



# Kindergarten Newsletter - January 2015



All right, so there we are, in 2015! The plans are set, wishes are said and off we go to work on it :) And yes, we started with another fantastic month. January was truly vivid in activities and it is quite difficult to say what the highlight was. All depends on the point of view and who we ask. For Y1 kids as well as their parents, it would probably be the week of school readiness tests... For Reception classes on the other hand it would most probably be rather the week of the skiing course... And who knows what the smallest ones would vote for.... One way or another, let's skip the highlight and jump straight to the whirl of action... :)

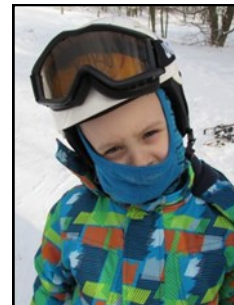
## SKIING COURSE



The New Year started calmly and slowly, and after first few weeks of fighting all the viruses and "back to school lethargy" :), we became ready and full of strength for the challenges. One of these challenges was our SKIING COURSE and it was a real challenge for all of us, indeed. Kids had to handle all the inconvenience, and all of you (skiers especially) probably know what we are talking about :) "I am cold!" "My legs hurt!" "The ski boots are tight!" "I've had enough!" "I'm hungry!" and in the winter overall our favourite one "I need to pee-pee" :). Parents had to manage all the arrangements and early morning arrivals. Management had to deal with the weather complications when no snow at first was exchanged by snow calamity at the end :). And teachers... teachers all of that :)... early mornings (to be first on the spot:)), tired and demanding children (...before, in, during, when, over, after... :)), timing... (...no to be late anywhere, neither there, nor back...), overall control and never-ending counting (...not to lose anything and anybody...:))... So, yes, we love skiing course :)! OK. And now seriously... We managed the whole course well. All the children learned a lot, not even how to ski but also how to keep on trying and never give up. And as a bonus they experienced the real fun on the edge when totally exhausted shared endorphin haze while singing songs and taking a nap leaning one to another in the bus :).

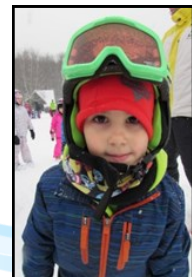
## BUMBLEBEES

**How was the skiing course?** Oli M: it was so so... Zoe: supergood! Kubko: supergood. Viki R.: it was supergood! **Is there anything that you didn't like about skiing?** Viki R: no... I didn't like when we did go up the hill **Why?** Viki R.: Because it's hard and I don't want to go up the hill. Taeyoon: I liked pizza. Bella: I liked pizza and everything. Oli: I did like everything, I like to wake up... Zoe: I didn't like wake up in the morning. I like sleeping. Kubo: Even !! **Who found skiing course difficult?** Hands up! Viki R, Taeyoon, Kubko, Bella, Zoe **What did you learn?** Benji: klavivko (everybody laughing) Zoe: race on big big hill, not a real race just a u-u, u-u (showing slalom with her hands) **Did you go on a big slope?** Oli M: just once. Zoe: do you mean on the magic carpet? Viki R: I want to tell you something....that I did skiing but I did fall down from vleek. Kubko: But she did fall down za jazdy you know? **Aha. Ok, so did you like the skiing?** Everybody: Yeeeeeeaaaah...



## WHALES & HIPPOS

**Where have you been last week?** Lukas: we was skiing **Do you know where?** Veve: I know that it starts with A **No, who knows?** Marek: on chata. **How was the skiing course?** All: good Veve: that it was good when we was skiing on the sides we was lifting legs. Rafa: good and also we was putting hands on the knees, when we want to go on this side we need to put hand on that side and when we want to go on that side we need to put hand on this side **What was the best about skiing course?** Gosha: that we go with skis down. Marco: Not skiing but going up the hill **How did you go up the hill?** Sofia: with the lift **How many lifts did you see there?** Andrejko: three. Rafa: There was just two, because one was middle and one was little bit longer, which was next to the side. **Have you been on the big lift?** All: yeeees! **Is there anything what you didn't like about skiing?** All: Noooo **Was it difficult?** All: No Sofia: Eazy peazy lemon squeezy **What was easy about it?** Sofia: That we was skiing down very easily **Did you need any special equipment for skiing?** All: No **Are you sure?** Lukas: ski jacket, helmet and that special mask and googles and snow trousers and ski boots and skis. **Did you learn something new?** Veve: We did learn how when we are on the skis, when we are going on the sides for one minute put the leg up. **Did you learn any special skiing position?** Eric: Pizza Sofia: slalom **Tell me something about your instructors?** Rafa: My teacher was Erik and we was doing together aeroplane and we did put hands on the knees. Lukas: and when we did fall down we needed to do three jumps on the skis. Andrej: That teachers was learning us to ski. Eric: when I came there they were helping me to stand up, but then I was standing up alone. **Did something special happened there?** Tal: that we didn't sleep when we came back to Kindergarten **Why?** Because it was too late, because the road was full of snow Eric: and we did also get diplomas **Would you like to go there also next year?** YEEES!!!







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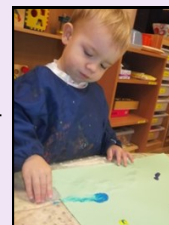
## SCIENCE

In January we started the series of topics connected to exact sciences. We kept exploring, researching, surveying, discovering, experimenting, asking questions and finding answers... Simply said, we tried to satisfy our curious minds. We love science! And thus we hope you'll enjoy a short excursion through scientific activities within our classes... So, let's start from the smallest ones.

We've been busy with

### Donkeys (by Ms Ivka) - Nursery I class in Gajova

January has been great opportunity for experimenting which is believed to be the best (and most attractive) way of learning also in Donkey class. Although due to the unfriendly weather conditions (no snow no freeze) we couldn't stick to our original plans, thank heavens for modern technologies – we made the ice in the freezer. Donkeys got the chance to explore the "ice behaviour" twice: once they melt it by their own body warmth when they painted "abstract art" pictures using ice cubes instead of a painting brush.



Painting with ice



States of H<sub>2</sub>O - ice - process of melting

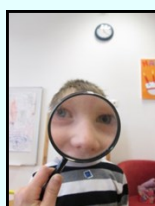
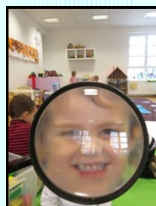
Second, we have prepared two pocks of water – hot and cold and we tried to melt ice in both observing how fast it happens. You can imagine that greatest fun didn't come from comparing the data. Splashing water everywhere was the highlight of this science attempt and seeing how they enjoy we gave up our stopping efforts and let kids to get wet. We have lockers full of extra stuff exactly for these occasions :-).

### Elephants (by Ms Lucka) - Nursery class in Úprkova

The weather was not on our side and there wasn't enough snow outside so we decided to replace it with shaving cream. First we set up a simple experiment. The Elephants mixed their favourite colours with shaving cream, swirled it with paint brushes and observed a rainbow reaction. Woo, how exciting! :) But we also decided to be creative and we placed a small paper on the shaving cream mound, pressed lightly and after removing excess shaving cream we could see a beautiful marbled picture.



Marbling with shaving cream

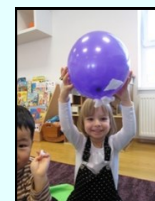


Magnifying glass

What is the smallest thing you can see in our class? You don't know? So use a magnifying glass :). We did it and we could see how different objects look and what a magnifying glass does with our pretty faces. Our goal was to understand that there are limits to what the eye can see and that a magnifying glass can help push those limits.

Have you ever walked across a rug and then been shocked when you reached for a doorknob? If so, then you have experienced static electricity. And our Elephants had a lot of fun with the balloon experiment when trying how static electricity actually works.

Static electricity



### Zebras (by Ms Ivetka) - Nursery II class in Gajova

Snow is one of the main characteristics of winter time. And since we didn't get much snow this winter, we had to improvise... Luckily for us, „fake snow“ is not that difficult to make as it might seem. You only need some baking soda, shaving foam, a big bowl and a wooden spoon. A bit of measuring, a bit of pouring and a bit of mixing... The mass looks like real snow and fresh smell is just a bonus. And surprisingly enough, it is a bit cold to touch – so we finally experienced real winter :)



Fake snow



Snow globe - properties of liquids

Connected with the topic of Magic Space, we talked about stars, too. And we decided to create some stars in bottle (a.k.a. calm down bottle... just please, don't tell that to our Zebras :)). Kids were working in pairs and we have to say they were really cooperative. They filled plastic bottles with water, glycerine and glitters and observed how they all interact making their own star sky.





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## Whales (by Ms Katka) - Reception I class in Gajova

Whales love Science, especially because through experiments they can touch, feel, smell, and even taste sometimes :) And also because it's always so amazing to wait for the result of the experiment :) This month we focused on the basic knowledge about magnets and electricity. We learnt that magnets attract only metal objects, and we were spying in our class where these metal objects were. We found some screws in the chairs, keys on the table, but teacher's colourful clips were the biggest fun :).

We also learnt some basic facts about electricity. In the classroom, we switched off the light and observed how the little bulb lit when the electric circuit was closed. Energy from the battery spun the little propeller and resounded the red speaker. We observed the tiny wires in the light bulb, and we talked about safety of course :) After that we all went for a walk to search for electricity around us. The most amazing was to wait for coming trolleybuses... it was great to watch children being astonished by so many new things :)



Magnets - Metals

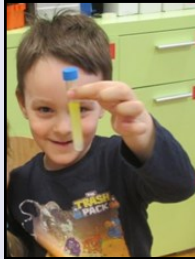


Electricity - Circuit



## Bumblebees (by Ms Stanka) - Reception class in Uprkova

We have learnt about three states of matter: liquid, solid and gas and we verified that water can exist in all these states. It's liquid when it's plain water, solid when it freezes to ice and gas when it becomes steam. We were also melting ice on air, in hot and cold water, to find out that it melts the fastest in hot water :)



Density of liquids

Another thing we investigated was the density of liquids. We tried to mix water and oil, but oil always rose to the top. Water is very very dense and it's molecules are pretty close to each other, that's why it always fell on the bottom of the test-tube, while oil rose on the top of it.

Anyway, the greatest fun was to play with the static electricity! Friction of our hair against plastic combs made our hair stand in a silly way :) Balloon which was charged with static electricity after rubbing it against clothes could make a small stream of water move closer to it! :)



Static electricity

Process of melting



Survey - properties of materials

## Hippos (by Ms Hanka) - Reception II class in Gajova

Hippos observed physical properties of materials in simple experiments. During the experiments, they practiced their social skills, language, communication and orientation in charts and questionnaires as well. In the first part of our "science lessons", children were divided into two different groups. Each group had own tasks and activities testing the same objects, e.g. pencil, coin, feather, play dough and stone. Children in the first group were supposed to find out which objects float and which objects sink. Another group of children was given a different task – they explored whether and which objects are attracted by magnets. Both groups filled a special chart where they answered simple questions and they tried to make their own conclusion. The presentation of the results was the last part of the activity. Hippos understand now that magnet attracts metal things, heavy objects sink and light objects float.

We also tried to solve some more tricky questions. For example, how can even heavy object like boat or ship float? Experiment with play dough helped us to understand this issue. The play dough ball sinks but the play dough boat is filled with air, which makes it to float.



Lift force

When experimenting with cold and hot objects, the field of our research was not only the physics but also biology and human body :) Children for example compared temperature of water in mugs and they checked how the receptors in our skin react and how they get used to some temperature.



Temperature receptors





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## Pandas (by Ms Saška) - Y1 class in Uprkova

We were investigating how the "surrounding" temperature influences the process of melting of an ice cube. The colourful ice-cubes were put to water of different temperatures. We measured the time but also watched the process of melting. As the ice cubes were colourful we observed where the colour was (top/ bottom/ everywhere) and how it dissolved.



Weighing



Since we were already learning about measuring and we know how to use scale, we decided that now is the time to have a little bit of fun as well. First we had to learn what is kilogram and gram so we could compare a lot of different materials and their weight without help. Does bigger always mean heavier? Nooooo, we found out that

1kg of foam, water or rice has totally different quantity. And two identical cups full of two different materials has different weight :)

First, we asked ourselves 3 questions: What is light? What is spectrum? Where is brown colour? ...and then we started to explore. After we let the white light shine through the magnifying glass on the white paper, we found out that it can be separated into the whole spectrum of colours, just like in rainbow. But what about brown colour? We couldn't find it! Aha, brown does not belong to the spectrum. We can get it just by mixing different colours together :)

Electricity - Circuit



Light spectrum



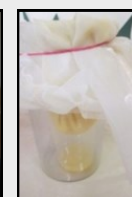
## Dolphins (by Ms Pet'ka) - Y1 class in Gajova

Exploring the science is always fun, especially when you ask the right questions. Step by step we were exploring the matters of objects around us and one way or another we learned about gas, solids and liquids. Once we knew the basics, we moved to fun part of science. Experiments. Theories. Results.

**How can we measure liquids?** Ok, there was not much fun with using simple vessels and cylinders. But being wet from colourful water was just irresistible for anyone. **Does the liquid have a shape?** Noo...actually Yees.. its changing to the shape of its container. Our scientific conclusion - saliva has shape of head, blood has body shape and soup has shape of belly once we eat it. **Is the mass of certain amount of liquid the same even put to a different container?** Oh, yeah, unless we spilled a bit while pouring....**How much liquid is in an orange or how do you make an orange juice?** First, peeled it off... second, squeezed it a lot, third, smashed it, mixed it... and then filtered it... and hmm...you will find the same as us "not much of an orange juice." :)



Liquids



Gases



**Does air really exist?** No smell, nothing to touch, nothing to see. But we still proved its existence by bubble experiment... bubbles, bubbles... we love bubbles, actually we love air. **Oh, watch out for heavy air?** We were thinking: air is everywhere, its lot of it and it has to be heavy. So we tried to measure it. First tasks - to blow a balloon. Easy to say, not so easy to do. :) After struggling, cheering and not giving up we learned that the air: is not so heavy. But still it can be measured by capturing it in a balloon. And what is the only more fun thing to do than blowing the balloons, popping them up. :)



Of course, even our trips were interconnected. To warm up children's brain cells we welcomed a magician at first. Every year the same guy, and he still gets also us teachers with his incredible tricks! Children were in Zheaven watching with eyes and mouth open, participating on the show:). When talking about space we visited special interactive exhibition about Secrets of the Universe in Atlantis science centre... Much more trips and events connected to "science" are still ahead in February but it's already a different "newsletter" :)... so probably later on.



Science events





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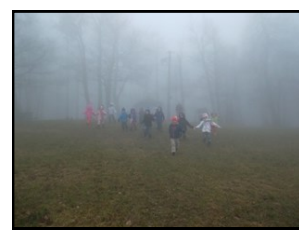
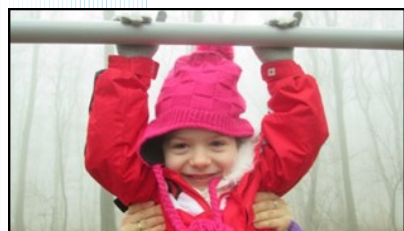
## WINTER FUN

We discussed and experienced the fun part of winter through Winter Olympic Games and Koliba trip. At our Olympic games we had to deal with no snow or better say „snow leftovers“ to arrange all the winter sport disciplines. You could see all the children competing in „sledging“, „figure skating“, „ice hockey“, „snow-ball throw“ or „ski relay“ and learning about fair-play and „Citius - Altius - Fortius“ in practice :). Of course, we did not forget even about the real medals.

We've been busy with



Trip to Koliba is annually a big fun of „great sledging“. Although also this year we had fun and excitement, this time however, it was with no sledging :) We rather explored thickness of the fog instead, for instance:). Most favourite was to count the steps (understand distance) until we lost a friend from a sight:).



## Features

This month we would like to introduce you Mrs Ľudka (Reception class teacher in Bumblebee class in Uprkova) and Ms Ivka (Class teacher in Nursery class of Donkeys in Gajova).

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

I always wanted to be a teacher. When I was a child I used to play on school and I was the teacher, of course :). So, in fact, I live my dream :) I like working with small children because I can see and feel that I do something for them what make sense. It is a hard job, but kids give me always nice feedback in return, a big smile or hug :)

### What was your best day in the Kindergarten?

I think it was the day when I started working here and the way I felt welcomed :)

### Do you play at home?

Yes, I do. I have a little daughter, so I play with her :)

### What other hobbies do you have?

I like dancing and I used to play the accordion in a folk group. Since I've had my daughter I started to play again. She loves singing and dancing and from the moment she found out I could play, it became her favourite „fun time“ at home:)



Ľudmila Kišková



Ivana Kozubková

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

I never planned to become a teacher; the opportunity somehow crossed my path. I have studied psychology at first and what I wanted was to work in close contact with people. When a chance to become a teacher came, I told myself „kids are people after all, aren't they?“ and that was it. So here I am, having very close contact with small people :).

### What do you like the most about this job?

I like that kids are honest, the games they play are transparent and fair. I like that every day brings me new things to think about. I like having close and friendly relationship with our kids. Before this job I wasn't sure whether I ever wanted to have kids of my own, but this experience is changing my mind. I like that I am getting into all sorts of situations. And kids can give lots of love and that is a nice feeling.

### What was your best day in the kindergarten?

Hard to say. I don't have such day but I have very nice, funny and interesting moments often. I like our Kindergarten „sleep-overs“ very much. I also liked our Giraffes „Graduation party“ when I felt proud of our big pre-schoolers and I was happy for being part of their life for a moment. I also like the days when I feel we are giving something meaningful to the kids. And I love Halloween or other days when we can come dressed up in costumes:).

### Do you also play at home?

I used to play a lot with my mom, I mean as a grown-up. My boyfriend is not that playful :) So, now I play on my own, but not regularly. Lately I play with moving the furniture all around my new home and I search for the most harmonic combination. Sometimes I try to play my boyfriend's drums, sometimes I play with paints and crayons and fabrics, and sometimes I dance in silly ways.

### What other hobbies do you have?

A-ha. So the previous reply also answered this question I guess. OK. So I like being in nature, a lot. I like walking, swimming in the sea, I like sleeping, flamenco dance, travelling, reading, going to the cinema, cooking while drinking wine. I would love to do and try many many things but I am probably too go-easy to set up something new in a serious way.





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We spy...

## SCHOOL READINESS

This month we decided to focus on school readiness and what it actually means in the context of schooling. Within the world there exist various educational concepts and systems which actually perceive readiness in different perspectives and you can find more than hundred definitions. Some systems still use a narrow 'pre-primary' educational approach that stresses literacy and numeracy skills that would align with a primary school curriculum. Other approaches use a 'social pedagogic' approach that stresses a broader preparation for life beyond a school-based curriculum talking about "transition" and gaining competences. In Slovakia we apply rather more holistic approach when the child is "assessed" to be prepared socially, emotionally, physically, mentally, cognitively, verbally... Most of the schools assess rather "learning" predictors than the actual level of curricular knowledge, though. In the context of the forthcoming enrolments, also we tested our Y1 children to see the actual situation and the level of their preparedness for school. The testing was held in English and children were given battery of school readiness tests (Göppingen, Human figure drawing, Danish drawing test) administrated by the external psychologist, Mgr. Marcela Bláhová. Believe or not, for most of the children it has been a great and exciting experience showing and proving that they are more than ready and eager to go to school :) Just check it out....

## PANDAS

**Did you do anything special yesterday?** All: Yes.

**What did you do?** Woojin: We did have a making snowman. **Did we have a special visit yesterday?** Lili: Yes, Ms Lucia. **Ok.** Alex: Ms Maca.

**What did she do with you?** DaKyung: She was testing us. **Was it difficult?** Mokhtar: Yes, difficult.

Alex: For me not difficult. **What was difficult about testing?** Lili: There was nothing difficult for me. Mat'ko: Nothing, it was easy. Oli: Easy. **What part was your most favourite?** Mat'ko: All of them the same. Lili: It was easy-peasy those tests.

**Would you like to be tested like this every day?** Half: Yeeeeees. Half: Noooo. :) **All right. Can you tell me something special about the test?** Alex: We should there do that... she did tell us that if you do not listen to her, she will say it just one time. And I did listen to her. **Can you remember at least one activity you were supposed to do?** Woojin: to draw a man.... Alex: ...a man and an apple tree... DaKyung: Yes, and house and next to house an apple tree... Lili: we needed to choose one box and to draw there the circles what are the same size and we need to draw four. And we also needed to find those pictures which are same and I did find some of them but not all of them.



## DOLPHINS

**Who can tell me what did you do today morning?** Bibi: we did be here with Ms

Marcelka. **What did you do?** Bibi: Doing some worksheets... **What was special**

**about them?** Bibi: that it was so much... **Ok, but what was special about these**

**worksheets?** Matúško: Ms Peťka did not tell us... :) **Was it a special testing?**

All: yes... **Was it difficult?** Half: Yeeeah... Half: Noooo.... **What was easy?**

Oli N.: We had some picture and there was another picture and we had to find which.... No.... It was one picture and we had to find the animal....

Stelka: That there was so many papers and in each of square was some animal and we had to cross it and one was housie that we needed to find...

Sofia : For me everything was easy... Filippo: No, everything was difficult... Bibi: Also for me it was not that much easy... Paola: Easy, everything...

**Was there anything difficult?** All: Noooo. Davidko: Sometime it was difficult understand what is the teacher talking about... **Was there any drawing?** All:

Yeah... Bibi: We draw circle and like pásiky.... Matúško: ...like triangle, circle, square... and line....but not so easy because for example the square there was four and the last one was the biggest square... Paola: ...like also a house, tree, a sun... Kubko: ...and apple tree.... Matúš: ...with three apples...

Sofia: We also need to draw a boy... **How was it?** All: easičko-peasičko :) **Were you scared?** Sofia: No way... Matúško: we also were doing drepy...

**When we are being tested what do you think can help us?** Davidko: to not to give up.... Bibi: to not be crazy... Paola: brain... **What to do with brain?** Filippo: to think... **What else?** Stelka: to listen carefully to the teacher... Bibi: not to shout... Oli: when we want to say something to raise up the hand...

**What else?** Oli: breathing... **How does it help us?** Sofia: because without breathing we cannot live... :)

## PARENTS READING PROJECT

In March 2015, similarly as the last year we would like to INVITE YOU for our "story" mornings. You will have a chance to come and read a story for your child and his/ her friends. Please, check the schedule on the wallboard and sign up for the most convenient term. For more info and details, check wallboard, teacher or office staff :) **Everybody is welcomed :)**

Upcoming events

## SKATING COURSE

We all look forward to another great sports course. This time it is the SKATING COURSE for all reception and Y1 classes, particularly pandas and bumblebees on Uprkova and Dolphins, Hippos & Whales on Gajova :) The course will be taken in O. Nepela stadium within the term: 9.3-13.3.2015.