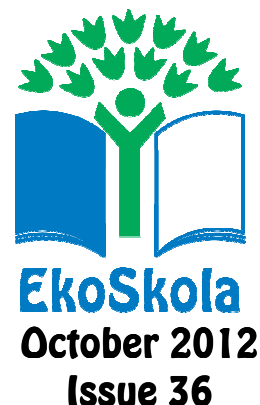


EkoSkola Network Newsletter

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

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Editorial Note

Welcome to another edition of the EkoSkola Network Newsletter. We guess that by now you have already settled in for a new scholastic year. This year promises to be an exciting and active one ... a fitting conclusion to our 10th anniversary celebrations.



As part of these celebrations, Nature Trust (Malta) will be hosting the International National Operators' Meeting of the EkoSkola Programme from 7-10th November, 2012.

This prestigious event, will be attended by Eco-Schools co-ordinators from 50 countries. You will be hearing more about the event in the media, our website, facebook and the next edition of the newsletter.

As you may recall, last year we had to reschedule several events due to situations beyond our control. Following your suggestions, this year we are proposing a tentative calendar of our main events at the start of the year:

- 20 Nov 2012: Annual National FEE Seminar (for schools in Gozo) at Nadur Primary, Gozo College
- 22 Nov 2012: Annual National FEE Seminar (for schools in Malta) at St Edward's College
- 03 Dec 2012: FEE Programmes Award Ceremony at Sta. Monica School, Gzira
- 17 Apr 2013: Young People's Environmental Summit on litter reduction
- Last week of May 2013: EkoSkola Parliament Session (date has to be confirmed by the Office of Mr Speaker)

Finally we would also like to welcome Mr Bernard Grixti who has now joined our team of EkoSkola Teachers. Nature Trust (Malta) would like to thank the Ministry of Education and Employment for believing in and supporting the EkoSkola programme.



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



The Wrigley Litter Less Campaign



LITTER LESS CAMPAIGN

Young Reporters for the Environment / Wrigley Company Foundation

This is an international project aimed at ensuring long term behavioural change with regard to environment and sustainability among young people from around the world. It was launched last year as a pilot project in 5 countries, and has now been extended to five more countries this year - one of which will be Malta. As a result, while supporting other environmental and sustainable development themes that you might have chosen for this year, our programme focus theme for this year will be on the Reduction of Litter.

Students participating in this campaign should design and lead an anti-litter campaign, where they will raise awareness on the effect of litter on the local community and environment, and come up with possible solutions. Students are expected to disseminate their work broadly through the social media and produce photos, video clips or articles. Due to the nature of the products, the campaign will be co-ordinated within the YRE programme. There are attractive prizes to be won - including tablets and a mission abroad for international winners. For more information contact Ms Audrey Gauci, National YRE Co-ordinator, on yre@naturetrustmalta.org, or mob 79295424.

Renewal of your membership

A new scholastic year brings with it the renewal of your membership in the programme. Don't miss out on any mailings ... the earlier you send in your application the earlier we can update our database. Applications can be downloaded from the following links:

<http://www.ekoskola.org.mt/uploads/2012/10/FEE-programmes-Application- Mal .pdf>

<http://www.ekoskola.org.mt/uploads/2012/10/FEE-programmes-Application- Eng .pdf>

Kindly note that for this year YRE will be piloted also in primary schools ... for more details send an email to yre@naturetrustmalta.org

A visit to Northern Ireland



Towards the end of the 2011-12 scholastic year, St Benedict's College, Tarxien Girls' Secondary School was informed that their entry for the HSBC Eco-Schools Climate Initiative Eco-code competition had placed first in the Youth Section. We were all overjoyed, firstly because it added towards another success in eco work done, but also because of the reward – a trip to Northern Ireland for both the winner and the school co-ordinator. The winner was a Form 2 student Daena Marie Constantine – a very promising student artist who managed to integrate in her drawing all the environmental issues that the school had tackled during the last scholastic year.

The Irish trip was well organised, thanks to Ms Marvic Refalo and Ms Elizabeth Agius, EkoSkola Teachers, and the Northern Ireland Eco-



Schools Team, namely Ms Carmel Fyfe, Ms Vanessa McDonnell, Mr Paul Johnson and Dr Ian Humphreys. We had the opportunity to visit three local schools: two Primary and one Secondary, who had just been awarded the Green Flag and shared eco experiences. We were shown around the schools by the eco-committees and even had a special assembly about Malta in one of them.

Apart from the school visits, we were also given the opportunity to visit a traditional candy shop and W5 – an interactive discovery centre encouraging learning and imagination. We also went trekking in Tollymore Forest and visited the Giant's Causeway, a world heritage site and nature at its best. It was a truly 5-day educational visit and made the participation in the Eco-Code competition worthwhile.

Fair Trade Activity



On Friday, 11th May, St Joseph School, Blata l-Bajda had a Mother's Day Activity. So the school took this opportunity to promote Fair Trade, which is the theme the school chose to tackle in the HSBC-ES Climate Initiative of 2012.

A stall was set up at the reception selling Fair Trade products and leaflets about Fair Trade were distributed. These leaflets were produced by secondary school students and printed professionally on recycled paper. During the morning the mothers who attended the activity could visit the Home

Economics room where a group of secondary school students were cooking chocolate chip cookies made mostly with Fair Trade ingredients.

Another stall was set up with cakes made mostly with Fair Trade ingredients. These cakes had been previously made by a group of students and teachers in the Home Economics room of the school. A free recipe book was given with each cake sold. These recipes were compiled by a group of students and teachers and printed on recycled paper. The mothers and other visitors visiting the school showed a great interest in all the information about Fair Trade and besides supporting the cause by buying Fair Trade products, they also gave donations.



Through this activity, the school managed to give its share by informing the wider community about an issue which needs to be tackled urgently, as many people in developing countries are working from dawn to dusk but not getting a fair wage for all their hardship.

Environment Celebration

"Informing and Involving" is one of the seven steps of EkoSkola. To do this the members need to work hand in hand within the EkoSkola Committee, with the teachers, parents and also with the community in general; thus an open day was held to celebrate the Environment on the 16th May 2012 at St. Joseph, Mater Boni Consilii School, Paola.

May was chosen for this event since it is the mid-way from Earth Day (celebrated on the 22nd of April) and Environment Day (celebrated on the 5th of June). On this day parents, relatives and friends were invited to visit the school and have a look at what the students usually do to promote the safeguarding of the environment.

During the official opening ceremony which was held in the school's yard in the morning, the EkoSkola's president Bernice Axisa read out her speech; students sang songs related to the environment, read information about the oak and lemon trees, and the Maltese



Mr Roderick Spiteri, Mayor of Paola Local Council, at the Tree Planting Ceremony



Healthy Eating Bingo - Grade 5 students and parents



Students posting their pledges

Rock-centaury since these were planted in the school's garden by Paola's Mayor Mr Roderick Spiteri and EkoSkola Officer Ms Audrey Gauci. The former wanted to extend his appreciation towards the students' effort by involving the school in one of the Local Council's project.

After this, students went to their respective classes where they carried out experiments, cooked healthy food and promoted local produce, took part in games, quizzes and drama plays – all related to the environment. Parents had the possibility to watch their respective children taking part in these different activities. They also had the opportunity to learn some practical but important tips on how to save water during a talk delivered by Eng. Marco Cremona, where he explained how we do obtain our water and why it is important not to waste it.

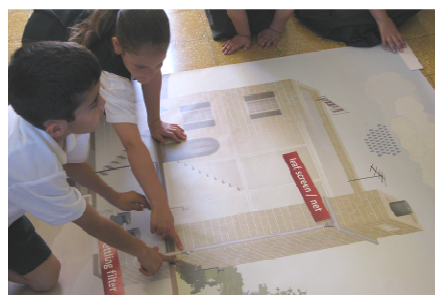
"Act Now Before It's Too Late" was the motto of the entire activity; children wanted to make adults aware that whatever we do now will have an effect in the future, therefore they wanted to teach all the lesson of sustainability.

The Alter Aqua project



The Alter Aqua project is a programme aimed to promote the use of Non Conventional Water Resources (NCWR) in Malta. It was initiated in 2011 by the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med) in cooperation with the Ministry for Gozo and the Eco-Gozo

Project aiming to mobilize NCWR in the Island of Gozo, as a sustainable solution for water availability in view of increasing water scarcity & escalating demand. The project aims to optimise rainwater harvesting as a promising alternative for supplying freshwater, by installing modern innovative rainwater harvesting systems in public buildings and areas and by training technicians on new techniques and materials available.



The project also aims to raise awareness of students and teachers on NCWR and sustainable water use and to enhance the capacity of local and regional councils on non

conventional water resources management. Nature Trust (Malta) is managing this educational part of the project in schools through the EkoSkola Programme. Further information can be obtained from Ms Elizabeth Agius (lizasaliba@gmail.com) or Ms Marvic Refalo (marvicrefalo@gmail.com) who are co-ordinating the local activities.

An educational pack and a number of hands on activities with resources were especially produced for the local context. Teacher training in conjunction with the educational pack has already been made through an INSET course last July. Further chances of training will be provided during the annual EkoSkola Seminar and PD sessions. All schools in Gozo together with five pilot schools in Malta will be benefiting from this educational material.

International recognition for your group

Currently a search is underway for the next crop of projects to show how young people are dealing with global issues and ensuring they inherit their own solutions, and not just our problems. The aim is to provide a gallery of the best practical projects to be part of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and enable UNEP to have contact with those practical-minded young decision-makers, the movers and shakers of tomorrow. To take part is easy and it could be any activity from tree planting to a community wide project. If you know of groups who are active and that deserve international recognition for their efforts and achievements please ask them to register at http://www.volvoadventure.org/env_register.aspx. The outcomes could be:

- international recognition for their project
- a potential invite to Sweden (all expenses paid) to present their projects to an international jury and win up to USD \$10,000 for their project
- a commendation that can help them for their future education or job applications
- access to free education materials

Anyone working on a practical environmental project aged between 13 and 16 years of age can enter for the Volvo Adventure. They need to be working in groups of two to five people and actively involved in devising and managing the project. We look forward to showcasing more of the remarkable work of young people from around the world!

Minn Qalbi ... b'Impenn

Continuing with last year's commitment towards our society, EkoSkola students will be adding a personal touch to the Strina initiative. Besides making their annual donation to the piggy-bank campaign, they will be doing something more tangible towards helping those who are in need and improving the environment.



For this purpose, a pledge sheet inviting students to make specific commitments is available from <http://www.ekoskola.org.mt/uploads/2012/10/EkoSkola-Strina-Pledges-2012.pdf>. If your school wants to participate in this initiative: (i) make and distribute copies of the pledge sheet to each student, (ii) urge students to tick those actions they promise to do and to hand in the pledge sheet together with their donation, and (iii) hand in the collected pledge sheets to your respective EkoSkola teacher. A summary of all the actions taken will be presented to the President of Malta, H.E. Dr George Abela.

Teaching Resources

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

(a) The One World Week site



21-28 October 2012

SHARING DESTINY

Moving Towards One World

One World Week's 2012 theme asks how we can shape our lives to contribute to an equitable future for all



One World Week is a Development Education Charity. Each year, "The Week" is an opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to come together to learn about global justice, to spread that learning and to use it to take action for justice locally and globally. The site provides several resources that include downloadable games, symbols, quizzes and word searches, PowerPoint presentations, video clips and photos and ideas for lessons. The site can be accessed from <http://www.oneworldweek.org/v2/>

(b) Pollinator LIVE



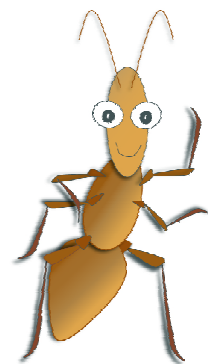
Although small in size, bees carry out a very important role in nature. As pollinators they influence food production, the health of flowering plants, and the future of wildlife. Unfortunately pesticides have caused a decline in their numbers posing a significant threat to the integrity of biodiversity, to global food webs, and to human

health. PollinatorLIVE is a series of broadcasts and webcasts of several educational programs (suitable for students aged from 9-14 years old), which are available as archived video on this web site: <http://pollinatorlive.pwnet.org/index.php>

Blogs

We have received an invitation from Martha Mangani (president) on behalf of the Ekoskola Committee of St Thomas More College, Fgura Primary B, to visit their blog. We encourage you to visit it at: <http://fgurabekoskola.wordpress.com/>

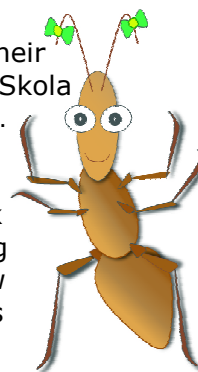
Meet Ninu and Nina



If while leafing through our newsletter you have wondered why ants have invaded this month's edition, it is because EkoSkola has befriended two ants: Ninu and Nina.

Looking closely at the way Ninu and Nina live and their characteristics makes them great partners in the EkoSkola programme. Ants are busy creatures that plan ahead ... working hard today to ensure a better quality of life in the present ... as well in the future. They also make the best use of the resources available. Although they work efficiently and effectively as a team, they are a living symbol of what a single individual can do. Did you know

that a single ant can lift objects with its jaws that weigh about 20 times its own body weight (some scientists have upped this figure to 50 for certain ant species)? If we humans can do such a feat ... we would be lifting trucks ... with our teeth!!!



Ninu and Nina will be featured in most of our promotional material and will be assisting us in our educational campaigns.

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 <http://ekoskola.org.mt/>