

## **Contribution of the project Botanikiada for teachers and students of basic schools**

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Abstract: This article contains information about education of Biology in basic schools. Students are interested in plants only a little. Project Botanikiada helps teachers with education about plants. Pupils who participated in regional competition of Botanikiada like this project. They recommend it for every pupil of the fifth classes to participate there.

Keywords: project Botanikiada, plants, Biology, basic school, botanical garden, fifth class

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From 1982 to 1987 I was a student of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. I studied Mathematics and Biology. From all subjects I liked especially Botany because we spent much time in nature. I remember our excursion in Pieniny. During one whole week we studied plants every day. We also observed plants in the Botanical garden of University of Pavol Jozef Safarik and we noticed their changes during weeks. We made herbarium of plants. It was very interesting for me. Plants in this herbarium are nice. I can use this herbarium today although this one is thirty years old.

Since September 1987 I have worked in a basic school. I have taught Biology. After my input to basic school I noticed that pupils do not like botany. They liked animals, human body, but not plants.

I tried to change this bad situation. I walked with my student around our school, in parks, in the woods, around the river Poprad in Svit and so on. We

also visited natural science museums near our school. I made photos of plants and new herbarium for my students.

Since school year 2009/2010, students of five class of our school have participated in the project Botanikiada. This project contains two stages of competitions: school competition and regional competition.

School competition usually take place in April. Students fill on-line computer test which contains twenty questions about plants.

Two best students participate in regional competition in the Botanical Garden of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. This regional competition takes part in May.

All my students who participated in this regional competition were very glad. They said these sentences about project Botanikiada:

**Alexandra Smolková** -she participated in Botanikiada in May 2015. She said: „Botanikiada was very interesting competition. I learnt new information about plants. It was also fun. I answered all questions very well, there I won.“

**Adam Kačmarák** - he participated in Botanikiada in May 2014. He said: „Although I did not win, it was wonderful. I liked it. I wanted to participate also in the following school year. I was sad that this competition is only for pupils of the fifth class.“

**Melisa Bukovinová** - she participated in Botanikiada in May 2010. She said: „It was very interesting experience. I recommend it for every pupil of the fifth class.“

**Adam Faix** - he participated in Botanikiada in May 2011. He said: „I was happy. I recommend to try this project.“

**Michaela Mrštinová** - she participated in Botanikiada in May 2011. She said: „I think, this project gave me very much. I knew new people, I tried some new activity. I recommend it for every student.“

**Róbert Bango** - he participated in Botanikiada in May 2012. He was among the most successful participants. He said: „ This project gave me very much. I recommend this competition.“

**Patrik Lihan** - participated in Botanikiada in May 2015. He said: „ I did not answer one question, therefore I did not win. But I am satisfied. I liked this project.“

**Lívia Zajacová** - participated in Botanikiada in May 2014. She said: „I liked the Botanical Garden in Kosice very much. I learnt very much. People in this botanical garden were very nice. There were wonderful environment there. I met new friends.“

**Emma Brontvayová** - participated in Botanikiada in May 2012. She won. She said: „This competition gave me very much. I learnt a lot of new information in Biology. I saw wonderful Botanical Garden in Kosice.“

**Eva Ammerová** - participated in Botanikiada in May 2010. She was winner, too. She said: „I went on this competition as substitute. I was very surprised to hear my name among winners. This project was very fun. I was in the Botanical

Garden with my friend, therefore I enjoyed it very much. This environment was wonderful. I knew many new facts about plants.“

And what about teachers? **Teachers were very glad** because it was very interesting programme for them prepared by several experts. They got some plants from organizers, too.

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