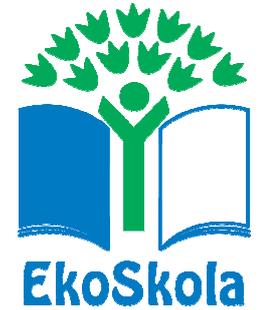


If you need to print this newsletter, please use both sides of recycled paper

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September 2009

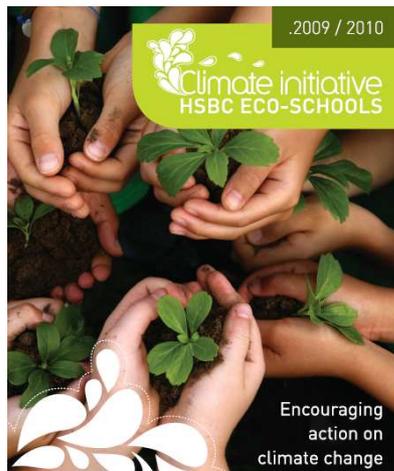
Issue 24

Editorial Note

A new scholastic year has begun! Hope that you had the time to relax during your holidays because this year is promising to be a very work intensive year. Just have a look at the initiatives that are available.

This year we have also had some changes in our team of EkoSkola Teachers. Mr Mario Camenzuli has been appointed Assistant Head of School and is no longer part of the team. On behalf of Nature Trust and the schools that he so devotedly cared for, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the sterling service that he gave to EkoSkola during the two years of his appointment. The new team of EkoSkola Teachers is made up of: Mr David Caruana, Mr Johann Gatt, Ms Audrey Gauci, Ms Marvic Refalo and Ms Elizabeth Saliba. A big thank you goes to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth & Sports for providing us with these teachers – without this support EkoSkola would simply cease to function efficiently.

HSBC Eco-Schools Climate Initiative Project



Malta has been accepted as partner in the HSBC Eco-Schools Climate Change Project that will span a whole scholastic year. The project will involve HSBC employees, initially in 11 countries (Brazil, China, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Malta, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States), who will volunteer time to help schools address a variety of environmental themes ranging from energy, transport and waste to water and biodiversity in relation to climate change.

Participating in the project is easy because it involves going through the EkoSkola 7



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



steps with an emphasis on Climate Change issues. Participating schools will receive educational material that will help them in their tasks. The project will also involve an HSBC Eco-Code Climate Competition in each participating country and an international competition for national champions with fabulous prizes.

Your school will soon receive a circular containing more information about the project and application form. Participation is limited to the first 50 schools that apply for the project.

Flick the Switch Project - A simple action but a very powerful one!

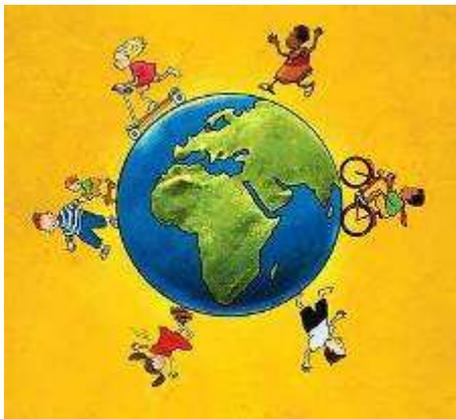
As you read this, there are over 3 billion computers, TVs, DVD players, projectors, Play stations, Wiis, HiFis and countless other devices left on stand-by right across Europe! This is a scandalous amount of Europe's energy being wasted due to these unused lights and devices being left on needlessly in schools and households. You can change this!

Flick the Switch is a stimulating energy saving campaign aimed at primary and secondary schools and households across Europe. Through a series of fun and educational activities, students, teachers and parents are able to take practical actions in helping their schools and homes save energy, money and help the environment! Flick the Switch registered schools are offered access to a wide range of educational resources and fun materials on energy efficiency for students and an opportunity to participate in the energy saving competitions! It will also provide an opportunity to network and unite young Europeans behind a common cause.



Flick the Switch are partners to Eco-Schools both on an international and local basis. Participation is easy and can facilitate your involvement in the EkoSkola programme! For more information access the project's website: <http://www.flicktheswitch.eu>

ZOOM – Kids on the Move 2009!



The Climate Alliance is inviting children from all over Europe to carry out an activity week dedicated to sustainable mobility and climate change, focusing on the fun of movement and independent mobility. Children discover how their daily journeys can contribute to treat the world's climate with care.

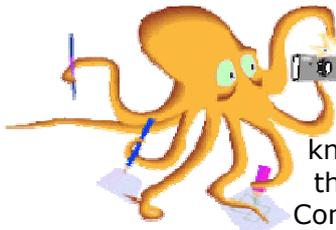
Each journey completed on foot, by bike, roller skates, scooter, bus, train etc. counts one "Green Footprint". All schools and kindergarten are invited to participate, the more Green Footprints we get the better! Primary school and kindergarten children all over Europe have been collecting Green Footprints since May 2009 and will continue doing so till the 20th

November 2009 for a symbolic journey around the world for the 8th time! This year's target is to beat last year's result. ZOOM aims at collecting enough Green Footprints to surround the world more than 38 times, equalling 1,546,834 Footprints.

In December Climate Alliance is going to hand over the Green Footprints, collected by children from all over Europe, to participants of the 15th Climate Conference. If interested please contact Stephanie Dober (s.dober@klimabuendnis.org) for more information. You can order all materials in English from Climate Alliance (www.kindermeilen.eu).

The IOI-KIDS Teachers Competition

The IOI-Malta Operational Centre of the University of Malta is launching a new competition to promote the IOI-Kids website as an educational resource and as a means



for inter-school exchange and collaboration. Teachers are invited to contribute original educational material (PowerPoint presentations, Web-pages, Quizzes, Instructive games, Lecture notes and Projects) and articles to promote children's knowledge of the sea. Prizes are being awarded to the winners and the best works will be published on the IOI-Kids website. Contributions must strictly refer to themes related to the sea. Topics may cover local, Mediterranean or even broader perspectives. Contributions can cover a range of sea-related topics that can support young readers in the primary (ages 5-10) and secondary (ages 11-16) school years in their curriculum assignments, as well as to widen their general knowledge on the marine environment. More information can be obtained from the IOI-Kids website (www.ioikids.net). Deadline for submissions for such a competition is the **15th of November**.

Inservice Teacher Training Course



This year the EkoSkola Committee organised the first inservice teacher training about "The EkoSkola Programme: a whole school approach to environmental education" on the 7-9th July. The course focused mainly on the development of school environmental policies through a whole school development approach using the EkoSkola programme as a tool. Participants went through exercises that helped them experience and reflect upon methodologies aimed at enhancing active student participation in decision making. Through these activities, participants also learned how to integrate environmental education in the curriculum and facilitate interaction with the surrounding school community. The course was attended by 17 teachers and received very positive feedback. Nature Trust's plans are to offer the same course during this scholastic year.

Nascence-Metamorphosis project



Ms Fazilet Kendirci with her team of students working on the project

Ms Fazilet Kendirci is an artist-curator-educator from Istanbul, Turkey and is originator of the Nascence-Metamorphosis (when I grow up) project. The aim of the project is to help children see and document the environmental changes that occur around them. The target age is from 7-16 years. The project began April 23, 2009 and will finish April 23, 2012.

The project (which is already running in Turkey) consists of asking children to take photos of what they see from their windows every first week of every month. They will keep a private notebook in which they write about their feelings about what they see and maybe even draw pictures. The project involves organising meetings between children at the end of every month during which they will discuss about their findings.

Later on Ms Kendirci will collect all the material and publish them in a book. That is why she wishes to make this project a worldwide activity. If you are interested in the idea and think that you can run the project in your school (with about 3-15 students) contact Ms Kendirci directly on faziletkendirci@yahoo.com.tr for more details and information. Please keep us informed if you participate in the project.

Volvo Adventure

The Volvo Adventure is an educational programme that rewards environmental activities



and the decision-makers of the future. To enter, you form a team of 2 to 5 members aged 13 to 16 years and perform an environmental project in your local community. You submit the project via our online submission tool before the competition deadline, January 31st 2011. Projects are judged and the best projects are selected for an all expenses paid trip to Göteborg, Sweden where they can win: 1st place = 10,000 USD, 2nd = 6,000 USD and 3rd = 4,000 USD.

If your children are too young to enter the Volvo Adventure, Bob the Bunny competition is aimed at younger adventurers aged between 10 to 12 years old. To enter, form a team of 1 to 3 members, identify a local environmental issue and create an A4 cartoon strip illustrating the issue and actions that you might take to solve it. The winning team will be sent to the Volvo Adventure final. You may see this year's Bob the Bunny's Cartoon Book at <http://www.volvoadventure.org/Resources/2009CartoonBook.pdf>

The projects are run with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme. Registration details, guidelines and for more information visit the site on: <http://www.volvoadventure.org/home.aspx>.

A Song to Save the Earth

Aitan Grossman, a 12 year old California boy, hopes children everywhere can save the earth from global warming by singing "100 Generations," an environment song he wrote for a project he calls kidEarth. Children from Africa, North and South America, Asia and Europe have joined in already but more voices are needed to make the kind of impact Aitan thinks this problem deserves. So, Aitan hopes teachers and youth leaders everywhere will take his song "on the road," at home and when they travel.



Aitan's made it quite easy – the notes, lyrics and instrumental tracks to "100 Generations" chorus are on kidEarth's website (www.kidEarth.us). Students can sing at school or at home, using Aitan's words or their own. Students who want to join other children from around the world can post their own "100 Generations"

music video on kidEarth's video page. For those who'd rather listen than sing, "100 Generations" can be downloaded from iTunes and Amazon MP3. Sales will support nonprofit groups fighting the climate change.

Though Aitan just started kidEarth this past Spring, it already has gotten some great recognition including a feature story on Al Gore's Alliance for Climate Protection's website (www.repoweramerica.org/state/california) and a Climate Hero designation by San Francisco Bay Area environmentalists. Interested? If so, please spread the word. Also, be

sure to email Aitan with the names of your school and groups (and their towns) which sing his song so he can mention them on kidEarth's website on KidEarthUs@yahoo.com.

Global Education Week 2009

EkoSkola has been trying to introduce sustainable development issues in its participating schools for quite some time. We feel that such issues are more relevant to the realities we face around us and that education for sustainable development should form an essential part of every individual's education.

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe has been organizing the Global Education Week since 1999 with the aim of promoting school activities that focus on how to overcome poverty and social exclusion. It is an invitation to address issues of diversity and inequality at the local as well as at the global level with an understanding of the core issues of global citizenship. This year's theme is "Food For All".



For more information about how you can participate, ideas that you can do and other resources visit http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GEW/0GEW2009_en.asp. Please note that the site also lists several contact persons ... including one for Malta.

School blogs

Kulleġġ San Nikola, Skola Primarja Bahrija

[Contact Us](#)



We have received another notification of a school blog. This time it's from Bahrija Primary. We urge you to visit it on <http://schoolnet.gov.mt/bahrijprimary> and interact with the school.

Teaching Resources

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

(a) Change

A screenshot of the European Commission website for Environment, Climate Change. The page features a blue header with the word "Environment" and a navigation menu. The main content area is titled "CHANGE" and includes a sub-heading "How can you control climate change?". Below this, there is a paragraph of text and four action items: "Turn down", "Switch off", "Recycle", and "Walk", each accompanied by a small image. The page also includes a search bar and a language selector.

We have already featured this website in another issue, but we felt that we should alert you to its new added features ... including sections and videos about cool ideas about Climate Change for teenagers. The resources you'll find here are unbelievable ... just go to: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/campaign/index_en.htm and see for yourself.

(b) Eco Agents – Special Unit

If you are looking for an interactive site that helps your students to explore environmental issues in an investigative way ... then look no further. This is your site: <http://ecoagents.eea.europa.eu/>



The site is easy to use and invites students to become agents for the environment with the task to save the Earth. They can choose their own character and gather information about the mission they are assigned from Mission Control.

There is also a Teachers' Section where you can find links and other resources that you can use to make this interactive game an enjoyable educational experience.

Believe me ... children will get hooked onto this game!

Question & Answer

Can we participate in EkoSkola and keep participating in other projects like Connectando Mundos, Dinja Wahda, GAS, etc.?

Yes. The EkoSkola is a programme that helps you integrate various school initiatives, through its Action Plan, into a coherent whole school approach.

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

Visit our website on www.ekoskolamalta.com