

Link to Win: Linked primary schools play in tournament to promote community cohesion

Joint teams from four pairs of Tower Hamlets primary schools participated in a Football and Netball tournament at Mile End Stadium on 30th April 2009 as part of the Tower Hamlets Schools Linking Project



The joint school teams taking part in the tournament were:

Stewart Elizabeth

Year 4 children from Stewart Headlam and St. Elizabeth's school

John Columbia

Year 4 children from John Scurr and Columbia schools

Peter Virginia

Year 4 children from St. Peter's London Docks and Virginia primary

Canon Saviours

Year 5 children from Canon Barnett School and St. Saviours

Each pair of schools formed four mixed school teams who played in the tournament. The focus of the tournament was on the joint schools team collaborating and concentrating on playing well with others from their link partner school. On the morning before the tournament the linked schools met to practice together and discuss tactics. The joint team then travelled together to Mile End Stadium where the tournament took place. Altogether approximately 200 pupils took part. Each joint school team was divided in to 4 smaller teams which then played in 4 pools, 3 pools for football and 1 pool for netball. Coaches from **West Ham FC** refereed the football games and students from Years 8 and 9 at **Swanlea secondary school** refereed the netball games. There was a good turn out of parents and carers from all schools to support the event.



The joint school teams played really well together. **Peter Virginia** won the Netball tournament and each school received a portable netball hoop as a prize so that they can continue to develop their netball skills. **Canon Saviours** were the winners of the football tournament. As a prize each school received a Fair Trade football.

The Humanities Education Centre (HEC) has been running the Schools Linking Project in Tower Hamlets primary schools for the past three years. The Schools Linking Project enables schools that have contrasting demographics or locations, to link with one another to promote active citizenship, anti-racism and community cohesion. The Schools Linking Project began in Bradford in 2001 and is now running in 31 other boroughs in England.

The other school pairs taking part in the Schools Linking Project but who are not participating in the football tournament are: Manorfield and Stephen Hawk St. Edmunds and Old Palace St. Agnes and Bangabandhu Smithy Street and St. Mary and St. Michaels



To join the Tower Hamlets Schools Linking Project or for further information about the contact Sophie Mackay at the Humanities Education Centre, PDC English Street, E3 4TA, Tel: 020 7364 6405, E-mail: sophie.mackay@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Global Leaflets, New Resource

The leaflets, produced by HEC and published by the Schools Library Service, are designed to be used by teachers and students to give rounded information about current issues that affect people around the world. They cover 12 topics which are **children's rights, energy, food, health, refugees, ethical fashion, water, homelessness, transport, trade, waste & recycling and tourism.**

The leaflets give an overview of an issue, places it in a global context and explores it through several case studies. There are also suggested classroom activities, recognised yearly events, ideas for action, assembly ideas, suggested book, journal and website resource lists. They are available free from the Schools Library Service and are also downloadable from www.global.lgfl.net.

Refugee Week Theatre Workshop

Refugee Week is a UK wide programme of events celebrating the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encouraging better understanding between communities. This year for Refugee Week (15-19 June 2009), schools across Tower Hamlets were offered a special workshop by the Humanities Education Centre.



Storyteller BAFTA nominated actress Alia Alzougbi worked with 10 primary school classes in the borough, telling stories and increasing knowledge and understanding of the bravery and plight of refugees across the world through theatre and storytelling workshops. Students engaged with the hopes and dreams of refugees in building new lives from themselves, thus contributing positively to our society.

Children took part in theme games that allowed them to relate to the difficulty of losing a home, leaving loved ones and moving to another country. They also responded to the stories by creating freeze frames and used 'forum theatre' techniques to resolve challenges that might arise when a new person enters an established community. Children responded enthusiastically to the stories, games and exercises and by the end of the workshops, they demonstrated a significantly clearer understanding of what the situation of a refugee entails.

There is an opportunity for your school to experience Refugee Week Theatre Workshop at the cost of £150 each session. For more information and to book email Sharifa Khanom on hec@gn.apc.org

The **Humanities Education Centre** promotes the values, aims and principles of development education and global citizenship through all areas of education.

Our Aims are:-

- To provide opportunities for schools to raise standards through curriculum enrichment and giving young people a voice.
- To promote a global perspective and understanding of sustainable development in the context of an interdependent system of lands and people.
- To engender an appreciation and celebration of the richness of cultural diversity in our, and other communities.
- To maintain and develop the resources to support curriculum development and provide in-service training and advice to teachers.
- To raise awareness among young people of the causes of injustice and inequality in a local, national and international context and to instil an understanding and empathy for oppressed peoples.



Summer 2009

Global Footprints

Promoting global learning in schools

Students met Geoffrey Robertson Q.C. and learnt about International Law at the Town Hall

Six schools, Cayley, St Annes, Mowlem, St Elizabeths, Guardian Angels and Ben Johnson, with fifty-two school councillors, visited the Town Hall on Thursday 18th June to learn about International Law as part of Refugee Week.

The children explored the problem of making elections fair. They looked at instructions for carrying out elections as a starting point for their own school council constitutions. A young Iranian woman's quote, 'Where is my vote?', in the news that day, was used to illustrate the importance of the exercise to people's lives and to justice around the world.

The school councillors then listened to the story of King Charles I, and had to argue the case for putting this world leader on trial and what charges would he face. The new teaching resource uses the book *The Tyrannicide Brief* by Geoffrey Robertson QC to use the prosecution of Charles I as the example of the first trial of a world leader for crimes against his people. The children voted to put the King on trial, 43 for and 7 against.

The special guest for the morning was Geoffrey Robertson QC, international human rights barrister, and United Nations Judge. He trained the judges in the Saddam Hussein's trial, and has been involved in law formation around child soldiers, amongst a life of major contributions to human rights in Britain and around the world. He chatted to the teachers and answered their questions, and then was interviewed by the children in the council Chamber chaired by the Deputy Young Mayor Alex Kuye .



The morning ended with the Mayor Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer hosting fairtrade drinks and cake in his parlour . To celebrate the 20th Birthday of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child he presented the children with copies of the Convention.

The Mayor, Deputy Young Mayor and Geoffrey Robertson placed the 'Democratic Declaration' of St Elizabeths School Council onto the Fair Play Wall, which celebrates children and young people learning about local government, democracy and rights. The interview and teaching resources are available on the web at www.global.lgfl.net under 'Highlights'.



DFID

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Bringing to life issues around children, work and rights, through Eye to Eye resources for secondary schools

The Eye to Eye project, run by Save the Children, helped secondary teachers to create stimulating **teaching resources based around photos and stories created by working children**. These are now all available via the website: www.savethechildren.org.uk/eyetoeye.

This website is a source of information and support for teachers, students, educational organisations and others, who want to find out about the project or use our Eye to Eye teaching materials and enhance the 'Global Dimension' in their own teaching or in their school. There is a wealth of activities for the classroom, including ways to help your students explore issues such as children's rights, poverty, inequality, children's participation and international development. You can even use the materials, as many have done, to enhance your school links or get students taking their own assemblies or getting creative in other ways. On the site there is also a lot of accessible information about child labour and development themes, useful for both students and teachers, as well as galleries of photos and a number of films made specially for the project.



The project started by organising workshops in four developing countries India, South Africa, Pakistan and Bolivia – in which working children took pictures to tell us about their lives. Teachers in the UK then worked with these materials to create ways for students to learn about important issues relating to children and work. Exhibitions were held in the countries and also in the UK, to engage communities and young people about the issues.

Recently many of the people involved in Eye to Eye - teachers, educators, film-makers, volunteers and partners, met together for a **final showcase event**, where a new animation film, using stories from the project, was premiered. You will find this on the website. Although the three year project, funded by the EU, has now officially ended, engagement with the project and its resources continues. This site is staying up for at least the whole of the next academic year, giving teachers the opportunity to use these free, colourful, innovative resources. Why not help teachers find out about this new resource by pointing them to the website or putting a flyer up in your staffroom. (see email address below)



Whilst focussed on teaching and learning in European classrooms, the project as a whole has had a global feel. It has involved educators, staff in development programmes, academics, teachers, film-makers, photographers and resources specialists across the world. It attempts to connect the 'global' to the 'local'.

If you are interested in finding out more about the project, or communicating with those still involved in promoting and developing these resources, or in receiving a free colour booklet about the experiences of the project with an introductory sample resource pack email: e2epictures@gmail.com We will also send you a few flyers to pass to colleagues to help spread the word.

Highlights on the Humanities Education Centre's websites



www.citizenship-pieces.org.uk

Citizenship Pieces

Tower Hamlets Community Cohesion Conference documents

20 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Participation Works Training



www.eastendeye.org.uk

East End Eye

Who Do We Think We Are? Week

New Healthy Choices website launched

Bishop Challoner School

Alternative Fashion Show



www.eastendtalking.org.uk

East End Talking

The Roman Road is changing.

See pupils research and webpages about the Roman Road. Then, Now and in the Future.

www.eastendtalking.org.uk/schools/olga



www.globalfootprints.org

Global Footprints

Help to reduce your Global Footprint and that of your school and family by getting active

www.globalfootprints.org/page/id/0/4/

Primary Global Footprint Webquests

Reach Out Conference Papers

Work Experience at the Humanities Education Centre

Often work experience is marred with images of tea making, photocopying and filing, but this year Humanities Education Centre (HEC) has been busy supporting Tower Hamlets students, with hands on work experience in promoting the Global Dimension and contributing towards a Global School.

HEC has provided placements for 12 secondary school students. This was a real opportunity for the students to get a realistic feel of what everyday work is like and what really goes on in an office.

HEC has been offering work-experience programmes for more than 10 years, offering week long placements as well as volunteer placements. Our work experience programme ranges from admin duties to creative web designing to digital video editing. Many students have come back for more work experience in the area that interested them the most.

Our structured programme enable allows the students to gain an invaluable workplace experience, as they created downloadable global event publications for our secondary school website www.eastendeye.org.uk ranging from posters, leaflets and resources lists.

The programme allows both the student and us to learn from each other and share knowledge and ideas. This gives us both the opportunity to develop web design and multimedia editing skills by working along side each other, communicating with each other and observing each others work.

The students kept a daily diary to record their thoughts and events. Here is one student's statement "We went to help Redlands Primary School to help with the understanding of the topic refugees but in a fun and enjoyable way. We did animation, video recording and editing."

Schools involved in our programme:

Bishop Challoner Girls, Bow Boys, Central foundation, George Green, Langdon Park, Mulberry, Oaklands and St Pauls Way.

For more information speak to the Tower Hamlets Work Experience Team on Tel: 020 7377 6827.

Learning Democracy from the Most Famous State Democratic School

What would a democratic state school look like? How would the voices of the children and young people be involved in the decisions of the school community in its self-evaluation and in its teaching and learning?

Five primary school councils met in the Town Hall to find out how schools can integrate the children's voice into their communities. This was the second in a series of events supporting school councils and their link teachers in developing their work on democracy and rights.

Professor Michael Fielding, Institute of Education, is researching, with ex-students and staff, the history and workings of St Georges-in-the-East Secondary School, Cable Street. From 1945-55 this was one of the world's most famous democratic schools, under the headship of Alexander Bloom. The government school inspectors, HMI, reported that the school was a model of what schools of the future should be like, and the world famous head of Summerhill School, A.S.Neill, said that it was the most democratic state school he had ever seen. The school was portrayed in the famous novel, 'To Sir With Love', and misrepresented in the Sidney Poitier film as a failing school.

The school councillors did a consultation on what a democratic school should look like, acted as journalists interviewing Professor Fielding, and took over the council chamber to discuss the constitution for children's voice at St Georges. The teaching resource is available at:

www.global.lgfl.net under 'Highlights'.