



KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015



Although December belongs among our "shortest" months in the academic year, there are always plenty of events going on in such a tight period... :) And of course, this year was not an exception. Thus every day was properly planned and arranged to manage everything... and you would be surprised what a rich program we had in three, not even full, weeks :)... If you want to find out more, check the following pages...

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH... XMAS PARTY

Oh yes, what else could be the highlight of this month than our so long and impatiently awaited Christmas party? As every year, this time again, we decided for the original story... actually, for a different story at each campus :)... So, we accelerated and sparked off all our brain cells, creativity and imagination and you had a chance to see our effort on a big stage in the theatre. We truly hope you enjoyed it :) Both performances were recorded for keeping a nice memory. The DVDs will be ready in February.

The Christmas tree in the colour land

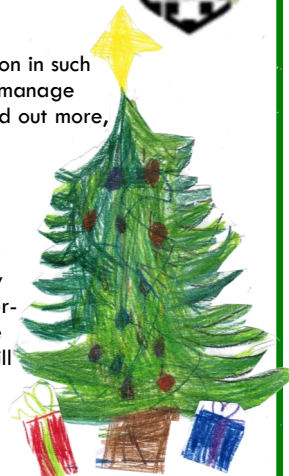


Parents feedback...

"... I loved the colours and the scene, it looked really nice!"

"... all the he songs were great and the last song made me almost cry, I really liked it"

"...children were great, we totally enjoyed the show, it was really funny!"



Santa's Big Day



Parents feedback...

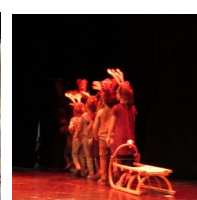
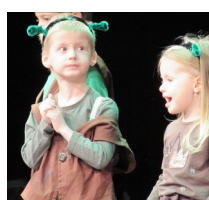
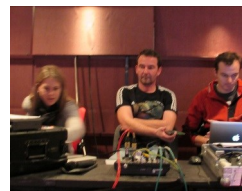
"...the show was great, we laughed on every scene because there was always somebody cute on the stage!"

"... it was even funnier than the last year, I must say I enjoyed it a lot."

"... I really liked the music and dancing, it was great to see how the children enjoyed it!"

"... I don't know how you made it, but you did a great job with the kids, everything was perfect"

"...we enjoyed it a lot!"





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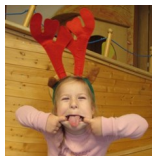
WE SPY... WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT CHRISTMAS?



What else could we focus on in December than on Christmas in general? In our Kindergarten we were busy with reading all different Christmas stories, singing traditional carols, decorating Christmas tree, painting pictures for Santa, and also enjoying great time together with all the friends. We were wondering what our children knew and thought about this feast. We asked them various questions, just check it out...

Arienne (Gaj)

What is the most beautiful thing about Xmas tree? Everything... it's full of things, colourful lights... everything full of colours. I really like Xmas tree (big smile :))

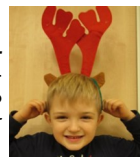


Lili (Upr)

What would you like to get for Christmas? Panda, but not real one and a dog. **A real dog?** Yes.

Danko (Gaj)

What do you like most about Christmas? Toys, toys, toys... and decorations. And the bell... The one Ježiško will ring when he goes away from our home.



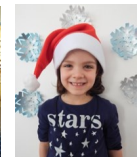
Adam (Upr)

What do you usually do at Christmas? We do balls and throw it on somebody.



Tom (Gaj)

Who is Santa Claus? The man who is giving us the presents and give him some presents as well. **What kind of presents?** Apples, bananas, and something like this. And we put it into shoes.



Maria (Upr)

Who is Santa Claus? Santa...he bring presents. **What does he look like?** He is young, and fat. He is wearing red colour.



Eric (Gaj)

Where does Santa live? He lives on Pole North. **How to get to him?** By plane not... because there is no airport... but you go from Slovakia and you will get there.



Bella (Upr)

Do you know when the Christmas Eve is? In December. **Do you know the date?** No. **Is it on 20th?** No. **Is it on 24th?** I think so.

Sofia (Gaj)

What is Bethlehem? That is the place where Ježiško was born. There is Ježiško and angel and Anna Maria.



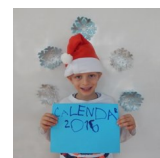
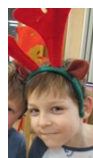
Diogo (Upr)

Where does Santa live? Santa live? Pole North. **Does he live there alone?** Not so long :) **Is there anybody else with Santa?** Yes... green ones.



Oli & Marek (Gaj)

What do you eat for Christmas? Fish. On Christmas time we have always fish... and potato and candies. - **What do you eat for Christmas?** Good salad. It's very mňamky.



Marcel (Upr)

Who brings us presents at Christmas? Santa. **Santa?** Ježiško.



Sárka (Gaj)

What is Advent? We open one chocolate every day and wait for the last one and then it means it is the Christmas time.



Kubko F (Upr)

What is Bethlehem? It's some cottage where is so much animals.

Tal (Gaj)

What is Hanukkah? Lightening every day more candles and every day thinking about more good things? **Why?** Because light means good.



WE HAVE BEEN BUSY WITH...

Advent calendars

This month we were really busy with plenty of activities, traditions, customs connected to Xmas time. Right at the beginning of December we created our very own advent calendar. As you can see in the pictures, they took various forms in different classes, but all were done by kids themselves.



Hanukkah

The end of the year is naturally accompanied with various feasts of other cultures such as winter solstice or Hanukkah. Thus already traditionally, we took out the dreidels and Menorah and celebrated together the Festival of Lights in kindergarten way :)



Secret Santa

Some of the classes organized also a "Secret Santa" when everybody was supposed to bring a small present for a chosen friend. Indeed, Christmas is about surprise and making others happy, isn't it? So we are glad, we succeeded...



Xmas tree

Most of the resources mention the ever-green tree as an ancient symbol of life in the midst of winter. It has been traditionally used to celebrate various winter festivals already for thousand years and that's why we could not skip to decorate our own Xmas trees, either.





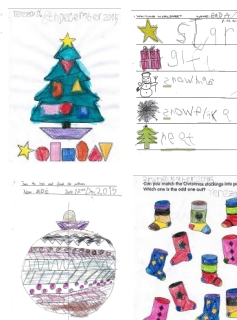
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Xmas preparations

We could not forget about all the preparation for Xmas, of course. ... decorating home-made wrapping paper, packing the presents, writing Xmas cards, making decoration, wreaths, balls, snowflakes, stockings and reindeers, writing "wish" letter to Santa...



Xmas Fair...

After all that buzz with Xmas party and workshops some of us found the time and energy to go for a cup of hot tea to the Xmas fair... :)



Xmas learning

Oh yes, it seems like we had no time for anything else but the truth is that we were still learning - writing, reading, training fine motor skills, and even doing maths. Of course, everything in a Christmas style :) to stay nicely within the topic...



...& Xmas postcards

...and when the Xmas cards were ready, we went to send them to the Post office to reach our old friends and teachers wherever they are :)

ST. NICHOLAS...



At the beginning of December we also had a very special and precious visit - Saint Nicholas with his helpers Devil and Angel :) They came to check and see our Xmas performance... but not just that... We all got a small sweet reward for behaving well during the whole year round... at least, we tried as nothing and nobody is perfect and that's what is great to realize...



FEATURES...

JUDE HENTHORN



Mrs Jude is truly our most experienced teacher in the team, recently the main teacher in Y1 class of Dragonflies. She used to work in BIS and EIS for couple of years. She is always very positive and you can't meet her other way than with a big smile on her face :)



Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I wanted a job that was different every day. Teaching is fun. I love it. I love working with children. I enjoy seeing them respond with such excitement to music, poetry, stories, dancing and new experiences.

What do you do in your free time?

I play video games especially Resident Evil. I have completed every version of the game since 1996. I balance out this hobby, with stretching exercises. I like to do an exercise similar to tai chi. It's very centering, and also gives me energy to keep up with the kindergarteners.

What questions you don't like to be asked?

Philosophical questions. On the positive side, I like to be asked questions about films and television. I love going to the cinema with my family. We also enjoy watching movies at home. My current favourite is Mad Max Fury Road. It's the best film ever!



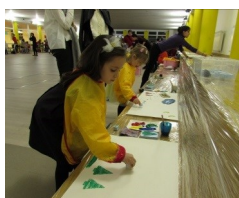
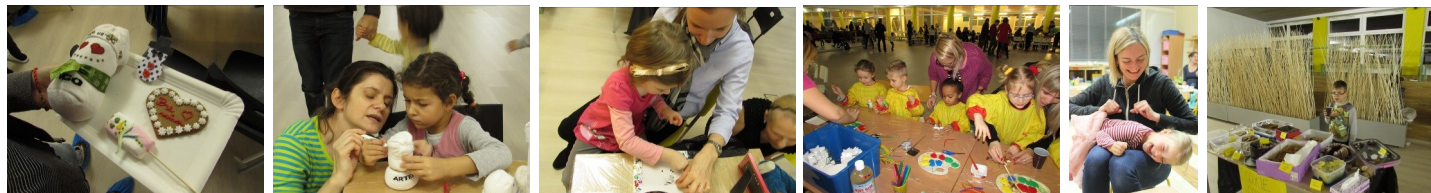
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CHRISTMAS WORKSHOPS...

Besides the Christmas party, there was one more big event in December which we all enjoyed really much and honestly could not wait for... It were the Christmas workshops full of typical crafts and activities, yummies and cookies, even kapustnica and Christmas punch, chatting and meeting new as well as old friends... We hope you enjoyed the time spent with us. We truly did with you all :)



THANK YOU!!!

We would like to thank to Laia's, Isabela's, Diogo's and Davidko's mummies who joined us with their own workshops and shared with us their great ideas, time, energy and joy :)



THANK YOU!!!

We also send lots of big thanks to all the parents who contributed in our "cookie contest". In fact, it was not important to win, but to take a part... :) and all the cookies, gingerbreads and pastry were delicious.



ADVISORY... HOW TO STRENGTHEN AUDITORY MEMORY SKILLS

Auditory memory is one of the most important learning skills. It is the ability to learn from oral instructions and oral information and we use it everyday. How can you help your child strengthen these skills? Here are some very easy ideas and activities to practice auditory memory skills at home.

- End of the day review — when you tuck your child into bed, let him/her revise as many things that happened today as possible. Try to sequence them in order as they followed.
- Follow the rhythm — play the game by doing some rhythmic pattern and let your child repeat it. You can clap your hands, tap on your knees, snap the fingers, make some silly sounds with your mouth, or do something from all :)
- Listen to audio books — we all listened to the radio stories when we were little, let your child experience it as well. Even when they will listen to their favourite story for hundredth time :) Repetition builds understanding.
- Play the game with instructions — f.e.g. "The robots". Pick a room and give your child 2-or 3-step instructions at a time (depending on the age). It can be for example: "Go to the bathroom, bring me my toothbrush and place it onto my head". Then exchange the roles. It is so much fun :)
- Play the game "What's next"- You make up a simple intro story and add some object. Let your child repeat the story with the object and add a new object. You can play it with colours, names (also names of princesses or superheroes), with clothes, with names of flowers, food or anything else.
- Memorize a poem — you can teach your child your favourite poems from your childhood. I am sure you remember some :)

The great thing about it all is that by practicing with your child you can strengthen your own auditory memory skills as well. We wish you lots of fun :)

We have already informed you about the forthcoming skiing course in January. The course is devoted to Reception class children in both locations. You already got the most important information in the agreement, and you can find it also on the wallboards, or just ask the people from the office. However, the final resolution will depend on weather :) Please, keep yourself informed about the actual updates.