



ROMPS Review

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The Official Voice of Robinson O'Neal Memorial Primary School, North Sound Virgin Gorda, The BVI

Sandwatch Project Field Trip by Mario Reid, Grade 6

On Sunday 7th of May as part of our schools **UNESCO Sandwatch Project** (www.sandwatch.org), six students went down to the Savannah Bay Beach with our teacher to conduct a few experiments on the environment.



ROMPS Sandwatch Team Posing on Savannah Beach, Virgin Gorda

We do Sandwatch to learn about our beaches and how it changes over time, and to see if the beach is good and healthy or is being hurt by pollution or other stuff. We have to do all the experiments and measurements on the beach once a month for

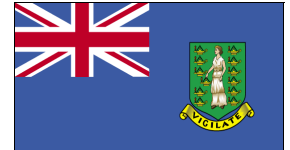
the next year! Schools all over the world work on Sandwatch to study their beaches as well.

We all got to the beach at 1pm

and I met three of my friends who work for the school newspaper as well.

We measured the beach in three spots to see what the high tide mark was, so that we can see if the beach is getting bigger or smaller over time. I got a lot of burs in my foot doing the measurements and everybody laughed at me.

The most exciting part of the experiment was where we dyed the water purple to measure the direction of the waves and currents, and we got dye all over our pants. **(continued on Page 4)**



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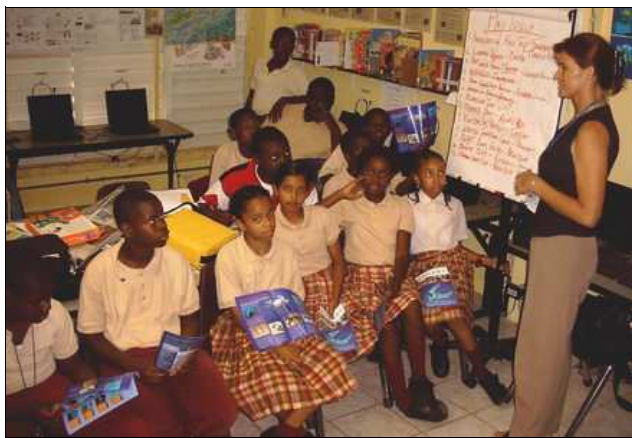
Who are we?

ROMPS Review is written and published monthly by the Grade 5 & 6 students of Robinson O'Neal Memorial Primary school, North Sound, Virgin Gorda, in The British Virgin Islands.

If you have any comments please email us at...

pdiamond@sandwatch.org

BVI Marine Biologist visits ROMPS by Jamison Hazel, Grade 6



BVI Marine Biologist (right) Shannon Gore talks to ROMPS Explorer's Club Students about her job and local environmental threats

On May 10th, **Ms. Shannon Gore** who works for the **Department of Conservation and Fisheries** as a marine biologist came to our school to tell the **Explorer's Club** students about her job.

She helps to study and protect the coral reefs, sea grass beds, and mangroves. She also keeps watch on the marine animals turtles, whales and dolphins.

She explained to us how the coral reefs all over the world, and even in the BVI are dying from global warming, which makes the seawater too warm, which kills the coral reefs by bleaching them so that they cant photosynthesis, and they turn white and die.

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Post-Cards From Mayotte by Lenaye Thomas, Grade 6

As you all know the **Romps Explorers Club** have a **Postcard Exchange Project** where we send and receive postcards with schools all over the world.

This month we started to receive beautiful (and big) post-cards from the CLG Koungou School in the town of Koungou, on a small island in the Indian Ocean called **Mayotte**.

It is near the Comoros Islands and Madagascar (off the east coast) of Africa.

The students there speak French so it must have taken them some time to write their great post cards to us.

That's why we had to write perfect post cards back to them and try not to make any mistakes.

They sent us many post-cards telling us about themselves, their school and about their environment.

We are sending them some postcards and other things (like a BVI mouse pad) that will tell them all about Virgin Gorda and us. Some of the children from Mayotte told us that one class could have from 20 to 26 pupils with the girl outnumbering the boys. Some asked questions like what international holidays we have, what sports we play and if we cinemas.

They told us about some of the different plants they had on their country like the bougainvillea and sunflowers, what games they play and foods they eat. We have put all their post cards onto our schools website for everyone to see (www.robinsononeil.com)

I hope we can keep in touch with them and work on other things together. I really learned a lot about this small country that I had never heard of before.

Ed Note: The staff & students of the Koungou school have just joined us in participating in the UNESCO Sandwatch Project (www.sandwatch.org)



Canadian Coach at ROMPS by Will Bridgewater, Gr 6

This year ROMPS had a new lady coach from Canada work at the school, her name is Mrs. Lesley Tobias.

I asked her some questions about her job. She is from Ontario and she is here to work side by side with the teachers and the students on health promotion and physical education.

She said that she would be help us for 5 weeks, and will be teaching playing games that include a maximum participation developmentally appropriate skills and stress the aspect of fun.

She said that she has enjoyed her time in the B.V.I., because the students and teachers were very welcoming. She said that she learned a lot from us.

Mrs. Tobias would like to say thanks to Scotia Bank, James Mandigo and the students and teachers who made this experience possible.

About a month ago the government gave all the public school sports equipment, so our sport teacher wanted us to use it. Every Tuesday we use the things like volleyball, basketball and so on. This stuff is really fun!



Coach Tobias and ROMPS Reporter

Marine Biologist visits

(continued from page 1)

Ms. Gore told us how the dying of the coral reefs can affect us.

An example is if a violent hurricane comes to the BVI and is headed for one of the island and there is no reef to protect it more damage can be done to the island and more harm done to the people in the community.

She told us that we also destroy the reef by cutting roads and not paving it and then when it rains the mud runs into the water and smothers the reef. Without the reefs, we wont have any fish to eat, no protection from storms and no tourists coming to swim and dive.

And that will hurt everyone in the BVI.

Software Review: Monsters Inc "Scare Island" by Jassiem Maynard, Grade 6



Monster Inc you have seen the movie now play the game. This game is one of the best games I have ever played in the ROMPS computer lab. All of the children love it. You can play as either the monsters Sulley or Mike when they get chosen to go to a Monsters University, to learn how scare little kids.

First you will go to a school that will teach you how to scare little children (really they are robots), by doing a series of funny screams and shouts.

The game has very good graphics and you get to explore lots of places like parks and villages and make robot kids scream and explode with your best funny monster moves.

The point of the game is to pass all the scare levels and the best monster in the school.

You will have five lives but you can eat chips and candy to get more health.

I really think that you will like the game, the best part is using your most powerful scary moves and yells to make the robots explode. I gave this game 9 out of 10

Answers for Mayotte by Russell Boney, Grade 6

A few weeks ago ROMPS got some post cards from **Mayotte** an island near Africa that students there wrote questions on for us to answer about the BVI. I have answered the questions here.

Nadia asked if we have computers here?

Yes, our lab has 20 laptops and 2 servers, plus printers, scanners, a projector and even a digital microscope. We also have lots and lots of fun educational computer games.

Ounrwati asks what sports do we play? We play mostly cricket, basketball, football and track & field.

Idiramadane asked what our national holidays are?

We have lots of holidays, like Commonwealth Day, Whit Monday, Easter, Christmas holidays and a few others.

Yousssra asked, what kinds of animals live there?

Around my house we have a cat, a dog, a dog and even some sheep. There are also lots of chickens and lizards around the place.

Faira asked what sorts of things we do when we leave school?

There are lots of things to do, work at a hotel, do fishing, go to a college, become a teacher, what ever you want to do.

Fatoumia asks, if we have a volcano? No we don't, but an island called Monsterrat to the south of us does and it blew up last Saturday, and lot of islands got waves and ash all over them

Naime asked if we have a cinema here? No we don't, but there is a movie place over on Tortola but we don't get to go there very much to see a movie as we would have to take a ferry and stay over night on Tortola.



Teacher Pascale Gabriel and her Students in Mayotte

ROMPS Joins UNESCO's Small Island Voice by Kimesha George, Grade 6



As you know our school was hosting a post card project, which we sent and got back post cards from schools all over the world, actually to all the continents even Antarctica!

Well our post card project has been noticed by **UNESCO** (United Nation Educational Scientific & Cultural Organization), and they asked us to write about our post card project for a project they do call **Small Island Voice-Internet Youth Forum**.

Is a program that UNESCO runs with lots of other school that are in the Caribbean and worldwide. It helps us in sharing our projects with each other.

We got involved with Small Island Voice (SIV) when Dr. Gillian Cambers came to talk to the Explorer Club a few months ago and saw our wall of post cards from around the world. She was working on the SIV project from her office in Puerto Rico and was so impressed by our project that she asked us if we could write and post an article about the post card project on the UNESCO SIV website. (Ed: You can see it at www.sivyouth.org -with user name **view** and password **only**) A school in the Bahamas has already contacted us and asked if they could join the post card, and we emailed them some questions on their ecological tourism project.

In the future we hope to do many more articles and projects for SIV and UNESCO.

Book Review: Egyptology by Brinique Richards, Grade 5

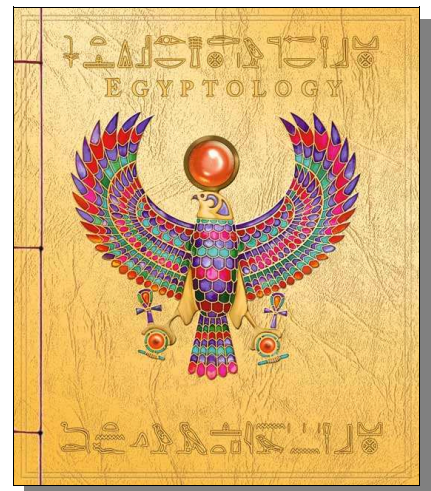
Egyptology by Dugald A. Steer is a very interesting book.

It has a beautiful gold cover with a colourful picture of a bird on it and even real red glass jewels build into it, and another jewel on the back too.

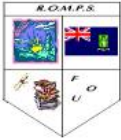
The book is a made up story about a woman journalist (Emily Sands) who went to Egypt in 1926 to search for the **Tomb of Osiris**, an Egyptian Pharaoh/King. The book is made up like it is her diary, with every page having interesting things stuck in it, such as a sample of "**real mummy cloth**", maps of temples, post cards from around Egypt, instructions on how to read hieroglyphics and even tiny playing pieces and a book of rules for a real ancient Egyptian game called **Senet**, and lots more.

A real letter in an envelope at the start of the book explains that Ms. Sands mysteriously disappeared during her search for the lost tomb of Osiris, but her diary was found many years later. If you read the book very carefully you can solve the mystery of what happened to her.

This is a very interesting and fun book to read, and I learned a lot about ancient Egypt. I enjoyed it a lot.



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Virgin Gorda
British Virgin Islands
Caribbean



Test results show high levels of
Coliform bacteria in Savannah Bay sea
water...yuck!!!!

Sandwatch Project (continued from page 1)

Other experiments we did were measuring **wave heights** and **direction**, as well as wa-
ter and air **temperature**. We took some sand sample that we later looked at under our
digital microscope, and found that the beach is all made of crushed shells and coral.
We even helped our teacher do a lot of tests on the seawater to test for things like (the
levels of) **phosphates** and **nitrites**, as well as
pH levels. These were all normal.

We also did a **coliform test**, which is a bacte-
ria that comes from sewage and can make
people really sick. (see photo on the left)
It can also kill coral reefs as well.
It showed high levels of coliform in the sea wa-
ter!
This means that somehow a lot of sewage is
getting into Savannah Bay, but we don't
know how yet.

So we called **Ms. Shannon Gore**, a marine
biologist at the **Ministry of Conservation &
Fisheries** to tell her about what we found.

She came up to the school to see us, and told us that she will send some over to Virgin
Gorda to do more tests on the water.
She said that sewage shouldn't be in the water at Savannah Bay.
We hope other BVI schools will get involved with the Sandwatch Project and look at
their beaches.

You can see all the stuff we found (and lots of photos) at our **Sandwatch BVI** pages at
www.sandwatch.ca/sandwatch_field_trip.htm



Plankton wants to know where all the
Coliform bacteria is coming from!

Read our On-Line Edition at www.robinsononeil.com/

Vieques Students Visit BVI



Vieques student Kassandra Castillo & Author Marianne
Larned visit Trellis Bay to show off some of the jewelry
& crafts the youth project students produce and market

made, VYLI t-shirts and Taino pottery from their teacher, Daniel Silva. They really enjoyed
their trip to the BVI -- especially the friendly people like their driver, Buster. They loved the
roti -- and the video conference at H.S. Lavery Stoutt Community College. Thanks to SunSail,
they had their first sailing experience to The Baths and Devil's Bay, where they met with stu-
dents from Tortola. You can read their report -- and the first issue of their newsletter on their
website: www.vyli.com

They are inviting young people from the BVI to come to Vieques for the 3rd annual Summer
Institute from June 19-25. If you are interested, send an email to: info@vyli.com

*The Vieques Youth Leadership
Initiative has generously offered
several places in their Summer
Program to several BVI students
including ROMPS Review Report-
ers!*

Young people from Vieques Youth
Leadership Initiative were the first
youth to participate in the 3rd Annual
Caribbean Artisan Festival with 10
other Caribbean islands, last month
at Trellis Bay on Beef Island. This
was the first time that many people
had ever met someone from Vieques!
These young people joined with the
Mayor of Vieques in the first Eco-
nomic-Cultural Development Dele-
gation and made a presentation to the
BVI Chief Minister Orlando Smith. At
the Festival they sold jewelry they'd

Library Week by Malika

Reading is fun and that's the key to
learning, that was the theme of Library
week.

Library week was in April 24-29, 2006.
One of the events in library week was
the beginning of the Bookmobile.
It was held at Ebenezer Primary
School. I went with four other children
to represent my school.

The Bookmobile is a library on wheels.
It has AC, an online computer, a TV,
controllable ramp for children that are
disabled and lots of books.

Almost every-
day the book-
mobile goes to
schools in Tor-
tola (but not
Virgin Gorda!)
so the children
can borrow the
books.

