

Dear

As the contact person registered on www.global-leap.com, you are receiving this newsletter, but please make sure ALL your teachers at your school are aware of the sessions they can book with the museum and gallery programme. There is no cost to the school for these sessions, apart from your call costs.

Thanks to everyone who has updated their details recently. For those of you who haven't done this yet, a little bit of housekeeping is necessary. Schools with email addresses which come back to Global Leap as a reject will be taken off the site. If you find your school is no longer registered, maybe one or both your emails are not up-to-date. The new date stamp on the website will indicate that your details are either **up-to-date** or **out-of-date**. Some school contact details are clearly now well passed their sell by date.

If your details are incorrect updating could not be easier. Go to:

<http://www.global-leap.com/directory/index.php>

Use your ID number which is: and update your details.

The Museums and Galleries programme offers a wide variety of videoconferencing sessions to schools, suitable across all key stages. Look at the list of events available, currently over 320, and book a session or two for your class.

Make sure ALL the teachers in your school know about these events and opportunities.

Happy Holiday to everyone and Best Wishes for 2004

What a brilliant year. The list of friends we've made is extensive. The places we've been to and the hospitality we've received from colleagues around the world has made 2003 very special. So what's in store for 2004? Well it is the fourth anniversary of the Global Leap Project so we'll be celebrating that. I have a wish list of places to visit and people to see. So I hope my wishes for the New Year come true.

I hope your wishes for 2004 come true as well.

There are so many exciting projects going on. Lots we know about, and lots more where teachers are using the Global Leap resource to make links to colleagues to add value to their lessons. Congratulations on your success and good luck with your plans for the future.

Share your stories with all of us, please.

A couple of reports from our schools arrived on my desk in the last few weeks.

Recently the Project was able to arrange for two schools in the UK to visit the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, Australia. Getting up at 6:00am and having breakfast in school might not be the regular thing to do, but doing something a little special is very exciting. Langleywood School, Slough, UK reported "There are few things that are more rewarding than children being so motivated that they arrive at school at 05:30 in the morning. Jane Devereux reported that some of the pupils and their parents had walked several miles to

be there for the "DIVE". Imagine watching the diver and asking him if the shark always sleeps at the bottom of the tank. "Let's wake him up", suggested Fred Nucifora. So Fred grabbed hold of the shark's tail, and 30 pupils and their teachers nearly jumped out of their skin 12,000 miles away in Slough, UK.

At East Wittering Junior School, East Sussex, UK, Stephen Potter reported: "Imagine being under the water on the Great Barrier Reef, on the other side of the world, and in yet in your own classroom in a small Primary school on the South Coast of England. Year 5 and 6 from East Wittering School and their parents, woke early to be part of a video conference with the Great Barrier Reef Education Officer. "It was well worth the 6 o'clock start" said Charlie, "we saw the real Nemo", a small anemone fish with distinctive orange and white strips. After a 10 minute introduction from Fred we all held our breath and dived into the amazing crystal clear waters of the reef with Caroline, our diver and camera person for the hour long session.

A riot of colour and texture filled our classroom and questions rattled from the children and were instantly answered via a microphone in Caroline's mask. Pupils were amazed to see Black Tipped Reef Sharks swimming in the background and witnessed star fishes stomachs enveloping their prey. A Massive Maori Reef fish swam into view causing the audience to gasp.....The HMI inspector who sat in on the subsequent literacy lesson, where pupils wrote up their experience in the form of a recount, agreed that it would be difficult to find a better activity to motivate pupils to put pen to paper."

John Blaser in Eastchester School District, New York worked with schools in the UK and Italy to discuss major world issues. This technology is awesome! We learned about local conservation projects on Mersea Island, near Colchester, Essex and heard what young people in Florence think about democracy, Should it be imposed or earned?

Video Conference 10/12/03
Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari and the National Maritime Museum
Leisure and tourism AVCE Customer care.

We had a very interesting and informative link up with the National Maritime Museum. The 50 minute session involved an introduction to the Museum by the Education Officer including a PowerPoint presentation and a question and answer session with the Deputy Head of Visitor Services. The students came away from the session with an abundance of valuable information and were very keen to do it again. As a school in the South Wales Valleys, we have some trouble getting visits to places of international significance. This was a great opportunity to get information on an important and historic site without all the expense and hassle of going to London. The Museum provided us with materials prior to the link and there was plenty of relevant information on their very good web-site.

All the people we dealt with at the Museum were friendly and the whole process of setting up the link proved to be very easy and problem free. We can't wait to do it again and hope to set up another link with the Museum to support the Marketing Module.

So thanks to all at the National Maritime Museum and Global-leap for an excellent Video Conference.

Non Wilshaw (Head of Business Studies)

(to book a session for your class, visit www.global-leap.com)



Lynda Wade at King Edward VII School invites you to read about her - Video Conferencing Club at: http://community.ke7.org.uk/sites/vc_club/index.php

In January 2004 Videoconferencing in the Classroom/Global Leap will again be at an education show at Olympia in London, UK. The BETT show is one of the biggest technology shows in Europe. If you are coming to London you can join us at the show on **Stand Z25**. If you want to join us on the stand, via videoconference from your school, to meet visitors, let me know. You can pick up your copy of the newly re edited and updated book, "Video Conferencing in the Classroom", written by Tim Arnold, Steve Cayley and Mike Griffith. This is free to teachers. The latest addition of the newspaper will also be available on the stand.

The BETT Show, OLYMPIA is January 7th – 10th 2004.

www.bettshow.co.uk

Best wishes to everyone enjoy the holiday and best wishes for 2004

Mike

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The Global-Leap.com website is part of the "Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project" which is funded by the DfES. The project does not represent any resellers of videoconference equipment.

in association with the ICTiS, DfES and Arbour Vale School, Slough, UK

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Videoconference Help and Support for schools (Technical and Curriculum content and application).

Demonstrations and Testing on Request, School partners and International Links, Museums and Galleries.

Global Leap Automated Videoconference Test Facility ISDN +44 (0) 20 8868 8963

Broadband IP 80.68.35.5

To arrange a face to face videoconference test telephone: +44 (0)208866 6036 and ask to make an appointment