OUR JOURNEY

ST NICHOLAS COLLEGE
MGARR PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRESENTATION BY - THERESE RODGERS - ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL
BEFORE Teach, Inspire and Protect (TIP) PROJECT

*Mġarr Primary School embracing learning through nature*

- Dinja Waħda Programme
- Green club + Klabb Dinja Waħda
- Planting by Kindergarten classes
- Maths Trails outdoors
- Fieldwork in historical sites
- Special Awareness Days
Each year Mgarr Primary receives the gold award for its participation in Dinja Wahda programme. The school has also received the blue flag after reaching gold for three consecutive years.
DINJA WAĦDA activity - NATURE DAYS by Kg kids

Tree collage and bark rubbing as part of Dinja Waħda Programme
Dinja Waḥda Programme Kg → Yr6

the learning experiences are displayed on the board
GREEN CLUB activities – Yr5 & Yr6

Anti-plastic campaign – Valletta - Earth Day 2019

Clean-up of the school yard
GREEN CLUB - Activities are held during break

Preparing smoothies for Parents’ Day - Embellishing the front garden
KLABB DINJA WAHD is quite similar to GREEN CLUB but it caters for younger students.

Making the title for the board

Sowing Papaya trees

Anti-plastic campaign in Mgarr
The benefits of cultivating crops are immeasurable.
PLANTING by kindergarten children

Preparing to sow herbs for Open Day

Sowing flower bulbs

Watering the seeds
MATHS TRAILS outdoors

... at SKORBA historical site

Applied mathematics makes more sense and is much more exciting!

at San Anton Gardens

.... in the school yard
Take advantage of your surroundings - Bingemma, Mgarr

MATHS TRAIL by Year 6
Problem solving can be fun!

Outdoor learning is fun for everyone!
Social Studies fieldwork

Fieldwork in the village

Fieldwork on the school premises
ROAD SAFETY DAY / HEALTHY EATING DAY

Road Safety Day

Traffic Snake Game

Fish-tasting on Healthy Eating Day
First Transnational Meeting in Malta to understand the objectives of the project and get to know each other

TOUR AROUND SALINA NATURE RESERVE

THE PARTNERS TAKE A BREAK
Day 2 at MGARR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Discussions start

Tour around the school

Partners are welcomed
ENHANCING OUTDOOR SPACES

New shed and planters installed in the back yard

Working bench with storage for early years
TRAINING the early years educators by MEDE

COPE SESSIONS EARLY YEARS
The thrill of free exploration and discovery leads to intellectual development.
Kids enjoy learning when it's taken outside
Learning English can be fun! - Yr2

- Hands-on learning outdoors
- Observing clouds
- Inside/out of
- Through
- Up above
- Up and down
Making the best use of your school yard

Odd and even

Making a human clock

Making a clock
23rd May 2019 – **Multiplier event** for the teaching community – held at Mgarr Primary School

**MORNING SESSION WAS GIVEN TO NON-PARTICIPATING TEACHERS TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION**
E3  23rd May 2019 – **Multiplier event** for parents and the community –  Mgarr Primary School
23rd May 2019 – Multiplier Event – evening session for the community – Mgarr Primary School

Exhibition of TIP learning experiences

Parents give their feedback
FEEDBACK following multiplier event

Feedback from non-participating educators:
- Time table for outdoor slots
- Draw outdoor games on ground
- Buy planters since we have no soil
- Use existent space wisely
- Frequent lessons on the beach
- Organize outdoor week
- Freedom to go outside at any time!

Feedback from parents:
- Farmer parents can participate in awareness talks
- Raise some animals at school
- Involve the local council more
- Games to be painted on the school ground
- Ask for unused land to be used by students
- Parents to be more informed/involved in such activities
FEEDBACK has been quite positive

Learning was fun as it was outside.

Behaviour improved as kids were focused.

Understanding came quicker as experience was first-hand.

Sensory skills developed as activities were hands-on.

Explorative play was very exciting as it was child-led.

Communication skills improved as much interaction took place.
THE PROJECT BEARS FRUIT
Counting in twos

Child-led learning

Numeracy taken outside

Ordinal Numbers

Making five

Counting in twos

Odd and Even
MAKING A POND

Stimulating environments ensure unforgettable learning experiences.

MAKING FLAT SHAPES

Nurture and care for living things

Young children need challenge and risk within a framework of security.
Sorting leaves

Coordination

Respect for bio-diversity
BOOSTING CREATIVE SKILLS WITH LOOSE PARTS
MAKING SLIDES TO CREATE MOTION using loose parts

Year 1
- Learning through play!

Drawing the compass points

Floor games across the large yard

LITERACY SPIRAL - Maltese alphabet

Educators & parents volunteer to do the work during lockdown
THE SCHOOL COUNCIL AT WORK - Enhancing the big yard for outdoor learning

An exciting environment responsive to the children's needs

Council members and head of school painting away!
Our large yard before Teach, Inspire and Protect project

Our large yard today
INVOLVEMENT OF ALL STAKE HOLDERS

Kindergarten Educator assembling tricycles

The head checking out an order during lockdown
THE TRICYCLE AREA -

BEFORE

development of motor skills and spatial awareness

AFTER

Transformation of our outdoor spaces
The painting of the murals is being done by a kind volunteer from Birdlife Malta

Indigenous trees and Maltese wildlife
The tricycle area has become one of the most popular sites. The painting on the wall is still in process.
The Internal Yard

Planning some changes

The new turf area: introducing greenery to the yard

Activity wall-mounted educational panels
Part of the internal yard was enclosed by wooden fencing and covered with artificial turf. Stimulating resources including colourful tyres, tool shed, climbing frame, picnic benches and planters with green climbers fed by irrigation system were introduced.
Climbers fed by irrigation system planted and climbing frame installed
The vertical garden

A self-irrigating system ensures greenery all year round.

When school is over and kids are gone, this green wall comes to life!

Resident sparrows congregate for supper, looking for left-overs!
OUTDOOR LEARNING IN THE EMBELLISHED KINDERGARTEN YARD
Educators are now much more confident in teaching outside the classroom and are making full use of the available resources.
MORE MEANINGFUL USE OF THE INTERNAL YARD

The climbing frame had been in the wish list of both teachers and students.
THE MUD KITCHENS
Training and support continues throughout the project
FURTHER TRAINING by BIRDLIFE MALTA

MAKING BEST USE OF THE OUTDOORS
A small grass area lying idle behind the football pitch, which was beyond cultivation, was levelled out and weeded by Green Club enthusiasts.

Being too hard to dig, this area became an infertile abandoned site, ............but not for long!
Truck loads of soil were spread across the neglected site.

Children went to different areas ticking away the different sounds that they could hear.
THE OUTSIDE CLASSROOM

Especially during the pandemic this classroom came in very handy.

This abandoned area now

STEP 2
As they wait for their transport, kids get creative in the outside classroom.
THE WORKING SPACES
Enhancement of our Outdoor Spaces continues

Providing opportunities for children to raise their own crops is very beneficial
Green Club members removing weeds
The back yard is the most popular area with educators. Here the children are more contained and exposed to many resources. The acoustics are also better here.
THE BACK YARD was no longer restricted to the early years but became popular with the seniors too.

On Earth Day classes were taken outside to do a special activity. This ranged from environmental awareness to sowing indigenous trees to reach a target of 100.

The learning intention was to raise awareness about deforestation and to promote the reusing of plastic bottles.
Teach Inspire and Protect Erasmus+ project 2018 - 2021

FINAL LAUNCHING

November 2021
A tour around the school and sharing of good practice
The outdoor space and curriculum must harness the special nature of the outdoors, to offer children what the indoors cannot.
"All children have the right to experience and enjoy the essential and special nature of being outdoors!"

The Vision and Values Partnership (UK)

Thank you for your attention!

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