



Dear schools,

It is amazing how a school year can fly by! In a few weeks, many Flemish students will toil over their tests, longing for the summer holidays... But until then, there still is time left to work on that last SchoolLinks activity, for example.

In this edition of the SchoolLinks newsletter, we inform you about some interesting activities of the past two months. We also announce the Flemish winners of the international ATL competition and, traditionally, we conclude with news from one of the schools in the programme.

Enjoy your reading!

And the winner is...



To celebrate the 30th anniversary of VVOB, we launched a competition in all VVOB partner countries and in Flanders around the topic of Active Learning and Teaching. Despite the limited number of Flemish entries, the result is satisfying: the proposals we received indicate **great creativity and commitment to actively involve students in the learning experience**, an approach which we also promote and support with our partners in the South.

Sarah De Raedt of the **Primary school The Rainbow, Ghent**; Irene Indemans of **Heilig Hartinstituut Bree** and Jan Stas of the **University of Antwerp** came in first place, respectively, in the category of primary, secondary and teacher education. They will also compete in the international final.

Other entries among the SchoolLink schools that were rewarded were Koninklijk Atheneum Mariakerke and St-Josefinstituut Essen. VVOB invited all participants to attend the award ceremony during the VVOB event on June 21th, when the organisation's 30th anniversary will be celebrated. Congratulations to all!

Saved by the Bell 2012



On World Teacher's Day (October 5th) we put teachers in the spotlight, not in Flanders, but all around the world. **Teachers give the best of themselves** in often difficult circumstances. Next to that, there are still **millions of children who do not have access to basic education**. For the sixth year in a row, Studio Globo and VVOB SchoolLinks call out to schools to massively ring their school bell at the end of classes. A wake up call that something has to change!

» Please mark Friday **October 5th** in your agenda and take a look at www.savedbythebell.be.

Training well received



On April 26th, the annual SchoolLinks training took place. Traditionally, this is organized jointly with the **Kleur Bekennen** team. This training mainly focused on primary schools, but other interested people also attended.



We kicked off with the session **Three years SchoolLinks**. This was an excellent opportunity to look back on things with the involved schools. Together we reviewed developments, shared experiences on the startup phase and charted the main challenges. Subsequently, we focused on the 'lessons learnt'. The untapped opportunities for the future were outlined, ranging from working on capacity building of teachers to independently managing the cooperation.

Thanks to our two Surinamese guests of the Thomson school, **Debbie Yvel** and **Romena Asaiti**, we could enjoy a lively and instructive discussion about their experiences with visits. Together with Sylvie Hannes, the SchoolLinks coordinator of partner school SBSO Zonneweelde (Lommel), we got a better view of the **preparations, expectations, understandings and elaboration of a visit**.

After the vegetarian lunch, the Kleur Bekennen team organized an activity that made the energy level shoot up. This was followed by a session about **global education in the classroom and tips on imaging**. The latter proved an interesting end to a very successful day!



School snippet

Nature and Science, an association, organized a contest on scientific work for Belgian secondary schools. This year was the 14th edition. Koninklijk Atheneum Mariakerke, or KAM, did not miss this call...

After provincial dispersion tests, the five best-ranked candidates were invited to the national final that took place in May. The students' presentations were to be lively and understandable for their secondary school peers. Various topics, ranging from biology, ecology, chemistry, physics, geology and technology, archeology, ..., could be addressed.



*Three KAM students from the fourth year Science Studies conducted research and submitted a report. After that, they were invited to do a presentation at the national final. **What is particular and special about their submission is that they presented a work on biogas, inspired by the use and application in the Rwandan partner school Kiruhura.** This "case study" is nicely addressed in their research document. In the final, they came in fifth place. Congratulations to Jordy, Lula and Arne!*

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Contact

For more information, contact the regional VVOB office. Details can be found on the SchoolLinks website:

www.scholenbanden.be

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