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March 2012 Issue 33

Editorial Note

As was expected, this scholastic year is proving to be a very busy and interesting year. We are witnessing an increasing interest in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) ever since the National Curriculum Framework's proposed it as a cross-curricular theme. The EkoSkola programme is providing schools with opportunities to integrate ESD in their day-to-day activities, like our revamped website, available on http://ekoskola.org.mt/, that is an invaluable ESD resource.



Teachers and schools are invited to share their projects, initiatives and educational resources through the website. Kindly forward any contribution to Ms Marvic Refalo (marvicekoskola@naturetrustmalta.org) who is responsible for its upkeep. Thanks Marvic!

We are also very happy to announce that the Embassy of the United States is the latest collaborating partner. Welcome and thank you for forming part of this ever increasing ESD network of schools and communities.







eLibraryUSA



The Information Resource Center at the Embassy of the United States, Malta is offering teachers the opportunity to make use of the eLibraryUSA – a new virtual online library with free access to over 20 authoritative databases. The databases can be accessed from any internet connection. The entire list of databases accessible from eLibraryUSA can be viewed at http://elibraryusa.state.gov.

Amongst others the eLibrary USA provides access to over 42 million magazine and journal articles, over 20,000 eBooks in English; the English Language Learner; 1,000 award-winning documentary films; the Global Issues in Context; GREENR; the LitFinder; Teen Health and

Wellness; over 150 popular middle school magazines and the Teacher Reference Center.

In order to get access to this resource one is required to apply by sending an email to the Information Resource Center at ircmalta@state.gov. Applicants will be given an appointment (the last appointment will be from 3.00-4.00 pm) to visit the Embassy where they will be shown how the database works and fill in and sign a form requesting the granting of passwords to the database.

HSBC-ES Climate Initiative



A total of 44 schools are participating in this year's edition of the HSBC-ES Climate Initiative. As in the previous year, an essential part of the initiative involves the School-Community Link project that provides schools with monetary grants to plan and implement community-based projects related to Climate Change. The HSBC-ES Steering committee received 21 Expressions of Interest from different schools and, after studying each proposal in detail, decided to sponsor the

following 12 projects:

- Show you care be aware (Gozo College, Nadur Primary)
- Water...Taken for granted? (Gozo College, Girls' Secondary)
- Minimizing Climatic Changes Through Water-saving Activities (Gozo College, San Lawrenz Primary)
- The Eco Friendly Garden Path (St Benedict College, Kirkop Primary)
- A Safi Village Literacy Community Eco-Garden and Water Conservation Park (St Benedict College, Safi Primary)
- Take care of your Environment and it will take care of you (St Benedict College, Zurrieq Primary)
- Climate Change in Colours (St Edward's College)
- Maximizing Sustainable Use of Rainwater (St Francis School, B'Kara)
- Fair and Square (St Joseph School, Blata I-Bajda)
- Our Kitchen Garden a great starting place (St Joseph Junior School, Sliema)
- How can changes in the way we consume contribute to our health and a better environment (St Nicholas College, Rabat GSS)
- Eco-Kara (St Therese College, B'Kara Primary)

Eco-Code Competition

As in previous years, schools participating in the HSBC-ES Climate Initiative are invited to take part in the Eco-Code Competition. Information about participation follows:

Categories: Junior (5-11) and Senior (12-18). Schools can offer **only** one entry per category. Each entry can be submitted by one or two students. Entries submitted by more than two students will not be considered.

Size: a single sheet of A2 paper.

Orientation: Portrait

Identification: The following information should be written **at the back** of each submitted poster:

Name of School

• Name of Student/s

Category

Originality: All entries must be original work and

must not infringe on the copyright or trademark of any third party. The use of logos on the front of the poster is **not** permitted. FEE becomes the owner of the entries on receipt and can use or reproduce them as it feels appropriate.

Closing date: Friday, 27th April 2012. Any entries received after that date will not be considered.

Prizes: Winners will be announced by the second week of May. Decisions of the Jury will be final. The winning students (in both categories), accompanied by their teachers, will be awarded a visit to Ireland!

Congrats

(a) U4energy Competition

We would like to congratulate Ms Lydia Gauci from St. Francis Primary School, Cospicua. Ms Gauci was declared European winner in Category A of the 2010-2011 U4energy competition. Category A encouraged teachers and pupils in schools to learn more about energy efficiently and to mobilise their school in order to achieve saving, mainly by reducing energy consumption levels. The winning project

was entitled: Enhancing the Awareness of Good Practices Related to Energy Efficiency. The project aimed to raise student awareness about energy use; energy efficiency; renewable energy sources and climate change through interactive lessons.

(b) Malta Environmental Award 2011

On the 25th of November 2011, St Benedict College Safi Primary school was awarded the MEPA Waste Minimisation Award set up by WasteServ Malta Limited in conjunction with

the Cleaner Technology Centre as part of the Environment Award for Enterprise – an award intended to recognise Maltese businesses and organisations that have implemented successful waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recycled product procurement programmes. The school was awarded a purposely designed trophy and diploma plus the use of the award's logo on the school stationery.

The EkoSkola Committee set up a recycled plastic Greenhouse, utilising over 1500 plastic bottles on the school premises. The Greenhouse was a community project involving all school stakeholders, pupils, teachers and parents, village people, local farmers, local environmentalists, Local Council members and

representatives from the Parish Environmental Commission. The EkoSkola Committee also set up a small EcoCompany, marketing Maltese indoor plants and herbs grown in

their recycled Greenhouse in recycled pots and recycled tyres, all this through the setup of the school ePortal.

(c) Get your walking shoes on!!



On the 22nd and 24th March 2011 the EkoSkola committee of Gozo College Girls Secondary School organised two walks for water in Victoria to celebrate World Water Day. During these walks funds were raised for a project chosen by AKVO organisation. The project was called AMREF Water and Sanitation Mtwara, Tanzania. During the walks and another fundraising activity organised together with ILWIEN project in our school we raised the sum of €1000. With this money a school in Mkahara could build a rainwater harvesting system including a sub surface 30,000 litre rainwater storage tank.

In addition, a "Child-to-Child" and "Child-to-Parent" Health Clubs were set up to provide health education through songs and dance to children and peers, as well as to communities around them. Areas covered include hygiene and sanitation issues e.g. prevention of water borne diseases, usage of toilets environmental health in general. First Aid kits were made available. Last but not least, the school has also been provided with a latrine with 10 stalls: 5 for girls and 5 for boys. This will influence school attendance positively, especially among girls.



Last year was the first year that Walking for Water spread over the borders of the Netherlands. More than 25,000 children from the Netherlands, South Africa, England, Scotland and Malta raised funds for projects in Tanzania, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. The 2012 Walking for Water Campaign is on. If your school wants to join this year's Walk for Water contact walkingforwater@akvo.org and visit the website: http://www.walkingforwater.eu/.

Annual Nature Trust - FEE Malta events

Largely because of the ever increasing number of schools participating in the various FEE programmes run by Nature Trust, we felt that we had to rethink the way we organise our seminars. As from this year we decided to separate the award-giving ceremony from the presentations. In our restructuring, we divided the seminar in two streams: one for teachers and another one for students; both revolving around the main theme: *Responding to ESD in Schools.* It was hosted at the St Paul's Missionary College, Rabat on 15th November 2011.

Two keynote papers were presented to the teachers present: Ms Claire Zammit shared her research findings about *Empowering Children through EkoSkola*; while Prof Paul Pace focused on *ESD in the National Curriculum Framework*. In the meantime students were involved in two concurrent sessions (one for Primary and another one for Secondary) about their *Reactions to the NCF document*. This was organised as a preparation for the Children's NCF Consultation Conference.

Following the break, teachers had two sessions during which they were offered information and



Ms Claire Zammit giving her keynote paper

support re the three school-based FEE programmes, i.e. EkoSkola, LEAF and YRE. Primary students had sessions during which they explored social and economic aspects of sustainable development. Secondary students had presentations from a journalist and a photographer about environmental journalism.

A total of 70 schools, that is 124 teachers and 129 students, participated in the seminar. In their feedback, the attendees said that they prefer this new format because it reserved more time for interaction.

Although its focus was still about ESD implementation in schools, due to small numbers, the Gozo Seminar maintained its original format. It was hosted at the Gozo College Għajnsielem Primary on 23rd November 2011 and was attended by 6 schools, that is 16 teachers and 31 students. During the seminar Ms Maria Mallia, from WasteServ, presented the European Week for Waste Reduction Guidelines Booklet to the attending schools.







From left to right: The Minister for Gozo, Ms Giovanna Debono, presenting the Green Flag to Xewkija Primary School (2nd time Green Flag School) and to Għajnsielem Primary School. She also presented the Silver Award to the Victoria Girls' Secondary School.

The Award Giving Ceremony was held on the 24th November 2011 at the St Benedict College, Boys Secondary School, Kirkop. The event was mainly devoted to the giving of awards for the various FEE programmes, interspaced with addresses from the various distinguished guests. The last pages of this newsletter list all the presented awards. Well done for your achievements!











Distinguished guests attending the Award Ceremony (from left to right): Prof Grace Grima - Director General for Quality & Standards Directorate; Hon. Dr Mario De Marco - Minister for Tourism, the Environment & Culture; Ms Doriette Camilleri - HSBC Bank Malta Manager Public Affairs; Hon. Clyde Puli - Parliamentary Secretary for Youth & Sport; and Ms Maria Mallia - WasteServ Malta Ltd.

Children turn stolen trees incidents into an opportunity

Last year students from seven schools organised a number of activities at their respective schools and collected €600. The money raised was then presented to the Hon George Pullicino, Minister of Resources and Rural Affairs, at the end of a fun walk that had been organised by his ministry in collaboration with Nature Trust (Malta) in April.

The money had been used to plant 64 young Aleppo pine trees along the road leading from Rabat to Buskett in mid-January this year. Unfortunately 50 of the trees were stolen within a couple of days. The trees were replaced twice, but more have been stolen since.

This prompted the administration, teachers and students at St Clare College, Pembroke Primary School to send a strong message to the public, expressing concern over these



incidents. They also collected money for two new trees, which they planted in Ta' Qali on a separate occasion.

A negative situation was therefore turned into an opportunity, as it served as an exercise for the students to develop their creative writing and presentation skills. This is the type of education and commitment to action promoted through the EkoSkola, YRE and LEAF programmes.

Another fun walk will be organised on Wednesday 25th April. You will receive a circular with further details in the coming days.

Taghna t-Tfal

One of our EkoSkola teachers, Mr Johann Gatt, is contributing to Taghna t-Tfal with short stories about eco-issues. The articles start off with a short story that is followed up with practical actions taken by various EkoSklola committees in various local schools. Several educators are already making use of this valuable resource with storytelling and comprehension exercises being the most popular choice so far. Since the themes tackled are various you may wish to make use of them in your lessons to further enrich the subject concerned and thus make it more relevant and interesting.



All the stories are available at the resources page of our EkoSkola website. Follow this link: http://www.ekoskola.org.mt/resource-topics/subject-malti/.

Networking with other schools

EkoSkola is offering schools a networking opportunity with Spanish schools. Read the following information and if interested contact the relevant school. Kindly keep Ms Marvic Refalo (marvicekoskola@naturetrustmalta.org), EkoSkola teacher in charge of networking informed of any successful contacts. You can also contact her if you need other school contacts from other countries.

(a) **School:** CEIP Clara Sánchez, Galápagos (Guadalajara) - Kindergarten/ Primary School (3 - 12 yrs)

Contact: Julián González (jg_martos@yahoo.es)

They have been in the Eco-Schools Programme since 2009. They are working on Energy and have organized activities related to fair trade and food sovereignty. They would like to share experiences about ecological gardens and environmental protection with Kindergarten level and with students aged 11 and 12 years old.

(b) **School:** CEIP Principes de Asturias, Pozuelo (Madrid) - Kindergarten/ Primary School (3 - 12 yrs)

Contact: Cristina Rodriguez (cristina.rodriguezdiezdelcorral@educa.madrid.org) and Inmaculada Romero (mromerofanego@educa.madrid.org)

They are looking to collaborate with students (7 to 8 yrs old) from an English speaking, eco-friendly school. They are conducting a waste disposal project and teaching biodiversity conservation. They would like to do environmentally related activities together as well as exchange information and experiences.

(c) **School:** CEIP San Antonio de Portaceli, Sigüenza (Guadalajara) - Kindergarten/ Primary School (3 - 12 yrs)

Contact: Elena Collado (19002056.cp@edu.jccm.es)

They would like to contact a Primary School with children aged between 6 and 12. They are working on recycling and biodiversity and would like to share and exchange information and experiences about their work.

(d) **School:** CEIP San José, Torrejón de Calzada (Madrid) - Kindergarten/ Primary School (3 - 12 yrs)

Contact: silvia.martinleon@educa.madrid.org

They would like to exchange e-mails with information, projects or photos about energy consumption, Energy systems used in other countries, (atomic, wind, water, nuclear or solar power) and ways to save energy in schools or countries.

(e) **School:** CEIP Villa de Quer, Quer (Guadalajara) - Kindergarten/ Primary School (3 - 12 yrs)

Contact: Nuria Calvo (pinhorte@yahoo.es)

Their main intention is to work with 3 to 12 year old children on water along history in every subject, through different activities. At the end of the course they will celebrate a "Water week". They want to establish contact with pupils of other cultures and countries through the English language.

(f) **School:** IES Poeta García Gutiérrez, Chiclana de la Frontera (Cádiz) – Secondary School

Contact: Julian Cano (jcanovilla@yahoo.es)

This is a Green flag school that has worked for a long period of time on issues like waste, energy and water. They organised reforestation projects, trips and visits to environmental education centres, manufactured artificial nests, cleaned woods and beaches, etc. They also participate in "Young Reporters for the Environment".

WastServ supports schools

Two years ago there were changes in the way separated waste was collected from schools. WasteServ passed this task over to the schemes. Whilst some schools managed to



continue with their waste management system successfully, others experienced some problems with the new service. Another problem was when it came to the collection of obsolete textbooks or exam papers. From now on, when schools wish to be guided how they can dispose their recyclable waste, or how to dispose of old textbooks and exam papers they can contact WasteServ (free phone number is 8007 2200) and let them know the amount of waste available for collection.

Moreover, as in the previous years, WasteServ Malta Ltd would like to invite all schools to avail of the educational services being offered by the company. Schools can either choose to have interactive and informative activities delivered at their school or opt to visit waste management facilities. These educational activities involve all age groups and can be tailored to the need of the school. Educational services being offered include:

- Story telling about waste management and composting at home
- Quiz about waste management in the Maltese Islands
- Interactive sessions involving drama, quizzes and waste separation exercises about waste management
- Open market activity- children disseminating information about to the general public
- Informative sessions about home composting and careers in waste management
- Site visits to Sant Antnin Waste Treatment Plant and Civic Amenity Sites

Informative sessions about waste management to school staff and parents

For further queries please do not hesitate to contact Ms Maria Mallia, Education Officer, on schools.ws@wasteservmalta.com or call on 2385 8234.

ReFab - Textile Recycling Scheme



This is a recycling project, which involves the recovering and recycling of textiles. It has been launched by Electrowaste Malta Ltd. and is being promoted by San Andrea School. The project is a hassle free way of getting rid of unwanted textiles whilst reducing the need for landfill space and the pressure on the Earth's natural resources that are used in textile production.

In collaboration with Maltese Local Councils and the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family, ReFab has started collecting textiles in several locations and schools. At the moment collection is carried out on request. They accept adults and children's clothing, bedding, curtains, shoes (tied together please), belts and handbags; and any rags, floor cloths, etc. These items must be clean, but otherwise can be in any condition. Items do not need to be sorted before being brought to school.

Once collected, Electrowaste Ltd. sorts out all the items locally. Any items found in good condition will be given to charities to be reused, while the rest will be shipped to Northern Ireland where the recycling project is continued.

For further information visit http://refabmalta.com or contact ReFab on: info@refabmalta.com.

Environmental Initiatives

Being the main school ESD network in Malta, EkoSkola receives a lot of requests from local and foreign organisations to circulate among our member schools information about environmental initiatives that they are organising. We have decided to dedicate part of our newsletter specifically for this purpose. Feel free to participate in any of these activities. However, kindly keep in mind that participation in these activities is not compulsory nor is it a requirement for your efforts to achieve the Green Flag. **You** decide whether you want to participate or not. If you intend to present any of the activities listed, you should ensure that it is included in your Action Plan as part of your strategy to address the issues identified in your environmental Review ... not as a stand alone.

(a) Catch the Drop Campaign

Launched in February 2010, this educational water-conservation campaign has continued throughout the Summer months, and this scholastic year. Although open for all schools, this year's target was the schools found along the Pembroke Reverse Osmosis Route. Students dropped water-conservation messages into a Moving Drop container that was relayed from one school to the next. The Moving Drop remained in the school for a couple of days and then moved on to the next school. During this time schools organised water related initiatives and held concrete water saving initiatives.

The campaign will culminate on World Water Day, 22nd March 2012 with a celebration in collaboration with SOS Malta.



Students will gather at St Joseph's School, Sliema and walk down Cathedral Str., Tower Rd., and onto Bisazza Str., where they will assist to a programme featuring items from participating schools. For more information and booking for the event contact Mr. Glenn Bugeja (on tel. 22952104 or glenn.bugeja@gov.mt) or visit the campaign web-site http://mrra.gov.mt/page.aspx?id=151.

Also occurring on World Water Day is the **World Walks for Water** - a global movement aimed at raising awareness on the global water and sanitation crisis and demanding action to stop the needless deaths of 4000 children every day. SOS Malta is launching its **Malta Walks for Water** awareness raising and fund-raising campaign aimed at sensitising the Maltese public about the implications of the lack of water supply and sanitation, especially within developing countries. As well as making donations to the Malta Walks for Water campaign, you can also sign The World Walks for Water global petition and join the thousands of people supporting this cause. Visit the website at http://www.maltawalksforwater.org/.

(b) Rio+20 Participation Guide



Rio+20 is a Sustainable Development conference organised by the UN for governments with some members of Civil Society attending. It is a 3 day event focused on having governments commit to sustainable development. Rio+twenties, one of the organising partners of the Major Group for Children and Youth for the UNCSD, has recently published its "Rio+20 Participation Guide - An

introduction for children and youth". The guide offers specific information for youth, identifies ways to influence the process and shares a lot of best practices, tips and tricks and existing examples on youth activism. The focus of the guide is on youth and children, but it can surely serve as background information for other civil society organisations. Have a look at their website as you will surely find much more interesting information about the NGO. Rio+twenties is based in Brussels and a youth led NGO that exists to facilitate youth participation in lead up to United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and the immediate months afterwards. The guide can be downloaded from:

http://rioplustwenties.org/?page_id=970.

(c) Project Earth

Project Earth is a global environmental education network designed to connect schools, students and teachers around



the world to help solve environmental problems. Founded by Ecology and Environment, Inc., Project Earth's mission is to generate ongoing conversation and collaboration across national boundaries that will collectively lead to positive environmental change. Through Project Earth, teachers and students are provided the tools to: (i) showcase environmental projects; (ii) network and share ideas, resources, and solutions to environmental problems; and (iii) participate in environmental contests. Participation on Project Earth® is free and only requires an internet connection and the willingness to share.

You are also encouraged to participate in the 2012 World Environment Day Contest aimed at promoting the exchange of ideas among schools, classrooms, and students globally to help solve environmental problems. Any environmental project or activity involving students of the ages 4-18 (grades K-12) is eligible to participate. Further details can be found at www.projectearth.net/Home/ContestHistory .

For more information contact Ms Anne-Elizabeth Kaitano at akaitano@ene.com.

Teaching Resources

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

(a) Soil-Net.com



Soil is vital to the existence of life on earth. Soil-Net.com is a free environmental Internet resource for primary and secondary schools providing teachers and students curriculum-based information about soil. It will help you discover what soil is, explore the life in it and become aware of the many environmental threats facing soils. You can visit the website at: http://www.soil-net.com/

(b) Smarter Living



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

THE EARTH'S BEST DEFENSE

According to the New York Times, NRDC is "One of the nation's most powerful environmental groups." NRDC uses law, science and the support of 1.3 million members and online activists to safeguard the Earth, its people, its plants and animals and the natural systems on which all life depends. The Smarter Living page in NRDC's website provides the latest information about living sustainably. The information is organised under the following five main categories: Food; Health; Home & Yard; Workplace & Smart's Shopper's Guides. Schools; and To access the webpage http://www.nrdc.org/living/.

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Does Green Flag status mean that my school has to participate in as many environmental activities as it can?

nswer No! One of the conditions for Green Flag status is that your school implements its action plan. Your EkoSkola Committee is absolutely free to determine which activity fits your priorities and whether it should feature in your action plan.

List of Awards

EkoSkola Awards

3rd Green Flag

St Clare College, San Gwann Primary B St Ignatius College, Zurrieg Primary

2nd Green Flag

Gozo College, Xewkija Primary School

St Margaret College, Xghajra Primary

St Gorg Preca College, Floriana Primary

1st Green Flag

De La Salle College Junior School

Gozo College, Għajnsielem Primary School

St Thomas More College, GSS, St Lucia

St Monica School, Birkirkara

St Benedict College, Kirkop Boys Secondary

St Francis Primary School, Cospicua

St Theresa College, St. Venera Primary

St Michael School

Silver Award

Gozo College, Girls Secondary School, Victoria

St Theresa College, Birkirkara Primary

St Thomas More College, Marsaxlokk Primary

Maria Regina College, Mosta Primary A

St Nicholas College, Rabat Primary C

St Joseph Junior School, Sliema

St Dorothy Senior School, Zebbug

Bronze Award

St Ignatius College, Luqa Primary

St Albert the Great College, Valletta

Eco-Code Poster Competition

Children's Section

1st Prize National & 3rd Prize International Competition:

Sharona Debono; Martina Demicoli; Michela Farrugia; Mariana Mifsud and Nikki Ann Zammit (San Gwann Primary B)

Youth's Section

1st Prize National Competition & 1st Prize International Competition:

Jonathan Richard Young (Sacred Heart Minor Seminary – Gozo)

YRE Awards

National Awards

Article Entry

1st prize: James Scicluna & Christina Pisani (San Anton School, Imselliet)

2nd prize: Nicholas Attard & George Zahra

(San Anton School, Imselliet)

3rd prize: Beppe Grech & Christopher Busuttil (St Margaret College, Verdala Boys' Secondary School, Cospicua)

Photo Entry

1st prize: Ryan Vella (St Margaret's College, Verdala Boys' Secondary School, Cospicua)

2nd prize: Rachel Powell (St Theresa College, Girls' Junior Lyceum, Mrieħel)

3rd prize: Miriana Ferrito (St Francis

Secondary, Sliema)

4th prize: Yvette Farrugia & Rebecca Sciberras (St Michael Foundation School, Tal-Balal)

5th prize: Rachel Powell (St Theresa College, Girls' Junior Lyceum, Mrieħel)

Special Prize: Alison Schembri (St Benedict College, Girls Secondary School, Tarxien)

Video Entry

Class 203 (St Ignatius College, Girls' Junior Lyceum, Blata I-Bajda)

International Awards

Super Award: James Scicluna & Christina Pisani (San Anton School, Imselliet, Mgarr)

1st prize Agriculture - Article Entry: James Scicluna & Christina Pisani (San Anton School, Imselliet, Mgarr)

1st prize Water - Article Entry: Beppe Grech & Christopher Busuttil (St Margaret College, Verdala Boys' Secondary School, Cospicua)

3rd prize - Photo Entry: Ryan Vella (St Margaret's College, Verdala Boys' Secondary School, Cospicua