

GRIGOR PRLICHEV OHRID



"We used to have talks about not throwing trash on the ground, but the students were not interested. Now they are interested, because they are the ones organizing the activities."

--Ofelija Petzevska
(Grigor Prlichev's GC Advisor and
Pedagog)

The Macedonian Green School Program reduces the environmental impact of Macedonian primary schools and creates better learning environments through *renovation, education, awareness promotion, and student empowerment.*



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PROJECT BACKGROUND

Since 2007, the USAID Primary Education Project contributed over US\$22,000 worth of renovations to the school, assisted by over US\$17,000 from the municipality and community to improve learning conditions and decrease expenditures. The money was used to install new windows and doors, florescent lights and repair the roof, heating system and leaky faucets. Grigor Plichev has also been very active in collecting outside donations to financially assist in the renovations.

STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

When the Green Club was founded in 2008, they continued greening the school with different projects, ranging from campaigns and presentations about picking up trash to running a "green patrol" after school to monitor students' behaviour. This year they hope to renovate the school's courtyard and start a better recycling program within the school and its surrounding community.

Working with the community has been something at which Grigor Plichev's Green Club has excelled. Through their varied and numerous campaigns throughout the community, Grigor Plichev has raised the awareness and education level about each of their themes. The students not only raise awareness on their own, through conversations within their family and friends, but the Club has held education lectures, public debates and even a bicycle competition to encourage community members to use alternate modes of transportation that are more environmentally friendly.

Both teachers and students rave about the success of the Green Club. Not only do they see a change in the actions of the students, but there is a shift in the general atmosphere of the school, "students are warmer with the new windows and feel safer," says the director, "Everyone has a greater respect for one another even if they're not in the Green Club".

With the combined efforts of the renovations and the Green Club, the expenditures for heating and water have decreased significantly. The director reported that bills for water usage have gone down between 30-40% since the beginning of the project. He attributes the change not only to the new faucets and renovated toilets, but also to the educational activities done by the Green Club.

ABOUT GRIGOR PRLICHEV

Grigor Plichev is a centrally located primary school in the town of Ohrid, located on Macedonia's western border. It serves 1,410 students in grades 1-9 with a staff of 84. The classes are taught in Macedonian language.



"We feel now this is our responsibility. We have to change things."

-- Grigor Plichev Student



For more information, please visit our website: www.greenschools.org.mk

