

World Environment Day

What is the World Environment Day?

World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. It's held every year on the 5th of June.

The World Environment Day slogan for 2008 is "Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy". Recognising that climate change is becoming the defining issue of our era, UNEP is asking countries, companies and communities to focus on greenhouse gas emissions and how to reduce them. The World Environment Day highlighted resources and initiatives that promote low carbon economies and life-styles, such as improved energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, forest conservation and eco-friendly consumption. The main international celebrations of World Environment Day 2008 were held in Wellington, capital of New Zealand. UNEP is honoured that the city was hosting this United Nations day because of being one of the first countries to pledge a carbon neutral environment in the future.

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Another resolution, adopted by the General Assembly the same day, led to the creation of UNEP.

World Environment Day was celebrated in many ways worldwide, including street rallies, bicycles parades, green concerts, essay and poster competitions in schools, tree planting, recycling efforts, clean-up campaigns and much more. In many countries, this annual event was used to enhance political attention and action.

Here in Serres, we started already in the beginning of May. An environmental exhibition took place in the central square of Serres, Platia Eleftherias. The exhibition contained work done by children in the ages 14-17 and they came from schools both in Serres and from villages outside. Every school had done their different kind of environmental work; you could see works about recycling, how important trees are for our Earth and environment, water, bicycles and so on. Watching the works, speaking with the students kept us in the square for a long and interesting time. Because of all the works being in Greek this made us forced to have everything explained, but this was not a problem. The children tried in every way they could to explain their projects, even though their English skills sometimes wasn't enough. This was very appreciated by us so a big thanks to you!

After this we were left with the task of choosing which one of the projects we thought was the best. In our opinion it was a hard decision to decide which project and work was the best. All of them were about different things so you couldn't really compare one with another. Everyone was good in their own way. It was really fun to see how much time,

energy and creativity the children had put in their works. Both of us got to learn things we did not know before!

After a time of discussing, we finally could agree about which one we thought would get the prize and here is the result:

Βραβεία προγραμμάτων Περιβαλλοντικής Εκπαίδευσης:

1^ο βραβείο: ΤΕΕ Ειδικής Αγωγής Σερρών,

Για το πρόγραμμα: «Διαχείριση απορριμμάτων του σχολείου, Ανακύκλωση».
Συντονιστές εκπαιδευτικοί: Αναστασιάδου Μαρία, Κοτζιάογλου Αθ., Γιουμένη Βασιλική, Κουρτίδης Παύλος.

2^ο βραβείο: Γυμνάσιο Ηράκλειας,

Για το πρόγραμμα: «Το νερό στον κόσμο μας, Ο χορός των υδάτων».
Συντονιστές εκπαιδευτικοί: Ρίτη Μαίρη, Τερζούδη Τρ., Τραγούδας Δημήτρης, Καρακώστα Σουλτάνα.

3^ο βραβείο: ΤΕΕ – ΕΠΑΛ Σιδηροκάστρου,

Για το πρόγραμμα: «Βότανα, υγεία, ομορφιά».
Συντονιστές εκπαιδευτικοί: Νικηφόρου Δάφνη, Γιαννουλάκης Στράτος.

So on Friday the 6th of June it was time for the awards to be given. The both of us, Amir Abdelhalim and Cecilia Halldin, went with Mrs. Anna Alevra to the place where the event took place. We were welcomed by the host of the night, the mayor of Serres also said some welcoming words, and then it was time for Mrs. Kaiti Emmanouilidou to take on the microphone. After her it was Mrs. Alevra and with her the award giving started. The representing students came up and got their prize ☺. The evening continued with three more speakers; the topics were biodiversity, pollution of the environment and about recycling (specifically recycling of electronic objects). Worth to also mention is that the video we made about the environment was shown.

You can find it on this CD and in our website: www.praxisgreece.org

In this CD you can also find a radio spot we made before the World Environment Day, our radio show where the discussed topic was the environment and pictures; both from the “square exhibition” and from the “awards event”.

Cecilia Halldin & Amir Abdelhalim, present volunteers of PRAXIS (11-06-2008)