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January 2006

Issue 9

Editorial Note

They finally made it! Two schools: St. Joseph School of Blata I-Bajda and St. Joseph, Mater Boni Consilli School of Paola are the first schools in Malta to get the Green Flag. They have successfully followed the Seven Steps of the EkoSkola programme and will soon be hoisting the flag – a clear sign for all to see that the school has



achieved high standards in environmental responsibility and management and in school development. Besides congratulating all the children and the school staff for their achievement, Nature Trust (Malta) would like to thank all other people (parents, local councils and business persons) who have supported the schools in their initiatives.

The award giving ceremony will be held during the annual EkoSkola Seminar that will be held on **February 9th**. Circulars and application forms have already been sent to schools. During the seminar children from these schools will be sharing their experiences about the programme with the participants. Various distinct guests will be attending this special event.



EkoSkola evaluators visiting the candidate schools



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



The Volvo Adventure – deadline approaching



Please note that the deadline for the Volvo Adventure, organised in partnership with UNEP, is rapidly approaching. Groups only have until the end of January to submit their projects. If they wish to do so they need to go to www.volvoadventure.org, register and use the on line entry form. Remember that any environmental project undertaken by young people is eligible provided that:

- It is a practical environmental project
- The participants are aged between 10 and 16 years of age
- They are working in groups of two to five people
- Young people are actively involved in devising and managing the project.

Participants can win an all expenses paid trip to Sweden to present their project to an international jury and present their agenda for action to UNEP. Beside winning the prize, this opportunity offers young people a chance to make new friends all over the world and attract international attention on their project.

Comenius School Projects - calls for partners

Here is a list of 3 projects that are currently seeking Maltese partners. If interested please contact the project co-ordinators immediately for more details. Please note that the closing date is February 1st.

Project Title: Quality in Schools for a Sustainable Future	
Project Type: COMENIUS 1.3	Duration Of The Project: 3 years
Age Of Students: 14-18	
Project Summary: The project aims at implementing quality in the school system in the participating countries through: research and experimentation of highly motivating and innovative teaching-learning methodologies for both teachers and students; development of communication strategies with particular emphasis on the usage of TIC; development of a "culture" of evaluation through the experimentation and eventual revision of the European Portfolio for environmental education of the TEPEE Network Comenius 3; comparison and network exchange of opinions with other European schools interested in the subject matter; and building of sustainable schools keen on environmental education and democratic participation in order to enhance active citizenship in Europe .	
Main Activities OF THE Project: Identification and elaboration of teaching methodologies able to develop interests, professional vocation to make students acquire skills of entrepreneurship and strengthen their personal identity.	
Other Partners: Italy (co-ordinators), Portugal, Romania, Turkey	
Project Co-ordinator: Ms Maria Lo Savio I.P.S. "F.S. Cabrini" Via Dante 119 74100 Taranto - Italy	
Email: marialosavio@libero.it	

Project Title: STHONE – safeguard territory on natural historical environment	
Project Type: Comenius 1.1	Duration Of The Project: 3 years
Age Of Students: 3-14	
Project Summary: The project will facilitate an emotional-affective relationship between pupils and the environment they live in, with the purpose of improving environmental awareness and to promote an eco-sustainable development action.	
Main Activities Of The Project: Multidisciplinary works: works with art crafts, photos, theatrical activities, study of historical-cultural sites. To build up a web newspaper about the subject/themes involved. Mobility from different schools. Make a final portfolio.	
Other Partners: Italy (co-ordinators), Romania, Portugal, Sweden	
Project Co-ordinator: Ms Bruna Bernardini Istituto Comprensivo "P. Volponi" Via M. Oddi, 17 – 61029 Urbino Tel. : 0039-0722\2436 E-mail: b.bernardini@icvolponi.it OR mario.bernardini6@tin.it	

Project Title: Democratic Debate in European Class Rooms for Active Citizenship : from local to global	
Project Type: Comenius 1.1	Duration Of The Project: 3 years
Age Of Students: 15-18	
Project Summary: The present project aims at implementing the European dimension of education providing real opportunities for students to become " participatory citizens " through awareness, involvement and acknowledgement of the social, political, legal dimension of Europe. Active citizenship and social identity as well as the consciousness of double citizenship are at the basis of the project which is expected to create a culture of democracy, human rights and responsibility for a peaceful and sustainable development of the world. We hope the project will also help students to become active thinkers and generators of knowledge who exchange views constructively as a basis for democratic participation at local, national and european level. All school community will be involved in the project and both students and teachers will be able to improve their language skills and usage of TIC.	
Main Activities Of The Project: Comparison of democratic organization in the schools and local community of the partner countries (including family, social life, close environment). Comparison of different political systems and institutions of the countries involved in the project at national / local level. Analysis and comparison of political institutions and documents at national and European level.	
Other Partners: Portugal (co-ordinators), Italy, Turkey, Sweden, Spain	
Project Co-ordinator: Mr Antonio Martinho Escola Secundaria De Serpa Rua Jose Maria Da Graca Tel. : 00351 2845 40200	

"Green Power" Youth Poster Contest

The Greenheart Project team is organising the "GREEN POWER" Poster, Postcard and Flash Design Contest for 2005-2006. This contest gives students of various age categories from around the world the opportunity to take part in a project making positive changes on a global scale and helping this new project to grow. Students are invited to show the world their vision for a sustainable future, the ideals of a healthy world at peace, giving opportunity to all. Entry to the contest is FREE.

Download flyer from <http://www.greenheartproject.org/img/poster2.pdf> or visit the project website on <http://www.greenheartproject.org/page14.html> for more details about the contest. Please note that the deadline for the contest is 31st March 2006.

BE HEALTHY GET ACTIVE

On Monday, 21st November, World Children's Day, Mrs. Karen Mugliett attended our school, St. Joseph, Mater Boni Consilii, Paola to give us a talk on healthy living. This activity had been discussed and decided upon during break amongst the EkoSkola Committee members. EkoSkola activities, such as this, are an integral part of our school life and the whole school participates eagerly in such activities.



Mrs. Karen Mugliett, along with a group of B.Ed. students prepared a very interesting Power Point presentation about healthy living. Its title was Be Healthy, Get Active! She explained to us all about how important it is to eat at least five fruits and vegetables a day, to have about three milk products and to exercise daily. A leaflet of the presentation was given to each child. The younger classes were delivered this message through a short but very entertaining play and a song performed by some of the B.Ed. students. The elder classes were also informed about the Food Pyramid. Perhaps, what made this activity a huge success was the fact that each child learnt by doing.

Two activities made this happen. All the senior classes were given a cereal bar wrapper to analyse, herself. I am sure that all the students at St. Joseph, Paola will look at food more sensibly now. However, it was the main activity that literally took the whole school by the storm. The day before, every student was asked to get a cup on the next day, and, guess what!

After the presentation, we were shown how to prepare our own delicious banana milkshake! The whole school population ended up excitedly preparing and mixing their own banana milkshake. We gulped it down and went home repeating the motto - Be Healthy, Get Active! We could not ask for a better way to celebrate World Children's day!



This article was sent by Ms Katja Warrington (Vice Chairperson EkoSkola Committee - St. Joseph, Mater Boni Consilii Paola)

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