



The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue # 9, 14th March 2011

Swimathon Raises £7500 for the Pink Ribbon Foundation!

I am delighted to take this opportunity to tell you all that the monies are in now for the Sponsored Swim and we have managed to raise a stunning £7,500 which has been sent off to the Pink Ribbon Foundation. Jonathan Prince, the Charity's treasurer, has been in touch to thank us, and to say that the organisation is overwhelmed by the donations. We are hoping to arrange for him to visit and tell the children some more about the important work their efforts will help to support. This has been a great Somerhill campaign so many thanks to all the parents, staff and pupils who made this possible.

Our next charity event this term is the 'Revue' to be held on March 18th from 4.30-6.00pm. It promises to be a lot of fun!



Senior Music Concert

We took the decision this term to divide our Spring Concert into two separate events. This allowed us to showcase the emerging talents of our Junior pupils from Years Two-Four and then to have another concert for our older boys and girls. Both concerts were of a very high standard and it was lovely to listen to so much fine music. Many thanks for the excellent work of our peripatetic team in helping the children to develop their individual skills and to the Music staff-Mrs Billing, Mrs Holmes, Mrs Saby and Mr Sumner -for their enthusiasm and vitality which encourages the children to take part with such obvious enjoyment.



PAPER-FREE REPORTS

We will be going ahead with paperless reporting in Derwent Lodge and Yardley Court for this short Lent Term—reports due at the end of next week. We are conscious that whilst most parents will welcome this step, some might, for the time being, prefer to receive their child's report in hard copy and we shall endeavour to do this for those who request it. Please let Jan McGeary (jmcgeary@somerhill.org) know if you would rather receive a hard copy of your child's report. Thank you.



Christopher Lloyd took Year 5 and 6 girls through a roller coaster history of the world in a fabulous talk of just one hour. Using 20 objects and by crunching the beginning of the universe to the present day into 24 hours, he guided the girls through the most significant events since time began. The 'What on Earth Wall-book' illustrates his condensed history and the lucky winner of the family quiz will win their very own copy!

The Kent West Dyslexia Association runs a regular parents' group. The next meeting is on Tuesday 5th April in a function room at the **George & Dragon pub in Tudeley**. Isobel Martin who is a highly experienced Dyslexia tutor and who used to run the support team at West Kent College will be talking about and leading a discussion on self-esteem. This will be followed by an informal open discussion and an opportunity for all to talk about shared experiences and problems over a cup of tea or coffee. For more details visit the website at www.kentwestdyslexia.org.uk

Sir Humphry-Davy Memorial Lecture

What is all the stuff in the world made of? Dr Bryson Gore, who worked for the Royal Institution for 17 years, traced the development of chemistry from the first thoughts of the ancient Greeks to the present day. Twelve DL girls from Year 6 enjoyed plenty of bangs, different coloured flames and magical colour changes in mystery liquids, during an early evening lecture at Rose Hill on Tuesday 1st March.



The Nursery children who come on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday were very pleased to invite Dr West, Mrs West & Mrs Glindemann in to talk about their roles as a Doctor and a nurse. It was part of our topic on People Who Help Us. We looked at a stethoscope, auriscope, and reflex hammer. They also brought some plasters and bandages for us to play with.

Manners Maketh Man

We are having a focus on good table manners in the dining room in the Pre-Prep. Do pop in and look at the display outside our Hall to see what we are trying to achieve!
Ruth Sorensen

LOST PROPERTY

Mrs Wilkes has a growing collection of glasses, sunglasses and mobile phones. Please see her for more details.

“DROP AND RUN - The Story continues!”



Friday 18th March, 2011 8.45am-10.00am—Cost £8.00 per person

Following the success of the first session, it is now hoped to run this once every month in term time. Offering a wide range of outdoor exercise and catering for all levels of fitness, please contact Charlotte on n.c.leeamies@btinternet.com

The session may include skipping ropes, fitness bands, light weights, and small hurdles and **you don't have to run as one of the groups will be power walking!**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

Kent Explorers Club presents 'The Great Big Science Day' on Saturday, 19 March 2011– from 10am-3pm at Beechwood Sacred Heart School, Tunbridge Wells. This massive Science Event will interest the modern, well informed youngster and includes demonstrations, hands-on workshops and lots of fun opportunities for 4-12 year olds.

Topics include:

- Materials in the Modern World
- Alternative Powers, Electricity Generation 2011
- Your Brilliant Brain- how it keeps on fooling you
- Diversity of Life and how we make sense of it all
- Robotics demonstrations
- Plants and planting opportunities

NAGC West Kent is offering a fantastic Easter Holiday school, 'Easter Explorers'. This is a four day holiday school with a difference. The programme includes: Nature, Performing Arts and a variety of crafts and this year there will be something new..... an amazing Space Explorers course for older children!

Easter Explorers is for children of various ages and takes place from the 11th to the 14th April 2011 at Beechwood Sacred Heart School, Dunorlan Park and Barnetts Wood.

For further information please contact Mrs Jennings (tjennings@somerhill.org) or email nagcwest-kent@hotmail.com.

YEAR TWO AFRICAN DRUMMING WORKSHOP

On Thursday, 10th February, as part of their topic on "Africa" Year Two had great fun at the drumming workshop. The whole of the PrePrep vibrated to the sound of the drums!



Mrs Saby held a sale of Fairtrade goodies during break on Wednesday, and was delighted to raise £180. Fairtrade can provide one family with water for a month with £10 so our money will very much help some needy people. Thank you to everyone who supported this worthy cause, and you'll be pleased to know that Mrs Saby hopes to hold another Fairtrade sale next term

SOMERHILL CLASSIFIEDS

Don't forget to check out the website for the latest issue of the Classifieds. There won't be an April edition due to the holidays, but that's the perfect opportunity to sort those items you've been meaning to sell! Deadline for items for sale will be 27th April. Full details are available on the website with this month's edition.



Year Two were very proud to show off their netball and football skills to their parents last Friday morning. We were extremely fortunate that the rain held off. Mr Westwell came to talent spot for Year Three! Many thanks to Mrs Wallace and Mr Davey for organising the events.



A joyous celebration of books was held on Friday, 11th February as Derwent Lodge became home to a rich tapestry of fictional characters, some human, some not! Our visiting author, Julia Jarman gave an inspirational talk about her working methods and the juniors were also treated to a theatre performance. Book reviews and costumes were judged and the winners of the Spelling Bee were Zoe W from 4PB (for the second year running) and Katy H of 6L. There are lots of photos from this event and many others on the website.

EASTER COURSES

There are two courses available during the Easter break this year.

The first open to Yardley boys from Years 3—6 is largely games based and will include activities such as World Cup Football, Kick the Can, Capture the Flag, etc. It will be run by Mr Green, Mr Shute, Mr Gough, Mr Close and Mr Holmes on Monday 28th March though till Friday 1st April inclusive. The course costs £20 per day or £90 for the full five days, 10am to 3.00pm

Full details can be found on the parents' area of the website, or pick up a leaflet from Mrs Wilkes.

The second is an art course open to boys and girls in Year 5 and above. This is a two day course from 10am till 4pm on Monday, 11th April and Tuesday 12th April. Please email Mrs Lane-Cole for further information or to book a place: jlane-cole@somerhill.org



SOMERHILL MATHS RACE

This week saw the running of the third annual Somerhill Maths Race. This year the competition was expanded to accommodate 20 schools from around the local area. Each had a team of four pupils attempting to answer 20 questions in 30 minutes. The Year 5 competition was won by Hilden Grange, who were run-away winners with an amazing 95 points out of a possible 100. The Somerhill teams tied on 65. The Year 6 competition was much closer and there were five schools tied on 80 points with a minute to go. Yardley Court managed correctly to answer two questions in the final minute and subsequently came out overall winners. Congratulations to the winning team of Sam M, Charlie B, Tom S and Jonathan S. Well done to all four of our Somerhill teams.



2011 Ski Trip

The annual ski trip was a huge success. This year we went to the Swiss resort of Les Crosets. Thirty-five boys and girls, along with four teachers, endured a long but comfortable coach trip to the resort. Initially it appeared there might be more ice skating than snow skiing taking place due to the adverse weather conditions experienced by many of the Alpine resorts this year. Thankfully for us, it snowed all day on the Sunday and again on the Wednesday so the children had plenty of snow to both ski on and play their games in. The progress made by the beginners was once again wonderful, with all of the children able to participate in a red/blue run together on the final afternoon. For those of you planning your next ski holiday it is most likely that we will again be going during the February Half Term to a yet-to-be-announced destination!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

RED NOSE REVUE

The infamous Somerhill Red Nose Revue in aid of Comic Relief will take place this Friday, 18th March from 4.30 pm in the Bickmore Hall. Do join us for what promises to be a most entertaining session. If you would like to do so, please send in some cakes for us to sell to raise even more money to help disadvantaged children here and across the world.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION SUMMER FIESTA

Details will be coming out shortly of the Parents' Association Spanish Fiesta Party which will take place here at Somerhill on Saturday 25th June. Tickets which include dinner, dancing and entertainment will cost £75 per person.

HAPPY 400th BIRTHDAY SOMERHILL

There will be a host of exciting events and treats taking place on Thursday, 26th May to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the building of Somerhill. More details will follow shortly.

Year Four Soiree. Boys and girls from Year Four performed various pieces on different instruments at their Soiree last week. Congratulations to all those who took part. Many pupils will be taking their Associated Board Music exams this week—good luck everyone!



Sports News in brief

SWIMMING GALA RESULTS

On Tuesday, 1st March, Yardley Court and Derwent Lodge competed against Holmewood House School in a U9, U10's and U11's swimming gala. All participants swam brilliantly resulting in a draw. Well done to all those who participated!

Derwent Lodge triumphed on Monday 7th March in their U9, U10 and U11's swimming gala against Granville. It was a close result with Derwent Lodge winning by 92 points to Granville's 88 points. The girls were on top form and thoroughly deserved a win against Granville who have a strong swimming reputation.

U9 Netball festival at Ardingly College.

The U9's were unbeaten in 5 matches, scoring 35 goals and conceding just 7. Ellen Roshier was awarded a T-shirt for the 'most improved player' demonstrating an excellent awareness of space whilst Katie Howgill was awarded a medal for the 'most valuable player' for superb shooting and energetic play throughout.

IAPS U11 Netball tournament at Roedean.

There were 61 teams in six sections. DL had 10 games, winning 7 of them thereby proceeding to the next round as one of the top 18 schools. In the second round play-off we lost to Holy Cross 2- 3 narrowly missing out on qualifying for the National finals this year. The girls scored 39 goals in their 10 short matches. This team have been particularly busy, and also took part in a Versatility tournament at Caterham Prep where each player had to play every position.

Sports News

Hudson Sevens Triumph

The senior boys competed in the annual Hudson Sevens Rugby Tournament at Somerhill on Saturday. Teams from eight schools competed in two separate round-robin competitions, with the top two teams qualifying for the semi-finals. YC were the strongest in their group and came up against a strong New Beacon side in the first semi-final. After a tense battle, YC came out on top with a last minute try which meant a final match against Windlesham. YC played very strongly and came away champions for the third year in a row.



U11 National Prep Schools Cross-Country Championships

We had an early start to travel up to Malvern College, Worcestershire, for the National championships. 39 schools took part in the U11 Girls race, and there were well over 200 runners. Derwent Lodge finished as 10th best school out of 39 finalists in the country, and were nationally 3rd best small school in the land. Other runners were B Peachey, O Bathurst, G Annetts, A Tyler and H Thomson-Frost.



U11 Rugby

The U.11 'A' squad have been busy of late. The boys took part in two 7-a-side competitions and finished runners up at both King's Canterbury and Ashdown. The 12-a-side team qualified for the National Finals held at Epsom College last Sunday. Despite a win against the team that made the Final, we ended up in the Plate competition where we went out in the Quarter Finals. A well fought 14-14 draw against a strong and disciplined Shrewsbury House followed on Saturday to round off a tough programme. Now to defend our 7-a-side title at New Beacon next week!

U10 Ashford Netball Tournament

This talented team won their third tournament of the season, and played some of the most inspiring and skilful netball that I have seen from a Year Five team. Qualifying convincingly in the first round they beat Junior Kings in the semi finals. Good teamwork and accurate passing paid off and they beat Dulwich Prep to take the title. Well done girls!