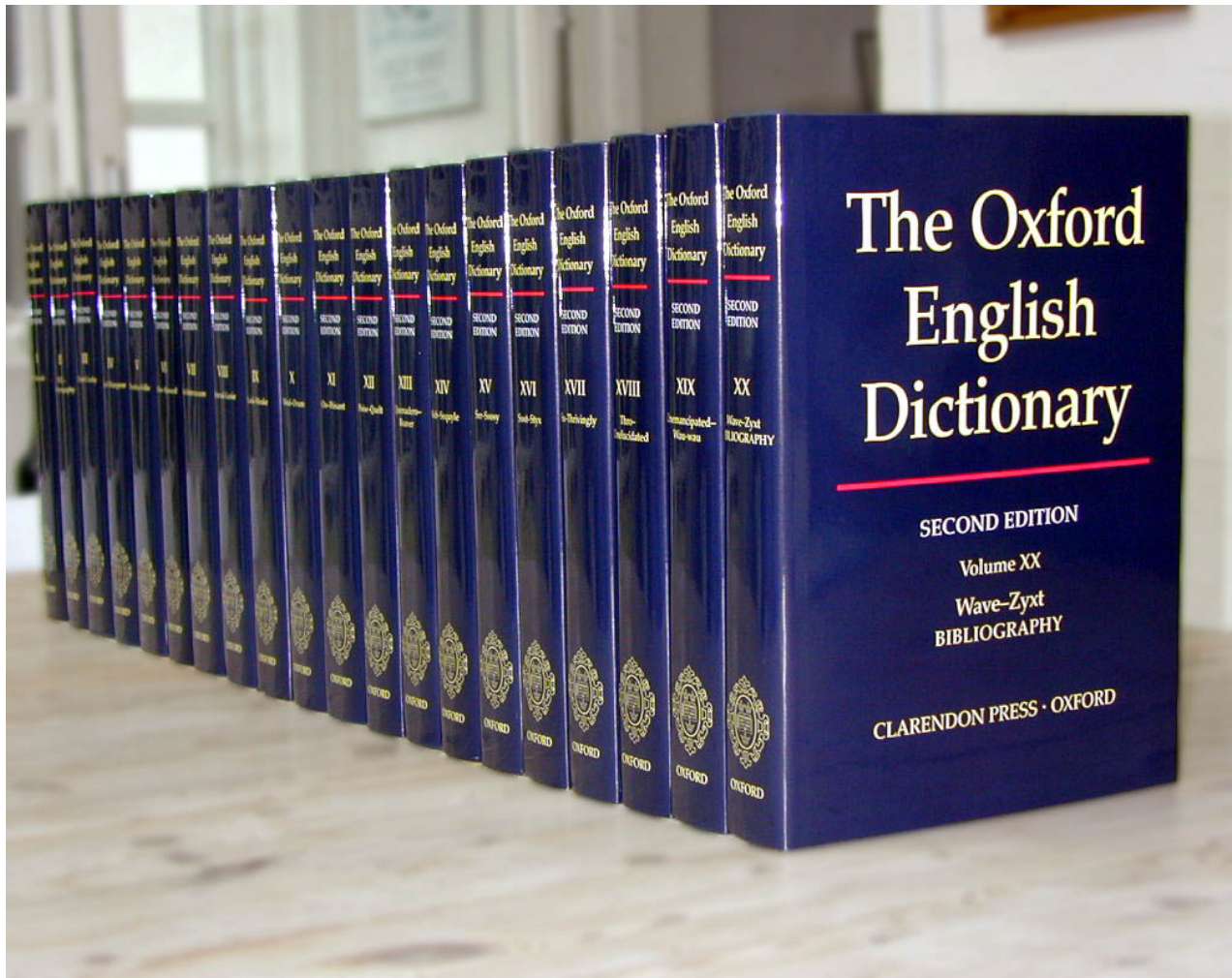


The Virgin Islands Consortium

Rotary Clubs Give Fourth Graders Dictionaries

Education / **Published On September 16, 2015 01:20 PM /**

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TORTOLA -- Fourth graders at the territory's primary schools received a dictionary from the Rotary family in the Virgin Islands for the new school year 2015/2016.

The dictionary distribution started on Monday.

A team of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Tortola visited six primary schools across the country and distributed over 250 Oxford dictionaries.

The club says to kick start their literacy drive and in support of this event, Minister of Education and Culture Myron Walwyn and Presidents from the BVI Rotary Family were on hand to offer remarks and encouragement at Monday mornings' Assembly of the Althea Scatliffe Primary School.

The Rotary Club of Tortola has been distributing dictionaries across the Virgin Islands for many years and said it plans to continue to do so.

One of the six areas of focus for the Rotary Foundation is worldwide improvement of basic education and literacy. With the exception of private schools, education is largely free, accessible and compulsory for children from the age of 5 to 17 in the British Virgin Islands' public schools.

However, there are about sixty-seven million children worldwide that have no access to education and more than 775 million people over the age of 15 that are illiterate.

The club says Rotary's goal is to strengthen the capacities of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education and increase adult literacy.