

THE SKY^{is} the **LIMIT**

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The Sky is the Limit

BC NAKLO – Secondary School Newsletter
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FROM THE EDITORS

The Editors

This issue of *The sky is the limit* brings a number of contributions that we can learn a lot from. Mostly about sustainability, to be honest, in fact it seems to be the most sustainable issue so far. To begin with, our teachers share their experience about **learning abroad**, specifically studying bullying prevention in Barcelona and the different ways of Teaching in Amsterdam. There is a lot of information about climate change. We have been following the expedition of the **Triglav Glacier to Beijing**, which, among other awareness-raising goals, aims at having 13,000 trees planted by the partners of the project across Slovenia to help fight climate change. Everyone can make an **Olympic step**! In **What we have learnt** two students explored a major environmental event

that took place last year, COP26. A few issues back presented a **breeder of rare species** of animals, many of them endangered. It turns out there's another one at our school, he writes about the importance of trying to preserve every single species. **Our partners abroad** share their opinion about and experience with promoting sustainability in their educational institutions. We were inspired by their presentations in the **international conference** that took place at our school last November. Furthermore, our art teacher shows how even art can be sustainable and can encourage us to take care of the environment, while one of the English teachers explains how she takes green steps with her students of horticulture and agriculture. **People who inspired us**

in 2021 are the ones who overcame the obstacles posed by the pandemic and succeeded with their new strategies, services and products. Just by going out of the house, opening your eyes, your ears, your heart ... you can see and experience so much – check what in **Our vibrant minds**. We watched two inspiring documentaries: one to learn about how global warming is affecting the Arctic and the entire planet, and the other to find out about ways to slow down and reverse the process. Hamburg is a great example! The issue closes with our **New Year's Resolutions**. They're special this year because, again, they **focus on the environment**. Hopefully, we can report on some drastic improvements as we put together our next issue.

Learning about conflict management, emotional intelligence and bullying prevention in Barcelona

By Rok MIŠČEVIČ & Tina KRIŽNAR

In August we attended a one-week teacher training course in Barcelona. It was a part of CoReFuture project under the Erasmus+ programme. The topic of the course was conflict management, emotional intelligence and bullying prevention.

As a whole, the course was very educational. It was created for teachers who want to understand group dynamics and how they affect the classroom. We learned about various types of conflict, their causes, manifestations and how to use them as an opportunity for growth and as a teaching moment. We discovered the importance of emotional and social intelligence and how to enhance

and foster them in students. Most importantly we learned a lot about various types of bullying, bullying recognition and bullying prevention. Through hands-on, practical activities we increased our own ability to model and encourage active listening, empathy and emotional literacy to favor wellbeing, group cohesion and sense of belonging in the school community.

Lectures and practical activities took place in the mornings so we had the afternoons to explore and experience the attractions of Barcelona. All in all, it was an excellent experience and we would recommend it to all our colleagues.

We both had already attended Eras-



mus+ teacher training courses in the past and once again it turned out that it is truly worth the time. Many thanks to all the partners and participants who enabled us to take part in such an amazing course.

Amsterdam: The teacher's role in the learning process

By Urška KLEČ

The CoReFuture: Competent Ready for Future Expectations project took me to the Netherlands. Among the parks and canals of Amsterdam twelve teachers from Italy, Serbia, Hungary and Slovenia spent five days discussing the teacher's role in the learning process. We first examined four modes of learning: hierarchical individual, hierarchical collective, distributed individual and distributed collective. The next step was to highlight the competences of an 'ideal teacher', which, by the way, can be heavily influenced by our nationality, mother tongue, religion, socio-economic background, skin colour and more. Most of the time we feel we cannot quite reach our ideal – we listed the factors that prevent us



from doing so. We further discussed the topics, goals, active methods and techniques that, in our experience, help students reach those goals. It was pointed out that students should be guided through the learning process in such a way that they will develop responsibility and independence while reaching their goals. Finally, some gamification experiences were exchanged and problem-solving explored on a field-trip packed with exciting destinations.





Triglav Glacier goes to Beijing

By Brin KEJŽAR & the Editors

'Mission Glacier'

'Mission Glacier' is an awareness raising project and the goal is to remind people that if we don't do something about climate change, winter Olympic Games won't be possible in 50 years. So the crew of a journalist and vlogger, two photographers, a cameraman and a driver-slash-technical assistant is headed to Beijing, where the next Olympic games will be held. They are carrying precious cargo, a piece of Triglav's glacier. Since the ice must be continuously cooled below the melting point, the trip is being done in a van.



The author of the idea is the Laško Union Brewery. Together with the Slovenian Olympic Committee they have been able to provide the crew with visa access throughout Europe, Russia and eventually to China. Head of the crew is Ciril Komotar, a well-known journalist who will help document the journey. The committee organized meetings with people like Prince Albert of Monaco and other officials. They will also make sure that TOLI (Triglav Olympic Legendary Ice) makes it to China, if the crew wouldn't be able to, because of China's restrictions.

TOLI started the journey in Italy, then continuing through Monaco, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia and ending in China. As

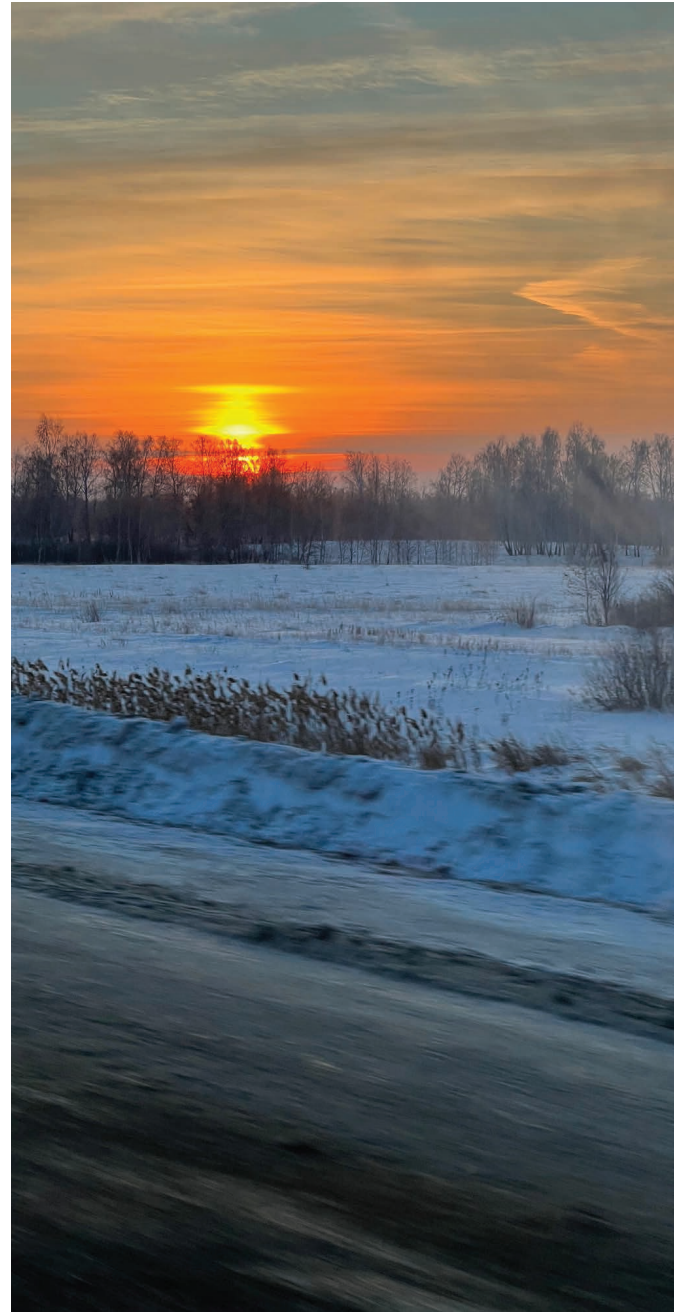
we wait for it to arrive in Beijing, you can already help fight climate change by doing a couple of simple things: just by using electrical devices more sensibly you can lower greenhouse gas emissions by 25%. Using public transport, a bike or going on foot also has a remarkable impact on reducing pollution. Furthermore, going local with food is important since it eliminates the need to transport something a long way, a lot of times even overseas! So be mindful, and the earth will thank you.

Of course some carbon footprint will be left by the trip itself but it will be compensated for by planting 13,000 trees in the endangered areas of Slovenia by the partners of the project. Also, the mission is about promoting

sustainable practices. Along the way, the team have visited some fascinating places where individual countries apply cutting edge science and technology to introduce overall sustainable solutions.

Sustainable Hamburg

Not so long ago, Hamburg had a very high rate of pollution because of the heavy industry, but the city has improved substantially and it's only getting greener. The second most populated German city has the ambitious goal to reduce the CO₂ emissions about 80 percent until 2050. Progress can be seen all around the urban areas, one of many is a former landfill that was proved highly toxic in 1983, but is now a green hill, covered with meadows and





shrubs. The site also takes advantage of excellent wind conditions, with the first wind turbines already standing in the 1990s. Together with solar energy panels they supply thousands of households with electricity. Since 2013 The Energy Hill has been open to the public, where you can learn about the history of the place and how the contaminated site was transformed. Additionally, there is information about modern waste management, recycling methods and renewable energies.

In the city most neighborhoods have been transformed with many new trees, green rooftops, green areas like parks and large fields, where people come to relax. The biggest of all is covering 100 hectares and connecting Hamburg's greens north and south of the Elbe. It contains sunbathing lawns, barbecue areas, playing and sports areas, a canoe canal and a high wire climbing park to break apart the usual concrete of the city. All green areas help to absorb CO₂, reduce air pollution and ensures a higher quality life overall.

Skiing in Copenhagen?

Copenhill, located in Copenhagen, Denmark, is the cleanest waste-to-energy power plant in the world with a twist. You can ski on it. Because it is accessible by public, it is complete with three-lined hiking trails and ski slopes

on its roof along with the tallest artificial climbing wall in the world, scaling 85m. And yes, the crew got to test it out. By their experience skiing takes some time to get used to but is still loads of fun once you get the hang of it. Visitors can ascend it on foot, via a platter lift, carpet lifts and a glass elevator that offers a glimpse inside the plant. The plant itself can convert up to 440,000 tons of waste into clean energy annually. It's a perfect example of how with the right architecture, we have the power to form the future we want to live in.

In recent weeks, I have seen and experienced a lot and learned so much more. It's not only that I better understand the mindset of some individuals, groups, even corporations and nations, about how to connect sustainability ideas with applying sustainability practices to our everyday life and work, I have also changed my personal way of seeing the problem at hand. As I am an automotive journalist and a real petrolhead at heart, it is difficult to acknowledge the fact I am part of the problem. What can I do? Which olympic steps can I make? To be fair, I don't know and I am not afraid to say it. Sure, I will try to use my bicycle more often, I will shop smarter and use energy more wisely. But is that enough?

How do my actions affect myself and people around me? Can I use my profession to make a change? I'm sure I can. Can I educate and inform about green mobility solutions more often? Yes, I can. Can I set an example? To some extent yes. But at the end of the day, my working day starts and ends with commuting from Maribor to Ljubljana and back. See the problem? Me too.

Well, I guess everybody has a personal problem to solve. Let's start and see where we end up. Hopefully on a healthier planet.

Ciril KOMOTAR

We are proud to report that two pretty significant Olympic Steps have been made at BC Naklo. See below.



BC Naklo Olympic Step 1: Reducing plastic packaging

By Bernarda BOŽNAR

In late December quite a few staff and students joined forces and wrote dozens of protest notes and emails to the management of the Centre. We were especially bothered with flavoured water in plastic bottles sold in our school shop. There are so many reasons why this should not be happening! Firstly, we set ourselves the goal of reducing plastic waste when we set up new recycling bins in and around the school a few years ago. Secondly, we have been taking part in the ReLearn Plastics international project which aims at raising awareness and making a change in this area. Furthermore, in Zeleni SljAj (The Green Glow project) we are trying to follow goals that benefit the climate and humanity rather than our instincts

and instant gratification of our needs and desires. Pirati plastike (The Plastics Pirates) is yet another project where we found out that more and more plastics end up in rivers and along their banks. Water in plastic bottles not only contains sugar but also hormone-disrupting chemicals. Students and staff taking part in the SENHIAS project on invasive species refused to use plastic bottles and drank tap water from their reusable bottles throughout each mobility. All international projects, more so the ones focused on sustainability, assume all activities will be carried out in a 'green' way. Less than a month later we learnt at a staff meeting that plastic bottles are being removed from the shop, students



are getting one reusable glass bottle each (the staff have already received ours) and more sustainable solutions are being considered as regards packaging of our products: cheese, yoghurt, cakes ... We look forward to seeing it happen. Together we have made it!

BC Naklo Olympic Step 2: Getting rid of the vending machines

By the Editors

Replacement of vending machines with healthier options is under way ... Let's see how that works out!



All you need to know about ... COP26, Glasgow, Scotland

By Vida KREK & Miša JELENC Illustration Špela PAUŠER

COP stands for Conference of the Parties. For nearly three decades the United Nations organisation has been bringing together almost every country on Earth for global climate summits. Not just countries but also nongovernmental environmental organizations and general public were involved. This year, the 26th annual summit named COP26 took place in Glasgow between 31st October and 12th November 2021. One of the main goals was to accept an agreement on how to deal with climate change. The expectations of the general public were clear: Countries step together, lower the use of fossil fuels and increase renewable energy sources.

The goals

The main goals of the meeting were:

- ✓ Adopt a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- ✓ Keep the goal of 1,5 °C of climate heating alive
- ✓ Increase funding for climate action, especially for developing countries
- ✓ Discuss measures for the inevitable consequences of climate changes

The results

Each country presented their plan. At the end, 190 countries agreed to phase down coal power. China, India, Australia and South Africa use a lot of coal, which causes a problem considering the CO₂ emissions. Their plan to reduce emissions is not radical. Further 137 countries agreed to reverse forest loss and land degradation. And over 100 countries committed to reduce methane emissions. The majority of methane emissions come from oil and gas, waste and agriculture. Some countries supported the idea to lower car emissions using hybrid and electric cars.

What can we do?

We can use more public transportation rather than travelling by car. We can also eat less beef as cows produce a big amount of greenhouse gasses, such as methane. We can grow our own food or buy local food. So our diet would have a lower carbon footprint.

Slovenia

What about Slovenia? Unfortunately, we extract more than one third of energy

from the thermoelectric powerplant in Šoštanj. We should build more power plants that use renewable resources and there is also a plan to build a new nuclear power plant in Krško.

One of our teachers told us about her family's sustainable lifestyle.

'We are a family of seven and use two cars, despite the fact that my children already have their driving licences. My husband and I go to work by bicycle, we produce a very small amount of waste at home. We buy milk and many other products from a local farmer. We wash our clothes at 40 °C and do not use a tumble dryer. Surely, each individual could definitely contribute more to sustainable development'.

Mojca LOGAR, Geography teacher

The president of COP26 said: 'So far, we have kept the warming of the atmosphere below 1.5 °C, but that will only remain so if we keep our promises and turn them into actions. We have to work together'. In order to save the planet, we should all take action. We don't have much time left so let's start now!



'To teach is to build': International conference for sustainability

By Teja BOGATAJ & Nika URŠIČ



To teach is to build is a biannual international conference that we hosted at BC Naklo for the sixth time last year. The last edition took place on 10th November 2021, unfortunately, like most events these days, online. However, presenters from Spain, Austria, Japan, Croatia, Slovenia and more shared a number of great ideas on how to teach sustainability. Climate change is a very serious problem that affects all of us already and will affect us even more in the future if we don't do anything to slow it down. But as everything, this topic also starts with us, people. How to raise awareness to make a change in the world and how to present this topic in the most understandable way possible was the topic of this conference. People from several countries talked about ways to encourage people to take action, make a change and prevent very big climate changes.

José Segarra from the CRESOL Association in **Spain**, talked about different communication tools for communicating about global warming issues and sugge-

sted comic books. He believes they are a great way to raise awareness with pictures and short, simple texts. They are understandable, memorable and fun.

Hideki Maruyama from **Japan** talked about engaging the students of Sophia University in Tokyo in a variety of workshops in countries around the world to teach them about global warming and sustainability through collaborating, speaking about the problem and acting for positive change.

Our **Croatian** partners from Gospodarska šola in Čakovec described their programme 'Practice for teachers – teachers in companies'. With it they want to achieve a better connection between teachers and the economy. The main goal of the programme is to build a better cooperation between entrepreneurship and vocational education that will lead to improved student

skills. Our teachers have taken part in their programme as well.

Nockberge Biosphere Reserve, Austria, was presented by Heinz Meyer. In 2012 it became UNESCO biosphere park. It has beautiful exotic nature with Alps, forests and alluring plateaus. There are also a lot of different kinds of wild animals roaming around their natural habitats. In the reserve they offer an educational programmes that teach sustainability to young pupils. In 'Our project weeks' kids experience the diversity in the park first hand, 'Our mobile school' is a counterpart to their project weeks and 'Our biosphere reserve school' enables visitors and mostly pupils to shape their own biosphere reserve. They have been very successful in their activities and have been hosting BC Naklo students to do their work placement there for years. In fact, our own teachers gave a series of sustainability-oriented presentations. Here are a couple of them.



Sustainable Art

By Boris URH

I believe even an art teacher can raise awareness among students and encourage them to think about the consumerist society we live in, for example by asking questions like this: When shall we realise that water is being filled in plastic bottles and sold simply because – we buy it? Wouldn't it be better to prevent than to heal? Heaps of plastic packaging waste are, in fact, our own fault and responsibility and



they are produced utterly unnecessarily. That is why I plan art assignments that offer food for (sustainable) thought but also use and thus recycle waste materials rather than buying new ones.

One such task was building a large size chess board and pieces. The board is made from the metal parts of discarded old computers and mounted on a square table. The pieces were cut from cardboard and painted black and white. The chess was put in a hall where students could freely access

and play it in school breaks – until Covid 19 struck. Which is really unfortunate as it proved to be a successful method of getting adolescents off their screens and enabled some old-fashioned face-to-face hanging out. Another sustainable task in the art class was re-creating Marilyn Monroe, the notorious Pop Art masterpiece by Andy Warhol – from used plastic bottle caps. Yet another project was painting fruit and vegetables on cheap wooden food crates. Again, the task had multiple goals. It turned out to get

students to think about the food we eat and the carbon footprint it leaves behind. Also, the crates resemble cages where both the food and the artist are 'caught', in a way. And, finally, the rough structure of the wood dictated rough strokes and lead to some amazing artwork hardly short of Cézanne's Apples.

The harsher the climate crisis the more I seem to be inspired to do my part by designing sustainable art tasks, and the students, too, exhibit a high level of motivation.



Green steps in horticulture and agriculture

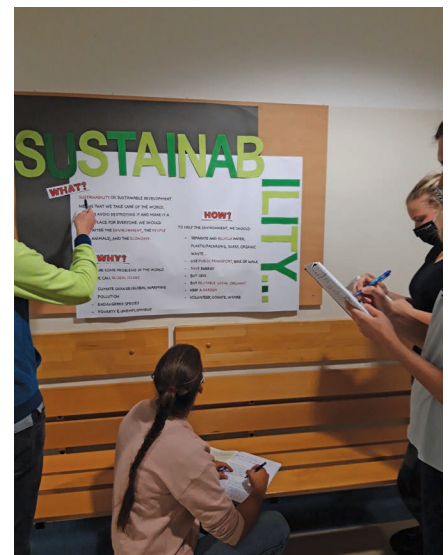
By 3BČF with Simona ZABUKOVEC

Horticulture is helpful for the environment because plants help control erosion and dust or smog, they reduce temperature and provide fresh air, reduce water run-off, absorb pollutants and provide wild habitat. However, it can harm the environment, too, by improper use of chemicals and non-biodegradable materials or introducing invasive plants. There is still some room for improvement even at our school in the

field of horticulture. For example, we should clean up the plastic trash around the greenhouses and mulch the spaces around trees with straw or bark so they would not be damaged when the grass is cut. Also, we should use more biodegradable pots and build glass greenhouses instead of plastic ones.

Agriculture causes deforestation which, in turn, leads to loss of habitats and biodiversity. Pesticides, fertilisers and other

toxic chemicals poison water, marine ecosystems, air and soil. Many farming practices cause greenhouse gases and too much plastic is used. Farm machinery and fuel are also sources of pollution. We should sell the unused machines and equipment and provide safe maintenance for the ones we keep, possibly in an area with a roof. Green energy and natural pest control should be used as much as possible.



For the future of the planet: How do we inspire young people to act sustainably?

By Andreja AHČIN, Principal

The times we live in and all the recent changes require us to change the way we live, act, value and ethically and morally live together as a society.

In response to the question of how to promote, inspire and conduct a sustainable lifestyle, the organising committee for this year's festival developed this year's conference theme: For the Future of the Planet. The research question was How do we inspire young people to act in a sustainable way?

At the Biotechnical Centre we are aware of the need to contribute to sustainable development and quality education through ethical behaviour. A commitment

to nature is our basis for action. Since 2004, we have been actively working on the conversion of our school farm to an organic farm. We have placed an ethical core at the heart of the 2013 – 2014 Integral Model that we have developed. The model encompasses the Centre's values and social responsibility. The ethical core is underpinned by: understanding and awareness, inclusion, outreach, integration of ESD content and methodology, integration of research and project work into education and outreach, and reducing the environmental footprint. I believe and have trust in the young generation that it has the desire, the



strength and the courage to do things hand in hand with nature, so that we can preserve our planet for the future generations. That is why systemic, integrative, research and project-based, active and participatory, transformative education is needed to make the necessary changes.

Saving rare species from extinction, one step at a time

By Ožbej RAKOVEC

With the world's biodiversity in decline and tens of its species going extinct every week, breeding facilities and even individual breeders have taken it upon themselves to rescue certain delicate species from extinction. Reptiles, amphibians and even insects are becoming extinct at an alarming rate. A lot of it has to do with their delicate nature and their unwillingness to adapt to climate change or loss of habitat. Luckily, in the last decades we have taken giant strides in learning how to successfully keep and breed these species in artificial habitats in our homes. The best example of this would be the comeback of the crested gecko. Less than 30 years ago, the crested gecko (*Cor-*

relophus ciliatus) was presumed to be extinct. Sightings of live geckos on the Isle of Pines in 1994 proved that they were still out there. The geckos were later brought to America where breeders found out just how successfully they can breed in captivity, when under the right care. They are now bred by the thousands and are one if not the most popular pet lizard on the planet. There are now programs to reintroduce them into the wild where their numbers can grow back to what they were. More and more stories like these are happening everyday all thanks to the caring individuals with the knowledge and passion to keep, breed and educate about these beautiful animals.



Why we should strive to save every single species

By Miha POTOČNIK

Organisms can help to maintain the health of an ecosystem, which is built around relationships between different species. The loss of one species can

trigger the loss of others and so on. At the end, the whole ecosystem can collapse because we couldn't maintain the life of one single species.



Alexander, a Nepalese Olympian

By Jakob MANČEK PALI

When I lived in Nepal between 2016 and 2018 I met a friend who has lived in Nepal his whole life and is an impressive swimmer. He went to the same school as me, which was Lincoln school in the capital of Nepal, Kathmandu, and later made it to the Olympics. I was genuinely impressed so I asked him a few questions.

Could you introduce yourself?

Hello, my name is Alexander Shas and I am 19 years old.

When you lived in Nepal what school did you go to and how long did you stay there?

I was in Lincoln school, which was named after Abraham Lincoln. I was in that school pretty much my whole life. The school is located in the capital of Nepal, Kathmandu.

What was your overall experience in Nepal and that school?

The school was amazing its where I trained swimming, the whole school has an amazing atmosphere and it is simply incredible that I had the chance to study there.

Could you tell me about the Olympics?

I represented Nepal in swimming, I swam the 100m and placed first in my bracket.

What was the training like?

The training was gruelling, I trained in school and outside of school, it took many hours but it was worth it in the end.



People who inspired us in 2021

A person who inspired us in 2021 is Ana Roš, the world's best female chef of 2017 and the head chef in a restaurant that is among the top 50 in the world. She is the only Slovenian chef with two Michelin stars – she was awarded the second one last year. Her restaurant, Hiša Franko, is a world-class restaurant. We really like the fact that she uses traditional and local ingredients, they even hire their own forager, a person who picks wild plants and mushrooms, and a herbalist. Ana is very admirable because she is a self-taught chef. She is never afraid to take risks and to make random and unexpected combinations for her menu.

Katja & Gaja

Marko Pavčnik is a Slovenian chef who decided to be a chef in the sixth grade of primary school. He became famous in TV shows and later opened his own restaurant. He is said to be one of those people who can make a special dish out of one ingredient. He constantly thinks of creating a new special dish but, perhaps most importantly, he is a 'sustainable chef'. In collaboration with Spar Slovenia he is trying to come up with recipes which include leftovers, the food that would otherwise be discarded. His famous idea is to 'make new flour from old bread'. A lot of grocery stores are now adopting this philosophy.

Ana & Tadeja

In 2021 I was inspired by all the arborists and gardeners who despite the pandemic still managed to do their job by finding ways to get around the shortage of materials, plants and workers. They did so by adapting their garden layout fitting

to the plants they had at hand instead of ordering them from other countries. This means the plants were less likely to bring any new parasites, pathogens and diseases. They inspired me to be more self-sufficient. They also encouraged me to grow or produce my own plants and seeds, embrace small local businesses and thus support the local market rather than buy abroad.

Krištof

In the year 2021 I was inspired by the teachers who teach me field-work. I find it amazing how they found a way to teach a subject but also make it fun. They also found a way to teach a subject but also make it fun. They found a way to balance our learning and overall enjoyment. The explanations were put in simple words and the tasks were executed quickly while still being fun. The teachers themselves seem to always find a way to teach and enjoy their work, which I find amazing.

Anonymus

The teacher responds

I have always been interested in horticulture – that is why I decided to study agronomy, which, at the time was the closest university course. I was lucky to get a job in a school where I can combine two of my career 'pets': horticulture and working with young people. However, I am rather inquisitive and have since expanded my field of work to teaching business and entrepreneurial skills not only in horticulture but also in agriculture, culinary arts and environment conservation. Practical classes and field-work are very exciting. In groups that remain the same throughout the year the students develop a



business idea, register a company, sell shares, develop and advertise their products or services. We encourage organic products, local ingredients and fair trade, recycling, sustainable packaging and consumption. Teaching business classes is a huge challenge that requires thorough planning and the teaching that is mentoring rather than lecturing. The classes are dynamic, active, playful, noisy but at the same time serious and educational, efficient. They are never boring and always fly by – for me as well as the students.

By Nataša ŠINK, teacher

Fabio Vibmer inspired me to push myself to the limit and improve. Fabio is a professional MTB rider. He's 24 years old and comes from Austria. Last year was tough for him because he broke his ankle while filming his latest video. However, he was back on his bike and making new content as soon as he recovered. He's most famous for his amazing stunts like doing a back-flip on a 50m patch of snow and jumping Montmartre stairs in France.

Anonymus

Famous Brazilian football player Neymar came from a poor family and his mother was killed. He became a professional football player and now makes a lot of money. He inspired me with his life because he was poor when he was a kid and is now one of the most popular football players in the world. He used to play for my favourite team, Barcelona, but now plays for PSG with a few other great players like Messi and Thiago Silva.

Luka



Autumn reflections

How lucky we are to go to a school surrounded by fields and forests instead of the concrete jungle, the noise and exhaust fumes of Slovenia's biggest towns. Every so often, we can even have outdoor classes. In one such class we reflected on nature, seasons and future. Here is how.

Dragonfly

By Ema AŽBE

Flying near the pond,
Looking for prey,
Flying everywhere
As fast as the speed of light.

With his two pairs of wings,
Doing loops back and forth,
Observing everything and everyone,
Like he owns the world.

Flies like a dragon in the sky,
Fierce like inferno in the wild,
Small like a fly,
So that's where the name comes from.

He has the freedom in his wings,
Can fly everywhere,
The best explorer on Earth.

Then a friend came,
They started to fight,
Doing loops around,
Flying at the speed of light,
Till I lose them in the sky.

Bug

By Miha POTOČNIK

I saw a pretty bug on a branch. It looked very sad although it was very pretty on the outside. People don't always look like what they are. We should treat nature with respect.



Beetle

By Ožbej RAKOVEC

The sight of a lonely beetle wondering around, searching for food and a mate. No idea, no brain capacity to understand the sheer colosity of its surroundings. He lives a blissful ife, the little beetle. He can't feel pain, agony or despair, its only guide are its instincts ... I wish I were that little beetle.

Autumn

By Saša PAGON
MLAKAR

Autumn looks like a collection of the prettiest colours and shades. In the mornings it smells like a cold breeze running through your nose, and in the evenings like fresh pumpkin soup. It sounds like a peaceful noise when the wind touches the leaves and it tastes like chestnuts and pumpkin pie that you eat in cold evenings. It feels like comfy evenings when you just chill, covered in warm blankets. All of this is my autumn. A chill season when nature is getting ready for its sleep and the warm tones peacefully calm your mind.

Future

By Naja BUDAU

Future looks fantastic.
Future smells like plastic.
Future sounds like a dream.
Future tastes like cream.
Future is unique.
Mine looks like a boutique.

Linden tree

By Larisa REŽEN

The bark of the linden tree is brown and covered with yellow lichen. The tree is big and has small leaves which are fluttering in the wind. On the bark, there are a lot of small animals climbing up the trunk.



The Arctic Drift – A Year in the Ice (Documentary)

By Liza BURJA

The film tells us about a scientific trip to the Arctic. In 2019 a group of scientists sailed to the frozen land in the north. There they picked an ice floe to work on and let the ship freeze in the ice. Over a hundred scientists did lots of research to help us learn more about the Arctic, ice and snow. The crew were faced with a variety of challenges such as ice breaking, polar bears, delay of supplies ship and Covid 19. However, they overcame the difficulties and finished their trip. This was one of the most important journeys in the history of climate change studies.

I think this was an amazing experience. I could not live in the dark and at such freezing temperatures. I am amazed by the scientists' courage and dedication. Their hard work will definitely help us understand the importance of the Arctic and make better choices in the future.

While watching the film we picked up some quotes:

- *We're playing a game and we do not know the outcome.*
- *Why not take action now?*
- *Every hour is a new experience.*
- *I can't believe how lucky I am to be here.*

- *This is the first time that we really see what the Arctic can throw at us.*
- *We need to stop thinking just how to make money and start thinking about the future of our planet.*
- *What is at stake? Everything, I would say.*



Sustainable cities in Europe

By Mitja KURALT

The destruction of nature, together with climate change, is a major problem in today's world. We are probably one of the last generations which can save the world before total environmental disaster. A good example of sustainable development is the city of Hamburg in Germany, which was named European

Green Capital in 2011. All new buildings are being built according to the latest energy standards, are environmentally friendly and have very low energy losses. There are very few cars in the city, but they have a really good public transport system with busses, bicycles and boats. The city mainly uses energy from

renewable sources such as wind, water or biogas. I think that people are still not aware enough of global environmental problems and that more countries and cities should focus on sustainable development. We should all together do something to preserve nature, because we do not have much time left!



Hamburg: Eine grüne Stadt?

By Manca LEPOŠA

Hamburg ist eine norddeutsche Großstadt, die glaubt, dass erneuerbare Ressourcen die Zukunft der modernen Welt sind, und viele sind davon überzeugt, dass sie Recht haben. Sie ist eine der wenigen Städte, die ihre CO₂-Emissionen und ihren Energieverbrauch erheblich gesenkt hat und

gleichzeitig einen gesunden Raum für Familien zum Leben bietet und sich um die Umwelt gekümmert. Sie tun dies, indem sie Kraftstoffe gegen erneuerbare Energiequellen austauschen und die Innenstadt naturfreundlicher erneuern. Meiner Meinung nach sind die wirklichen Idole, weil fast niemand den Mut

hatte, den ersten Schritt zu machen und sie haben es getan. Ich hoffe, dass mehrere Menschen sich naturfreundlich zu sein entscheiden werden und damit die Natur rückbringen wie es einmal war. Aber bevor wir das tun, sollen wir die Welt über den kritischen Zustand der Erde informieren.

Things we could change at home: New year's resolutions



I will buy less flavoured bottled water and try to replace the water with tea or compote.



Anja

I'll buy my family bamboo toothbrushes. I think it will be better for the environment and I also heard that they are better and healthier for our teeth. I hope this works out!



Tina

We have a family business and the New Year's gift for employees and family will be glass water bottles. I hope they all stop using plastic ones!



Marjana

Instead of using plastic plates, my family and I are going to use plates made out of paper. And instead of using plastic hair brushes we will use wooden, bamboo hair brushes.



Anonymous

We decided that we want to buy more food from local farmers instead of buying it in the store. We also decided that we are going to plant and grow more food at home.



Anonymous





I am going to use plastic bags less and use more paper bags or bags made out of fabric when shopping for greens and fruit.



Nika

Instead of buying new plastic bottles I save them. When I go to train I take a bottle from home and bring it back for further use.



Simon



In our shop at home we sell milk in plastic bottles. I will make sure that they are replaced with glass bottles.



Jerneja

I decided to use fewer disposable plastic bottles and try and use more reusable stuff like thermal bottles when going hiking, and paper bags when going shopping.



Nik

My New Year's Resolution this year is to buy an environmentally friendly car which runs on natural gas. With a gas-powered car, I will go to school and on trips. With that I will save a lot of energy. I was inspired by my boss because he also bought it himself.



Apolonija





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