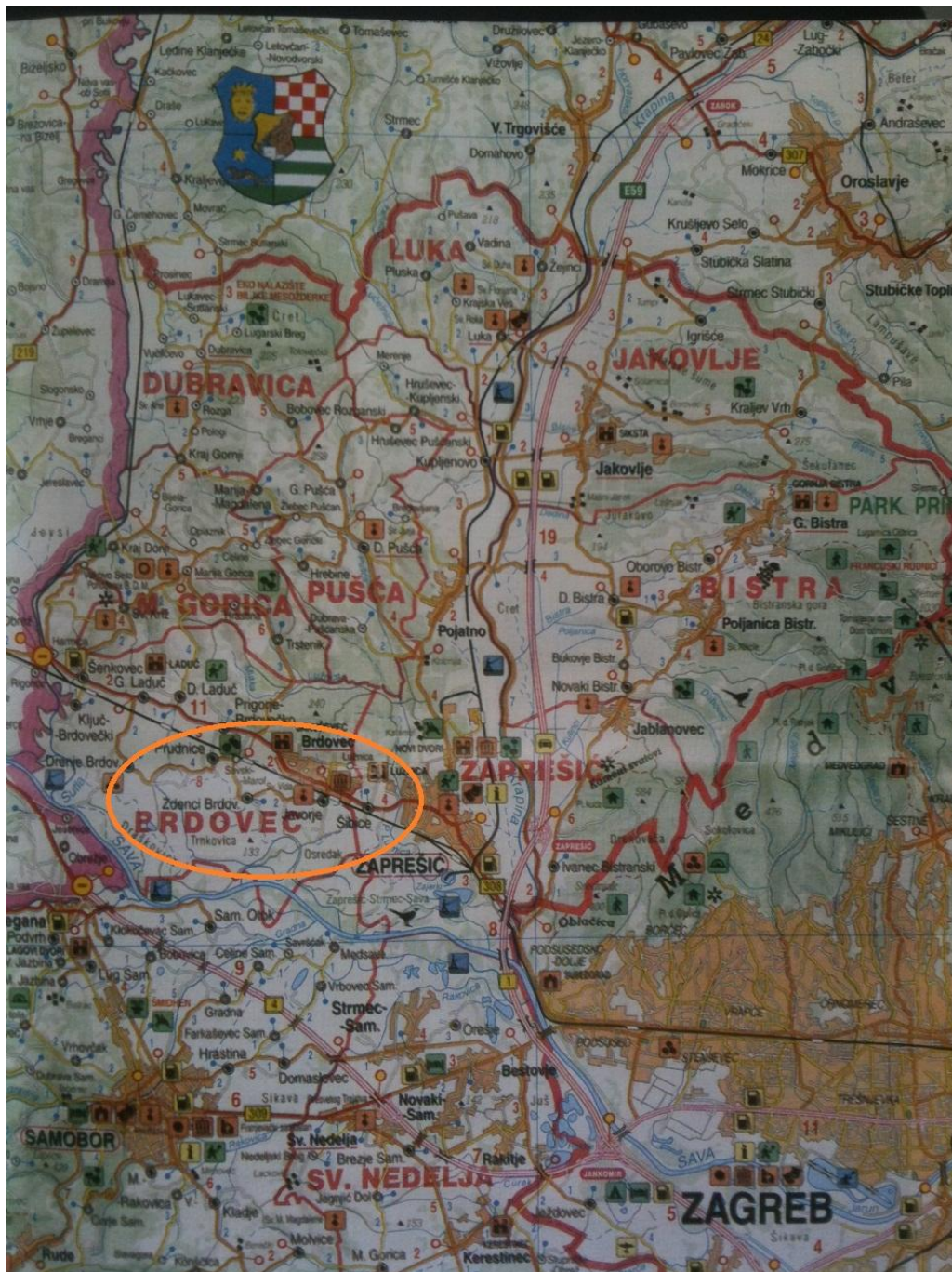


# Elementary School Pavao Belas



# Introduction

The municipality of Brdovec is one of the largest municipalities in the Zagreb County. The number of inhabitants increases each year.



The large number of inhabitants requires facilities which will satisfy their needs. It took ten years to create necessary conditions to separate our school from Zaprešić Primary School Antun Augustinčić.

Cornerstone for the new building, Primary school Pavao Belas was laid on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2009 which was a great joy for pupils and the whole municipality of Brdovec.



# Brdovec Origin

Today's Brdovec is the village in the valley along the road Zaprešić - Harmica. Through the century the name has been written as: Berdocz, Berdovch, Berdowcz, Berdowecz and Brdovec, and till the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century all these terms were used.

Brdovec is the name of the settlement and also the name of the area between the rivers Sutla and Krapina. It has also been used as a name for the feudal estates, rural administrative unit and aristocratic manor. That extremely peaceful area has been inhabited since 3000 BC. There are numerous exhibits from the Stone Age, Late Bronze and early Iron Age which are kept in Brdovec Museum.

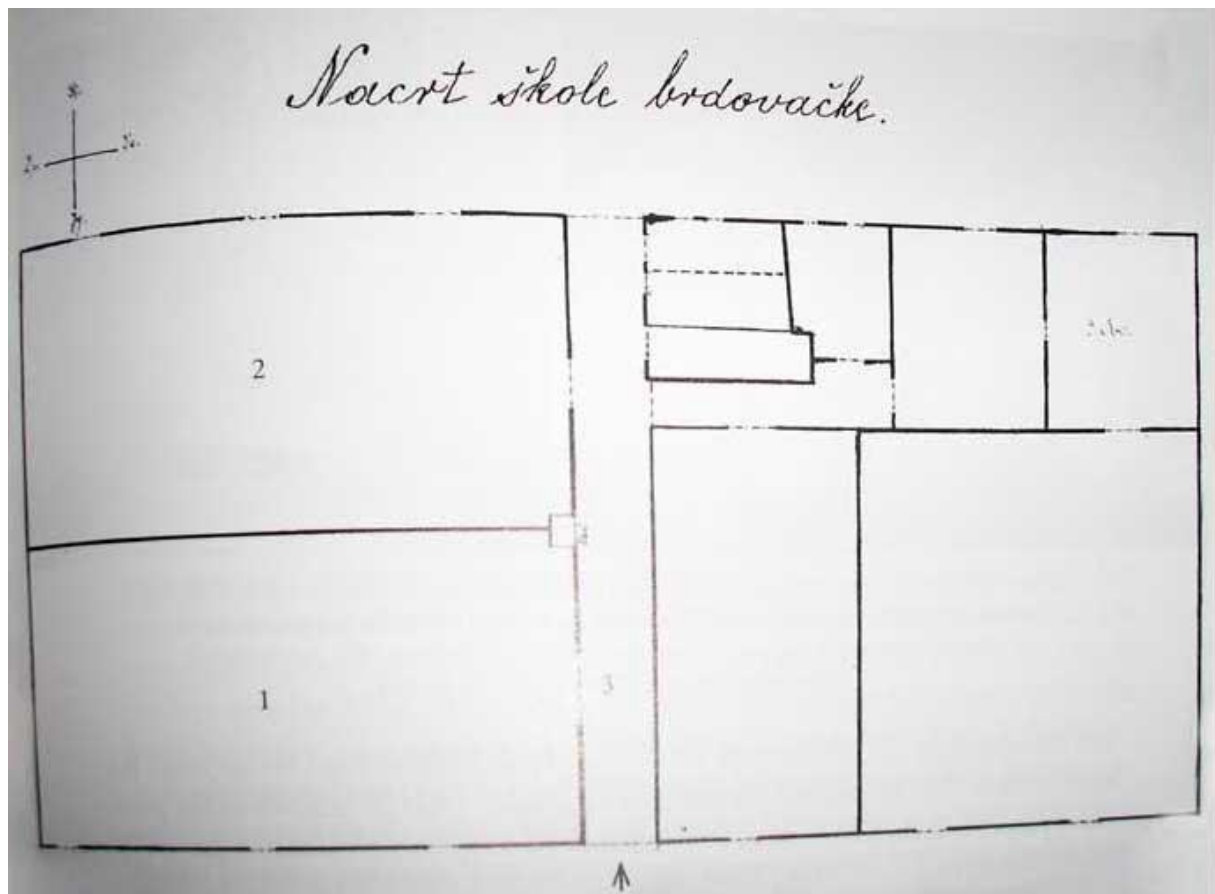
Colonization continued in ancient times because the area was located on important transport route Emona - Siscia (today's Ljubljana and Sisak). The list of parishes mentions the Parish of St. Vitus in the year of 1334. Also Adam Baltazar Krčelić in his works "Notitae pracliminares" and "Annuae" mentions his birthplace Brdovec. The Brdovec parish is one of the oldest parishes in Zagreb Archdiocese. Five Croatian Bishops (Vitellius, Birling, Kukovica, Šrot and Čolnić) and five governors (Josip Jelacic, Levin and Paul Rauch, brothers Nicholas and Peter Zrinski) had origin in Brdovec parish. There are many great Croats who also originate from this area: Adam Baltazar Krčelić, Adam Alojzije Baričević, Pavao Štoos, Ante Kovačić, Ivan Perkovac, Pavle Belas, Mihovil Krušlin...

## The History of education in Brdovec

Croatian modern public school system has been founded in the 18th century, but only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century obligatory school attendance was introduced. The History of the education in Brdovec is 175 years old. Parish priest Jellak founded the first private school in 1836. In 1842 Stjepan Zagozda came to Brdovec as an organist. He started teaching writing, reading and calculus. Children were not required to attend the school. The same year Pavao Belas came as a chaplain to Brdovec. Zagozda and Belas together taught the children, free of charge.

First public school in Brdovec was founded by parish priest Pavao Belas in 1854. The lessons were held in church until the 1869, when the school was built along the main road.





Stjepan Zagozda was the first teacher in Brdovec. The school year started on the 1st of November and lasted until the end of June. Each school year started with invocation of the Holy Spirit and ended with an exam made by the school board, school master and parish priest.

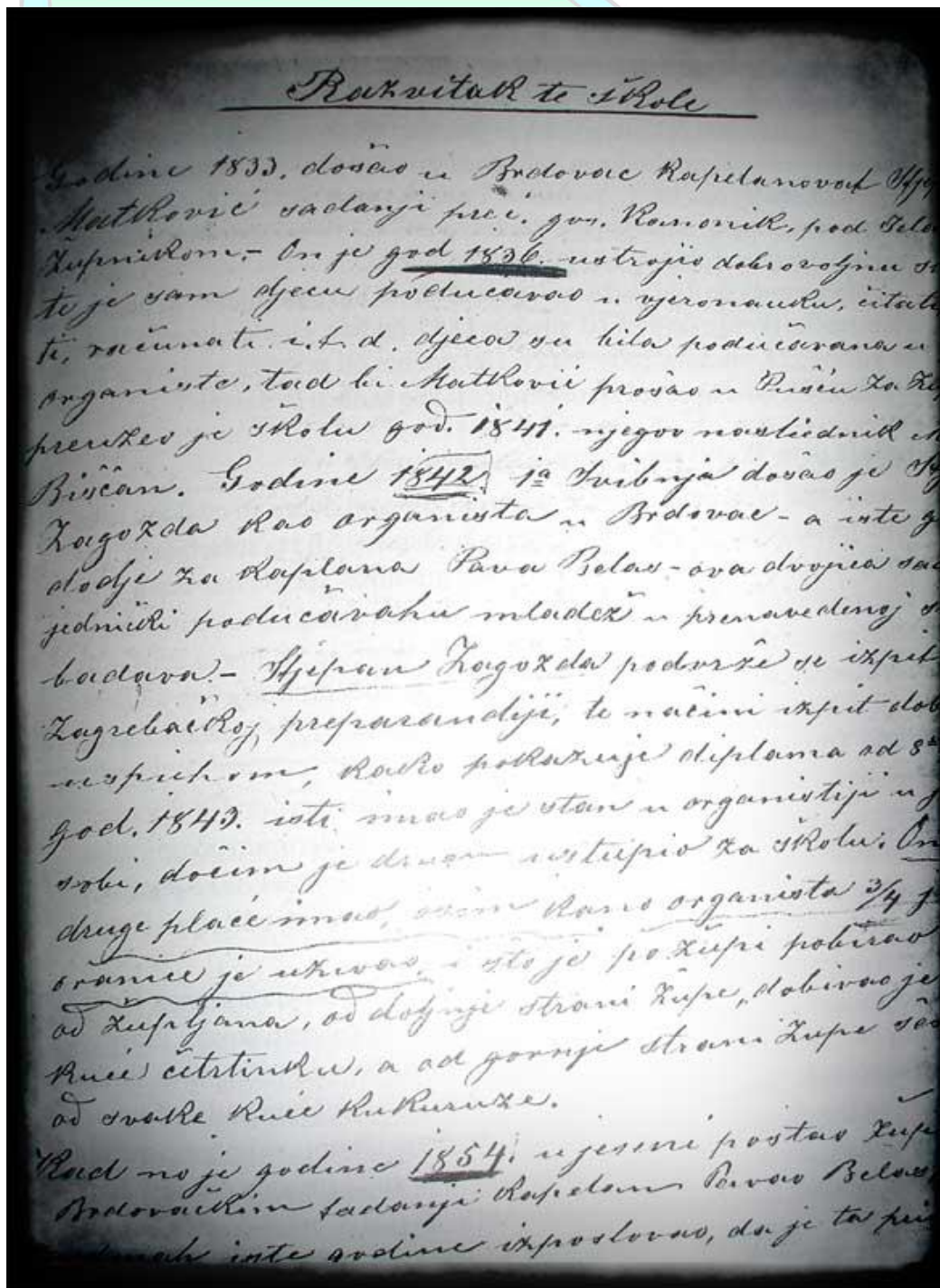
Before the exam, children went to the church and sang „Te deum“. The best pupils were awarded and in 1908 the municipality has included certain amount of money in its budget as an award for the best pupil in the school.

Local school supervisor, pastor Pavao Belas, with a help from the school board members provided for all school needs. The school's library was established in 1875 and consisted of 78 volumes. Pastor Belas gave himself 38 volumes. In 1891 the school received an award at Economic Forestry Jubilee Exhibition in Zagreb for the school garden and collection of the traditional embroidery. At the same Exhibition, the school teacher Kajetan Novak was awarded with three imperial ducats because he introduced 12 pieces of poultry „Minorca“breed.

Two years later, at the beginning of April, the school has arranged a playground. A piece of land was donated by the teacher Novak. Hundred years later a new building with three spacious and one smaller classroom was built. It satisfied the needs for initial four years of education. The following four years students attended central school in Zaprešić, five kilometers away.

# School Benefactors

Geza baron Rauch, school supervisor Ivan Ivančić and Baroness Rauch were mentioned in yearbook as benefactors of the Brdovec School. Baroness Rauch donated a new school flag in June of 1893. The flag was made by the nuns in Zagreb. It was made of red silk with blue and white silk ribbon, embroidered with gold. On one side of the flag there was a picture of the guardian angel and on the other one a picture of St. Aloysius.



In 1954 Brdovec School became branch school of Primary school Antun Augustinčić.



# Primary school “Pavao Belas”

Recently founded Primary school “Pavao Belas” opened its door on 1 March 2009, when it was officially separated from its base school, Primary school “Antun Augustinčić” in Zaprešić.

The local enrollment area consists of the eastern part of Brdovec municipality, bordering with the town of Zaprešić. In the west it borders with the enrollment area of Primary school “Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić” also in Brdovec, whereas in the north west it borders with the municipality of Marija Gorica. The areas in the north and south are not inhabited. Children applying to enrol at our school come from: Brdovec, Javorje, eastern part of Zdenci, Lužnica and Šibice.

On 6 September 2010 the school bell rang for the first time, in the partly new and partly reconstructed school building.

Today in Brdovec there is a new modern school building while a modern two-part school gym is still being built.

The school building consists of almost 4000 square meters for 360 pupils who are divided into 16 classes, a day care for first graders and about forty dedicated employees.



Upon entering the front door one walks into a bright, spacious hall which leads to four main parts of the building:

- area for class teaching of younger learners
- area for subject teaching of senior pupils
- kitchen and dining room
- library and staff room with administrative offices above

The glass wall offers the view of the large playground on the eastern side and the lawn which divides the two teaching areas, on the western side.

The area for younger learners was reconstructed and rebuilt, now it consists of four classrooms, completely equipped for modern teaching. In this part of the building there is also a small staff room. There is an exit to the western part of the yard, too.

In the area for subject teaching there are six spacious classrooms:

- IT classroom
- Technical science classroom
- Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Science classroom
- History, Geography and Maths classroom
- Arts and Music classroom
- Croatian and foreign languages classroom

Each classroom is accompanied by a teacher's cabinet.

In the northern part of the corridor there is a school kitchen with the dining room, janitor's room and the delivery entrance.

On the opposite side of the corridor there is the library and the staff room. Upstairs there is the day care classroom, the headmaster's office, and other administrative offices.

Pupils in our primary school are offered a great variety of extra curricular activities, some of these are run by the teachers of our school and some by local experts mainly in sports and music.

From the very first day the pupils of our school have taken part in numerous competitions and contests and won many awards, thus promoting Brdovec and the school, which has become one of the leading schools in the region.

Some of the awards won so far:

- Luka Mavrić, 8 B – 3rd place, Maths competition, State level; 2nd place Chemistry competition, County level
- Marija Grgurić, 6 B – school magazine proposed for LiDraNo contest
- Monika Mavrić, 6 B – 1st place on the County level and 3rd place on the State level-award of the Croatian Tourist Board
- Lina Sečenj, 6 B – 3d place on the County level, award of the Croatian Tourist Board for art work
- Novella Jančijev, 6 B and Tena Barlović, 6 A – awards of the Croatian Office for Human Rights
- Tena Barlović, 6 A – 3rd place on the Croatian Haiku contest
- Sara Pavić, 6 B, Ifigenija Ključarić, 6 A, Ivana Pavić, 8 A, Lara Jakšić, 8 A and Lea Borošak, 8 A – awards on the contest "Ivica Kičmanović"
- Stjepan Čujko, 4 A – 3rd place on the poetry contest of Zaprešić
- Novella Jančijev, 6 B – award on the poetry contest "Naš mali kaj"
- Marina Mihalinec, 8 A – 3rd place on the art contest "Olimpijada kulture";

Since the whole surrounding area offers plenty of opportunities for learning through experience, our teachers have been organizing many extra curricular classes outside school, field trips etc.

# Opening of the new school building

On 29 November 2010, at noon, the new school building of Primary school "Pavao Belas" was opened.

The tune of the national anthem was followed by a performance of our youngest pupils who ran onto the stage, wearing white T-shirts with printed letters, composing a message in

Croatian: WELCOME TO PRIMARY SCHOOL "PAVAO BELAS". They were soon followed by other performers, recitals and dance.



After a short but impressive programme, a speech was held by the headmaster Mr Andrej Peklić, who greeted the invited guests and expressed his gratitude to all those who had participated in the process of creating and building the new school. The headmaster also told the history of education in Brdovec and explained the vision and future plans of the new school.

MP and the Mayor of Zaprešić, Željko Turk reminded the guests of the earliest beginnings, the first meetings and first ideas of the future school. One of the most important moments had been the meeting of the Croatian Government held in Zaprešić when important decisions were made regarding financing the new school. Mr Kožić talked about almost 35 objects, sports and educational, built in the Zagreb County. Radovan Fuchs, Minister of Science Education and Sports expressed his joy and satisfaction with the new school but he also expressed his wish for developing better educational standard and better working conditions for teachers. After that, Mr Fuchs and our pupil Lovro Strojnik, cut the red ribbon, and the local priest Vladimir Trkmić gave his blessing to all the present pupils and guests and of course the new school building.

