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Child Friendly Schools **NEWSLETTER**, VOL. 6. Issue 6, 2012

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TEACHING LIFE SKILLS THROUGH SPORTS – ARSENAL IN THE BARBADIAN SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Sports can be a powerful tool to not only teach life-skills such as discipline and team work but also to teach academics.

Recognising this, The Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development in Barbados, and UNICEF have teamed up with the Brewster Trust and Arsenal football club to use the game of football to help teach developmental skills to students and also to help those who maybe struggling academically.

The programme is being done at primary and secondary schools that are implementing the School's Positive Behavioural Management Programme (formerly known as CFS) in Barbados.

One group of students that have been benefiting from the programme is the students of class 2 P at the Milton Lynch Boys School- in Barbados

Most of the students in this class struggle academically but through the programme they have been using the game of football to learn concepts and to enhance their analytical skills.

Once a week the “gappers”, who are part of the Arsenal in the Community programme, take an English lesson and use the 45 minute class period to teach concepts and vocabulary through the use of football.



Caption: Gappers from the Arsenal in the Community programme conducting and English lesson with the class at the Milton Lynch Boys' School



Caption: teaching students the rudiments of football after their class lesson

After the teaching, the “gappers” then take the students on the playing field where they learn the rudiments of the football game.

According to teacher Stacie McClean, she has seen an improvement in the students' social skills since they began the programme in January.

“The class has become closer,” noted McClean. Before there

was segregation with some students not wanting to play with others, but the group work in class and playing the football as a team has been teaching them how to work together and become better friends.

One of the things I have noticed since being in the programme is that the students' listening skills have been improving,” she added. ■



Girls Rule football at Christ Church Foundation School

When the Christ Church Foundation School became part of the Arsenal in the Community programme, the football programme was mainly geared towards the boys. However the girls, after seeing how much fun their fellow male classmates were having decided to join in and since then there has been no turning back. Here is what some of the girls had to say about what they have learnt from the programme.



I have learnt self-control from playing football. Normally I get angry when I can't get something done. They [the coaches] have taught us how to control that anger.
Klynisha Connolly 12 years old

We have learnt discipline from the programme. Sometimes if people are talking to us and we don't like what they say we tell them off. Now if the coaches are talking to us, we don't tell them off; we just listen.
Gabrielle Leonce, 11 years old

This is so much fun. I learnt how to dribble, tackle, kick straight and how to control a head butt.
Kaysaha Jones 11 years old

