



KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018



Dear parents! We wish you all a fantastic, remarkable, incredible, and amazing new year 2019! May it bring new hopes, new promises and new reasons to celebrate and enjoy your lives. During these wonderful holidays, we believe you all had a chance to relax and enjoy this time with your loved ones! Speaking of relaxing... the next pages will show you that it was a well deserved one! The last months of the year are always the busiest ones and yet your children do not stop surprising us with their wide range of skills, strength, and energy ☺. We hope that the new year will be at least as successful as our last "holiday season weeks" in the KG, because we loved them! Let us take you on a trip down the memory lane through all the highlights of November and December.



WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH... CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES



Preparations for our traditional Christmas performance usually start in October (not joking ☺). But the time when we all realize it is really here is when we all get together to hear the Christmas story which we will perform. That usually happens at the beginning of November... After that it just goes – dividing children into groups, settling them in, getting to know all parts, lyrics, songs, choreographies, working on costumes... sounds like too much? Perhaps. But it is the fun, joy and laughter you can feel and hear all around. Because doing all this brings also some fun situations and makes great memories for children and teachers, as well. Even though we cannot wait to just be done with all the practicing and finally perform, we are sure we will end up missing our little groups and the time we have enjoyed together when it is all over ☺.



...TALKING ABOUT HISTORY



During the second week of November we explored history of the medieval age, age of kingdoms and castles. Our princesses and princes, kings and queens – all the kids nicely dressed – went to visit our Bratislava castle. First, we watched a beautiful educational video about all the history of the castle and Bratislava city. We found out that the castle was burned out by the soldiers in 1800's and rebuilt only 70 years ago. Then we checked the exhibitions with old photos and pictures of the castle and its surroundings. We played the "treasure hunt" game,



trying to find and admire golden coronation crown and jewellery of the royalty. We went up and down, looked around all the corners and big halls. Lots of us even climbed the highest tower of the castle with more than 150 stairs challenging our fear of heights... And jeweleries??? Nowhere to be found. Maybe they are hidden in cellars or secret chambers. Still, this expedition was worthy to go through and for sure you should go to look for the mysterious golden jeweleries yourselves. Who knows: maybe you will be the lucky ones to see them with your own eyes!



OUR CLASS PROJECTS



The **Ladybugs** started to learn letters and their sounds (phonics) by a new method called Jolly Phonics. Kids learn the sound of the letter, they sing a song and repeat sounds. They also listen to a story aimed on the given phonics. Later, they try to write the letter itself. Firstly, they do it only with a finger into kinetic sand. Children simply love it, because it's quite unusual and full of fun! The next day they get some worksheets and they are training their pre-writing skills with a pencil.

Our historical topic took us to medieval times and we became kings and queens in our own Funiversity kingdom. Royal day started with a parade in front of our Great kingdom gate, then we continued with horse racing and we ended up with a royal ball. Guess, which part was the best fun?





KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018



LIFE OF OUR GRANDPARENTS

Having grandparents in our lives is always enriching. They are there to offer their help, they have all the love, affection and warmth and let's be honest, sometimes they let us do things that parents do not ☺. There was a special week in November that we dedicated to our grandparents and the elderly in general, so we could learn from their experience and memories. Last but not least, respecting the elderly is something we want our children to always remember. That is why, our youngest ones – Puffer fish, Turtles, and Butterflies visited a Retirement Home. There was a joy on both sides as our children walked around and observed the place, as they sang some Slovak folk and English songs or danced. And especially as they played and laughed just as kids can. All the grandmas and grandpas joined willingly because, believe it or not, they love to play like kids as well. Our other classes organized workshops with grandparents where all grandmas and grandpas spoke about their childhood, the toys they used to play with or about their favourite games. Some brought toys, books, photographs, and even a dog ☺. We would like to thank all the grandparents who were brave to participate and enrich our day with their visit.

THANKS!



CLASS PROJECTS



During all the practicing it's very important to focus, listen and pay attention. The best is when you can train all this while having fun and playing, isn't it? So, in the Seal class, they opened a colourful laboratory where our little scientists worked on filling test-tubes using pipettes and they just could not stop! Attention and patience on the highest level because as they agreed, no drop of the material can be wasted ! Big plus they also trained their fine motor skills!

In November, the Y1 classes decided to discuss Modern technologies. We talked and experimented with electricity (with all the safety in our minds). At the end of the week, as the cherry on the top, we decided to build our own robots. The **Donkeys** joined their hands and imagination together to create one giant robot. All kids agreed to call him „Robotos“. The **Beavers** also made their giant robot and called him „Hakuna Matata“. It was great to see all kids working so well together, helping each other, and mostly, having fun.



Well, there's nothing wrong with combining different educational areas in effort to make the learning process more entertaining. That's what we did in the **Butterfly** class, when we were talking about Grandparents. Not only we discussed how they lived and how, especially, we like to spend time with them. We also trained some math, mainly geometry! Butterflies learnt the difference between square and rectangle, triangle and oval. Sticking these shapes to a huge poster was a lot of fun and children did a really good job.

TEACHER'S INQUIRY...

DO YOU SUPPORT ANY CHARITY?



Ms Miška M.: I have worked for charity for about 10 years. Together with people with learning disabilities we took a part in many charity projects. Our most favourite were Christmas sales where we were selling what we had made in our workshops.

Ms Lucka T.: During my studies I've been volunteering in a NGO called Návrát which helps children from institutional care and orphanages to return into families



Ms Simi: Yes, I'm a member of the Red Cross. I'm a holder of bronze plaque for blood donation for no money. I'm also a member of a shelter called Happy House focused on helping stray dogs and cats. I send them some money on monthly basis (for food and medicine) and go for walks with them.

Ms Majka K.: A few years back I went to Cambodia. I taught English to the locals and we raised money for rural areas.



Ms Kika Z.: My family "has got" a kid in Cambodia (HIV+). We call him our brother, because he is a part of our family for years. His name is Huort. Now, when he is older, we would like to help him with his studies.



KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018



WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH... BEING GRATEFUL



Shaping prosocial skills is an inseparable part of our daily activities and kindergarten events. We know the basics very well and say "please" and "thank you" to each other every day. But our November week topic "Attitude of Gratitude" asked us to dive a bit deeper into why it is important not to think only about ourselves but be polite, helpful, and perceptive also to the needs of others. We talked about gratitude, how we can express it and why it is good to help others, especially those who are less fortunate or vulnerable. In our case, we were trying to relate to sick kids in Kramáre hospital and think about ways how we could help them. It was exciting to see how each class has been a part of a different activity to reflect the topic, and to observe how our parents and kids willingly joined our Kindergarten initiative. It resulted in learning how to empathize and change our attitude to be able to give up our favourite toys and donate it to someone else in need, without any reward in return. We thank all parents who participated and together with their kids brought the toys or games which will brighten up the faces of kids in Kramáre hospital and will make their stay in hospital nicer and more bearable. On behalf of all those kids we say THANK YOU!



The **Pandas** decided to be eco-friendly and to create their own bags for shopping. We had a weekly topic Living Zero Waste. We must say that it was a piece of cake for them. They coloured textile shopping bags, had so much dirty fun, and enjoyed creating their own masterpieces. When the bags got dry, kids went to do some shopping and bought goods in our own shop at the kindergarten. Pandas did amazing job and we got the feeling that they would be great at Zero-waste living.



As one of the November topics was about reminding us of what we are grateful for, the **Butterflies** made a poster of (almost) all the stuff they like and enjoy. The poster was made from pictures that children drew throughout the week. Of course, we all love cakes and sweets and chocolate! But being full of sweets doesn't always make you feel good. You should also go to nature and breathe some fresh air, you should enjoy sports, nice sunny weather and be good to living creatures, because puppies are nice and adorable.



The **Koalas** showed their appreciation and gratitude towards their mums! To celebrate their heroine in their lives, they made a gorgeous mosaic out of recycled materials to commemorate their fabulous mums! Thank you mummies, for all you do for them.

Why I love my mum by Koalas:

"She is nice to me."

"We cook together."

"She is good."

"She is fashionable."

"She always buys waffles in Kaufland."



There was a time in November when our **Crabs** were learning about the gratitude and teamwork. They were led to understand their emotions and reasons of helping each other. Scribbling in pairs was a great activity to combine all those principles when kids needed to share

and take care of the friend, follow their emotions while listening to music and put all of this on paper. Oh, and the results are lovely artworks, too!

WE SPY... WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR?

Hugi (Bees): Za maminku a za tatinku a za hračky, aj za starkú a dedka.



Paulínka (Lions): For stickers! Olaf's stickers. For sticking on the T-shirt.



Rebeka (Turtles): I like how stars fall and snow and my mummy.

Laura (Crabs): For my mummy and daddy and Peťko, my brother.



Paťka (Donkeys): I'm thankful for having a good life, like everything: good mummy and daddy, whole family and for my friends. I have so many of them. Like a lot – Silvia, Kristínka, Nelka, and Miško.

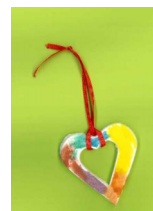


Ad'ko (Ladybugs): Ja som za to rád, že sme boli v škôlke a za to, že sa môžeme spolu hrať.

Ferran (Pandas): For Ms. Katka, she is back. Ms. Katka

Alanko (Butterflies): Že mám doma loptu, že strieľam góly do brány.

Vratko (Narwhals): Nice toys and mummy and daddy and transformers.



Julia (Beavers): I'm thankful for Eva, she is my best friend and she is my sister. I'm taking care of her, because she has broken leg, she needs to sleep and I'm giving her the toys.



KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018



WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH... CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE!



While in November we rehearsed a lot, in December the day of our big performance finally came. First we tested everything we had learnt during the Kindergarten rehearsal in front of Ms. Hela, Ms. Ali, Mr. Pista, our kitchen and cleaning ladies who became our very first audience! They were so kind to tell us their feedback and what could be done better to impress mums and dads at the big premiere. After another week of serious acting we got to rehearse in the theatre – on the real stage as professional actors. We love this part because visiting the theatre is always a great adventure! And then... after long weeks of preparations, there it comes - the rewarding part of showing what we had learned and how we can move and act on stage. Also this year, as every year, it was a great experience with you, mums and dads, watching us, applauding, smiling and being our biggest fans!



MLYNSKÁ DOLINA



On the day of the Christmas performance, kids tried their best to show what they've learnt during the previous long weeks of training. We visited the theatre together, got ready in our costumes, explored the backstage and then waited for the start. Truth be told, we got a bit stressed and worried - how it will be on the stage? Are my mum and dad here already? What if I forget what to do? Everything seemed to be different than in our classrooms while practicing! The stage was bigger, the lighting was new, but most of all, there were parents among the viewers. ☺ All of them came! And nobody forgot their lines or moves. ☺ England



opened our performance with Jingle Bells song. Then travelling through Israel, hot Africa, far-away India and China, our Little Prince found his lonely fox in Slovakia. Well, where else would it be hiding, right? ☺ Everybody was happy, children enjoyed the performance very much and, in the end, kids went home full of new experiences. Thank you all for coming and your support all along the way.

ÚPRKOVA

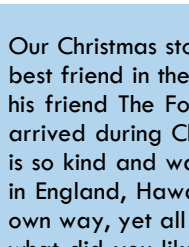


What would you do if one day you woke up and realized that Santa went missing and Christmas might not come? That everything you wished for will not come true and there won't be any presents or any Christmas tree? This is what happened to children in our Christmas story. Luckily, they found a time travelling machine in the attic and the whole Christmas adventure started. Finding Santa throughout the centuries was not an easy task but it allowed us to



visit many interesting places – prehistoric people greeted us with their song and some bones, Egyptians rowed their boat down the river Nile to dance for us, we met some baroque musicians, swing and disco dancers with really catchy moves, and we travelled all the way to the future with robots everywhere! A big trip but it was all worth it because Santa really came back! We found him and saved Christmas for everybody – did you believe we could do it? Of course! Do not forget – we are glorious!

GAJOVA



Our Christmas story this year took us on an adventurous quest – for a search for the best friend in the whole world. Little Prince came to Earth and while he searched for his friend The Fox, he visited many places on our planet. Without knowing that he arrived during Christmas time, he was wondering what's the reason that everybody is so kind and warm-hearted and how nicely are people treating each other: either in England, Hawaii, Africa or India. Everybody celebrated this special time in their own way, yet all the celebrations had something in common: peace, love and joy. So what did you like the best and where would you like to spend your next Christmas holidays? By singing the traditional English Christmas carols? Or with the typical Israeli dreidel spinning and lighting the candles on the Hanukkah? Or would you rather celebrate with some catchy hip moves in Hawaii or Kwanzaa in Africa? Pancha Ganapati is celebrated with meditation and by drinking hot Indian tea and guarantees that you'll find your inner peace. If you are a party type, we suggest you travel to Latin America. In China they would be happy to teach you Ding Ding Dong song so that you can sing along. However, if none of these places have won your heart, stay at home, in Slovakia, for Christmas. That's also where Little Prince found his friend. We hope our Christmas story has won over your heart. Happy Holidays!





KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018



ST. NICOLAS DAY

It was a lovely day and everybody in our kindergarten was excited because they were impatiently waiting for St. Nicolas and his angel. There was a rumour that a devil might be coming too but children were so brave to face this devil as we'd never seen before. Children were busy cleaning their boots since the very morning, that's how much they wanted to impress our visitors. And what a great job they did! St. Nicolas praised them all – both for their shiny boots and good behaviour. He even complimented teachers on their great job! ☺ Before he went away, he decided to leave us all with some nice sweet treat. Bye-bye St. Nicolas, see you in December 2019!



Christmas was just around the corner so we went wild and Christmassy. Christmas time is about traditions and everyone is doing it in their own way. This time, the topic of our family project was – Christmas tradition in our family, a short home video. Everyone did amazing job with the projects. It looked like all **Donkeys** and **Beavers** with their families had fun. And so we all had watching them. We would like to thank you for every minute spent making these videos, because you all did such an excellent and funny job.



CHRISTMAS STORY

In December we simply love to sing Christmas carols and read Christmas stories of all kinds! We get to know Santa, Rudolph, Grinch, and much more. There was even a special visit to our Kindergarten – the puppet theater! Thanks to it we could watch yet another lovely winter story. This time about letters to Ježiško which got lost due to winter snowstorm. The kids got through various adventures in order to find it and have it delivered. Luckily, it all ended happily, just how it should in every fairy-tale.



Christmas is here, hurray! So, let's make our wishes and hope that Santa will hear them out! And, while waiting for the Christmas Eve, let's enjoy our last time in Kindergarten this year. The **Butterflies** and **Ladybugs** spent the week before holidays making each a huge Christmas

tree. Poster. They used blue and white tempera colours to paint the background. Then they glued cotton balls on the top of the poster, so that it looked like snow. They used pieces of a paper, glitters and decorated ribbons. And we can't forget about the star at the top of the Christmas tree. ☺ The outcomes were amazing, but what's most important, everybody from the classes got engaged in these artworks and left his or her mark on the craft.

December was rich in family projects in many of our classes. One of them took part in the **Koala** and **Narwhal** class. The goal was to make with their family a Christmas decoration for the classroom. It could be as big or small as they liked, on one proviso... homemade! The children brought in some amazing crafts... paper chains, clothes peg reindeer, snowmen, winter houses, gingerbread houses, Christmas trees in various colours and shapes, and other Christmas Tree decorations. They decorated their classrooms, their Christmas Tree, and when St Nicholas visited he could not believe the beauty in front of his magical eyes!



TRIP TO THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

It was the week before Christmas. There were Xmas decorations hanging everywhere, gingerbreads' sweet smell and festive music on every corner of our city. Teachers with all the kids were very excited, dressed warm, and ready to experience Christmas markets in the downtown. First, we went for a walk admiring nicely decorated Christmas trees. We found one special place with lots of different trees decorated by the kids from schools, orphanages, and kids centres. Then we checked various market stands with candies, wooden decorations, and honey candles. Nobody ended up empty-handed as the teachers bought everybody from the group of kids something to drink, eat or some small souvenir.





KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018



CHRISTMAS WORKSHOPS

Every year, when Christmas is approaching and you can feel Christmas spirit in the air, a few days before our big winter holidays, we all get together and celebrate a special time on our traditional Christmas workshops! Every year we are happy to share with you some creative ideas and help you get some decorations for your house or tree or give you some ideas for presents. It is that special time when you get to work with your children, chat with us, teachers, and simply enjoy the atmosphere. Plus, it is probably the first time when you get to enjoy delicious kapustnica, Christmas punch and the first gingerbread cookies ☺. We hope you enjoyed the time spent with us this year as well, because we truly did with all of you! A big thank you for your participation, not only in our craft corners but also in our "cookie contest"! It was all delicious!



OUR CLASS PROJECTS

The **Seals** and **Koalas** had another wonderful and already kind of traditional family project for both classes. It was a variation on the traditional gift giving game "Secret Santa." Children were asked to make **one** **HOMEMADE** gift. Once all the gifts were in the KG, they numbered them, each child took turns choosing a number and find the present with the matching number. There was lots of excitement and we really loved all the creative, homemade gifts! Thank you, mums and dads, for all your help in making this special activity so beautiful.



We learn the most while we play. It's best to set a goal that's funny and not so hard to accomplish at the same time. So, what about making a tower out of cubes that's bigger than you? The **Butterflies** tried to do so. They learnt that failing in your task doesn't always mean you have to give up. And it doesn't mean you can't start over again and try even harder either!

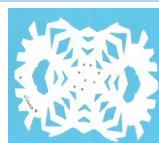


Second week of December was very special because we had a chance to learn something new about Hanukkah (Jewish winter feast). Rabi Misha visited our kindergarten and spoke about Hanukkah festival. He told us the whole story that had happened a long time ago, and we found it very interesting! We sang a Dreidel song (that we have learnt from Panda class) and at the end we lighted 8 candles because the Jewish people do so at the Hanukkah. It lasts for 8 days and they light one candle per day. Rabi also taught us some words in Hebrew as "Toda Raba" (thank you very much). We liked it a lot and we were very happy to have him over.



Every now and then a new toy or a game enters the gates of our kindergarten. For our kids it is always a little feast. Therefore, we must not be surprised that the **Turtles** were mesmerized when they saw a brand new see-saw. They immediately begged Mr Pišta not to put it in the gym but to their classroom. And then the real fun began - we had to test this new equipment with no further delay. And so, besides having fun with new toy we practiced cooperation, taking turns, and our patience.

What to do when there's a bad weather outside and we want to chill out after all our pre-Christmas hassle? Well, since holidays are approaching, what about watching some Christmas stories? Our kids spent last days in kindergarten watching fairy tales and stories about winter time. They sat quietly and enjoyed it a lot most of the time, because after all, Christmas is all about peace and quiet. ☺





KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018



KIDS INTRODUCE...

Ms Miška B - Gajova (Crabs)



If Ms. Miška wasn't a teacher, who do you think she would be?

- Doctor.
- Cat.
- He would be the wolf. He will do there but he

cannot watch it, he cannot see.

- She will be calling to crabs.
- She can be a doctor or a policeman.
- Working... Money.

If Ms. Miška could have 3 wishes what do you think she would wish for?

- For... so you can have too much kids in the kindergarten.
- She can wish for nice present, then lego present and some car lego.
- He can wish for new pineapple or new kinders. The kinders what are there yellow and orange, chocolate kinders and a new swing from there.
- A Mickey Mouse T-shirt, blue T-shirt and lipstick.

What do you think Ms. Miška was like when she was in kindergarten?

- Not nicely. Because he don't play anywhere.
- She was good.

Ms Ľudka - Úprkova (Koalas)



What can you tell me about Ms. Ľudka?

- She is teacher in Koalas and she was also Hamster.
- She likes crafts because she always give us many.
- She has Paťka, she told me.

- She has black hair and glasses.

Does she have any secrets?

- We can take toy or book or play but only when it's sometimes and secret.
- I know her secret but I don't know if I can tell but maybe she will have baby, maybe.

What does she like to eat?

- Salad and rice.
- She has always lunch in the box. *Why do you think so?* Maybe she like it like that.

- Pizza and cakes.

What was she like in the kindergarten?

- She did like crafts and all the time painting and drawing.
- She was good.
- She wanted to be only outside.
- She miss her mummy.
- I don't know, maybe she wasn't in kindergarten, she didn't tell me.

If Ms. Ľudka had 3 wishes, what would she wish for?

- Be good and happy and nice.
- To have nice Koalas

Ms Kika - Mlynská dolina (Ladybugs)



Do you know any Ms. Kika secrets?

- Také, že má domček.
- Nepoznám... aha poznám. Tie kalendáre. To chcem dať mamičke ale nemôžem to prezradiť.

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

- Tak by bola maminka. Alebo predavačka.
- Bola by v telke.
- Mohla by pracovať v práci.

If Ms. Kika could have three wishes, what would she wish for?

- Modré, black a ešte green... modré, čierne a ešte green.

- Aby nemusela chodiť do škôlky, potom ďalší mobil, byť stále doma.

- Aby všetci v škôlke poslúchali, druhé aby sa nikto nehádal, a aby boli všetci šťastní.

What does Kika do when she is not here in KG?

- Tak by prišla za ňu nová pani učiteľka.

But what would she do? By bola nadovolenke. Jednu noc.

- Je doma. Keď je chorá tak je doma. Doma robí nejaké dôležité veci.

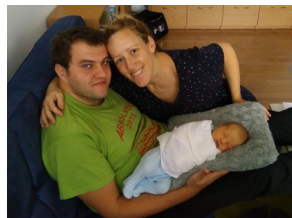
- Tak asi máva nejakú inú robotu.

How do you know Ms. Kika is happy or sad?

- Ja to vidím.
- Podľa jej hlasu.

NEWS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER...

The last two months were rich on new Funi-kids... Not one, not two, but three new babies joined our Funi-versity family. First, it was little Janík - Ms Katka's baby boy. Exactly on St Nicolas' Day, little Jakubko (son of Ms Ľubka) and Pavlínka (daughter of Ms Han-ka) were born. Happy birthday to all of them! ☺



Janík



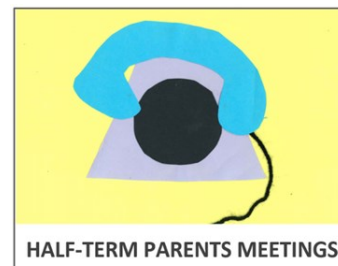
Jakubko



Pavlínka



The Christmas parties are quite natural in every environment. We enjoyed them with the kids and with you - the parents, but we felt that we need to spend some quality time with our colleagues, too. And so we all got together - teachers from all three campuses, management, cleaning ladies, kitchen ladies, our sport instructors, ... Believe it or not, it was about 50 people that met in our gym. We enjoyed chit-chatting, reflecting on previous period, reminiscing and dreaming. It was wonderful time to finally get together without any need to solve usual kindergarten issues, full of Christmas spirit and peace.



HALF-TERM PARENTS MEETINGS

UPCOMING EVENTS...