

INTOUCH

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Foreword

The doors of Skolasajf 2022 finally opened on 11th July, and welcomed nearly 11,000 students in 57 centres around Malta and Gozo.

They have been an amazing three weeks, jam packed with activities that ranged from official launches, to class activities, outings and visits to partners, and also centre-based celebrations. The main slogan **Earth Heroes, Unite!** has been a truly effective call to action, as we keep marvelling at the output of each centre. As we take pride in seeing the programme of activities come to life at the hands of our employees and the students attending Skolasajf, we also confirm that children appreciate the joy of learning from the different non-formal learning opportunities prepared for them. The service is also flourishing in the Resource Centres, which are offering a radical change in the service, as it is was extended to cover the five days of the week.

Though Skolasajf is a massive project that encompasses the synergy of all the Head Office departments over a number of months, work and progress in other areas and services do not stop. This month we welcomed to FES the new **Board Members**. While we thank the previous Board Members for their direction and commitment, we welcome the new Board Members, the Chairperson of which continues to be **Ms Pamela Schembri**.

Our Childcare Centres continue to offer an excellent service, as can be seen in the featured activities offered at It-Tghanniq, at Floriana. The many other activities happening in the other 12 childcare centres can be accessed on each centre's Facebook page.

As we showcase the work of our staff members, one cannot but be reminded of the ongoing training offered to staff, including the **courses for prospective Playworkers and Child Support Workers**. Anyone interested to apply can do so on the FES recruitment portal. Applications for the **September Bridge Holidays** are also open till 4th August 2022, via the online site <https://services.fes.gov.mt/>, as well as in the **servizz.gov hubs**.

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The FES Board Members

In July 2022, we bid farewell and expressed our sincere thanks to the outgoing members of the FES Board:

Mr Mario Mallia (*Member*)

Mr Paul Debono (*Member*)

Mr Joe Abela (*Member*)

Ms Carmen Nygaard (*Member*)

Ms Marcon Cassar (*Board Secretary*)

In the meantime, we welcomed the new Board Members who will be continuing the work of their predecessors in managing and administering the affairs of the Foundation for Educational Services. We wish them well in their respective roles to carry out the mission, objectives, and powers of the Foundation.

The FES Board is now composed as follows:

Chairperson

Ms Pamela Schembri

Board Secretary

Mr Jesmond Aquilina

Members

Prof Andrew Azzopardi

Ms Helen Farrugia

Dr Tiffany Attard

Mr Mario Grima

Ms Sharon Grch

Ms Philippa Attard



*From L to R - Ms Philippa Attard, Mr Mario Grima, Ms Helen Farrugia, Ms Sharon Grch, Ms Pamela Schembri, Mr Jesmond Aquilina, and Mr Michael Bondin (CEO)
(in absentia - Prof Andrew Azzopardi and Dr Tiffany Attard)*

The Official Opening for Skolasajf



Photo: DOI -Geoffrey Zarb Adami



Skolasajf 2022 has once again proven to be a service in demand for thousands of services users, as the doors opened on the 11th July 2022 to welcome nearly 11,000 students. Skolasajf St Julian's is one of the centres which is offering the service, and it was also the host for the official launch of Skolasajf 2022. The event was attended by the Minister for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, **Hon Dr Clifton Grima**, the FES Chairperson **Ms Pamela Schembri**, the FES CEO **Mr Michael Bondin**, the St Clare College Principal Mr **Jonathan Attard**, and the St Julian's Primary Head of School **Ms Daniella Micallef**.

This year, Skolasajf is being offered in 57 centres, six of them in Gozo. 36 of these centres offer an extended service of hours in the early morning and in the afternoon, exclusively for working parents. The service is also provided in five Resource Centres, where students with disabilities attend for a dedicated programme. This year, for the first time, FES is offering the service across the five days of the week in all the Resource Centres, instead of over a 3-day period as was offered in the past years. This is another step to offer a better service, and also makes it more possible for parents to manage their work commitments.



Photo: DOI -Geoffrey Zarb Adami



Photo: DOI -Geoffrey Zarb Adami

Welcome in our Skolasajf centres

Preparing a house to welcome invited guests, is a task that one undertakes with enthusiasm, due to the pride that one takes in one's own home. That same pride was witnessed in several of the Skolasajf centres, as they went the extra mile to decorate the premises and make them as welcoming as possible to the students whom they were going to receive for the eight weeks of Skolasajf.

From front gardens and gates, to foyers and corridors, doorways and classrooms, every nook that lent itself as a platform for our staff's creativity was used as a canvas. This page offers a taste of what the Zurrieq, St Venera, Siggiewi, and Hamrun centres created for the occasion of the opening of Skolasajf. We invite you to visit the FES Facebook page for more pictures of our staff's creativity.



A fitting welcome for all Skolasajf Earth Heroes indeed!

Activities during Skolsajf

Wardija Resource Centre

The amazing young people at Wardija Resource Centre have been busy being Earth Heroes! They explored healthy eating, and in the process, they practiced their cooking skills! They make wonderful chefs! They also explored physical activity and dancing which has the dual effect of keeping us healthy and happy by releasing endorphins.

Another activity that helps with our breathing as well as has calming effects is blowing bubbles. This year, we are encouraging children and young people to be resourceful. Making our own bubble liquid and bubble wand is a great way of having fun and reduce waste.

"Believe in your future self!"

The young Earth Heroes had an earthing experience, by potting and planting seedlings in various recycled containers like yoghurt pots and toilet rolls, both are perfect for the first stages of planting. Being close to nature and understanding it, allows us to connect deeply with it, and care and protect it.

Our young Earth Heroes also practiced their fine motor skills through various targeted exercises especially through artwork. The young people at Wardija created some rocking artwork!



As one of our young Earth Heroes t-shirt reads, - **BELIEVE IN YOU FUTURE SELF!**

Keep on practicing, experimenting, playing, creating, and loving yourself! A true message to us all!

**Earth Heroes
Wardija,
You Rock!**

Activities during Skolsajf

Helen Keller Resource Centre



Getting creative at Helen Keller Resource Centre, as students were all set on creating rhythm and song, and it is music to our ears! They played drums, maracas, bells and wooden sticks. Creating music is a universal form of expression! The young group also explored another form of expression, Art! Amazing Work!

The group of young people also engaged in learning life skills such as cooking. They worked on their cutting skills and made smoothies and waffles. Learning how to cook helps one to become independent, and it improves our communication and observation skills.

This year, students asked us to explore the mechanisms behind the things around us. The young group at Helen Keller explored the mechanism behind the wheel. The wheel has been invented a long time ago, but it still is a valuable invention today. Experimenting, and investigating hands-on is a more memorable way of learning – and the Helen Keller team are on a roll!



Festa Time at Skolasajf

Skolasajf Siggiewi keeping Maltese traditions

Part of the Earth Heroes activities at Skolasajf is to keep our cultural activities alive and appreciated. The Skolasajf Siggiewi centre took this task to heart and devoted time and energy to organize a mini-festa in honour of the village's patron saint, St. Nicholas.

With the support and participation of the local Church and **Każin Banda San Nikola**, the Skolasajf Siggiewi students got the opportunity to experience and participate wholeheartedly during this Maltese Tradition.

All the efforts were appreciated by the whole community, as people joined in the merriment in the church, and from their windows, balconies, and in the streets.

What a great way to celebrate Maltese heritage and keep our traditions alive!



Thank you to Skolasajf Siggiewi, to Rev. Josef Mifsud from the Siggiewi Church, and **Każin Banda San Nikola**, for making this event such a success.



Activities with our Partners

Animal Welfare Directorate, in collaboration with the Office of the Commissioner for Animal Welfare, visit Hamrun GP and Mellieha Skolasajf Centre

The dedicated staff members of the Animal Welfare Directorate, in collaboration with the [Office of the Commissioner for Animal Welfare](#), are fulfilling their annual participation in the Skolasajf Programme.

The aims of these sessions are to increase the love and attention for animals, and educate about how people can help injured animals by calling 1717. The officers were accompanied by their canine colleague Luna, who delighted the students with her docile demeanour, and with the love that she reciprocated as the children showered her with pats and overall affection.



Taking care of our animal friends as we co-habit this planet together, is another way of how we can all be Heroes of Humanity. Special thanks to [RobertCutajar](#) M.P. from the Animal Welfare Directorate, and to Mr George Farrugia from the [Office of the Commissioner for Animal Welfare](#).



Activities with our Partners

AFM Band visit to Saint Paul's Bay Skolasajf



The corridors of Saint Paul's Bay Skolasajf centre were filled with melody and rhythm created by the awesome AFM Military Band. Children were immersed in the musical appreciation session provided by the talented professional musicians. The children were entertained with a vast selection of popular film scores, that served as a vehicle in transmitting the different energies produced by the different individual instruments and also collectively as an orchestra.

The AFM Military band is made up of some of Malta's finest bandsmen, lead by **WOI Jonathan Borg**. During the session, the students learn about the different instruments and various parts making up the instruments.

A massive thank you goes out to the wonderful AFM Military band for creating a memorable day for our young Earth Heroes. Your annual performance is very much appreciated.



Activities with our Partners

Tarxien Skolasajf Centre visit SEM

Students from Skolasajf Tarxien got some inside knowledge about European Funds, during a Q&A session with the Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds, **Hon. Dr Chris Bonett**

Dr Bonett visited the premises of Servizzi Ewropej Malta (SEM), while the students were attending a session offered by SEM. The theme of the session was *European Union Climate Heroes*, inspired by Skolasajf theme ***Earth Heroes, Unite!***

The overall objective of the session addressed the importance of recognising that students can be taught to be active citizens, so that they can contribute to a sustainable, environment-friendly future. The session offered a variety of activities that kept the children entertained yet focused on the learning aspect of the event. The first part of the session focused on an explanation about the composition of the EU. The students were also engaged in an informative discussion to understand better some of the causes and effects of climate change.

Finally the children played a board game which provided an opportunity for them to think about the consequences of their actions on the environment, and on how to adopt more responsible practices.



Special thanks to the officers at Servizzi Ewropej Malta for these sessions, including Ms Mandy Falzon (CEO), Mr Joe Sciberras, and Mr Mauro Abela.



Childcare Centre Activity

Summer activities at It-Tgħanniqqa Childcare Centre

During the month of July, It-Tgħanniqqa Childcare centre delivered a series of activities that centred around the theme of the sea.

While the heat is on, what could be more enjoyable than some sensory play with ice-cubes? Each ice-cube held a hidden fish, which was slowly discovered as the solid changed to liquid. Not only were the little tots enjoying the cool sensation of the ice, and being delightfully surprised with the colourful fish, but they were also introduced to the changing properties of water.

Another fun game was Feeding the Shark, a colourful paper game that creates engagement and enhances motor activity. While enjoying this game, the children focused on building hand-eye coordination, especially when they were encouraged to place the fish in the shark's mouth. Other interesting learning opportunities explored through this game were colour investigation, categorisation, and sorting.



FES Childcare Centres



The FES Childcare Service is available at the following locations

Birgu, l-Kuluri Childcare Centre
Tel: 21809285

B'Kara, l-Ferrovija Childcare Centre
Tel: 25985561/2

Bormla, l-Bejta Childcare centre
Tel: 21807090

Floriana, t-Tgħanniqa Childcare Centre
Tel: 25982611

Haż-Żebbuġ, Żmeraldi Childcare Centre
Tel: 25987681

Marsa, l-Pespus Childcare Centre
Tel: 25987150

Naxxar, Pizzi Pizzi Kanna Childcare Centre
Tel: 25986820

Pembroke, l-Merill Childcare Centre
Tel: 21376644

Qawra, x-Xemx Childcare Centre
Tel: 25986996

San Ġwann, s-Sardinella, Childcare Centre
Tel: 21372851

Santa Venera, l-Bebbuxu Childcare Centre
Tel: 21443855

Siġġiewi, d-Denfil Childcare Centre
Tel: 21432348



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Meet Our Staff

Name: Pamela Schembri

Role: Chairperson at Foundation for Educational Services

Who was your role model growing up?

I would not really say that I had a role model in life however, there were a number of people who influenced me and shaped me in who I am today. One of them was my year 2 teacher Mrs Magro, who I still meet to this very day.

I always wanted to become a teacher and I think that she influenced this decision with the way she treated us and how we felt in her presence, and also with her innovative way of teaching. Patri Gwann Abela was another role model. Patri Gwann, amongst other things, was a playwright and the director of a number of plays produced by the theatrical group

Skene, of which I have been part of for 25+ years. Patri Gwann instilled in me the respect and love for the Maltese language, and gave me a platform where I could perform and widen my talents.



In which subject were you worst and best at school?

This depends on which year of schooling we're referring to. In my primary years I excelled in most subjects. Along the way I started hating the same subjects with a passion. Case in point was Mathematics and also eventually Physics. I always liked languages, but Geography and Environmental Studies have been my forte.

Compare your childhood summer to the one of kids today. Better or worse?

I spent my teenage years walking up and down to Wied iz-Zurrieq in the scorching sun in the afternoon, and to the Gibjun Gardens in Zurrieq in the evening, day in day out. They were the place to be at that time. I was a regular at the Skene theatre group in Luqa, having rehearsals almost every day in winter. I used to catch the bus to and from the theatre nearly daily. Times change, and the world might be more dangerous today, and thus parents are more afraid to allow their children to leave the nest. Consequently, nowadays most youngsters ask to be driven everywhere, adding to their parents' commitment. I feel that our younger years allowed us to have more freedom to do things ourselves, and have thus made us more independent.

Meet Our Staff.....Pamela Schembri

Which is a favourite online site that you always visit?

Apart from the normal social media sites and online shopping sites, I visit regularly the site linked to my current place of work. It is a site which we manage and update regularly, so mfa.com.mt would be top on my list. I also visit other sport/football related sites, but the BBC (Sport) website ranks high too.

Share and describe a photo that is precious to you brings and back good memories.

Unlike a lot of my friends I grew in a family which took a great deal of photos. This means that there are a number of photos that stir up good feelings; pictures with immediate family, and people who are now deceased and who have played a very important part of my younger years. At my own home I only have a couple of pictures displayed in a frame, so I guess I should choose one of those. In my teens and early twenties, my primary focus was studying so graduating was the epitome of years of doing so. I still remember where I was when I got the news that I passed all exams and would graduate.



Meet Our Staff Members

Name: Cher Muscat

Role: Childcare Centre Coordinator at Il-Bejta

Who was your role model growing up?

My role model was Taylor Swift. She is a singer, songwriter, and musician, who rose to fame on her own by working hard in the music industry. Although she found challenges, she never gave up on her dream and she inspired me to never give up on my own dreams. One of my favourite quotes, is in fact hers:

“No matter what happens in life, be good to people. Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to leave behind.”

In which subject were you worst and best at school?

I was the worst in Mathematics and best in English. It is most likely that I was worst in Mathematics because the subject was not interesting for me. I consider myself as a more linguistic type of person, which is why I performed best in English at school.

Compare your childhood summer to the one of kids today. Better or worse?

In my opinion my childhood summer was better than the one kids are having nowadays. This is because we were not consumed by technology, as we did not have mobile phones, laptops, computers, and so on. I remember that my brother and I used to spend our summers playing together. We used to come up with different role play games such as pretending to work in a hair and beauty salon or pretending that we were shopping at the grocery store. During the summer evenings, I used to meet up with my friends from school to play volleyball outside in the street. Another good memory is when we used to sing songs from the Eurovision song contest, as a form of entertainment for our neighbours.

Which is a favourite online site that you always visit?

I love shopping and I always visit my favourite online shopping site, which is very popular at the moment, known mostly for clothing and accessories. I do not always make a purchase each time that I browse the site of course, however, I enjoy viewing the clothes and accessories and adding them to my wish list.

Share and describe a photo that is precious and brings and back good memories.

The photo is the same one that I am presenting for my profile here. It was taken during my first ever holiday abroad. I experienced the excitement at the airport, and the joy of getting on the plane for the first time. It was an unforgettable experience. In the photo we were at Castel Mola in Taormina, which was a long and exciting journey on foot, but once we got there we were treated to the most spectacular views I had ever experienced. It was impossible for me to not capture a photo!

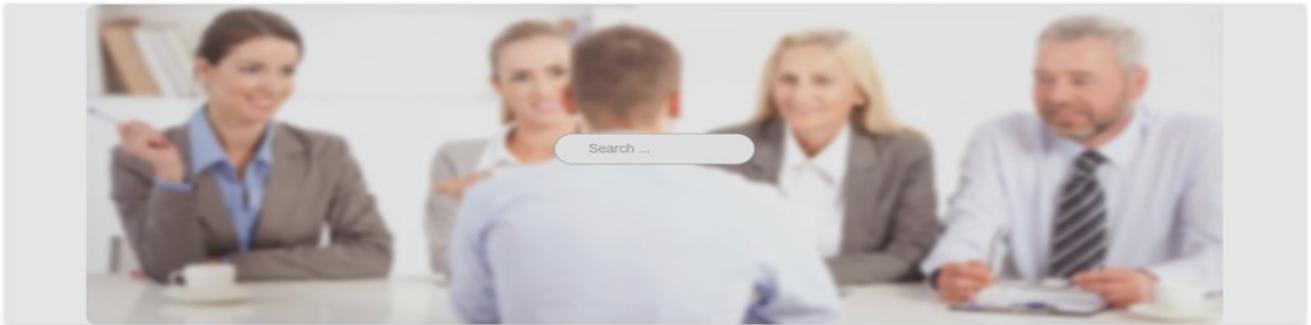


Job Opportunities

The Foundation for Educational Services currently has a number of job vacancies.

Click [HERE](#) to find out more and apply for the job most suited for you.

For any queries, call [22586830/35](tel:22586830/35). We will be very happy to assist you.



Current Job Openings

ONLY A CLICK AWAY

Also on offer are :

the [Playworker Development Course](#),

the [Child Support Worker Course](#),

Skolasajf Recruitment - Open Positions

[Playworkers](#), [Child Support worker](#), [and Child Support Worker Resource Centre](#)

Klabb 3-16 Expression of Interest

Expression of Interest—Centre Coordinators Klabb 3-16, Scholastic Year 2022/2023

Expression of Interest—Playworker With Extra Responsibilities—Klabb 3-16, Scholastic Year 2022 /2023

Expression of Interest—Playworkers—Klabb 3-16, Scholastic Year 2022/2023

Expression of Interest—Child Support Worker—Klabb 3-16, Scholastic Year 2022/2023

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