

Sister Cities News Bulletins

Doncaster Classrooms Look Beyond Their Own Borders

Greetings from delightful Doncaster. My name is Patrick Carroll and as a teacher at Shaw Wood Primary School in Armthorpe it's my role to establish collaborative partnerships with schools worldwide so that our children are able to be more aware of their place within the global community. This is why we want to use the following experiences to establish stronger links with Wilmington.

Over the past seven years we have created wonderful partnerships from Ghana to Australia, India to Chile. With them we have made video tours of our local area, discussed our local cuisine (yes we do have one), as well as debated important environmental issues. However, the majority of our projects have been within Europe using the highly successful European Commission programme eTwinning.

As a European eTwinning Ambassador I have the privilege of attending and running training sessions across Europe where I work with some of the most creative teachers around. One such example is Crescendo where a colleague from Dublin and I got our children to create music and share it using the Nintendo Wii. Each week the children would record themselves, send the video to their friends and then work on the suggestions that were sent back in the form of a podcast. Then the children had to devise a joint Sports Day between the schools that not only had outside activities, but also Nintendo Wii challenges. This worked brilliantly because the children were taking charge and devising their own rules, games and scoring system.

Other enjoyable activities have included creating a single piece of artwork with 5 other countries, studying the topic of Vikings with a Swedish school and gaining a much greater insight in to what

Europe looks like through a photography competition.

The simplicity of eTwinning is that it is up to teachers what they do and for how long. It is also for them to determine how creative they wish to be. For a completely different project please have a look at this latest venture that my friend Lieven came up with. It has been so much fun for everyone involved that we forget how completely mad it sounded at the start.

<http://www.sintamandusmeulebeke.be/computer/mouse@rt.htm>

Finally, I wish to book sunny weather for August in Wilmington as my class tell me that I need to find out what real sunshine is instead of the pretend stuff we have over here. Thank you so much for reading.



San Pedro Delegation Solidifies Friendship

Steve Meinhold, SCC Chairperson and SCAW board member along

with SCAW President, Marilyn Cantarella just returned from San Pedro where they toured sister schools and visited with the Mayor and other community leaders. The "House on Front Street," painting by artist Cheryl Mc Graw, was presented to Mayor Paz and will be proudly displayed in San Pedro's Town Hall emblematic of the friendship between our cities.

Cantarella, reporting on the visit, said "...community spirit and civic involvement was exceptionally strong." There was an opportunity to meet with local artists, educators, the town librarian, and others to enhance our cultural understanding and general knowledge of Ambergris Caye. We learned that Friday and Saturday nights feature a barbecue fundraiser offered by the Lions Club to support local needs. One weekend there

was a chance for children and adults to lend their hand to painting a mural at Isla Bonita to help raise money for art supplies for the students. Afterwards you could buy a delicious Belizean lunch to go, which included chicken, rice and beans and cole slaw. The proceeds raised from the lunch were going to benefit one of the teacher's family members in need of an operation.

Mayor Paz presented a tile with a scene of San Pedro by photographer, Jose Luis Zapata as a gift to Mayor Saffo as she [Paz] expressed her "... appreciation for the ways in which their community has benefited from the partnership with Wilmington." The UNCW teacher candidates that work in San Pedro schools are now in the third year of this international assignment under the leadership of Dr. Dennis Kubasko and Dr. Susan Catapano. The program has grown and evolved since 2009 and this year included professional development workshops for San Pedro principals and teachers led by UNCW doctoral students.

Many SCAW members contributed classroom supplies that traveled with the UNCW team for instructional use in San Pedro. Wilmington's Codrington Elementary School raised money during the student's Annual Talent Show to assist the partner schools working with UNCW's Watson School of Education with purchasing additional educational materials/supplies. SCAW acted as the fiscal agent for the donation and checks were presented to San Pedro High School, Isla Bonita, and San Pedro RC Primary School. The money raised for the education lab demonstrates that Codrington Elementary students are learning at a very young age that they can make a difference in the lives of people they may never even meet. We applaud them for learning not only what a philanthropist is, but also how they can be one.

U.S. Embassy Launches \$1.35m Entrepreneurship Initiative

Bridgetown, Barbados February 23, 2011 - The Embassy of the United States of America to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean today announced a new US\$1.35m (BD\$2.7m) entrepreneurship initiative with the University of the West Indies-Cave Hill and Illinois University. The multi-year Job Opportunity for Business Start-up (JOBS) initiative is aimed at supporting the growth of an entrepreneurial culture and diversifying the service oriented economies of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. JOBS will be coordinated by the U.S. Agency for International Development

(USAID)/Barbados and Eastern Caribbean and Higher Education for Development (HED).

JOBS will strengthen the University of the West Indies- Cave Hill School of Business's Centre for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship as the hub for innovation business training and growth in the Eastern Caribbean. Indiana University Bloomington has been selected to partner with the Cave Hill School of Business under JOBS to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset in the region through updated degree and certificate programs focused on alternative energy initiatives, high-tech ventures, social entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurship in culture industries. To read the full release - <http://barbados.usembassy.gov>

Beyond Conflict

On February 24 Wilmington heard from a distinguished panel of speakers on the current unrest in the Middle East and on how to stop hatred by knowing our history and being consistent with our values.

To wrap up the discussion Don Ansell, the panel moderator, asked each of the panelists to respond to the question, "Why should we [audience] be concerned [world conflicts] or not"? Each panelist yielded to their particular perspective, but a common thread was we are a shared humanity.



SCAW Holds Annual Meeting

Officers and directors were elected during the Sister Cities Association of

Wilmington (SCAW) Annual Meeting on March 28. Dale Smith was elected for a three year term to fill an at-large seat on the board. Cantarella was also reelected as President of the organization. Other officers include: Jonathan Garriss, Vice President; Charles Goudiss, Treasurer; and Stephanie Walker, Secretary/Membership. Michael Craft, former consultant for the U.S. State Department was the guest speaker. Craft spoke about his experiences with the reconstruction of Iraq after the new government was formed. Ed Paul, General Consul to Belize, accepted Cheryl Mc Graw's painting of Wilmington during the Azalea Festival on behalf of San Pedro. McGraw was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for her artwork and contribution to Sister Cities.

Commission Updates

The Sister City Commission has received a letter of inquiry from Pfaffenhoffen, a small city located in the Alsace region of France, to form a twinning relationship with Wilmington. The Commission will begin an assessment of its potential to be a sister city with Wilmington based on a set of criteria adopted by the City Council in 2009.

Citizen to Citizen Diplomacy Honor Roll

SCAW attempts to involve as many people and institutions as possible to achieve its mission in Wilmington and the international community. We want to recognize the individuals and groups that have made a contribution in the past calendar quarter through their active participation or support of a Sister City program activity.

Donn Ansell	Amanda Greene
Dr. Jarrod Tanny	Rabbi Robert Waxman
Marilyn Cantarella	Musa Agil
Capt. Bobby Lumsden	Dr. Tony Oberschall
Dr. Lisa Pollard	UNCW OIP
Dr. Stephen Meinhold	Tina Roberts
Nancy Spirakis	Joseph Hou
Sally Hou	Cheryl Mc Graw
Patrick Carroll	Mike Craft
Codington Elementary	Patterson-Behn Frames
Steve Meinhold	



Brigitte, Leila, Marilyn (left to right)



UNCW Intercultural Fest Feb 12 2011

Upcoming Events

May 23 – “China’s Exit from Socialism into Free Markets” dinner program. Speaker: Dr. Tony Oberschall. Location: New Hanover County Library at 6:00 PM. Dinner to follow at the Big Thai Restaurant, Reservations required by May 20.

July 5 – Join us for the premier of a documentary film short selected for the 2010 Belize International Film Festival. The screening will be at the Front St. Brewery (upstairs) on N. Front St. at 6:30 PM. Dinner and drinks off the menu. Reservations required by July 2.

Photo Gallery



Chinese New Year's Celebration Feb 7, 2011



Beyond Conflict Panel Feb 24 2011



Beyond Conflict Reception



Addy Martinez (Principal), Marilyn Cantarella, Steve Meinhold visit Standard II Classroom at Isla Bonita



Emil Vasquez (SPHS Principal), Marilyn Cantarella, Steve Meinhold tour the SPHS Computer Lab



Isla Bonita partner school with UNCW

San Pedro RC another partner school with UNCW (below from left); San Pedro High School Courtyard



“House on Front St” – C. Mc Graw (Wilmington NC) 2011



Painting of “Ambergris Caye” – C. Cruz (Belize) 2010