Dear YRE community,

Exams are right behind the door, and I know that students are busy gearing for them. However I wish to remind you of the upcoming deadline for YRE entries, which remains 31st March 2015. I have already been approached by some schools and students, who are busy working on their projects. If you need my feedback on any of the work being done, please do not hesitate to contact me. Attached in this newsletter are the latest criteria for your perusal.

In the meantime, workshops are still being conducted in schools upon request. You can choose either a whole day workshop (photo, video or article, including hands on) or else 40-minute slots to insert in lesson timetables to avoid disruptions. Please let me know ASAP if you need bookings for these workshops.

YRE students at St Monica School, Gżira have attended the sessions during their breaktime. They have also organized an outing for families at Xrobb l-Għaġin park, for students at Permaculture Centre, Mġarr and at Delimara Power Station in conjunction with the Catch the Drop Campaign. Students are putting their journalistic skills into action by reporting on all issues. Keep up the good work!

Audrey Gauci
YRE National Coordinator
Reporting at Xrobb I-Għaġin Park

Many students are visiting Xrobb I-Għaġin Park – over 2000 during scholastic year 2013-2014 and over 800 students during the first term of scholastic year 2014-2015. Have you ever been there on a school outing or with your family or friends? A short hike from Marsaxlokk centre or from St Thomas Bay, Marsaskala gets you there within not more than 30 to 45 minutes.

Are you interested in being part of the success of this site as a Nature Park and Sustainable Development Centre? You can get involved in exploring environmental matters and themes such as land use over the years, witnessed by historical remains and evidence of human impact, energy conservation measures and renewable energy sources on site, water conservation measures together with rain and black water harvesting within the Park, marine related environmental matters, habitats restoration, local biodiversity, accessibility of the site to the general public and persons with reduced mobility, illegal activities in the whereabouts of the Park, the ongoing Education for Sustainable Development for students and the planned Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre as Phase 2 of the Xrobb I-Għaġin Park Project.

For more information you can contact Ms Esther Sammut Carbone at Xrobb I-Għaġin Park on 21653851 or by email: esther.sammut.carbone@ilearn.edu.mt

Calendar of events:- Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19(^{th}) February 2015</td>
<td>Environment Audit at St Vincent de Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>23(^{rd}) February 2015</td>
<td>LEAF activity and Tree Planting at Xrobb I-Għaġin Nature Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>23(^{rd}) - 25(^{th}) February 2015</td>
<td>Video, article and photo workshops in Gozo, sponsored by Eco Gozo</td>
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<tr>
<td>27(^{th}) February - 1(^{st}) March 2015</td>
<td>YRE National Operators’ Meeting in Bucharest, Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>18(^{th}) March 2015</td>
<td>Cleanup at Pembroke Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>23(^{rd}) - 28(^{th}) March 2015</td>
<td>YRE workshop in Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31(^{st}) March 2015</td>
<td>Deadline for YRE submissions</td>
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YRE students who wish to attend and report on any of the above mentioned local activities are to contact Ms Audrey Gauci, YRE National Coordinator, as soon as possible.

On the 28\(^{th}\) February there will be the annual YRE National Operators’ Meeting. If you wish to submit any suggestions / feedback to YRE International, please inform YRE National Coordination before the date.
YRE MISSION in Portugal | March 2015 | Invitation to YRE Network

Once again, YRE Portugal would like to invite YRE students from the international network to participate in their annual national Mission in a nature conservation area: Serra da Lousã. Dates are from the 23\textsuperscript{rd} till the 28\textsuperscript{th} March 2015. Interested students are to write a motivational letter in order to be selected. For more information click here.

As it is not a financed activity, all the assistance in Portugal (accommodation, food, transports) will be free of charge, but the flights Malta - Lisbon - Malta will have to be paid for by the students.

Fantastic opportunities for YRE participants:-

- NTM will, as usual, be giving certificates and trophies to all participants.
- Publication of entries on the local media and YRE website.
- International certification given to the best entries.
- Possibility of working on joint projects with foreign students.
- Catch the Drop will be offering 9 smartphones to the best 9 entries (one in each category) focused on water. Free of charge outings to related sites are also being offered to schools by the CTD campaign.
- WasteServ will be offering a digital SLR camera worth €500 to the best entry focused on reusing and reducing.
- The US Embassy will be offering books to all winners.
- We’re working on the possibility of sending a group of students, together with their teachers, on a YRE workshop in Portugal early next scholastic year. YRE winners will be eligible to participate. Details to follow.
Celebrating 20 years of YRE!
Stats and figures of 2014

30 countries involved worldwide!

- 30,000 students
- 7,500 teachers
- 2,700 articles submitted
- 5,000 photos submitted

Articles
Photos
Videos

Be part of the competition in 2015!

YRE is a network of passionate young people educating for sustainable development by producing and engaging in creative environmental journalism

Be involved in the YRE programme & help empower young people to act on behalf of the environment!

www.youngreporters.org
ARTICLE WRITING

Necessary Criteria

Each article should:

⇒ have a striking title of not more than 140 characters
⇒ a maximum of 1000 words
⇒ focus on a local sustainable development issue and provide a solution to the issue presented
⇒ be structured in a way that:
  has a beginning, a body and a conclusion; and
  covers the various dimensions of the issue explored
⇒ be uploaded digitally in .pdf format with any accompanying pictures
⇒ be accompanied by a brief description of how it was disseminated (for example at school, in the community and in the media)

Special consideration will be given to articles:-

⇒ that are supplemented by relevant illustrations and photographs
⇒ that focus on specific local sustainable development issues also presenting a global perspective
⇒ that include opinions from stakeholders, e.g. environmental experts, local inhabitants, officials
⇒ that objectively present different sides of a debate allowing readers to form their own opinion about the issue
⇒ that refer to scientific or statistical reports supported by sources/footnotes
⇒ acknowledge any reference/use of non-original texts, illustrations and photographs
VIDEO ENTRIES

Necessary Criteria

Any video clip submitted should:

⇒ document a local sustainable development issue and provide a solution to the issue presented; and be accompanied by:
  a title (of not more than 140 characters); and
  a brief description of how it was disseminated (for example at school, in the community and in the media)

⇒ be of a duration of not more than 3 minutes
⇒ be voiced or subtitled in English
⇒ credit any music and/or pictures used. Authors should be copyrighted in subtitles when music from a free to use source is used.
⇒ be of a high resolution
⇒ not solely composed of a slide shows of images. Such entries will be disqualified.
⇒ be in a format that is compatible with YouTube, such as:
  • WebM files - Vp8 video codec and Vorbis Audio codecs
  • .MPEG4, 3GPP and MOV files - Typically supporting h264, mpeg4 video codecs, and AAC audio codec
  • .AVI - Many cameras output this format - typically the video codec is MJPEG and audio is PCM
  • .MPEGPS - Typically supporting MPEG2 video codec and MP2 audio
  • .WMV
  • .FLV - Adobe-FLV1 video codec, MP3 audio
⇒ be of good audio quality

Special consideration will be given to videos that:-

⇒ are creative and convey original ideas
⇒ are of high quality and impactful
⇒ focus on a journalistic story rather than a project description
⇒ include short interviews with key persons
⇒ quote and use real, credible sources
⇒ have an introduction that highlights the issue
⇒ presents different perspectives of the issue
⇒ a conclusion that offers potential solution/s
PHOTOGRAPHY

Necessary Criteria

Photo entries should
⇒ have a title (of not more than 140 characters)
⇒ be accompanied by a short caption (2-3 sentences max)
⇒ include a single photograph or a series of related photos (max 12)
⇒ be submitted digitally as .jpg, .png, .tif, or .gif format with a resolution of not less than 150-300 dpi (megapixles)
⇒ document specific local sustainable development issues and suggest a possible solution to the issue presented
⇒ be accompanied by a proof of dissemination
⇒ Nature photography will be accepted only if it highlights a local sustainable development problem or issue.

Special consideration will be given to photos that:-

⇒ address the theme from an original point of view
⇒ are well composed and of technical quality
⇒ clearly convey the intended message