

Dear parents,

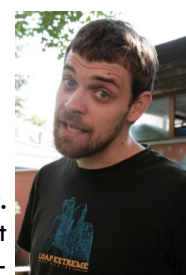
Welcome to our Newsletter for June 2014. The school year 2013-14 is slowly approaching its end but we are still busy. In June, our focus was on dads. Yes, the highlight of the month was **Father's Day**. At Gajova location we moved back in time - to the times of our grandparents. Kids sang a few traditional Slovak songs for their dads and afterwards they set off to try the life in past. They jumped over „vatra“ (a campfire), picked cherries, milked cows, painted door, harvested vegetable garden with help of wheelbarrow, learnt a typical Slovak hat dance, and much much more. At Úprkova, on contrary, we followed an adventurous „journey“ over Horský park and fulfilled various tasks connected to daddies' child dream jobs. What a great job they all did! Nobody left empty-handed. Dads were given presents made by their kids and children had chance to buy some presents for themselves in our „toy shop“.

**Highlight of the Month...**



**Features...**

Take a look at an interview with Mr. Igy, our teacher of Giraffe class, who kindly shared his bits about his life with us.



## 1. Why did you decide to become a teacher?

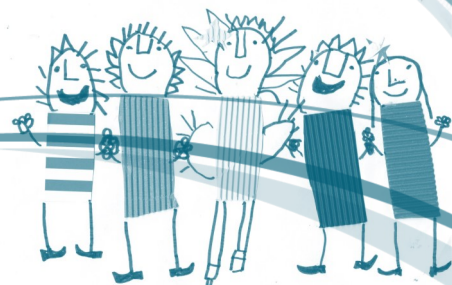
When I was young I was often visiting a Salesian youth centre, where I believe I have been given a lot. People who I met there have formed my personality and my lifestyle to a big extent. So when I was about 15 years old and an offer came to give something back in the form of working with children, I did not hesitate. Since then I have always worked with children. Becoming a teacher was a natural step from there.

## 2. Why kindergarten...

Well, I can say, I did not plan on ending up in a kindergarten. Before, I have only worked with older children – adolescents with learning or behaviour challenges – so coming to kindergarten was a bit of a shock to me. But I took to it almost instantly. The children seemed very happy to have a male teacher and I was happy to feel welcome. I soon found out that despite its challenges, working with kids this young has many pros.

## 3. The best day in the kindergarten?

It is hard to single out just one day, because I really had many amazing days with the kids here. I was often surprised by how smart they can be and what they can do. But I must say the best day was on the day of the Graduation party. Seeing my kids so big and able to perform almost professionally was amazing. I was very proud of the whole class and also of our teaching team. It feels good to know you have made even a small difference in a child's life.





## Kids Day

Believe it or not, kids were extremely eager to come to KG on June, 1. Why wouldn't they! It was their big day. And we celebrated it in a big style. With a puppet performance about importance of books. With lots of funny games and workshops. With wonderful bouncing castle. With balloons and balloon animals. With cotton candy! But most of all, we were all together and that is what counts!

*We've been busy with...*



## Kids Over The World

The best way how to introduce the variety of cultures in our world and all the people living there is to get to know them better. During all the week we talked about different countries our kids come from. Kids checked the maps, they even made their own Earth posters and have talked about different places where to live. They have also learnt to recognize their own flags as well as flags of their schoolmates. We talked about various habits and customs in specific countries. As we all know, kids enjoy dancing and having fun, we were also listening to music from different places of the world. Then kids tried to express themselves according to the type of music they heard. We made sure all kids know they are special and unique no matter where they come from or what they look like. We are all one big family, living on the same amazing planet.



## Going to School

The very last week of the school year we dedicated to a school itself. Our pre-schoolers are going to leave us soon and so we talked about the place they will go to - about school. We pretended to be schoolers with all it takes. Yes, even testing and homework :). We even visited the Comenius University and its classrooms and library. Luckily, all of our little ones enjoyed this topic a lot and they are really looking forward to the real school „soon“.

## Swimming Course

In June we also held our annual swimming course. This year we travelled to the pool at the Faculty of Sports and Physical Education. Kids were amazing and they enjoyed water a lot! They were not afraid at all! Not even of jumping from the springboard! Just check the pictures, if you don't believe!





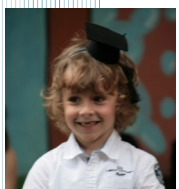
## Graduation

In June, we all realized how the time flies. It seems like yesterday when Kangaroos and Giraffes came to our kindergarten for the first time and they met their old or new friends. They had a lot of fun here, but from the beginning we all knew that one day they will have to say good-bye and get ready for school.

Before their very last day, there was one big thing that we had to do. The graduation party, our performance! It was something that children have practised very hard for to show to their parents, teachers and friends. They all wanted them to see what they had learnt throughout all those years. Both Giraffes and Kangaroos enjoyed the idea a lot, they always tried to do their best during practising and when the time came we all had the most fun we could ever have.

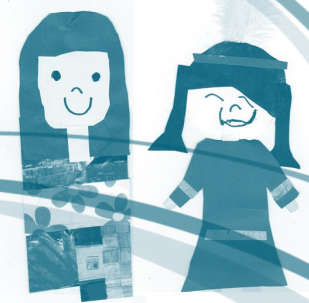
It was amazing to see how proud and happy parents were, their smiles and also tears coming from their eyes when they realized how their children grew up. All the Kangaroos and Giraffes did a very good job. They never complained about how hard it was to memorize all the songs and poems that teachers had prepared for them. We were very proud of them and we still are. We will miss them, we will never forget the time we spent together and we hope that even after becoming big schoolers they will keep us and all good memories in their hearts.

Our Y1 classes



## Adventure in Nature

As most of you know, the Giraffe class has had the privilege to spend three school days out of the kindergarten, away from their families and far away from the city. Our trip has taken place in the beautiful countryside of Častá – Papiernička. Everything went surprisingly well from the beginning till the very end. What you might not know is that our journey was an Indian one. We lived in the common cottage divided into four tribes, each led by the Chief :). Throughout our stay we had to achieve or experience several virtues that ancient Indians used to hold. We have managed to perform serious Lacrosse tournament without serious injuries :), we've been to long journey to Červený Kameň Castle searching for hidden Indian message, and believe it or not, we have met the REAL Indian who offered us his magic elixir of courage and wisdom. Back in our place, we have enjoyed each other and freedom by the campfire, climbing the trees, playing football, „barrels rolling“ or simply exploring the forest and its treasures (favourite one was wood sorrel – šťável :)). And roasting and eating and singing and chatting. Our time has passed really fast and kids almost didn't have time to miss their parents. On our way back we've visited the Driny Cave and even had time for pizza in Pezinok. Kids were amazing, managed all the challenges but we must not only praise the Giraffe kids but also their parents for being self-disciplined and respecting our restricted communication setting :). To sum up, we had a great time and great fun, both teachers and kids.





**Lenka Marková,  
Speech Therapist**

## Bilingualism

What is bilingualism? People use the term "bilingualism" in different ways. For some, it means an equal ability to communicate in two languages. For others, it simply means the ability to communicate in two languages but with greater skills in one language. In fact, it is more common for bilingual people, even those who have been bilingual since birth, to be somewhat "dominant" in one language.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association defines bilingualism as the use of at least two languages by an individual. Bilingualism is mostly divided into two types: 1) Simultaneous bilingualism, which occurs when a child is exposed to two languages from birth; and 2) Sequential bilingualism, which occurs when a child has been exposed to a second language, usually after the age of 3 and

after the first language is well established.

We can look at the bilingualism also from different perspective and that is according to the environment where is the second (third) language acquired. One type is called primary bilingualism which occurs when a kid acquires one language from one parent and the second language from the second parent or from environment. It is important to know that those languages are parents' mother tongues. Second type which is mostly seen in our kindergarten, called secondary bilingualism, is when a child learns the second language only in the school or kindergarten. The special subtype is called intentional bilingualism that stands for learning the second language from somebody (it can be a teacher or a parent) whose primary language is different than the language they teach. For example this is the case when mommy's mother tongue is Slovak language but she decides to teach her child English and she communicates only in English with him or her.

It is good to know that there are four stages of acquiring second language in the case of sequential bilingualism. For the first stage is typical that child has minimal comprehension of secondary language, does not verbalize in second language, mostly nods "Yes" and "No.", points and uses his primary language or mother tongue. This stage takes sometimes months till child finds out, that he/she needs to learn the second language. The second stage presents nonverbal period when child starts to understand the simple instructions but does not use any language or produces only one or two responses. For the third stage it is typical that child starts to use familiar phrases and simple sentences. They have still limited but better comprehension. In the last stage, the child can effectively use the second language although it is still not fluent. He/She is able to produce complex sentences, but makes grammar and pronunciation errors. After the last period it takes a long time until the child improves his/her language well enough to acquire fluency level of commu-

**We spy...**

## Upcoming events

### Summer time...

- Connection of location Gajova and Úprkova. Beginning on 30 June 2014, the Úprkova location is closed during the whole summer holidays (till the end of August). All the kids join their friends at Gajova 21, in the Old Town. The time schedule might vary slightly, but you will be informed about all changes.
- Tennis course. We will start our annual tennis course, this time at Zlaté piesky. Lessons are scheduled as followed - Reception classes (Hippos, Dolphins and Pandas) on Tuesdays, Year 1 Classes (Giraffes and Kangaroos) on Thursdays. Regarding the arrival time and proper clothing, follow please instructions on your child's locker.
- Gulliver's Travels - we are inviting you to join our summer project again. We will be very happy if you share your holiday experiences with us. If you feel like, send us a postcard on Gajova 21, 811 09 Bratislava. Do not forget to label it with your child's class. This way little friends can be connected, even though they are apart :).

