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June 2008

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Editorial Note

We are at the very last days of the scholastic year and activities are still pouring in! The popularity of the EkoSkola programme has greatly increased – primarily because of the hard work of the five EkoSkola teachers. We are now a family of 76 schools ... of which 4 are Green Flag schools (there are indications that this number is set to increase), 7 schools have achieved the Silver Award and 4 obtained the Bronze Award.

The programme has become a household name and was a regular feature on the media: newspapers, radio and television. Several national activities have been organised either through a direct input of EkoSkola or through the enthusiasm of individual groups of students or schools. We have also received feedback from various educational authorities about the effectiveness of the programme.

On behalf of the whole EkoSkola team, I would like to thank all the EkoSkola committees, students, teachers and headteachers without whose enthusiasm and interest this success would not have been possible.

EkoSkola at the South Pole

Bernice Notenboom, a Dutch reporter, skied to three poles: the North, South and Cold Pole (in Siberia) to record first-hand the changes in polar climates. She is the first Dutch person to have skied to all poles in one year and the first Dutch women to have skied to the South Pole. During her trip she carried an Eco-Schools logo to show at the Pole. She couldn't carry the Green Flag as it was too heavy. Her trip aimed to draw attention to climate change and sustainability, and she had specially made clothes and equipment for the



Nature Trust (Malta)
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trip. Eco-Schools were also involved in the trips through the website www.arcticalert.nl through which they could be updated regularly of Bernice's progress. The picture on the previous page shows Eco-Schools being proudly exhibited at the South Pole!

Xrobb I-Għaġin Activity Days



The EkoSkola Steering Committee organized a 2-day activity for schools participating in the programme, at Xrobb I-Għaġin Nature Park and Sustainable Development Centre on 29th April and 2nd May 2008. Students had the opportunity to learn about the natural and ecological wealth of the site. They also saw how one can make use of renewable energy resources with creatively constructed cookers and electrically powered motors. Students also participated in an entertaining treasure hunt aimed at consolidating what they learned during the day.

EkoSkola organized both events to mark Schuman Day which falls on 9th May. The decision to celebrate the EU's 'birthday' with this awareness raising activity, was taken after due consideration of the undesirable effects that mismanagement of our natural resources is bound to have particularly on our continent. Special thanks go to the EU Commission Representation Office in Malta, The European Parliament's Office in Malta, the Forum Malta fl-Ewropa and Farsons plc. who offered to sponsor the event.



This is how Kay from Paola Primary A remembers the activity

Schuman Day launched at St Albert the Great College

To celebrate Schuman day, the Ekoskola National Committee visited St Albert the Great College to launch a project for the occasion – one hour without electricity. At 9.00am, electricity was switched off all over the school. The same event then took place in 52 schools successively. Mr Vince Attard (Nature Trust President) and Dr Joanna Drake (Representative of the EU Commission) reflected on the collective conscious effort to promote this year's European Theme of looking after the environment and fighting global warming.

This particular day was chosen to emphasize awareness on such issues. The school foyer was set up with various displays of work by primary and secondary students about

renewable energy resources. Cards which were made with recycled paper by school students participating in the European Eko-Kids Comenius project were also presented that day.

Form 4 student Paul Axiak explained how students at St Albert the Great College were making a conscious effort with respect to the environment. Over a five-day period, students gathered information about the school's consumption of electricity and water.



They read meters every morning and later in the afternoon. They then had to see the difference in meter readings resulting from that one hour of saving on electricity. The information was gathered to be presented by students during an Ekoskola parliamentary session to be held with members of parliament.

Students who form the Ekoskola school committee commented on the environmental awareness they had

generated amongst school students and on the need to keep the school clean at all times. In particular, students have become more aware about the school's electricity consumption and the need to switch off light when it is not needed!

Bottles, Bottles Everywhere

We at Kirkop primary are working on a project concerning plastic bottles. To our dismay and horror from the beginning of this year plastic bottles have replaced the returnable glass bottles used for soft drinks. We shall soon be flooded by a mountain of plastic bottles. We are not **REDUCING**; we are **MULTIPLYING** waste!

We wrote to our former Minister for the Environment Dr George Pullicino to ask about why such an anti-environment law has been passed. Unfortunately he could not come himself to our Eko Skola meeting but he sent the Director for the Environment policy, Dr Chris Ciantar to talk things over with us. We had a very lively meeting and, although Dr Ciantar explained why plastic bottles are now being used, we are still not very happy about the whole issue. We intend to take the matter up with our European members of Parliament. How about other EkoSkola committees pooling up with us to try to get things moving? Let's not let them drown us with plastic bottles!



*Written by Daniel Keith Sammut, Secretary of EkoSkola Committee,
St Benedict's College: Kirkop Primary School*

First EkoSkola twinning

Thursday 15th May marked the first official linking between two EkoSkola schools: Xewkija Primary and Mosta Primary A. A group of 40 students from Mosta A together with their teachers went to Gozo to spend a day with their fellow students from Xewkija. The first place they visited was Xewkija Primary school where a representative from each school signed a contract promising future collaboration through EkoSkola between the two schools.

They then went to the Mithna ta' Kola at Xagħra where they learned quite a lot about past trades and tools. The next venue was St Augustine at Rabat where they visited the convent's museum and learned about various items that were used in the past during religious ceremonies. The children then visited the convent's shelter and experienced what life in them might have felt.



The day ended with a visit to the Lunzjata Valley field centre where, besides having some time to relax, they had the chance to appreciate nature. Children were amazed by the quietness of the place and enjoyed listening to the singing of the birds.

The day was a real success and we envisage that this will be the start of a series of contacts between the schools so that they can share and discuss ideas, do joint projects, etc. as part of their EkoSkola Action Plan.

Show and tell

Working together for the Environment

"Jum is-Sigār" was held on Thursday 31st January at the Ghaxaq Primary School as a joint activity between the EkoSkola Programme, the Dinja Waħda Campaign, the Ghaxaq Local Council, the School Council, the Students' Council and the National Arbor Committee. They worked together for the very first time at our school in order to preserve the Maltese endemic environment.

"We should preserve what is Maltese, what is local, what is ours" emphasized Mr Emanuel Vassallo, the Local Mayor of Ghaxaq, who donated the National Tree or "the Sandaarac Tree" and four bay laurel trees to the school following the advice of the National Arbor Committee. This initiative



was awarded points of recognition by Mr Albert Attard, Dinja Wahda co-ordinator who is encouraging our students "to think global whilst acting local".

This initiative will be followed up. Following the guidelines of the EkoSkola Programme, the School EkoSkola Committee is to conduct a survey of the typical Maltese endemic trees found at the village of Ghaxaq. An action plan towards increasing the number and variety of Maltese Trees in the village will be drawn up in the near future.

Written by Samuel Grech, secretary of the EkoSkola Committee, St Benedict's College: Ghaxaq Primary School

Open Day fl-Iskola Primarja B, Raħal Ġdid

Il-Ħamis, 5 ta' Ġunju 2008, kellna Open day. Is-sugġett ta' din is-sena kien 'L-Ambjent Tagħna Lkoll - Irridu Nieħdu Ғsiebu'. Aħna l-istudenti flimkien ma' l-għalliema żejżinna l-

'Foyer' ta' l-iskola biċ-ċarts dwar l-iskart li konna ppreparajna biex noħorġu l-'Eco-Code'. Kellna wkoll xi krafts li għamilna b'ogġetti u materjal riċiklat. Ħafna klassijiet sabu informazzjoni fuq l-Internet dwar dan is-sugġett. Il-ġenituri li ġew izuru l-iskola setgħu jaqraw dwar dan il-proġett u jsiru jafu aktar.



Xi klassijiet hejjew reċta zghira biex minnha joħorġu l-messaġġ kif m'għandniex narmu barra u niehdu ħsieb il-baħar biex ikollna ħut frisk. Klassi oħra ħarġet bl-ideja li jagħmlu ħobż biż-żejt u insalata. Għamlu wkoll ħobż bil-perżut u insalata u għamlu wkoll insalata bil-frott. Fl-aħħar l-għalliema ddiskutiet l-importanza ta' kemm użaw affarijiet biex

għamlu l-ikel u xi fdalijiet kien hemm wara li kielu bħal fdalijiet organiċi u fdalijiet oħra bħal karti u plastic.

Klassijiet oħra hejjew lezzjonijiet dwar l-ambjent fejn il-ġenituri ħadmu mat-tfal u tgħallmu aktar. Fis-sala ta' l-iskola kien hemm ukoll diskussjoni dwar l-ambjent minn waħda mir-rappreżentanti tal-Wasteserv. Għal din it-taħdita, attendew numru sabiħ ta' ġenituri. Is-Sur Paul Pace ġie l-iskola u membri tal-kunsill spjegawlu x'sar matul is-sena fil-proġett ta' EkoSkola. Ġie jzurna wkoll 'Ħuttafu' u t-tfal ħadu gost ħafna jitgħallmu dwar l-għasafar.



Naħseb din l-'Open day' kienet suċċess għax kemm il-ġenituri u kemm aħna l-istudenti ħadna gost flimkien u tgħallimna wkoll. Naħseb kulhadd fehem l-importanza li kulhadd jagħti sehemu biex ngħixu f'ambjent aktar nadif.

Miktub minn Thomas Angelo Cilia, Membru tal-Kunsill ta' EkoSkola, Kullegg San Ġorġ Preca, Skola Primarja B, Raħal Ġdid

Kull qatra tgħodd

Xi ftit taż-żmien ilu s-surmast qalilna li l-iskola tagħna kienet għadha kif irċeviet il-qari tal-meter ta' l-ilma u tad-dawl u riżulta li l-iskola tagħna qed naħlu ħafna ilma. Waqt waħda mil-laqqgħat ta' l-Ekoskola aħna ddiskutejna x'nistgħu nagħmlu biex dan ma jkomplix isir. Ħadna wkoll il-pariri ta' l-għalliema tagħna. Għoġbitna ħafna l-idea tas-Sur Demicoli, l-għalliem tas-sitt sena. Dan issuggerixxa li ġol-flaxings tat-tojlits nixhtu b'żieqa mimlijin bl-ilma biex b'hekk ma jinħeliex ilma kull darba li nifflaxxjaw.



Għalhekk l-Ħamis 7 ta' Frar, jiena Martina Portelli (Year 3), Samuel Zammit (Year 2) u t-tfal kollha tal-Year 1 flimkien ma' l-għalliema tagħhom Ms Zammit xammarna l-kmiem u morna nimlew xi b'żieqa bl-ilma. Wara tfajnihom ġol-flaxings tat-tojlits, kemm tagħna l-istudenti kif ukoll fit-tojlits ta' l-għalliema. It-tfal tal-Year 1 kważi kollha xxarbu għax xi b'żieqa imlejnihom wisq bl-ilma u hekk kif bdew jagħfsuhom biex jgħadduhom minn taħt

il-pompa, il-bżieaż bdeu jinfagġu. Anke Ms Zammit ixxarbet. Dawn il-bżieaż aħna għamilnihom minflok il-water hippos. L-għada Kimberly Tanti (Year4), Antonio Cutajar (Year 5) u Alexia Borg (Year 6), ilkoll membri tal-kumitat ta' l-Ekoskola marru fit-tojlits tal-kinder u għamlu l-istess ħaġa.

Miktuba minn Martina Portelli (Year 3), Membru tal-Kumitat EkoSkola, Kulleġġ San Benedittu: Skola Primarja Gudja

After this activity Jenny (from the US) and Kathrin (from Germany), two foreign students studying in Malta, visited Kirkop Primary, Siggiewi Primary, St Edward's College and Gudja Primary. While touring Gudja Primary they were impressed by the work the pupils did and promised that they will follow their example and do the same when they return to their respective countries. Kathrin sent us some photos to show us that she kept her promise.



Flimkien għal Dinja Aħjar

A nature oriented assembly was held at St. Ignatius College, Siggiewi Primary on the 25th. April as part of EkoSkola and Dinja Waħda projects.



The programme kicked off with a speech by Ms. T. Cremona of Birdlife Malta. She then introduced the mascot Ħuttafa who went round talking to all the excited students. Ms. Cremona also presented gifts to the Green Knights of our school and a book about Birds for the school Library.

The programme continued with the appearance of a green puppet symbolising an environment friendly figure. The creature, flying on a broom, captured the attention of all present. This was accompanied by a

speech delivered by one of the students, where appreciation of nature and the environment was emphasized.

The student occupying the role of the President of the EkoSkola Committee read a short introduction while the vice-president presented the programme which comprised various items such as singing, reciting poems, dancing and a short play entitled: Nibżgħu għall-baħar.

This programme tied up very well with the school's continuous efforts to care for the environment and the holistic education that we aim to impart to our students.

As the school aims at developing good eating habits and



encouraging a healthy lifestyle, yogurts sponsored by Benna and Danone were distributed to all students in the school during the break.

Written by the EkoSkola Committee, St. Ignatius College, Siggiewi Primary

Ħarġa sar-Riserva Naturali ta' l-Għadira

Kien it-Tnejn filgħodu. It-tfal tal-klassi u l-għalliema kienu sejrin ħarġa mportanti sar-Riserva Naturali ta' l-Għadira. It-temp kien sħun u x-xemx kienet tiżregġ, għalhekk ħadna l-beritta ta' l-iskola. Meta waslet ix-xarabank kulhadd rikeb u tlaqna għall-Għadira. Aħna u sejrin rajna djar ta' kwalinkwa kulur bħal roża, ċelesti, aħdar, isfar, aħmar u ħafna tipi ta' kuluri oħra. Aħna wasalna fil-ħin eżatt. Il-gwida kien qiegħed hemm ukoll, huwa fetħilna l-grada biex nidhlu. X'ħin dħalna kien hemm skiet perfett. Ħlief it-tpespis ta' l-għasafar ma kienx jinstema'. Il-gwida spjegalna dwar l-għasafar tal-passa. Huwa tana lenti ħamra u tromba griża biex inkunu nistgħu naraw mill-viċin. Aħna u mexjin rajna ħafna Kalamajonte fuq iz-zkuk. Meta għaddejna aħna huwa biddel il-kulur bħall-kulur taz-zokk għax ħaseb li se nattakkawh. Barra minn hekk rajna l-annimali favoriti tiegħi li huma l-fniek. Jien tant inħobbhom il-fniek li mort immissu. Wara morna naraw il-papri jippassiġġaw go l-ilma. F'daqqa u l-ħin tfaċċat kamra ħadra b'zewġ bibien u ħames twieqi. Il-gwida qalilna li se nidhlu ġod-dar il-ħadra. Hemm kien hemm ftit twieqi biex naraw dik il-veduta sabiħa.

Minn hemm rajna l-papri jgħoddsu taħt l-ilma għall-Buzaqq. Meta ftaħna t-twieqi minn hemm qgħadna naraw l-għasafar fl-għadira mill-qrib. Kien hemm diversi tipi ta' papri. Din kienet ħarġa tassew importanti u kieku nixtieq nerga' mmur il-Ħadd mal-familja tiegħi. Dak li hu kwiet u sieket jogħġobni ħafna.

Miktub minn Natalia Frendo, Kulleġġ Sant'Injazju, Skola Primarja Siggiewi

Tree Planting at Ta' Qali

As the president of our Students' Council and a member of the EkoSkola committee, I decided to write a few words to remember our fun picnic at Ta' Qali. On the 28th March 2008, we went to Ta' Qali together with our teachers to plant three trees as part of the 34U campaign. This idea came from the Students' Council to salute the hard work of our headmistress, Ms. A. Baldacchino, on her retirement from her forty-year career in schools. By this presentation, our school is now one of a great number of people who participated in the 34U campaign. I would like to suggest to you, my school friends, to go and take a look at these trees whenever you are within the surroundings. This should make us students proud of participating in this environmental campaign for our common good as I am sure it has made Ms. A. Baldacchinio so proud of us too.



*Written by Joseph Fenech, member of the EkoSkola Committee,
St. Nicholas College: Bahrija Primary School*

Good use of matches

Reusing items is another way to stop waste from entering the waste collection and disposal system. Reuse conserves resources and reduces pollution that contributes to global warming. Reusing products, when possible, is even better than recycling because the item does not need to be reprocessed before it can be used again. Gilbert Rizzo, a student in Year 5 Roses at St Benedict's College - Għaxaq Primary School has given a useful contribution to waste reduction. He built a match stick village out of used matches. He used 50 boxes of used matches, some pegs, some needles, jablo and thick used

cardboard. Gilbert started his project by selecting a photograph of the village of Ghaxaq. He built a jablo model of the landscape structure and started to glue one match over another.

Collecting numerous amounts of used matches was also quite an arduous task for Gilbert. He made sure not to waste any match that was used at home. Gilbert asked his dad to varnish the finished model with transparent paint to consolidate the model whilst giving it a shinier look. Gilbert brought his model to school and we were all very impressed by this piece of art!



Written by Samuel Grech, Maria Caruana, Clare Borg, EkoSkola Committee, St Benedict's College: Ghaxaq Primary School

Waste Separation



The EkoSkola Committee has understood the urgent need for people to start separating waste. So we contacted Wasteserv towards this end. Mariella Grixti, a speaker from Wasteserv, came to our school and delivered talks to all students. Infact we had seven talks, one for each year group, starting from Kindergarten up to Year 6. All students found the talk interesting, so much so that we suggested to the School Council to hold one for parents too. All there is to do now is to start separating waste at home too!

Written by Tyron Cardona, Secretary EkoSkola Committee, St. Ignatius College, Siggiewi Primary

Kompetizzjoni Skart Chart

Aħna, l-kunsill ta' l-istudenti bdejna niltaqghu biex naħdmu fuq EkoSkola. Il-laqgħat kienu ma' Ms R Hollier waħda mill-għalliema fl-iskola tagħna u Ms A Gauci li tiġi biex tghinna u tkellimna aktar dwar dan il-proġett.



Darba, Ms Gauci qaltilna dwar l-'Eko Code'. Allura l-kunsill ta' l-istudenti hareġ bl-idea ta' l-Iskart Chart. Is-surmast tagħna Is-sur David Caruana aċċetta li nagħmlu kompetizzjoni, għalhekk qsamna din l-attivita fuq ġimgħatejn. Ġimgħa minnhom ippjanajna kif se nagħmlu ċ-ċart u l-ġimgħa ta' wara ġibna l-affarijiet li kellna bżonn u għamilna ċ-ċart flimkien bħala grupp. Il-kompetizzjoni ta' l-Iskart Chart kienet bejn gruppi differenti mill-klassijiet tar-raba', l-ħames u s-sitt sena u saret f'Marzu.



Ir-rebbieħa minn kull sena kienu magħzula mill-għalliema paripatetiċi tax-xjenza Ms Mifsud, l-għalliema ta' l-arti s-sur Sant flimkien ma' Ms Gauci. Imbagħad is-surmast

ippremja t-tfal li rebħu u fil-Assembly, ir-rebbieħa inghataw ktieb kull wieħed u ktieb ieħor biex jinzamm fil-librerija tal-klassi. Kull grupp minn kull sena spjega kif għamlu ċ-ċart u qraw il-messaġġ li nkiteb dwar l-ambjent.

L-Eko Code tagħna issa hija taħlita ta' żewġ messaġġi li jinsabu fuq iċ-ċarts tal-ħames u s-sitt sena.



Ambjent Sabiħ
Ambjent Nadif
Jien u Int Ingawdu Fih.
Jekk Innadfu l-Ambjent Tagħna
Tkunu Kuntenti Intom Magħna



Miktub minn Thomas Angelo Cilia Membru tal-Kumitat Eko Skola, Kullegġ San Ġorġ Preca: Skola Primarja B Raħal Ġdid

Tahdita dwar in-natura

L-iskola tagħna qiegħda tieħu sehem fil-proġett Dinja Waħda. Waħda mill-attivitajiet hija l-Green Talk. Peress li din ttratta dwar pjanti u animali li niltaqgħu magħhom fil-kampanja ddeċidejna li nċemplu lill-Birdlife biex jiġi speaker jagħmel talk lill-istudenti tat-Tielet, ir-Raba' u l-ħames Sena. Saru tliet taħditiet, waħda għal kull sena. L-istudenti kif ukoll l-għalliema sabuhom interessanti ħafna.

Waqt li kien qed jitkellem huwa urienu ritratti fuq screen kbir li kienu tassew sbieħ. L-ewwel semmejna l-bahrija. Il-bahrija xxomm iktar mill-bniedem u mill-kelb. In-nannakola meta jiekolha l-ghasfur, thalli toghma morra u qatt ma jerga' jiekol minnhom. In-nemla tista' terfa' piz hamsin darba izjed minna. Il-gurat jagħmel il-hoss b'siequ biex isejjah lil shabu. Smajna wkoll dwar il-pitirross. Kienu ta' interess wisq aktar għalina bhala EkoSkola għaliex l-ambjent ta' madwarna u n-natura huma għal qalbna wisq.



Miktub minn Karl Fenech, Vici President Kumitat EkoSkola u Massimo Bonello, Kullegġ Sant'Injazju, Skola Primarja, Siggiewi

ħawwilna sigra!!



Nhar il-Ġimgħa 13 ta' Ġunju, aħna l-istudenti tal-Kunsill, f'isem l-iskola tagħna, flimkien mas-surmast is-Sur David Caruana u Miss R. Hollier ħawwilna s-sigra ta' l-Għargħar. Kulħadd jista' jaraha għax ħawwilniha fil-ġnien ta' quddiem l-iskola li jismu Ġnien Pawlu Boffa f'Raħal Ġdid.

Dan għamilnih f'għeluq l-ewwel anniversarju ta' meta Dun Ġorġ Preca ġie ddikjarat qaddis. Tajjeb ngħidu li l-iskola tagħna tagħmel parti mill-kullegġ li jġib l-istess isem. Din l-attivitaja hija wkoll parti mill-proġett ta' l-EkoSkola. Il-kunsill ta' l-istudenti se jieħu ħsieb din is-sigra

biex b'hekk inkunu qed naħdmu aktar favur l-ambjent ta' madwarna.

*Miktub minn Eunice Bonello, Kullegġ San Ġorġ Preca,
Skola Primarja B, Raħal Ġdid*

Biex nimxu passi ta' ġgant

Il-Board ta' l-EkoSkola tagħna veru speċjali! Aħna ridna li mhux sempliċiment inwaħhlu mal-Bord ir-regoli li ser nimxu magħhom biex nibzġhu għall-ambjent. Sigmund ħareġ bl-ideja ta' passi u semmejna l-bord **Biex Nimxu Passi ta' Ġgant**.



Użajna tappijiet tal-flixken, kaxxi tas-sulfarini u karti taċ-ċikkulata biex ktibnihom. F'tarf tal-bord pinġejna dinja qegħda tifga fil-ħmieġ u shana u fit-tarf l-ieħor dinja qegħda twarrad u nadifa. Bejniethom il-passi tagħna bir-regoli li aħna rajna li se nimxu magħhom li ser nagħmlu ġid lid-dinja. Kull min ra l-Bord faħħru u qalilna li veru sabiħ.

*Miktuba minn Miguel Farrugia, Luke Ellul, Josef Buttigieg u Leonel Bonnici,
Membri tal-Kumitat Eko Skola, Kullegġ San Benedittu: Skola Primarja Kirkop*

Environment Day



On Thursday, the 24th of April, 2008, St. Joseph Junior School Sliema had their own tree-planting ceremony. We had collected money for trees for Foresta 2000 in the first term. Not only, we had collected some extra money. So, our EkoSkola Committee bought the lentisk tree, a Mediterranean tree which is also grown in the Forest 2000 in Mellieħa. First, the Grade Fives organised an assembly on the Environment. After that, Sandra from BirdLife gave out the certificates to all the primary school classes as a token for the trees collected. Each class has an EkoĦabiba representative who went up for the certificate.

Grade 1A had collected the most money. They felt very proud as they had collected €35.10. All the Junior School collected €203.35 in total.

Then, Dr. Pace and Sister Cecilia, our headmistress helped to plant the lentisk tree, together with Amy Cordina from Grade 4A. Michaela Gatt from Grade 6 spoke about the lentisk tree. How lucky our school is to have planted the lentisk tree and for us to have participated on such an occasion!

The entire week was dedicated to the environment. We have been to outings to various sites, such as, Wied Inċita, Argotti Gardens, Ġnien l-Indipendenza and Foresta 2000.

The Grade Sixes have also been to organic farming. This has been a really fun week; one that my friends and I will remember for a long time.

Written by Debbie Warrington, Activities Co-ordinator, EkoSkola Committee, St. Joseph School, Sliema

Nature Day



Kienet it-Tlieta 22 t'April u kellna n-Nature Day. Kont ferhana se intir għax kont naf li ser niehu gost. L-ewwel qgħadna nispjegaw lin-nies minn Malta fuq il-Models u charts ta' meta morna r-Ramla u f'postijiet storiċi madwar ix-Xagħra. Dawn il-proġetti kienu relatati ma' kompetizzjoni li dhalna fiha organizzata mir-Ramblers Association of Malta bit-titlu "Dan Pajjiżna". Wara dan kellna esibizzjonijiet fil-bitħa fejn kellna diversi stands ta' arti dwar in-Natura, crafts b'oġġetti riċiklati, ħxejjex mediċinali, healthy eating, u tħawwil ta' pjanti

endemiċi bħal Widnet il-Baħar. Wara dan dhalna fis-sala ta' l-iskola fejn tajna spettaklu mill-aqwa ta' kant, poeziji u reċti dwar in-Natura. Flimkien mal-klassi tiegħi, kantajt 'Dinja Nadifa' u jien u ħabibi grajna ittri lill-Ministru ta' l-Ambjent li pparteċipajna bihom f'attività organizzata mill-Birdlife Malta. Jien ħadt gost ħafna speċjalment nara r-reċta tal-Miżbla tal-Qortin fejn it-tfal tal-Year 1 u Year 2 libsu ta' grieden li taparsi ħarbu mill-miżbla meta għalquha. Jien nispera li din l-attività jew xi oħra simili tagħha terġa' ssir għax veru ħadna gost u tgħallimna ukoll!!!!



Miktub minn Sylvana Tabone, Kullegg t'Għawdex, Skola Primarja Patri Mattew Sultana, Xagħra Għawdex

Żjara fil-Park Naturali ta' Xrobb l-Għaġin

Xrobb l-Għaġin, li ismu jista jkun ġej mill-kunjom antik Xuereb, jinsab fin-naħa t'Isfel ta' Malta qrib ir-raħal pittoresk ta' Marsaxlokk. Il-gwida li dawwarna mal-post beda biex qalilna li l-ewwel rikordju ta' dan il-post fl-istorja ta' Malta kien fi żmien il-Medjuevu. Dan l-aħħar tmien snin il-post kien abbandunat kompletament hekk kif l-istazzjon tar-radju Germaniz tad- Deutsche Welle waqaf ixandar u għalaq. Xrobb l-Għaġin ikopri medda kbira ta' art qrib il-155,950 metru kwadru u bħalissa huwa mmexxi min-Nature Trust. Din l-art hi skedata bħala art ta' Importanza Ekoloġika. L-attività li kellna saret nhar il-Gimgha 2 ta' Mejju 2008, fl-okkażjoni ta' Shuman Day and Climate Change Awareness Week.

Il-'Greenhouse Effect', li ġej mill-gassijiet li qegħdin jintużaw mill-bnedmin u mit-tniġġiz dejjem jikber ta' l-arja, qiegħed iwassal biex is-sħana tax-xemx qiegħda tinqabad fid-dinja u ma tithallix toħroġ. Għalhekk it-temperatura qiegħda tiżdied. Dan qiegħed iwassal biex ikun hawn aktar nixfa u



għaldaqstant annimali li jgħixu fix-xagħri mhux qedgħin isibu x'jieklu bil-konsegwenza li dawn jistgħu jsiru estinti. Peress li f'Malta hawn nuqqas ta' ilma tax-xita, u li kulma jgħaddi iż-żmien, u minhabba ir-raġunijiet li semmejna, in-nixfa qegħda dejjem tikber, is-siġar u l-pjanti li jinsabu Malta addattaw għal din it-tip ta' klima. Għaldaqstant dawn il-pjanti kabbru weraq pjuttost zgħar li ma jridux ħafna ilma biex jittrejqu. Sabiex insebbħu pajjiżna għandna nużaw dawn it-tip ta' pjanti u siġar. Il-pjanti evergreens għandhom sistemi interni fiz-zokk tagħhom biex jaħżnu l-ilma.

F'din ir-riserva naturali minbarra pjanti li jikbru fix-xgħari bħax-xitla tal-Kappar, ix-Xebb, ix-Xarbett, u l-pjanta nazzjonali, Widnet il-Baħar, li probabbilment ilhom jezistu f'Malta



minn żmien l-Ice Age, insibu ukoll rettili, insetti u mammiferi. Fost ir-rettili insibu l-kamalejonti u tipi differenti ta' sriep bħal dawk imsejħa 'Teleskopu', 'is-serp l-iswed' u l-leopard snake. Dawn huma kollha sriep rari u diffiċli ferm tara bħalhom. Fost il-pjanti li rajna f'dan il-Park kien hemm il-"Pyramidal Orchid", li tinsab fil-pajjiżi tal-Mediterran, u li speci minnha hija endemika għal Malta. Dawn il-pjanti għandhom bżonn fungus partikulari biex jikbru. Uħud għandhom żewġ "tubers" li minn waħda jieħdu n-nutrijenti iżda l-oħra tkun niexfa u minhabba dan il-fatt din il-pjanta ħadet l-isem ta' "Ħajja u Mejta".

Tipi ta' insett li jinsabu f'dawn l-inħawi huma tipi differenti ta' friefet, brimb, dubbien u bumunqar. Fost il-mammiferi nsibu il-ġurdien ta' geddumu twil u l-pipistrell.

Ta min ifakkar li f'Malta għandna żewġ Power Stations. Iċ-ċumnija ta' dik ta' Delimara tidher minn dan il-park. Il-power stations jaħdmu bil-"Low-Sulphate oil", u meta dan jinħaraq, jipproduċi l-enerġija. L-enerġija għandna bżonnha, u l-aġħar ħaġa hija il-hela. L-użu tal-Wind Turbines inaqqas it-tniġġis fl-arja. Kienet ħarġa tassew nterressanti u aħna bħala grupp tgħallimna ħafna. Aħna nissuggerulxhom li żżuru din ir-riserva naturali intom ukoll biex tapprezzaw u titgħalmu aktar fuq l-ambjent naturali Malti.

Miktub minn Cassar u Clive Abela, Kullegg Missjunarju ta' San Pawl, Rabat

The Xagħra Brocktorff Circle

One of the items in our EkoSkola Action Plan is related to the environment of our village. In relation to this action plan, we took part in a competition conducted by the Ramblers Association of Malta, "Dan Pajjiżna". One of the activities organized for this project was a historical visit to the Brocktorff Circle situated at Xagħra, limits of Ġgantija Temples. This place is made up of several tombs under the ground which go back to the Pre-Historic Times. This place was found in the early 1970's by Mr. Joe Attard Tabone from Xagħra. For this reason we interviewed Mr. Attard Tabone. He showed us books, drawings and several remains of the Brocktorff Circle. He told us that he found this place with the help of several drawings and human bones which were found in these tombs during excavations. Work is still being done. Heritage Malta is responsible of this place and when tourists visit Ggantija Temples they are surely guided towards such an interesting historical place.



Written by Francesca Marie Attard, Anna Marie Camilleri, Michela Farrugia, Manuela Bugeja, Gozo College, Patri Mattew Sultana, Xagħra Primary School

Special Assembly

On Thursday 28th February the EkoSkola Committee at Margaret Mortimer organized a special assembly to foster a better environment in our school. First, the Head of school Miss J.Micallef, distributed certificates (which our committee designed) to all Form 1 classes in aid of the Clean up the World Campaign which was organised in November. On the 30th of November, all Form 1 students cleaned the school grounds. Class 1 A collected most rubbish, so as a reward, on the 14th March they went to the Simar Nature Reserve and later they were taken for lunch at a restaurant in Ghadira. Since EkoSkola concepts should be integrated with other subjects, this outing was done in collaboration



with the Maltese department, since at the Simar they were also taught Maltese idioms and proverbs which are related to the environment.

Deborah Baldacchino (3B) read a poem that she wrote herself, which encourages students to keep their environment clean. Shantelle Fenech (1A) and Elaine Bonnici (3D) read speeches aimed at encouraging a better and cleaner environment in our school. They also spoke about a new initiative, where there will be spot checks in classes regarding cleanliness and waste separation. Each class will be given points according to certain criteria. At the end of this assembly, the school donated two succulent plants to each class, which will be placed on their window sills. Students are also encouraged to bring plants from home as well.

Written by Ruth Morrison, Eko Skola Committee, Margaret Mortimer, Santa Lucia

What a year!

This scholastic year, the students of St. Joseph Junior School Sliema have been very busy with various environmental activities. We have been working on strengthening environmental awareness; so, our first activity was to fill the notice board with pictures, posters and information about wildlife, flowers, animals, recycling and much more. We also put up the girls' work to encourage them to keep such good work coming in!

We had already got about four recycling bins in our school so we made sure that all girls knew what to put in them! We also made sure that there was an Eco-Habiba in each class and we are constantly making sure that they all do their job well! Actually, many are managing pretty well without us!

We have started to collect materials such as toilet rolls and empty cereal boxes to use for making projects and crafts! An interesting fact is that we always use things that were going to be thrown away. We also use artificial flowers for our crafts and make an effort to find wedding shops and flower shops that are going to close down. An idea that our Crafts teacher came up with, was to



use old apple cups (such as, the ones hawkers use to carry their apples) to make dolls! We tried it and it was a success!! We also collect used batteries too and used ink cartridges and make sure that they are disposed of or recycled properly!!

We make sure that absolutely no paper whatsoever is wasted and we use every paper until it's absolutely full!! Even on copybooks we try to make sure that no space is wasted, even when we make a total mess of a history report or a page of Maths!!



We also had a Green Week which was such fun! Many environmental activities were held and we all learnt new and exciting things about global warming and other environmental issues. I'm sure that the girls had the word environmental coming out of their ears that week!!

Before we plan activities, we always make sure that we get feedback from the girls as we think that it is very important that the girls should have as much as a say in the planning of activities, as do the representatives in our committee.

During the first term the Hon. Minister George Pullicino, along with Sally Robinson and other officials from HSBC and Nature Trust, visited our school for the signing of the sponsoring agreement from HSBC with Nature Trust. We felt so important to be representing EkoSkola schools in Malta; and, we also felt very proud of our work. We have also had yet another endemic tree planted on our school grounds. This is the Lentisk tree. It has been another great year for EkoSkola at our school and I feel so satisfied because I have helped to make all these fun events happen!

Written by Maya d`Ugo, Secretary EkoSkola Committee, St. Joseph Junior School

Making Nest Boxes



One of our Eko-Skola activities was 'Making Nestboxes'. With the help of my father, I cut out pieces of wood from my father's workshop. The pieces of wood were cut about 1.5cm thick. We used galvanized nails to assemble the parts together. David, Joseph and Michael helped me to

attach the strips together and place them on a tree. We tied them with rubberized wire around the trunk. Now, we have to make sure to clean the box each autumn from feather parasites and old nesting material.



Important: Never disturb a nestbox while it is occupied. Be happy to observe the bird family from a distance. Disturbing the nestbox may cause the parents to abandon their chicks!

Written by Malcolm Cefaj, Gozo College, Patri Mattew Sultana, Xagħra Primary School

Tagħlima fuq l-Ambjent

Karti riċiklati
go `recycle bin' jinsabu,
U mhux ma' l-art!
Biex ikollna ambjent aħjar.

Ma dan kollu xi ngħidu għas-siġar,
Li tant jagħtuna arja nadifa!
U l-weraq wara xi ħalba xita
Ikunu qishom tat-tpiġija.

U l-pjanti li jsebbħu
L-ambjent li aħna ngħixu,
U l-kuluri sbieħ tagħhom
Li lilna jafu jserħu.

Fis-Sajf il-baħar immorru.
U xi `barbeque' ma jonqosx.
Ejjew aħwa l-ambjent ngħożžu u
Flimkien naħdmu bla ma norqdu!

Maria Christina Curmi,
Year5 A, Kullegg Sant'Injazju,
Skola Primarja, Siggiewi

Recycling

It's nice to recycle
All things that are not new
You can use them for crafts
And for many things too.

Recycle the cereal boxes
Used paper, milk cartons too.
You can put the plants in them
And pots you'll have quite
few.

We can go to the recycle bins
To put the rubbish in.
It's time to start recycling
And see our country clean.

Janice Cassar
Year 3, St. Ignatius College
Siggiewi Primary School

Question & Answer

Our school has organised a great deal of environmental activities ... do we qualify for the Green Flag?

Only IF the activities you did were part of the Action Plan. You would also need to have followed the 7 steps