

# South Country Central School District London's Calling...

...celebrating Brookhaven's live videoconference  
with a partner school in London, England

December 22, 2010

Board of Education Meeting





When Brookhaven 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers Victoria Suarez and Stephanie Maffei wanted to find a way to use technology to bring real world experiences to their students, they found the answer in their own classroom.



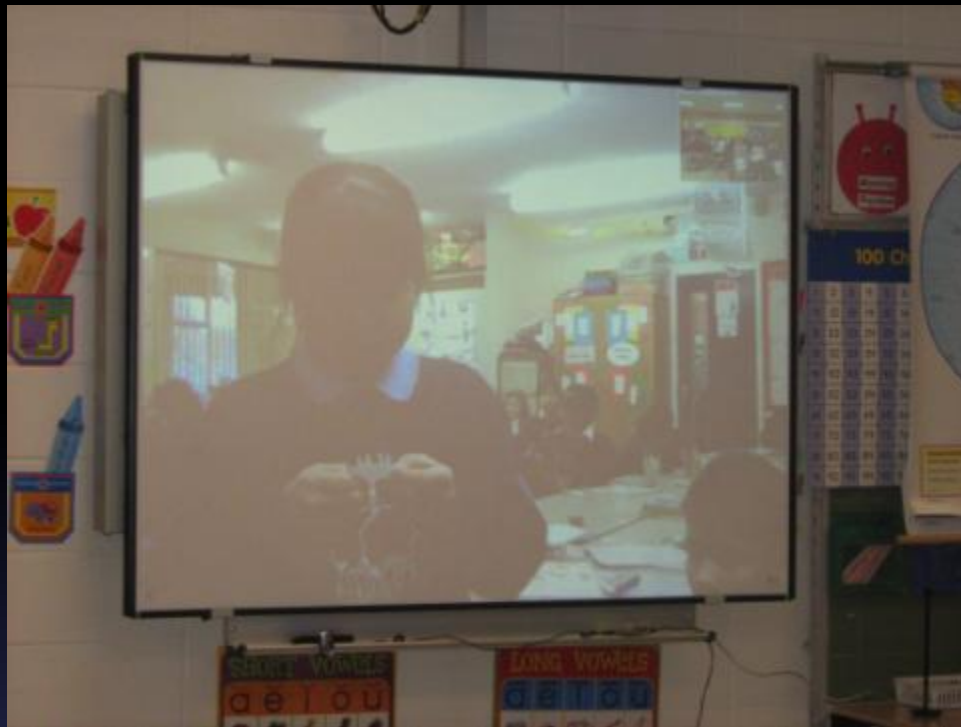
By reaching out to Paul Greenwood, a public school fifth grade teacher at Northeast Elementary School outside of London, doors were immediately opened to a greater learning experience: distance learning by video conferencing.

The schools, continents apart, have been brought together through the work of these three teachers willing to pioneer the first intercontinental distance learning project in the district.





Much preparation was necessary before the live chat occurred. The teachers had been e-mailing back and forth for some time to prepare for the video conferencing experience.



Our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders prepared well by further developing questions to ask their peers overseas about English holiday customs and how they differ from those in America.



When the actual live chat occurred, it involved all students in conversation centered around the holiday cultures of the US and those of England. It also helped our students recognize the many similarities they have with their British friends.

It was an exciting moment for each of them when they faced their e-pals for the first time. There was the typical hello's and waves to their new friends and class holiday songs to each other.





The best part of the experience was seeing the children completely occupied with learning. They displayed self-confidence as speakers, readers, writers, researchers and listeners. They beamed with excitement because they knew they were doing something special.

Both schools will continue to prepare for monthly live chats as the year progresses.



On behalf of the Brookhaven School, we'd like to thank the Board of Education for equipping this district with such technological capabilities and for letting us present briefly on the success of our students as literate learners in a global society.

