

ASL TWINS NEWSLETTER

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The AdoptSriLanka TWINS Program

Our Vision

“Empowering children through knowledge”

Our Program

TWINS links schools in Sri Lanka with schools abroad to promote global and cultural awareness and to increase confidence in English.

TWINS supports English language learning through 4 main project areas:

- ASL TWINS Global School Partnership Program
- ASL TWINS English Teacher Training Program
- ASL TWINS English Unit Development Program
- ASL TWINS Student Participation Program

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Read all about it!!

Heavy rains in many parts of Sri Lanka caused huge problems in the month of February. One of the worst affected towns was Batticaloa on the East coast.

With many people living in temporary shelter, trains suspended and roads flooded we were unable to carry out the second phase of the SnapLanka project during that time as planned.

Read an update on the SnapLanka photographic project on page 9.

The photo on the right, courtesy of Lisa Luginbuhl, shows school children braving the floods in Colombo.



Handy Sinhala and Tamil Phrases

In our last Newsletter you had the chance to learn some useful words for different emotions in Sinhala and Tamil. With this issue you can have fun with your students learning words for different modes of transport!

Useful Phrases in Sinhala and Tamil

English	Sinhala	Tamil
Bicycle	Papadiya	Mithy Wandy
Motorbike	Yathurupadiya	Thuvichchakka
Tricycle (Childs)	Trycikalaya	Chiruwar Mithy Wandy
Car	Karraya	Car Wandy
Van	Vanrathaya	Van Wandy
Truck/Lorry	Loriya	Lorry Wandy
3 Wheeler (Tuk tuk!)	Threerodarathaya	Muchchakkara Wandy
Tractor	Traktaraya	Payrundu
Bus	Basaya	Washu Wandy
Boat	Bottuwa	Teppam
Catamaran	Oruwa	Kattumaram
Submarine	Sabmarinaya	Neermoulhikkappal
Oil Tanker	Thel newa	Ennaikappal
Train	Kochchiya	Puhaiyiratham
Airplane	Guwanyanaya	Wimanam
Helicopter	Helikoptaraya	Helicopter
Rocket	Rokattuwa	Awuhaniy
Yacht	Ruwal nawa	Paykappal
Tank (Military)	Yudatankiya	Yutta Vahanam



Teacher Training Workshops



Mary Yuille volunteers her time each year heading the ASL TWINS Teacher Training & Development Program. This

year she was joined by her niece, Ms. Ally Weetch, an experienced primary school teacher who has taken a sabbatical and volunteered her time to support ASL's work.

Together, Mary and Ally designed a calendar of workshops specifically tailored to the teachers needs in response to requests made during evaluation sessions at previous workshops.

In total 7 workshops were delivered to over 100 teachers from the Galle, Matara, Tangalle and Batticaloa education zones.

The first workshop on **Classroom Management** took place for Galle and Matara teachers on the 17th January and for the Tangalle teachers on 8th February.

Class numbers in Sri Lanka vary wildly. In small village schools there may be less than 10 children in a class but in large town schools many teachers had commented that they struggled to effectively manage 40 plus children!

During the workshop the teachers looked at all aspects of classroom management and learnt techniques that would help them to create a positive learning environment for the children, which in turn would foster better classroom behaviors. Many of these techniques were witnessed by the teachers during a demonstration class conducted by Mary and Ally at the beginning of the workshop.



Demonstration class in Tangalle

The second workshop focused on **Developing Creativity** in the Classroom and was held on the 21st January for the Galle and Matara teachers and 3rd March in Tangalle. The teachers who are often under pressure to stick to the textbook were looking for ways to make learning English more fun for the children.

Mary and Ally looked at reading, story telling and drama, and the importance of each in developing a creative child, with a special emphasis on encouraging teachers to read to children and for children to become excited about learning to read.

The teachers were split into groups and took part in a range of activities which they then reported back to the others. Mary had selected only low or no-cost activities that could easily be taken back to their own classrooms. Teachers took time out to learn an English Action Song!



Learning 'The Silly Hat Store' song!

The final workshop focused on **English Camps** and was conducted on the 4th March in Tangalle and 8th March for the Galle and Matara teachers. English camps are popular in Sri Lankan schools and normally coincide with the English Competitions organised by the Zonal Education Offices and usually arranged by each school individually. However we had noticed that some neighbouring schools had occasionally organised a joint event which enabled students to meet new friends and immerse themselves in English away from their normal lessons.

The small amount of funding that had been available from the Dept of Education for these events has recently been withdrawn. Therefore ASL TWINS was very pleased to launch a small grant scheme at the workshop, which would encourage these inter-school English Camps. Successful applicants will be rewarded with a Camp Kit, tailor made to the requirements of the schools, full of useful resources which will enable teachers to make low cost fun activities and ensure a successful camp.

Each workshop began with a teacher who

had already coordinated a successful inter-school camp sharing her experience with her fellow teachers. This was followed by an explanation of the grant scheme and the application form.

Then after morning tea Mary and Ally explored the benefits of holding an English camp with the teachers and then they got to be students for the day by trying out many different activities that could be included in their camp.



One activity involved teachers guiding their blindfolded partners around an obstacle course and another finding answers in books!

There were also additional workshops held during this successful workshop calendar, including one for the 10 teachers from the Eastern Province who were invited to attend our inaugural conference (Pages 5 & 6). Feedback gathered so far suggests that this years calendar has been highly appreciated by the teachers and our evaluation is that this has been our best year so far!

Once again ASL would like to say a huge thanks to Mary Yuille for devoting so much of her time and enthusiasm to our program. And a big thank you to Ally Weetch too! We hope to see her in Sri Lanka again some time.

For more information about the ASL TWINS Teacher Training Program please contact Mary on maryasltwins@gmail.com

A visit to Caverley Parkside Primary School

Written by Janet Jones
Calverley Parkside Primary School,
Leeds, U.K., TWINNED with
Dharmarama Model Primary School

Monday 6th December was a special day for Calverley Parkside Primary School, as thanks to Reciprocal Visit Funding from DFID Global School Partnerships, we were able to welcome Mrs. Chandrika Peiris, a teacher from our Sri Lankan Twins School, to our school hall in Leeds!

The visit started with a 'welcome assembly' in the school hall, where Twins Representatives Rachel Blackwood and Rachel Jones, along with pupils from Class Four, took to the school stage to read poems and messages of welcome to Mrs. Peiris.



The children read their welcome messages on the stage.

Mrs. Peiris then presented the children in Class 6 with letters from their penfriends and a collection of amazing artwork which is now proudly on display at Calverley Parkside School. After assembly, the Head teacher, Mrs. Alana Duncalf, took Mrs. Peiris on a grand tour of the school so she could visit the staff in their classrooms and watch Calverley Parkside School in action.

It certainly was a different experience for Mrs. Peiris! Leeds was in the grip of one of the coldest, snowiest winters for several years, so she was able to witness some amazing weather conditions. Our school was also preparing for Christmas celebrations, so there were opportunities to watch rehearsals for the Christmas Carol concerts and Nativity plays, as well as to take part in a Cringle service at one of the local churches.



Calverley Parkside in the snow.

Mrs Peiris spent her time working with lots of classes across school. She did some delicious Sri Lankan cooking with Class 5 and taught the younger children in Classes 2 and 3 how to put on a sari. She also held a question and answer sessions with the children in Class 6 about life in Sri Lanka and showed all the classes a wonderful DVD of the end of year concert at Dharmarama Model Primary School.



Trying on a sari!

Everyday she enjoyed taking a school dinner with the children although we think she may have missed the taste of chillies as our school dinners are very mild!

The week ended as it began, with a special assembly. Everyone gathered together in the school hall to reflect on the events of the week. Mrs. Louise Staniland, the Deputy Headteacher, presented Mrs. Peiris with a framed picture of Calverley Parkside School to take back to Dharmarama Model Primary School and thanked her for making her visit such a positive experience for everyone involved. Then the children, dressed in their Christmas costumes, sang a final song as a goodbye...

Calverley Parkside School loved having Mrs. Peiris to stay and we feel that it has really strengthened the relationship between our schools. We look forward to taking our partnership forward in 2011.

ASL TWINS would like to thank Janet Jones and everyone at Calverley Parkside Primary for looking after Mrs. Peiris so well.

Thank you to DFID for providing funds through the British Council, Reciprocal Visits Grant.



Saying 'goodbye' at the end of a busy week

ASL TWINS Global School Partnerships Conference

The inaugural ASL TWINS Conference was held successfully from the 23rd to the 25th February. Teachers from 50 schools in the Southern Province had the opportunity to come together for the first time at the Wakwella Management Development Training Institute, near Galle. Joining them at the residential conference were 10 teachers from Batticaloa, in the Eastern Province. The Batti teachers had been especially invited as part of a pilot project to encourage TWINNING between ethnically diverse regions of Sri Lanka after the cessation of the civil conflict.

Day 1 - Opening Ceremony

After arriving at the venue and taking some time to freshen up in their rooms the teachers assembled for the formal opening of the conference and lighting of the traditional oil lamp. One teacher from each of the 4 TWINS regions and a teacher from Batticaloa, along with Bec Lyons (ASL GM) Mary Yuille (ASL teacher trainer) and Jeremy Watson (SnapLanka) did the honours.

Project Exchange

Each teacher had been asked to bring along a project that they had received from their TWINS schools and a copy of one they had sent and these were displayed on a table in the main hall.

Networking

The teachers were then immersed in a networking task which encouraged them to mingle with, talk to and get information from their fellow teachers. This valuable exercise meant that at the end of the session they had compiled a useful list of new contacts and information on how other schools were managing and developing their global partnerships.



Teachers enjoy networking session

'SnapLanka'

This was followed by a presentation on the 'SnapLanka' project so far and a chance to view the children's photos which had been displayed in an adjoining room. The teachers were also asked to pick their favorites and give them a name with a prize awarded for the best title!

Paduru Party

The evening was concluded with a Paduru (mat) party. Field Officers, Jude & Sanath, Thilina (ASL Accountant) and Chami (Logistics Officer) provided the music. The teachers needed no encouragement to join in and the singing was joyous. To experience Tamil people singing in Sinhala and Sinhala people in Tamil was a moving demonstration of peaceful unification.



Sanath, Jude and Thilina get the party started!

Day 2 - Global Education

The following day the teachers enjoyed a full schedule of workshops linked to global education and their TWINS global partnerships. After breakfast and a wake up and shake up activity the teachers all enjoyed a short seminar on global dimension before splitting into 2 groups. The first attending a workshop on student participation and the second a workshop on TWINS Global Clubs. Later in the day each group attended the other workshop.

Student Participation

The student participation workshop, facilitated by Bec, looked at how students could become more fully involved with their global partnerships. Not only by working on the projects as directed by the teacher but by having the freedom and confidence to have their own ideas. With the cooperation of the teachers we would like to see the students initiate ideas and drive the partnerships themselves.

TWINS Global Clubs

The Global Clubs workshop was facilitated by Indu and Sanjeevani, teachers from Ranna M.V. They talked about how they had set up their own club to allow their students to have the freedom and time to work on the projects outside the classroom. With all schools under pressure to cover a packed curriculum in the school day this idea was of great interest to many of the attending teachers. They went away with a clear idea of how they could set up a club in their own schools.

Global Dimension Workshops

After morning tea the teachers split into 4 groups and each group were able to attend 2 workshops on a separate global dimension theme. The teachers had been able to list their preferences in advance.

The workshops on offer were; Diversity, Peace and Conflict, Environmental Sustainability and Human Rights/Social Justice.

Global dimension material can be extremely complicated so each facilitator aimed to present their topic in a simple but useful way. It was vital that all the presentations be delivered at a level the teachers would understand and with content that could be used immediately in the classroom. Each workshop was followed by a session on project planning led by an ASL field officer.

Environmental Sustainability

Charath Senanayake from Rainforest Rescue International facilitated a fascinating and thought provoking workshop on Environmental Sustainability. The teachers left brimming with ideas on how they could use what they had learnt in their classrooms and for joint projects with their partner school. They all understood how important it is to lead their students by their own example. The project planning session that followed was led by Dulani.



Charath shares his knowledge

Peace & Conflict

Mr. Lakshan Dias, lawyer, facilitated the workshop on Peace and Conflict. He has previously collaborated with Caritas SED Galle, an NGO specializing in Social and Economic Development in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka. In his workshop the teachers explored the different types of conflict, the reason for conflict, the causes and effect of conflict and how resolution might be met. The teachers enjoyed practical activities to work through themselves and to take back to their classroom. The project planning session that followed was led by Anusha.



Conflict resolution activity

Social Justice

Mary Yuille conducted the workshop and follow up project planning session on Social Justice. She was assisted by Sanath. Through various practical activities the teachers studied how rights and social justice apply to everyday life. They focused on what was fair, unfair, right and wrong. They explored their understanding of rights and responsibilities and their awareness of inequality, and understood that the consequences of action in society and globally are skills equally important to them as to the students they teach.

Diversity

The workshop on Diversity was facilitated by Ally Weetch an experienced primary school teacher from the UK. Assisted by Jude, Ally first explored the meaning of the term 'Diversity' and why it is important to include it in our teaching. Secondly some activities were identified which supported joint curricular development between school partners and the teachers carried out several exercises which could be used with their children. They also discussed at which grade this work would be most appropriate. In the planning session that followed, the teachers were given time to plan a project which focused on Diversity and could form a joint project with their partner schools.



Teachers enjoy Diversity activities with Ms. Ally

Teachers' Talent Show

For the second evenings entertainment a talent show had been organized. The teachers, who were allocated just 3 and a half minutes per act, were both creative and enthusiastic. In all 23 acts were presented and were incredibly diverse! We had singers, mime acts, comedy sketches, dances, dramas and even a flutist. Once again it was great to see the Southern and Eastern teachers embracing each others cultures and collaborating on acts. The fun continued with certificates and small prizes being awarded! These included the 'bringing Ally to tears' award and 'the most dangerous act' award.



Batti teachers perform an hilariously dangerous act involving a tight rope!!

Day 3

On the final day the teachers again split into two groups and this time attended workshops on 'Communicating with your TWINS School' and 'Utilizing projects in the English Classroom'

Communicating with your TWIN School

The communicating workshop was facilitated by Jo Collins, TWINS Program Coordinator. The teachers explored different methods of communication and how they could use these effectively to develop a closer and more direct relationship with their partner schools. They also looked at the importance of clear communication, message structure, problems that may arise and how to respond effectively to email communication. Going forward we are encouraging all our Sri Lankan coordinators to take on a more active role in communicating directly with you, so that together you can shape and drive your own partnerships. This role has until now been mainly fulfilled by field officers but they would like to take a step back where possible and take on more of a monitoring role.

Utilizing projects in the Classroom

In the Utilizing projects in the Classroom workshop Mary and Ally looked at the TWINS project exchange program with the teachers. They looked at various project plans, topics and ideas and were shown how a plan can be used to compliment and extend the work that they are already doing in the classroom. Each group planned a series of lessons which could be used to work towards a final product to be sent to a partner school. They also looked at posing questions which encourage students to think critically about similarities and differences between themselves and children in the UK and other countries.

Profile of a TWINS Partnership

Between these two workshops the teachers were brought together for a seminar that demonstrated the clear educational benefits of developing a successful global partnership. The well established link between Kudawella School, in the Tangalle Education Zone

and Gorseland Primary School in Suffolk was profiled.

The session began with Field Officer, Jude interviewing Miss. Hemali, TWINS Coordinator at Kudawella School, about the history of the partnership and the benefits for her as a teacher and for her students. This was followed by a video, filmed especially for the conference by Gorseland School.

In the short film, the coordinating teachers explain what their global school partnership means to them and how they have been able to embed it in to all areas of their curriculum. In the video the children also shared their knowledge of Sri Lanka by saying what they had learnt from their friends at Kudawella. Lastly the teachers very much enjoyed watching a recorded webcam session between the children in both schools which saw them discussing the 'Water' project which had been exchanged earlier.

From this presentation, many teachers got the idea to organize a webcam session for their own students. Technical support for this session was supplied by Clive Elsmore.

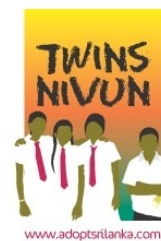
Event Close

And so after lunch and an active and some what chaotic energizer, led by Mary and Ally, it was time for the conference to draw to a close. The teachers packed their bags and alighted the free bus which would drop them off along the route to Tangalle. There was much singing and chatting on the bus as the happy teachers left armed with a comprehensive Toolkit containing all the information needed to successfully develop their TWINS Global Schools Partnerships.



Just a few of the projects exchanged!

ASL TWINS would like to thank Mary Yuille, Ally Weetch, Lakshan Dias, Charath Senanayake, Clive Elsmore and all participating teachers for making this event such a success



GLF School's Day

ASL TWINS has again partnered with the Galle Literary Festival to run a range of school outreach events throughout the festival and this will continue into 2011. Firmly established on the world literary calendar, the 5th anniversary of the Galle Literary Festival ran from the 26th to 30th January 2011.

In response to the success of the first School's Day held during the festival in 2010 we again invited children from local Galle schools to immerse themselves in both the English language and literature written in English! Led by Dr. Janaki Galappatti, the day allowed them to take part in fun activities, mix with students from neighbouring schools and meet talented writers face to face.

In total 14 schools took part, each bringing 8 students and a teacher. The 112 children came from grades 6 to 8 (Junior) and grades 10 and 11 (Senior). All students were able to attend storytelling sessions with famous writers who volunteered their time freely.

Story Telling with Prashani Rambulwell



The day began with the younger group enjoying story telling sessions led by children's author Prashani Rambulwell. Prashani who graduated with a BA in English Literature from the

University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, has written and directed her own plays and her first book, *Mythil's Secret*, won the 2009 Gratian Award. The story is about a young boy's discovery of just how strong the bonds of family and friendship can be. Students enjoyed listening to this spine-tingling adventure as *Mythil* learns to look within himself for the courage he never knew he had.

Story Telling with Jo Williams



Jo Williams, the founder of Bookaroo, India's first literature festival for children, also ran story telling sessions. In India, she also leads storytelling events for children and

advises parents and librarians on ways to encourage children to read. She has also organised activities for a specialist children's bookshop in the UK and has lived and worked in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

Workshops with Sharmini Flint

With Shamini Flint the Children were asked to imagine a world with no books! Shamini writes children's books with cultural and environmental themes and these include *Jungle Blues* and *Turtle takes a Trip*.



Whale Watching with Philip Hoare



Philip Hoare is the author of six non-fiction books and is also a keen whale-watcher. He took the students to a world which we are sure they will never forget and explored the strange shared history between humans and whales.

Rap with Omar Musa

Omar Musa's Music/Rap gave everyone a boost at the end of the programme. Of Malaysian and Australian heritage Musa's rap is global and unique. From New South Wales, Omar's opening declaration was: *"If I'm not the best Aussie rapper I'm the prettiest / the grittiest, the cleanest, the meanest, the wittiest."*



Interviewing residents of Galle Fort

One activity that the senior students enjoyed immensely was exploring the world heritage site of Galle Fort. Students were introduced to long term residents of the Fort and asked to interview them to get a real glimpse of the Fort's history.

The students were divided into groups and set the task of finding out what it was like to live in the fort through past decades. Interviews were conducted in English and the students presented the information they had gathered back to the other groups at the end of the session.



Photograph by Jeremy Watson



Photograph by Jeremy Watson

GLF Reading Roadshow

In January, the British Council with support from the team at ASL TWINS ran a Reading Roadshow for 200 English language teachers from Galle and Matara.

Held during the Galle Literary Festival in the historic Galle Fort, this event included a full day of workshops focusing on techniques that encourage children to read.

Teacher trainers from the British Council and ASL TWINS came together to provide training on topics such as using graded readers in the classroom, poetry in the classroom, Brit Lit, primary web resources, reading activity booklets and a treasure hunt around the fort.

Prizes included graded readers and activity books from the British Council and library books donated by the Asia Books Foundation. Many thanks to the British Council for coordinating and funding this event.

Thanks go to the Galle Literary Festival, the writers and facilitators who freely gave their time on the day to make these events a success.

Special thanks to the British Council and the Asia Books Foundation.

www.galleliteraryfestival.com

www.asiafoundation.org

www.britishcouncil.org

Jenni and Ali visit Kudawella School



Written by Jenni Stanley and Ali Rose, Gorseland Primary School, Suffolk.

Since the Tsunami in 2004 Gorseland Primary School has had a connection with Kudawella. What began with fundraising has led to many joint projects, learning and building a partnership. Thanks to a second British Council grant, two teachers from Gorseland were given the opportunity to visit Kudawella.

Jenni Stanley and Ali Rose, class teachers at Gorseland Primary School headed off to Kudawella at the end of February. We spent 5 days visiting at the school and a weekend exploring the local area.



The school band welcomes Jenni and Ali to the school

From the moment we arrived we were greeted with flowers, Betel Leaves, smiles and warm words and performances at the wonderful welcoming ceremony. A tour of the school introduced us to teachers and children.



Singing the action song Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes!

Entering the first classroom a song was requested and there was no standing back from then on. We had great fun with grade 1 and Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes. The Dance teacher had us bare foot dancing and playing the drums with Grade 4 and some older children.



Looking at the 'Water' project

Our main project this year with Kudawella was all about water as a source of income and its importance to our health. As part of this project children at both schools made collages of local fish to be shared. Parents and different age groups worked together to create two beautiful collages, one for Kudawella and one for Gorseland that is now proudly on display in our school reception.

We left with exceptional memories.....a warm welcome to the school, tea at people's homes, delicious food, beautiful flowers and knowing our school partnership and friendships have been strengthened. A special thank you to the Principal, Niroshini and Hemali for organising such a successful and happy visit. We look forward to sharing our school and our community with the Principal and Mrs Mangalika in June.

Bless you Kudawella!



Excited children at Kudawella!

ASL wishes to thank Jenni, Ali, the Principal and teachers at Kudawella school, especially Niroshani and Hemali for making the visit such a success.

For more details on the DFID grants available through the British Council please visit

www.britishcouncil.org



Bright and colourful water collages created by the children at Gorseland Primary and Kudawella School.

SnapLanka Children's Photography Project



Portraits of some of the Snap Lanka Photographers taken by Jeremy Watson

In February 2010 ASL TWINS had the opportunity to work with renowned Australian Photographer Jeremy Watson to run 'Snap Lanka'.

This project pilots new TWINS partnerships between schools in Sri Lanka's eastern and southern provinces. Following almost 30 years of civil conflict, this new era of peace is a perfect time for Tamil and Sinhala children to come together to share and exchange information about their lives and communities. These new school partnerships will enable these children to communicate regularly, develop friendships and come together for shared educational tours in various parts of Sri Lanka.

Groups of students from 4 schools in the southern province have already participated in a series of interactive workshops teaching them the basics of photography, encouraging creativity and self expression amongst students.

These 'southern' schools included Kattakaduwa K.V and Ranna M.V from Tangalle and Dr. Richard Pathirana College and Thotagoda Attadassi M.V from Galle. Four schools were also selected from remote areas of Batticaloa in the Eastern Province, however, due to bad flooding in February, the ASL TWINS team were unable to safely travel to the region. Instead, 10 teachers from Batticaloa Schools were invited to attend the ASL TWINS Global School Partnerships Conference and additional Snap Lanka training workshops were arranged for the teachers.

Stage 2 of the Snap Lanka project will take place with Batticaloa Schools in the coming months. Each participating student receives large prints for them to keep as well as images that will be included in a group photography exhibition which will be displayed in all participating schools.

The photographs already taken by the

children from Galle and Tangalle were exhibited at the TWINS Conference in February and will soon be available for viewing online in a special SnapLanka website currently being developed by Jeremy Watson Photography.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter which will include a large feature on the Snap Lanka Project! For further information on how you can support future Snap Lanka Projects please contact adoptsrilanka@gmail.com



"I have touched a camera for the first time in life, I am very happy"

Volunteer Experience...



Jeremy talks of his experiences volunteering his time to run 'SnapLanka'...

I feel our first 'SnapLanka' children's project has been a wonderful success, even before our first day with the children I had a sense it would go well, the enthusiasm and warmth of the ASL TWINS Team set the themes for my month in Sri Lanka: hospitality plus!

Taking our participatory children's photo workshops out of Australia for the first time wasn't without some trepidation and nerves on my part, wondering how much may be lost in translation, and whether acting the clown would remain a successful

strategy when the technical stuff causes a few yawns! Of course I needn't have worried, once again the children proved that 'kids are kids are kids' wherever you are.

The welcome we received on our first day at our first school is printed on my memory better than any photo I could capture: the children at Katakadawa lining the entrance to their schoolyard, clapping in time as we entered, gifts of flowers for the SnapLanka team, beaming smiles and those white uniforms, just marvelous.

Each student at all four schools, without exception, grasped the learning we shared, creativity flowed early on in the course, allowing the children to explore their surroundings with their cameras through fresh eyes. Following their one month journey with

the donated cameras was priceless, seeing their photos grow with their confidence and learning. The exhibition images, and in fact many more photos, expressing the freedom of expression photography provides.

To say that this project was in some way life changing for me isn't an understatement. A privilege to create the SnapLanka project and have the opportunity to donate my time. I feel we've only just begun!

ASL TWINS thanks Jeremy Watson, Rachael Ellis, Sabrina Stanley, Rachael Dobbs and Lisa Luginbuhl for volunteering their time to make 'SnapLanka' such a success

A special visitor from Wales comes to Galle



Gwawr Jones , Mrs Asoka Madurage and Grade 8 students enjoying pancakes.

Gwawr Jones from Ysgol Y Faenol, Bangor, Wales writes about her recent visit to Sri Lanka to meet their new TWINS School...

On Monday the 21st of February 2011, I had the great pleasure of visiting Janadhipathi Balika Vidyalaya School in Walahandu, Galle.

I was greeted by Ms. Anusha Liyange from AdoptSriLanka and Mrs Asoka Madurage, the schools Twins Coordinator. The schools head prefect, Imasha presented me with a wonderful bouquet of flowers and I was then escorted to the office to meet the Madam Principal.

Mrs Ashoka went to great lengths to make my visit exciting. I was escorted around the classes, meeting pupils and staff. They all made me feel very welcome. I was then given the opportunity to teach Grade 7, who had sent Ysgol Y Faenol, Bangor, Wales, their Festivals project. I brought our project with me, and was able to show the children the work and answer any questions about Wales and our festivals.

I was asked to cook pancakes with Grade 8 pupils as Shrove Tuesday was one of the festivals in the project. We had a lot of fun trying to toss the pancakes and the pupils took many photographs. Even the Madam Principle enjoyed them!

Thursday was a very big day for me. I had been asked to give a speech in their morning assembly. I had the honour of making a student a prefect, hoisted the Sri Lankan National flag as well as the speech about Ysgol Y Faenol.

I also spent a day teaching Grade 4. I taught them about Saint David and we wrote about how the Welsh celebrate

this special day. In Grade 8, I taught them a song that my Year 4 class was going to be singing in our Saint David's Day Concert. I also had time with Mrs. Ashoka to sit down and plan future project ex-change. Together we created a Partnership Agreement and a Project Plan Agreement (PPA) for our link.

I would like to thank Janadhipathi B.V. for their warm welcome. They made my visit very special and I have made many new friends there. I look forward to returning to Sri Lanka and visiting Janadhipathi once again.



Gwawr, Mrs Asoka Madurage and Grade 8 making pancakes.

Swimfriends (Japan) supports Lighthouse Community Pool (Sri Lanka)

Special thanks to Steve Siegal and everyone from Swimfriends!

Based in Tokyo Japan, Swimfriends supports a worldwide outreach to the swimming community.

This pool was opened by ASL, Jetwing and SOS Velsen, following the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004. During a visit to Sri Lanka in January, Steve donated a range of much-needed items for our Lighthouse Community Pool project .

Children participating in the free school holiday program were delighted with his visit and to have the chance to immediately enjoy many of the items received.

Our thoughts are with the people of Japan who have been affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.



Steve Siegal founder of Swimfriends Japan with students and coaches at Lighthouse Community Pool

Congratulations... it's TWINS!!

Everyone at ASL TWINS would like to congratulate Jude, Field Officer for region 3 and his wife Asha on the birth of their twin boys.

Born on the 26th November 2010, the tiny twins weighed less than a kilo each. They entered into the world prematurely at only 7 months and spent the next 7 weeks in Tangalle hospital. The little fighters, who now weigh over 3 kilos each, are now at home with Jude and Asha and doing very well.

Known as T1 and T2 for almost 2 months the happy couple at last agreed on their names and Kaveen Valence and Saveen Mackenz were christened at their local Catholic Church, St. Francis of Assisi on 23rd January.



Babies Saveen (on the left) and Kaveen sleep through their christening ceremony!



The proud parents, Jude and Asha with their precious sons.

Jude would like to say a big thank you to all his teachers who have sent him kind words and messages of congratulations.

Welcome to new TWINS Schools!

We would like to warmly welcome the following new school partnerships to the ASL TWINS program. Special thanks to Sue Allen from Tibshelf Community School for recently assisting with the new twinning's in Derbyshire.

Pilsley Primary School, Chesterfield, TWINNED with Ihalagoda Vujaya K.V. in Region 1

Morton Primary School, Derbyshire, TWINNED with Navinna Muslim K.V. in Region 1

St. Francis Primary School, Leeds, TWINNED with Denipitiya Primary School in Region 2

St. Patrick's Elementary School, Victoria, Canada TWINNED with Nayakawaththa Rajapaksha K.V. in Region 3

Westhouses Primary School, Derbyshire, TWINNED with Welhengoda Sri Gunarathana M.V. in Region 2

South Normanton Nursery & Infants School, Derbyshire, TWINNED with Dharmaloka K.V. in Region 2

Blackwell Primary School, Derbyshire, TWINNED with Ukwatta K.V. in Region 1

Stonebroom Primary School, Derbyshire, TWINNED with Pilana Takshila K.V. in Region 1

Gosberton Primary School, Lincolnshire, TWINNED with Tangalle Primary School in Region 3

Farewell to Jo Collins!



TWINS Program Coordinator Jo Collins will return to the UK in May after another long stint in Sri Lanka coordinating the TWINS School Program.

Based in our Tangalle office, Jo has worked tirelessly to enhance the skills of the Field Officers to enable them to facilitate meaningful school partnerships. With her history with the TWINS Program dating back to 2005, Jo has provided a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role.

The ASL TWINS Team sends a huge thank you to Jo for her dedication to the program. Her presence in Sri Lanka will be greatly missed but we are all delighted to know that Jo will continue to support the TWINS Program from the UK.

We have more Sri Lankan schools awaiting twinning. Please help us spread the word about the TWINS Program by encouraging other schools in your part of the world to get involved!

CONTACTING TWINS...

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