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February 2015

Issue 46

Editorial Note

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter. In this edition, besides the usual features we are including some interesting initiatives that some of our schools have organised. Publishing such initiatives is one way of disseminating good practice and encouraging others to do something similar. From our regular visits in schools we are aware that there are quite a lot of similar initiatives that go unnoticed. We encourage you share with your colleagues such experiences ... remember that this should be part of your Informing and Involving strategies.

Safeguard life through your old mobile

Rapid changes in communication technology and the constant desire by consumers to upgrade to a newer mobile phone is contributing to the increasing amount of electronic waste around the globe. A mobile phone's shelf life is only about 24 months for the average consumer. This means that newer mobile phone models are constantly put up on the market to replace older ones. In an attempt to raise awareness and reduce the e-waste produced from the thousands of mobiles replaced each year, you are invited to bring in unwanted obsolete mobile phones to schools for collection and recycling.



Old phones, broken phones, phones with missing parts can all be recycled. Mobiles contain metals, plastics and several components which can be extracted and re-used, but harmful if not disposed of properly. Hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic in mobile phones can be recycled and reused; none should go into landfills where they can contaminate air, soil and groundwater.

Recycling or reusing phones helps the environment by saving energy, conserving natural resources and keeping hazardous materials away from the environment. Those interested in participating and require further information please contact James Cassar on mobile 79618227 or email jmscassar@yahoo.com.

Sigra Fliexken minn studenti-ghalliema



Numru sabih ta' studenti-ghalliema fl-iskola San Injazju tal-Bniet fil-Handaq hargu bl-idea li jaghmlu xi haġa li tmur lil hinn mill-preparazzjonijiet għat-tagħlim fil-klassijiet tagħhom. Xtaqu li l-esperjenza tagħhom fil-perjodu qasir f'din l-iskola tkun waħda kkulurita b'memorji li jibqgħu jiftakru, allura hekk kif beda joqrob żmien il-Milied, hasbu biex johlqu sigra minn materjal irriċiklat. Jonathan Magri, student-ghalliem tad-disinn u t-teknoloġija, fassal struttura ta' sigra magħmula minn injam, kartun u fliexken tal-plastik u dderiġa lil min għen fl-iżvilupp ta' dan il-proġett. It-tim li hadem fuq din is-sigra kien iffurmat minn Clara Agius, David Bezzina, Dorianne Bonello, Kelly Busuttil, Maria Cardona u Eric Zahra, studenti-ghalliema mill-korsijiet tal-B.Ed u l-PGCE li jispeċjalizzaw f'oqsma differenti li jinkludu l-Ġeografija, l-Istorja u r-Reliġjon, il-Malti, l-Attività Fizika, ix-Xjenza u l-Fizika rispettivament.

Kollox beda f'waħda mill-klassijiet tal-arti fl-iskola, fejn sar l-ewwel tfassil tal-kartun. L-istaff u l-istudenti bdew japprezzaw din l-inizjattiva meta l-armar tas-sigra ha' postu quddiem il-librerija tal-iskola, u setgħu jaraw il-proċess tal-binja tagħha. Il-kelma dwar din is-sigra nfirxet mal-iskola u maż-żmien il-kontribut tal-istudenti u l-ghalliema żdied tant li rnexxielhom jingabru l-214-il fliexkun li kien hemm bżonn sabiex tintrama. Il-koperazzjoni u l-



inkoraġġiment kontinwu mill-amministrazzjoni tal-iskola ma naqasx. Il-Kap tal-iskola, is-Sa Maria Montebello, kellha kliem ta' tifhir dwar din l-inizjattiva u apprezzat l-involvement tal-istudenti-ghalliema u l-messaġġ li riedu jwasslu.

B'dan il-proġett, in-nies involuti mhux biss integraw iktar ma' xulxin u mal-iskola, imma komplew iqajmu kuxjenza dwar l-importanza tar-riċiklaġġ fl-atmosfera tal-Milied.

Artiklu miktub minn Dorianne Bonello

Conserving rainwater

As part of our EkoSkola project, our school – San Ġorġ Preca College, Valletta Primary – applied for and was awarded funds for the implementation of an HSBC Water project. Our school is actively participating in the Catch the Drop Campaign with various activities and the installation of large water reservoirs in our garden was one of the projects we embarked on during the last scholastic year.

During one of our EkoSkola Committee meetings, on a very rainy day, one of the members observed the large amount of water that was being wasted away, flowing out of the drain pipes of the Examination Centre next door. We discussed ways and means of how we could save this water, and the idea of



harvesting the rainwater in large tanks cropped up. Our project was chosen and was funded entirely by HSBC.

Two tanks were installed in the yard and connected to one of the drain pipes leading from the roof. An irrigation system was installed around our garden and the rain water can be used to water the plants during the hot summer period. During the inauguration of the Rain Water Harvesting Project, our students also planted two trees to replace a tree that was uprooted during a storm in November. Our garden club is now taking care of our garden and further projects are in the pipeline to embellish further this area at our school.



Collecting Plastic Caps



Helen Keller once said: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". At our Resource Centre we strongly believe in this saying and strive to put it into practice during our daily lessons and activities. Our Centre caters for students of secondary school age, between the ages of 12 and 16 and young adults between 16 and 22 years all having profound and multiple learning

disabilities (PMLD). At present we have a population of thirty-six students who attend our Centre daily, apart from others who come to benefit from services which we offer. They all come from different localities, but we form a small community that works together to achieve goals. Coming from different locations also means that we can reach out to a wider area of our Island. Our Centre is participating in the EkoSkola programme and hopes to achieve the Green Flag. This scholastic year we all made a joint effort for the Plastic Caps Collection organised by GreenPak.

An exceptional average of 7,972 plastic caps per student was collected, placing our school as the highest contributor of the campaign. We would like to congratulate every school that teamed up for the plastic caps collection. Together we helped raise the considerable sum of €15,000 which was donated to Irriċikla Għall-Istrina 2014. The money will be later distributed



to NGOs. The majority of our students benefit, in a way or another, from the help such organisations offer. Thus for us, participating in this campaign is also a means in which our students can contribute to society and those who are in need. We should all be proud of our work! Not only will the money raised go for philanthropic purposes, but we also helped raise more awareness about the importance of recycling. Together with other organisations across Malta and Gozo, we helped reach the

gathering of a record number of 7,274,833 plastic caps to a total of 21,824.5kg. This goes to show that if we work hand in hand we can all do and achieve more!

You might find these interesting

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 initiatives that they are organising. This section of our newsletter is specifically dedicated to this information. 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. If you decide to include it under the EkoSkola programme, include it in your Action Plan as part of your strategy to address the issues identified in your Environmental Review ... **not** as a stand alone.

(a) Clean Tech Competition 2015



This is an opportunity to challenge your students to use their scientific skills to “Feed the World” and win up to \$10,000 in the meantime! World hunger has been an ongoing problem for years; let’s not let that continue in 2015. You can engage the power of today’s youth to build a better future by registering for the 2015 Clean Tech Competition, a worldwide student challenge.

The Clean Tech Competition is a global, real-world, research and design challenge **for students aged 15-18**. It provides an ideal project based learning opportunity, both inside and outside the classroom that serves as a platform for students to explore ideas, present solutions, and make a positive difference. There is no entry fee and the awards include top prize of \$10,000 for your team and \$1,000 for your school/organization. Clean Tech also connects finalist teams with a STEM Advisor to create a prototype of their solution and present it to a live panel of judges ... so the learning opportunities are great! The closing date is **March 6th**. Register now for tips and guidance from competition administrators by visiting www.CleanTechCompetition.org.

(b) The Zayed Future – Energy Prize



This Prize is an annual US\$4 million award that recognises individuals, organisations and schools for advancing solutions that will meet the challenges of climate change, energy security and the environment. The category for Global High Schools is open to all high schools that teach students within the **age group 11-19 years**. Each application must have the support of the school and its management. There will be one recipient in each of five regions: the Americas, Europe, Africa, Oceania, and Asia. Each regional winner will be allocated **up to \$100,000**, with the final Prize amounts decided based on financial information submitted in the project proposals.

Participating schools are asked to submit a detailed proposal for a project, and the Prize acts as a grant that enables the project’s completion. While the main objective is to promote sustainability in schools, special emphasis of the proposed project should be on specific measurable initiatives to promote renewable energy and sustainability, which may include improvements in energy or water efficiency, or a reduction in waste. There are no fees associated with submissions. You can make your submission by filling in the online application form available from <http://zayedfutureenergyprize.com/en/>. Besides more information about the prize, the website offers assistance for filling up the application and writing a winning submission. For assistance contact the organisation on info@zayedfutureenergyprize.com.

(c) Createhope

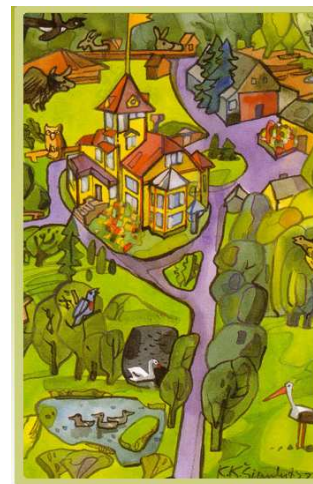
With a vision to bring a smile to those in need, Createhope creates and sells handmade crafts to support charity (currently they are supporting “Fundazzjoni Suret il-Bniedem” –

a local NGO which cares for homeless people in our society). Each item is handcrafted with love and special in every way. By purchasing one of their products you will be showing someone in need that there are people out there who care. Another aim of Createhope is to encourage the reuse and the recycle of materials such as buttons, beads, crochet thread, wool, wallpaper catalogues and cd's amongst others. Createhope has recently won the Waste Reduction Award for best Practice by Citizens, organised by Wasteserv, Malta. Furthermore, it was then short listed, from more than 85 actions, as finalist for the European Week for Waste Reduction Awards 2014. More information about their products can be obtained from their website: www.create-hope.com.



(d) International Art Contest 2015

We have just been informed that the Nature School of Panevezys, Lithuania is once again organising an International Art Contest with the theme: "Hear the Innermost Words of Nature". There are four age categories: 4-6, 7-10, 11-14 and 15-19. Participants can present more than one piece of work. Any art technique/medium can be used (graphics, charcoal, plumb ago and crayon, paint in oil, gouache, watercolour and other techniques) as long as the size limit (i.e., 30 x 42cm). The deadline for submission is **April 1st, 2015**. The best works will be awarded and given a certificate. Entries will be exhibited in Panevezys, in May 2015. Please note that works will not be returned and will remain at the disposition of the organizers. More information can be obtained from <http://www.gamtosmokykla.lt/en/news/0/261/the-international-art-contest-2015>.



Teaching Resources

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

(a) How much do you know about bats?

Batslive is a treasure trove of curricular material as well as information about bats. Besides lesson plans it contains video clips, activities for all ages and links to other sites dedicated to bats. The site is available at <http://batslive.pwnet.org/index.php>.



Another bat related site worth visiting can be found at: <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/i-m-batman-amy-wray>. At this site you will find an interesting cartoon about the new Batman that explains the role bats have in our environment and problems they have to face.

(b) How to Smile



This website collects quality educational materials, such as learning activities, tools, and services, from the web. These activities are all designed for teachers who want to use non-classroom settings to teach.

Moreover, the themes explored are interdisciplinary and interesting. Howtosmile is led by a group of science museums dedicated to bringing STEM education to children everywhere. Educators can contribute their own materials to the website which is available on <http://www.howtosmile.org/>.

Conference Alert:



1st Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Malta

20 and 21 February 2015
Aula Magna, Valletta Campus

Registration is free. For more information and to register visit:
<http://www.um.edu.mt/ceer/notices/conference>



ACTION FOR FAMILY AND CONSUMER WELLBEING

HOME ECONOMICS LITERACY BRINGING SKILLS TO LIFE

19 - 21 March 2015

Valletta - Malta

Registration fee: Local teachers: €50 for 2 days; Students' rate: €40 Fee for 1 Day: €32
Send your registration to conferences@um.edu.mt

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/> or facebook on www.facebook.com/ekoskola.