

Please share this newsletter with School Senior Management, teachers and parents so that everyone can hear about the great work that schools are doing

## Walk the Talk

BirdLife Malta's 'Walk the Talk' activity gave students from nine primary schools the opportunity to present awareness-raising posters about environmental issues to the Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, Dr Leo Brincat.

Each poster dealt with topics in one of five categories: The Sea, Wildlife Protection, The Countryside; Reducing Pollution and Waste Management.

At the event, hosted by Siggiewi Primary C, students presented their poster to Minister Brincat, explaining the existing environmental problem, the importance of public awareness and how the public can help address these problems in their day to day lives.

Minister Brincat responded to each of the environmental issues, acknowledging the students' hard work to make the posters and the commitment from leaders to make a change.

It was a difficult task of choosing the two best presentations. After much deliberation first prize was awarded to the students from Marsaxlokk Primary School, for their poster about reducing pollution. Zabbar Primary A was awarded second prize for their heart-shaped poster about the importance of recycling.

"We have great trust in you because one day you will help the country change its way way of thinking about the environment and even more, change our behaviour towards the environment," said Minister Brincat.

MSDEC will be sponsoring the printing of 200 copies of the winning poster, which will be distributed to all primary schools in Malta and Gozo.

## June 2014

- 22** – Breeding Bird Event at Għadira Nature Reserve, 9am-11am. Come and join us on our fun guided tour to see the beautiful birds that have made their nests on the reserve.

## August 2014

- 02** – Shearwater boat trip, meeting at in front of Ramla Bay Resort at 6 pm. Exciting opportunity to see Scopoli's Shearwaters rafting near the cliffs of Ta' Cenc and to hear about our Seabird Research Project. €6 per person, booking essential. Email [events@birdlifemalta.org](mailto:events@birdlifemalta.org) or call 21347644

## September 2014

- 26** – 'Science in the city', Valletta, 6pm onwards. Visit the BirdLife Malta stand for interactive games about Malta's amazing birds!

## October 2014

- 04** – EuroBirdWatch, Buskett Woodland, activities for children 2pm-5pm



Photo by E. Beeson



## Success Story -

### *An update from Marsa Primary C*

'Dinja Waħda' is full of interesting ideas, teachers and pupils are motivated to gather more information about our local environment. Hopefully, this will lead us to having responsible, caring adults that are willing to preserve the environment.

This scholastic year the Assistant Head took the initiative to expose the awards given to the school during previous years. Her ongoing support gave us a reason to do more and she led by example. This encouraged further all the staff to give their utmost this year.

When performing activities of 'Dinja Waħda' the Kindergarten children became aware of the beauty of nature. Thus at this young age we are teaching the children to appreciate, care and respect nature in its original environment.

Some teachers opted to work on Activity 26, 'A Shore thing' which was new to our school. It was interesting and the pupils found the experience enjoyable. While posting the cards at Birzebbuga the people in the community got interested and questioned us about the event.

We look forward to what Dinja Waħda holds for the future and what experiences it has to offer to us.

Through Dinja Waħda activities children were exposed to sustainable environment. Meanwhile children enjoyed the activities very much. In fact hands on activities helped the children to keep actively involved during all Dinja Waħda sessions. This way they were motivated and the targets of each activity could be easily reached.

## Final request

The Dinja Waħda team knows that you're all very busy with exams right now, but when it's all over please don't forget to send us your feedback forms before you leave for the summer.

Even if you send them in July during the inset days that's fine, we will allocate all the points while you're out enjoying the beach and the sunshine 😊

## Awards

The Awards Ceremony and Launch Event will take place at the start of the new school year and this time we will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Dinja Waħda so we want to make it bigger and better than ever.



Schools will have the chance to be awarded with Gold, Silver, Bronze and Merit awards and the prestigious Blue Banner Award. We will also be acknowledging the good work of Dinja Waħda Coordinators within the school.

*Please note Blue Banner Awards will only be given to schools reaching three consecutive years of Gold Award for the first time.*

## Launch of a new Action Guide

The new school year will see the launch of a brand new Action Guide. In an exciting change the Action Guide will now be presented in a ring bound folder so that we can update and change activities more easily. We will also be working to develop more activities for Kinder and indicating which activities are suitable for different age groups.

There will be changes and new activities so if possible please wait until the start of the new school year to plan your activities.

We've taken on board all of your advice and ideas so we hope that you like the new Action Guide when it's ready! Our Dinja Waħda Coordinator will provide all the necessary support at the beginning of the new scholastic year.

## New sites for nature education

There is no better way to learn about nature than to get out and experience it for yourself. We want to assist schools and teachers to make this as easy as possible so we're adding some new sites to our options for school visits. More details will be sent out at the start of the new school year.

The **Gozo Education, Science and Culture Centre** (within Gozo College) at **Wied il-Lujnzjata** will be an active centre offering Gozitan and Maltese schools educational nature experiences through experienced Dinja Waħda Field Teachers.

**Comino island** visit to include nature based educational experience and visit to the BirdLife Malta ringing station to learn all about birds and migration.

**Rdum tal-Madonna** – Previously only offered during the 'Natura 2000 event' this site will now be offered all year round (until it gets too hot). Excellent nature experience, cliff top views, and information about our Seabird Research Project.

You will still be able to visit our existing sites **Simar Nature Reserve**, **Għadira Nature Reserve**, **Foresta 2000**, and **Xemxija Ridge**. Please book early to avoid disappointment.



Photo by C. Tiller

Photos: Students visits Comino (above) and Rdum tal-Madonna (below)





# Sharing a love of nature!



Are you looking for a new challenge and available for a few hours each month?  
Are you interested in wildlife and the environment or just like being outdoors?

If you enjoy spending time with children and would like to inspire a passion for nature we're looking for new Youth Leaders to run our Klabb Huttarf members activities. Our monthly meetings encourage children to think about the environment and the wildlife that depends on it. You don't need to be an expert on wildlife and general training will be provided.

To find out more and to register your interest please contact BirdLife Malta's Education Manager Hannah Chisholm;  
BirdLife Malta, 57/28 Triq Abate Rigord, Ta' Xbiex  
[hannah.chisholm@birdlifemalta.org](mailto:hannah.chisholm@birdlifemalta.org)  
7945 6312

