

# Young Reporters for the Environment

## 2013 - 2014

1. Finalists 2013 - 2014
2. Feedback on projects
3. Award Ceremony
4. Activities

Newsletter 12

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Dear all,

*The end of the scholastic year is fast approaching, and I would like to thank you all for showing interest in the programme and being active participants in environmental reporting. Below is the final list of Best entries, Commended entries and Press Kids results. The amount of entries this year was the highest one ever, which reflects the growing interest towards the programme.*

*As you may have realized, this year we didn't give first, second and third placing in all categories. Instead we just selected the best entries and commended ones – which are the ones that were good and nearly made it. In some cases the finalists were so near to each other that the decision was taken on the basis of dissemination. There were other projects that were good as well – so all the participants will be given a certificate of participation.*

*I can never emphasize enough that the YRE programme is **a programme and not a competition**. The competition is simply one small part of the whole programme. The aim is to encourage students to be active citizens and report on any environmental concern they come across. As from this year, we are including reporters in all activities related to EkoSkola, LEAF and YRE. It would be very useful if the same was done on a school level, to give more weight to the work done by the same reporters. Schools that have Young Reporters' Clubs are giving more weight to the same programme.*

*I am hereby giving general feedback on the quality of entries submitted. If any students or schools would like to discuss any particular issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

*I wish all the students the best of luck for the annual exams, and a restful and enjoyable summer recess.*

Audrey Gauci  
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## Press Kids

Responsible actions for a better environment - video	St Francis School, Cospicua	The Forest team	Best entry
unGREATful	St Edward's College	Marcello Agius Muscat, Nicolò Agius Muscat	Commended
Our countryside... What a mess!	Gozo College, Żebbuġ Primary	EkoSkola Committee	Commended

## Articles 11-14 Years

Bring in or dumping sites?	Gozo College, GSS, Victoria	EkoSkola Committee	Best Entry Wrigley
White Gold Pans	St Margaret College, BSS, Verdala	Benjamin Abela	Best Entry YRE
Schools turning greener – Everybody can invest	St Margaret College, GSS, Żejtun	Elinor Micallef	Commended
Trees are the lungs of our earth – Eco-School project	St Albert the Great College, Valletta	Adriel Benito	Commended

## Photos 11-14 years

Potpourri	St Edward's College	Mattia Agius Muscat	Best Entry Wrigley
Use and reuse! Know your boundaries	Gozo College, BSS, Victoria	Matthew Curmi	Best Entry YRE
The fertilisers...do they actually fertilise?	St Margaret College, GSS, Żejtun	Erika Esposito	Commended

## Videos 11-14 years

The newcomer	St Edward's College	Mikea Dimech, Gabriel Sciberras	Best Entry Wrigley
Saving Mother Nature	St Edward's College	Luigi Dimech	Best Entry YRE
Save wood	St Margaret College, BSS, Verdala	Lenard Camilleri	Commended

## Articles 15-18 years

Cigarette Butts as Litter - Toxic as Well as Ugly	Junior College, Msida	Kimberly Galea	Best Entry Wrigley
From iWant to E-waste, the Footprint of our Digital Age	Junior College, Msida	Nicholas Zammit	Best Entry YRE
The Human Impact on a stretch of coastline	St Aloysius College, Sixth form	Jasmine Farrugia	Commended

### Photos 15-18 years

Gateway to heaven	Giovanni Curmi Higher Sec, Naxxar	John Charles Fenech	Best Entry Wrigley
Bridge over troubled water?	St Thomas More College, GSS, St Lucia	El Kayati Fatima, Farrugia Antonella, Saliba Nicole	Best Entry YRE
Worthy worms	St Michael School, St Venera	Karl Buhagiar	Commended
Destroying my rest place	St Margaret College, GSS, Cospicua	Nirvana Grech	Commended

### Videos 15-18 years

Vox populi	St Clare College, BSS, Gżira	Anthony Grech, Owen Sciriha, Leon Francalanza, Tristan Zammit	Best Entry Wrigley
Free Rosy and her Friends	St Benedict College, GSS, Tarxien	Carmen Galea	Best Entry YRE
Bothersome building	St Aloysius College, Sixth form	Martina Mifsud	Commended

### Photos 19-21 years

Fruit for thought	Eco Centre Żejtun	Johann Camilleri	Best Entry Wrigley
One sandwich short of a picnic	Eco Centre Żejtun	Johann Camilleri	Best Entry YRE

### Videos 19-21 years

Splashed by Trash	Eco Centre Żejtun	Johann Camilleri, Emma Scicluna, Rossella Caruana, Cherise Caruana, Francesco Pavia	Best Entry Wrigley
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**Young Reporters**  
for the environment

## **Article Entries**

The general trend in the articles was to follow the traditional essay-style, instead of reporting as it should be. The golden rule of reporting says that the first paragraph of an article should say it all:- the where, when, how, who and why. Using the “I” and “we” does not give an impression of what happened, but rather a recount of a personal experience. Also, as a general trend, the articles lacked the proposals or solutions that would help diminish the problem.

Although the basic requirements were reached by quite a good number of articles, the determining factor for best entries was, in some projects, the title, originality of the theme and dissemination. Including interviews, opinions of third parties and quotes from reliable sources always helps. YRE focuses on investigative journalism, and thus some sort of investigation is always essential. Simply reporting on an event that happened is good, but not enough to qualify as best entry.

## **Photo Entries**

The photography section was, as usual, the most popular category. The students did a good job in going round to take photos. However, although many of them were good, there were a lot of photos that focused on simply taking a picture of litter / rubbish lying around. Although the theme is good, there are other elements that distinguish one good photo from another. The title says it all – at times it is the focal point that raises interest.

The photography workshops conducted these last two years provided a lot of tips and hints on how to take a good photo. The light and time of day when photos are taken make a lot of difference in a photo. Sometimes the message does not come across simply because a potentially good photo was not taken at the appropriate time of the day, or from the best possible angle. Our expert’s advice was to think well before taking a photo – the angle, light, height, rule of thirds – together they make a big difference in getting a message across.

The aim of photo entries in our programme is to capture an image that transmits a message. Thus, nature photography on its own does not qualify. If you want to picture an endangered species, capture it in an urban environment to highlight the contrast. If you are taking a photo of litter, try to include nature that is being affected by it. Make sure you have a focal point, an item that captures attention or something that is transmitting the message. Simply taking a picture of a landscape might not achieve its aim. A photo of litter lying in the fields might well be a good photo – but not enough to qualify as best entry if it is not original enough or does not have the necessary technique.

The short write up that accompanies the photo is important to highlight the message. Although in this case the most important thing is the actual photo, yet the description, and possibly the investigation that accompanies it, is sometimes essential in giving it that cutting edge. Dissemination is also one of the requirements – in one particular case it was the determining factor for the best entry selection.

## **Workshops**

Thanks to the Wrigley Litter Less Campaign, this year a number of workshops were held in different schools. Mr Daniel Cilia conducted the photography workshops, while Ms Joyce Grech took care of the Video and Article workshops. Young reporters had the opportunity to learn from these experts and gain knowledge on how to produce better work. Thanks goes to the local experts and to the Litter Less campaign for making this possible.

## Video Entries

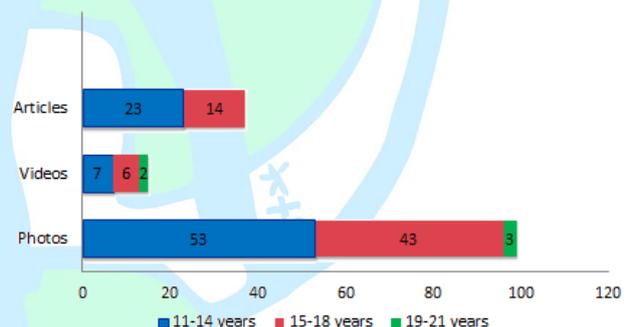
Most of the video entries this year followed the basic criteria – length of video, credited music, acknowledgements, title and solutions to the problem. A photostory does not qualify as a video – although random photos can be included in the footage. The video needs to get a message across. Shots can speak on their own, but getting opinions of people affected by the problem helps to consolidate the arguments.

Data, research, different points of view – they are all elements that make the video more effective. It is also necessary to mention that some projects had incorrect information. Doing the necessary research before actually translating the information is essential. Incorrect or misleading information automatically disqualifies.

Originality, both in title and in content, help to give more credit to the project. As in other categories, dissemination was also detrimental in the final decision.

One also needs to pay attention to the way one presents oneself and speaks in front of the camera. Choice of background, clothing, noise level and speech clarity all make a difference. Even though getting the message across is the most important thing, yet other elements help in making the project stand out amongst others.

Projects 2013-2014



## Award Ceremony

As already mentioned, the Award Ceremony will be held in the first week of June. All students will be given a certificate of participation. YRE winners will be awarded a trophy, certificates and cash vouchers. Three smartphones will be given to the best 3 winners in the Wrigley Competition, while the other Wrigley winners will be awarded gift vouchers.

WasteServ have awarded their prize to Nicholas Zammit from the Junior College with his article ***From iWant to E-waste, the Footprint of our Digital Age***. He will receive a €500 voucher on camping equipment during the award ceremony. Details of date, place and time of the event will be sent out soon.

Wrigley winners will be attending an international workshop in October 2014. Details to follow.

All the best entries have been sent abroad to compete internationally. The results should be out by the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Good luck to all participants!

## Portugal Workshop

Two Maltese students had the opportunity to participate in an international mission in Portugal during the first week of April. An invitation from YRE Portugal was sent and students were chosen on the basis of their motivation letters and availability. It was a very enriching experience and they had the opportunity to participate in investigations, workshops and produce material which was then published on the media. We hope to be able to host a similar workshop in the near future!



YRE Mission Alentejo 2014 | Missão JRA Alentejo 2014

## YRE reporters at work

It has become a norm to invite young reporters to activities related to EkoSkola and LEAF, and report on the event. Reporters from St Thomas More College, St Lucia had the opportunity to attend an environmental audit at Playmobil Funpark and report on the event. Other YRE students were also invited to the official launch of Pembroke Park to give their contribution. During these activities students had the opportunity to interview managers and workers, take onsite photos and report the event.

Schools that wish to send their reporters to similar events are encouraged to contact YRE Malta so they are invited for future activities.

