

KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017



March, the month of books. Many mummies and daddies as well as grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings were part of our classes every morning to read for us. So, no wonder that this month's newsletter edition will be mostly about reading and books. However, as you know, there is never only one interesting thing happening at our kindergarten and we therefore invite you to read about all the perks of our March kindergarten life!



HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

PARENT'S READING PROJECT

As every March (for a few years already), we invited all the parents to join our Parent's Reading Project again. They all seemed to be very eager to come and see their kids in action... To add still a little bit more to a motivation, we turned it into a not-so-secret contest - which class will have the most parents and other family members involved? We were quite curious watching results. It was amazing to observe the „crowds“ of adults in both our buildings - not only mums and dads, but also grandparents showed up. And in some cases even brothers, sisters, and cousins took the liberty of being late for their own school just to come in and read their favourite story to our preschoolers. We would like to thank them all for cooperation and for making our morning routine a bit different for a while. We hope you will join in also next year!



AND THE WINNERS ARE:

(They can choose the trip to any interesting place they decide to visit). Congratulations! ☺

PARENT READING PROJECT - GAJOVA:

BEAVERS 

With attendance 145%

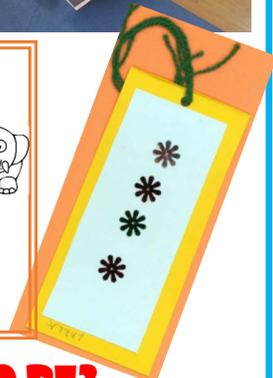
Lions: 66%	Zebras: 135%
Donkeys: 125%	Whales: 112%

PARENT READING PROJECT - ÚPRKOVA:

ELEPHANTS 

With attendance 100%

Butterflies: 60%	Hamsters: 69%
Crickets: 84%	Koalas: 84%



WE SPY... WHICH STORY CHARACTER WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

Diogo (Elephants): Peter Pan because that is funny story the good guy is flying and then some kids are also flying but then Peter Pan don't have hand because of the crocodile and the crocodile does click-clock and he wants to eat the Peter Pan and he catch his bottom and he says I'm not the fish.



Adelka (Donkeys): I want to be some animal, monkey from the Animal book. I got a new book from the library.



Esterka (Beavers): I have a really my favorite story, about my flower book. I want to be Snečnica, Púpava and Bluebell.



Barbi (Whales): I want to be the queen from the Sleeping Beauty - the other one, the good one. Or I want to be the silly sun from the song about seasons. Or Couch Potato and My Little Pony.

Juan Pablo (Butterflies): The wolf from three little pigs because it's the most silliest guy, he burns his bum bum.



Betina (Crickets): I like Elsa because she has the powers.

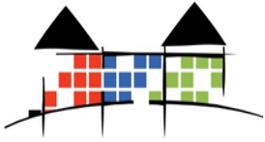


Itay (Zebras): Gerald from the book of Giraffe.

Milko (Koalas): Dart Vader, because I like, but he is bad to good guys and also bad guys.



Danko (Whales): Pokemon! Or Harry Potter or Transformers.



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WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH...

BOOKS ALL AROUND

TRIP TO THE BOOKSHOP

Books here, books there, books everywhere! Books are the friendly companions who guide, teach and entertain us every day at the kindergarten. Where do they come from? How do they come to life and who writes them? It was so interesting to investigate the life of books and visit a place where the books sleep and wait for their new owners. Tall and colorful book shelves, typical scent of printed paper and friendly faces of book shop assistants. We learned how to gently touch the new books, how to turn pages and we experienced the exciting moment of buying a new book for our class. And we did not forget to take turns in carrying the shopping bag with our new book friend on the way back to the kindergarten. Guess what we will read today before nap time?



OUR CLASS PROJECTS



In a week of favourite stories the **Koalas** made 2 group projects. Girls love princesses and castles, boys prefer superheroes. How to make a compromise? Easily...girls worked on beautiful magic wands decorated with glitters while boys created a bean stalk for their hero to climb up to the sky. Do you know what stories they talked about? ☺



The **Elephants** got some very interesting visitors one day. The kids from the CIS school came just before the nap time to read them a bedtime story.

Oh, how excitedly they all listened. And how motivated to learn how to read they all got! ☺ Example of others (especially older friends ☺) is usually the best motivation we can build upon. Thank you, schoolers!

The **Whales** created their own stories in a quite untraditional way... with the help of picture cubes. They rolled 9 dice and told the story that had to include the pictures on the top of the cubes. Let's read one of them:

"Once upon a time was a pyramid and in the pyramid was a telephone and in the telephone was a bridge. And then in the water was there a turtle and the sheep did say to the turtle. "Be, be, what are you doing there?" And the turtle said: "I'm swimming, because it's my water." And then the world did turn around and they did fall down and then the arrow did bump to the pyramid and then it was locked the pyramid, but it couldn't go there... and then people that were there just said: "Help! Help!" Let's go out there! The End."



The **Zebbras** also created their own stories. But first they practiced their sequencing skills... their job was to put the given pictures in the correct order and tell the story. Here is one:

"Once upon a time the girl decided to paint something but then with her hands she did push all the paint and it did go to her picture and then it splashed all around to the garden and everywhere to the everything and then the girl did... was eating and watching the paint. And then she did put her hands inside and then she did make the stamp. And then her face was all paint because she put her hands there and then she did go to the bathroom to wash it in the bath and then that's the end."

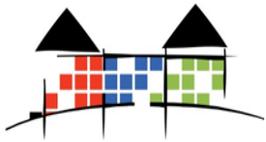


Drama and re-acting the stories, whether made up or the ones from our real lives, are also the part of literary education. And, oh gosh!, kids DO love role plays... That's what the **Butterflies** used to go through basic table manners. One roleplay was a dinner at home with their family. Then they pretended that they were in a restaurant where a waiter/waitress took an order. Children learned that we keep the elbows off the table while eating, that one doesn't slurp soup or drinks, that we start eating when everyone else does - or when given the okay to start, that we don't make bad comments about the food and we don't reach over someone's plate for something - we politely ask that the item be passed to us. Children enjoyed this activity very much and so it was made a corner for play.

The **Crickets**

dedicated one week to work on their own books. They made their title and cover page, they described the basic plot and worked precisely on every page until their books were fully done. As a home project, they brought to class their favourite book and they "read" it to each other. They showed a high level of narrative skills, it was clear that some of them have practiced it at home ☺





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WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH...

OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION



PUPPET PERFORMANCE

One of many other forms of communication is a theatrical language. And we experienced it! Divadlo pod hribikom appeared in our Kindergarten! Mr and Mrs Hoblina showed up with a huge scenery which they put in our classroom. They played a very well-known story about Hansel and Gretel... with some little changes and jokes for adults, too (for what our teachers were very grateful ☺). This way, the kids were introduced to a puppet theatre and it made them more creative at the end - after the performance they made their own puppets to act in front of their friends with.



STRING QUARTET

Chairs lined up like in a theatre and stage is prepared with stands for musicians and their notes... we are so curious what kind of performance is prepared for us! The String Quartet musicians opened their performance with lots of good jokes, introduced us to their musical instruments and even called some of us on stage to become a part of the story about the musical family. Beautiful violin music and the soothing melodies filled up the classroom. Everybody did hold their breath and listened to the tones, even the little ones from nursery classes. They hardly moved... which is a bit of a miracle. ☺ Good music is just simply made for everyone!



DRUM & BASE WORKSHOP

The Drum & Base workshop was something that came to our kindergarten just in time ☺. Spring started and spring fever got among many of us and it was really therapeutic to play drums! Ms. Ľudka, who is well-known among our children who attend the weekly Drum & Base Club, along with her friend Mr. Tóno, came to show their master skills - to all of us this time. We were all amazed by the number of drums she carried with her and the spring fever was very fast replaced with excitement. Children were so drawn to it and excited, that it was hard to keep them from playing ☺. On the other hand, we loved to see their involvement and how they tried so hard to follow the rhythm exercises, play drums of different kinds and styles, and of course dance. The oldest ones even tried to conduct their friends so us, the teachers, became the audience of a very cheerful and skillful drum orchestra ☺.



The **Hamsters** had a great time learning about nonverbal communication and ways to communicate. They learnt about how valuable our senses are. To appreciate their eyesight, they blindfolded themselves and tried to draw the objects, they were instructed to draw. They found it difficult but it helped them understand the challenges faced by visually-impaired people.



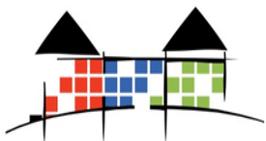
The **Zebbras** talked about foreign languages and they realized that together with Slovak and English they all speak 12 different languages! Amazing, right? They decided to look into this a bit further and so they compared them. They created a dictionary - they chose subjects they were interested into, drew pictures, and added the words. The best part was to listen to the pronunciation on Google translator. ☺ Well, that's another way to study languages.

ICE-SKATING COURSE



Once again, this year we found out that children just love skating! The Reception and Y1 classes from both locations did not mind getting up early in the morning, every day for one week, just to put on their skating gear and head to the ice stadium. Racing to see who would get their skates on first, they stepped on the ice ready to learn this challenging sport. Some of them a little unsure how to do it, others already able to skate but they all trained hard and attentively listened to their instructors. Believe us, some exercises looked easier than they actually were ☺. Children tried the basics of skating such as standing straight, keeping balance, skating in squad, doing the slalom between cones, quickly picking up circles from ice, skating under the stick and much more. Children definitely learnt a lot, improved their sport skills, learnt to keep balance, fought their own fears and enjoyed this year's skating course. The merits of our instructors should be praised, as well! They did an amazing job. They motivated children, supported them when they felt tired, even treated their little injuries. They were the reason the children loved to come back and try every day. They definitely taught them how to love this interesting winter sport ☺.





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WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH...

GRANDPARENTS VISIT

Grandparents – we love them! They are our friends, partners for playing, babysitters, they can keep our secrets and mostly they give us as much love and care as we need! But we all know they are more than just cookies and candies and funny games. They are the masters of life skills and life stories and that is what makes them special. To visit grandparents provides us with experiences which we will appreciate the most as memories one day. We teach children to always learn and discover, so with whom would it be better than our grandparents and their stories? So, almost all our classes welcomed grandparents for the workshop and here is what we found out:



The Koalas had 2 grandparents' visits – Milko's and Riško's granddads who talked about growing up in old Bratislava, when there were not so many cars like nowadays but also how nice it was to visit grandparents in the country side. Riško's granddad also brought a surprise for all Koalas – his favourite cakes from childhood – "veterníky". Lili from Hamsters brought both grandparents, who took our Hamsters for a treasure hunt to Horský park ☺. The kids love hunts (and treasures) so you can imagine their excitement. Miška's granddad – a passionate hunter – came in his hunter uniform and shared his hunting adventures with Butterflies. The Elephants welcomed Terezka's grandma, who was shy at first but then told us so many stories about herself, her family and her daughters, together with some interesting and funny facts which made our Elephants laugh ☺.



Barborka's grandpa visited Whales with his amazing presentation about cars. Whales got to know Mr. Benz, Mr. Diesel, and Mr. Ford and they saw pictures of the very first steam vehicles. The Donkeys were visited by Ninka's grandma who brought them pictures from her childhood. She used to live on a farm with lots of animals. Donkeys fell in love with her goat Liza. Kids realized that with all the changes between now and then, there is one thing that stayed the same - kids of all generations love to play in muddy puddles! Hugo's grandpa came all the way from Nitra to tell the Beavers not only about his childhood but also about his adventures in Africa where he used to live. Now they know that in Africa, the kids have to walk several kilometres to get to kindergarten and that the most important job of their teachers is to protect them from snakes!



The Lions didn't get any grandparents' visit but they work with the topic their own way - they compared old and new things and they created their own doll and a car from wood logs. It was a real joy to watch them how gladly they exchanged the "modern" toys for these hand made ones. ☺



WE SPY... WHAT ARE YOUR BEST MEMORIES WITH GRANDPARENTS?

Ms Danka: The best memories are definitely connected with animals they had. Lots of "outdoor" cats, dogs, a pig, hens, ducks, geese... And garden with vegetable... I was always there "helping" and observing the life cycle of animals, plants, and trees.

Ms Lenka: I have some great memories of holidays at my grandma's. She used to weigh about 100 kg and when she was sleeping, the whole house could hear her snoring. So our main rule was to fall asleep before she did, otherwise we missed our chance and had to survive another night of tumbling in bed, trying to fall asleep.

Ms Majka B.: My grandma lived with us. We used to play games together - "sklenené guľičky" and "sedma". The big adventure was shopping and cooking together.

Ms Katka V.: my grandpa was a priest and when we were little, he always gave us orange tic-tac when we did not fall asleep during his sermon.

Ms Katka K.: As my grandma had a very poor sight, I was often at her house for a sleepover and helped her with cooking, baking, cleaning, ... We talked a lot and she liked to tell me stories from her past - when her and grandpa used to date.

Ms Ivetka: I don't remember my mum's dad that well but I recall we got a building set from him as a present. I and my brother loved to play with it and spent many hours building hospitals and schools. We both still regret we have no idea where it ended after all those years...

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR GRANDPARENTS?



Andrejko (Elephants): I love my grand-mum because she is taking me to the house when my mummy is nowhere she is taking me and she has police car and I'm driving him to the ice cream place.



Max (Elephants): My grandparents because they are giving me yummy things like šúľance, mňamkové polievky and parené buchty.



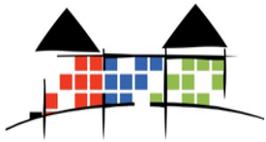
Miška (Butterflies): I like my grandparents because they give me when she come she give me chocolate.



Melanie (Elephants): I like my granny because she did all the time just dovolit' me I can have some sweets.



L u i s a (Crickets): I like that they have also stairs and also the second like up-stairs to go.



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CLASS PROJECT

The **Elephants** took a trip back in time thanks to their family project – An item from the past. In order to gain a better understanding of what life was like decades ago, this project brought to the classroom artifacts from our children's parents and grandparents. These relics from the past captured our Elephants imagination. Soft toys, a car, a table game, books, an alarm clock, coffee grinders, clothes, a Slovak Goral hat, a tea set, a type writer, and collectable items like napkins and pictures – these all made their way through our classroom and left us fun and appreciative memories.



WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH...

FIRST SPRING DAY



At the beginning of spring, all the classes from Gajova went to Medic-ká Garden and from Úprkova to Horský Park to look for some proof that spring is here already. They found many beautiful flowers, some of the children enjoyed just watching and smelling them, others tried to "cook" yummy soups from it or to create nice pictures. And all of them picked some flowers and plants to create lovely herbariums. Besides flowers the children noticed that trees are in bloom too - we all loved romantic magnolia trees. We could also hear the birds singing, bees buzzing, we saw some friendly squirrels wandering around and we loved to run on the green grass or hiding behind the trees. The weather was amazing, sunshine all the time and really warm! There is no place for doubts anymore - spring is here and we are going to enjoy it! ☺



WE SPY...

HOW DO THE TREES/PLANTS/ANIMALS KNOW THAT SPRING HAS BEGUN?



Nicolas (Zebras): I only know from the trees because the trees are ready to grow the leaves. The animals have babies in the belly. And the flowers have buds.



Emka (Beavers): The trees know because it's really spring. The animals know because it's very sunny and a blue sky.

Katka (Crickets): Animals they know is very hot and then it is hotter and hotter and then their eyes when they open they can see sun.



Fruzsina (Koalas): Flowers they just know it.



Barbi (Whales): Because they can feel it. They know because after sleeping, the trees open and they can breathe and then they know it's already summer. The tree maybe feels that when someone touches them the trees don't have the winter clothes.

Nelka (Butterflies): Because in the cold they fall down and in warmer they grow up so it's summer it's better.



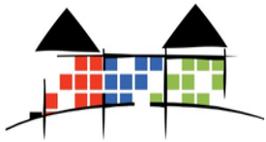
Lyla (Donkeys): They know everything but they know that spring is after winter. And they will come out.

CLASS PROJECTS

The **Beavers** planted watercress in cotton wool. Each Beaver had his/her own plastic container with watercress seeds and took care of them by giving them water every day. It was fascinating and exciting to watch how fast the cress grew.

The **Lions** also learnt a bit about spring flora. They observed plants and learnt how to take care of them. They even adopted the plant for a week and took turns watering it.





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ADVISORY... WHY ARE THE BOOKS IMPORTANT?



All the parents want only what is the best for their children. They try different approaches, study the best diet, look for the most successful schools, etc. What most of them don't realize is that they have a very valuable asset sitting on the shelf in their house - children's books. But why the books are so important (not only) in young age?

- One of the primary benefits of reading is a higher aptitude for learning in general. The students who are exposed to reading are more likely to do well in all facets of formal education
- By listening to you read, your child is reinforcing the basic sounds that form language. They learn basic speech, too.
- Stories can stimulate imagination and play. Role play (pretend play) connects stories and reality.
- Books provide inspiration, thought and reflection.
- Stories provoke curiosity and discussions.
- Reading together builds a stronger relationship between you and your child. It can really bring the two of you closer together.
- Picture books help readers to develop an appreciation for art and writing.
- Listening to stories assists in the development of literacy skills and language development.



• Sitting down provides children with a time for quiet and calmness in their busy lives.

And there are many many more advantages to the books. So, what are you going to read tonight?

TEACHERS WERE KIDS, TOO...



Ms Stanka

„This picture was taken with some others at my fourth birthday party. I am already big enough to be holding my little baby sister by myself.“



Ms Bogi

„I was wearing this ballerina dress all the time when I had a chance, because I wanted to be a ballet dancer. I was dancing wearing it all around the house.“



Gajova Campus



Úprkova Campus

Can you guess who are these two beauties? It shouldn't be that hard, right? ☺

NEWS IN MARCH...

We celebrated a special day dedicated to our teachers. Look, what beautiful presents they were given. Guess, that's how Funiversity uniform was born. ☺



UPCOMING EVENTS...

GAJOVA

performance & workshops
topic: FLOWER POWER (DRESS CODE - SOMETHING WITH FLOWER MOTIVE)

Mothers' Day
16.5.2017

LIIONS START: 15:10
BEAVERS START: 15:30
DONKEYS START: 15:30
ZEBRAS START: 15:50
WHALES START: 15:50

VOLUNTARY DRESS CODE - FLOWERS

ÚPRKOVA

performance & workshops
topic: TEA TIME PARTY (DRESS CODE - HAT)

Mothers' Day
17.5.2017

KOALAS START: 15:10
HAMSTERS START: 15:30
CRICKETS START: 15:10
ELEPHANTS START: 15:50
BUTTERFLIES START: 15:50

VOLUNTARY DRESS CODE - HAT

NATIONAL HOLIDAY

International Workers' day



Monday - 1st May 2017
KG IS CLOSED!

SWIMMING COURSE may 2017
for zebras & donkeys

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

NATIONAL HOLIDAY

KG IS CLOSED!



Monday - 8th May 2017

Preventive Dental Check-Up



Úprkova - 26.4.2017
Gajova - 28.4.2017

For more info and pictures visit our website:

www.funiversity.sk