



Westnell

Nursery News

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Issue 88

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.westnell.org.uk

News from Peru

Margarita has sent the following photos to show the day to day life of the nurseries in Lima:



A class of three year old children with their teacher, Giovanna



A class of five year olds celebrating the Spring festival. Their special guest was Barney – a well loved character in Peru.



The third picture is a poignant reminder that nursery education in Peru is so scarce, and Westnell so highly regarded that prospective parents are prepared to sleep out for several nights in an attempt to gain a place for their child. This year families were lined up for 3 days prior to the registration date for a place starting in April 2007. The Nursery staff was so touched by the plight of these families they decided to start registration at midnight two days early to prevent them sleeping out for so long. The hardest part is to turn people away once all places are filled, so the staff survey applicants in January to establish that they are selecting the neediest children for places.

Pablo Poncho

Another great contact has come our way via the sale of Christmas cards. Alison Spicer, who has written a series of stories about the life of Peruvian children in the Andes, received one of our cards and discovered Westnell. She has generously offered to donate £2 of the purchase price (£5.99) of each of her books sold through Westnell contacts. To find out more see her website:



www.pabloponcho.com, which gives examples of the illustrated stories, aimed at children aged from 3 to 7 years old. The books are bright and attractive and would make great gifts! If you have access to the internet you can purchase direct from Alison, if not let us know and we will put you in touch. Please don't forget to mention Westnell when making a purchase.



NEWS FROM THE U.K.

Giving and fundraising:

Revd Paul Smith, who worked in Peru some years ago, gave a talk to his local women's fellowship about Peru and Westnell; the group donated £20; the Meadowbrook Community Association held a Jumble Sale at Dartington Primary School in Devon and donated £40 of their income to Westnell.

The Canbury Trust, based in west London, held a Peruvian dinner and auction for Westnell last October and raised a fantastic £850. We worked with the Trust to develop a 'Gift Menu', placed on every table, which invited diners to 'purchase' items such as a teaching assistant's salary for a week, uniform sweatshirts or a year's supply of crayons for a class. Basil Arden of the Canbury Trust reported that it was a very enjoyable and interesting evening. Our thanks go to all of the Trust committee and members for their great support.

Basil's fantastic fund raising idea inspired our committee to launch the Westnell Gift of Education enterprise at Christmas, based on a similar menu of giving ideas for friends and relatives instead of 'commodity' Christmas presents. We raised over £280 from these 'purchases' including a contribution of £100 towards workbooks by The Carlisle Overseas Aid Trust, who have made donations to us over a number of years. This seems like a great fund raising concept that could have potential for expansion. We will offer the scheme this Christmas and also urge supporters to consider Westnell gifts all the year round – for silver weddings, fortieth (plus!) birthdays and especially as presents for those people who seem to have everything You can download a gift form online or use the one enclosed.

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A surprise donation of £1000 was received from the Emerson Christie Charitable Trust in December 2006. We have expressed our sincere thanks to the Trust for this generous gift, but can glean no further information about how we were nominated to them. If any of our supporters were instrumental in gaining us this donation may we also extend our thanks to them.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

At its AGM in June 2003 the committee discussed the medium term management of the Westnell organization in the UK and the impact on Westnell Peru. I thought it would be interesting to review how we have done against the plan we made four years ago. Following the meeting in 2003, I advised Margarita that the committee had decided to focus on maintenance and existing fund raising, rather than launching new fund raising campaigns. We had therefore assumed a fall in donations. I warned Margarita that over the previous few years Westnell UK had raised around £30,000 per year. However, we expected the income to drop to £25,000 in 2003 and 2004, decreasing further to around £20,000 in the following years.

In fact the opposite occurred and you have helped us increase the income generated in the UK. In 2003 we raised £27,518, rising to £38,728 in 2004, £35,732 in 2005 and £38,440 in 2006! This represents a fantastic achievement. The outstanding support of our core membership and their networks, which remain committed to our work in Peru, is greater than we could ever have predicted.

Increased income has allowed us to provide Westnell in Peru with a much higher level of funding than anticipated and allowed Margarita and the team to continue to educate over 300 children every year. In addition, we made a one-off payment of £5,000 at the beginning of 2007 to cover extra social security costs.

Thank you for your on-going support!