



KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

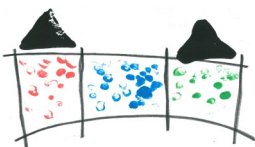


Hello, hello, hello! The first month of the new school year is over! Our newsletter is happy to continue its journey and excited to share all that we went through in September with you. The classrooms have put on new make-ups, there are a few new bright faces around, and children are busy with settling down. Yes, we like to call September the month of nesting as this is exactly what it's all about. We put all our brains, hearts and energies together to help each child to find its place in the new class. It's not easy to get used to all the changes, and we bet you know what we're talking about (which class to ring in the morning, which club to choose, where's your locker etc.). What we could learn from our kids is taking all the changes and news as a great adventure. Getting to know each other is another adventure that goes hand in hand with settling down. Trustful relationships are what we will build upon all the following year, so we all revealed a bit from our "private life" to the others (...just keep on reading to find out what skeletons our teachers are hiding ☺). Don't miss our September newsletter, the beginnings deserve proper attention. ☺

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH... NESTING IN OUR NEW CLASSES

While August was busy with the preparations, in September we jumped into it for real. Let us welcome you in our 2016/2017 Funniversity world!

This is what we look like for this year: Our ZOO at Gajova can show off with the new department of Lions (hip-hip-hooray!), while our well-known Beavers, Donkeys, Zebras and Whales stay though moved to new lodgings. The Uprkova ZOO is proud to introduce the brand new classes of Hamsters and Koalas (yes, you remember right, we used to have Koalas once, but it was loooong time ago ☺). Elephants, Butterflies and Crickets remain, though slightly mixed or refreshed by new-comers.



Now, this is what we did: The very first two weeks were literally about getting acquainted with everything. Kids were excited to explore their new lockers, new locker-neighbours, new classrooms, new toys, new sneak-holes. They were proud to show their parents their new "grown" position and we've been noticing kids introducing their classmates to their moms and dads, playing "who is it?" game in the changing rooms. Apart from daily **class expeditions**, all of us completed the whole kindergarten quest at the end of the first week. While exploring the kindergarten we kept meeting each other on the stairways, in the changing rooms and bathrooms; teachers armed with quiz-sheets, cameras and pointing charts, and kids eager to peek into every single secret corner. If you manage to get lost in our KG one day, there's no need for panic. Ask whoever child you pick, they will take you to the bathroom (if you happen to be in need), to the washing-machine (if you happen to get dirty) or to the swimming-pool (if you happen to be too dry ☺). You don't need to be ashamed to ask about un-familiar people, too. Your children will gladly introduce you to our cooks and cleaning ladies. They will even explain what our handyman does in the KG.

WE SPY... WHAT DO YOU LIKE THE BEST ABOUT YOUR NEW CLASSROOM?



Neti (Zebras): I like the most that we did changed our lockers to another lockers.

Enrique (Koalas): Everything nice and some butterflies big.



Lyla (Donkeys): I like the train corner.

Nellka (Butterflies): That here is many chairs and many toys so I like it here.



Maria (Elephants): I like to count to 100 and letters and tens and playing and doing worksheets.



Alex (Donkeys): I like the most the classroom when is there a boat but in this one I like the train.

Šani (Elephants): My friends Jurko, Melanie and Levik and that I could here eating the food.



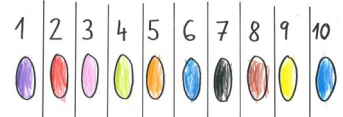
Markus (Zebras): There was the train and here is nothing and I like it.

Luky (Whales): I like the most "Cing, ping, ping, ping, ping". That's a game.

Katka (Crickets): That we are still Crickets.



Sofia F. (Donkeys): I like the most the cars. The car. My car for going home.





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WHAT MAKES OUR NESTING EASIER...

Even though nesting itself is a nice and warm period, all the teachers have their secret tips and guaranteed recipes to encourage whole process in a desired way. Let's have a look at what they do to help kids to settle down.

Crickets rely on singing, cuddling, playing and building a bond between teachers and the kids. They discovered a magic song for calming down Red and Orange and claim that by adding the rocking movement the success is guaranteed. Another big help is a stable routine and always understandable explanation of what is going to happen.



Hamsters do lots of fun songs with actions, songs to help explain the daily routine for example "Go and wash your hands" to the well-known tunes. They help the children feel safe and secure through explanations and instructions. They stress the importance of eye contact and warmth to help the children realize we care for them. They emphasize kindness, praise and positive reinforcement and try to be examples by modelling kindness and sharing between teachers.



Butterflies believe in planning and flexibility in the same time. Along with fun group activities they work on establishing routines and procedures systematically. They stress importance of children feeling as part of the group as well as building the sense of community. They give lots of encouragement to make children feel accepted, respected and confident.



Koalas teachers like to transform into the child role with no limits and thus you can see them playing with their kids on monkey bars, sliding down with them, running like crazy in the forest and turning themselves into small children in any way possible. The purpose of this is to give the children feeling of being a team!

Elephants feel their children grow and mature rapidly and so they decided to underline relationship and partnership forming! They do their best to give them enough attention and space for sharing their funny stories or daily hassles ☺. Each of them needs to feel important and if you add a few jokes that make everybody laugh, you create an amazing, relaxing atmosphere where even learning is suddenly so much fun!



Lions' teachers staked on minimalism: first get rid of all the rubbish and unimportant things and objects. Give the new children lots of warmth - cuddling, hugging and mom-like words and sounds. Attract kids with funny activities or crafts like marble painting or hand-printing.



Beavers spent a lot of time singing songs and games that included using everyone's name. The most favourite one turned out to be "Who Took the Cookie from the Cookie Jar". Kids love it no matter how many times they've played it and the teachers admit they love it, too.



Donkeys do it playful: they use and play all sorts of games, no matter if waiting in a queue for the bathroom, sitting on the stage when corners are being prepared, or the "proper real games". They try to listen to kids' actual needs and improvise a lot. Guessing and learning names, looking for toys, tools and objects around the classroom (Hot and Cold game), getting

Zebras' specialty for learning about how to treat each other, and particularly how to include the new-comers, was playing "Buddies". This game involved choosing "a best friend" for each day. The kids had to do everything with their "buddy" - play, line up or take care of them in whatsoever way. Besides that, they talked about every single Zebra being very important - like every single piece in their Friendship Puzzle ☺.

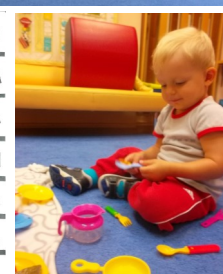


to know each other through the Change the Place Those Who... or Bug in the Rug game or made-up variations for Statues where contact between the children is encouraged.

Whales spent the whole September by playing pro-social games to build up coherent group. Whales love Hot Potato, guessing name of person hiding behind a blanket, Molecules, Bomb-game, and I Spy game. They also decorated their classroom with their drawing to feel like home.



A	ADELKA	LEO
M	MIA	APATKA
A	ALEX	LYLA
U	NINKA	LILI
Y	YIAN	SOFIA
J	JURKO	ALEA
S	SOFINKA	





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WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH... TEAM-BUILDING



The spirit of team-building or We love choco-trips!

Team building is a serious matter. The need for special time and place is obvious... Now, let's face it: Most of you know how it is to go to a café with your own lovely children ☺. You got one, two or three and it's not easy, right? Well, imagine going for a hot chocolate with a number of 12+ children... Aaaa! However, it didn't matter, the most stressed were the waiters anyways ☺. We know our little children well enough to manage to have a wonderful time together! And it really was... Koalas, Hamsters and Butterflies enjoyed hot chocolate in Martinus, where they admired number of books and also had a perfect view onto the busy Obchodná Street. Crickets chose a real "chocolaterie" on Hurbanovo Square where it was really hard to choose among all the yummy flavours. The Elephants tasted chocolate under the supervision of a very important man in Slovak history – Ľudovít Štúr in a coffee-house named after him! At Gajova, Lions didn't risk it with hardly 2-years old and had the chocolate from Bcelona café "delivered" to them to the KG ☺ - you could tell by the moustache of every child's face. Donkeys set for a longer walk to the homelike "Paper Moon" café where some girls amused waiters by pretending they drink coffee and playing Who Took the Cookie... Zebras were building their team in the Messerschmitt where they had all the place for themselves. The Whales visited the nearby Môj Bar where apart from having fun they practiced nice table manners. Beavers enjoyed yummies and each other's company in W Café. Fair enough, we acclaim the beginning of the school year formally initiated, as this kind of opening ritual we consider very proper ☺.



WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH... OUR "PRIVATE LIFE"

"This is me" class projects

The purpose of this very simple project was to get to know each other a little better. The classes differed slightly in what exactly they did, but the process and results were more or less the same: the kids brought or created something what can tell us more – about what they like or what is important to them. Most of the kids brought toys, but many brought family pictures or books. Some carried along favourite food (which is definitely the important part of "self" ☺). To bring a bit of statistics, younger kids brought more soft toys, blankets and pillows, while preferences of older ones varied a lot. So what for instance we had a chance to see in our KG these days, just for curiosity: golf club, bag of rice, calculator, encyclopaedia about universe, or cheering pointing finger, to name just a few. We are very different, aren't we?



TEACHERS WERE KIDS, TOO...



At the beginning of the new school year we would also like to begin with some new section. Even though it is sometimes hard to imagine, the teachers were once kids, too. Just ask your kids, they will not believe a word from what you say! So now... We are bringing you the proof!

Guess, which two of our Funiversity celebrities can you see in their childhood pictures? Don't worry, if you are not sure, we will bring you the answer next month - along with the new set of the children versions of our staff. Have fun guessing!



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Family Projects about Younger Siblings

This year we invited all the parents with "babies" to show the kids what it takes to take care of a child that is younger than ours in the KG. We love the topic as it naturally raises the sense of responsibility and care in our kids. We managed to find a volunteer in each class which we appreciate immensely ☺. So take a look at what we did, discussed and learnt.



No wonder, **Lions** have no younger siblings so they learned about the family from their family photographs.



Tamarka's mum and her little brother Arturko prepared an interesting morning for our **Elephants**. The Elephants spent more than one



Alicka's mum and her sister Stelka visited **Crickets** so children could find out more about the life of mum. She tried to teach

The **Hamsters** met Romanka's little sister who seemed to enjoy her first visit in the Hamster class! Romanka is also very new in our KG but she used her first English skills very well to express how much she loves her sister. She was very helpful to share interesting stories and she told and showed us how she helps her mum as well.



hour in their company so you could have heard a lot of giggling and laughing from their classroom ☺. Arturko was not shy at all... he enjoyed all the attention and showed them his special sensorimotor toys, his favourite yummies and how he loves bubbles! The Elephants appreciated their visit with beautiful pictures and they talked about Arturko for the next few days.

Crickets to change a nappy by using their baby toys and also Alicka was very happy to present her role of a big sister.

Beavers welcomed Julia's mom with baby-sister Eva. Julia was helping with feeding the little girl and each



Beaver gave her a spoon of food, too. We've learnt that all-purpose recipe for Eva's cry is "Twinkle, twinkle" song and Beavers changed the diaper of doll-babies following the example of Julia changing her sister's nappy.



Donkeys were grateful to welcome Ninka's mom whose baby-brother is still enjoying the secure place of his mommy's tummy. Ninka's mommy made Donkeys imagine what would having baby-sibling feel like and children were excited to offer ideas of what they would teach such a small baby. They also discussed the ways how to treat such a baby.



Our **Koalas** met Deni's mum who talk about their family life. They found out that Deni has 2 older sisters what makes her mum really happy because she has 3 beautiful daughters with whom she enjoys shopping or visiting Vienna ☺.



Zebras were happy to enjoy Nicolas's mom and little Natálka's company. They were comparing the toys for big kids and for babies, tried the feeding and diaper changing and sang a song for Natálka (guess what? ☺).

Whales were lucky to have 2 guests: Davidko's mom came with Adamko and our Mrs. Hela with her Alicka came to see us, too. They both showed the Whales all sorts of things the small baby needs or does – e.g. how baby's daily routine looks like, how to measure baby's temperature, how to feed it, or in what ways babies try to express themselves. Kids were very very excited.



All younger siblings of our **Butterflies** are well known to us because they are already attending our Kindergarten, too. Anyway the Butterflies wel-

comed Juan Pablo's mum and thanks to her they could find out a lot of interesting facts about children who grow up in Spain and how it is to live there. She also talked about the importance of routine and rules also in the family e.g. how her boys can use iPad/PlayStation only once a week.

DO YOU CALL EACH OTHER ANY NICKNAMES?



Alex (Donkeys): When I was big then mommy calls me „chrobáčik“. And I sometimes call my mummy „čučoriedka“.



Nellka (Butterflies): No one knows that I'm calling my brother, my Paľko brother some other way Paľko-Sralko and my sister Baja call Brambora, then my mummy they call Mimka and my daddy Palo I call tučko.

Jurko (Elephants): When I'm nice Juráško and when I'm bad to mummy she call me Juraj and mummy call daddy láska and daddy call mummy srdiečko and also me.



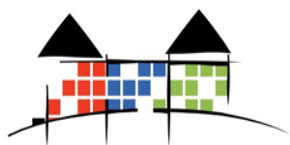
Hanka (Whales): My Grandpa is telling me „princess“. And sometimes my mummy is telling me „babula“.



Nicolas (Zebras): My mommy call me Nikolik.

For more pictures and information please visit our web page

www.funiversity.sk



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TEACHERS CONFESS...

DO YOU HAVE ANY WEIRD HABITS OR QUIRKS?

We are good teachers (at least we try to be) but we are still human beings and sometimes even weirdoes ☺. Not to start the new academic year so seriously, we decided to confess some of our little deviations. Take it as a gesture of confidence or take it for fun. To maintain our human dignity and to increase your curiosity, we don't reveal our names. You can guess, or ask us during parents meeting ☺.

◆ I brush my teeth while taking shower - just to save time.

◆ I like to tear my hair off... it helps me relax. ☺

◆ Reading a book in the bathroom and biting nails when I get nervous.

◆ I always sniff milk before I use it, even if I opened it only a while ago... oh, and I pee in a shower (but I bet, everyone does that!).

◆ I don't have any personal secrets but lot of guilty pleasures like listening to Backstreet Boys, eating grilled pork ribs every time I visit Czech Republic (lot of them), listening to really loud music and not caring about neighbours.

◆ At home, I always fold towels in thirds and they need to be organised in nice piles and according to colour. ☺

◆ I almost never comb my hair.

ADVISORY

ACTIVE MOVEMENT IS IMPORTANT



Children's involvement in sports develops their diverse lifelong skills in the physical (a positive attitude toward healthy lifestyle), cognitive, emotional and social domains. Giving kids the opportunity to play and experience movement in fun, meaningful, and competitive ways is so important. Especially during the earliest stages of growth, play and exercise are vital parts of human development. The primary goals of sports activity for toddlers and young children should be playfulness, experimentation, exploration, and having *fun*. Children just begin to develop

the intellectual and thinking skills necessary for next-level activities and safety at around ages 5 to 6 years. Research shows that participation in sports programs during the toddler years does not seem to give any long-term advantage for future sports performance. Specific skills can be refined by repetitive practice only after the right level of motor development has been reached. Basic ground-level activities for children such as walking, running, swimming, tumbling activities in beginner dance and gymnastics, basic football, basic martial arts, and skating are suggested appropriate activities. In addition, walking, running, and swimming are activities that also develop fundamental skills that are important for safety throughout life. If sports aren't a must, what should be on a preschooler's schedule? Engage your child in activities that are fun and challenging, but not beyond his or her abilities. Preschoolers are learning to hop, skip, and jump forward, and like to show how they can balance on one foot for a few seconds, catch a ball, or do a somersault.

They also may enjoy swimming, hiking, dancing, and riding a tricycle or bicycle with training wheels. All of these activities help develop skills and coordination. It's important for preschoolers to engage in a variety of activities to encourage a wide range of movement and skills.

Some activities to try with your preschooler:

- Play games such as "Duck, Duck, Goose" or "Follow the Leader." Mix it up with jumping, hopping, and walking backward.
- Kick a ball back and forth or set up a goal for your child.
- Practice hitting throwing and catching a ball.
- Play freeze dance or freeze tag.
- Practice balancing by pretending to be statues or walking on a curb.
- Enjoy playgrounds (built or natural, like the fallen trees in the forest ☺). They offer lots of opportunities for developing children's gross motor skills.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Wednesday 26.10.2016 (Úprkova)
Thursday, 27.10.2016 (Gajova)

Don't forget to come in costume!!!

1.11.2016 (TUESDAY)

NATIONAL HOLIDAY

ALL SAINTS' DAY

(KINDERGARTEN IS CLOSED)

Y1 PARENTS MEETING

8.11.2016 (Tuesday) WHALES
9.11.2016 (Wednesday) ELEPHANTS
10.11.2016 (Thursday) BUTTERFLIES

Regarding Y2 enrolment

17.11.2016 (Thursday)

KG is closed

NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Fight for Freedom & Democracy

NEWS IN SEPTEMBER



Ms MIŠKA

Since the beginning of September, we have a new addition in our Donkeys class. Ms Miška took to her responsibilities immediately and now she is a fully competent member of our Funi-versity team. ☺