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Westnell

Nursery News

News from Peru

We reported in the last newsletter that an important link had been established with Yolanda Williams' family in Lima. Yolanda's nephew, Jose Antonio Ferreyros, along with colleagues and friends, became active in promoting specific fund raising for Westnell within the Peruvian business community. This group has developed into a critical player in our relationship with Peru, by forming a support committee for the Society.

For some time now Margarita has been weighed down with the responsibilities of not only managing the educational operations of the nursery and community development activities, but also administration, personnel and finances. This has become a very heavy workload and her health has begun to suffer. We also became aware that in order to run more efficiently and maximise the benefits of fundraising opportunities, the Peruvian organisation needed to make some changes. Over the last 12 months a small group of our UK Trustees began to build a working relationship with Jose Antonio's team in Peru, and it became apparent that there was potential to develop a new partnership based on an alternative model of governance and financial management that would better serve both the UK charity and the organisation in Peru. More recently Jose Antonio has taken on financial planning by developing a link with a professional firm of chartered accountants and has also been able to secure us pro bono legal advice on a number of matters relating to the registration and responsibilities of charities in Peru.

At our request, the group has now submitted a proposal to form a new Society in Peru that will elect a Board of Trustees comprising Margarita, representatives of staff and parents and also four Peruvian professionals. Margarita will continue to head up the educational responsibilities, and the new Peruvian trustees will advise Margarita and manage administration and finances of the Society – they are Jose Antonio Ferreyros, Manolo Vega, Ursula Ricketts and Carla del Castillo Villalobos. The UK Trustees are advising the Peru team on governance structure and planning, and hope that before the end of this year we will formalise the partnership and transfer full operational and management responsibility to the new Board.

Naturally the new Board in Peru will provide the UK committee with regular management, financial and operational information and, to begin with, a team comprising Mark, Debra and Ede will liaise closely. We are very fortunate that this able and dynamic group of local people in Peru is prepared to donate considerable amounts of time to Westnell with the aim of securing both financial and organizational benefits in the fast changing charity sector.

Westnell Families – graduate stories

Margarita writes that the Westnell family keeps in close contact with its ex students. To date we have reported tales of success and progress from our keen alumni, but recently she told us of the sad case of Anthony Bailo Fabian, aged 9 years old, who until last year was a normal primary school student (pictured here with his mother). Apparently he started having problems with vision, and then began to lose the ability to write clearly and to walk. After many tests it has been discovered that he is suffering from a degenerative disease and has an inoperable cyst on the brain. Anthony's father, who works in a machine shop, is struggling to pay treatment and therapy costs for his young son, while the mother had to leave work as a dressmaker to devote herself to caring full time for Anthony. Sadly, the doctors have given the family no hope of Anthony recovering. It has been very distressing for the staff at Westnell to see one of their promising students deteriorating in this way.





U.K NEWS

MESSAGE FROM UK COMMITTEE

We are about to take an important step in the development of Westnell. The UK Trustees have given very serious consideration to how we can ensure Westnell continues into the future and it seems now that our long held ambition of establishing a more sustainable and independent partner organisation in Peru will be realized. The skills and experience we have accrued could even be used by the new partners to develop additional facilities in other areas.

What does this change mean for our supporters? It means that we still need your donations and fund raising ideas just as much as ever – if not more so! We have set an ambitious budget target for next year of £40,000 so that we can peg our remittances to the Peruvian currency (sol). This way our new partners will know exactly how much we will send each month. We will still fund just over 70% of Westnell Peru's regular budget, even though the new group will seek to increase income from within Peru.

We have not taken these matters lightly, and sincerely hope that you will agree that this is an important landmark stage in Westnell's development... for its next 20 years!

FUND RAISING

Once again we are delighted to extend our thanks to Sue Bailey of SJB Tennis for allowing her facilities to be used for the Annual Tennis Tournament organised in conjunction with the Anglo Peruvian Society in London. A fantastic £1,500 was raised

Schools link – Westnell in UK schools

From Brunswick School in Carlisle down to Derby and further south to Kent, links are now being forged between schools and nurseries within the UK so they can support Westnell, share ideas and build networks of support.

Pat Bygraves was teaching in Lima when we started the nursery 23 years ago, and gave us a great deal of support. Her daughter, Cathy Travis, has continued this link with Westnell and here writes of how she organised a recent project on Peru in her children's nursery:

"My family lived in Lima from 1971 until 2005 and we have first hand experience of the superb work carried out by the Westnell nurseries in Lima. When my eldest son Tomás, now 5, started his pre-school year at Whitecross nursery in Derby I approached the head teacher and asked her whether she was interested in setting up a link with Westnell. Mrs Harvey responded very enthusiastically and soon after we began planning some activities for the children at Whitecross.

The link is not primarily about fundraising for Westnell, although we have raised money through the sale of Christmas cards and donations at teddy bear picnics and the annual summer concert at Whitecross. Our primary aim is to enable young children to learn about each other's families, food, music, interests and enhance their understanding of the world in which they live. One of the sessions I organised focussed on Peruvian musical instruments and music. The children had a great time playing lots of percussion instruments including a 'cajón' (wooden box), goat's toe nails (!), maracas, rainsticks made from cacti as well as attempting to make a sound with some panpipes. We



finished the session by dancing away to a selection of Peruvian music. On another day I took in a great variety of hats, both British and Peruvian, and we looked at why we wear hats.

In the summer term the nursery walls were covered with Peruvian crafts as well as all the beautiful art work the children had made: Paddington Bears, Peruvian flags, etc. The staff at Whitecross helped the children to send emails to their counterparts in Lima asking lots of questions about life in Peru. From the questions that were sent it was clear that the link with Westnell had captivated their imagination.

Mrs Mitchell, the new head at Whitecross, is keen to develop the partnership so I think Tomás' Paddington Bear will be making many more visits to nursery in the near future!

Information about schools' activities will be posted on the website so please send us any photos or ideas about what you are doing for Westnell in local schools, play groups or nurseries!

WORTHY QUILLOW WINNER!

By Diana

Many thanks to everyone who bought a ticket for our recent raffle of the patchwork QUILLOW which raised over £200. The winning ticket was drawn by Millie Legg (pictured here) in the impartial surroundings of my sitting room and recorded faithfully by John Gower were delighted to see the number matched with the name of DEBRA WESTLAKE! We assure you there was no 'fix' but think you will agree the prize has gone to a good home (even though Debby was very embarrassed)!



Annual Report for 2008

We decided this year that for reasons of economy (postage) and ecology (paper) the annual report should be posted online on our website for members to peruse at their leisure. However, should anyone like a paper copy we are happy to send one through the post – please let Diana know. <http://www.westnell.org.uk/exec/sam/view/id=236/node=238/>

Westnell Gift of Education – a gift for life not just for Christmas.

In this Christmas news pack you will find our updated Gift of Education offers. The form is easy for you to photocopy and pass to your friends so they can also give a meaningful gift – in 2008 we raised £500 via this scheme!

Westnell Christmas cards on sale!

In this newsletter you will find the card order form for 2009 offering 4 brand new colourful designs and 2 previous best sellers! We urge you to not only place your personal orders with us, but also to order a few extra cards on sale or return basis. Each year the £2000 plus that we raise via card sales is an essential part of our budget to pay teachers' salaries and equip classrooms. How about selling through school or work on a profit share basis – 75% for Westnell and 25% for your organization?

Get your newsletter by email – save paper and post! Tell us by emailing: nursery@westnell.org.uk

