

# **DASP NEWS**

**The Newsletter of the  
Dorchester Area Schools Partnership**

Issue 8

September 2006

## **A Real Partnership!**

As I began to assemble this issue of **DASP News** it became clear that, unplanned, a theme was emerging. Through almost every story, the idea of DASP as a Partnership shone through. And the fact that Thomas Hardy School is at the head and/or the heart of things was self evident. In the following stories you will see examples of First Schools visiting Thomas Hardy School, or students of THS visiting First schools. And, whilst its obvious that the young children of the First Schools benefited enormously from the input and friendship of the staff and students of Thomas Hardy, its also clear that the older students got a great deal from their involvement. You will also be able to read about the wonderful concerts by DASP First schools last term. These had the advantage of excellent facilities, provided by a Middle school and input from specialist DASP Music staff.

And our Partnership even goes out beyond the realms of Dorchester schools. The Films for Learning Animation week, welcomed students from Wey Valley School. And you will also see how DASP is working with the West Dorset School Sports Partnership, to increase the sporting opportunities for our children. It has been said before, but for those of us who have been working within DASP for years, its easy to think this is how it is everywhere. However, the level of co-operation shown between DASP Schools is not always found elsewhere. DASP has always been - and remains - a leader, in demonstrating that education for young people is enriched by schools working together, not threatened by it.

Thanks, as always, to the teachers and students of DASP who work hard to ensure that DASP is a Partnership because of how it works together, not just because of a word in our name.

### **Learning about the DASP Citizen - Visits to First Schools**

In the Summer term, Thomas Hardy students 'toured' DASP first schools to talk about the idea of the DASP Citizen. In addition to those visits, a small group of Thomas Hardy students would talk to the children about environmental issues. They were also able to deliver bird feeding tables, made by Year 9 students at the Thomas Hardy School. These will be placed in the school grounds and checked regularly by the First School children. Our photo shows Broadmayne First being presented with their Bird Feeder.



Here is an account by some Thomas Hardy School students of their experiences: 'Over the past year, we have been meeting and discussing how to approach the issue of teaching Yr 3 & 4 children, in the 13 DASP First Schools, how to be a good citizen.

We have visited Broadmayne, Cerne Abbas, St Mary's CE VC, Cheselbourne, Manor Park, Piddle Valley, Prince of Wales and St Mary's RC.

We took with us, to teach each school, a lesson outline and the resources we needed for a practical class. This helped the pupils to be more involved and understand the process of becoming a good DASP Citizen.

This year, we would like to build on what we feel was a success, by taking our experiences with us to the DASP Headteachers Conference in October.'

## **Year 10 students, Thomas Hardye School**

### **Cheselbourne First Visits THS**

At the end of June, Cheselbourne First School's Year 4 visited Thomas Hardye School. They experienced a science lesson, in which they saw demonstrations of principles that would be impossible to do at a First School. They also had a lesson in the Art Department, in which they made clay animals. Through all this, the young children were helped by Thomas Hardye sixth formers. By the time Cheselbourne boarded the DASP minibus home, they had not only had a great experience, but were also already looking forward to the day they would be able to attend Thomas Hardye School.



## **Prince of Wales First visits Thomas Hardye School**

Another school to visit THS was the Prince of Wales First. They spent much of the morning in Food Technology, where they learned how to make pizza. Again, with the expert help of Thomas Hardye students, the children made the base mix. They then learnt about choosing and preparing the toppings. Whilst in the school they also had a session with the 'DASP

Citizen' group from Hardyes. Then it was back to Food Technology to see the cooked results of their hard work.



Thanks must be given to Angela Jay and her colleagues from Thomas Hardye School, for making these visits possible. Also to the students of the Sixth Form and Year 9 and 10 who made the First School children welcome.

## **Animation with Dream Ireland**



During June 2006, Thomas Hardye School hosted a week for local schools using computers in animation. This was done as part of 'Films For Learning', a THS project (funded by NESTA) that encourages students to produce short films to illustrate learning points to other students. The week was run in co-operation with Dream Ireland; professional animators who make their skills available to schools and was organised by Mark Richardson of the Thomas Hardye School.

The first three days of the week involved the use of the program Flash, to create short films; working with students from Thomas Hardye and all three DASP Middle schools. Most of these had not used Flash before, but (frighteningly) quickly learned to manipulate this powerful program. They worked in groups, each taking an aspect of the 'film'. The teaching method appeared relaxed, but ensured that the students were continually stimulated with new ideas. By the end of the

three days, all groups had produced excellent work and were enthused to work with Flash again.

The final two days of the week involved DASP First schools, Wey Valley Secondary school from Weymouth and Thomas Hardy. This time it was to try 'stop motion' animation. Although expecting to go straight into using plasticine, the children found themselves as the 'material' used. They posed and moved as if they were models, to make a stop motion film. Through this they learned much about the need for care and accuracy. They also realised that animation can be a slow process, if it is to work well. Their faces, when they saw the finished result, however showed understanding and enthusiasm for this exercise. The children were then able to move onto plasticine with a greater appreciation of the process and some excellent 'morph' like animations resulted.

Some of the results can soon be seen at the FFL website at:

[www.filmsforlearning.org](http://www.filmsforlearning.org)

## DASP First Schools Concert

At the end of the Summer term, the DASP First Schools concert was a huge success. The concert was split into two evenings, with different schools performing each night. The venue was St Osmund's Middle School Sports Hall. Liz Adams and the DASP Music Service, made sure the evening was a triumph and schools worked hard to ensure that their performances were well rehearsed. There were also some colourful costumes, based around the folk music of many countries.



Each school performed a couple of individual songs or instrumental pieces and then, in between this, were ensemble performances, leading up to a grand finale. The logistics of getting 13 schools to rehearse together, bring along work to display and produce such cohesive evenings of entertainment was yet another example of DASP's success at working co-operatively. Teachers, Students

and the DASP Music Service should be very proud of a wonderful show.

## Manor Park Arts Week

In early July, Manor Park First School had staff and students from Thomas Hardy visit them, to take part in their arts week. There were activities using clay, lessons on maps in geography and a look at creative writing. The theme running all through this was India. Year 2 worked with Richard Scott, the DASP E-learning Manager to create movie animations, based on the 'Bollywood' style movies. Other groups worked on dance and drama projects. For a whole week the school was full of feverish activity and fun. And the youngsters enjoyed working alongside their older counterparts.



*Hilary Over, Head of English at THS, works with Year 2 on Haiku poems.*

## West Dorset School Sports Partnership

DASP is now entering its second year of involvement with the West Dorset School Sports partnership and there have been plenty of successful events to reflect on.

The focus within the DMS and St. Osmund's Middle School Families was on aesthetic activities. In the Autumn term, a new Year 8 Dance scheme of work was introduced at St Osmund's. In the Spring, Year 1 Gymnastics Festivals were held at both of the two middle schools and were well attended by the children, staff and parents. This complimented nicely the gymnastics sessions delivered to all Year 1 children within their own schools. The festivals incorporated the use of Young Leaders from both middle schools, and also Thomas Hardy, where a Trampolining club has been developed over the last two terms. The formula was so successful that a repeat of the Gymnastics sessions and festivals for Year One is planned for this year.

The summer term saw Rounders as the key focus, culminating in two festivals. One hosted at Thomas Hardy School and organised and run by a group of Year 10 students as part of the Step into Sport initiative. The other was for Year 4's across both the DMS and St Osmund's families. A total of 80 children attended the festival held at St. Osmund's and run by a group of Year 8 students. The group of Year 8's relished the challenge and thrived on being given the responsibility of being Young Leaders.

In St. Mary's Middle School Family, the first term saw the Year 3 multi skills festival, whilst the second term was based on schools individual needs. A range of activities including playground athletics, gymnastics and ball skills were delivered to some fantastic children. The summer term saw the family's football festival, very out of season we know. However, this was funded by the successful Awards for All bid, that Puddletown First School received specifically for football. It was a resounding success and with Geva Mentor, England netballer, as the "Sporting Champion" special guest, all children had the opportunity to speak to her at length and aspire to become champions themselves!

Many of the first schools received demonstrations and briefings on the use of Take 10 and many have now implemented this into their school day. Other initiatives that took place have included a basketball workshop that was followed up by an Awards for All application for equipment for all schools in DASP. We are pleased to say that the application was successful, so watch this space for more basketball developments. Many thanks for all the support.

**Andrea Williams (Assistant PDM & SScO for DMS/St. Osmund's families)**

**Demelza Roberts (SScO for St Mary's Middle School family)**

### **Brilliant fund raising effort by Prince of Wales pupil.**

Tom, a pupil at the Prince of Wales First, decided he wanted to raise money for the school so he organised a sponsored wheelchair ride from his home in Weymouth to Chesil Beach. He produced his own sponsorship form, publicity and talked to representatives from the School Association. He decided to split the funds he raised between POWSA and our special needs fund equipment, for our disabled pupils. A truly superb effort, well deserving the certificate he received



*Tom receives his certificate from Rob Davies, Director of DASP, with Peter Farrington, Head Teacher of the Prince of Wales First School.*

### **Soaked, but the show goes on!**

And finally, another fine example of DASP Co-operation, is the week spent at Carey Outdoor Education Centre by a number of our First Schools each year. We have reported on this in previous years, so will just leave you with this photo from Carey Week, May 2006. Even having to move from flooded tents to a dry classroom in the middle of the night, cannot quench the enthusiasm of DASP Year 4s to have a great time.



### **A reminder – our 'new' school.**

Just to remind you all, that Owermoigne First School has opened in its new buildings and is now known as **Frome Valley First School**. A welcome to DASP for this 'new' school! Its phone number remains the same and its e-mail address will remain as Owermoigne until changeover is complete. A more detailed report in the next issue.

**To contribute to this newsletter, e-mail:**

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