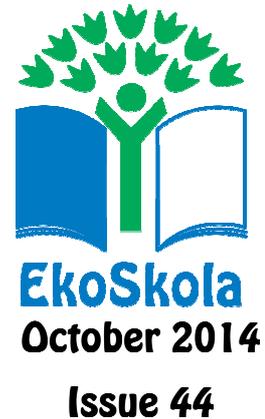


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Editorial Note

We guess that by now you have settled in your daily responsibilities at school. The EkoSkola team wishes you a successful scholastic year and a continued commitment towards promoting sustainability. We can comfortably say that the level of engagement in Education for Sustainable Development is steadily progressing and local research is showing that your efforts are being translated into behavioural changes. Thank you, once again, for your dedication and for helping EkoSkola change this world for the better ... one student at a time.

Quality Assurance Exercise

As you are aware, EkoSkola is an international programme run on international quality criteria. Our rigorous attention towards the adherence to these criteria has earned EkoSkola (Malta) the respect of FEE International. In an effort to maintain these quality standards, we regularly check whether schools are maintaining their commitment ... particularly our Green Flag schools.



After updating our list of registered schools for the 2013-2014 scholastic year, we ended up with 108 schools (catering for over 76% of the total student population). In our annual Green Flag evaluation exercise: 9 schools got the award for the first time, 22 schools had their Green Flag status confirmed (10 for the 2nd time, 7 for the 3rd time, 3 for the 4th time and 2 for the 5th time) and one school had its Green Flag status withdrawn. This brings the total of Green Flag status schools to 57. This means that 53% of our schools have received the Green Flag, i.e. international accreditation that these schools are engaged in ESD integration in the curriculum through a whole school approach.



Calendar of events

Schools have asked us to provide them with the calendar of our events for this year so that they can plan accordingly. Kindly note that we had to call off the organisation of the **FEE Fest** – our celebration to mark the closure of the UN Decade of ESD. We had to call it off because certain sponsors have not honoured their financial commitment.

Date	Event
27 th - 28 th October 2014	LEAF activity (Tree planting event at Buskett)
October 2014	YRE Mission 1 (booking recommended)
November 2014	Turtle release
3 rd – 9 th November 2014	World Days of Action
5 th November 2014	Green Flag Ceremony at the President's Palace, Valletta (at 16.00)
25 th November 2014	FEE Seminar Malta
2 nd December 2014	FEE Seminar Gozo
15 th January 2015	LEAF Arbor Day
January 2015	YRE Mission 2 (booking recommended)
January 2015	Environmental Audit at St Vincent de Paul Residence
1 st week of March 2015	YRE workshops in schools
22 nd April 2015	Earth Day
24 th April 2015	EkoSkola 4 th Young People's Environmental Summit
May 2015	YRE Mission 3 (booking recommended)
All May 2015	Green Flag and LEAF evaluation visits
May 2015	11 th EkoSkola Parliament (to be confirmed)
June 2015	Green Flag award ceremony for scholastic year 2014-2015 (to be confirmed)
June 2015	YRE and LEAF awards (to be confirmed)

Membership

We would like to urge registered schools to send in their membership renewals as early as possible. Your filled-in applications help us to update our databases and allow us to plan our course of action accordingly. Kindly download the application either in Maltese or English from:

<http://www.ekoskola.org.mt/uploads/2014/10/FEE-programmes-Application-Mal.pdf>

<http://www.ekoskola.org.mt/uploads/2014/10/FEE-programmes-Application-Eng.pdf>

Fill in and send the form to Prof Paul Pace (as indicated in the form). Kindly adhere to these instructions so as to facilitate processing of payments and issuing of receipts. Late applications and 'solitary' cheques or forms tend to complicate the processing procedure. Thanks for those schools who have already regularised their membership.

ESD programme to continue at Xrobb I-Għagin

Based on the positive feedback received from the schools who visited the park over these last two years, Nature Trust (Malta), in collaboration with the Education Directorates, will once again be offering its outdoor ESD programme at the Xrobb I-Għagin Nature Park & Centre for Sustainable Development. Nature Trust would like to inform the schools, which

are phoning to inquire about this year's programme, that this year's choice of event options, including thematic events includes:



- **Site Experience Visit** (a general experience of the Park for any age group throughout the scholastic year). A special experience is provided for kindergarten groups.
- **Fieldwork sessions** for Science, Biology and Geography (including historical and social aspects of land use) throughout the scholastic year
- **Alter Aqua activities** focusing on the sustainable use of water
- **Trees on the Increase?! (from 15th January to 20th February, 2015)**
- **Marine Life (from 3rd March 2015 onwards)**

Every visit lasts about 3 hours and availability is strictly through booking. Visits for groups of more than 30 students are possible if trained helpers from NTM are available on the requested date. Schools may book their visit by phoning Ms Esther Sammut Carbone on 21653851 or through an email on esther.sammut.carbone@ilearn.edu.mt at their earliest to avoid disappointment. More information is available from the circular distributed in schools or from Esther.



World Days of Action

World Days of Action (WDA) is an initiative of the Foundation for Environmental Education's (FEE) Eco-Schools programme and designed to empower students to be the change our sustainable world needs by engaging them in fun, action-oriented learning. The idea behind WDA is to show that students are leading the way and to enable them to work more actively together in all parts of the world. WDA is held in the northern hemisphere in the first full school week of November so this year it will be from 3 – 9 November 2014. In the southern hemisphere, it takes place from 20 – 26 April 2015. Since the first WDA, on 7 November 2012, 774,252 students from 27 countries have participated.

Every year FEE encourages schools to engage in the annual campaign and reward those who come up with really inspiring actions. All schools who join the WDA receive a participation certificate. Stories, videos and pictures about WDA activities around the world are showcased here: www.eco-schools.org/wda. Students and teachers from all over the world can also connect through the website to inspire, learn from, and encourage one another. If you wish to participate in this year's event kindly contact Prof Paul Pace (paul.j.pace@um.edu.mt) for more details.

Celebrating Green Success at Xewkija Primary School

Last year's edition of the Gozo Arbor Day (Jum is-Siġar f'Għawdex) was celebrated on Thursday 16 January 2014 at Gozo College Xewkija Primary. The hands-on activities for children were jointly organised by the Xewkija EkoSkola Committee; the School Council; the Hands-On Farming Programme; the Gozo College - Ministry for Education and Employment; and EcoGozo - Ministry for Gozo.



The activity was also an opportunity to celebrate the schools' achievements: being awarded the Green Flag for the third consecutive time; receiving EcoGozo funds to purchase sustainable education resources; and being the National Tree Planting School Winners for 2012/2013 from all schools in Malta and Gozo.

The event was integrated within the curriculum through hands-on activities (tree collages, paintings and potting of new trees) and literacy exercises including story-telling and reading sessions

including prose and poem works written by students. Various distinguished guests attended: Dr Anton Refalo, Minister for Gozo, who visited every class and interacted with the students; Mr Paul Azzopardi, the Xewkija Mayor; Mr Anthony Zammit, EcoGozo Director; Mr Victor Galea, Gozo College Principal, Dr Charles F. Grech, Assistant Director Environmental Affairs - Public Administration; and Mr Joe Grech, Hands-on Farming co-ordinator. The event was sponsored by Tax-Xiber Bakery (Xewkija), St. John Foodstore (Xewkija), Gozo Cottage (Xewkija), Farmers' Foods (Xewkija) and Ta' Dirjanu who provided the guests with fresh local produce.



Nizirghu aktar sigar



Il-Ħamis, 3 ta' April 2014, ġie s-Sur Neville Ebejer fl-iskola primarja San Injazju, is-Siġġiewi, biex nizirghu xi pjanti Maltin, bhas-siġra tal-fraxxnu u tal-ġhargħar. Kellimna f'it fuq il-pjanti u kif jikbru. Għallimna kif nizirghu siġra wkoll! L-istudenti kollha, mill-ewwel sena sas-sitt sena żerġhu siġra. Huma ġabu tazzi użati tal-yoghurt sabiex jintużaw bħala qsari, wara qegħedniehom fuq il-ħoġor tat-tieqa sakemm dawn jittieħdu u jithawlu l-Buskett. Dan għamilnieh minhabba li qegħdin jonqsu ħafna siġar Maltin mill-Buskett u bħala konsegwenza ta' dan qegħdin jinqerdu bosta insetti u animali li jgħixu f'dan il-bosk.

F'din is-sessjoni ħadna gost u fuq kolloxx tgħallimna bosta affarijiet interessanti dwar l-ambjent ta' madwarna, bħal kif tiżra' siġra u kif jikbru l-pjanti! Bħala l-ġenerazzjoni futura għandna nkunu aħna li nipproteġu u nibzġu għall-ambjent, speċjalment is-siġar li jnaddfu l-arja u minhabba li ma tantx baqa' postijiet bħall-Buskett fejn nistgħu nirrikreaw ruħna f'ambjent rilassanti.



Miktuba minn Nathan Borg, EkoSkola PRO, Kulleġġ Sant' Injazju, Skola Primarja Siġġiewi

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) Walking for Water Campaign

Did you know that many children in developing countries around the world must walk an average of 6 km every day to get clean water ... at the expense of the education? Walking for Water is a global awareness and fundraising initiative which takes place every year around World Water Day (22 March). This year's campaign slogan is: **Don't just talk the talk ... take the walk.**



The campaign starts off with lessons about the importance of clean drinking water and proper sanitation and accessibility issues for families in developing countries. Students will then experience the hardships faced by young people of their age to fetch safe water by participating in a 6 km sponsored walk while carrying 6 litres of water in a backpack. The funds raised from the walk are used by the participating school to fund a specific water and sanitation project sited in a poor country. Each project is monitored by Aqua for All (www.aquaforall.nl) to ensure quality.

For these last three years, the EkoSkola committee of Gozo College Girls Secondary School organised a number of these walks in Victoria. With the money collected they funded Water and Sanitation projects in Africa. Moreover, a teacher from an Italian school who visited the Gozo College, Girls' Secondary school was so inspired by their achievements that she decided to enrol her school in the campaign as well!



Besides being a fun outdoor event complementing the curriculum of science, health, social studies or geography, Walking for Water is an initiative that could engage the community in meaningful rather than trivial activities. Not only do the students learn about important health and social issues, they also gain awareness that they have the power to make things change. For more information, interested schools are

urged to visit the campaign's website on <http://www.walkingforwater.eu/> from where they can download promotional material and also register online at http://www.walkingforwater.eu/?page_id=101. Registration closes on **31 Jan 2015**.

(b) Alter Aqua Resources, Hands on Sessions and Online Game

The Global Water Partnership for the Mediterranean (GWP-Med) developed the Alter Aqua Video Game in the framework of the Alter Aqua Non Conventional Water Resources (NCWR) Programme in Malta, which has as partners the Ministry for Gozo and the Eco-Gozo project; the Ministry for Energy and Health; MIO-ECSDE and MEDIES. Nature Trust Malta, through its EkoSkola Programme was entrusted with the Educational dimension of the Alter Aqua programme.



Alter Aqua hands-on sessions are available at Xrobb I-Għajin Nature Park and Sustainable Development Centre. Those interested can kindly contact Ms Esther Sammut Carbone on esther.sammut.carbone@ilearn.edu.mt. A cross curricular resource pack

about water conservation has also been developed. A full colour resource pack with DVD including various lessons plans and information related to water conservation and sustainability is given to all teachers attending the teacher training programmes. Heads of Schools who wish to organise school-based training on the pack are kindly asked to contact Ms Marvic Refalo on marvic.refalo@ilearn.edu.mt. Training is provided depending on availability and numbers of attendees. The Alter Aqua online video game is a useful tool to raise awareness of primary and secondary school students on the use of non-conventional water resources and water saving in everyday life. It is available here: <http://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean/AlterAquaVideogame/>

(c) European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR)



For the fourth consecutive year, Malta is participating in the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) – which will take place between 22-30 November. This time, your participation can make you the winner of a **€1000** sponsorship to invest in your school's resources. To participate come up with a waste reduction idea or analyse what initiatives your school is taking to reduce waste. By the **30th of October** fill in the application form downloadable from the Wasteserv's website and send it to them to register your action. Your application should include clear details of what you are going to organize or how you are going to promote your efforts during the scheduled week. The more innovative and the wider the audience reached the better!

The best action selected from the school category will be the winner of the **Local Waste Reduction Award for Best Practice in Schools**, thus the winner of €1000 - but not only! The same action will be competing with other actions from different European countries within the same category for **the** prestigious title of the **European Waste Reduction Award**. Visit the EWWR website on www.wasteservmalta.com/ewwr and refer to the attached presentation for some inspiration and practical examples. You may also call the EWWR team on 8007 2200 or send an email on ewwr.ws@wasteservmalta.com.

(d) International Student Science Competition: 'Feed the World'

Maltese EkoSkola students have been specifically invited to participate in this year's event of the Clean Tech Competition. This is an international research and design challenge for **15-18 year old** pre-university students. The 2015 challenge, "Feed the World" asks students to develop a clean technology solution to the problem of an inadequate and unstable food supply. Teams of 1-3 students, assisted by a Team Leader, can work to develop a written proposal that should be submitted by March 2015. There is no entry fee and online registration opens in November 2014. Ten finalists are selected, given a \$200 stipend and matched with a Mentor to help them prepare a prototype and presentation for the Finalist Event. In May 2015, the finalists will be invited to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA to compete for the grand prize of **\$10,000!** The grand prize team will also win a **Continued Mentorship!** All finalists will get the chance to nominate their school or educational organization for a **\$1,000** grant! For more details contact Ms Lauren Sacks or Ms Zoe Koegel on cleantech@cstl.org or visit www.cleantechcompetition.org.



(e) Poster Competition: Love food Hate waste

The National Council of Women, in collaboration with the Association for Consumer Rights, is organising a Poster Competition with the aim of motivating children and youth

to combat food waste. Students should demonstrate, in a clear and imaginative way their ideas about how to reduce food waste. With drawings and sentences, they should identify attitudes and behaviours that can lead to concrete actions.



The Competition is open to all schools and has two categories: (a) The Children Contest (for children in Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6); and (b) The Youth Contest (for ages from 11 to 13). Entries should reach the National Council of Women Centre, Pope Pius XII Flats Mountbatten Str., Blata I-Bajda HMR1579 by **12th November 2014**. The submitted posters will be judged on their environmental message, originality, creativity and aesthetical presentation. Prizes will be awarded for the first 3 positions in each category. All posters will be exhibited and the best posters will be printed and distributed. All participating schools will receive a participation certificate. For more information contact the NCW offices by phoning on 2124 8881 or 2124 6982.

Teaching Resources

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

(a) Save the Arctic



While people are worrying over the Arctic's melting ice, oil drilling companies are moving into the region to drill for oil, despite the high risk of accidents in the rough, unpredictable Arctic conditions. This website provides information about the threats that the environment and the animals living there are finding. The site also invites you to sign a petition to make the Arctic a global sanctuary thus banning offshore drilling and destructive industry in the Arctic. Visit the site at: <http://savethearctic.org/>.

(b) Celia's Elephant Project

At only 14 year old, Celia Ho has become a symbol of hope for wildlife around the world. She wants to rally as many schools as possible from all around the world to raise awareness about the killing of elephants in Asia and Africa and stop the ivory trade that is exploiting animals and humans alike. Get more information and downloads from her webpage at <http://ecosysaction.org/celia's-corner/>.



Question What is a 'whole school approach' to ESD?

& Answer Organising a set of activities related to sustainable development themes is just the first step. A whole school approach involves mainstreaming sustainability into all activities of the school ... putting what is learned into action ... integrating ESD in your school development plan.

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.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Decide for yourself



During the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, all the 189 member states and 23 international organizations agreed to achieve **eight** international development goals aimed mainly at eradicating poverty by 2015. Each goal has its own specific targets and dates for achieving those targets. To speed up the process, the finance ministers of the world's richest countries agreed to cancel \$40 to \$55 billion in debt owed by the poor countries. This allowed these countries to invest their resources to improve health and education programmes and eliminate poverty. Here is a list of the MDGs and their set of targets to be achieved by 2015.



1

ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

- Halve the amount of people whose income is less than 75 Euro cents a day
- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people
- Halve, the amount of people suffering from hunger



2

ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

- Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, complete a full course of primary schooling



3

PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

- Eliminate gender disparity in all levels of education



4

REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

- Reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate of children under five



5

IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

- Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio
- Achieve reproductive health for everyone



6

COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Achieve universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it
- Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases



7

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
- Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
- Halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers



8

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Develop further an open, rules-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system
- Address the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states
- Deal thoroughly with developing countries' debt
- Provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries
- Make available benefits of new technologies, especially ICTs

For more information, fact sheets, reports and the latest news about MDGs visit the official UN website on: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>