

November

RECYCLING awareness month - (15/11: America recycles day)
Reduce-Reuse-Recycle, What is the importance of this slogan nowadays? What is the carbon footprint? What is the best way to reduce and manage our waste?

“5 tonnes of waste is produced by the average European each year
Only 38% of waste in the EU is recycled
Over 60% of household waste still goes to landfill in some EU countries

EU waste policy aims to protect the environment and human health and help the EU's transition to a circular economy. It sets objectives and targets to improve waste management, stimulate innovation in recycling and limit landfilling.”

source: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/topics/waste-and-recycling_el

1. Eco-School: Recycling Awareness

Introduction

In the European Union, we throw away more and more rubbish each year. Without urgent actions global waste will increase 70% on current level by 2050.

We cannot go on like this without seriously damaging to our environment. Therefore, the EU has decided to tackle the problems caused by growing waste mountains.

Education is crucial to raise awareness in the young generation and to help the little ones to get good habits. Our school included many actions about the recycling and reusing in the “School Plan for the sustainability”, the school collaborates with the local agencies and the Municipality to have a large impact on the local Community.

Students’ age: from 8 years old



Objectives:

- To raise awareness of the need to reduce the amount of waste production.
- To reflect on the relationships between production, consumption and waste.
- To evaluate the direct and indirect impact of pupils actions on environment.
- To make pupils aware about the need to be active in the environment protection and preservation.

You will need

recyclable materials: different kinds of paper, textile, wood, plastic product

1. Eco-School: Recycling Awareness

Activity

Making papier-mâché bins for separate waste in the classroom.

Reducing the number of photocopies and making them double-sides.

Using recycled materials for Christmas decorations, greeting cards, boxes for school supplies.

Using school supplies carefully to avoid waste.



Extension ideas

Collecting plastic caps for the diabetic association. They bring plastic caps to recycling and use the funds raised for diabetes prevention campaigns.



2. Öko-day

Introduction

Our pre-school organized an Öko-day (Eco-day). All the families were invited.

Students' age: from 4 years old



Activity

Everyone's creativity were inspired, how to reuse different household waste materials and product together funny and unique subjects.

Mothers and fathers were busily involved in the activity with their children.

Old time games were introduced to children.

Old time dolls of our grandmothers were made from leftover yarn.



3. The three R's

Introduction

As we throw away more and more rubbish, it is urgent to act to preserve the planet. All the countries in the European Union have plans to reduce the growing waste. One of them is to educate children to get good habits at an early age.

Our school led many actions about the 3 R's (Recycle, Reuse, Reduce) in collaboration with an association specialized in Environment protection. We collaborated with the Municipality to make this project a long-term one.

Students' age: from 4 years old



Objectives:

- To recognize the materials and the different families of waste.
- To learn how to throw away waste in the right dustbin.
- To know what they are becoming (incineration, recycling, compost).

You will need

Different types of materials (plastic, clothe, cardboard, paper, metal), plastic caps

3. The three R's

Activity

First pupils worked on the notion of waste and learnt the names of different types of materials (plastic, cloth, cardboard, paper, metal). Then they discovered how to sort them and put them in different dustbins. After this session we went on a «dustbins hunt» in and around the school! We then wrote a letter to the Municipality to ask for special dustbins for separate waste in each classroom and told the cleaning lady about this change.

We organized a zero-waste picnic at school to have an impact on parents and discover that we can use less packaging.

The 3rd session consisted in making a «scientific square» for each class. Pupils buried different materials and every month we unburied them to see what happened and took pictures. After one year we realized that some had disappeared completely (organic waste, paper) and some were still here (plastic, glass, metal).

The 4th step of this action is the introduction of the notion of compost.

We used plastic caps to make Christmas trees and the 6 flags of the project and old pens and glue sticks to write Erasmus+ for the logo.



Extension ideas: Use recycled materials in different art projects.

4. Which bucket does this go into?

Introduction

The reason behind this activity is the lack of recycling bins in all areas of the school and the insufficient knowledge of both young and elder for recycling. What can we do to reduce and better manage our waste?

Students' age: from 8 years old



Objectives:

Students will learn:

- the reason we recycle and its usefulness.
- what materials we recycle and in which bin we place them.
- how to recycle properly and what procedures are required before throwing something in the bin.

You will need

4 boxes (wooden or paper) that should be painted blue, green, red and yellow respectively

4. Which bucket does this go into?

Activity

The students initially, together with their parents, calculated their ecological footprint. After bringing the results to class we found that a large percentage of students do not recycle at all and believe it is a time-consuming process. After a discussion to explore the students' prior knowledge we play a game. The children noticed pictures from different packages and were asked where they would put them if they were in their house: in the trash or could be used elsewhere.

Then a visit was made to the Recycling and Composting Center of Chania. There the children were informed and solved questions and misunderstandings about the materials that are recycled and the right way it is done in general. The next day, the children had to place the packages of various products and materials in the appropriate bins.



Extension ideas: In a brown box, students can pick fruit and vegetable peels and create their own compost and compost process, respectively. Students can suggest how their school can be made greener. What adjustments and changes can be made to reduce school waste?

December

Month devoted to the protecting of the FOREST.

What is forestation and what is deforestation? Why are the forests useful for our planet? How does burning or destroying them affect our life?

Let's rethink the Christmas tree... Which do you think the best choice is? a real or a plastic one?

"40% of global deforestation is commodity-driven.

Production of commodities including beef, soy, palm oil, pulp, paper, energy and minerals, is the leading cause of deforestation. More sustainable commodity production is critical for conserving forests and mitigating climate change."

source: <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/topics/commodities/#intro>

1. Our Friend, the Forest

Introduction

The forest is absolutely necessary for our survival. We depend on the forest from the air we breathe to the wood we use. Forest providing habitats for animals and livelihoods for humans, forests also offer watershed protection, prevent soil erosion and mitigate climate change.

We tend to take forests for granted, underestimating how indispensable they still are for everyone on the planet. To help things get better for woodlands around the world, we need to learn more about the benefits of forests and to share that knowledge with others, especially with our students, in order to educate the new generation to be more responsibility. That's the goal of events like International Day of Forests.

Students' age: from 8 years old



Objectives

The students will learn:

- To understand the importance of forest for the life of the planet.
- To reflect on the relationships between deforestation and climate exchanges.
- To evaluate the direct and indirect impact of human behavior on the woodlands
- To make our pupils more active and responsible citizens.

You will need

Collaboration from the forestry agency; an open space where organize the activities

1. Our Friend, the Forest

Activity

In order to raise awareness of pupils we organized a day in collaboration with our Forestry agency.

Previous we discussed with pupils about a fire that last summer burnt many green areas nearby. Pupils had to reflect on:

How did the fire start in the pine forest? Were the causes accidental or deliberate? Which were the consequences for the animals who lived there? Which were the consequences for the plants? How looks like now?

Experts from the forestry agency explained the problem of fire in our region especially; the causes of these fires: both deliberately and accidentally and what they do to prevent and to operate in case of fire. They showed pupils all the equipment needed to control and battle the wildfires. Pupils had also the opportunity to wear the helmet and operate like real firefighters.



Extension ideas

At school we summarized the experience and collect pictures to underlined the main ideas. The activity has been documented by pictures and captions.

2. Day of Birds and Trees

Introduction

Each year we celebrate the day of birds and trees. Education for the love and protection of animals is an important part of our local kindergarten program. We believe that this urgent issue can not be dealt with primarily by legislation, sanctions, but by consciously educating young people. The shared responsibility of each teacher is to raise a generation that can live in harmony and love with the creatures of their environment.

Students' age: from 4 years old



Objectives

The aim of the green day is to draw people's attention to the importance of trees, the task of protecting birds. It offers many opportunities to get to know nature, to raise awareness of the characteristics of each species, to promote nature conservation activities.

Activity

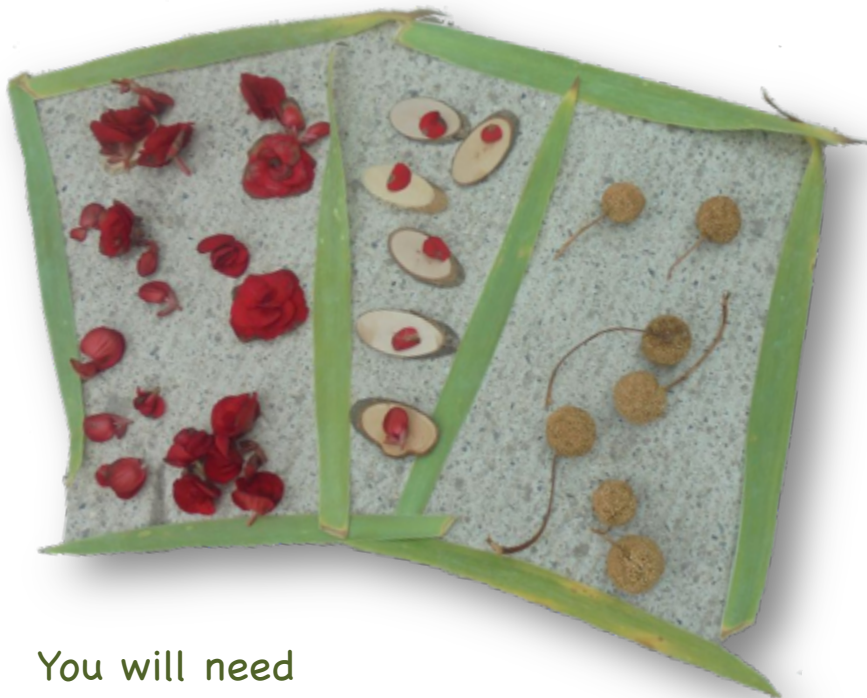
To celebrate the "Day of birds and trees" our group took a trip to the Visitor Center of the Kiskunság National Park, the House of Nature in Kecskemét. We had an interesting lesson about the local birds and in the surrounding forest we could examine the typical trees of our region.

3. Protecting the Forest

Introduction

We depend on the forest for the air we breathe, the wood we use... Forest provides habitats for animals, prevents soil erosion... However human activities are the main threats for the forest's inhabitants (animals and plants): waste, vehicles, fire, noise... To protect woodlands, we need to learn more about the benefits of forests and to educate the students to be more responsible (stay on the paths, don't disturb the animals or tear off plants, don't throw away waste...).

Students' age: from 4 years old



You will need

Gloves

Objectives

- To know better the plants and animals leaving in the forest around us.
- To understand that human activities can be a threat for the forest.
- To make our pupils more active and responsible citizens.

3. Protecting the Forest

Activity

In order to raise awareness of pupils, we planned many walking afternoons to observe and learn the names of some plants and animals living in the forest around the school. We picked up fallen plants, stones, wood... to make productions like Land art artists. We had also activities in the forest in collaboration with an ecological organization to understand the threats and how to prevent them.

We organized a cleaning day to pick up waste.

We discussed with pupils about fire: how can a fire start in the pine forest? Which are the consequences for the animals and plants?

We invited a fireman to explain the problem of fire in our region, the causes of these fires and what they do to prevent and to operate in case of fire. He showed pupils all the equipment needed. We also looked at a short documentary movie about that subject and read many books on that theme.



Extension ideas

Have a no waste picnic together.

1. The Burnt Forest

Introduction

Every year it seems like many disastrous wildfires around the world occur. Uncontrolled fires are often caused accidentally by people, and these incidents turn into a rampage and decimate forests. For most people, a forest fire is synonymous with disaster. Many of the fires, intentionally set for agriculture and land clearing, are at best ill-advised, and at worst devastating. Slash and burn fires are set every day to destroy large sections of forests. Of course, these fires don't just remove trees; they kill and displace wildlife, alter water cycles and soil fertility, and endanger the lives and livelihoods of local communities. They also can rage out of control.

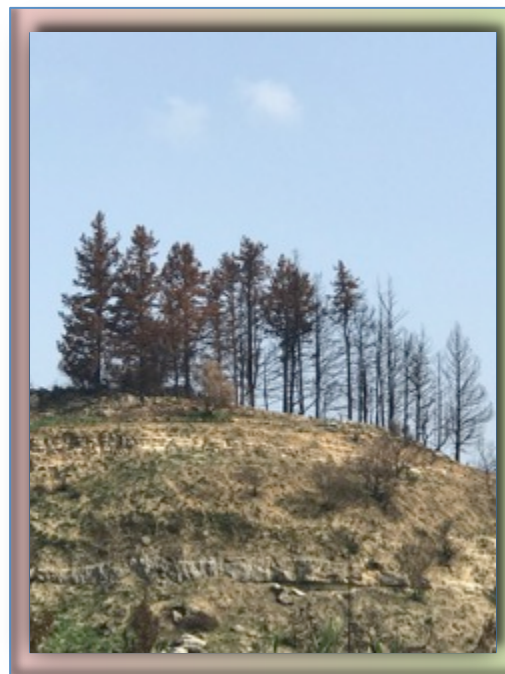
Students' age: from 9 years old

Objectives:

The students will be informed about the fires in the forests, the reasons they were caused and the ways in which the fires are encountered and restored in general. Our students will be visiting a part of a burnt forest. They then have the opportunity to converse with the local residents and walk around the burnt areas. They are able to experience the burnt areas with all their senses and lead to conclusions regarding the restoration of these areas.

You will need

- a camera
- a voice recorder
- a notebook (writing paper / writing utensils)



1. The burnt forest

Activity

The students will be given a map and pinpoint a forest in their area (easily accessible), which was affected by the fires. The purpose of this visit is to take photographs which they will present in an art gallery at school.

The students may also interview a forest ranger. He/she will inform the children on how often forest fires occur, the reasons they occur and various ways to restore the natural environment.

They will also visit a school in the area and listen to the children who witnessed the fires, they will communicate the danger they faced and how they were able to save their properties and themselves.

The students then will visit the forest and walk around and explore the area. They will observe the trees and plants. They are called to use their senses and smell, touch, listen carefully. They may also witness the parts that are rejuvenating. They will then choose a frame from what they have seen and take a limited amount of photographs.



They will then be divided into groups and choose a tree and try to think up the tree's story which they will then write down (on a notebook or on a recording tool)

They then will choose the photos which they wish to include so as each child should represent one photograph. They will print them, frame them and present them as a part of the gallery.

1. The burnt forest

Extension Ideas

Students will organize the photograph exhibition “The Burning Forest”, invite the local media and publicize the event through social media and local press.

The students paint what the forest looked like before and after the fire, as described by the students who were affected by the fire and send these paintings to that school in the affected area.

The students partnering with a local community or forest service are involved in tree planting in the burnt area.

The students create a story by assembling and customizing recordings from their notebooks or audio recorders. They then will illustrate the story with paintings or photographs and publish them.

