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Editorial Note

Another scholastic year is through and most of the initiatives that you have been working on have been completed. In this edition of our newsletter we are presenting some of these initiatives and achievements. We believe that sharing such initiatives has two important outcomes: promoting schools' achievements and sharing good practice.

January 20th, 2011 was a special day for our EkoSkola teachers. It marked the presentation of their degree certificate by the Italian Ambassador, His Excellency E. Luigi Marras. The ceremony marked the crowning moment of an intensive professional master in Intercultural Eco-Management of Schools developed by the University Cà Foscari, Venice.





Left: The EkoSkola teachers presenting the Green Flag during the thanksgiving mass.

Right: The EkoSkola team in a photo line-up after the ceremony!

The following were the research projects they presented for the masters:

- A Strategic Intercultural and Environmental Management Plan for a Girls' Secondary School: A potential approach to meet sustainable development challenges by Ms Cynthia Caruana;
- A Sustainability Reporting Tool for Schools Leading Maltese Schools towards Sustainability by Ms Audrey Gauci and Ms Marvic Refalo; and



Nature Trust (Malta) PO Box 9 Valletta VLT1000 http://www.naturetrustmalta.org/



• 'Walking the talk' - A Sustainable Mobility Plan for two state owned schools in Paola by Mr Johann Gatt and Ms Elizabeth Saliba.

During the thanksgiving mass they presented the Green Flag as a symbol of their commitment towards providing their best service towards the promotion of education for sustainable development. We would like to congratulate our EkoSkola teachers for their achievement.

HSBC-ES Climate Initiative

Fifty-six schools have registered for this year's project. Following a call during which twenty schools communicated their project proposals, the following ten schools were awarded funds as part of the School-Community Link Project Grant Scheme:

School	Project Title
St Francis Sec. School, Sliema	Hooked On Energy
Gozo College, Xewkija Primary	Informing the community about climate change
St Benedict College, Safi Primary	Networking our school with the wider local community and far away Mission Countries through our Recycled Green House Project
St. Benedict's College, Zurrieq Primary	Climate Challenge? Climb It!
St George Preca College, Floriana Primary	To promote and encourage recycling to save the planet
St.George Preca College, Paola Primary A	Walking Bus Project
St Joseph School, Blata I-Bajda, Primary	Enough for Everyone for All Ages
St Margaret College, Girls' Secondary School, Cospicua	Ftit Ħsieb għall-Komunità Aħjar
St Margaret College, Kalkara Primary	Sustainable Garden
St Theresa College - St Venera Primary	Better light a candle than curse the darkness

The project was officially launched during a ceremony held on February 4th, 2011. Prof Paul Pace (National EkoSkola Coordinator), the Hon George Pullicino (Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs) and Alan Richards (HSBC Malta CEO) addressed all those present, highlighting the major achievements reported by schools in the first cycle of the project. Mr Richards presented Leanne Coleiro from St Joseph, Mater Boni Consilii School Paola the prize money she won for placing second in the international Eco-Code competition for youths.

EkoSkola's contribution to Eco-Gozo

Over 75 students coming from the EkoSkola Committees of 12 schools from the Gozo College met the Minister for Gozo, Hon. Giovanna Debono to report on initiatives they are taking within their school and surrounding community to promote sustainable lifestyles. During their presentations, the students also made a number of valid suggestions about ways how they could enhance the quality of life in their school, in their locality and in Gozo in general.



While pointing out her satisfaction for the schools' active participation in EkoSkola, Minister Debono said that the students' presentations were proof of how good environmental practices and other initiatives helped to increase one's awareness about

the concept of sustainable developments. "These aims are exaclty in line with the work done by the Ministry for Gozo with regards to the eco-Gozo vision". The Minister also announced a scheme through which all schools in Gozo will receive funding so that they could implement the many proposals presented during this same meeting. Highlights from the meeting can be viewed here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PxROJiAiFY

Kikku the BEE



The 27th January 2011 marked the birth Kikku, the bee, who will be the children's voice for eco-Gozo. Hundreds of children from the Gozo College Primary Schools waving coloured flags sporting a message related to the eco-Gozo vision greeted the arrival of Kikku. In her address, Ms Elvira Buttigleg from Ghajnsielem Primary spoke about the children's wish to continue enjoying the natural beauty of the island. On behalf of the children of Gozo and together with Kikku, she promised that they will do their best to make Gozo a better place. Elvira was giving voice to the suggestions posted by students from Gozo during various consultation activities organised especially for children as part of the public consultation process about the eco-Gozo vision. These children's drawings and messages were the exhibits in an exhibition set

up in the Exhibition Hall at the Ministry for Gozo especially for the occasion. Hon. Giovanna Debono (Minister for Gozo) expressed her satisfaction for the welcome given to Kikku by the children. She pointed out that Kikku will be relaying their messages on how Gozo can develop into an eco-Island. She said that in this was just one of a series of initiatives taken for the benefit of Gozitan children, such as the launching of a teachers' resource pack on Sustainable Development and eco-Gozo, and calendars carrying environmental and healthy lifestyle messages. The event was also attended by the Hon Frederick Azzopardi (Parliamentary Assistant within the Ministry for Gozo), Chev Frank Gatt



(Gozo College Principal), several Mayors and EkoSkola staff.



In March, Kikku also paid a visit to Malta, where he was accompanied by students from Valletta Primary for a walk from Castille Square through Republic Street and Melita Street. Kikku and the children were greeted by the Hon. Giovanna Debono and the Hon. Mario Marco (Parliamentary Secretary Tourism, the Environment and Culture) at the Auberge d'Italie ... where the exhibition that was hosted in Gozo was also set up. The exhibition remained in Malta for a whole month.

Throughout this scholastic year, Kikku was very busy touring all primary schools within the Gozo College and four other church schools in Gozo. During these visits he discussed environmental themes with the students and encouraged them to be at the forefront of the eco-Gozo initiative. He distributed key-chains to all students as a token of his first visit to their school.

The Moving Drop

On the 26th February the Hon George Pullicino, Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs, launched a campaign to increase awareness about the conservation of water. The Minister presented the Moving Drop, a sculpture made out of recycled plastic bottles to St Nicholas College, Girls Secondary Rabat, as this locality marked the start of the aqueduct route. The moving drop symbolising the aqueduct route was passed round to fifteen schools, these schools both state and non-state posted in the drop water-conservation messages.

The drop was then received by St. Albert the Great College in Valletta, on the 22nd March as this date commemorates World Water Day. Student representatives from Primary and Secondary schools met at Valletta's main entrance the City Gate. Badges with the logo Catch the drop were distributed,



students walked to St. George's Square holding banners and boards in favour of saving water. Minister George Pullicino received the Moving Drop, filled with students' messages. Students representing the aqueduct carried papier-mâché arches that formed the aqueduct. Water in a clay vase carried by students was symbolically passed on to students representing localities ranging from Rabat to Valletta, then students from Valletta primary poured the water into fountain mimicing the arrival of water to the capital city.





Fun Run for trees





On the 7th April eight schools ranging from primary to secondary walked from Bummarad in a fun walk that led to the newly renovated Salini Park. Schools participating in this activity were encouraged to organise fund raising activities to collect money for the 34U

campaign. Upon arrival the students were greeted by the Hon George Pullicino (Minister for Resources and Rural affairs), participating schools donated the sum of €605. Mr. Vincent Attard president of Nature Trust Malta also donated 200 trees to the Hon. George Pullicino.

During this activity, Nature Trust Malta together with the Hon George Pullicino and Hon Dr. Mario De Marco (Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism, the Environment and Culture) signed a contract to extend their commitment towards the EkoSkola programme, a now



deeply routed programme in schools highlighting Education for Sustainable Development. Another feature of the event was the publication of the Central Mediterranean Naturalist Journal – a journal with a 41-year history of scientific research about our natural heritage. Besides general information about the local environment, this year's publication includes information about local satellite islets and a report about 10 new plant and animal species of the Maltese Islands.

Activities from our schools

(a) Flag hoisting ceremony at Nadur

Having received the good news that our school had won the honour of the Green Flag, we, the students at Nadur Primary school within the Gozo College all looked forward for the 1st December 2010 to make a symbolic ceremony of the raising of the Green Flag.



A well organised programme started of with the EkoSkola Anthem. Students from year Six gave a beautiful interpretation of the poem 'Tlett tfajliet ħelwin' written by Dun Karm Psaila. Audrey Marie Bartolo, a known singer, sang 'Meta id-Dinja Bkiet', an original song with an environmental theme, written by Deo Grech, and music composed by Philip Vella. As President of the EkoSkola Committee I read a

short message showing my satisfaction and that of my fellow students and to thank all students and teachers for their work and cooperation during the year, efforts with led us to win this honour.

Finally the most waited for moment arrived. Mr Vincent Attard, FEE Co-ordinator presented the flag to the EkoSkola Committee amidst clapping from all those present. Prof. Paul Pace, National EkoSkola Coordinator presented certificates to the Head of School and the EkoSkola Coordinators in our school. We all went down into the courtyard of our school to hoist the Green Flag for the first time under a slight drizzle which enhanced further the lovely atmosphere. It was a truly memorable day which we will all cherish in our hearts for years to come.

Written by Jamie Buttgieg, EkoSkola Committee President Gozo College Nadur Primary

(b) Learning Geography first hand

The draft National Curriculum Framework is proposing Education for Sustainable Development as a cross-curricular theme. This is a welcomed development as it gives curricular space for a lot of initiatives that are occurring in our schools. The following is such an example. We are including a summary compiled from two reports sent by Claire

Attard and Francesca Sillato both from 3 Sempreviva, Gozo College – Victoria Girls Secondary.

On the 26th November 2010, Geography Option students together with EkoSkola students had an educational outing to Malta. We visited three different places: the Engineered Landfill at Maghtab, il-Maqluba at Qrendi and the Limestone Heritage in Siggiewi.

Maghtab is an environmental complex where the old waste dumping culture is put to rest. The Maghtab area consisted mainly of garique. An agricultural scheme



was launched with the intent of making the land more productive by placing layers of organic household waste and soils, until it stared to be used as a dump. The dump site received a variety of waste streams including municipal solid waste, industrial waste, construction and demolition waste. We also saw two large engineered landfills: the Zwejra and the Ghallis landfill. An engineered landfill is a system where final disposal of solid waste occurs in a contained and controlled structure designed to minimize the negative impacts on the environment. During the visit we all became aware of the amount of rubbish that we throw every single day and how important it is to separate our waste so that it can be recycled.

After Maghtab we went to 'il-Magluba', located in Qrendi. On the 23rd November 1343,



Malta experienced one of its most severe winter storms ever, possibly accompanied by an earthquake. It was at this time that il-Maqluba was formed. This is a natural depression formed by the collapse of the underlying limestone strata, known as a doline in geological language. Being the middle ages, this natural event was obviously turned into a legend. This legend tells us of a group of bad people living together in a hamlet. God warned the village, through a good woman living close by, against their bad ways. As the bad people did not heed these warnings, God decreed that the land swallow the hamlet, sparing none except the good woman. There are many of Malta's national tree, the sandarac gum tree (siġra tal-għargħar). These trees live for many years.

Limestone Heritage situated in Siggiewi is the last place that we went to. From this place we learned how the Maltese rock is cut, used and formed. The

rock used for building in Malta and Gozo is called Globigerina Limestone (il-gebla tal-Franka). Here you could see pictures which show us the equipment and the way how they used to transport stone in the 1960s. Nowadays it is much easier than the older days because people used to carry the limestone themselves instead of using the more modern equipment.

Our trip ended there. It was a fantastic educational visit. I hope that our geography teacher will organize a similar trip to Malta again.



(c) Celebrating Green Day and Green Flag.



January 25th was a special Day for St. Benedict College, Mqabba Primary School. Children held a Green Walk through the streets of the lovely village of Mqabba carrying banners and posters and most of all having EkoSkola members carry the recently acquired Green Flag to lead the event. All classes including the Kinder Section participated in the walk.

All sorts of Posters and banners promoting less use of cars, walking instead of driving,

love for trees, and the Three Rs were prepared for the event. The award of the Green Flag this year gave the pupils of Mqabba the opportunity to show the local community they had taken very seriously keeping the environment clean and making it more healthy to live in.

Having the children so keen with all their banners and posters was of great impact and very effective. They gave a strong message to passers bye and their voices were heard through the streets they went through. Many parents and grandparents especially of the Kinder children joined in the walk.





The school would also be donating an Oak Tree to Local Council to be planted for all to enjoy and as a reminder of the children's contribution to embellishing their village and sheer work to gain the Green Flag award. The walk was a huge success and everyone present understood the message that we all need to take responsibility for our actions. It gave the children the opportunity to make their voices heard. It promoted the School Motto, "Together we can".

(d) World Water Day Initiative

The EkoSkola committee at Gozo College Aguis de Soldanis Girls Secondary School, Victoria organised two Walks for Water on the 22nd and 24th March to celebrate World Water Day by The aim of these walks was to raise funds for a project chosen for our school by AKVO organisation from the Netherlands. Our project is called AMREF Water

and Sanitation Mtwara, Tanzania and the objective of this project is to improve health and quality of life of vulnerable people in the Mtwara Rural District by increasing access to sustainable water sources and sanitation.

Walking for Water has been a successful campaign in the Netherlands for many years. This is the first year that Walking for Water has gone international and our school together with schools from South Africa, England and Scotland is participating. A total of one hundred students took part in these two walks.



The students prepared themselves by doing various research in groups about the World water supply, drinking water, on the organisations involved in these activities and on



Tanzania itself. The participating students also had the opportunity to meet Eng. Marco Cremona (hydrologist) during a thought provoking presentation on water organised by the same committee at the school on the 11th March. At the end of the presentation the students had the opportunity to ask questions related to the subject to Eng. Cremona.

During the walks the students carried a two litre bottle of water sponsored by Arkadia Ltd. in

order to show solidarity with women and children in developing countries who everyday travel long distances in order to reach some water. Each of the participating students carried a 'Walking for Water' backpack provided by AKVO organisation itself. Banners prepared by the students emphasising the preservation of water and the lack of drinking water were used during the walks.

Students asked passers-by for donations, as were also households and shopkeepers in Victoria, explaining to each about the water situation in the world. Kikku, the Eco-Gozo mascot also met the





students on both walks giving each students a key chain. The Minister for Gozo, Hon Giovanna Debono and Gozo College Principal, Chev Frank Gatt also met the students on one of the walks them for their praised initiative. Representatives from Nature Trust Malta were also present during these walks. Following the two walks the two litre bottles of water were donated to Dar Guzeppa Debono in Ghajnsielem. A bake sale was also organised as part of the fund raising activities held for the children of Tanzania. A total of 926 Euro was raised.

(e) L-iskola Primarja tal-Gudja fi proģett ta' riċiklar

Il-Kunsill Lokali flimkien mal-Green Pak talab lilna t-tfal tal-iskola Primarja tal-Gudja biex niģbru skart riċiklabbli bħall-karti u plastik f′boroż ħodor u nġibuhom l-iskola. L-aktar klassi li tiġbor skart riċiklabbli matul Marzu kellha tirbaħ premju. Minbarra dan, kull klassi ngħatat b′kemm jiswew €25 f′kotba għal-librerija tal-klassi. Il-klassijiet tal-Kinder minn naħa l-ohra ngħatgħu xi logħob. It-Tnejn 4 ta′ April fis-siegħa ta′ wara nofsinhar inġbarna fil-bitħa tal-iskola biex issir il-preżentazzjoni tar-riżultat. Għal din l-attivita′ ġew ukoll il-ġenituri tagħna flimkien mal-kunsilliera.

Aħna t-tfal tal-iskola konna ħadna ħafna boroż u konna fuq ix-xwiek biex naraw ir-riżultati. L-ewwel tkellmu l-kunsilliera flimkien mas-surmast u s-segretarju parlamentari Dr Chris Said. Imbagħad ir-rappreżentant tal-Green Pak qalilna biex nagħmlu l-boroż tagħna fi ċrieki. Kull klassi ħadet tliet boroż biex jiżnuhom u mbagħad kull klassi għaddet il-boroż kollha. Fl-aħħar ħadna l-boroż fit-trakk tal-Green Pak u flimkien ħadna xi frott, ilma u xi yogurt.

Fl-aħħar ġew ir-riżultati! Fl-ewwel post spiċċat il-klassi tal-Ħames sena, fit-tieni post il-klassi tat-Tieni sena, fit-tielet post il-klassi tal-Ewwel sena, fir-raba' post il-klassi tas-Sitt sena, fil-ħames post il-klassi tal-Kinder 1, fis-sitt post il-klassi tal-Kinder 2, fis-seba' post il-klassi tar-Raba' sena u fit-tmien post spiċċat il-klassi tat-Tielet sena. B'kollox ġbarna

1220 kilo ta' karti u plastik. Kulħadd mar tajjeb u ħadna pjaċir ħafna. Issa rridu nkomplu nisseparaw l-iskart ħalli nkomplu nieħdu ħsieb l-ambjent.

Artiklu miktub minn Jessica Aquilina u Amira Caruana, mill-Kumitat EkoSkola

(f) Help Save The World!!!

Have you ever heard the phrase reduce, reuse and recycle? I am sure that most of you have heard it! But not everyone that has heard it realises its importance. Unfortunately our planet is suffering from Global Warming, which can cause disasters all around the World. So if you care about the World we live in, our home, please start living by the

phrase Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. This phrase not only applies to Global warming, but also to pollution which is causing asthmatic problems especially to children. You may be asking the question: Why does it reduce pollution and Global Warming? It reduces pollution because if you Reduce, Reuse and Recycle the objects in your everyday life, less manufacturing will be needed and less carbon emissions will be let out into the air.

We also need to save water! I urge you to turn your water taps off when not in use and maybe to upgrade to non drip taps at your home. We also could think about finding a way how we could save rain water and use it to our advantage.



A very important thing we must become aware of is Saving Electricity. I urge you to unplug things that are not in use at the moment. When we don't unplug them they are still making use of electricity. Thus I propose another phrase you should live by: Switch off! Flick off! You can also install photovoltaic cells on your roof that help lower the consumption of energy and electricity!

Thus I conclude that if you love yourself, your family, your friends, the whole human race and our mother the Planet Earth, then SAVE ENERGY!!!

(g) Eco-Week at Mosta Primary B

Aħna l-istudenti tal-EkoSkola bdejna nwaħħlu l-bozoz u qegħdin inżommu r-records ta' min qieghed iħalli d-dawl mixgħul waqt il-ħin tal-brejk. Meta l-co-ordinator Mr Gatt ġie l-iskola tagħna tkellimna dwar din is-sistema u hu lagagħha bi tbissima fug wiċċu.

Fl-Eko-Week aħna għamilna l-mixja mill-iskola sal-Kappella ta' San Pawl Eremita u għaddejna minn Wied il-Għasel biex naslu ħdejha. Kienet ġurnata sabiħa u nteressanti



ħafna. Matul din il-ģimgħa għamilna ħafna attivitajiet sbieħ li ntogħġbu bħall-Eswitch game u kellna wkoll il-bazaar. Bl-Eswitch game naħseb li tgħallimna ħafna għax bis-saħħa ta' hekk it-tfal qegħdin joqogħdu aktar attenti dwar il-ħela taddawl.

Intoghģbot ukoll l-assembly dwar l-elettriku fejn irrectajna play qasira miktuba minn Shanise Chetcuti, membru tal-kumitat. It-tfal tgħallmu minnha għax kull ġimgħa qegħdin induru l-klassijiet u rari nsibu xi klassi bid-dawl mixgħul.

Din is-sena xtrajna ħafna pjanti minħabba s-suċċess li kellna fil-bazaar tas-sena l-oħra u l-iskola tidher isbaħ. Fil-bazaar ta' din is-sena kellna ħafna affarijiet sbieħ bħal statwi żgħar, fwejjaħ u xemgħat imma l-aktar li nxtraw kienu l-pjanti.

It-tfal ħadu gost fl-Eko-week u sena oħra nippruvaw nagħmlu attivitajiet sbieħ u differenti biex jolqtu l-gosti ta' kulħadd, iżda l-iktar biex minnhom dejjem nitgħallmu iżjed.





Artiklu miktub minn Gail Attard, Presidenta EkoSkola, u Shanise Chetcuti, Skola Primarja B, Mosta

Teaching Resources

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

(a) Project Earth



Project Earth® is a global environmental network where members showcase projects and activities from around the globe, teach and learn from one another, and celebrate our

planet's abundantly diverse natural ecosystems and human cultures. There are currently 81 schools participating in the network. Besides having a newsletter, the site has a teachers' corner with help and ideas on how to integrate education for sustainable development in the curriculum. The site is accessible on: http://www.projectearth.net/

(b) U4energy Kit



eTwinning has prepared a project tool kit to help schools 'have the energy to build a sustainable future'. This kit provides ideas and a set of resources to help teachers raise awareness of energy consumption, implementing effective

measures for raising awareness of energy consumption, using energy in a more efficient way, and sharing best practices on teaching energy at school. The kit is based on the U4energy competition: www.u4energy.eu. The toolkit is available on http://www.etwinning.net/en/pub/news/news/schools have the energy/u4energy kit.htm.

uestion EkoSko

My school is organising an activity that is related to EkoSkola is there any protocol that I need to observe?

Yes. In any communication, press release and speech you need to mention Nature Trust (Malta), since EkoSkola is run by this NGO.

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

Visit our website on www.ekoskolamalta.com



YOUNG REPORTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT Newsletter – Issue 2

YRE seminar

The annual YRE seminar was held on Friday 28th January at St Margaret's College BSS Verdala. The winners of last year's participants were presented with a certificate and a memento, while the international winner Luke Scicluna was presented with a trophy, a gift from the Hon George Pullicino (Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs) and with a day at the press from Mr Keith Demicoli, Press Club Malta.





Left: Mr Vince Attard (Nature Trust President), Hon George Pullicino (Minister of Resources & Rural Affairs); Ms Desiree Scicluna Bugeja (EO Biology) and Ms Audrey Gauci (YRE Co-ordinator). Right: Students and teachers attending the seminar





Dr Mark Mifsud and Mr Keith Demicoli during their presentations

170 students from 12 secondary schools attended the seminar, and the total number of participating schools till now has now gone up to 14 – 13 secondary schools and 1 post secondary. Both Maltese and Gozitan schools are participating in the programme. Presentations during the seminar included Sustainable development, images and the environment by Dr Mark Mifsud, An article to be read by Mr Keith Demicoli and YRE programme details. Heartfelt thanks to all those who attended and to St Margaret's College BSS for making the event possible.

Special thanks goes to our sponsors – MEEF, MRRA, HSBC and Wasteserv without which this programme would not be possible.

As announced during the seminar, from this year YRE projects can take one of the 3 formats:

- 1. An article on not more than 1000 words
- 2. A photo with a short write up of not more than 150 words
- 3. A video clip of maximum 2 minutes duration.

The YRE Website



As announced during the annual Young Reporters for the Environment seminar, the local YRE website is now finalised. It can be accessed through http://www.yremalta.org/. Schools who have already applied to participate in the programme can register online and start uploading this year's entries. The guidelines section gives all the necessary details for registering and participating in the programme. For further information contact the National Coordinator, Ms Audrey Gauci, on yre@naturetrustmalta.org, or on phone no 21313150 / 79295424.

Winners

The International YRE Jury met on the 26th May in Copenhagen to judge the articles and photographs submitted into this year's competition. There were a total of 79 submissions from 11 countries. We are pleased (or rather ecstatic) to announce that several entries from Malta won the 2011 YRE International competition:

In the Article Category:

- James Scicluna and Christina Pisani won the Agriculture section with their article "The Rubble Trouble?". Their superb article also won the **Super Award**.
- Beppe Grech and Christopher Busuttil won the Water section with their article "70,000,000 litres of rain water should they be wasted?"

In the Photographic Section:

Ryan Vella placed third with his photograph: "Lazy polluters"

We would like to extend congratulations to all this year's entrants. Our thanks also go to the teachers who worked to ensure these entries made it to the international competition.

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter please contact Ms Audrey Gauci, National YRE Co-ordinator, on audreyekoskola@naturetrustmalta.org