Scholastic Year 2014 - 2015

Dear YRE Participants,

Welcome to the new scholastic year. I hope that you have had an enjoyable and restful summer!

The scholastic year ahead is, as always, full of activities and projects. I am hereby including some important dates and activities which you might want to include in your calendar of events. The Litter Less campaign has now come to an end, but there are other projects in the pipeline with attractive incentives. Make sure to earmark them not to miss out on opportunities.

FEE FEST

This year, the annual FEE seminars will take a new format. The FEE Fest will include YRE, and will be spread over 2 or 3 days to give more flexibility to schools. Apart of details on the running of YRE, there will also be workshops on journalism. The event will take place in November. More details will follow.

Audrey Gauci
YRE National Coordinator
YRE for secondary and post secondary

As in previous years, YRE will once again be open for secondary and post-secondary students aged 11-21 years. The usual categories will be open: videos, photos and articles in 3 age categories:

- 11-14 years
- 15-18 years
- 19-21 years

Some students are now taking the opportunity to integrate the programme with their studies. We have had students who included their MATSEC projects with a YRE entry, while others projected their SOK project on the programme. MCAST students following a related course may also wish to integrate their work.

Teachers and students who wish to get to know more can contact YRE National coordinator, Ms Audrey Gauci, and will then be given all necessary details on how it can be worked out.

This year’s incentives include smartphones, workshops, organized missions, YRE at work and possibility of exchanges abroad.

Press Kids

Due to a general demand, the Press Kids programme will once again feature in the YRE calendar. Press Kids is intended for primary students who, although still young to be independent reporters, may still practice reporting skills with their teachers.

Schools participating in both the EkoSkola and LEAF programmes may increase their PR by reporting and disseminating in the media. The same projects can then be submitted in the Press Kids programme. Support will include help with the actual projects, uploading and dissemination on the local website and participation in the annual award ceremony. Schools and students will be given a certificate.

Schools may wish to report on any environment related activity taking place in school.

Links to other initiatives

YRE integrates perfectly with other initiatives related to the sustainable development. The following are connected links. Projects can include ones that have already been submitted:

- Ethical Consumption run by Kooperattiva Kummerċ Ġust
  http://www.l-arka.org/node/791
- 4th Evens Prize for Media Education
Young Reporters at Work

Following last year’s success, this year all FEE activities will, once again, feature YRE reporters. Students will be invited to attend activities as reporters, take photos, comments, interviews, etc. and disseminate their work in the media.

The following are some of the upcoming events. Only one school is accepted to report per event, so if you have any preferences let us know beforehand:

- Green Flag Award Ceremony at the President’s Palace (October)
- Buskett life saving project (October)
- FEE Fest (November)
- Environmental Audit (November)
- Arbor Day Activity (January)
- Children’s Summit (March)
- EkoSkola Parliament (May)
- YRE and LEAF award ceremony (June)

Catch the Drop Campaign and YRE

The Catch the Drop Campaign is an educational water conservation campaign which was launched in 2013 with the aim of raising awareness that water is a concern for us all and to emphasize the importance that one’s behaviour may be adapted to achieve responsible and sustainable usage.

This year, Catch the Drop and YRE will be integrating the programmes, and the HSBC Water Programme - Catch the Drop Campaign will be supporting YRE projects that are focused on water, with particular emphasis on Water Consumption Reduction. Schools may opt either to report on their Catch the Drop project, or else simply conduct an investigation related to water in their community. Experts on media productions will be sponsored to conduct in house training, while continuous support will be provided for the actual work on projects. Joint projects between schools can also be organized and worked out through the YRE programme. Links with the community are highly encouraged, and can be organized according to the school’s needs. All projects will be published in an annual booklet.

Schools may also opt to attend fully funded visits to the RO plant at Pembroke and the Delimara Power Station and report on water consumption. Any kind of reporting and dissemination is accepted. At the end of the scholastic year the best 9 entries focused on Water Consumption Reduction (one in each category) will be awarded a smartphone each.
Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) is a programme designed specifically for secondary and post-secondary students. The main aim is to carry out investigations on local environmental issues and propose solutions through investigative reporting and photojournalism. The goal of YRE is to engage youth in resolving environmental problems and issues.

CONTACTS:

Ms Audrey Gauci
Wied Għollieqa Environment Centre
Lower level Car Park 1
University of Malta
Msida

Phone: 21313150
Mobile: 79295424
E-mail: yre@naturetrustmalta.org
Web: www.yremalta.org

Themes

Schools may consider the following sustainable development issues for investigations. Support will be provided for any chosen theme:

- Environment related jobs
- Noise / light pollution
- Poverty
- Gender equality
- The effects of land reclamation
- Water consumption reduction
- Waste
- Immigrants / refugees

Local missions and workshops

YRE participating schools will be offered the opportunity to have organized in-house training on reporting on sustainable development issues. Interested schools will be offered the opportunity to have hands on sessions and produce media related projects on any theme of their choice. The sessions will include:

- Theoretical media sessions held by experts (optional)
- Hands on investigations held either at the school or in the community
- Support in the production of videos / articles / photography
- Support in disseminating work done

Schools that wish to grab this opportunity are to contact Ms Audrey Gauci ASAP. Slots are limited, and schools will be accepted on first come first served basis.