

Dear parents,

Although we already skipped to a new year 2015 and almost forgot all the last year excitement during loooooong Xmas holidays, we still owe you our last 2014 newsletter, and so here it comes with its December introspections. Before that let us wish you all the best in the New Year bringing you everything you wish for :)

Highlight of the Month...



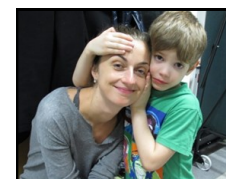
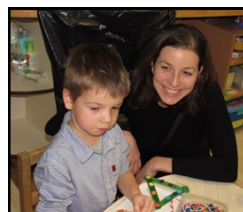
The day with big D to which we've been preparing since the very beginning of November had finally come. Christmas party! What did that half an hour of performing on the stage mean for your kids and us teachers? Louds and louds of hard work, discipline, preparation, excitement, stress, learning stress coping strategies, fighting our own limits, experiencing new roles, cooperating with new friends, learning new songs, movements, being part of, and moreover, creating together something magical, bigger, the Christmas story, the play. So, the half an hour was the peak of all what we've been preparing, dreaming, fearing, and looking forward to for over a month. And now, it was here. You could smell the excitement in the air. Oldest children (like big actors do) were practising their parts in the backstage till the very last moment. Some kids were mumbling all the things that are about to happen to themselves some, on the other hand, were asking again and again about „When we will get the second snack? Ms Pet'ka promised us a second

snack! Can we get the second snack?" (Oh yes, we have had a great "motivation strategy" consisted of juice and croissants :) which works every year and keeps children, even the smallest ones, patient :) Most of the kids, however, were just wondering whether you, mummies and daddies, were already there or not. It was again a big and beautiful experience for all of us and we all would like to thank you for your support, praises and positive feedback appreciating this year changes. We hope that now there is no more doubt that the highlight of the month December was our Christmas performance :). Well, indeed, a double one this time :).



Xmas Workshops

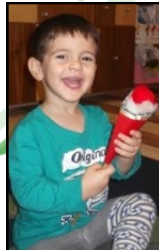
The last week before Christmas, actually after all that Christmas performance hustle and bustle :, was in the name of creativity. We have invited you to our Christmas workshops full of interesting "Christmas" crafts, so eventually you could manage all your Christmas presents for grandmas and grandpas on one place :, but more importantly we could spend some time together with your children and their friends. We all are really very happy you accepted our invitation, and thank you for coming. The extra BIG thank you goes to all parents who joined our "cookie contest" which had, of course, no winner as all the yummies were gone like "snap":). We hope you had a good time with us, too, and Christmas workshops will become a part of your busy schedule also next year :).



We have been busy with

"Xmas time"

It may be not such a big surprise that most of our activities which we have been busy with in December were somehow connected to Christmas and pre-Christmas period. We welcomed St. Nicholas with his helpers - angel and devil. And surprisingly most children were scared of Saint Nicholas rather than devil :). However, none of them was crying or refused to accept a reward, so we considered this event a big success :). In between practice and training we worked on our advent calendars, class decoration, Christmas canes and stockings, and even academic skills somehow connected to Christmas. We also talked about different feasts in different cultures and worked out our Menorah. We even visited a Christmas fair to feel and experience the real Christmas atmosphere. So, yes, we all are already quite glad that we have it all over and won't need to use the word "Christmas" until the next year December :).



After all the serious topics in the previous newsletters, we wanted to change the subject a little bit this time and focus on something brand December-like. Thus we asked our children "How do you celebrate Christmas at home?" We hope you will enjoy our little "research"...



LEXIE

FILIPPO

Day before Christmas I am making the Christmas tree and on Christmas I am going outside the night and I am going to grandma and grandpa and to friends that they are there boys. And then we are waiting for Santa Claus. When he is coming he is giving us the presents and then we are going home, where we are sleeping and in the afternoon, in the morning we are opening the presents. And do you eat something special on Christmas day? No.



HANKA

BENJI M.

I don't know. Do you have Christmas tree? Yes. Do you get some presents? Yes. Where do the presents come from? From hmmm... from Ježiško. Where does he put them? Under the Christmas tree. Do you eat something special? Vianočka. What else do you usually do on Christmas day? It's snowing and we are playing with the snow. And we are doing the snowman.



LAURA P.

DAMIÁN

We call my grandma and grandpa. We eat there, and we play with the presents what we get. Do you eat anything special? Yes. Eee... I know only how to say it in Slovak. So, tell me in Slovak. The vianočný guláš. What is it made of? The meat, cabbage, tomato... Do you eat something else? Yes, fish with potatoes. And what about cookies? No. Your mommy doesn't bake at home? Yes. Sometimes... (pause for thinking) We have gingerbread! And lepené koláčiky but my grandma do it. Do you have a Christmas tree? No. Not now. And for Christmas? Yes. Who decorates the tree? I and my mommy. Do you like it? Yes. And who gives you the presents? Santa clause! Santa clause? My daddy see him. Just the storm. How do you know that the presents are already there? Because my daddy said it. He rings a bell and then the presents are under the Christmas tree.

LILI

We play some song, we decorate the Christmas tree, and then we put some things on our house like this (she is making a big semicircle in the air), and then lights like this (making semicircle in the air in other direction), and then we put some nice pictures in something like thiiis (making a circle in the air) into the rámček, but I don't know how to say it in English, frame, into the frame and then we put some things into our room also like thiiis and then we go upstairs and we are looking to the red light go on and then we are still up and waiting till the small anjelik gives us presents. And how do you know that the angel did already put the presents there? My grandmother and grandma, I have two grandmothers, one is grandmother and one is grandma, are checking it and then they hide somewhere and they just look and they will then come to tell us upstairs. Cool, and who cooks? My mommy and my daddy. They cook some pudding. And then we have just some fish and then I don't know. And do you sing some Christmas songs together? Yes. Can you sing any? Ok. Ježiško maličky čo v tom vreci máš, čo v tom vreci máš? Len pre dobré deti... ah, then I don't remember the last part...



ANDREJ H.



MATÚŠ R.

MARCO

I don't know how. What are you going to do during the Christmas? I will play when the Santa Claus will not bring us the presents. When he will ring so we will go there. What do you think you will get? I don't know. Because Santa Claus he is giving so much that we don't know how he will give us. And where does he put presents? Under the Christmas tree. Do you eat anything special? Yes, I will eat sviečka, the waffle and the fish.

OLI V.

That we buy the Christmas tree and then we decorate it and buy some chocolates like the decorations. And then? Then we just have supper and we go to brush our teeth and go to the bed. What do you have for supper? Many things, I don't know what. What for example? Chocolate. Chocolate? What else? Pizza. Are you sure? What about fish and potato salad? No.



ŠIMON

RAFA

I'm not going to spend Christmas, I am going to spend Chanukah also with Tal and Sela. So how do you celebrate Chanukah? We sing some songs and all day we light some candle and in middle is the highest and it stay the light all day. Are do you eat something special as well? Yes, some bread. Salty or sweet? Is salty when we've got the thing from lemon and isn't salty when we don't have the thing from lemon. Do you also get presents for Chanukah? Yes. Do you get the presents "under the candles"? They are just giving to us, in the end when we finish it. Do you have then any celebration? No, we are just singing the songs of Chanukah.



GOSHA

AYALA



Clubs...

Last month we introduced you our "extra clubs" and promised you to take a closer look also at our regular clubs. Although this topic is quite far from Xmas but we try to keep the promises, here they come :) Afternoon clubs are the regular part of our educational program provided to children from the very early age. They are scheduled mostly at 15:30 until 16:00 and their main goal is to enrich children with extracurricular information, skills and experience. Over more, it is the way how children learn to "work" also in the afternoon and thus they gradually prepare themselves for later on, particularly school days :). Clubs usually cover all the important areas and form a wider basis for future interests and hobbies. Parents are reported about the main focuses and activities monthly, so keep checking the wallboards in case you want to stay informed :).

Music club is about music and singing, indeed :). To be more specific, children learn songs, listen to different music genres, play the music instruments, do plenty of rhythm and breathing exercising, overall they do everything to build a positive relationship toward music. They also learn to use music as one of the sources of self-expression and stress relief.



Art club covers a wide area of artistic skills. Children learn to use different media, materials and art components and explore them theoretically and practically at the same time. They even learn about history, different eras, styles, famous painters and their master pieces and try to experiment within their concepts. However, what is the most important, art club provides a space where the children learn to express their internal feelings, emotions and ideas their own way.



Geo club offers extended contact with maps, globe, countries, landscape, cultures, geographical terms and much more to gain the first understanding of the world, its structure and diversity. Kids "travel" around the world to get acquainted with cultural and geographical differences and a wide range of nations, customs and traditions.



It is amazing how children are naturally curious about how the things work and why and that is also why they love the **Science club**. The most important goal of this club is the exploration itself within the field of various sciences, including physics, biology and chemistry. Children are encouraged to wonder about natural principles, to make their own hypothesis, to carry out simple experiments, to make conclusions... and all of that in a simple and playful way.



Math club provides children with more challenging problems and shows its importance in everyday life.



Fun club generally covers supporting and developing a wide range of social and prosocial skills. Although the curriculum and even the main focus field for particular classes may differ, the final goal is the same – to have fun and "learn" about social interactions. Children, for instance, learn about emotions, respect, feedback, confession, friendship, cooperation, coping strategies, but also jealousy, loss, bullying...

Well-developed gross motor skills in all aspects and variations are for preschool aged children essential and thus we always open **dance** or **sports club**, or both :). Through various games, sport activities and exercises we focus on proper basic locomotion, balance, body coordination, strength, endurance, accuracy, kinetic memory, spatial orientation, laterality and much more.



Of course, also this month we bring a short look at our teachers. In December we questioned Ms Ali (Y1 teacher in Panda class in Uprkova) and Mrs Domča (Assistant teacher in Reception class of Hippos in Gajova).



Alenka Braneacová

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I'd never thought of myself as a teacher, but to be honest, I had no idea what I wanted to become. When I was in primary school I had this amazing teacher, who, even though we were the worst class in the whole school, saw something good in all of us. And then always when I thought about the future I remembered her and told to myself: That's what I want to be.

Why kindergarten?

Because when you want to influence somebody you have to go to the basics. So why not :)

What was your best day in the Kindergarten?

It is impossible to choose just one because the beauty of this job is that almost every day is the best day. Every day when you see that the children can do something they couldn't do before or when they just hug you, it's amazing :). Sometimes in the morning I find myself looking forward to going to work. And that is not something many people can say.

Do you play at home?

Well.....I like to play one game on my computer, but I would not consider that as playing :). So I will say no, I don't play at home.

What other hobbies do you have?

I like to read and watch movies, but not the ones in the TV :) and I like music. I also like to go for a walk to the forest when I am at my parents' or to play with my nephew. But not always because you know, one also needs some break from work :)

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Well, I actually never wanted to be a teacher. :) At school I always was a kind of rebellion and I thought that all teachers in the world must be weird. Only now, when I take a look back, I can see that all the teachers I have ever met were normal people just like me. They were trying their best to teach us everything important for our lives. They had to become the "bad ones" in our eyes just to build respect which we need to use nowadays in relationships with our supervisors. They gave me really a lot. I believe that one day most of these children will understand why I was strict when I had to be. Only then they will understand that I was trying to do everything for them and their future.

Why KG?

Because children are so pure; because of their view of the world, because of their natural drive to learn, because of the emotions that adults are always hiding, because children are much more human than us – big ones.

What was your best day in the KG?

There wasn't just one. I love days when something is happening and all the teachers are helping each other and react fast, for example Christmas performance, it's very tiring but nice and we just don't stop till evening. I just love that feeling of co-operating and working as a team. Because we are a very good team over here. :)

Do you play at home?

This question made my day. I don't know what to say :D But sometimes I do. I got a great table game once – Dixit and it's just great. And I play sometimes with my dog as well when he keeps on annoying.

What other hobbies do you have?

Mountains. And everything what you can do there. After my first salary came, I bought free-ride skis. That's not only relax for me – that's what I live for. I am trying to spend as much time in mountains as possible. And one day, when I grow up, I'm gonna move to Alaska :)



Dominika Kožíčková



Skiing Course 2015 for Reception classes

In January we all look forward, especially our **reception class** children of Bumblebees, Hippos and Whales, to a big skiing course on **Zochova chata**. It hopefully takes within the period **26.1-30.1.2015**, although everything depends on actual snow conditions. Parents will be informed about all the details (including what to bring, when to come and what not to forget) as well as final confirmation a week in advance by e-mail in weekly info news. But of course, in case of questions, please ask your teacher or anybody from the office.



School Readiness Testing for Y1

Our Y1 students, both in Panda and Dolphin class, will manage their first big "testing" within the period **26.1-30.1.2015** :) The testing is focused on school readiness and will be accomplished by external psychologist.

Half-Term Parents meetings

During the **January - February** period you will be invited for individual parents' meetings regarding your child performance in Kindergarten over the first semester. You will be reported about the progress, potential problems, strong and weak areas and actual stage in all important developmental fields.

