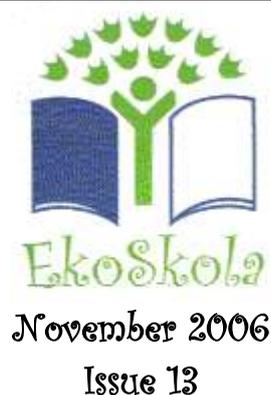


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Editorial Note

We are now well into the first term of this scholastic year and I'm sure that you have all restarted the EkoSkola Committee meetings in full swing. This year we've planned several interesting initiatives aimed at increasing student participation; helping schools in their continued development; and establishing and consolidating networks among local and foreign schools.

Our first and upcoming activity is the annual EkoSkola Seminar that Nature Trust will be organising on Thursday 7th December in collaboration with the Department of Curriculum Management, Education Division and the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment. The seminar will be held at Pembroke's Parish Hall. Two teachers and two students from each school are invited to attend the event. Interested schools are reminded to fill in and return the application form (included with the school circular that has been sent to all schools) to Nature Trust by not later than Friday, 1st December 2006.

Keep following other information that we will be including from time to time in our electronic newsletter. I would like to take the opportunity to heartily thank you for your continued efforts to further the EkoSkola programme.

The Linking and Itinerary Project



Are you short of ideas on how to integrate environmental education in your teaching? Do you like to share with other colleagues what your school is doing? Do you like meeting people from other schools (local and foreign) and sharing ideas? Are you looking for project partners from schools sharing your same interest? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then the Linking and Itinerary Project is what you need!

The project is essentially an online database of schools from around the world participating in the EkoSkola project. It provides an



Nature Trust (Malta)
PO Box 9
Valletta CMR 01
<http://www.naturetrustmalta.org>



"Itinerary" where schools can visit each other virtually and understand regional contexts, motivating young people to learn about each other and other cultures. Through a search engine, the "Linking" can also be used to identify Eco-Schools with similar interests, within their own community or in another continent, to exchange ideas, work together on projects, establish "twin schools", or just make new friends and pen-pals.

There are several benefits for schools joining the Linking and Itinerary Project. It allows students and teachers to reach countries from all over the World and explore what otherwise would not be possible. It is an opportunity for the exchange of project and education ideas with other schools, enriching teaching experiences, comparing and applying different approaches. The project can raise awareness about a particular environmental issue by cooperating with other schools. Schools using it have found that it enhances the knowledge of foreign languages and other cultures.



This year the EkoSkola Steering Committee has decided to register all the schools that register or renew their registration for the EkoSkola programme. This means that details of your school will be included in the database ... and all you have to do is to access your school page and put in any information about your school that you would like to share with others. This could be considered as your school showcase. You'll be notified when you can access your pages shortly. More information will be given during the EkoSkola Seminar.

Express Your Green Ideas Drawing Competition



The Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment in collaboration with Nature Trust is organising a drawing competition aimed at providing primary and secondary students with the opportunity of expressing their opinion about environmental issues highlighted in the State of the Environment Report.

Information about the entries has been sent to EkoSkola schools and entries have to reach the Ministry by Friday 1st December. All drawings will be judged a panel of experts who will make the final evaluation. The drawings will be judged on the environmental message behind the poster, the creative outlet and aesthetical presentation of the poster (graphic arrangement, creativity and originality). The award ceremony will take place at the EkoSkola Annual Seminar that will be held on 7th December 2006.

The best 12 drawings will be developed into a calendar. More details can be obtained from Mr Oliver Lautier (oliver.lautier@gov.mt). The competition is being sponsored by HSBC Bank.

Award your Local Council

One of the seven steps of the EkoSkola programme is "Informing and Involving". Amongst other things this step requires schools to interact with the community. This is where local councils come in.

In the application form to join the EkoSkola programme Nature Trust has included a section that has to be filled by a representative of the local council. In this section the representative promises the council's support for activities aimed at promoting this

initiative in the community. To date there are 31 local councils who have signed this promise ... and some of them are really living up to it!

Last year, Nature Trust awarded Mr Raymond Attard, Mayor of Paola, with a certificate to show its appreciation for his continued support to the three EkoSkola schools in his locality. Nature Trust would like to acknowledge the help that certain local councils are offering.

Schools wishing to nominate their respective local councils for the award are asked to send the following information to Dr Paul Pace (paul.j.pace@um.edu.mt) by **Monday 4th December**.



Name of School making nomination:		
Local Council being nominated for award:		
Brief report (max. 600 words) outlining why local council should receive the award:		
Signature of Head of School	School Rubber Stamp	Date

Silver and Bronze Awards

In the EkoSkola programme there are three levels of awards (in ascending order): the bronze and silver certificates and the most prestigious Green Flag. Each award is defined by a set of criteria (available in Facilitator’s Resource Sheet 9) that help you decide whether your school has achieved the required standard. In your quest for the Green Flag, you do not need to go through the bronze and silver levels but Nature Trust would really like to encourage schools to go for these awards as intermediate steps in their journey for the Green Flag.

Getting the Bronze or the Silver award may provide school children with a tangible reward for their efforts and serve as an added incentive to get the Green Flag. If you feel that your school has met most of the required criteria for a particular award, then fill in the Award Application Form (also available in Facilitator’s Resource Sheet 9) and send it to Nature Trust (Malta). Schools may apply for the award at any time of the year.

The Bronze and the Silver Award are usually awarded (in the form of a certificate) after a visit to the school by an evaluator from the EkoSkola Steering Committee.

A word from Xummiemu

Hello dear friends hope that you are doing well at school. I have just finished reading a book about Maltese trees and have really enjoyed it. Did you know that a very long time ago the Maltese islands were completely covered with trees? Imagine the entire island looking like Buskett! That must have really been a nice place to live in! I wish I could have seen it ... wouldn't you? But almost all these trees had to be cut down to make space for buildings, fields, roads and other things that we've wanted along the years.

I suppose that this was needed ... otherwise we wouldn't have anywhere to live in. But don't you think that over all these years we overdid this clearing a little bit too much? I believe that we can still have buildings



and at the same time enjoy spaces filled with trees. I have already done some planting in my own garden ... but this is not enough. I want to start planting trees all around Malta.

While visiting a school some of the children told me that they have planted some trees through the **Tree For You Campaign**. Have you heard about it? For just Lm6 you can plant a tree that would bear a wood plaque with your name and you would also receive a photo marking the occasion. The Tree For You Campaign will be organising a tree planting activity on Wednesday 13th December. Are you coming? You can get more information from Mr Glenn Bugeja (34U@gov.mt).



There is also another important thing that I want to talk to you about. I am trying to **revamp my website** and will soon launch it. It will have several fabulous pages that will surely interest you like games, information about activities that I organise for my Klabb Xummiemu members, a scrapbook with photos and a discussion forum about environmental topics.

But I need you to help me out in gathering interesting stuff for my website. Can you please send me any of the following items: (a) photos showing you or your class or school taking part in an environmental activity (e.g. planting trees, separating waste, etc); (b) drawings about the environment; and (c) your poems and essays about the environment or about me! The more you send the more I can include in the website and the more interesting it will be. Please send your materials to Ms Daniela Vella (dvella@wasteservmalta.com) whose helping me out in this task.

Volvo Adventure



The Volvo Adventure, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, is an educational programme that rewards environmental activities undertaken by young people to improve their local environment. The Volvo Adventure is open to young people around the world aged between 10 and 16 years. Teams must be between 2 to 5 young people with one adult as a supervisor. The best projects of each year are invited to the final conference in Gothenburg, Sweden. Here the best projects will be awarded 10,000 USD for the 1st prize, 6,000 USD for the 2nd and 4,000 USD for the 3rd.

If you are interested all you need to do is to login the website (www.volvoadventure.org) and click the text "International Site" to access the submission tool and start writing your entry. The deadline for submitting projects is **January 2007** (not as erroneously communicated in the last newsletter).

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