



KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

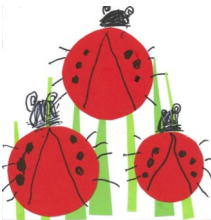
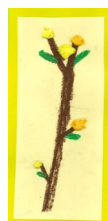


Ahhh, the April weather! It has been crazy and surprising and it kept changing very often. Just like the topics at our kindergarten week after week in April. We had the crazy Pyjama Day or the funny "šibačka" and we enjoyed many surprises hidden in the garden for Easter Egg Hunt. But we are kids and we don't mind changes and surprises. We love when every day is different – that's what makes life fun and beautiful!



HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH... GARDENING WORKSHOP

As the nature is slowly waking up and the sun is shining more often, our garden was also asking for some grooming! The weather this year has not been cooperating much but we still had a good time in the rain and wind while changing the flower pots, herb spiral, vegetable patches and the whole garden to a beautiful and colorful surrounding. Everybody participated and lent their hands to either fill in the soil to plant the flowers or herbs, to water the flower pots, dig the soil to plant the veggies or put the flower seeds to the cups. We did not only learn about plants, how they grow and what they need, but we also contributed to the lovely kindergarten community spirit where we are all dedicated to make our kindergarten a great place to be. Dear mommies and daddies, the next time you come to pick us up, make sure you stop by outside to smell and admire all the lovely plants which are now in full bloom!



WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH... APRIL FOOLS' DAY

It's been a tradition for years to start April with the Pyjamas party. That's one very popular event amongst the kids... And, let's be honest, also the teachers. Who wouldn't love to spend the whole day in their pyjamas, especially if it was Friday, right? So the kids came to kindergarten in their jammies and the fun started from the very beginning - first observing dressing style of their friends and teachers, then presenting their own models (yeah, some classes even made the fashion show with PJs collection). We couldn't have missed a proper pillow fight! Other crazy games and activities were involved, too - hot potato game (with the main prop - a pillow), guessing, what is hiding in a pillow case, races, statues or musical pillows games, and so on. But the best one (well, only after already mentioned pillow fight!) was tickling the teachers and jumping on their backs. What do you say, will you change your smart clothes and business suits for the pyjamas next April, 1? ☺



Adriana (Hamsters): I did make a joke because to my brother I said something funny to him and that was a joke but it was in Spanish about a clown and he was telling me what? It's a joke.

Lyla (Donkeys): Hmmm, no.

Sárka (Crickets): When we was with my daddy on the skate I stopped and I told daddy oh there is something and then I run away and he didn't know...so I did do joke.

Neti (Zebras): Yesss, on my mommy and my daddy like a trick – a pine in a chocolate. Pine pumpkin chocolate.

Olivia (Elephants): I did say to my mummy look at my brother here is him with hair like chicken.

Danko (Whales): I did but it didn't work. I showed and said: "Look there!" and then I took the toy quickly away.

Arisa (Hamsters): I tricked my sister Panisa that when she is sleeping I will call police.

Jet (Crickets): Who is joke?

Do you like whipped cream? How about you lick it off your face? That's exactly how the **Whales** were serving it at the Fools' Day celebration. If you don't have or don't know the Pie Face game, run to the nearest toy shop! It's a lot of fun for everyone!



HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED A TRICK ON ANYONE?



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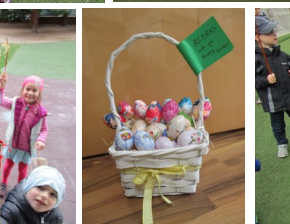
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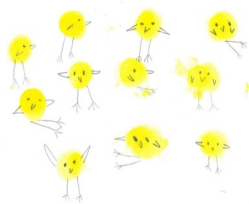
WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH... EASTER TRADITIONS



Easter is in many countries one of the greatest and most important times of the year, usually comparable to Christmas. We want our children to know it and discover its traditions which are kept and appreciated all over the world for so many years. In our KG we carried out two of them - English egg hunt and Slovak traditional whipping otherwise known as Šibačka. The Easter bunny hid Easter eggs and other yummys in our garden, and apparently, he kept losing lots of little eggs, chocolate bunnies and baby chicks while trying to hide some of them (our garden looked like a chocolate factory after an explosion!). Pity you didn't see your children picking them up - better than one hundred hoovers! Plus, believe us, we will be very healthy and beautiful for the rest of the year, because not only our boys, but also girls did an amazing job whipping their friends and sprinkling some water on them. Wild and Free was the motto for our Easter and the amount of sweets and chocolates we got... well it was just incredible!



WE SPY... WHAT WAS FIRST - EGG OR HEN?



Matúško P. (Zebras):
Hen! But first in the world were dinosaurs.



Alan (Whales): Egg was first because of the big bang theory.

Luca (Hamsters): Chicken because then it cannot be egg if there is not a chicken.



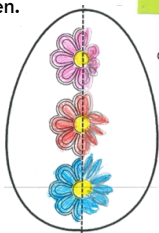
Livia (Elephants): Egg because first it needs to be an egg then of it will be a little chicken.



Grétka (Crickets):
Egg because egg.



Nelly (Whales): Egg. First need to be the egg and then the hen.



Alžbetka (Hamsters):
Egg because you did ask it like that.

Isabellka (Elephants):
Hen because hen put the eggs and then from the eggs goes little chicken.



SOME MORE SPRING ACTIVITIES



The **Zebras** discovered a very magic (a.k.a. robotic) bee that can obey their commands. With its help they learnt the very basics of programming (well, if you can call it that :)). The bee can move forward and back, turn right and left just by pressing the arrow keys on its back.

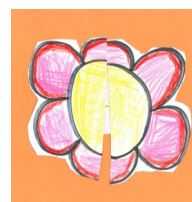
After pressing GO button, it will start moving. So Zebras gave it various commands and observed how the bee journeyed around the classroom.

Also our littlest **Lions** were busy with the spring topic. They worked pretty hard on understanding, what spring actually is. Besides anything else, they learnt about its signs and created a beautiful poster-



to decorate their classroom with. Now, they will all remember, spring is full of sunny days, flowers, and butterflies. ☺

The **Whales** took a look on plants more closely and they learnt all their body parts. They even watched a time-lapsed video about sunflower growing from the seed. It was amazing and kids were astonished. With ink and water colours, they made their very own class herbarium.





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WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH...

We need trees to breathe, we cannot throw rubbish on the ground, we must recycle, we should always clean up...have you ever tried to ask your children what makes our Earth beautiful and how we can keep it that way? We have, and it was very nice to find out that all children, as our new generation, know very well what to do to keep our Earth a safer place to live. Helping Earth is not only about talking and learning what is right and what is wrong but also about taking real actions. Keeping in mind the upcoming Earth Day and our knowledge, we went for a clean-up trip around our neighbourhood, ready to work hard. Gloves on, bags in hand...let's do it! Well, you know some people wouldn't do this voluntarily, however, our children did their best to clean up every little piece of trash or speck with excitement. You can be really proud of them. We are!

SAVING OUR PLANET



OUR CLASS PROJECTS



The **Elephants** pushed their creativity and imagination to the limits when trying to figure out the best crafts from waste materials. They discussed how ordinary materials and things which surround us can be used to create art. They also turned their

ideas into real pieces of art and made some bottle elephants, a plane or a robot made of boxes.

The importance of recycling and separating rubbish is now very clear to our **Hamsters**, too. They worked in groups trying to separate rubbish into the correct bins and created a poster which will be their reminder for the future as well. So, let's see if they will make the world a better place ☺.



The **Lions** might be the youngest ones but it doesn't mean they just waddle around and play all day long... They get some serious learning to do as well. ☺ And so they talked about various materials the things can be made of, sorted them out, and learnt how to use our waste boxes for separation of litter.



TEACHERS' INQUIRY... HOW DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO KEEP OUR EARTH HEALTHY?



Ms Peťa: I keep the 3R principle: Reuse – I am reusing most of the stuff; Reduce – trying to use less electricity and Recycle – separating my trash.



Ms Danka: I do my best to recycle. I do not waste water or electricity, etc. I pick up at least one piece of trash every day and I don't throw anything on the ground, like chewing gums or peel from fruit (I mean when I'm in the forest and there's no bin). I prefer to buy local products as well.

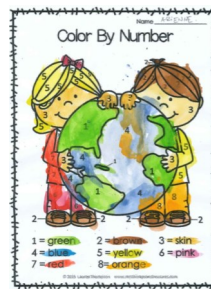
Ms Lucka: I admit I'm too lazy, but I try to make as little "damage" as possible. But I also try to buy local products and thanks to my amazing grandparents I have a lot of delicious stuff like vegetable, potatoes, preserves and eggs (and I believe BIO eggs because their chickens have better life than me sometimes ☺).



Ms Ivetka: I hate those single-use packages so I carry my own shopping bag and some sacks made from old curtains. I (sometimes) bring my own jars to the shop, too... Those were some silly looks I got. And I still dream about a vermicompost. Well, I hate any creepy crawlies but I wish to have those Californian earthworms in my kitchen. ☺

Ms Katka K.: I try to recycle all I can and when I go for a hike I'll try to pick up the trash we may find on our way.

Ms Nikol: I avoid driving a car as often as possible & I walk to work or I ride my bike.



Ms Domča: Always when I go hiking I pick up trash that I find in the mountains.

Ms Monika: I don't have a car.

Ms Sabina: I recycle glass, plastics and paper. I make my own cleaning products (ingredients: baking soda, vinegar, lemon and soap).





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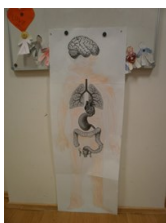
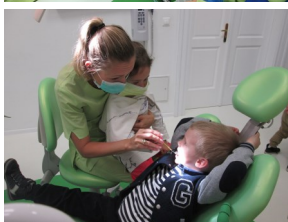


WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH...



Bones and muscles, teeth and hair, arms and legs... human body is a real miracle! So many things in our body need to work together if we want to run or jump or even eat our lunch. We learned how the body works, how to keep it healthy and fit, what to eat and why we need to brush our teeth every day. We concluded the week with a visit to the dentist's. And let's confess, adults... it can be a real monster! But not when we are taking care of our teeth properly and brush them regularly. The pleasant dentist doctors praised us and we even received certificates, new tooth brushes, and tooth pastes. We can't wait to use them at home!

LEARNING ABOUT OUR BODIES



Our **Koalas** and **Crickets** learnt about human body parts and how our bodies work. Along with their teachers they drew a human figure and linked the different body parts and organs to their correct place in the human body.



The **Donkeys** did a very similar activity... they also created a human model in the real size (well, in the kids' size ☺) They focused on bones and circulatory system in their creation.



TEACHERS WERE KIDS, TOO...

I grew in times when taking pictures was a big occasion (ups, that sounds like I am too old!). My parents took me to the photographer's studio and prayed I could stay still for a minute or two. I got exactly two successful pictures from that day. And they are my all-times favourites.



Ms Ivetka

My parents could be telling stories about my stubbornness and cries at home, but in the Kindergarten I was always the best, well-behaved child from all! This picture is from my last year in Kindergarten, me as a proud student of a preschool class, ready to go to school! And btw, notice my necklace, I couldn't leave the house without jewellery! That would be the end of the world! ☺



Mrs Lucka

MOTHERS DAY IS COMING!

The Mother's Day is fast approaching and you can see it in our buildings. From every class you can hear kids singing, music playing, and teachers saying „Don't forget to smile.“ „Look at your mum.“ and „That was amazing!“ The kids are thrilled to go through the practice again... They really want to make a great surprise for their loved ones. Besides the short performance we have prepared some nice presents, too. Have a look how it all went.



Gajova Campus



Úprkova Campus

Ok, so after a month you can sleep again! The riddle is solved and you know who our two little cuties were. But get ready for another round! Who do you see in the pictures now? We give you a hint - they are a bit older now! ☺



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PARENTS TO PARENTS...

Anitka's and Timon's parents were kind enough to inform us about a science in the preschool age. Who could be more suitable for such an article than scientists themselves?

SCIENCE FOR KIDS

What does it take to be a good scientist? Just having a good brain is not always enough. To be a good scientist, you must be able to look at a problem that thousands of people may have tackled but were unable to solve, and to pose the same question in a new way, from a different angle or perspective. And then you have to come up with a new way to answer it.

Have you wondered if your child may be the next Isaac Newton and solve problems that have been mysteries to date? Certainly! Achieving this involves something that all children possess, and that is **curiosity**. Little children are naturally curious. They observe and pose heaps of questions while enthusiastically wanting to learn more. Providing children with the space to conduct their own experiments stimulates these natural traits and can develop them like nothing else. Like everything, science begins at home. When children grow up in science-friendly homes, they are encouraged to ask questions, think critically, experiment, explain their way of thinking, read, write and construct models.

How does one design correct preschool science activities that stimulate curiosity, teach science concepts and avoid overwhelming and boring children with lessons that are developmentally inappropriate? Pedagogical and cognitive psychologists offer some opinions:



1. As preschoolers' brains are not adequately developed to execute tasks that demand sitting with undivided attention, choose an activity that is based on hands-on experiences and requires a minimum of explanation from you.



2. Tether your instruction to what your child already knows, because teaching something entirely unfamiliar is relatively difficult. For example, the relation between cause and effect can be transposed on everyday objects, such as the melting of ice cream under the sun.



3. Choose activities that are conceptually related. Children enjoy being able to reflect on different instances of the same concept. It is recommended that one picks one or two main concepts such as "inside and outside" or "biological changes and life cycles," and to stay with these concepts for a few months. Even when at first glance, this may seem limiting, such broadly designed themes provide room for a multitude of activities. In the case of "biological changes and life cycles" you may explore seeds and plants (count seeds, plant seeds, observe their growth in a variety of terms), follow the life cycle of various animals (frogs, butterflies, puppies, people), or measure the growth of plants and animals.



4. A number of activities require props and scientific tools, such as a magnifying glass, ruler or weighing scale. Once your child has learnt to use such a tool, let him keep it, or at least make it accessible, throughout the day, not only during the activity at hand.



5. Acquaint your child with the scientific method. Scientists explain and understand the world by constructing hypotheses and checking them. Evaluating one's expectations and analyzing results make up the foundation of this method. Some activities permit children to explore on their

own, unaware of the use of the scientific method, and even those activities are valuable. But even little children can derive enjoyment and satisfaction with more structured activities, which explicitly teach the scientific method. Don't hesitate to familiarize the child with terminology such as observation, prediction, verification, and discussion. You can nudge him or her towards asking, "I wonder what would happen if", "I wonder if this is better, faster or larger." Their explanations, even if not accurate, will strengthen their skills in formulating explanations based on data.

Some final thoughts:

Accompany your child through their activities, but let the activities and experiments be theirs as much as possible. Most importantly, remember that the process should be fun and an adventure, and not every experiment has to be perfect to be of benefit to your child.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Father's Day

ÚPRKOVA - Tue, 13.6.2017

at 16.00

GAJOVA - Wed, 14.6.2017

at 16.00

Come in sportswear ☺



GRADUATION PARTY



ELEPHANTS 6.6.2017

BUTTERFLIES 7.6.2017

WHALES 8.6.2017

SUMMER SLEEPOVER CAMP

19-21.6.2017

for Whales &...



...for Butterflies & Elephants

...please, wait for details or ehzek with office person...

End term

PARENTS' MEETINGS

June 2017



...please, arrange the individual term with your class teacher

For more info and pictures visit our website:

www.funiversity.sk