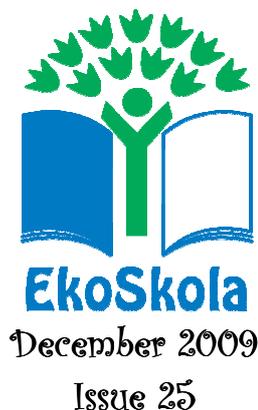


If you need to print this newsletter, please use both sides of recycled paper

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Editorial Note

November is already gone! School days are shooting by and, as I promised in the first Newsletter, it has been a really busy time. This year we are offering you different opportunities to engage in Climate Change. Read on and feel free to join in ... but don't take too long to decide as the places available are limited. This year seems to be quite a promising one ... however this can only be achieved by your continued support. Thank you once again for believing in EkoSkola ... for believing in our children.

EkoSkola Annual Seminars

This year Nature Trust's Annual EkoSkola seminars kicked off in Gozo on the 6th November at the Gozo College, Xewkija primary school. A total of 41 children and 19 teachers from 11 schools attended the event. The seminar was inaugurated by the Hon. Giovanna Debono (Minister for Gozo) and Hon Chris Said (Parliamentary Secretary for Public Dialogue and Information). The seminar was also attended by the Hon. Justyne Caruana (Opposition Member of Parliament) and Dr Monica Vella (Xewkija Mayor).



Vince Attard (Nature Trust President) and Dr Paul Pace (EkoSkola National Co-ordinator) together with (on the left) the Hon Chris Said and Hon. Giovanna Debono during the Gozo Seminar and (on the right) the Hon. Dolores Cristina and Hon. George Pullicino.



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The EkoSkola Committees from Xewkija Primary and Nadur Primary (both from the Gozo College) holding their Green Flag and Silver Certificate respectively.



St Benedict College, Zurrieq Primary and St Clare College, San Gwann Primary B receiving their Green Flag for the second time



San George Preca College, Floriana Primary and Santa Margerita, Xghajra Primary receiving their Green Flag for the first time



St Monica School, Gzira; St Gorg Preca College, Paola Primary B; St Benedict College, Safi Primary; St Michael School, Qormi and St Benedict College, Qrendi Primary receiving the Silver Certificate

The Seminar in Malta was held at St Ignatius College, Boys' Junior Lyceum, Handaq on 11th November. Besides directors, educational officers and college principals, 183 students and 108 teachers from 62 schools attended the seminar. The Hon. Dolores Cristina (Minister for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport) and the Hon. George Pullicino (Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs) opened the seminar.



St Benedict College, Birzebbugia Primary; St Nicholas College, Rabat Primary; St Clare College, San Gwann Primary A and St Francis School, Sliema receiving the Bronze Certificate

Both seminars had the same general programme that included a Progress Report of EkoSkola's eight-year history and offered participants a choice of workshop sessions: for teachers from new member schools; for teachers from EkoSkola schools for primary school students; and for secondary school students.

Nature Trust would like to thank Mr Saviour Tabone (Head of Xewkija Primary) and Mr Carmel S. Micallef (Head of Handaq Boys' Junior Lyceum) for hosting us at their school as well the staff of both schools for their support and co-operation. A special thanks goes for Wasteserv for supporting us with the activities through Batterina. Last but definitely not least we would like to thank Malta Dairy Products for providing the attendees with fresh milk and yoghurt.



Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE)



**Young Reporters
for the environment**

For the third consecutive year Nature Trust is once again running the YRE programme. Through this programme secondary school (and post-secondary) students are encouraged to conduct a local investigation about an environmental issue and present a journalistic article or photo about it.

The best productions will be submitted for an international competition and will also get certified awards. The programme can be easily integrated within the EkoSkola programme as part of the Curriculum Work / Informing and Involving steps. As from this year, we are pleased to announce that the best local entries, apart from certificates, will be awarded with inviting prizes which include a visit abroad and solar powered gadgets. For more information contact Audrey Gauci on yre@naturetrustmalta.org. The annual YRE seminar will take place in January 2010.

HSBC Eco-Schools Climate Initiative Project launch

The HSBC Eco-Schools Climate Initiative was launched in Malta on the 17th November during a tree planting activity at Xrobb I-Għaġin Nature Park and Sustainable Development Centre. Through this event climate change becomes an international theme for schools supported by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). Eco-Schools from Brazil, China, England, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Malta, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, United States and Wales will take part in this initiative by exploring ways how they can contribute to combating climate change by reducing their CO₂ emissions.



HSBC Malta, HSBC's chief operating officer Sally Robson, in partnership with EkoSkola, the Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs and the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education and Directorate for Educational Services within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, commemorated this official launch by a Tree planting activity. About 300 children from 8 schools attended the event that also provided opportunities to investigate the surroundings through treasure hunts and through on site walks both organised by the EkoSkola teachers.

The Switch Campaign Competition



The Switch campaign, launched at the beginning of this year by the Secretariat for Public Consultation and Information within the OPM, in conjunction with the Ministry for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, extended their initiative with the aim of raising energy awareness among children. A competition was launched for schools inviting them to present the work that was done in order to promote reduced energy consumption. A drawing book about energy, drawn up in conjunction with EkoSkola, was also distributed in schools. For more information contact the Switch Team on energyswitch@gov.mt

Poster Painting Competitions

- The National Council of Women in collaboration with Nature Trust are organising an **Environmental Poster Competition** targeting children (age 6-10) and youth (age 11-16) who are interested in environmental issues. Participants are expected to use drawings and slogans to promote "eco-friendly" attitudes and behaviours. The submitted entries must cover at least two of the following topics: water, waste, energy, climate change and biodiversity. Other additional themes that are relevant to the participating school can also be included. There are several prizes available for winners ... with the first prize (in both categories) being a PlayStation Portable. Deadline for the entries is 7th January 2010. More details about the competition can be obtained from a circular that is being sent to all schools or from Marie Demicoli, (National Council of Women) on ncwmalta@camline.net.mt.
- The **International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment** is organized every year by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment (FGPE), Bayer and Nikon Corporation. The competition has been held since 1991 and more than 2.4 million children (age 6-14) from over 100 countries are expected to participate in it. This year's theme is **Biodiversity: connecting with Nature**. Children's paintings

will focus on concrete actions to preserve biodiversity such as tree planting, marine and animal conservation, restoration of coral reefs, etc. The first prize is US\$ 2,000 with a fully paid trip for the winner and a chaperone to the Tunza International Children's Conference. The winner will also receive a plaque and supplementary prizes. Entries must reach the relevant UNEP regional office by 15th April 2010. More details about the competition can be obtained from:

<http://www.unep.org/tunza/Events/19thPaintingCompetition/tabid/1328/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Schools2Communities (S2C)

Formerly known as Global Action Schools, S2C is a three year project between Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria and Malta. This project aims to mobilize greater public support for action against poverty by contributing to environmental sustainability (Millennium Development Goal No 7) & Fair Trade (Millennium Development Goal No 8) through awareness raising, knowledge building and taking action on the local, regional and international levels. S2C project encourages schools to follow a 'Learn, Investigate & Act' methodology when looking at understanding Global Issues. More information can be obtained from Angie Farrugia and Mario Gerada who co-ordinate the programme for SKOP - the National Platform of Maltese NGOs (www.skopmalta.org).



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Global Issues. More information can be obtained from Angie Farrugia and Mario Gerada who co-ordinate the programme for SKOP - the National Platform of Maltese NGOs (www.skopmalta.org).

Flick the Switch Campaign Website

Please note that the teaching resources are now available on Flick The Switch website (www.flicktheswitch.eu). Register your school for free through the website and get access to a wide range of teaching resources (eg. presentations, home assignments and Flick The Switch books) on energy efficiency, educational and fun materials (eg. games, stickers, posters, quizzes) for students. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the energy saving activities and a Poster Competition! Your school could become a Flick the Switch Champion! The website also provides you with the opportunity to share your experiences with other teachers. Please disseminate this initiative with other colleagues.

Schools looking for partners

We received an email from the National Eco-Schools co-ordinator of Spain informing us of three Spanish schools that are looking for English speaking schools that could join them on a Comenius Project. The details are given below. If you are interested send an email directly to the contact person.

Eco- School's Name	City (Region)	Contact person	E-mail
Aderan I Primary School	Cabezas Rubias (Huelva)	Sebastián	sebastigo@gmail.com
CEIP JUAN XXIII Primary School	Marchena (Sevilla)	Miguel Montes	41002633.averroes@juntadeandalucia.es
CEIP Pardo Bazán Primary School	Leganés (Madrid)	Alejandro	alegarri@gmail.com

Conectando Mundos

For the fourth consecutive year, primary, secondary and post-secondary teachers are invited to take part in Conectando Mundos (Connecting Worlds), a project that is

promoting Global Citizenship Education. For further information on Global Citizenship Education, please visit <http://cmm.inizjamed.org>.



Migration is the theme chosen for 2010. Online activities are available and organised by the following age groups: 6-8, 8-10, 10-12, 12-14 and 14-17 years. The activities are being offered by the Spanish non-governmental organisation

Intermón Oxfam (IO) –(<http://www.conectandomundos.org>) ... a partner of the Maltese NGO Inizjamed. Participating teachers are also offered an online tutorial to be prepared for the activities.

Interested schools are encouraged to register by December 18th on: <http://www.conectandomundos.org/en/registro>. More information can be obtained by visiting <http://www.conectandomundos.org/en> or sending an email to info@conectandomundos.org.

Support from PARK Department

PARK (Parks, Afforestation and Countryside Restoration) is a department under the responsibility of the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs. Its main target is to develop and maintain recreation areas like the Ta' Qali National Park, promote tree planting and restore countryside areas such as country paths, rubble walls etc. It also carries out awareness raising campaigns about native trees and the conservation of the Maltese natural environment through organised country walks.

Schools can participate in PARK's initiatives by, for example, introducing compost bins in their schools, growing native trees and building a simple greenhouse on their school grounds. To this end, the PARK department staff can help schools realise their projects by offering support from architectural and landscaping design to agriculture or gardening related skills. The PARK department is therefore inviting all students to submit any ideas/suggestions/proposals they may have regarding the improvement of the environment in their own schools, to the PARK Department either by writing to: EkoSkola Initiatives; PARK Department: National Park; Ta' Qali; or by phoning them on 23398 115 or by writing an email on park.mrra@gov.mt

Turtle Release

On the 27th October, over two hundred students who are presently participating in EkoSkola and Young Reporters for the Environment, participated in the release of ten turtles that have been under rehabilitation at the San Lucjan Centre in Marsaxlokk for the last few months. These turtles have been rehabilitated after they had been brought injured ashore either by fishermen, members of the public, NGOs or the Armed Forces of Malta. The turtles were released from Gnejna Bay in the presence of MEPA officials who are the responsible authority for protected wildlife. The smallest turtle weighed just 1.55kg while the largest weighed a staggering 54kg.



Marine turtles have been on this planet for over 200 million years and are now in danger of extinction due to pollution and many other problems. Many turtles get entangled in

discarded fishing nets, ingest plastic bags and other junk, collide with boats and other vessels and therefore need care and attention before being released back to their natural habitat. If you spot or come into contact with an injured turtle you can call on 20699595. This emergency service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A Scrapbook of your work

Il-Fkieren

Illum, it-Tlieta 30 ta' Ġunju 2009, jien u sħabi tal-iskola morna ħarġa. Il-ħarġa tal-lum kienet dwar il-fkieren tal-baħar. X'ħin qomt filgħodu kont eċitata ħafna. Hekk kif wasalt l-iskola kien hemm karozza tal-linja tistenniena u tlaqna mill-ewwel Golden Bay.



"Girl releasing turtles" by Kay Darmanin Farrell



"Turtle" by Karen Micallef

Kif wasalna sibna raġel jistenniena sabiex jispjegalna dwar il-fkieren. Kellu ħdax-il fekruna: ħames fkieren irġiel u sitt fkieren nisa. Kien hemm għaxra kbar u waħda żgħira. Kellhom daharhom mgħotti b'xugaman minħabba x-xemx. Huwa qalilna li l-fkieren jagħmlu ħafna ġid billi jieklu l-bram. Hemm bżonn li l-fkieren jiżdiedu. X'ħin morna ħdejjhom bdew jippanikjaw ftit, għalhekk ersaqna ftit lura.

Hekk kif ħarġuhom minn ġol-kaxex huma bdew jgħaġġlu biex jinżlu l-baħar. Kienet esperjenza tassew sabiħa u nixtieq ikollna attività oħra bħal din. Grazzi lill-Kumitat tal-EkoSkola

Miktuba minn Karen Micallef, Year 3.4 – Kullegġ San Ġorġ Preca, Paola Primary A

School Blogs

We received the following blog addresses from three schools:

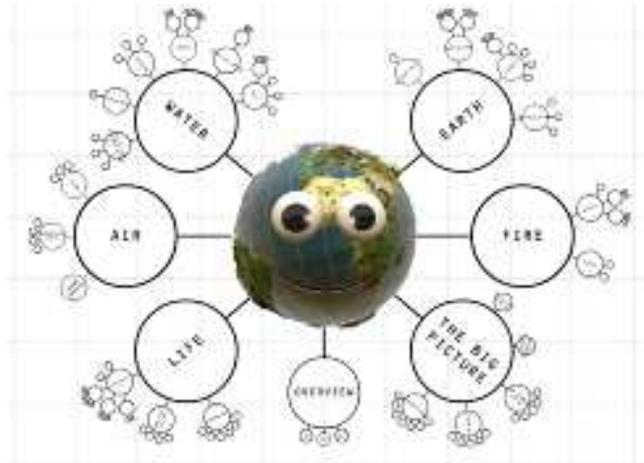
- (a) Gozo College, Xewkija Primary at <http://xewkija-ekoskola.blogspot.com>
- (b) St Margaret College – Xghajra Primary at <http://xghajraprimary.blogspot.com>
- (c) St Theresa College – B'Kara Primary at <http://ekoskolabkaraprimary.blogspot.com/>

Teaching Resources

Continuing with our list of useful websites ideal for lesson planning and project work related to environmental education.

(a) The Planet

This website provides a great bank of environmental resources. The resources (articles, pictures, video clips) are organised under six themes (Water, Earth, Air, Fire, Life, The Big Picture) and an Overview that are easily accessed through an on screen topic plan. The site is ideal for teachers who wish to update their knowledge about a particular environmental issue or for students who are working on project work. The site is available at:



<http://www.forskning.se/infactplaneten/index.html?lang=eng>

(b) Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets



If you are looking for the latest studies about the current state of ice sheets and their contributions to sea level rise this is the site for you. Besides containing the latest scientific findings about this phenomenon, it provides resources that can be used senior classes ... including world region map simulating sea level rise. The site is available at:

https://www.cresis.ku.edu/research/data/sea_level_rise/

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter please contact Dr Paul Pace, National EkoSkola Co-ordinator, on paul.j.pace@um.edu.mt

Visit our website on www.ekoskolamalta.com