



The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue # 11, 16th May 2011

Grandparents' Afternoons / Somerhill at 400 / New Play Equipment

We were delighted to welcome so many grandparents to the first of our three Grandparents' Afternoons last Wednesday. I was away umpiring a cricket match but I gather the afternoon was a great success much enjoyed by one and all. Our next big event is the Somerhill 400th celebrations which take place on Thursday, 26th May. Let's hope that the sun continues to shine for that special day when SPP grandparents are visiting and the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells will be here to help us plant some commemorative trees. Boys and girls in Years 5,6,7 & 8 are looking forward to welcoming their grandparents on Tuesday, 14th June.

We are already only two weeks away from half-term and, despite the stop-start nature of the first couple of weeks, I am very glad that we came back as early as we did. Immediately after half-term we have a firm on site installing additional outdoor play equipment for our Early Years boys and girls so the area near the wooden train will be fenced off. All very exciting! Mr C

SUMMER FAIR

The Summer Fair is less than four weeks away! Come along on June 11th from 10am to 2pm for plenty of fun, food and games.

Volunteers are needed for the smooth running of the day and we appreciate all help given on the stalls! If you can spare half an hour or more, please contact Annabelle Blackmore via the school Reception or email office@somerhill.org

Thank you for all the offers and assistance we have received to date and we look forward to seeing everyone on the day.

Penny Brice, Julie Pinnell and Annabelle Blackmore

YC TONBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS!

Our five YC candidates entered for the Tonbridge Academic Scholarship process all performed very strongly though only three were fortunate enough in securing awards. Very well done to Daniel Leroni, Will Atkin and Elton Wen who were awarded scholarships and very hard luck to Jonathan Smith and Peter Mercer who just missed out.

SPP enjoyed a super Book Day in the sunshine! Nursery, Kindergarten and Reception were entertained by a storyteller who told them about "Colin the Coastguard" and had puppets to accompany them. Years One and Two saw a drama performance based on books that we had previously introduced to them. We enjoyed a super parade in the courtyard and a good time was had by all!



CHARITY CLIMB BY YEAR 3 BOY

On Saturday 30th April Theo Daviron, 3T, climbed 1343m of Ben Nevis to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. The weather for Scotland at that time of year was almost perfect, clear blue skies and a warming sun slowly climbing out from behind the mountains. After a very uncertain start (with Theo having been blown off his feet twice due to 70mph gusts of wind sweeping down the valley), a section of crawling, a lot of hard climbing and a steady supply of Kendal Mint Cake, he reached the summit in 3hrs 40mins. After a brief stop for more fuel in the old observatory he set off back to the bottom, giving lots of encouragement to the other charity climbers who were still heading up. He completed this challenge in a total climb time of 7 hrs 10 mins.



Those taking part were very lucky to have a beautiful and very clear day on which to undertake this challenge and saw some wonderful views from the top of the British Isles in the snow. So far Theo has raised over £2300 on his Justgiving site, a great achievement—well done, Theo!

PARENTAL SWIM TIME: Tuesdays 10.00-11.00am

Just to remind you that parents are welcome to enjoy a dip in the school pool any Tuesday morning between 10.00 and 11.00 am until half term. Please park in the lower car park if coming to make use of the facility.

MEDICATIONS IN SCHOOL

Please remember that if your child has to bring medication into school he/she **must** also have a completed and signed Medication Form, which gives us all the information we need to safely administer any doses in school. You can find the form on the Parents' Area of the website, or complete in Reception. Thank you.



Outstanding English Speaking Board results for DL Years 3 and 4!

3TA and 3B entered the Junior Foundation Group Speaking level. They had to perform a dramatic poem and a piece of prose. The girls had been working hard on learning their lines and actions. Both classes were awarded 'Distinctions' for each entry.

4G and 4PB entered the Junior Grade 2 level. Each girl had to give a talk on an object, model, picture or piece of equipment, introduce and present a memorised poem and read aloud 4 or 5 pages from a book suited to their reading ability. They were then asked questions by their peers and the assessor. We were delighted to receive 21 Distinctions and 8 Merit Plus awards.



SPP celebrated the Royal Wedding with lots of different activities. Kindergarten classes held a street party and two mums from Year One, Mrs Raven and Mrs Whittall, designed activities for the pupils. These included a royal couple cut out which the children all enjoyed standing behind. They also designed a commemorative plate to take home. The whole school was awash with red, white and blue. We wish you every happiness, Kate and Will!!

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

Congratulation to **Isabel McNab** who has been selected as Goalkeeper for the England U19 Lacrosse team to play in an International tournament in Hanover in August!

Also to **Mia Smith** who has recently won two big tennis tournaments (one was for U16 players, and Mia is still just 12) so she is performing brilliantly. Well done girls!

SUMMER SCHOOL SWIMMING CLASSES

Weeks 1 and 2 (11th-15th July and 18th-22nd July)
Run by Mrs Whitlock for any child attending Somerhill.

The course aims to essentially develop an all round swimmer, Improve stroke technique, aquatic skills, Diving, turns and develop greater stamina and endurance. Children will be grouped according to ability. Your application will be processed and you will be contacted to confirm your place and time. Sessions will be 30 minutes long. Classes will run from 9.00a.m – 11.30a.m. Please indicate on your form preference of early / late class. Classes will be booked on a first come first served basis. Parents are encouraged to watch, using the spectator gallery. Swimming hats must be worn. Parents are asked to bring their child to the changing room prior to their lesson commencing in order to change into their swimming kit where they will be collected for their lesson.

Application Forms are available on the school website.



Junior Journalists Take Tips!

Year Five girls in Derwent Lodge learned what it was like to be a journalist and took part in a mock press conference on the theme of the Alternative Vote referendum under the expert guidance of parent Mrs Wheeler.

It was great fun and gave the girls a taste of the action and excitement of Polling Day.

Thank you, Mrs Wheeler.



Keeping Healthy in Reception

This week we have been talking about keeping healthy by looking after our teeth. We were very grateful to Mr Honarvar who spared some of his valuable time in his dental practice to come and show us all how we should be brushing, and how we can look after our precious teeth. The children all brought their toothbrushes to school and many of them took part in a “brushing investigation” – with colourful results! It was great to see that so many of Reception brush their teeth brilliantly, leaving no tell-tale signs of bacteria.



The Derwent Lodge DUB Club (Dressing Up Box!) finally gets going in DL after all the Monday Bank holidays. I seem to have had a circus troupe performing in the classroom! Mrs Green

SOMERHILL CLASSIFIEDS

The closing date for entries for the June Edition will be 2nd June. See the Parent area of the website for more details.

DROP & RUN—Next session will be on Thursday, 16th June, please contact Charlotte Lee-Amies for more information.

The Year 3 girls had a fabulous day on Friday exploring Ockhams Farm. The highlights were a bug hunt in the woods and fishing for tadpoles in the lakes. We also explored the farm house and found the priest's hole alongside the fireplace. The weather was glorious - even the swans came out to sunbathe and we enjoyed a picnic on the lawn. Thank you Mrs Cooper for letting us visit again!



On Thursday 24th March, Year Six Derwent Lodge, Mrs Jones, Mrs Michau and Mrs Saby, went to Wembley Arena to sing in a choir for the Banardo's Charity. Altogether we helped to raise £75,000 for this amazing cause.

The coach left far too early in the morning for anyone's liking. Despite everyone having large black bags under their eyes and half their clothes on backwards, we all enjoyed the day.

When the coach eventually arrived, we were held up for a while outside but luckily it was sunny! The snacks somehow found their way out of the bags, so we sat down outside. On the outside it looked big. Inside it was massive. When we first saw the millions of tiered seats there was about five minutes of silence, only broken by gasping and 'wowing' as we marvelled.

The morning rehearsals went well and lunch flew by. There were now only four hours until the concert (eek!), which made the band even more lively than before. Somehow the rehearsals flew by and suddenly it was tea time. Tea was an amusing event, with interesting food including two hard boiled eggs and a cold sausage.

After tea it was time to get changed. None of us had ever seen the ladies room so full as it was then. The whole day was gone and it was time for the concert. CBBC presenters, Sid and Katie, hosted the concert. As well as the massed choir there were also two dance schools who performed excellent routines.

Eliza Lewis, 6J, sang a solo in Blame It on the Boogie which was amazing for the number of schools that were there. The rare sight of Mrs. Saby and Mrs. Jones in lime green T - shirts dancing along was very funny! The last song was Land of Hope and Glory. The cheering at the end was phenomenal. All Year Six would like to thank Mrs Michau and Mrs Jones for coming along but especially Mrs Saby, who organized everything! Thank you!



IAPS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Alex Baker, Michael Freeman, Flynn Collins and Nishi Ranasinghe represented Yardley Court in the finals of the Kent IAPS General Knowledge competition.

After a slow start, where they were ten points behind the leaders and in a distant last place, the boys recovered to come equal third. We were particularly good at the picture rounds.

Well done guys!

Sports News



Eight girls from Year 5 enjoyed an exhausting afternoon at Combe Bank School for the annual Sports Stars Athletics. They were up against some tough competition, taking part in some unusual activities such as ski racing, hurdles, target throw and skipping. These were followed by a swim and tasty tea party. The team did very well to come in 6th place out of the 10 schools taking part. Team work was very much required and in strong supply from the DL girls.



Freddie Brewer and George Ankjaer took control of the camera to record the action at the recent athletics match with New Beacon, St Michaels and Hawthorns held at Somerhill and you can see more of their work in the photo galleries on the website. YC performed very strongly with a good number of individual winners. It promises to be a strong athletics season.



YC CRICKET

The boys have been making the most of the excellent weather to train for the host of cricket matches this term. Some of our Year 4 boys can be seen in action against Shrewsbury House last week – unfortunately they lost their matches, but enjoyed the practice.

