



Farewell and until we meet again 😊

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### June 2012

**Report on Eco-Schools Developments**  
**FEE General Assembly Contributions from National Operators including:**  
**Wonderful news from Eco-Schools Uganda and a special addition from Eco-Schools Kenya and a article about very high Green Flag standards in Japan.**

**Plus articles from:**  
**Croatia, USA, China, Ireland, Romania, Malta, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, UAE, Greece, Northern Ireland and Scotland**

### In this Eco-Schools Newsletter...

Eco-Schools is undergoing changes in administration with Bernard Holland resigning his position to return to Australia for family reasons, Anna Norman expecting her third child later in the year and Henny Kromhout leaving the FEE Executive Board.

In addition, planning for the 2012 NOM in Malta is well under way and new 2012 campaign cycles have undergone web based changes.

As November approaches we also look forward to the Eco-Schools first, World day of Action.

Take care, kindest regards and thank you,

Bernard Holland, Anna Normann and Henny Kromhout

International Eco-Schools Team.



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## ECO-SCHOOLS PROGRAMME DIRECTOR REPORT

**After two years within the Eco-Schools Network a small summary of our achievements are listed below as a reminder of our story together.**

In Scotland, 2010 a cafeteria style meeting process was introduced to help with consultation processes, bring about more discussion opportunities, especially for those who have English as a second language. This meeting set the strategic direction for Eco-Schools which was affirmed in 2011 and an Eco-Schools Aim and Strategic Plan published after the 2011 NOM.

International Criteria was developed from both the Scotland consultation process and an electronic survey and this now helps new countries set up their own National criteria for the Green Flag.

Web based developments have dominated time and money over the last two years. While the New Eco-Schools website is the last of the FEE websites to get a 'make-over' (and we are almost there), the active contents of this website has been developed within the corporate sponsored programmes to bring about greater dynamics, usability and functionality and reduce overall project costs.

Across YRE and Eco-Schools we now have interactive Blog functions, seven step upload facilities to demonstrate actions, PDF archiving to re-tell stories from the past, a global registration portal and CONNECT TOOL to enable the first stages of collaboration. Sponsorship has now spread across more countries and monies increased gradually. New sponsors have been attracted because through one programme a global partner such as FEE Eco-Schools can reach many audiences.

Finally the Eco-Schools World day of Action is set to be launched in November and will pull together the Eco-Schools Connect Tool, all web based technologies as a show and tell tool and provide the basis for all future Eco-Schools growth and communication both within our network and possibly inclusive of other Green School Programmes outside our network...thereby positioning FEE Eco-Schools at the centre of a global discussion if National Operators to seize this strategic position and launch new initiatives around these capabilities.

My long held vision for Eco-Schools is that with a CONNECT tool, we can engage non-FEE Green school programmes in a global conversation to create a more sustainable world...and over time harmonize these programmes into our FEE family through a strong National NGO. The rest is now up to new coordination staff and the National Operators to take forward...if that is what is wanted.

Thank you to the entire network from Kristine and I and I will follow your journey with interest.

Thank you also to Henny Kromhout who has walked the journey with me and the Eco-Schools team and now leaves the FEE Executive Board to ensure he spends quality time with his wife and family.

Bernard Holland



## ECO-SCHOOLS WORLD DAY OF ACTION

**Better Late Than Never they say.**

The website is ready for release for National Operators to register within and then their schools to register with their approval.

Posters and Certificates have also been developed for use by schools and down loadable from the website. Examples of activities of schools are shown as inspiration

Thanks to the Staples Foundation, we had the funds to develop this coordinated action day.

With a little surplus from STAPLES sponsorship we are able to offer some cash prizes for Eco-Schools programmes who achieve the highest percentage of registrations for the world day of action and highest percentage of uploads into the website.

We hope to deliver prizes to both large and small networks...more details closer to the time.



*At St Josephs' Katembe Primary School each child identifies with a tree to takes care of. When leaving the school the child passes it on to a close friend in lower classes or a parent.*

## THE WRITING ON THE WALL: ECO-SCHOOLS IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT SAVES LIVES.

**CECOD Uganda beat 180 nominees from 52 countries to be one of the three winners of the UNCCD Land for Life Award at Rio +20.**

In 2011, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for the first time launched the Land for Life Award to recognize efforts that promote the natural health and productivity of the earth's soils.

With this award goes the recognition that Uganda's Eco-Schools approach in the African context is not only enhancing children's participation in sustainable development processes, but it is also improving livelihoods of rural poor communities.

The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD Luc Gnacadja, stated that, "These three winners exemplify the type of leadership and initiatives which are making the difference at grassroots level, improving livelihoods and ensuring land stewardship." He continued by saying that "We need to learn from them and help them to scale-up their work and disseminate the lessons learnt."

Congratulations to Robert Isingoma and his team on the significant work he is doing with student change actions in Ugandan Eco-Schools.



## PUPILS TAKING CHARGE OF THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES AT AN EARLY AGE IN UGANDA

### Promotion of Potable Fuel Wood Energy Saving Cook Stoves -Mbarara SD Primary School

Pupils at SDA Primary school Mbarara District in Uganda have realized that the demand for indigenous tree species for timber, firewood, carving wood, charcoal production and poles is so great that it is unsustainable. Their discussions

through the Eco-Schools process have led them to understand the need to conserve their forests.

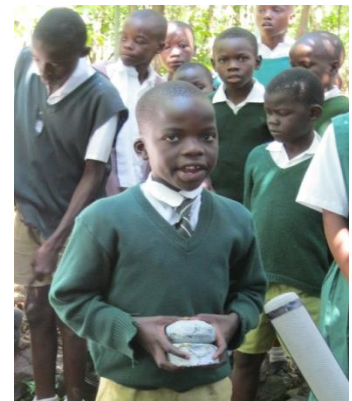
As part of the process, they have decided to construct energy saving cook stoves to reduce the amount of fuel wood burnt at home each day. With fuel wood collection in Uganda normally being a woman or girls role not only are natural resources conserved but time as well. They can use this time for their schools homework or any other productive work at home.

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## ECO-SCHOOLS IN KENYA IS NOW 13 YEARS OLD

**Eco-schools in Kenya aims at improving livelihoods in schools and local communities and promoting sustainable development by addressing issues in six thematic areas that include water, biodiversity, agriculture, health, waste management and energy.**

Eco-Schools also addresses cross-cutting issues such as climate change, gender, HIV Aids, disaster management and entrepreneurship. The programme now has more than 1500 schools in the country and has registered 1000 schools of which 450 schools have been graduated as an Eco School.



*Pictured is a student with a paper brickette he has made for a fire*

Eco School Kenya activities include:

1. Tree planting with support from Panasonic and the global forest fund, and honour the late Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Professor Wangari Maathai.
2. Essay writing and artwork competitions and hold an award giving ceremony to commemorate World Environment Day.
3. Exhibiting and advocacy of Eco School Programme and materials developed in various functions such as the National Conference on Regional Centers of Expertise(RCE)
4. Conducting Eco School Trainings session in schools
5. Eco-School Kenya is also being redesigned to target schools based on categories such as community schools, government school, private schools and faith based schools.
6. Also, through the Eco School Programme, KOEE has recently secured a grant from Embassy of Japan to install solar lantern and panels in 8 schools in Kamser Location to enhance learning. In addition, 3 schools in the same area were assisted to procure 8000 litre water tank



## UAE ON THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABILITY

**On May 20, 2012, UAE Eco-Schools awarded the first Green Flags in the country when five of the 30 schools taking part in the HSBC Eco-Schools Climate Initiative achieve Green Flag status**

Greenwood International School, Al Hala Basic Cycle School for Boys, Raffles International School, Adhen Basic Cycle School for Girls in Ras Al Khaimah; and Dubai International Academy were all handed their

Green Flags by Ammar Shams, Regional Head of Corporate Sustainability, HSBC Bank Middle East Ltd and Ida Tillisch, Acting Director General, EWS-WWF, and Mariam Rafee from the UAE Ministry of Education.

The students were very excited to receive their Green Flag after having demonstrated their commitment to reducing water and energy consumption, no easy task in their harsh environment.

In addition, the event showcased inspirational posters from the students' work in implementing key environmental changes through micro-projects, seed-funding for which was provided by HSBC. Some of the projects undertaken include harnessing AC water to water plants in the school grounds, equipping schools corridors with motion sensors, fitting taps with water saving devices and holding coffee evenings to raise awareness of environmental issues in their communities.

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## SWEDISH ECO-SCHOOLS COMPLETES EU FUNDED 'LIFE' PROJECT



**The objective of the project has been to create a well informed generation that has the tools and the power to act and to solve environmental issues**

During the last three years (2009-2011) the Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation has carried out an EU funded 'LIFE' project which aimed at communicating environmental actions to children and youth.

This was done through reaching out to teachers through over 1300 EU environmental policy courses with more than 30,000 teachers, plus conferences, competitions, films and information materials. Within the project period 1300 new Eco Schools started their work. The project report is available on <http://www.keepswedentidy.org/sa/node.asp?node=2737>

Films about Green Flag, produced within the project, is available on <http://www.youtube.com/user/HallSverigeRent/videos>

The Keep Sweden Tidy has also distributed newsletters during the project period with over 9.000 subscribers. If you want to learn more about the project, please visit our webpage [www.hsr.se/skola](http://www.hsr.se/skola) or send an e-mail to [lina.lundstrom@hsr.se](mailto:lina.lundstrom@hsr.se).



## ECO-SCHOOLS SLOVENIA AND WWF EDUCATE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF WETLANDS

**Eco-Schools participated in a long-term and innovative project about protection of waters.**

An *Eco regatta* is a cross between an education project about wetlands, sustainable development and rowing as a nature friendly water sport and was supported by more than 50 Slovenian companies.

An invitation to kindergartens, primary and secondary schools was sent all over the country in January 2012 with the purpose to select 32 institutions. In February education mentors were organised together with WWF Austria. Teachers experienced new, mostly interactive teaching methods, learning proposals and experiment suggestions. They got instructions what and how to explore wetlands in their local environment and how to prepare for final event.

The final event took place in May 2012 in Bled – one of the most picturesque and scenery places in Slovenian Alpine region with a natural lake and little island on it, which is also a home Slovenian Rowing and International Rowing regattas. The coalition of sports and nature conservation showed visitors an amazing final event and imaginative posters, panels, drawings, sketches, 3D models, water filters, mosaics, sculptures and others products, all prepared and preformed by children and youngsters from 32 institutions.

The creative ones expressed their knowledge and emotions with songs, plays, recitals, dances and other performances. Even sport activities were connected to water protection theme. WWF offered visitors education on a relaxed way - with activities on eco-pedagogical 3D models, pillars and simulators.

Evaluation showed that 1600 children and youth from 2 to 18 years, more than 40 mentors and also 40 students from Pedagogical faculty Ljubljana were involved. The project *Eco regatta* is planned again in 2013.

More information is available from Urska Galien, Eco-Schools Slovenia, project manager, [urska.galien@ekosola.si](mailto:urska.galien@ekosola.si)

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## WATER IN THE RAIN GARDEN: AN ECO-SCHOOL IN ACTION WITHIN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**The Elementary School Přerov Trávník have added Water to their theme of School Grounds and linked both themes during the reconstruction of the school garden.**

Students have conducted Environmental Review of the school garden and found out that rainwater is quickly taken away to the drain without being naturally absorbed. As a result, the school garden needs to be watered frequently and thus the water consumption rises.



Students from the Eco-Schools Committee designed a new school garden project putting a special emphasis on its ability to absorb rainwater. As a culmination of their effort, they decided to build a small garden pond.

The whole school participated in the work during Earth Day. The drain was removed by specialists. The pupils did the rest.

First, they sloped the terrain and dug a hole for the garden lake. Its bottom was covered the special geotextile which was then covered by a grit and sand. Later on they put soil on it and planted water plants. The strongest boys gathered white decorative stones around its banks. Nothing remained but to pour water in the pond.

However, this action day was not only about the garden pond. Boys and girls participated in the birth of other parts of the brand new garden, which is planned to be used as an open classroom as well as a place for relaxation and extracurricular activities. Pupils made a tactile path, arranged an original circular herbal garden, vegetable patch were planted with vegetables, new trees and bushes were planted as well. Younger girls were making original ceramic signboards to all of them.

The Rain Garden – as they called the whole project – literally grew up in front of our eyes. An ugly duckling grew up into a swan. “If pupils did the maximum for the new garden on their own they learned to value fruits of their work and it is less likely that they are going to vandalize it,” explained the teacher and Eco-School coordinator Dagmar Bouchalová. After the school garden is finished they will focus on the unkempt open space in front of their school entrance. School teachers use elements of the place-based education so the school has the power to enforce positive changes in the local community.

The Elementary school Přerov Trávník is trying to achieve their first Eco-School title.



## CHALLENGING TRADITIONAL HIERARCHY ROLES WITH STUDENT LED CHANGE IN JAPAN

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Japanese Green Flag has been awarded to an elementary school, Nichi Elementary School for the first time**

Yukiko the National Operator visited the Coordination office in Copenhagen recently and explained how tough she is on the standards to achieve the Green Flag in Japan.

With student led change more of a challenge in a very hierarchical society, school Principals and teachers in their network are encouraged to give away their power to their students in small ways to help develop a shared role in all the seven steps.



Their first two green flags went to secondary schools where student leadership is more easily understood, but now their first elementary school has been awarded a Green Flag.

At Nichi Elementary School, the whole school worked together on near-by Wakai River to make the river more attractive place for local people.

All students from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade did the environmental review and they all broke up into 11 different groups based on their interests. One group went into the river regularly to pick up litters, while the other group visited local elders to learn how to raise fireflies only inhabitable in clean water. All activities were initiated by students, and one of the teachers was even surprised to see how dedicated and motivated students were.

Congratulation to the school but also congratulations to FEE Japan for insisting on Student Led Change Actions...or NO GREEN FLAG!



## HOW HIGH CAN ECO-SCHOOLS GO? TRY AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT AT THE PRESIDENTS PALACE IN MALTA!

**EkoSkola Committee members from six Birkirkara Primary, Lija-Iklin-Balzan Primary and Birkirkara Boys' Secondary and St Theresa College, together with students from St Monica B'Kara, Stella Maris Balzan and St Francis B'Kara conducted an environmental review at San Anton Presidential Palace and San Anton Presidential Kitchen Garden.**

The students and their link teachers were first shown the Piano Nobile of the Palace, under the expert guidance of the Palace Attendant Mr John Mifsud. This was followed by an environmental audit of the Palace halls and dining room, pantry, kitchen, offices, bathrooms, roof, 2 private gardens and the newly opened Kitchen Garden. A plenary session, held in the Russian Chapel, saw the student reporters giving their first impressions of the audit. As a follow-up, the respective schools formulated an action plan, just as they do in the EkoSkola Process they follow at school.

On the 21st March, they were kindly granted an audience with His Excellency Dr. George Abela during which they read their observations and proposed actions that would make the Palace more sustainable. This was followed by comments from His Excellency and a discussion about environmental matters ensued. During this meeting, the students' high level of environmental awareness emerged, together with the kindness and willingness of His Excellency to engage with students and act upon their observations.

However, the highlight of the event was when His Excellency communicated that he has graciously accepted to act as patron of the EkoSkola programme. Besides thanking His Excellency for this honour, the EkoSkola team would like to heartily thank the professional staff at the President's office, namely Mr Richard England, Ms Marica Mizzi and Mr John Mifsud who supported us throughout our two appointments at the Palace.



## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FROM KERI KINDERGARTEN IN ZAKYNTHOS, GREECE

With help from the Parents Union the children constructed a compost bucket in their school yard in which the students left over feed scraps from home and school could be collected daily for composting.

After composting into a rich fertile soil the students spread the soil in their school yard to plant seeds and flowers.

They also took a little amount of this soil home to show their parents how they too could compost and create fertile soil for growing vegetables and flowers. Parents also received information from the school about this project.

The school also brought in a specialist on the management of garbage and recycling to inspire initiatives in this area. As a result the young students started bringing in all kinds of materials (paper, batteries, plastic, electronic and electrical devices). They also distributed questionnaires to the local community so they could make a survey about the recycling.

The waste material was used to make handicrafts. The student also created a fairytale with environmental messages.

Finally, they cleaned the nearest beach and distributed brochures with environmental messages about protecting the environment to tourists, local shops and hotels with all their activities published in the local press



## CREATIVITY WITH QUILLING RECYCLES WASTE PAPER AND CARDBOARD AT NO 2 PIATRA-NEAMT, ROMANIA

Using the quilling technique, a wide range of objects can be realised. This technique consists of using paper strips which are rolled and glued together in order to create decorative patterns. Paper-rolling, filigran and quilling are the names that were given to this skill.

The idea of realising products using quilling technique came to a Technology teacher when she found the book *Quilling – the technique of paper crimping*, by Margarete Vogelbacher, in a bookstore.

Using waste paper and card th students started designing with some simple shapes: little circles, diamonds, leaves, flowers, etc. In order to realise these, she prepared the working materials improvising the rolling tool out of a toothpick and cutting the strips of paper by using a cutter.

The children liked this technique and during the Optional class in 4th grade. As part of the activities that took place during a special environmental activities week they realised different products such



as greeting cards, paintings, jewellery (necklaces, earrings, decorative products). At Easter time they decorated eggs using the quilling technique.

With the works realised at school, there was organised an exhibition called Art and guidance which was reported in the media and also presented on the local television.

## UMBRELLAS SYMBOLISE PROTECTION OF THE EARTH



**Students and volunteers at Hongqicun Primary in Wuhan, China presented wishes for protecting earth and tackling climate change by drawing and painting umbrellas.**

In the morning of 22 April, the school held a volunteer activity day involving 4 staff from CEEC and 12 volunteers from HSBC Wuhan Branch and some parents of the students.

All the participants got together to read the eco-code, swear to protect environment and sign their name at a banner of environmental slogan. Volunteers and parents also visiting the solar panels built in the school.

The umbrellas provided a huge visual presentation of protecting our precious Earth and reminded the students about Green House gas Emissions and the need to reduce our carbon footprint



**Meanwhile, at the No.8 Primary School of Dong Cheng District of Dongguan**, students created activity books from waste paper and sold them to other students. The money raised supported more environmental actions.

All the teachers and students as well as 3 HSBC volunteers participated in the book making and selling activities. The eco-schools committee collected waste books and bound the reusable part together and made new books, the un-reusable part of collected books were later sold as waste.

The students led these activities and created more learning's about the sustainable use of our earth's resources.

The volunteers and students learnt many things from each other, including cooperation strategies and information about the life cycle of paper from trees, the chemical process to make paper and the end of use issues associated with landfill, litter or recycling options.



## THOUSANDS WALK TO SCHOOL IN IRELAND

Thousands of students from all over Ireland will take part in walking initiatives to make the journey to their school greener and healthier.

Public Transport Minister, Alan Kelly TD, launched An Taisce's Green-Schools National Walk to School Week. This year, it is hoped to achieve a target of 20,000 pupils.

An Taisce Green-Schools Travel programme, which focuses on promoting sustainable travel on the school run, has been operating nationally since September 2008. 'Best Practice' is usually from 8-10% modal shift away from car transport; however An Taisce is achieving 17-28%. amazing

Speaking today, Minister Kelly said: National Walk to School Week is now one of the most important action awareness weeks in the Irish school calendar. As a national initiative it is an opportunity for schools to learn about all the benefits of other green travel options on the school journey such as cycling, Park 'n' Stride using public transport or carpooling as alternatives to the private car.

Minister Kelly continued: "Green-Schools across the country will take up the walking challenge in their own unique ways with schools organising events such as Walk on Wednesday Days, Feet First Fridays, walking competitions and fancy dress walks to school.

## 500 Reasons to Celebrate with the Irish Minister for the Environment



The number of Irish schools flying the Green Flag will exceed 2500 as over 1100 schools travel to Green-Schools Award Ceremonies around the country.

262 schools will be awarded their first Green Flag in reward for their work on the Litter and Waste Theme and 861 schools will be successfully renewing their Green Flag under the themes of Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and Global Citizenship.

The Green-Schools programme continues to grow at a remarkable rate with over 3600 schools now registered with the programme, representing over 88% of all schools in Ireland.



## ECO-SCHOOLS USA PARTNER WITH RECYCLE ACROSS AMERICA



The National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools recently created a dynamic partnership with Recycle Across America. Through the generosity and environmental vision of Kiehl's Since 1851,

Recycle Across America™ is able to provide 150,000 free standardized labels for recycling bins to approximately 1,000 schools throughout the U.S. To help select the schools, Recycle Across America™ has partnered with the National Wildlife Federation's Eco Schools USA because of their established relationships in education and ongoing commitment to help advance the environmental progress of U.S. schools through the Eco-Schools program.

Why standardized labels? Today there are a variety of different types of labels used on recycling bins, causing confusion for people looking to recycle. This confusion has led to low recycling levels in the U.S. levels that have barely improved in 15 years. **In studies where a consistent labelling system has been introduced, capture rates increased more than 47% and the amount of contamination or trash entering the recycling bin decreased significantly.** When this goal is reached, it will be the environmental equivalent of removing 50 million cars off the roads in the U.S. each year and it will generate 1.5 million new jobs in the U.S. Less confusion at the bin = measurable environmental and economic progress.

## HOW TO GROW YOUR NETWORK IN A GEOGRAPHICALLY LARGE COUNTRY



### NWF's Eco-Schools USA, Kansas Green Schools and Project Learning Tree's GreenSchools Collaborate to Co-Certify Hundreds of Schools on a National Level

This spring, over 400 (Pre-K)-12 Kansas schools were nationally co-certified for their achievements in 'greening' school buildings and grounds, conserving natural resources and integrating environmental education into curricula as part of an agreement between the Kansas Association for Conservation & Environmental Education (KACEE), Kansas Green Schools Network, Project Learning Tree GreenSchools! and National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA programs.

"This is a big achievement for Kansas. The partnership will allow expanded benefits to Kansas Green Schools by providing opportunities for international collaboration with Eco-Schools around the world. It will also allow green efforts that Kansas schools have already undertaken to be applied towards awards through PLT's and Eco-Schools programs," said Laura Hickey, Senior Director of Eco-Schools USA. "Schools will triple their recognition through our varied, yet complementary, programs, and expand the opportunities to address a number of additional environmental focus areas."



The new agreement speaks volumes about the green schools movement in the United States where national, regional, state and local groups are coming together to support a commitment to sustainable curricula and school operations.

The new partnership emphasizes physical elements like natural resource conservation to integrate environmental literacy through in-class and outdoor education. The schools will be provided with resources related to the school sustainability movement and new funding opportunities.

Schools recognised through the Kansas Green Schools of Excellence program will now be eligible for recognition at the national level through both the Eco-Schools USA and PLT Green Schools



## CROATIAN ECO-SCHOOLS THEIR 12TH YEAR

**On 4th of May Association “Lijepa Naša” organized ceremony for promotion of the 12th generation of Eco-Schools and for the status renewal for the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th and 10th generation of Eco-Schools.**

The ceremony and celebration was attended by 800 people with a national ceremony to welcome in 10 new Green Flag primary schools and 9 kindergartens and 115 Eco-Schools renewed their status.

After the national anthem, PhD, MD Ante Kutle, the president of the Association “Lijepa naša” and the Croatian Committee of the Foundation for Environmental Education addressed the audience.

At the ceremony, awards were given to the Eco-schools that participated in the competition “Pure Croatian Coasts” that was sponsored by Henkel Croatia. Henkel organized separate press conference and kindergarten Srednjaci from Zagreb presented their achievements reached through Eco-School programme and “Pure Croatian coast” tender. At the ceremony awards were given to the Eco-schools that participated in the Eco-package project that was sponsored by company Tetra-pak, as well as those involved in the Litter Less Campaign that fulfilled their obligations in the campaign so far.

"So far Eco-Schools programme in Croatia included more than 300 primary and secondary schools, boarding homes and kindergartens in past 12 years. Because of its importance to the education of youth, Ministry of Environment and Nature will continue to support Eco-Schools implementation, and appeal to the county and the local community to be more involved and help their schools and kindergartens," said Jasmina Serdar from the ministry on behalf of the Minister Mirela Holy.

Vilmica Kapac Pregrada city major and Sonja Tošić-Grlač head of Department of Education, Culture and Sport in Međimurje County also addressed the meeting and emphasized Eco-Schools as the most important environmental education stakeholder.

The program was enriched with concert presented by soloist Barbara Othman from Croatian national theatre in Osijek and performance from Eco-Schools “Ivan Goran Kovačić”, Vrbovsko choir that presented schools Eco anthem.



## ENVIRONMENTAL BLITZ DAY IN BALLYCLARE, NORTHERN IRELAND

**Fairview Primary School in Ballyclare, Northern Ireland organised an Environmental Blitz Day which saw every class in the school getting involved.**

The day included a litter pick up of a nearby laneway as part of the Big Spring Clean Campaign. It was a great day and the pupils loved the litter pick and they didn't want to stop.

The day's timetable included weeding of garden beds, hanging pots and raised garden beds, grass pulling around young trees, litter pick of the whole school area and transport pathways to the school

The challenge for the school and the Eco-Schools committee is to now maintain these areas in their new clean and litter free condition throughout the rest of the year.



## SCOTTISH ECO-SCHOOLS DYNAMIC YOUTH AWARD

**Scottish pupils between the ages of 10 – 16 can now gain individual recognition for all the hard work that they put into the Eco-Schools programme.**



Eco-Schools Scotland has worked in partnership with Youth Scotland to produce the [Eco-Schools Dynamic Youth Award](#), which is designed to support Eco Committee members to gain individual recognition and accreditation as they work through the Eco-Schools programme.

Individuals work through the Award Booklet step-by-step, recording their achievements and keeping track of their time commitment. As they complete the booklet, they also complete their Dynamic Youth Awards Challenge Sheet. Once finished, Youth Scotland externally moderates the work of each individual and awards a certificate accredited by ASDAN, the Awards Scheme Development and Accreditation Network.

Dynamic Youth Awards are an innovative approach to recognising and accrediting young people's achievement. They offer an open framework of accreditation which supports learning programmes delivered using learner-led, youth work approaches, and recognise the achievements of young people in any setting, regardless of what that achievement is.

For more information visit <http://ecoschoolsscotland.org/article.asp?nid=243>

***Thank you to all who contributed to this Newsletter.***

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# Eco-Schools Newsletter

