

Easter 2010



“FOOTPRINTS ON THE MAP” IS OUR SCHOOL PROJECT DESIGNED TO MAKE LINKS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD.

In September 2010 West Kirby Residential School is hosting a group of young people from Calcutta, India. They will be spending a few days in school, joining in lessons and activities and taking part in a rugby tournament at Caldby Rugby Club at the weekend. All the pupils are from very disadvantaged backgrounds.

In 2009 6 pupils from our school visited Pienaars River School in South Africa. In June 2010 some of their pupils will be paying us a return visit.

OUR PUPILS ARE CURRENTLY WORKING HARD TO RAISE FUNDS TO MAKE BOTH OF THESE TRIPS HAPPEN AND TO SUPPORT MORE LINKS IN THE FUTURE.

The aims of our project are;
To learn about the lives of young people in other countries
To find out about other cultures
To show our visitors some of the best things about our own culture
To make new friendships
To establish lasting links with our partner schools.

Read more about our fundraising efforts in this Newsletter!

WKRS Newsletter

Principal - Mr G W Williams
Vice Principal - Mr D Barden
Head of Support Services – Mrs M Josey
Head of Care – Mrs Y Blackledge
Chair of Governors - Mr J Wylie

We had a 'South Africa Day' on Wednesday 3rd February 2010 whereby the timetable for the whole school was completely focused on all aspects of South Africa.

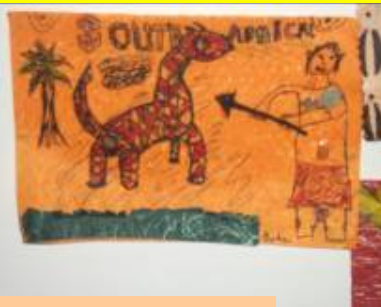
The day was a huge success! We had two outside presenters, Curtis Watts who came to school to read South African poetry and tell South African tales and Adeela Baig performing South African dance.

There was a cross curricular theme on South Africa in all lessons, including art, D.T., P.E., drama, history, cookery, currency, ICT and African drumming.

The pupils really enjoyed the day and produced some brilliant work on South Africa, including a giant South African wall hanging made in art and South African milk tarts made in cookery.

Well done to all the pupils and a special thanks to all the staff who made the day so great!

Miss Hercules



Sporting Activities

There has been a full programme of sporting activities this term that has enhanced the curriculum for our pupils.

Our Year 10 and 11 pupils have taken part in a Cricket Leaders and Boccia Leaders Award, as part of their JSLA. While our Senior 6-a-side Football team was very successful at Greenbank Sports Centre, Liverpool. Future events to look forward to are a Boccia Tournament and a Talent Identification Day at Bebington High School.

As part of our sports partnership with Clare Mount School our Year 8 pupils have had multi-skills coaching and all pupils have experienced the virtual rowing machine activities.

As part of our support for Footprints on the Map we have arranged for Tag Rugby coaching from Caldy Rugby Club, arranging a sponsored swim for our Primary pupils and we are organising a Lands End to John O'Groats virtual bike ride.



Work Experience

If young people are to stand a good chance of getting a Job when they leave school or college they need the 'employability skills' the employers demand. These are skills which will equip them to adapt to the changing roles that are such a feature of today's economy. Therefore this is a plea to all Parents / Carers who may be able to offer a work placement for our year 10/11 Students, or carry out mock Interviews with them. If you can help in any way please contact.
Mrs Williams (Careers Administrator)

The Kingfisher group have been developing links with a Residential Care Home for the elderly. Two of the girls have visited regularly taking part in activities with the residents and generally just chatting with them. These visits have been very successful and it is hoped that more pupils from the group will visit.

Mrs Dunne



The garden area is developing well. Young people are working hard to transform it for our enterprise. We have planted vegetables and daffodils. We have chopped logs for firewood and are selling them to make money for more seeds and equipment.

The next Parent Support Group meeting will be held on Monday March 1st 2pm – 3.30pm. This meeting is open to all parents and carers and will have an outside speaker to talk about Services and Benefits available to families of children with special needs.

Thank you to all the Parents and Carers who sent money in for the cake sale we raised over £40.00, this money will go in the “**Footprints on the Map**” fund, there is more information about this on the front page of the newsletter.



Thanking you.
Mrs Williams



It was pleasing to see WKRS pupils interacting so well with the public on the check-outs during a recent bag-packing day at Morrisons in West Kirby. The day raised £840 towards the “**Footprints on the Map**” fund. It was a good experience for the pupils and work to help less fortunate children from overseas. Some older classes are doing Media coursework based on ‘Slumdog Millionnaire’ which has opened their eyes to how people live in less developed countries.

Mrs Mason

The Liverpool Echo ‘Wish 2010’

We have registered for the Echo’s **Wish 2010’ scheme**. They are issuing 4 tokens every day in The Echo beginning Monday 15th February, until Friday 9th April. Everybody who is registered with the scheme will be given an amount of money from their charitable fund **but the more tokens we collect the more money we will receive!!!** Please help us by collecting the tokens and sending them into school, you can also ask your friends, neighbours, fellow club members etc. to collect them on our behalf. All money raised will be donated to our “**Footprints on the Map**” project.

Thank you for all your support.

Post 16

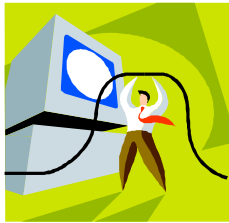
Post 16 pupils set up 'Sweet Salvation' – a confectionaries stall raising money for charity. This was also an enterprise unit on their ASDAN Personal and Social Development course which all post 16 pupils study. All students had a role in the enterprise from costing, marketing, buying ingredients and selling the handmade produce. £200 pounds was raised. £100 was given to the Salvation Army and £100 to 'Footsteps on the Map' charity appeal currently running in WKRS.

Operation Christmas Child An appeal went out in November and, in all, 68 boxes were collected to go towards the Samaritans Purse appeal which delivers a shoebox of goodies to children in war torn or less fortunate countries than our own. Although our target of 75 boxes was not reached, it was a great improvement on the 48 boxes collected two years previously.

A big thank you to all who have contributed to both appeals

Ms Hesketh

VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



WKRS will be introducing a 'VLE' (*Virtual Learning Environment*) during the summer term of 2010. The VLE acts as a solid educational tool improving communication whilst capturing a child's vision. The VLE will enable staff, students and parents to have access from anywhere in the world with an internet connection, and provides admission to a wealth of teaching resources, lesson plans, students can access much more information that would usually only be accessible from the school network.

Some of the benefits of using the VLE are; staff can produce and upload teaching resources from home, mark students work and give detailed feedback online, this will enable students to progress independently of the limitations of school hours. Staff can support students wishing to review activities conducted in school. Students will have access to all teaching materials and submit assignments for assessment. Their work can also be graded and marks fed back via the VLE. Parents will be able to access the VLE and observe their child's curriculum content, they will be able to see the work that has been set, deadline dates and any work submitted and graded. The VLE also contains the facility to host forums and message boards where students, parents and staff can share their views and opinions on particular issues and events.

We will keep you updated with all developments regarding the VLE as they happen.

Bag-Packing in Morrisons

Most of our pupils and staff were involved for part of the day in one of our first major 'Footprints on the Map' activities. We were kindly given the opportunity of helping customers to pack their shopping bags at Morrisons our local supermarket – groups of staff and pupils started at 11am and other groups worked through the day and early evening. Many of the customers were very keen to read the flyer we provided explaining our project. All of the pupils behaved as brilliant 'ambassadors' and were polite and helpful to the people they met. The days' donations totalled the grand sum of £841.88 – a splendid day all round and I am sure the event has helped to put our school more firmly on the communities map!



We have written to Morrisons and our 2 local newspapers to say a big Thank You to all the customers who supported us.

We are hoping to have further 'bag-packing' events in other Wirral supermarkets the near future and would very much appreciate – **Can you Help Us?** Just an hour or two at our next event would be much appreciated – if so please contact Mr Barden when we return from our half-term break.

Partnerships

In the modern world all businesses, police services, schools, universities and other organisations are encouraged to develop mutually beneficial community partnerships. At WKRS we have been working hard to develop local, regional, national and international links. We have recently developed a policy on 'Community Cohesion' which highlights

As a Specialist Schools and Academies Trust 'College' we have a role in sharing awareness of our good practices. Key staff from WKRS, particularly from our Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) department and our Behaviour and Education Support Team (BEST) have worked with several Primary and High Schools locally in various ways -through teachers and other professionals from WKRS visiting to provide training or advice to staff and also their staff visiting us to observe *our* practices.

We also work very closely with universities with whom we have partnerships – Recently we have supported Edge Hill, Mr Crossley our Head of Primary School gave a very presentation to a large number of teaching students about the ethos and used with our youngsters at WKRS. At least four student teachers will be completing teaching practices or observation weeks with us during this year.



We also work effectively to develop less formal links – during the last three months we have had two very enjoyable 'Communities Partnerships' sports events – other schools, colleges, businesses and organisations have been invited. The 5-a-side Soccer competition was won by a team of WKRS staff, earlier this month our Badminton competition was won by a mixed-doubles team from Birkenhead VI Form college – Congratulations! We will host two similar events later this year – Netball being next.

CPD – Continuous Professional Development for Staff



A good school, like any organisation takes great strides to train staff to keep up to date with new developments. This year all people in our large staff group have been able to access training related to their own jobs. Much of this training has been provided in school by various trainers but staff have been able to attend more than 50 out of school courses this year to develop their knowledge related to areas as diverse as 'Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning', 'Music for Pupils with Autism', 'Achieving Arts Award Gold', 'Using Accelerated Reader to improve Enjoyment of Reading' and 'Working with Parents and Carers of Young People with SEN'. All courses attended support our overall annual School Development Plan targets – we are constantly aiming to achieve higher standards. We have also recently had an excellent training session by Jane Price on Sex and Relationships.

West Kirby Residential School 'Adds Value' to Pupils' Learning For the last eight years an important measure of the success of schools has been the 'Value Added' or more recently introduced 'Contextualised Value Added' (CVA) score. Using various types of information CVA shows how far schools help pupils' progress over a period of time – this information is reduced to a number – with 100 being average in Primary schools and 1000 average in Secondary schools.

WKRS has scored very highly since the system was introduced – we are always in the top 5% of schools nationally and have had very positive articles in the press on occasions. This year our score was again very high at 1088.7 – higher than almost any other school in the country. This

clearly shows that our staff-team help in the achievement of great success consistently as our youngsters move through school.

We have a very wide range of pupil interests and abilities, in order to ensure an enjoyable and challenging educational experience our pupils work towards a very wide number of awards, accreditations and examinations from Y9 onwards. This year we have; 15 Y9 pupils completing the Entry Level Certificate in French, 8 Y10 pupils taking GCSE or Level 2 National awards, almost 20 Y11s taking at least 1 GCSE subject and many taking 6 or more – we are hopeful that last year's achievement of more than 20 GCSEs at level C or above will be exceeded. In Y12 we have 4 young people taking AS levels having achieved excellent GCSEs last year. Many youngsters are also completing Arts awards at Bronze and Silver Levels, Duke of Edinburgh Awards and ASDAN.

Are you Interested in your Family History? – Saturday Morning Genealogy Workshops

One of our more novel fundraising projects supporting 'Footprints on the Map' has been organised by one of our Middle Managers – Mr Mackenzie.



Mr McKenzie has, over ten years working in this field developed a range of skills as a genealogist and often works professionally researching peoples' 'family trees'.

He will be offering his services in school on Saturday mornings starting from 27th February – he is charging £10 for a complete series of sessions and will provide refreshments to anyone who attends. Basic IT skills will be needed to access the materials he will be using.

If you are interested in attending some of the sessions please contact him at school (0151 632 3201) or e-mail malmackenzie@wkrs.co.uk.

Next issue!

It is planned that our next newsletter will be a more *professional* production – on glossy paper and – we hope – with some sponsorship. If you are able to support could you please contact Mr Barden, Mrs Dickinson or Mrs Baird at school.



**We hope you have an enjoyable half term and
look forward to seeing everyone on Monday
22nd February.**



INTERNET SAFETY

Safer Internet Day 9 February 2010

On Safer Internet Day 9 February 2010 a new campaign was launched to encourage young people to 'Think Before You Post'. One of the key reasons the campaign is focusing on this theme is new technologies have turned all of us, and mostly young people, into publishers of information, pictures and videos. We can also manage our online identity in a way which may turn us into "celebrities".



Many employers now check their job candidates online. Personal information contained in social networking profiles can be used by dangerous individuals for bad purposes which may include grooming. Innocent pictures can easily be displayed in a completely different way, leading to embarrassment, or even bullying and because of the digital nature of the photos; they can be cut, pasted, altered or distorted.



Photos and videos can be taken at any time with a mobile phone; they can be sent to a list of contacts and uploaded on a blog or a social networking profile in just a minute. Photos, once online, remain online and can be seen by anybody, even years after they have been posted and young people do not always realise that the personal information they post online can be accessed by anyone including their parents, teachers, future employers and predators.

Colin McKeown, director at e-safe education, states "As young people increasingly use social networking sites to contact each other, we are also seeing a worrying increase in the amount of inappropriate photos and videos appearing on school networks by accident."





ALERT



The Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP), whose latest figures reveal a 10 percent increase in online child abuse that, took place in a social networking environment between March 2008 and February 2009. Again, quite worryingly, a large number of these cases began with children posting images, videos and other personal information online. So what can we do to help keep safe when posting information online?



1. Use webcams or post photos online only with your parents' and carers' knowledge and supervision.
2. Ask yourself if you would be embarrassed if your friends or family saw the pictures or video you post online. If the answer is yes, then you need to stop.
3. Be aware of what is in the camera's field of vision and remember to turn the camera off when it is not in use.
4. Be careful about posting identity-revealing or sexually provocative photos. Don't post photos of others – even your friends – without permission from your friends' parents or guardians. Remember - once such images are posted you give up control of them and you can never get them back.

1. Anyone you don't know who asks you for personal information, photos or videos.
2. Unexpected rude material from people or companies you don't know.
3. Misleading URLs on the Internet that point you to sites containing harmful materials rather than what you were looking for.
4. Anyone who wants to send you photos or videos containing rude content of individuals 18 and younger. (The possession, manufacturing, or distributing of child pornography is illegal.)
5. Online enticement for offline sexual activities. (No one should be making sexual invitations to you online - and it's an especially serious crime for adults to do it.)

S Marsland (ICT Coordinator)

Information sources

www.ceop.gov.uk/

www.childnet-int.org/

www.dontbelievetheType.mht

www.24dash.com.mht

www.images.google.co.uk/i