



ECO-SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

NOV/DEC 2007 p.1

Contents

EDITORIAL

ECO-SCHOOLS OF THE MONTH

Irish Green-School Grabs Recycling School of the Year Award – IRELAND

The primary school Notranjski odred Cerknica and Notranjska regional park at Children's Bazaar in Ljubljana – SLOVENIA

NEWS FROM ECO-SCHOOLS

Children go to Cameroon – SOUTH AFRICA
Scottish Green Flags – SCOTLAND

ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION

FEE NEWS - NATIONAL OPERATORS MEETING

LINKING AND ITINERARY PROJECT

INTERESTING LINKS

NEWS

Editorial

We are almost in the end of another year and the Eco-Schools International Programme numbers are in fact impressive! We are now 40 delegations worldwide involving more than 21,000 Schools, including Kindergartens, Elementary Schools and Secondary Schools – this represents more than 400,000 teachers and almost 6,000,000 Students!

After 10 years of the Kyoto protocol it is a fact that the Eco-Schools International Programme in contributing in a large scale to tackle Climate Change issues, for example, through Energy, Transport or directly Climate Change projects that are implemented in schools all over the world.

In this newsletter you will find excellent examples of the Programme implementation in the articles from Ireland, Slovenia, South Africa and Scotland.

The Environment and Innovation Project 2nd Cycle, again with the support of Toyota Motor Europe – Toyota Fund for Europe, was launched and 6 countries have just started the project Promotion.

The Eco-Schools International Programme meeting took place on the 23rd and 24th of November in Zagreb, Croatia, with the presence of 32 delegations and 43 people! We would like to thank Lijepa Nasa again for having organised this meeting and all the Croatian team that received us in such a professional way.

As usual, we finalize suggesting you interesting links and news on other initiatives.

Season Greetings!

Enjoy the reading,

Estela

International Eco-Schools Coordinator

Eco-Schools of the Month

IRISH GREEN-SCHOOL GRABS RECYCLING SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD – IRELAND

An Irish Green-School was awarded the Repak Recycling School of the Year Award 2007.

The school in question is Aglish National School in Waterford in the South East of Ireland who have already been awarded the Green Flag three times by An Taisce!

The Award is designed to reward a school that has gone to extra lengths to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

A Black-Tie Gala Dinner event was organised to honour Aglish National School and the other Recycling Award Winners in Dublin in October where the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley T.D., presented the awards.



Aglish National School is a four teacher primary school in Cappoquin, Co Waterford. The students and staff along with Principal Ronal Culloo are a shining example to us all. They recycle everything from aluminium cans, paper, cardboard, cartons and plastic to cartridges, batteries and lunch containers.

They give bags of shredded paper to local greyhound owners for bedding, and any tattered towels and old clothes are given to local mechanics and agricultural contractors for oiling machines and engines.

All of the artwork in the school is created from recycled materials.

The schools daily “Wash and Squash” campaign means each individual is responsible for their own recycling.

All the while, the Green Schools committee is busily monitoring all activities ensuring good practises are upheld.

Convent Primary School, Bathview, Mallow, Co. Cork and Corrandulla National School in Galway were joint finalists with innovative and fun initiatives taking place at both schools.

Green-Schools continues to grow in Ireland with now over 2,780 schools registered and 1,118 schools awarded the Flag! With another busy year ahead we know these numbers will continue to grow daily!

To see more details of Aglish NS and other schools, check out the Case Study Section of our website at www.greenschoolsireland.org.

Congratulations to Aglish NS again from all of us in the Green-Schools Team at An Taisce!

Cathy Joyce

An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland

www.greenschoolsireland.org

Eco-Schools of the Month

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL NOTRANJSKI ODRED CERKNICA AND NOTRANJSKA REGIONAL PARK AT CHILDREN'S BAZAAR IN LJUBLJANA - SLOVENIA

Between 13 and 16 September 2007 there was a Children's Bazaar at the fairground Gospodarsko razstavišče in Ljubljana. The primary school Notranjski odred Cerknica attended the Bazaar and presented its cooperation with the Notranjska regional park, which is a result of young people's awareness



on nature protection within the project LIFE 06 NAT/SLO/000069 Intermittent Cerknica Lake.

The primary school Notranjski odred Cerknica, as a successful Eco-school, devotes a lot of

care to the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage as well as to the responsible attitude towards nature protection.

At Children's Bazaar we exhibited some of the products made by our pupils during the lessons in school, in camps, on natural history days etc, within the above mentioned cooperation. Visitors could take a look at different posters on fishes, birds, ecology, nature protection, as well as food chains and food webs of the Cerknica Lake. Artistic products and research assignments on history, ethnology and nature protection also had a lot of attention. Other activities that were carried out in cooperation with the Notranjska regional park were presented on projection screen.

We also presented two interesting didactic games formed in our school and made of packaging waste – Treasures of the Cerknica Lake and I am getting to know the lake. The purpose of playing these two games was to improve teaching contents on natural and cultural heritage of the town Cerknica. We invited the visitors to play with us and in this way presented them, how pupils can upgrade their knowledge through games.

Together with the regional park we prepared different prize-winning sound riddles for the pupils of our school. One of such sound riddles was set to the visitors of the Bazaar who tried to

recognize animal sounds. Some of the visitors found it hard to recognize particular sounds, so it was obvious that they are less and less in contact with nature.

On Thursday and Friday it was particularly lively in the exhibition area of our school. Two representatives of the Notranjska regional park presented the green frog and the toad to the visitors. Groups of pre-school and primary school children as well as individuals visited our exhibition area. They talked to the nature protectionists and came into direct contact with the animals. In this way they got to know the animal biology and cast away all prejudices they had about frogs.



Tina Sluga and Brigita Vrenko-Hribar, The primary school Notranjski odred Cerknica

Dr. Gregor Torkar
Notranjska Regional Park

Translated by: Petra Turk

Nada Pavšer
DOVES - Association of Environmental Education in Slovenia

www.ekosola.si

News From Eco-Schools

CHILDREN GO TO CAMEROON – SOUTH AFRICA

Twelve year old girls Ambarani Mukwevho and Ndivhuwo Muvhulawa from Mmbara Senior Primary School in Sibasa Vhembe District represented South Africa at the Tunza Regional Children's Conference on the Environment in Cameroon in the July holidays this year.

The gathering was organised by the UNEP. The aim was for children to learn about environmental challenges and solutions,



meet other children, make friendships across borders and speak their minds to the decision makers of today.

In their application form the girls wrote how the school

environment "was never looked after or cared for in the past, therefore it was not a pleasing place to be. Since our school formed an environment committee and joined the WWF/WESSA Eco-Schools programme in 2005, things have changed drastically."

They described problems which the environmental working group had identified and tackled such as lack of water, littering, a diet poor in vegetables and fruits, lack of funds and school grounds with few trees and flowers.

The children presented a talk on the re use of water from ablutions. Mrs Mamburu on her return commented that Limpopo Province is more developed than Cameroon and that the littering problem there was shocking.

The children are planting indigenous trees in the community and school grounds to off set the carbon which was produced during their flight.

Bridget Ringhdal

WESSA - South Africa wing the 7-step Methodology

www.wildlifesociety.org.za

SCOTTISH GREEN FLAGS

On 28th September 2007, Eco Schools Scotland celebrated the award of the 500th Green Flag to a Scottish school. The school



in question was Rhu Primary School from Argyll & Bute and representatives from the school were presented with their Flag by Maureen Watt

MSP, Minister for Schools and Skills, at a special ceremony at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh.

Having 500 Green Flag-awarded schools is quite a milestone and we're very pleased to report that Scotland is still leading the way globally with regard to the percentage of schools participating in the Eco Schools programme. Almost 90% of Scottish local authority schools have taken the plunge and signed up, 46% have gained the Bronze Award and 31% have their Silver Award, so we reckon it won't be long before we announce the 600th Green Flag!



Kate Campbell

Keep Scotland Beautiful

www.ecoschoolsscotland.org

News From Eco-Schools

ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION PROJECT SECOND CYCLE

Climate Change: Let's Save Energy!



The Environment and Innovation project is now starting its Second Cycle that will begin now in 2007 and end in 2009.

This time, the Environment and Innovation Project involves 6 countries:

- Denmark
- Finland
- Italy
- Norway
- Turkey and
- Portugal

The new cycle theme is Climate Change: Let's Save Energy!.

Schools should submit projects that come up with innovative ways to optimize the Energy use both by schools and individuals in order to reduce their Carbon Footprints and minimize emissions linked with Climate Change.

As it happened in the first cycle, the project will operate at two levels: National and International.

National Juries will award grants to the most innovative school projects in each country and, later on, will evaluate which of the schools has made the best use of the grant to implement its project – this will be considered the National Winner Project.

The International Jury will then assess the National Winner Projects (one per country) and will choose one of them to be the International Winner Project.

The new image of the project has already been conceived: there are new posters and leaflets (translated into each of

the Project's Languages) and we expect to soon open the new website with information on the second cycle – also in English.

We'd like to wish the best luck to all of the schools that want to take part in the project!

If you want to know more please visit:

<http://www.eco-schools.org>

For any information please contact
coordination@eco-schools.org.

ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION PROJECT NEWS FROM THE 1ST CYCLE

The Millfield Primary School

The Millfield Primary School from the UK became the European Project winner of the first cycle of the Environment and Innovation Project (implemented in England and Northern Ireland by ENCAMS and Toyota GB), due to its innovative "Stamp Stanley – Walk-to-Millfield Project" where they came up with an original solution to encourage students and parents to walk to school.

This project has grabbed the attention of the European Commission that has decided to produce a film about the school's project. This film will be shown at the European Union Sustainable Energy Week Conferences, where the Eco-Schools International Coordinator, Estela G. Pereira, will present both the ES Programme and the Environment and Innovation Project.

When it is ready the film will also be available in several websites including, of course, the Eco-Schools Programme Website!



FEE news

THE NATIONAL OPERATORS MEETING

The Eco-Schools International Programme yearly National Operators Meeting took place on the 23rd and 24th November 2007 in Stubicka Toplice a very nice little village near Zagreb, Croatia.

For two days, the Eco-Schools National Operators of 32 FEE Delegations gathered to discuss issues concerning the Eco-Schools Programme and share good practices.



Mr Jan Eriksen, the FEE President was present during the first day of the Meeting to welcome all and to share his view on the programme.

Mr José Archer, the new Eco-Schools Programme Mentor talked about the future developments of the Programme.



Also Mr. Ante Kutle and representatives of local authorities welcomed the Meeting's participants.

The National Operators Meeting Agenda included discussions on the aspects of the

Programme's Standardization Process and how to improve communication (both within and outside the Programme), Sponsorship and Funding, among other issues.

Participants of the Meeting had the opportunity to visit a Croatian Eco-School where the children and teachers organized a wonderful musical reception and also a tasting of delicious Croatian cuisine, prepared by the mothers and grandmothers of the students

There was also an exhibition where National Operators were able to showcase their work.

The Meeting was co-organized by Lijepa Nasa / FEE Croatia and the Eco-Schools International Coordination.

We would like to thank the Croatian team of Lijepa Nasa for their hard work in organizing everything so perfectly!

THE LINKING AND ITINERARY PROJECT

The Linking and Itinerary Project was one of the issues discussed and the National Operators Meeting.

Everyone agreed that this project has very much potential and needs a little push to really get started.

Therefore we are now about to release the Linking and Itinerary Project DVD that will include several materials that, we hope, will help teachers and schools to become more active participants.

Here you can find a preview of the DVD:



Interesting links

CHECK IT OUT! - PROGRESS

Check it Out! is a project co-funded by the European Union under the Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme. The projects main goal is: to improve the energy performance of schools through technical measures and education. Partners from Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Spain and the Netherlands will work together to achieve this goal.

The project is now underway for about a year and the first results are showing!

More information about these results and the results per country can be found in the Second Check it out Newsletter. To read it, visit:

<http://www.check-it-out.eu/index.php?p=33296&main=33206>

News

AROUND THE WORLD

European children made a symbolic journey that stretched 36 times around the world to protect the global climate.

During the UN Climate Change Conference 2007 in Bali, Indonesia, the Climate Alliance presented 1,457,039 "Green Footprints" to save the world's climate to UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer. 20 children from the Sunrise School in Kerobokan on Bali handed them over on behalf of more than 128,000 children aged 4 to 10 years old.

One Green Footprint was awarded for each journey made by children using a sustainable means of transport during Climate Alliance's campaign "ZOOM - Kids on the Move for the World's Climate 2007".

The ambitious challenge was to gather at least 801,500 Green Footprints, which equals the number of kilometres needed to travel around the world 20 times.

This represents the ten years the Kyoto-Protocol is now in existence plus the next ten years which will reveal how ready we all are to fulfil our part on climate protection.

Further information:

<http://www.local-climate-protection.eu/zoom2007.html>

News

EUSEW

The Seventh ManagEnergy Annual Conference on Local Energy Action takes place in the Charlemagne Building, Brussels from 29 January to 31 January 2008 as part of EUSEW 2008: The Second EU Sustainable Energy Week (www.eusew.eu).

Andris Piebalgs, Energy Commissioner will participate in this ManagEnergy Plenary event, The Covenant of Mayors: The Contribution of Local Actors Towards a Sustainable Europe, along with Mayors from a number of European cities committed to local energy action and representatives of sustainable energy actions in both Europe and the US.

Following on from the success of last year's Education conference, actors working on energy education initiatives will once again gather to gain more experiences regarding the drivers and barriers for undertaking successful projects in the ManagEnergy workshop, Energy education, bringing the energy awareness to schools. Further information can be found in the profiles of invited speakers for both the plenary and education events.

The programme will include a presentation from Estela Pereira of Eco-Schools (Wednesday, January 30) on the Millfield Primary School Project, UK and the showing of a film about the project.

New Contacts

Allison Ellis is being replaced by Andrew Suter as she is on maternity leave! So the new contacts for EnCams are now:

United Kingdom (England and Northern Ireland)

Mr Andrew Suter

EnCams - Environmental Campaigns

Elizabeth House

The Pier

Wigan WN3 4EX

United Kingdom

Tel.: +44 1942 824 620

Fax: +44 1942 824 778

e-mail: eco-schools@encams.org

www.eco-schools.org.uk

ECO-SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

NOV/DEC 2007 **p.9**

Season's Greetings!

The Eco-Schools Programme International Coordination would like to wish you all a happy holiday season and a great 2008!



FEE - Foundation for Environmental Education is a non-profit umbrella organisation implementing programmes for environmental education, management and certification.

fee@friluftstraadet.dk - www.fee-international.org



The International Coordination is hosted by Associação Bandeira Azul da Europa (ABAE), the Portuguese Member of FEE.

fee.portugal@abae.pt - www.abae.pt

Institutional Partners:



www.unep.org



www.scotland.gov.uk



www.cm-faro.pt

Corporate Partners/Sponsors:

TOYOTA

www.toyota-europe.com

softfinanca