



KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016



The new year is about to commence and we would like to take the opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful year ahead. We hope you came fresh and full of energy after your holiday because January was a month which kept your children really busy :). So welcome back and here are the latest breaking news from our kindergarten life: Y1 children passed their school readiness testing... Reception classes spent a wonderful week on the skiing course... The smallest ones got in touch with their new friends... So if you are interested in learning more about what your children did, read carefully :).



HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH... SKIING COURSE

Although there was quite a lot going on in our kindergarten in January, after the discussion within the team we agreed on one event which was the top for all of us. ... demanding, tiring, exciting and relaxing at the same time... Honestly, this December, nobody really believed that we had any chance going skiing at the beginning of January... and see? Lucky us! :) All reception class children could join us at Zochova chata slope and experience their "first" group skiing adventure with their friends. Of course, we learned, trained and practiced all those skiing and pre-skiing skills but most of all, we had fun and good mood. And that's what it should be about...



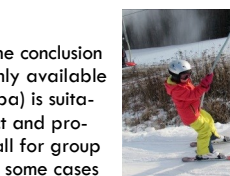
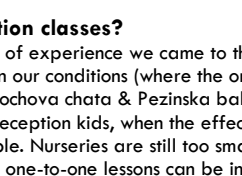
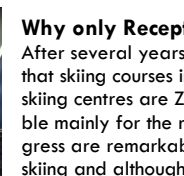
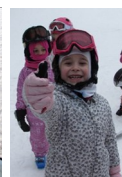
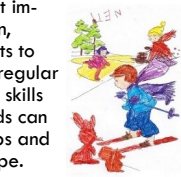
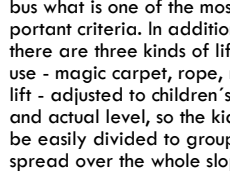
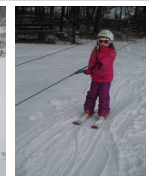
Few facts about the skiing course...

The skiing course was provided to reception classes on both locations in the terms 18.1-22.1.2016 and 25.1-29.1.2016. The course took place at Zochova chata. The number of children who joined the course was 48 (24-Gajova/ 24-Uprkova). The main coordinator was Ms Pa'a and we hired 6 more skiing instructors, so the final ratio was maximum 3,4 children per instructor. Children were basically divided to small groups in 3 basic levels - beginners, intermediate and advanced - and you could get basic info about your child in diploma.



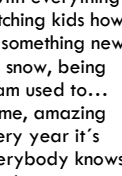
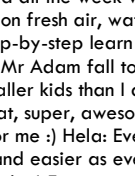
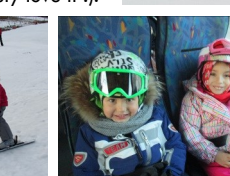
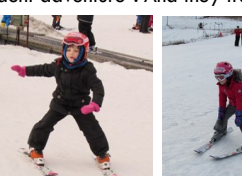
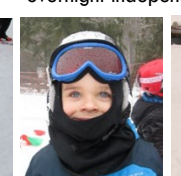
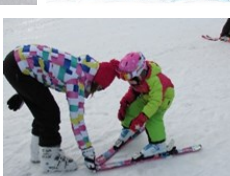
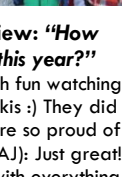
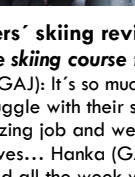
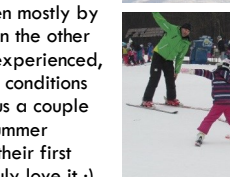
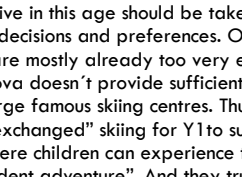
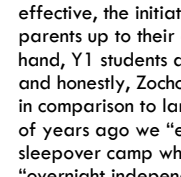
Why Zochova chata?

We have been already taking advantage of this location for almost 10 years, so we are very familiar with it. We know the place, the terrain and the people. It is close and reachable by bus what is one of the most important criteria. In addition, there are three kinds of lifts to use - magic carpet, rope, regular lift - adjusted to children's skills and actual level, so the kids can be easily divided to groups and spread over the whole slope.



Why only Reception classes?

After several years of experience we came to the conclusion that skiing courses in our conditions (where the only available skiing centres are Zochova chata & Pezinska baba) is suitable mainly for the reception kids, when the effect and progress are remarkable. Nurseries are still too small for group skiing and although one-to-one lessons can be in some cases effective, the initiative in this age should be taken mostly by parents up to their decisions and preferences. On the other hand, Y1 students are mostly already too very experienced, and honestly, Zochova doesn't provide sufficient conditions in comparison to large famous skiing centres. Thus a couple of years ago we "exchanged" skiing for Y1 to summer sleepover camp where children can experience their first "overnight independent adventure". And they truly love it :).

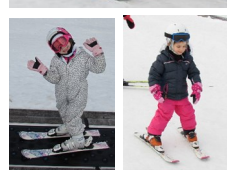


Children's skiing review...

Markus (Zebras): **How did you like skiing?** I liked the skies what was going on other things. **What were they for?** When we did go up then we did stop it because we did go up already and then we did slide down. And I did like that lift. Was it the escalator? My daddy told me that it is escalator. And I liked pizza. **What is pizza?** That you need to do pizza position and spaghetti position. Barbie (Whales): **How did you like skiing?** I liked that we can go on the lift. **What did you do there?** I did go up on the hill, then I did slide. And what did you learn at the course? I did know it all because I have it also on my holiday, I ski now with my mummy. Timon (Elephants): **Did you like skiing?** Yes. **What was the best?** The bus J **What did you learn?** Skiing. **Something special?** That first I was here and then on the ski. **Did you learn anything else?** Pizza and to bend the knees and stop. **What was the name of your instructor?** Pa'a Karolinka (Butterflies): **Did you like the skiing?** Yes. **What was the best?** The magic carpet. **Did you learn something special?** I learn to do the pizza position. **What was the name of your instructor?** Ma'io and Ivetka.

Teachers' skiing review: "How was the skiing course this year?"

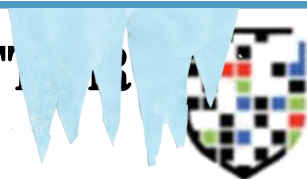
Ivetka (GAJ): It's so much fun watching kids struggle with their skis :) They did an amazing job and were so proud of themselves... Hanka (GAJ): Just great! I enjoyed all the week with everything-staying on fresh air, watching kids how they step-by-step learn something new, making Mr Adam fall to snow, being with smaller kids than I am used to... just great, super, awesome, amazing week for me :) Hela: Every year it's better and easier as everybody knows what to do :) Even more, this year we did not have to deal with late comers almost at all... Katka (UPR): These last 2 weeks in January, I had a chance to help with the ski course. Little unsure what to expect but excited at the same time and I can say that our reception classes enjoyed it a lot. Majka K (UPR): The ski course was a wonderful learning experience for the children. Group lessons were well organized and ski instructors supportive when working with children. A lot of children went above and beyond the expectation. I was amazed of the progress they have made in just few days.





KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016



WE HAVE BEEN BUSY WITH...

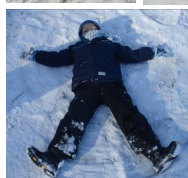
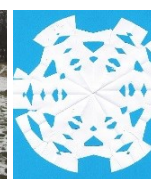
WINTER FUN

After a long time of waiting, the beginning of January brought us finally some snow, although, it was not piles and piles :) we had quite enough to build some snowmen, have a snow fight, go sledging and just have some crazy and non-sense fun... :) We were lucky because that's exactly what we were supposed to learn about... and thus we talked not only about winter fun activities but also weather, snow and icicles, proper winter clothes and keeping ourselves warm and healthy, and much more... Just check it out...



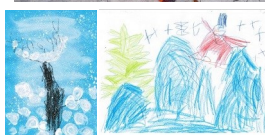
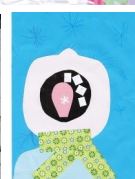
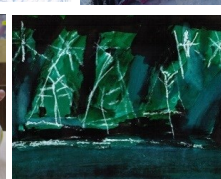
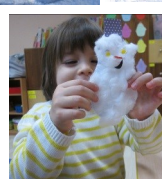
LUCKY LANTERNS alias NEW YEAR'S WISHES

Right after we came back to the KG after the holidays we took the real new year's resolutions and made wishes for ourselves and others... home-made lucky lanterns helped us to make them come true... at least, that is what we hope for :)



SLEDGING at Koliba

Nobody really believed that after the second January week that we could be really sledging on Koliba... but a "miracle" happened and, yes, we got surprised by a thin layer of snow in the morning, just enough for sliding down the hill... :)



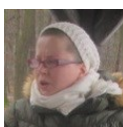
TEACHERS' INQUIRY... HOW DO YOU LIKE WINTER?

"Who doesn't like winter, right?" that's what winter fans usually don't understand, while summer and sun "lovers" can't wait for the first warm breeze in the spring time... We wanted to know what are our teachers like... :)



Ms Silvia (GAJ)
I'm very sorry but I have to say that I'm not "a winter person". I love spring, summer, and even autumn.. But winter? Brrr... it's cold!

Ms Vava (UPR)



I prefer winter to summer. And I love all winter sports especially

Mr Adam (GAJ)

Winter is my favourite time of the year, well, right after summer :)



Ms Katka (GAJ)

I don't like winter! I don't like feeling to be always cold...



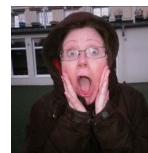
Ms Lucka (UPR)

Winter with snow! I definitely love it! But without, it's just very sad and cold and nothing special. So please, snow! Come:~!



Mrs Jude (UPR)

I like winter because I love the pretty scenery especially after snowfall. I also love having a good excuse to drink hot chocolate!



Ms Majka K (UPR)

I like winter, especially snow, if there is some.



Ms Bogi (UPR)

I enjoy every moment of it, especially when it's snowing.



Ms Nikol (GAJ)

I love it with a cup of tea, from behind the window, wrapped in a warm blanket reading a book :) Winter is just cool :)





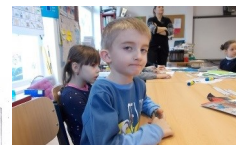
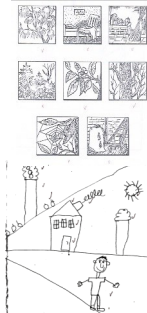
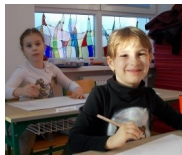
KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016



WE HAVE BEEN BUSY WITH... Y1 SCHOOL READINESS TESTING

Lots of Y1 children and parents expected school readiness testing impatiently. The main reason was to see and find out the answer to the question "How is my child ready for school?". Y1 children completed a battery of three school readiness tests, working in small groups. Few children were also tested individually to check their discrepancies. Testing was administrated, scored, evaluated and interpreted by our school psychologist Mrs Monika Fialová. **All the results will be reported to parents in details at the individual parents meetings in February.**



When talking about the forthcoming school enrolment, we took an advantage and some of us joined the annual "school walk" over the Y2 classes to see, feel, touch and experience the real "first grade" lessons.

SCHOOL WALK TO Y2

ADVISORY... TEST ARE NOT A SCARECROWS (OR ARE THEY?) :

Test the Great Monster For most of us, any allusion to tests or testing in general raises the feeling of anxiety and doubts. Considering our success-oriented culture this tendency seems natural. Let's be frank, who of us (grown-ups) enjoy being put into a situation in which we have to "compete" with others, to prove our abilities, and must show that we are good enough? Yet in our society, tests are standardized means of evaluating and therefore form an active part (doesn't equal the most important) of schooling career. Shall we try to have a closer look at this monster and might see that it's not so scary after all :)? **Testing our Kindergarteners: isn't it too soon?** Although we love to live "now and here" we want to help our kids to become well-prepared for the future. Most of them will experience some kind of testing situation sooner or later. Having some testing situations in the KG help the kids become aware of such "activity" in the first place. We all know that the more we practise, the better we get. **What does testing really show us?** There are usually certain types of tasks in any test (depending on what you wish to test). Nevertheless, there are many additional features what we may learn from the test. Most important: a test (or a child's performance in the test) shows us **how the child managed this very test and what their reaction to a "test situation" is.** It may sound too simple but this is the basic of it. Apart from ability to recognize the square from the triangle or to read the word "red" it shows us things such as: how a child reacts to pressure, what working pace he/she prefers, how does he/she understand spoken instructions, what mood was the child in, what are his/her copying strategies etc. The advantage of testing our kids is that we have a chance to have a look on their "resulta" and see where we can help them, what are their weaker and stronger points. The test hardly ever shows us the real abilities of a child. Many kids prefer spoken form of learning and sharing info, many kids are too scared of failure, and many kids like their own relaxed pace. Testing can point to certain tendencies or actual state of development but it is not able to tell us about a child's real abilities. **What can we do about it (if we want to :)?** As parents we might choose what our approach to testing would be :). We can either adopt "I don't care" attitude ignoring the tests results at all. You can also decide to take tests as a part of today's life and help your kids to manage the testing situation in an easier way. It always helps when you introduce something as a game. You can play "testing" at home, starting with "tasks" what you child likes. You can make your child a "test-designer" and make him create a test for you and your partner. You know your child the best so use your imagery in a way that suits him/her. When I was a child and we started to give presentations at school, I used to have a great stage-fright. To help me to overcome this, my mommy told me to imagine all the audience as the "cabbages" so I could relax more. But probably the most important of all is to teach your kids to become independent people who will not derive their value from outer sources. To achieve this, always reassure your child that the world doesn't spin around tests and show him/her the things he or she is good at.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES... CLUBS

In the previous newsletters we focused on different extracurricular activities such as swimming or extra clubs... This time we would like to inform you about the regular clubs. From January we will be bringing you details and specific info about all the clubs we run - this time we introduce you **FUN CLUB**, covering "social studies".

FUN CLUB by Ms Lucka M (UPR)

The Fun club is of course about fun, but we have fun while playing games and activities that help us to be better people, better friends, better team. One that helps us cope with our emotions, teaches us how to share and take care of our friends and ourselves and much, much more."



BAD VERSUS GOOD FRIENDS



TEAM COOPERATION

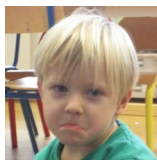


PAIR COOPERATION

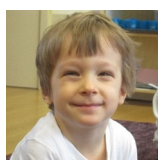


FUN CLUB by Ms Ali (UPR)

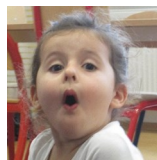
Fun club in the Nursery class is mostly about emotions, knowing each other as well as ourselves better, getting along with friends in the group, coping strategies and learning to handle changes, stress, conflicts and frustration successfully, effectively and constructively...



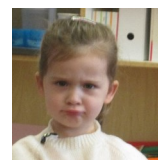
SAD



HAPPY



SURPRISED



ANGRY

GEO FUN CLUB by Ms Peťa (GAJ)



INUIT CULTURE, HABITS AND TRADITIONS

The GeoFun club is the perfect place to get to know our planet from the fun point of view. Our task in this club is to travel across the planet, continent by continent, to get to know interesting and significant places and cultures. On our travels we are searching for and learning about beautiful plants; we are hiding from wild and majestic animals. We are playing games and having fun with new interesting people. For example he is our travel to the Arctic and Antarctica: First we flew over the oceans to get to South Pole to see the coldest place on Earth. We saw penguins playing on the shore; seals swimming between icebergs and we heard whale singing under water. Then we sailed across the Atlantic Ocean north to get to the opposite part of the world - The North Pole. Here we saw Inuit building their igloos and we heard their hunting stories. From the Fire tribe we learnt a part of their culture - the Inuit kiss - touching noses to show friendship.



KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016



FEATURES...

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

There were some periods in my childhood when I wished to be a teacher once I grow up. But then I realized there are more interesting occupations and so later on I really really really wished to become an astronaut, an archaeologist or a private detective. :) During my high school studies I started to work with kids in an NGO as a volunteer. Probably that's why an idea of attending the Faculty of Education came to me again.

What do you do in your free time?

What free time??? I like to learn new things and I start new studies every single year... Then I tell myself off for not having free time and swearing it was the last time. But following year there is always the same scenario. That's the reason I understand a bit of three foreign languages but I don't speak any besides English. :) I also love reading and playing board games.

What questions you don't like to be asked?

What did you do yesterday/during the weekend/last month? Don't stress me with such questions because I don't know!!! My memory has a span of a goldfish! (Although, I was told that that myth had been busted already!)



IVETTA STIBLOVA

Ms Ivetka is our Gajova class teacher, recently leading and teaching the Zebra class (reception 1). She belongs among a few teachers who started with us almost 10 years ago and has experience with all the preschool age. And what is typical for her? She loves to learn new things so you can meet her at all kind of courses and trainings...

NEWS IN JANUARY

Pool reconstruction

We took advantage of the "skiing break" and cold season, so we started to work on the pool reconstruction in Gajova location. After 10 years of almost non-stop operation we decided to invest time and money in the pool renovation :) The reconstruction should be finished by the end of February if everything goes well :) We apologize for cancelling swimming for some classes in this period and thank you for understanding in advance...



Admission updates

We are very grateful for our clients' trust & support and thus we can announce that most of the spots in both campuses for academic year 2016/2017 are reserved, even some classes are full already. The same situation is at school regarding the future Y2 classes where we don't accept any further applications.

Additional testing of Y1 students

Children applying to CIS will be additionally tested in math and English during February. School will provide you with detailed info by e-mail.

Taekwondo QUIT

We are very sorry to announce that Master Song is leaving back to Korea in February and thus the taekwondo club will be cancelled due to this reason. We will inform you about possible alternative if arranged...

Parents meetings

In January we started the individual parent sessions regarding development of your children. In the forthcoming newsletter we will take a closer look at the most common topics and issues...

UPCOMING EVENTS...

GRANDPARENTS in KG
15.2 – 19.2.2016

...we would like to invite you to come to our kindergarten to talk about the times when you were small... to share your experience, memories, games, songs, stories of your childhood...

Please Feel Welcome and Contact us to Arrange the Session with us

"How my grandparents lived" project...

In February we would like to introduce you to a new topic with new perspectives of learning connected to a brand new "parents teaching" project, well, grandparents teaching this time, in deed. Yes, we would love to involve also the eldest family members in sharing their rich life

experience and memories with their grandchildren. We believe they can bring lots of new and fresh air in perception of the world around us.

Swimming...

We start to swim again in February... In the second semester we have a change in Uprkova reception class term swimming - Swimming will be every Friday between 11:00-12:00 in FTVŠ pool. The rest of the terms and arrangements stay the same.



PARENT'S READING PROJECT
MARCH 2016

...let us invite you to a small book fair organized by Usborne publisher to introduce you new interesting books for kids...

feel free to stop by ☺

BOOK FAIR
in Kindergarten

...let us invite you to a small book fair organized by Usborne publisher to introduce you new interesting books for kids...

feel free to stop by ☺

March - the month of books...

As usually also this year we would like to invite you to our kindergarten for "story mornings" to read the favourite books for us. In case you want to join and support children's positive attitude toward literature by own positive "model", please, sign up to the time-table on the wall board. In addition, the "most active" class can win a special class trip up to kids choice :) At the same time, we are planning the book fair of children's literature in cooperation with Usborne publisher to check the

EASTER HOLIDAYS
KG is CLOSED

Friday - 25.3.2016
Monday - 28.3.2016

Easter...

This year, Spring comes to us a bit earlier than usually - in March :) Although schools may have a couple of extra days off during the Easter holidays, we do operate as usually... And of course, count also with "obligatory" Easter bunny hunt and "šibačka"... :)

HOT NEWS

Sleepover camp for Y1...

All Y1 children from Hippos, Ladybugs and Dragonflies can join the final rewarding 3day "sleepover camp" in the term 6.7-8.7.2016. The camp will take place in Papiernička-Častá. Please, notice that the term has changed from previously planned term in

SUMMERSLEEP OVER CAMP



June for July, We apologize for this unexpected change. However, we could not influence it.

Skating course...

In the mid of March we organize a weekly skating course for all the children of Reception and Y1 classes.

We'll bring you all the details and instructions about timing, equipment and logistics in regular info-news. The course will take place in the ice skating hall of O. Nepela.

14.3-18.3.2016

...let us invite you to a small book fair organized by Usborne publisher to introduce you new interesting books for kids...

feel free to stop by ☺

28.3.2016 - TEACHER'S DAY

...celebrate with us...

Teacher's day...

In March we will also celebrate the teachers' day to remind their important, exciting, delightful but also very difficult job :) Feel free to join us...