Dear readers,

The fourth issue of the USAID Readers are Leaders Project e-bulletin has arrived. In this issue, in addition to the information for the past and planned activities, we have the pleasure of announcing our new Magic Literacy Van and the new picture books that we have prepared for the youngest learners.

Read and share!

Greetings from the Foundation
Step by Step - Macedonia team

Our Magic Literacy Van is a specially adapted vehicle which now holds a pleasant and stimulating environment for the young students. On the inside it is in fact a library full of picture books, books and other mathematics learning materials. The Magic Literacy Van will visit the most remote places in order to offer the students from all regions easier access to picture books and learning resources and to take part in the interesting activities organized by the project. In the next issues of our e-bulletin we will inform you about the planned visits of the Magic Literacy Van.
In February, our Letters and Numbers Roadshow started visiting the schools selected for the second phase of the project. On February 5, the Roadshow together with the singer Kristina Arnaudova and the actress Amernis Nokshiqi visited two primary schools in Veles - “Vasil Glavino” and “Jordan Hadzi Konstantinov - Dzint”, while on February 6, together with the actors Zarije Jonuzi and Igor Angelov we visited the students from PS Perparimi in the village Chegrane, Gostivar and PS Andreja Savevska Kikish in Tetovo. A few days later, on February 11, the singer Venera Lumani and the actor Fisnik Zegiri joined the project team in the visit of the village Rashche. The students from PS Drita and their parents also had the opportunity to take part in fun and educative activities. Two schools from the Municipality of Gjorce Petrov in Skopje - PS Mirche Acev and PS Strasho Pindjur were part of the Roadshow on February 12 and the events were realized in an enjoyable and fun atmosphere.

"This was an excellent activity and the students are thrilled with the presence of the actor Igor and the singer Kristina. We would like to meet them again and to read and do mathematics in such amusing way," said Goce Bocevski, School Director of PS Mirche Acev.

The event in PS Strasho Pindjur also went in excellent atmosphere and the students expressed great interest. We were positively surprised by the large number of parents and teachers who attended the event.

“These are interesting activities which keep students’ attention, stimulate their creativity, imagination and the pleasure of learning,” - said Velika Krstovska, teacher from the same school.

Since November, the Roadshow has visited 27 schools and the events have included a total of 2500 students, parents, municipal representatives, media and other representatives from the community. In the following period, the Roadshow will visit the rest of the schools selected for the second phase of the project. You can see the planned dates for the visits on pg. 4 from this e-bulletin.
in Skopje City Mall

As announced in the previous issue, the first "Reading and Math are Fun" session in Skopje City Mall was held on February 15. The actor Gorast Cvetkovski has led the activity with young students and other members from their families. Next "Reading and Math are Fun" session in the Kid’s Club in Skopje City Mall will be held on March 22, starting at 13:00. Join us for a Saturday session of mingling and learning!

Project's cooperation with SOS Children's Village

In February, Readers are Leaders Project signed cooperation with SOS Children's Village with the aim to include the children that are accommodated in the SOS Children's Village Skopje, as well as those who are part of the Preventive program of the organization. On February 18, the first event was held. The actor Gorast Cvetkovski and the project team visited SOS Children's Village Skopje and through reading and math activities socialized with the children aged 6-12. We all enjoyed this event and the mutual activities will proceed in the future.

March 20

World Storytelling Day and International Children’s Theater Day

Readers are Leaders Project and “Brakja Miladinovci” City Library - Skopje on March 20 will mark the World Storytelling Day and the International Children’s Theater Day. World Storytelling Day is a global celebration of the art of oral storytelling. It is celebrated every year on the spring equinox. The theme for 2014 is “Stories of Monsters and Dragons”. The International Children’s Theater Day is also celebrated on the same date. On that occasion, famous actors will read and retell stories about monsters, dragons and giants from the rich opus of Macedonian popular stories. Young students, their parents and grandparents are welcomed to join us on March 20 in the “Brakja Miladinovci” City Library - Skopje.
Two new picture books available in our digital library

“Baby brother for Peter” and “Marco goes around the world” are the first two picture books that the project team has prepared and are already available for reading and downloading in Macedonian and Albanian language in the digital library on the Step by Step website. You can access the library by following this link: http://stepbystep.org.mk/biblioteka

In the upcoming period, we will regularly publish more new picture books, which, in addition to the digital form, will also be available in audio form. The picture books are being prepared by the Digital Resources Component.

Readers are Leaders agenda for March:

Join us for the Reading and Math are fun sessions together with some of our favorite public figures:

12 March, 11:30
PS Goce Delchev – Prilep with Petar Gorko and Julijana Stefanova

12 March, 13:30
PS Blazhe Koneski – Prilep with Petar Gorko and Julijana Stefanova

13 March, 11:30
PS Manchu Matac – Krivogashtani with Petar Gorko and Amernis Nokshikji

13 March, 13:30

14 March, 10:30
PS Grigor Prliechev – Ohrid with Petar Gorko and Julijana Stefanova

14 March, 13:30
PS St.Kliment Ohridski, v.Draslajca, Struga with Venera Lumani and Naumche Mojosvski

20 March, 12:00
World Storytelling Day and International Children’s Theater Day, reading and storytelling session with actors, “Brakja Miladinovci” City Library - Skopje

22 March, 13:00
Reading and Math are Fun in Kids Club, Skopje City Mall (2 floor)

If you have questions, suggestions or requests regarding the Readers are Leaders Project, please contact Ana Dimovska through e-mail: ana@stepbystep.org.mk or cell: 072/ 307-321
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