

Sister Cities News Bulletins

Belize Celebrates 32nd Anniversary of its Independence



September 21 was Independence Day in Belize and it was brimming with festivities including San Pedro's annual Parade.

The theme for 2013 was, "Belize in you, Belize in

me, land of the free." Reflecting on the meaning of independence during his address to the nation, Prime Minister Dean Barrow said in his speech -"We must be preoccupied with the here and now, with our current well-being and state of affairs. But we must also be forward looking, concerned with the future, with where we want to go and how we get there..." These words characterized the winner for best entry in the San Pedro Independence Day parade; Wil Alamilla's float was titled, "Shaping up a Colorful Future." The float won in two categories – individual and school category. Alamilla is principal of the ABC pre-school on the island and has been recognized by the Ministry of Education for his outstanding dedication to creating a nurturing and learning environment for children.

Congratulations to Belize on its 32nd anniversary and to Wil Alamilla for his investment in giving young San Pedranos a solid foundation in their quest for learning from your friends in Wilmington, NC. (The 2013 parade can be viewed on youtube plus more photographs are posted on Facebook.)



www.facebook.com/SisterCitiesWilmingtonNC?ref=hl

Shaw Wood Academy and Cape Fear Students Discover Each Other

Contributing writer – Patrick Carroll, Doncaster, UK

Welcome from sunny Doncaster, hoping that you are all well as we begin anew this school year. As ever at Shaw Wood Academy we have been busy sharing and collaborating with schools across the world on a number of exciting and engaging activities including the fantastic Cape Fear Academy in Wilmington.



Our first project in the previous term involved the children in a number of schools from across the globe (USA, UK, Spain and Romania) sharing information about the major tourist attractions in their

Photo courtesy Shaw Wood Academy

region. This included sending leaflets, postcards, little gifts etc. This helped highlight what made each place unique and different; however we needed to make it more personal for the children and wanted to build on the ever increasing use of mobile technology in schools. So we got our children to add their own comments about each attraction mentioned or add a useful website address with the aid of QRcodes meaning that at the click of a mobile device our children could go from looking at a piece of paper with a little bit of information to reading so much more on a website.

Another simple, yet very effective project, this year involved the children creating and collaborating on presentations about their school, themselves and their family. Through the use of tools such as Voice thread, prezzi and moviestorm the children took care to represent what makes them, them. One of my favorite sessions with the children was our Skype conversation with the children at Cape Fear Academy as we openly discussed the presentations and got to ask each other a range of thought-provoking questions. It was

absolutely fantastic, with only two problems. One being that the children at Cape Fear could not see us so had to put up with my unflattering image during the conversation. The other was that the Cape Fear students were understandably excited as they were in their last week before breaking up for the holidays which didn't go down too well with my class as we still had over three weeks to go.

Next year we have a number of projects that are going to be a continuation of this year. For example, our activities linked to discovering the job situation in different regions of Europe moves from focusing on Finland and Hungary to Germany as well as the UK and we are delighted to say that in November we have teachers and students from across Europe visiting Doncaster to learn about the jobs of the past, present and future within the town. We are delighted to say that this visit has the support of local business leaders.

Alongside this we are going to be producing and sharing fortnightly videos about what is happening across the school. Not only is this aimed at helping to further inform our parents, but also to open up the reality of our school life with a global audience. We have lots of partner schools who are going to do the same so the possibilities and opportunities are intriguing.

Friend the world is another very worthwhile venture that we will be taking part in as it is a simple project run with the simple aim of encouraging schools and communities to take part in activities that promote peace. Please have a look at the website as it promotes a very important issue.
<http://www2.friendourworld.org/>

Finally, at Shaw Wood we are looking forward to further collaborations with our friends a Cape Fear Academy because it opens up the eyes, minds and ambitions of our children and staff. I would encourage other schools to participate in such projects because they are so fulfilling and necessary.

Progressive International School in Dandong's New District Welcomes Students This Month

This September saw the grand opening of a new school accredited by the Dandong Bureau of Education for grades 1-8 and



Photo credit: Dandong Expat

grades 9-12 accredited by Griggs International Academy in Michigan. It is the first school to offer dual diplomas from both China and the US.

The Eaglebridge International School is roughly a 20 minute drive from the "Friendship Bridge" in the new district [*urban revitalization project*]. The school follows an activity based learning model and its physical design reflects this philosophy. The elementary school has expansive classrooms where teachers provide limited instruction and students take charge of their own learning. In the lower school half the classes are taught in Chinese and the other in English. This dual track continues in junior high, although with progressively more English speaking classes. By the time students are in high school, instruction is English only and traditional textbooks give way to iPads.

In addition to the large open learning spaces and residential quarters, the school has a world class auditorium that will eventually offer programs to the broader community. Physical activity is given high priority as well with a 400 meter track with a field equipped with volley ball, badminton and basketball courts. The cold winters in Dandong will not hamper the amount of physical activities since students can enjoy an indoor running track and Olympic size pool.

In Other News



SCI Promotes US State Dept. Study Abroad Programs as Accelerator for Sister City Relations

Do you know a high school student who is interested in study abroad opportunities? Or a teacher, school counselor, or someone who works with high school students? Be sure to let them know that the U.S. Department of State is recruiting this fall for various study abroad scholarship programs. And participation in these programs could help enhance a sister city or state relationship!

The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) offers merit-based scholarships to U. S. high-school aged students for overseas study of seven critical foreign languages: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Korean, Persian (Tajiki), Russian and Turkish. The NSLI-Y program is designed to immerse participants in the cultural life of the host country, giving them invaluable formal and informal language practice and sparking a lifetime interest in foreign languages and cultures. Applications for summer 2014 and academic year 2014-2015 programs are due

November 5, 2013. Visit www.nsliforyouth.org for more information.

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad Program offers scholarships to American high school students to spend the 2014-15 academic year in countries that may include Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali (semester), Morocco, Oman, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, and Turkey. This post 9/11 program focuses on increasing understanding between people in the U.S. and countries with significant Muslim populations. Visit www.yes-abroad.org for more information.

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX) was established in 1983 to celebrate German-American friendship based on common values of democracy. Secondary school students, ages 15-18, live with host families, attend local schools, and participate in community life in Germany. Young professionals (undergraduates) and high school graduates of vocational studies, ages 18-24, study and participate in practical training. Scholarships are now available for academic year 2014-15. For more information and application deadlines, visit the organization in charge of recruitment for your state at <http://www.usgermanyship.org/>

The American Youth Leadership Program offers opportunities for American high school students and educators to travel abroad on a three- to four-week-long exchange program to gain first-hand knowledge of foreign cultures and to collaborate on solving global issues. Several different organizations implement this program, and each has organized an academic and experiential educational exchange focused on dialogue and debate, leadership development, and community service. Recruitment areas and application deadlines vary, so please check the <http://exchanges.state.gov/us/program/youth-leadership-programs> website for more information.

For more information on exchanges sponsored by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, please visit www.exchanges.state.gov. You can also experience another culture without leaving home by hosting a State-Department sponsored international exchange student – learn more at www.hosting.state.gov.

United Nations International Day of Non-Violence

The International Day of Non-Violence takes place on October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. The

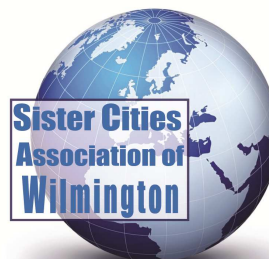
resolution made by the UN reaffirms “the universal principle of non-violence,” and the “desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence.”

Sister Cities encourages teachers, parents and community groups to use this day of global observance to promote non-violence and awareness through artwork, book club selections, blogging or any other form of expression that involves making a commitment to encourage non-violence and tolerance.



Education and awareness are essential to the promotion of international peace. As Gandhi has said, “Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man.”

SCAW Seeks Nominations for 2014



The Sister Cities Association of Wilmington (SCAW) is just beginning the nominations process for 2014. There are two board positions to fill. The board meets four times a year plus the Annual Meeting in March. One of the open seats is reserved for a student representative who must be at least 18 years old, enrolled in a post-secondary school or graduate program and is willing to make a 2-year commitment.

If you are interested in serving or may want to recommend a friend or colleague but need further information, please contact, Marilyn or Dale at membership@scawilmington.org or phone: 910-343-5226.

Sister Cities Commission Updates

After review by the Deputy City attorney it was determined that the proposed merger of the Commission and the Association would not serve the best interests of the Sister City mission from a programming perspective.

At the September meeting the SCC approved Wilmington's participation in the Young Artists Competition, which is organized by Sister Cities International each year. The theme for 2014 is "Connect globally. Thrive locally." Promotion for the competition and how to submit artwork will be handled by Scott Czechlewski. Parents of home-schooled children can contact Tracy Corle (tracy.corle@wilminngtonnc.gov) for information on how to participate. The competition is open to students in grades 9-12 in New Hanover County and Wilmington sister cities. The first prize winner will be awarded \$150.00 and be eligible to participate at the national level.

Citizen Diplomacy Honor Roll

SCAW attempts to involve as many people and institutions as possible to achieve its mission in Wilmington and the international community. We want to recognize the individuals and groups that have made a contribution in the past calendar quarter through their active participation or support of a Sister City program activity.

Scott Simmons
Marilyn Cantarella
Maria Goudiss

Dale Smith
Patrick Carroll

Upcoming Events

October 21 (*note the change in date) – SCAW regular board meeting will be held at the Northeast Regional Library on Military Cut-off Rd. in the Oak Room beginning at 5:30 PM. The public is welcome to attend all SCAW board meetings.

November 14 (Thursday) – **International Film Director's Luncheon** Sister Cities will host a luncheon for visiting international filmmakers following the Cucalorus International Film Festival Global Perspectives program at Thalian Hall. The public is invited to the 10:00 AM screening at Thalian Hall prior to lunch. Anyone interested in attending the program may purchase tickets for the film separately directly from Cucalorus. The luncheon will be held in the Riverboat Landing on Water St. from noon to 1:00 PM. SCAW members' luncheon ticket price is \$10.00 and non-members \$12.00. Deadline to reserve a space is November 12 by email: membership@scawilmington.org or by phone: 910-343-5226.

November 17 (Sunday) Exclusive Sister City dinner packages will be available for a specially selected festival film (TBA) & a post-show dinner for \$37.50.

Only 25 dinner packages will be available to see a premier film on the last day of the festival. The film screening time will be announced when the film is selected and schedules are finalized. Check the SCAW web calendar in mid-October for the film selection. The dinner will be held at the Rx Restaurant on Castle St. Choose from three entrees or a vegetarian meal - dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage are included. You have the option of running a separate bar tab, if you wish, or bringing your own bottle of wine and paying a \$10 corkage fee. Anyone interested should reserve their tickets for a Movie & a Dinner package by November 12 by email – membership@scawilmington.org or phone – 910-343-5226.

December 9 (Monday) – SCAW regular board meeting will be held at the Northeast Regional Library on Military Cut-off Rd. in the Oak Room beginning at 5:30 PM.

Explore Cuba with the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce



A Taste of CUBA

May 15-20, 2014

\$2,899
per person based on double occupancy
Space is limited!

Don't Miss the Cuba Trip Overview

The trip is open to non-Chamber members. For more information there will be an overview on Tuesday, October 29th at 5:30 pm at the Chamber offices with all the details and itinerary.

RSVP to Scott Czechlewski:

czechlewski@wilmingtonchamber.org

910.762.2611 ext. 216