"Twins" - Deja Vu All Over Again

BY EDIE ANDERSON

o you remember? ... back some nine years ago when The Molokai Dispatch ran a

tongue-in-cheek April Fools special about Kaunakakai's sister city, Embo, Scotland. Well, here we are again with an update – thanks to the fine folks in Embo who kept us in their hearts and on their web.

Come to find out that on Feb. 3, 2006, The Northern Times of Embo featured their twin city Kaunakakai, Hawai'i, thanking former Molokai residents Will and Hannah Johnstone (now of St. George, Utah) for their generous donation on

behalf of the village's community center renovation project. Seems that the Johnstone's love for Embo has not waned over the years and that they still treasure their memories of playing cribbage and fostering the "twinning" of two beloved dots on the map. That pairing took place on April 20, 1990 when the Maui County Council and Mayor Hannibal Tavares issued a formal "adoption" proclamation.

When ambassadors, Liz & Steuan Robertson spoke to a crowd at Mitchell Pauole Center back in 1997 they told us Kaunakakai and Embo have much in common: they are small towns, they both border the sea and, as Liz says, "they're both are fishing villages of an ancient culture." The two widely separated communities, almost half-a-world-

apart, are also fiercely independent and proud to be so. As a matter of fact, that independent spirit is what intrigued us when he first covered the story nearly a decade ago.

Thank you Liz Robertson for keeping us on your radar and sharing the



A sign in Embo, Scotland, sister city to Kaunakakai, Hawai'i

Parents Get Lesson in Teching



Kini Tokailagi, Diane Mokuau, and Heidi Jenkins hope to make math and reading more accessible for families at home.

BY JESSIE FORD

Spring break usually means no school for two whole weeks, but the Kaunakakai Experiences Association (KEA) used one of those free days to get whole families to come to school.

Families Experiencing Learning Together Day was held in the Kaunakakai School cafeteria last Thursday, March 30. Two sessions, a morning of reading and an afternoon of math, taught on the theme, "parents are partners: we are all teachers of our children," said Diane Mokuau, Molokai High School librarian.

The event was funded by a grant from KEA, an organization that is funded by the Native Hawaiian Education Act.

Mokuau hosted activities to help improve reading in the home. Through reading aloud, an informational video, and a bookmark-making activity, parents and kids found new ways to make reading interactive. Principal Janice Espiritu said the adults learned "you can listen to stories with your ears, your heart, and your mind."

Heidi Jenkins, third-grade teacher at

Kaunakakai School, and Kini Tokailagi, kindergarten teacher, jointly hosted math activities for the second session. "The focus was building math vocabulary and conversation in the home," she said. "I want to make math fun and conversational, to get away from the conventional teaching and make it hands-on learning."

By building three-dimensional shapes and discussing the new vocabulary they used to make them, parents and keiki found themselves having a good time. "It was great," said Jenkins. "They were smiling, talking, having fun doing math."

Every person who stayed for the entire day got a book of their choice and a five-dollar gift certificate to the upcoming book fair.

For Espiritu, the FELT Day was a good reminder to "practice what I preach. As a parent, I made a goal to read aloud to my daughter two times a week," she said. For her, the learning goes both ways: "Then I'm going to have her read to me!"



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