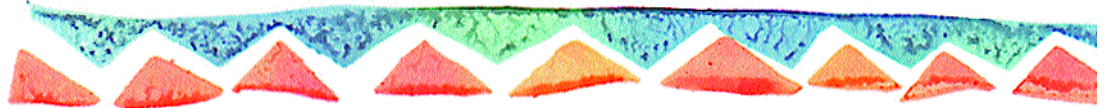


risc

reading international solidarity centre

enews

may 2004



a half termly bulletin for secondary teachers, focusing on topical global issues

Embracing sustainability

As teachers, how can we ensure a better quality of life for everyone now and for generations to come? Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) unlocks the knowledge, values and skills we all need to participate in making decisions individually, collectively, at school, locally and globally – decisions that can improve the quality of life now without damaging the planet for the future. ESD needs to be embedded in the whole school ethos – and build on what is already happening in schools. www.nc.uk.net/esd/index gives a good overview of curriculum opportunities and useful case studies.

The ESD work of schools can be enhanced through the **RISC Roof Garden Project**. The roof garden is a unique resource for exploring issues of sustainable development. It illustrates key aspects of environmental design and permaculture. Many of the materials used in its construction were waste, unused and recycled. The plants are largely perennial, edible with medicinal and practical uses too. The garden features species from all over the world, including many very important food and medicinal plants. Every plant has a story to tell! This low input garden is fed by composted waste, watered by rainwater stored in tanks below and pumped up automatically by energy generated, on the roof, from the sun and wind.

Educational visits

Schools are welcome to arrange structured or informal visits to the roof garden. We are devising activities to complement the 7 cross-curricular themes of ESD, as set out by the DFES. We encourage the view that sustainable development is more than something to be talked about – it is a challenge to take action. We aim to help turn school environments into examples of best practice in environmental resource management. Gardens are a good starting point and we'd like to invite you to visit ours...

World Shop – late night opening

From 6 May RISC's World Shop will be open until 7.30pm on Thursdays. This provides an excellent opportunity for teachers to browse one of the country's largest selections of teaching resources on a global theme. You can also pick up or return artefacts from the loans service.

Do you know... ?

- The volume of waste produced in the UK in one hour would fill the Albert Hall. In one day there would be enough to fill Trafalgar Square up to the top of Nelson's Column. In one year, there would be enough to fill dustbins stretching from the Earth to the Moon. (The Environment Agency)
- 2002 was the second hottest year since record keeping began in the 1880s. The nine warmest years on record have occurred since 1990 – what does this have to do with us?
- Schools and colleges are 5% of the buildings in UK. Schools consume 25% of public sector energy costs.

INVITATION

the official launch of the

risc roof garden

performance, interaction, presentation
arts/drama/music/snacks & drinks

RISC & Jelly Leg'd Chicken Arts
an innovative approach to education for
sustainability & collaborative community arts

Friday 7 May

all welcome - come anytime

4-8: **official launch**

8-late: **Global Beatz - garden party**

35-39 London Street | Reading RG1 4PS

0119 059 6602 | admin@risc.org.uk | www.risc.org.uk

Events: all these events link with the theme of sustainability...local to global

May

2-8: Compost Awareness Week Aims to raise awareness of the value of composting and the beneficial uses of compost and to enhance perceptions about organic waste and how it can be recycled. www.compost.org.uk/dsp_caware.cfm?link=caware

8: World Fair Trade Day Celebrates fair trade internationally with the aim of promoting fairer trade with small scale and marginalised producers from the majority world. www.wftday.org

19-28: Be Nice to Nettles Week Celebrates the important role of the nettle in the natural world, especially in the lives of some of the most beautiful wild creatures. www.nettles.org.uk

22-6: June Reading Children's Festival Events and activities for children across Reading, including fun days, workshops, carnivals and sport events. www.reading.gov.uk/Category.asp?cat=697 Email info@readingchildrensfestival.co.uk

22: International Day for Biological Diversity Promoted by UNESCO to increase public awareness of the importance of biological diversity with the ultimate goal of stopping the ever-increasing loss! www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2004.asp

23: World Turtle Day Brings attention to conservation issues and highlights ways individuals can protect these endangered reptiles. www.hsus.org/ace/14162

24-28: National Summer Walk to School Week Promotes the environmental and health benefits from walking rather than being driven to school. There is another in October. www.walktoschool.org.uk

25: Africa Malaria Day Marks the anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity. This year's slogan is Children for Children to Roll Back Malaria. <http://mosquito.who.int/amd2004/index.html>

31: World No Tobacco Day Calls attention to the impact of tobacco use on public health and aims to reduce tobacco dependence www.wntd.com

June

5-12: Wildlife Week A celebration of the UK's wonderful wildlife, with events and activities organised by local Wildlife Trusts. www.wildlifetrusts.org and click on local wildlife trusts, then select yours – 'Berks, Bucks and Oxon'

5: World Environment Day A day to focus worldwide attention on the environment. www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wed/?version=1&lang=_e

8: World Oceans Day A global celebration of the planet's marine environment www.mcsuk.org/action/wod.htm

12-20: Bike Week A nationwide celebration promoting cycling to reduce traffic and its adverse effects. www.bikeweek.org.uk/

17: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought Marks the anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention in 1994. www.unccd.int/publicinfo/june17/menu.php

14-20: Refugee Week Celebrates the contribution of refugees to the UK and promotes understanding about the reasons why people seek sanctuary. Theme for 2004-6 is Global causes, with subtheme in 2004 of global conflict. www.refugeeweek.org.uk

19: Reading Water Festival Celebrates the role of water with stalls, dance and children's activities. Tel 0118 939 0373

Resources

Lessons in Sustainability – what on earth is happening? how do we respond? Birmingham DEC 2003 0948838876 **£7.50**
Created in response to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, this handbook contains ideas and materials for teaching about sustainable development. There are also suggestions for starting points, planning, methodology and differentiation. Topics covered include water, food, waste and climate.

Writing from the Oasis – using environments creatively in KS3 English Birmingham DEC 1998 0948838515 **£5.95**
Practical ideas using plants and their environments as a stimulus to inspire students' creative writing. The handbook explores approaches for raising development issues by looking at plants and their surroundings, and investigates the potential for weaving these issues into students' own stories. The activities are easily adaptable to suit differing needs.

David Hicks **Citizenship for the Future – a practical classroom guide** WWF-UK 2001 1858501741 **£11.99**
If all education is for the future, how do we help young people explore the kind of future they want for themselves, for society and the world? The many stimulating classroom activities in this book show how this can be done.

David Hicks **Lessons for the Future – the missing dimension in education** Routledge Falmer 2002 0415276721 **£70.00** (true!)
An insight into, and an argument for, futures education. He discusses the latest innovative teaching and research in the field and looks at young people's attitudes to the future.

Sustainable Lifestyles? – exploring economic and cultural issues in design and technology ITDG 2000 185339548x **£16.50**
A useful resource for teachers looking at ways of integrating values-based issues into their Design and Technology teaching. Aimed at students aged 14-16, the pack tackles the complex economic and cultural issues associated with sustainable and appropriate technology in a clear and accessible way.