



# 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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## Handy Sinhala and Tamil Phrases

In our last Newsletter you had the chance to learn some useful 'phrases' in Sinhala and Tamil. This issue you can have fun with your students learning words for food and ingredients!

### Useful Phrases in Sinhala and Tamil

English	Sinhala	Tamil
Cooked Rice	Bath	Soru
Bread	Pan	Pan
Eggs	Biththara	Muttai
Meat	Mas	Irachchi
Flour	Piti	Poo
Milk	Kiri	Paal
Potato	Ala	Kilango
Tomato	Thakkali	Thakkali
Salad	Salada kola	Sambol
Cooking Oil	Pol thel	Thangai Annai
Coconut	Pol	Thangai
Tea	Thai	Thailay
Banana	Banis	Walaipalam
Sugar	Sini	Seeni
Coffee	Kopi	Kopi
Onion	Loonu	Vengayam
Chili	Miris	Kochchikai
Salt	Lunu	Uppu
Garlic	Sudu lunu	Wallaipoodu
Spice	Thona Paha	Manaththool



ASL TWINS have developed a comprehensive 'Sinhala Survival Kit'  
To get your own copy of this kit visit [www.adoptsrilanka.com](http://www.adoptsrilanka.com)



## A visitor from Calverley Parkside Primary, Leeds

The partnership between Dharmarama Model Primary School, Galle and Calverley Parkside Primary School, Leeds began in Nov 2008. The partnership that has developed is very successful and children enjoy preparing and exchanging a minimum of one project per term along with pen pal letters.

To strengthen their partnership and to enable the teachers to meet face to face the schools decided to apply for a DFID Reciprocal Visits Grant through the British Council. The application was successful and the first visit has now taken place.

Mrs. Janet Jones arrived at the school on 5th July and spent one week there getting to know the staff and children. She was welcomed at the school gate on day one by the Principal, Mrs. Peiris, English teacher and TWINS Coordinator and the school's Western Band.



The school's Western Band

After, the band performance two children welcomed Janet by offering a bunch of flowers and traditional Betel leaves. After introductions this was followed by a tour of the school with the Principal, Mrs. Peiris and the ASL TWINS student rep's.

After a break for refreshment the children put on a special assembly which showed their talents for song and dance.

Janet had brought with her the 'My Community' project that her pupils had created and so she took the time to show this to the children in Grade 5 and to also hand out pen pal letters.



Janet and the children with project and pen pal letters from their UK friends

During Janet's week at Dharmarama School she led many English activities and also went on a local field trip with the children. She also had time to sit down with Mrs. Peiris and plan future project exchange. Together they created a Partnership Agreement and a Project Plan Agreement (PPA) for their link.



Janet leads activities in the English Activity Room

Experiencing your TWINS school in this way, first hand, adds a personal touch to the relationship and means a lot to the teachers and children here in Sri Lanka. We are especially grateful to the British Council for facilitating the reciprocal visits. Mrs. Peiris is looking forward to visiting Calverley Parkside Primary in October 2010.

A huge thank you to Mrs. Janet Jones for the special time she spent at Dharmarama School from everyone at ASL TWINS and the children and staff at the school.

## ASL TWINS Global Schools Conference—February 2011

In 2011, ASL TWINS intends to expand the suite of teacher capacity building initiatives by hosting the inaugural residential **TWINS Global School Partnerships Conference**, which will be over 3 days in February 2011.

Since its establishment in 2005, the ASL TWINS program has been dedicated to supporting and promoting the development of sustainable educational partnerships, and improving cultural awareness between Sri Lankan schools and schools abroad. Integral to the success of this program has been the capacity building of local teachers in new teaching techniques, to facilitate and sustain global partnerships and improve cross cultural information exchange.

The Conference will bring together TWINS Coordinators from local schools to examine how international experience,

school linking, joint collaborative projects and professional development can transform the learning experience of students and further develop professional skills among educators.

Importantly, the Conference will provide a forum for local teachers to get together, share ideas, learn new skills and teaching techniques with the view to establish and strengthen meaningful partnerships with their TWINS schools abroad and within Sri Lanka.

The Conference will comprise of a variety of individual hands-on workshops, inspiring keynote speakers, networking activities, debates and presentations. A broad range of subjects will be the focus of discussion, with workshops covering topics such as project planning, youth participation, ICT projects and global dimension topics such as environmental

sustainability, globalisation & social justice. The conference will also include a significant component of student participation through debates, live web casts, focus group discussions, dance and song presentations.

Contact Manurie De Silva via [specialprojectsofficer@gmail.com](mailto:specialprojectsofficer@gmail.com) for further details!



## New Computer Corner—Tangalle

The new Computer Corner is now up and running in the Tangalle office allowing TWINS Coordinating teachers in Regions 3 & 4 to access valuable training with Clive Elsmore who is currently volunteering with us.

Clive says *"The computer training classes seem to be going down really well with the teachers. Skills range from 'never touched a computer before and can't operate a mouse' up to 'competent in all things Microsoft Office but little else' so it is quite a challenge. Once they can operate the mouse and keyboard I've started by getting them going on the web by introducing them to different browsers and search engines, and showing them the tricks for their effective use"*

Prior to the August holidays an average of 5 teachers were coming each day for the one and a half hour sessions and mostly in their own time after school. This has increased to around 7 teachers per day during the holidays and some teachers have requested, and are enjoying, longer sessions. The mixed ability and varied

levels of English has meant that it is next to impossible to group according to ability however the teachers are enjoying their sessions and progressing well.



Clive is developing a 'Provisional Computer Driving Licence' curriculum on-line using a Wiki. He says *"The hope was that I'd be able to find other teachers who might collaborate with me to build up the materials. I've also been using Twitter and reading educational blogs to build a PLN (Personal Learning Network) and finding learning resources—if you thought Twitter was just where people announced what they had for breakfast then think*

*again! There's a revolution going on in education and any teacher who doesn't know about these collaborative tools really should find out now"*

In his classes, Clive is giving the teachers the tools to find information for themselves, so that they can research answers to problems they may have and tap into the myriad of lesson plans and teaching resources available on the web. Lessons covering email, word processing, photo editing, security, burning CDs and more are in the pipeline.

Once the training is complete and the teachers can use the computers with confidence they will be encouraged to book sessions so that they can communicate directly with the coordinating teacher at their TWINS school. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to have a more active role in their partnerships and develop equitable and more independent links.

**ASL TWINS THANKS START, WALES & BOAT, UK FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE ASL TWINS SCHOOL ICT PROGRAM**

## TWINS Evaluation—an update!

As reported in the May Newsletter ASL TWINS has recently undergone an evaluation of its program. This was conducted by Sophie Remy, a student from Upec University, France as part of her Masters degree in Humanitarian Action. Sophie was with us from February 2010 and completed her evaluation in July.

The aim of the evaluation was to review how our program has developed since its inception in 2005, assess the impact it's had on the schools involved, to set a benchmark for future evaluations to measure against and to identify how we can continue to develop and improve the program.

Sophie worked with local teachers, Field Officers, teacher trainer Mary Yuille, and management, as well as conducting an on line survey which went out to all our overseas schools and which many of you kindly filled in and returned.

The evaluation covered all aspects of the TWINS program.

- TWINS Global School Partnerships
- Teacher Training & Teaching Aides
- Student Participation & Events

- English Activity Rooms & English Unit Development

All the data collected continues to be analyzed and we are currently working on ways to improve and continually evaluate the program.

One of the main areas focused on was the TWINS Global School Partnerships program. Although we are keen to see how the program impacts on all the children involved, ultimately we wanted to know what measurable impact it has on the children here in Sri Lanka. The evaluation has provided ASL with a benchmark for future evaluations to measure the improvements of the program and its outcomes. ASL can now measure how the program motivates children to improve their English language skills in order to communicate with their peers overseas. The information learnt from exchanging projects can also open students eyes to the wider world and increase their understanding of global issues and diversity of cultures. ASL is now focusing on whether this in turn leads to a better education such as exam results, opening up opportunities for further education and employment after school.

Our vision to empower children through knowledge is at the core of the work we do but is not something that is easy to measure. There are many factors within the children's school and family environments which will also impact upon them. Therefore, we feel, it is not appropriate to solely target exam results as a way of evaluating our impact.

Over the coming months we will be putting in place a range of evaluation tools and developing new procedures and guidelines to improve our program. This will include evaluating the progress of each partnership using the 5 star rating system. An explanation of this system is available for download on our website in the TWINS section.

Another initiative is the ASL TWINS Toolkit which will be available for download in the new year and will be launched to all our Sri Lankan schools at the inaugural ASL TWINS Conference planned for February 2011. The toolkit will contain all the information, guidance and documentation needed to enable each Global partnership to work together to create a close, equitable and sustainable link for the benefit of all the children involved.

# Creative Writing Workshops

On the 12th and 13th July Creative Writing Workshops were held for students from 24 school in the Galle Educational Zone.

The workshops, funded by the Galle Literary Festival as part of their community outreach program and managed by ASL TWINS, aimed to encourage the students to think and express themselves creatively in English.

Refresher workshops will be held in September for students who participated in the first workshops held in 2009. The workshops help students to develop new skills, instill confidence and inspire creativity before participating in the annual ASL TWINS Creative Writing Competition scheduled to be held in September 2010.

Special Merit Awards will be given to students who excel in each category and one student's work will be read at a special event at the Galle Literary Festival.

Approximately 78 students from 14 Provincial schools (Sinhala Medium) participated in the workshop held on the 12th and 50 students participated from 10 National schools (English Medium) on the 13th July and focused on the topic 'What makes a good story?'

The workshops guided students to write stories from their own experience. Through a series of exercises the workshops highlighted some key ingredients of a good story such as point of view, character, original description and dialogue. Students utilized props such as magazine pictures to inspire creative stories.

The workshops were undertaken by 3 enthusiastic and experienced facilitators Jankai, Lal and Vivi. Janaki Galappatti who has worked with us before is a retired Principal and university lecturer and was the Children's Program Coordinator of the Galle Literary Festival in 2010. Lal Medawattegedara is a lecturer at the Open University of Sri Lanka and a published writer and Vivi Madawattegedara is a published poet.



Vivi working with the students from Grades 8 & 9.

We are grateful for their services which were given freely and for their part in making the events a great success. They provided a platform for the students to foster creativity and innovative thinking and encouraged the children to use their imaginations. These skills can be later applied to the competition.



Janaki discussing 'What makes a good story' with grades 6 & 7.

Morning tea was provided on both days which allowed the students a chance to mingle with each other, relax and enjoy some nice food. Each student also received a participation certificate.

**A BIG thank you goes out to Janaki, Lal and Vivi for facilitating.**

**Thanks also to the Galle Literary Festival for funding the workshops.**

## English Activity Room Update!

In the last Newsletter we focused on Shramadana campaigns and featured the work being carried out by the local community at Dikkumbura Siddhartha School to develop an English Activity Room (EAR). This enterprise is being funded by their TWINS school, Kings College School, Cambridge, UK.



The major building work to convert the class hall has now been completed to a high standard by a group of fathers and local community members. The next job was for ASL to arrange iron security mesh and doors to be fitted to the open sides of the EAR. When this was completed the school organized another 'Shramadana'

to paint the internal and external walls. This was done with paint purchased by ASL on behalf of Kings College School. The internal walls of the EAR have been painted using four colours to denote the four corners of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

ASL has also purchased and delivered good quality wooden furniture which will enable the children to learn in groups rather than a formal classroom environment.



During the August holidays the children have been painting English focused educational murals on the walls of the EAR. This will create a fun and motivating environment for the children's English lessons.

Finally, when this is complete, ASL will fully resource the room by purchasing a variety of English Story and Grammar books, word games, activity items and audio equipment.

Stay tuned to read a further update in our next issue of the newsletter.

**ASL would like to thank the community members at Dikkumbura for sharing their skills freely for the benefit of the school.**

**We would also like to thank the Principal and Mr. Buddhika for their time and energy spent organizing the work and Kings College School for their fantastic support**

# Vajira visits UK TWIN—High Storrs School

In May, Vajira Jayanthi, English Teacher and ASL TWINS Coordinator at Kahandamodara School flew to the UK to visit High Storrs School in Sheffield.

The trip was long awaited as visa issues in 2009 had led to the trip being postponed. Mr. Ray Everitt from High Storrs visited Sri Lanka in February 2009 funded and supported by the DFID Global Schools Partnership Program and the British Council kindly extended the grant period to enable the reciprocal visit to take place.



*Mr. Ray Everitt, Vajira and Head Teacher Mr. Ian Cage*

As the TWINS Coordinator at Kahandamodara, Vajira is responsible for making regular communication and coordinating educational exchange with her partner school. The link was established in 2006 and has already established a positive learning partnership. These visits were used to build on the prior collaboration and to strengthen future educational projects and developments.

In the week that Vajira was at High Storrs she spent time in lessons such as Mathematics, ICT, Science and Food Technology, observing teaching methods and getting to know the students. She also shared information about Sri Lankan culture and gave talks on the history of conflict in Sri Lanka which links to the Peace and Conflict project which the schools will exchange in the future.



*Vajira observing an ICT class*

A presentation to Year 8 students stimulated a round of questions. They were eager to ask about what life is like for their peers at Kahandamodara School. They wanted to know about the school uniform, what food is eaten, the climate and the languages spoken in Sri Lanka.

During her visit Vajira stayed with Ray and his wife in their home and was given the opportunity to visit some local places of interest, courtesy of them and her new friends from the school. She visited the seaside town of Whitby, the Peak District, Sheffield Shopping Centre, Meadowhall and Chatsworth House. Also trying English delights such as Fish, Chips and Mushy Peas, Ice Cream and a Traditional Sunday Roasts.



*Vajira felt at home with the statue of Lord Buddha in Ray's garden*

The staff at High Storrs were sad to have to say goodbye to Vajira after such a great week at the school. Vajira made many friends and on her last day a party was held in her honour. Staff brought a selection of food into school and Vajira made some tasty traditional Sri Lankan cuisine. During the party, she was given some House T-shirts by Mr. Ian Gage the Head Teacher as a memento of her time spent at the school and the High Storrs staff wished her a safe journey home...



*Vajira with many of her new friends*

Both schools believe that the visits have supported and enhanced learning as staff and students alike have shared information about the similarities and differences between their own schools and cultural backgrounds.

## Congratulations!

Many congratulations go out to Sanath, ASL TWINS Field Officer for Region 4 who married his sweet heart, Chandima, on the 12th August 2010.

As is traditional in Sri Lanka the wedding celebrations took place across several days. After the wedding day which is organized by the brides family comes a home coming ceremony a few days later. This takes place at the grooms family home and welcomes the new bride into her husbands family. Both events involve big parties so the ASL team were happy to be invited to the homecoming which took place on Saturday 14th August in Galle.



*Young girls sing a traditional song to welcome the couple to the home and wish them good luck*



*ASL team Clive, Chami, Thilina, Jude, Sanath, (Chandima) Bec, Dulani, Jo, Jess, Anusha & Manurie*



*The happy couple receiving their guests on a special seat surrounded by flowers*

## Our TWINS partnership!



**Written by:-  
Mrs. Gayathri  
Andrahennadi**

**ASL TWINS Partnership Coordinator,  
Kattakaduwa K.V.**

**TWINNED with Ackworth School, West  
Yorkshire, U.K.**

I am delighted to say that our school has been linked with Ackworth School, West Yorkshire since April 2005, through the AdoptSriLanka TWINS program. The main objective of this partnership is to help our students to become 'Global Citizens' through the exchanging of information and projects focused on culture, history and lifestyle with their peers overseas.

During the last year we have exchanged several joint-curricular projects on Global Dimension Themes. As an example, our students prepared a booklet on 'Diversity' and a poster competition was held on 'Peace and Conflict'. Our last project was recently completed on 'Festivals in Sri Lanka', and both the schools have decided to do a collaborative project on 'Sustainable Development' next. We are able to link these projects to our curriculum, covering subjects such as English, Art, History, Civics and Environment Studies. I am happy to say that I get maximum support from the school community, especially from the members of the 'Global Club' who are all very enthusiastic to communicate with their partners.

We are very excited about our Global Club. As the partnership with Ackworth School was blooming I decided to form a club which would help the students to communicate with their peers in a better way. Ours is a small rural school and at the beginning we had 15 members in the Global Club, both girls and boys. Gradually, the number has been increased to 25. It has become very popular with the students so in the next year we hope to expand the membership to 40. Now our students are working hard to join the club and there is a competition among the students to become members

I decided to form the club because during the school hours the teachers and students have to follow the school time-table. We found that there was very little time to do the extra project work within the school

day; however I wanted to give the children the opportunity to do the projects well. So now we have our club meetings after school and normally we meet once every fortnight. When there are term tests or other extra programs in the school, the club meetings are held once a month. Normally 25 students and I attend the meetings and on special occasions our Principal and other subject teachers help us too.

In the Global Club the members always work within a time frame. Firstly when the project has been agreed we have discussions and the important decisions are taken by the students and the teachers. I explain the theme of the project and give them the deadline and after that, they collect data and information. Sometimes they have to contact people in their community and visit particular, relevant places. They also collect important pictures and photos to add meaning and interest to the project. After working hard for a given period of time the members get together and finalize their project with the help of the teachers. When doing a project support and guidance is given by the staff of Adopt Sri Lanka and this is highly appreciated. Our field officer, Sanath, communicates with me over the phone, by e-mail and school visits.

As the partnership coordinator and one of two English teachers at the school I am also very happy to see an improvement in our student's use of English and their interest in the subject. This is due to the partnership with Ackworth School and the desire of our students to be able to communicate well with their English friends.

Therefore this is a golden gift for a small rural school like ours to maintain a healthy international relationship.

We always admire the hard work done by the partnership coordinator at Ackworth School, Mr. Stephen Field. I exchange e-mails with him regularly and convey his messages to our students too. Usually, I use my PC at home to send him mails as we do not have internet facility in the school yet. We are very fortunate to have a talented and friendly teacher like himself to communicate with. I would also like to mention the creativity of his students. I wish them only the very best in all their future endeavors.

Not only students but us teachers also get valuable opportunities for professional development by participating in a variety of activities linked to the partnership program. We have participated in several English teacher training workshops and learnt novel activities to use with our students to enable them to practice the four skills of Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. Our students are very interested in these more child centered activities and enjoy learning in this way.

All in all I always hope to uplift the English language abilities of my students by fully involving them in the projects. This gives them great encouragement to strive towards a better future with a good knowledge of English. I feel it paves the way to achieving the vision of Adopt Sri Lanka which is to 'Empower Children through Knowledge'



*Gayathri with members of the 'Global Club' and a project received from Ackworth*

# Student from Solihull visits Nihiluwa School



**Written by Shanath Ramachandran**  
**Student at Solihull School**

For a boy of Asian origin growing up in a Western country with Western beliefs and traits, to reflect upon ones country of origin is baffling. Friends and family from overseas regale us with stories and tales of a country bursting full of life, music, cuisine and humour; a different culture to the one I experience every day in England. No doubt these are edited highlights of life over in Sri-Lanka. On the occasions in which I have previously travelled to Sri Lanka I was unable to gaze past the orderly chaos which appeared to be daily life; this lead to confusion within me.

After the tsunami of 2004 a link was created between my school, Solihull School, and Nihiluwa School in Beliatta. It was forged via the AdoptSriLanka TWINS program. This link was strengthened by the visit of two past Solihull pupils, Matthew Williamson and Daniel Strang in 2005. Money raised during charity week was donated to Nihiluwa School via AdoptSriLanka and this lead to an English Activity Room being constructed. Previous to this another donation from Solihull had enabled the building of a new science lab and IT suite as well as new toilets.

During the summer of 2010 I was presented with a chance to spend a week helping and being part of life at Nihiluwa School. It was an opportunity for me to help strengthen the ties already formed between the two schools, but at the same time would enable me to understand Sri Lanka for myself. I would be able to observe at first hand the land of my forefathers.

Nihiluwa School is situated in the small, quaint village of Beliatta, inland from the coast in close proximity to Tangalle, a harbour town in Southern Sri Lanka. It is a rural school serving the immediate locality, comprising nearly 400 students, their ages ranging from 11 to 18 years. After correspondence with one of the teachers of English, Mrs Padmini Kanthi, a schedule was drawn up of the areas where I could be of maximum assistance. For 5 days between 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July I was to teach English and, with the aid of

my two brothers Pravin, 14, and Hari, 10, take association football to students who live and breathe cricket. We were also hoping to demonstrate western music by playing the clarinet, flute and recorder.



*Shanath presenting footballs to the Principal in the English Activity Room*

On Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> of July I walked through the school entrance to a touching and warm welcome. I was welcomed at the gates by the headmaster, Mr Ariyasena Bodhigama, an English teacher, Mrs Padmini Kanthi, the rest of the staff, and the students, giving me a royal welcome by lining the path to the school. The hospitality did not end at that point, but was only the start of what was constant throughout the week. During the breaks teachers would bring Sri Lankan delicacies and sweet tea.

One of the purposes of having set up the link between Solihull School and Nihiluwa School was for Solihull to help further the facilities of Nihiluwa School and to give another dimension to the education which the students receive. The English Activity Room had been equipped with materials to enhance the learning of English and it was here in which I spent the majority of my time helping with the teaching. I met all the different grades in the school and partook in a variety of activities which included poster making with the younger students, helping with grammar and informal discussion with the older students. It was the sheer enthusiasm for English and the recognition of its global importance which took me by surprise. The younger students created vibrant and colourful posters displaying an encouraging range of vocabulary whilst the O-Level students were quick to pick up on the grammar which we had discussed. The A-Level students were relatively confident when speaking and were adept at both listening and comprehending.

Away from English, my brothers and I also taught the students how to play 'the beautiful game' football. Very few stu-

dents knew much about the game when we started, but after an hour of instructing them the basics the students started to get the hang of it. Soon we set up two thoroughly enjoyable matches of football, in which my team lost once 2-1 and then drew the following match 1-1.



*Shanath, Pravin and Hari introducing football to the school*

The week culminated with English Activity Day Celebrations, where the students displayed their talents in the form of poetry, drama and singing, all in English. It was a wonderful, colourful display.



*ASL Field officer Jude, English teacher Mrs Padmini Kanthi and Shanath enjoy the English day*

The week was very eventful and passed quickly. I took a lot from that week. The generosity and kindness offered to a stranger was very touching. The teachers and pupils were of gentle nature, their innocence reflecting the unspoilt environment of their surroundings.

The breathtaking vistas, palm fringed coastline, tranquil villages, abundant wildlife, ancient history and moreover the wonderful, genuine people of Beliatta are just a handful of the reasons why I would like to return to Sri Lanka and Nihiluwa School some day!

**ASL would like to thank Shanath and his family for sharing their time and experience with the students and staff at Nihiluwa**

## Exciting Photography Project will link South to East!

In 2011 ASL TWINS will be coordinate a photographic training program, with renowned Australian photographer Jeremy Watson. The workshops will culminate in a group exhibition for Sinhala and Tamil young people living in the Eastern and Southern Provinces of Sri Lanka.

Children will come together to share, compare and celebrate the similarities and differences between their lives in different parts of Sri Lanka after growing up in the shadow of civil conflict. This project will be the first of a series of exchange projects between new Sri Lankan school partnerships focusing on cultural and educational exchange between eastern and southern provincial schools.

ASL TWINS is committed to providing young people from rural communities with participation opportunities that enable them to express their views and develop new skills and confidence. The ending of the civil war in Sri Lanka provides a fantastic opportunity to develop programs that bring children from neighbouring provinces together to work towards a peaceful future.

This photographic project will teach children valuable skills which encourage them to express themselves creatively. It will bring children from different backgrounds together with the hope of forging new friendships and a greater understanding and respect for each other's cultures.

This project aims to give students the chance to learn more about themselves and their world, to share their stories, to learn new skills and to showcase their creative talents. They will communicate with others through the universal visual language of photography increasing their self esteem and confidence.

This pilot project will initially see the TWINNING of 2 Tangalle schools in the south with 2 schools in Batticaloa in the east and mark the beginning of new partnerships between Eastern and Southern schools. Teachers will later come together at the inaugural TWINS Teacher Conference in February 2011 where they will plan future exchange projects together. If successful it is hoped that the program will be expanded to involve more schools in the future.



Photographer Jeremy Watson will travel to Sri Lanka to volunteer his time coordinating this new project. Jeremy is the driving force behind many successful community projects with children in out-back Australia including 'Images from the Edge'. (above photo)



Jeremy uses photography to trigger the imaginations of the children and staff he works with. Photography is one of the most democratic of visual mediums; children learn technical and creative aspects simultaneously, through a process of continuous activity, creativity and review. As children master the medium it stimulates confidence and self-esteem.

ASL TWINS plans to bring the children, their parents and teachers together to view the photos at a large-scale group exhibition. Jeremy will work with the students to select their favourite photos, have them enlarged, framed and exhibited at a 'central' location. Transport will be provided for the students, teachers and parents from both regions. It is hoped that the exhibition will provide a special event for the children to showcase their talents and will also play a key role in promoting harmony in both regions. After the main exhibition, the photos will 'go on tour' to the eastern and southern provinces in Sri Lanka before also being exhibited in Australia. The photographs will also be displayed in an online exhibition.

## Brisley Head visits TWINS School

On Monday 16th August the Principal, teachers and children at Nalagama Sinhala School came to school, during the holidays, to welcome very special guests.

Mrs. Liz Hill head teacher at their TWINS school, Brisley Primary School, Norfolk was in Sri Lanka with a friend and had made the journey to the South coast especially to meet them all.



Mrs. Liz Hill distributing pencils and stickers amongst the children.



Principal Mr. Weerarathna, Mrs. Liz Hill and English teacher, Mr. Gunarathna.

Liz and Jill spent a couple of hours at the school in the heavy monsoon rain, meeting the staff and children and looking around the small friendly rural school that has only 61 students from grade 1 to 11. They were able to take photographs and collect information that they will share with the children at Brisley in September. They were also treated to some special Sri Lankan refreshments such as milk rice and kokis that the parents had prepared.

## Donations Appeal

We are appealing for funding as the scale of the exhibition will depend on what donations ASL can secure for this exciting new project before February 2011. We are also collecting second hand cameras.

If you would like to assist please contact us on

[adoptsrilanka@gmail.com](mailto:adoptsrilanka@gmail.com)

For more information on Jeremy Watson and to view more of his work visit

[www.jeremywatson.com.au](http://www.jeremywatson.com.au)

## English Fun at Jamburegoda School!

The pupils at Jamburegoda School were treated to some fun and games on 23rd and 28th July 2010 when Miss. Ali Macnaughton, a former pupil of their TWINS school, Archbishop of York's Junior School, Bishopthorpe spent a couple of days at the school with her friend Miss. Harriet Milsted.

The girls who have just completed their secondary school education at All Saints RC School in York enjoyed doing some activities with the primary children in Grades 4, 5 & 6 which were designed to increase the students' confidence with spoken English language.



Ali and Harriet lead activities with the primary children.

Ali who is on a gap year traveling and working, will be starting university in Bristol in October. She said of her former primary school "Archbishop's primary is the local primary school in my village and my younger sister goes there. It was my sister who told me about the link with Jamburegoda School and then I went in to speak with Zita Clark who is the teacher who coordinates the partnership and the project work".

The girls really enjoyed the visits and spent time answering all the children's questions about English life. They also commented on how nice it was to see, in the school, all the posters that the children at Archbishop's Primary had spent so much time on and posted over.

They said "To play with the kids was great fun and it was good to realise that all kids love the same games. They are lovely children, very eager to learn about our culture and language. It is such an inspirational project for both schools and the benefits are very clear. The knowledge and understanding they are gaining about other cultures is very important. It was also brilliant to meet the teachers who are also very keen for the success

of the project. This is also evident in the quality of the work sent to Bishopthorpe Primary school. The school was very welcoming to us and I do wish we could go more often. I do hope it will be a long lasting project and that others also get the opportunity to go visit".



Fun in the English Activity Room

Ali is planning to write a report upon her return for the school website and to put up photos of their visit, as well as visiting Archbishop's to participate in a special assembly where she will share her experience. She says "I will then take a continued interest by finding out how the partnership is going whenever I return from university".

## Volunteer Story Tellers energize kids in Schools!

In July 3 volunteers from the UK, Katty, Freya and Sara came to Sri Lanka to work with the children in two of our schools. The girls who had just finished their secondary education at Queens Park Community School in London spent 7 days at Richard Pathirana School and 2 days at Hiyare East School doing many different activities with both the primary and secondary aged children.

The activities were built around story telling and drama as a way of improving the children's English knowledge and confidence in speaking English in particular.



The girls with the Primary kids at Richard Pathirana School



The children keen to ask questions of their visitors during break time!

It is unusual for teachers in Sri Lanka to use story telling as a teaching tool so this was a fantastic opportunity for both the children and teachers alike to see how much fun and affective telling a simple story can be. The children also worked on small dramas from the stories they had been told. The children enjoyed this very much and had a great time with the girls.

The Principals, teachers and all the children from both school were very happy with the time that Katty, Freya

and Sara spent with them and were sad to see them go. They really appreciated the activities they did with the children and the teachers plan to use them to enhance their teaching in the future. The teachers remarked on how the children's confidence to speak English improved each day.



The children relaxed and had fun in the outdoor space.

**A BIG thank you goes out too Katty, Freya, Sara, Ali and Harriet for their enthusiasm and energy**

**-THANK YOU-**

# The Joys of Working in Sri Lanka

Working in Sri Lanka can sometimes be a bit of a challenge!

Not only do the team have to bare the incredible heat and humidity all year round, the torrential downpours during the wet season, the interminable cuts in power and the ever present risk of mosquito bites... but occasionally the wild life comes to visit us in the office too!

We have had the occasional mouse, rat and bat in our office but one day in June we had an altogether different kind of visitor. Now baring in mind that our office is on the first floor this was something of a surprise.



A two meter snake managed to enter the office and go unnoticed until, looking for somewhere dark to hideout, attempted to

go up one of our field officers trouser legs. Feeling something touch his leg Jude glanced down and got the shock of his life.



*Clive the intrepid to the rescue!*

While the Sri Lankan staff stood on chairs and table tops shouting words of encouragement it was left to Clive, our intrepid volunteer computer expert from the UK to come up with a plan.

He was surprised how fast the snake could move as it tried to get away up the back stairs but found it's way blocked by a door. Armed with only a length of electrical trunking, a broom and a bucket he went about his task. The two meter snake, did I mention it was a two meter snake, was quite aggressive as it bit the broom handle several times.

It was eventually coaxed into the bucket but Clive was unable to get the lid on fast enough so the whole process began again. The second time was a success and the lid was taped down securely.

The snake turned out to be a Rat snake which is non venomous and lives of rodents and birds. Clive said after "I didn't know that at the time and I was sweating and shaking, I can tell you!"

The snake was released into a wooded area away from houses and was none the worse for its adventure. The same can not be said of the Tangalle team who are now suffering from post traumatic stress.



We would like to point out that no animals, either human or reptilian, were harmed during the making of this story!

## A BIG Welcome to new TWINS Schools!

**We would like to warmly welcome the following new school partnerships to the ASL TWINS program**

Idsall School, Shropshire TWINNED with Polommaruwa Model School in Region 3

Rose Bridge High School, Wigan TWINNED with Thotagoda Attadassi M.V. in Region 1

Lowton Junior & Infants School, Wigan TWINNED with Polhena School in Region 2

Park School, Devon TWINNED with Hinidumgoda Vijayananda K.V. in Region 1

**We have many 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!**

**Schools currently seeking a TWIN:**

- Motagedara Secondary School
- Ihalagoda Sumangala Model School
- Nayakawatta Rajapaksha K.V.
- Belideniya M.V.

**CONTACTING TWINS...**

**twinscoordinator@gmail.com**