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.

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)

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 can’t photosynthesis, and they turn white and die. (Continued on Page 2)
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 out numbering the boys. Some asked questions like what international holidays we have, what sports we play and if we have 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 Kougou school have just joined us in participating in the UNESCO Sandwatch Project (www.sandwatch.org)

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 Sully 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.

**Ounnwati** 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.

**Youssra** 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, whatever 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.

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.

It 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 built 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.
Sandwatch Project (continued from page 1)

Other experiments we did were measuring wave heights and direction, as well as water 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 nitrates, as well as pH levels. These were all normal.

We also did a coliform test, which is a bacteria that comes from sewage and can make people really sick. (see photo on the left) It can also it kills coral reefs as well. It showed high levels of coliform in the seawater! This means that somehow a lot of sewage is getting into to 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

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