



# KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2018

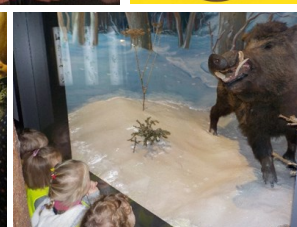


Our mankind on Earth is only a tiny dot in the enormous universe. Where do we come from and where are we heading? In February, we have been posing and answering similar kinds of questions. We explored the dinosaur times, prehistoric periods and we looked at the part of history when kings and queens were ruling the world. And besides exploring the exciting past times, we also enjoyed sweet Valentine Day with a fun carnival and practiced good teamwork by creating fashion costumes and presenting them on our very own Funiversity catwalk. Hungry for more details about our February adventures? You are more than welcome to read about them below!

## WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH... PAST TIMES

### VISIT OF THE MUSEUM

Have you ever wondered, how would it be to have a time machine and take a trip to the past? To see prehistoric animals running around, to meet dinosaurs or prehistoric people, to see life throughout the centuries... our children would try it out! Since there has not been any sign of time travel machine yet, we tried the old school way to travel to the past by visiting the Slovak National Museum. Museums are the caretakers of history, they are full of stories and they open the door for every child's curiosity. What can be better – we love to make our children think, wonder, and ask questions. Their fantasy and imagination usually turn this trip into an adventure and you find yourself wondering about questions you would never even think to ask ☺. Finally, in the museum there is always an opportunity to boost language development and vocabulary. Mostly the wide range of the animal exhibition is pretty challenging for all of us ☺. Just try it yourself.



### WORKSHOP ABOUT FOSSILS

Our older kids, however, took a part in a very special workshop about fossils. They are passionately interested in history of the Earth, dinosaurs, and plants so this event was a great option to explore prehistoric era. Firstly, we played the game with the stones, identifying if it was a normal stone or a unique stone with a print of plant or shell. We had a good eye while distinguishing the fossils. Secondly, we were listening to the story about "The Big Bang", creation of the world and evolution of plants and animals. We learned the names of historical periods, while checking the pictures with all the different kind of dinosaurs. Kids surprised us because they knew almost all the real names of various dinosaurs, except for one funny name – Long Neck Dinosaur. Then we were checking the process how the animals and plants became the fossils. The next activity was to become an archaeologist. In the sand, we were searching for the cast of sea shells, corals, bones and even a shark's tooth. All the found treasures we divided according their common scientific name and we kept them for ourselves to have our own part of prehistoric world in our hands. It was the most amazing workshops so far. We just love learning and checking the history of our planet.

## OUR CLASS PROJECTS...



**Zebras** loved the topic about dinosaurs. They cut out dinosaur pictures from toy catalogue and stuck them to the cardboard to create the prehistoric scene. They modelled play-dough eggs and put them to the dry-grass nest. There was even Archaeopteryx flying from top.

Also **Koalas** got fascinated by all prehistoric world. They talked not only about dinosaurs themselves, but also about characteristic features of their times. Once they realized that in most of dinosaur books there are usually depicted volcanoes, they simply had to create one themselves. What do you say, doesn't this picture remind you of Jurassic Park movie scene?



From eggs to dinosaurs: **Donkeys** watched an educational video about how a dinosaur egg cracks and how a dinosaur hatches and grows.

The **Hamsters** revised the names of dinosaurs, too. Ichthyosaurus, Apatosaurus, Ankylosaurus, Triceratops, Diplodocus and many many more. They talked about their life style, diet, way of bringing babies. Kids also discussed what brought their end and why we cannot see them around anymore.



We love to build and create! Seva, Lego... or, for that matter, any other building material. **Crickets** and the kids at **Lego Club** focused on dinosaurs. How great they are!







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### TRIP TO BRATISLAVA CASTLE

As a part of our history lesson, we went for a trip to Bratislava castle. Getting there was not easy. We had to walk so many stairs. Surprisingly, no one was complaining ☺. We wondered why... Listening to their conversations, we got our answers. Boys

felt like brave knights being in the service of a great king whispering about beating the bad ones. Girls, on the other hand, imagined themselves princesses wearing beautiful dresses and walking straight so their crown won't fall down ☺. They played their roles very well while we were strolling through the courtyard and various royal rooms. However, as soon as they saw playground, they forgot all about being knights and princesses and became kids again. On the way back to kindergarten, everyone was looking forward to having lunch and nap time, which does not happen very often ☺. Probably, it's just too tiring to be a princess or a king ☺.



## WE SPY... IF YOU WERE A PRINCESS/ PRINCE, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



**Adelka (Donkeys):** Sit on a throne. Would you just sit for the whole day? No, not the whole day. What else would you do? Bring the water to flowers.



**Adriana (Hamsters):** I want to be a knight and I want to fight a dragon.

**Ninka (Donkeys):** I would eat. What would you eat? Lollipop, cotton candy, and spaghetti.



**Rohan (Seals):** I'm king! What would you do as a king? Be good.

**Lyla (Hamsters):** I would like that people do things for me.



**Neti (Zebras):** I would be meeting a king.

**Itay (Zebras):** I would kill the bad ones.



**Adamko (Crickets):** I want to be a king. OK, what would you do as a king? I would throw the clowns to the jail because they don't make me laugh.



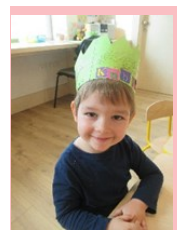
We enjoyed proper snow in February... Finally!!! Suddenly, both our gardens got new inhabitants as snowmen started to pop up at every corner - little, big, enormous, .. The kids got all their ideas out and so they also built a snow-fort for the best snowball-fight ever

and an enormous slide they used for their various games ☺

**The moment when you realise it's too big to push...**



The **Hamsters** used their fantasy and creativity while working on a given task to build a castle from puzzle pieces and various shapes. They worked in small groups that had their own teamleader. They had to agree on the way, look, colours, and shapes. They were also limited by time what made this task even more challenging. Overall, they worked well together, found ways to cooperate and discuss opinions. Great job!

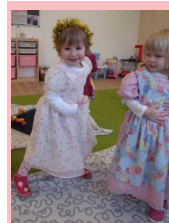


The **Seals** decided to join the glamorous world of royalty, even if only for a day. They set out to discover how it is to live the life of King or Queen. To do so, they started by making their own crowns. After all, what is King or Queen without a beautiful crown? But wait, how can said ruler govern his/her Kingdom without a grand castle? So guess what, they built some of those as well. And last but not least, good manners and posture are a key to a successful ruler, which is why we learnt quite a bit of it as well.



The **Lions** started to practice how to recognize and write their names. Snowmen and space rockets were the

helpers in these exciting endeavours! Each Lion has as many circles on their snowman as many letters their name has, and the space rockets have been built out of colourful squares with the respectful letters. Learning to write the names is so much fun!



Our little **Turtles** are really into costumes at the moment and so we were not surprised when our ladies turned suddenly into princesses. They just pulled out the box full of clothes we keep in our room, picked the nicest dresses and put the part of Christmas costumes on their heads... what a creativity! They also learnt a dance that real princesses must have enjoyed as it was the most elegant choreography we ever observed in our classroom. Well, the path of their future career is obviously set.







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### WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH... LOVE & BEAUTY



#### VALENTINE CARNIVAL

"I love you, you love me, we're a happy family..." oh yes, love is in the air all the time but on the Valentine's week it is somehow stronger, more noticeable and emotional! People eagerly anticipate romance, roses and more. However, the joy of sending a Valentine or sharing love or appreciation goes beyond just the romance and can extend to others that we love or care for. As every year, we excitedly awaited Valentine's Day to come to our KG. Hearts of all colours and sizes, songs about friendship and love, lots of hugging and kissing and showing fondness... simply sweet ☺. The big day – the day of our Valentine carnival – turned our KG into a magical love land full of creatures, fairies, superheroes, and masks of all kinds. Singing and dancing in love rhythms, enjoying games and time with our friends and teachers, and having lots of fun. It's always a wonderful day for all of us, because we feel loved, admired, and happy! This is what we try to capture during Valentine, so it stays with us and we can feel like it's Valentine's day for the whole year long!



### WE SPY... WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR PARENTS?



**Andrejko (Hamsters):** So, I tell mummy to always make me baken bread with butter.

**Jožko (Zebras):** Yesterday I did tell them to go for a reading to the kindergarten.

**Sofia Marina (Donkeys):** I would give advice that they should wear some bow tie and they should comb their hair nice and wear nice clothes. But, sometimes when my mummy goes to party she goes very fancy. I cannot even believe it and I fall down of how pretty she is.



**Mat'ko (Koalas):** No parents but I have small doggie and is pooping inside the house and her name is Jasmina.

**Vicente (Beavers):** Eat more carrots.

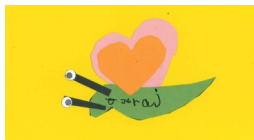


**Matúško P. (Zebras):** I want to tell to my daddy that mommy is always just cooking and daddy is always sitting. That he needs to even little bit cook. And what about your mommy? Any advice for her? To my mommy, I would give the advice that we can don't go so early to sleep because I want to still play.



**Alicka (Crickets):** My daddy doesn't know how to do a hairstyle or how to brush hair so maybe he can learn.

**Ninka (Donkeys):**  
To buy me toys.



#### FASHION SHOW

In the middle of the carnival season and fancy dancing balls, our kindergarten had a chance to get on the red carpet too to show a little bit of our fashion design spirit. All the kids were working on their ideas, sketches and models. Everybody wanted to show their best projects and designs on the catwalk. We were searching for the right material, using the best fabrics, learning about our design techniques and someone were even learning how to sew on proper sewing machine. On the day "D" we all took the seats around the red carpet to check the designs of our friends and to cheer them up with our applause. On the runway we saw dry clay jewellery as necklaces and bracelets. We checked the new recycling set of paper fancy hats and party cylinders, decorated with feathers. From the part of footwear collection, we watched our models presenting the new types of "gladiator" shoes for various occasions as were the rock and roll party, night date or carnival in Rio. We had the special presentation of handmade fabric cloths, used as sleeping toys. Victoria Beckham inspired us as well, so we could see a very fancy fashion line of handbags and ties. Collection of colourful accessories reminded us of the variety in our society and made our day brighter. Pleated skirts or bowties from newspaper put emphasis on recycling and created "trashion" fashion designs! African culture is rich and very diverse and so was the collection of neckless, skirts, turbans and make-up inspired by it. We finished our fashion show with latest spring collection called "kids of flowers - revival", where we had the chance to see extravagant batik technique on the scarfs, dresses, T-shirts and even on the onesie for the smallest one. This year we were really surprised by our little fashion designers and their brilliant projects. Let our fashion show up to the world. ☺







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### PROSOCIAL PROJECT IN ONE OF OUR CLASSES...

Apart from the academic tasks our class has been gradually focusing also on some relationship challenges in our team. In many teams (of younger and older kids, and even adults) there come challenges and troubles. We've been already dealing with excluding somebody from equal role in play, ignorance, lack of empathy towards each other, mocking, and much more. We would like to describe one specific technique of how we deal with such challenges.

We play stories... let me describe one of them, so you get a picture how it works. This one was a story of 4 friends in one class, but it was a special class – the class without a teacher. In this story we had a dog named Stick, a tiger Raf, a cow Lola, and a duck Berta. Stick, Raf, and Lola were laughing at a picture Berta had drawn and didn't stop even



after she told them it made her sad. They told her she couldn't draw and made her feel sad and lonely. Berta tried again and asked them if she can play with them the pretend family. They said yes, but she could play only their pet dog. And since the dog can't speak and needs to obey, Berta ended up once again alone and sad. She didn't give up and tried again – to read a book with them. But again, her friends didn't let her be the character she wanted and told her she was the ugly witch from the story. Berta was quite upset. Our kids got the task "How would you help Berta? What can be done?". Some wanted to change the behaviour of her friends, but we had no power to do that. Others tried to call the teacher, but in our story no teacher existed. And then... one child decided she'd take another animal and join in the game to be Berta's friend. Berta was very happy and her friends came to join in. But soon they started to plead to her new friend to let Berta be and play with them "You are so beautiful and

smart." "We love you so much." "Come to play with us!" But she said "No, you were mean to Berta, I will play with her." "But look at her, she can't even draw; she is not smart and you are so good. Come to play with us!" "No!" "If you won't play with us now, then you are not our friend and you can't play with us anymore!!!" But Berta's new friend showed a great amount of strength and stuck to her plan to be Berta's loyal friend. (The three friends were played by a teacher.)

After this, the kids got a question, which character would they like to play today, whose behaviour they'd like to adopt. Most of them wanted to be like Berta's new friend. We encouraged them in their decision. Often, we can't change another person's behaviour, and often in life we won't have teacher/parents around to solve a challenging situation. But we always have ourselves and we can always step in an unjust situation and be kind. Then we played the situations again but this time, kids took the initiative and had the power to change the behaviour of our three friends. After some powerful things happening in this dramatic activity, where we could see and feel how kids experienced something new and profound on a very deep level, all the actors decided on their own to change the behaviour of these animals and be kind one to another.

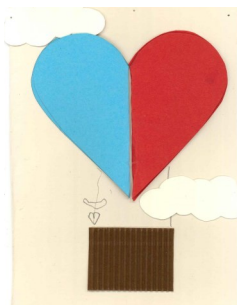


The change in kids' understanding and behaviour in their real-life situations was visible right away that day. It is important though to continue with these kind of plays that influence kids' mind on subliminal level. These topics are often too hard and too demanding for a discussion, children usually don't share that much while their hurt/complex/any other trouble is involved as through experiencing the feelings and situations via depersonalized characters in a play.



### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES...

### SPEECH THERAPY



There are three ways of approaching our kids when it comes to their speech development:

- \*Early intervention - focusing on our littlest ones (2-3 years old)
- \*El'konin - helping our preschoolers
- \*Individual sessions - aimed on all the kids in between

The main goal of the Early intervention is to develop oral motor skills in healthy way, acquire vocabulary about different topics, and to develop Slovak language. Every lesson is started in a very cheerful tone - singing funny songs, body

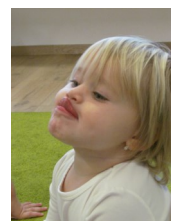
playing, and dancing. Then our little ones exercise their tongues and all those tiny muscles that are responsible for all our grimaces and speech production, too. We also discuss various simple topics and thus get more comfortable using Slovak language in different situations.



El'konin lessons are, on the other hand, focused on phonemic awareness development in Slovak language; speaking, listening, and comprehension in Slovak language, and last but not least, memory development. The majority of activities are held as a group/team work but kids are also taught to cooperate with a partner or

work alone.

The kids are led to exercise the sound recognition (at different positions in the word), recognize and name Slovak letters, distinguish vowels and consonants, read and write some letters. Since we want to also develop auditory and visual memory, we play plenty of funny games.





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### KIDS INTRODUCE...

#### Ms PETĀ - Gajova (Donkeys)



**What can you tell me about Ms Petá?**

\*She is giving us homework.

\*I like her, because she is so brave. Why do you think she is

brave? Because she is teaching us new things. Do you need to be brave to do that? Yes.

\*She is a teacher.

\*She is my favourite teacher and she did have a very nice costume on costume carnival party.

**Do you know any of Ms Petá's secrets?**

\*I think she has some secrets. She is always wearing the same socks. Always!

**If Ms Petá wasn't a teacher, what do you think she would be?**

\*She would be a mummy.

\*A ballerina.

\*The one that is cooking.

\*She would make clothes for other people who do not have clothes.

**If Ms Petá could be a character from any story, who would she be?**

\*Sleeping beauty

\*The prince. Prince? Did you mean princess? No, the prince.

\*Blue dragon from Ninja go

\*She would be Joy

**If Ms Petá could have 3 wishes, what do you think she would wish for?**

\*She would wish for magic powers.

#### Ms MONIKA - Úprkova (Turtles)



**What is one thing that Ms Monika always says?**

\*Good morning.

**Do you know any of Ms. Monika's secrets?**

\*She is going many times to

Ms Ali and telling her something

\*Maybe she has a secret that when Hamsters, Crickets and Koalas go upstairs and Seals next door she is doing funny things to Turtles. What for example? Making funny face to them.

\*iPad and telephone in work in the drawer.

\*She is hiding money under her bed. How do you know that? Because I saw her.

**If Ms. Monika wasn't working in the KG what do you think she would be?**

\*She would be sick at home.

\*In the plane like driving the plane. Wouldn't it be hard? It would be little bit funny but yes.

\*She would work normally in her office.

\*Just in some other KG

\*Doctor because she has white shoes.

\*Cleaning lady because she can wear some red clothes.

**If Ms. Monika could be a character from any story, who would she be?**

\*Pipí Dlhá Pančucha

\*Trolls, she would be a Poppy - all pink.

\*She could be from My Little Pony princess Celestia, she can fly and do magics.

\*There is not story about her.

#### Ms HELA - Office Support



**Who is Mrs. Hela?**

\*She is in Turtles. The new one. That is Ms. Ivetka. Ahaaa, so I don't know her.

\*Ms. Hela is the

one with baby and her name is Alicka like me. **What do you like about Ms Hela?**

\*I like her office and I like how she behaves. She is good.

\*I like how she is dressing. It's colorful.

\*I like her hair and how she's dressing.

**If Ms Hela wasn't working in the office what do you think she would be?**

\*She would help the children to clean up.

\*In post office with letters.

\*I don't know. She's good at writing. Writing stories.

**Do you think Ms Hela can swim?**

\*Yes, and she can swim very good below water! Even diving.

\*No. Because she cannot jump from the jumping board.

\*Yes, just like me.

\*A little bit. That she can do something but not lot of things in water.

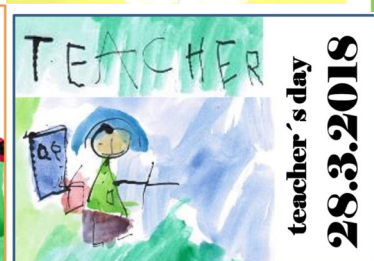
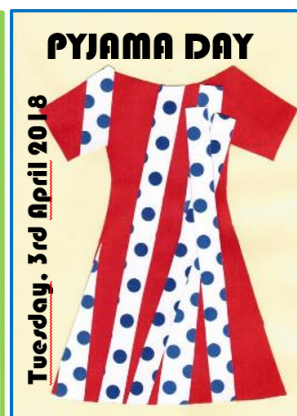
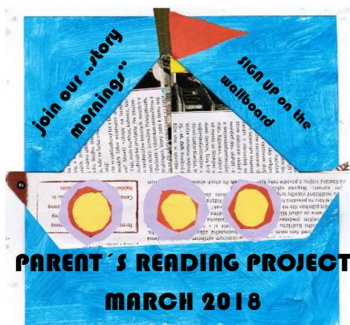
**What do you think Mrs. Hela was like when she was in kindergarten?**

\*She was very nice like me.

\*Good and funny.

\*She was not in the kindergarten. Where was she then? At home with her mummy.

### UPCOMING EVENTS...



For more information and pictures visit our website:

[www.funiversity.sk](http://www.funiversity.sk)