



Plant a Tree for Peace



On Wednesday 15th January 2014 (Arbor Day) students accompanied by their teachers, participated in an event called *Plant a Tree for Peace* at *Xrobb l-Għaġin Nature Park and Sustainable Development Centre*. This activity was held by *LEAF* (Learning About Forests) in collaboration with *PARKs* and the *Plant Health* departments within the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change. All schools planted a specific type of palm tree called *Sigra tal-Ġummar*. Minister Leo Brincat was also present for the event.

The event was opened with speeches from Nature Trust Malta Executive President, Mr Vincent Attard and Mr Johann Gatt, Leaf National co-ordinator. He emphasised four aspects: Preserving the remaining Maltese trees, learning to love trees wherever we see them, making responsible choices when purchasing products coming from trees and last but definitely not the least, planting more trees.

"Plants are a jewel and we are all agents of change so we should start acting like ones", are effective words said by the Honourable Minister Leo Brincat during his speech. Afterwards a number of students asked him questions to which he responded positively. When asked about what his thoughts are about such a prestigious event, he answered that it is a very important one and to him it is more effective that there was such a lively participation by the students attending as they can pass on the message.

After, the heart of this event-tree planting was held. All students participating planted their own palm trees guided by workers from *PARKs* department. Later the event ended with a number of interactive learning sessions where students learnt that the problem pests can cause to the environment, how to grow dwarf fan plants, the different types of trees we can find at the Nature Park and what people used to do with palm leaves. One of the sessions was genuinely presented by Mr Guido Lanfranco.

Finally we would like to pass on a message from all participants in this event; Take care of our trees and plants as they are a jewel to our country and life!

By

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