

## International School of Estonia – Memoirs of a Soldier

In November 2007 grade 10-12 students from the International School of Estonia studied World War One and World War Two in history class and *All Quiet on the West Front* in English class. Their studies inspired a service-learning project. The students wanted to bring the delicate and emotional subject of war closer to their learning community. They hoped that through conducting a series of interviews they could better understand the sacrifice the soldiers made for their countries during the war and “bring history to life.”

The students contacted a group of war veterans from around the world and conducted several interviews asking various questions about their wartime memories. This project culminated in a **publication of the book *Memoirs of a Soldier***. This book explored themes the students discovered in their interviews such as fear, friendship, and coming home. They choose to organize the book thematically to show the common humanity amongst soldier from around the world. For the release of the book the students made an exhibition that taught about wars during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. In addition, **they wrote a script and directed a dramatic performance** that juxtaposed the interviews and excerpts from *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Parents, soldiers, and the American Ambassador attended this moving performance. The European Council of International School awarded this project for its success promoting international understanding.