



The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter *Volume 14, Issue # 4, 15 November 2010*



Fortunately the rain cleared in time for the start of the fireworks on November 5th and we were able to enjoy a fantastic display. Many thanks to you all for coming and to everyone who helped make the evening such a success, especially our grounds staff and the ladies from the Parents' Association who kept us plentifully supplied with mulled wine and toffee apples!

On 3rd November Reception travelled to Tunbridge Wells to See "Room on The Broom". We were all so excited – travelling by coach is great! The performance was enjoyed by all; some of us became involved in the performance right from the start when the actors came up into the audience to "hide"!



THANK YOU for completing your questionnaires for the ISI inspection that is taking place here at Somerhill at the moment. The inspectors were in for two days last week and will then return on 6th-8th December. We should have their report some time in late January. They were not at liberty to give us many details re your comments from last week other than to say that a good number of questionnaires were completed and that the response was overwhelmingly very positive. Your continued support of the school is very much appreciated.

John Coakley

Somerhill Christmas Fair

You should have received raffle tickets and flyers for this by now; if you need more you can collect from Mrs Wilkes in Reception.

The important dates are:

Friday 19 November—Mufti day for children. Up to Year 5 bring a new toy, Years 6 to 8 a new book or DVD

Monday 22 November—Collection Week starts, please put your donations in the green bins in the courtyard, by the Julian Staircase and in the Rose Garden (Bottles, bath bubbles, tombola items and homemade produce etc)

Friday 26 November—Homemade Cake Day - drop off by Mansion please

Saturday 27 November—THE FAIR in the Bickmore Hall 10—12.30. Do come and join in the fun!



Old Boys Soccer Match: On Sunday 7th November over 30 Old Boys, who left us last year at the end of Year Eight and Year Six, took on the might of the current Year Seven and Eight boys. The two matches were both strongly contested by the teams and refereed (without too much bias!) by Mr Coakley and Mr Green. The final results may have been affected by Mr Coakley's glasses (9-9 in his game!) and some interesting off-side decisions by Mr Green, but thankfully a great time was had by all! The matches were followed by a superb Afternoon Tea in the Dining Room, which consisted of lovely sandwiches, home-made cakes and hot tea and coffee. It will be great to see these boys return over the coming years as we continue to strengthen our 'Old Boys' network.



LOST PROPERTY

Mrs Wilkes has:
two keys (one with a yellow top, one with a purple top)
A Fiat car key
three mobile phones and an Ipod
Further details from Reception.

The Kent West Dyslexia Association (KWDA) is a fantastic organisation that offers advice, support and practical information to dyslexic adults and the parents of dyslexic children. They also hold seminars on interesting topics and membership entitles you to free entry to these seminars, and a newsletter several times a year. Their website address is www.kentwestdyslexia.org.uk

Please don't forget to bring in your filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Mrs Wilkes in Reception has spare leaflets if you need them.

Boxes will be collected from us in the week beginning 22 November, so just one more weekend to get them sorted!

Thank you again for your support of this hugely worthwhile charity.

If you need more information the website below is very helpful
<http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/operation-christmas-child>



As part of their cross curricular work in English and Maths this term Year 4 has been finding out which is the favourite Roald Dahl book of the girls in DL. It seems that 'The Twits' is the winner! Here are the Returning Officers with their ballot boxes.

Samuel and James from Year 7 pictured here promoting the Government backed reading initiative called "Booked Up". Every Year 7 boy was able to choose one book, from a selected list of books, and get it for free! The boys enjoyed receiving their free books and we hope will enjoy reading them even more! Further information on the scheme is available from www.bookedup.org.uk



Pre-Prep Children

We are aware that some parents are letting older siblings bring pre-prep children up from the lower car park into the courtyard in the mornings. This is a big responsibility for them and a concern to us as there is so much traffic around at that time.

We would be grateful if an adult could bring a child into the courtyard in the mornings. Thank you for your understanding.

R Sorensen

The Advertiser is being re-launched—New Name, New Format!

Somerhill Classifieds - your new monthly classifieds

ALL PERSONAL and PARENT BUSINESS ADVERTS ARE FREE

Down load a submission form from the Parents' Area of the Website, or pick up a hard copy from Reception

Next issue 6 December with deadline for entries 26th November



Thursday's wild weather forced us to change plans and hold separate DL and YC Remembrance Services in school, rather than outside.

Derwent Lodge paid their respects to brave soldiers past and present with a moving class assembly by 6J on Tuesday and a special service of remembrance on the 11th of November.

Yardley held their service in the Main Hall, and then braved the weather to lay a wreath in the Garden of Memory.

The poppies we have been wearing serve as a reminder for us to value the peace and freedom we enjoy and have helped raise money for wounded members of our military forces, their families and the families of those who have died whilst protecting our country.



From this



To this
YUM!



Via this

Year Two enjoyed a super morning at Frankie and Benny's in Tunbridge Wells.

They had a talk on healthy eating and then made their own pizzas with their favourite toppings. As you can see great fun was had by all!

Many thanks to F and B's for all their hard work and very impressive organisational skills!



A message from
Madame Spiers



To all my dear friends, colleagues, pupils and parents from the Somerhill family,

It is almost impossible to encapsulate the events of my first month with **The Kusasa Project** into a short, brief paragraph, but I will try!

My joy and excitement has come from meeting so many generous and committed people: from the trustees of the project and those working in the offices in Franchhoek to the volunteers, who have been so keen to engage in the restructuring of the literacy program; from the Heads of schools to the teachers and most importantly to the children – those wonderful, lively, hopeful, and joyful children, who have so little to smile about.

I, as a South African have loved being back home and have been amazed and encouraged by the courage and spirit of so many of the teachers, who manage to inspire these impoverished children despite enormous challenges: lack of resources, lack of space, lack of funds, lack of expertise, lack of assistant teachers (1 per 40 children!) lack of sporting facilities; teachers who teach children who have FAS (fetal alcohol syndrome) alongside others with a thirst to learn and who try hard to give each of these disparate groups their undivided attention.

I have loved interacting with the Chello 'kids' who are our sponsored senior pupils at Franchhoek High school, and doing extension and acceleration classes with the more able pupils in Grades 5 and 6. I have loved moving from teaching basic reading skills alongside the Xhosa teachers to discussing the symbols in 'Lord of the Flies' with the seniors; to opening two little libraries, which were once storage rooms and seeing the joyful, curious faces of little people, who have no books in the home and scant encouragement to read.

Where once there was no hope in the townships, which crawl their way up the mountainside just outside Franchhoek, there is now a sense of purpose and a sense of hope and that is mainly due to projects such as **The Kusasa Project** which constantly interacts with these schools and communities and lets them know on a daily basis that we are there for them and that we want to work beside them for a better future for all.



reinforcement goes on behind those 'sad' and broken walls and I am reminded that a school is always only as good as those teachers who are prepared to go the extra mile and give that extra smile regardless of the buildings – and thankfully there is a growing number of those in the valley and they will slowly influence the others to try a little harder! Salakakuhle , sobonana!

With love from Jacquie.

Ps The YC Rugby shirts have arrived and I hope to distribute them shortly.



There is, of-course, an enormous amount to do - there is lethargy and poor practices, lazy teachers and bad leadership, but there is an enormous amount that is happening and that inspires me to push forward and to keep positive and optimistic.

If I compare the majestic Jacobean buildings of Somerhill to the dilapidated wooden buildings of Wes-Eind on the edge of the more salubrious suburbs of Franchhoek, I never cease to wonder at how much goodwill and love and positive



Sports News



YARDLEY COURT HOUSE FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The 2010 House Football matches have been completed with strong performances across the board. The winners of each year group were

Y3 Nicholson, Y4 Nicholson, Y5 Marques, Y6 Ashmore, Y7-8 Ashmore. Well done to you all!

DERWENT LODGE SENIOR INTER HOUSE HOCKEY



Every girl in Years Five and Six played in the Senior Inter House hockey tournament, and both the A and B sections were very exciting indeed. Ullswater won the B section, and Coniston won the A section, but once all points had been totted up Grasmere, being the more consistent team, won overall with 14 points, just one point ahead of Coniston and Ullswater. The girls should be proud of the way they played. The games captains were smashing in the way they selected and led their teams throughout the afternoon. There are more photographs on the website for you to see.