

Andrews Memorial Primary School
Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Combined Press Release

December 19, 2008

Old coppers go a long way

COMBER, Northern Ireland: Andrews Memorial Primary School used the recent 'Children in Need' day to help children in the Caribbean islands of St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). Dr Christopher Stange, Hon. Consul for SVG in Northern Ireland, explained the damage incurred by the recent hurricanes and the Government's commitment to education and sourcing many essential learning resources.

The school decided to bring in copper coins to help purchase dictionaries for some of the Primary schools, but that wasn't all... Rather than just bringing in the coins and handing them over in bags, the children covered most of the floor of the Andrews Hall – just to see how much space they really did take up. The result was amazing!



As a result of this fantastic effort, £800 (\$4200 E.C.) was raised, which with the generosity of corporate Express Northern Ireland purchased 269 dictionaries.

The Principal, Ralph Magee, commented, "We're really delighted to have been able to help the children in this way – and to have had lots of fun doing it! All the boys and girls at Andrews deserve great credit for their generosity, especially as many of their coins were from their own savings."

With Dr Stange's advice and guidance, the school plans to develop further links with SVG and to build a genuine learning link with the islands. There is at least one area of common ground. St Vincent and the Grenadines is one of the Windward Islands that provides us our 'Fairtrade' bananas, so exploring that agricultural heritage and industry, and comparing it to Comber's own important place in food production, is a definite possibility.

Dr Stange praised the work of the school and assisting the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in building a competitive, post-colonial, modern economy and its commitment to education. He is also keen to further the relationship and establish a communication network between schools thousands of miles away, with the potential for an international or sporting exchange. Plans are currently being made to arrange transport of the dictionaries back to Kingstown, St. Vincent for distribution by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the New Year.



L to R: Mr Ralph Magee – Principal, Andrews Memorial Primary School, Iain Jones (P6), Lauren Jones (P6) and Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) in Northern Ireland

ENDS

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