

GLOBAL TEACHER NETWORK

Bulletin 10

June 2009

Content

- A. Report on last meeting Tuesday 19th May on *Homecoming and Human Rights* - including resources and Inverness Book Festival writing competition.

A . Report on **Homecoming and Human Rights**

Agenda

1. *Kirsteen Wells*, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, - work she has done on Homecoming.
2. *Lisa O'Brien*, Cultural Coordinator, a project with a writer on *Journeys* for Homecoming with Dingwall Primary and Ullapool Primary.
3. *Audrey Kellacher* (LTS and Crown Primary) - insights into the potential for long term impact of Homecoming on the curriculum.
4. *Peter Fenton*, Torridon Primary and *Helene Kaspis*, Knockbreck Primary, virtual sharing of their work on *Human Rights / Homecoming* and *Minorities* respectively.
5. *A'Adam's Bairns* the new resource from the National Library of Scotland and ScotDec which could be a vehicle for creating a legacy for the Year of Homecoming, as it tackles diversity, identity and equality in Scotland, past and present.
6. *Choices and Decisions*, a game to raise awareness of HIV and Aids and to promote Human Rights, presented by its designer Mairi MacDonald.
7. *Home and the feeling of home* - - an invitation to write a short story for the Inverness Book Festival

Report

1. *Kirsteen Wells*, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis outlined to us how she is incorporating *Homecoming* into this term's topics which children are planning on the theme of History, Heritage and Culture. She feels it is straightforward to include *Homecoming* as it lends itself so well to regular topic work and a Curriculum for Excellence. Kirsteen brought in lots of inspiring art and craft work produced during this topic.
 - *St Kilda P1/2* – life on islands, bringing in comparisons
 - *Famous Scots P4* – the class are doing individual projects with soft ware that enables the children to become part of the story. They walk with the character.
 - *Journey to learning P6/ 7* - using ideas from Renfrew the class are helping a bear trace his roots, and see what it is like to learn about a new culture. Although the methodology may sound more

suitable for younger children, Kirsten said the class are well very engaged.

- *Exhibiting Photos P2/3* – this is all about learning about local textiles, all the processes that go into tweed making and all the traditions too. This project has brought about a lot of parental involvement
2. *Lisa O'Brien*, Cultural Coordinator, shared with us a project on Journeys she instigated with two of her schools – P5s at Dingwall and Ullapool primaries. The inspiration for the topic came from the Polish migrant community around Inverness and Dingwall as it gave them a chance to learn more and see the West coast. The project also brought in comparisons with how Scots must have felt when they left Scotland for example during the Clearances. It was a 5 week, one morning a week project. (Lisa brought along a display of much inspirational exemplar material)
- *Week 1* A story teller worked with the 2 classes encouraging the children to act out imaginative journeys.
 - *Week 2* The classes produced collages about important journeys – some real, some imaginary. One child did her journey from the Philippines to Dingwall and the exercise gave other children the opportunity to think about what this was like. The collages will be on display in museums and schools.
 - *Week 3/4* The children began creating individual A5 story books, a narrative of a journey, a bit like a comic strip. Lots were about holiday trips. Highland One World Group gave the classes the opportunity through a simulation game to experience other types of journeys, journeys that people do not choose to make, such as fleeing from a natural or man-made disaster. This gave the project a wider context. Some children did a lot of writing, others used mostly drawing.
 - *Week 5* was exchange day, where the Dingwall children joined the class in Ullapool. They had to imagine how they would survive in a new place. Many people joined in to make the day a success, including the story teller, an artist, the local museum curator, a sports coordinator and so on. Besides making their own shelter, a team building exercise, the children also visited the museum and heard the story of the Hector, the ship that took emigrants to Nova Scotia in the 1770s.

Lisa concluded by telling us how well the project met many of the Outcomes of a Curriculum for Excellence and that the books which were there for us to view were going to travel the Highlands in suitcases as an exhibition for more folk to see.

3. *Audrey Kellacher* (LTS and Crown Primary) outlined her job with LTS as Development Officer for Homecoming. She spoke of its connections with History, Culture and Heritage and explored ways to extend the life of the Year of Homecoming beyond November through the curriculum. She said it was an exciting context for learning and that it engages with all 8 areas of a Curriculum for Excellence. It is especially a useful topic for the cross cutting themes and she outlined a model Interdisciplinary Planner – a grid to support planning, which was very well received. She emphasised that Homecoming is also outward looking. It's about all people living here, and it would be an interesting theme to share with global partner schools

She invited everyone to share the good practice she was seeing in Highland with other schools through the interactive map of activity and showcasing facilities on the LTS website.

www.LTScotland.org.uk/homecoimg

Audrey also mentioned

- a competition – *Inspirational Scotland* - which will be launched in August for children to take part in
- a Homecoming showcase event to take place in November
- SCIPD study visits to Nova Scotia, North Carolina and Uganda (where there are still 4 places available)
- New resources – such as *A'Adam's Bairns*
- The Scottish Learning Festival

4. Virtual contributions from *Peter Fenton*, Torridon Primary and *Helene Kaspis*, Knockbreck Primary who sent power point presentations to share the work they are doing with their classes were viewed. These presentations will be on the website as soon as possible.

Peter showed how his class' topic '*Homes and Homecoming*' focused on people who move and why they move, locally and globally, past and present, through RME, ICT, Language and Maths in particular.

Helene showed how her ambitious topic on *Minorities* (including travelling families) linked into our theme of Human Rights (disability) and Homecoming (migration and racism). Her class has been involved in inviting a lot of visitors into the school and in arranging visits for example to the local special school.

5. *A'Adam's Bairns* the new challenging resource from the National Library of Scotland and ScotDec was introduced. CPD around the resource should be arranged in the Autumn when the resource will be available free of charge to all schools. It will

- enable schools to build Homecoming into the curriculum long term
- offer lots of new archive material on thorny issues such as
 - slavery - past and present
 - migration – past (Clearances) to present
 - prejudice – including present day sectarianism

It makes close reference to a Curriculum for Excellence especially through its active methodology.

6. *Choices and Decisions*

Mairi MacDonald introduced us to the health education game she has produced for schools here and in Malawi. It challenges young people to think about HIV/Aids as well as sexual health issues in general. It is basically about Human Rights, gender issues and the importance to decision making of self-esteem. More information is available from the website www.choicesanddecisions.com The game sells for £30.

7. *Inverness Book Festival*

Brid McGibben outlined a short story writing competition the Inverness Book Festival is running on '*Home and the Feeling of Home in this Year of Homecoming*'.

- The closing date will be 22 August.
- There are several age groups.
- Full details will be on the website www.invernessbookfestival.co.uk

B. Next meeting to be confirmed for September

For more information about any things mentioned here please contact:

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