



The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue # 1, 20th September 2010

WELCOME BACK! It is great to see just how enthusiastically our boys and girls return to school; lots of Mums and Dads look pretty pleased that we are back in action as well!! I hope that you all enjoyed a lovely Summer holiday but the new school year is already underway with a bang and the newsletters every fortnight will help keep you up to speed with all that is going on here at Somerhill. Lots of maintenance work has gone on throughout the vacation and I would like to thank the maintenance team for having the school looking so good. The 11+ is already out of the way and the boys and girls who took part all seemed to cope with the pressure of those exams very well. Our emphasis this year will be, as ever, on ensuring your children have a happy and fulfilling year and strive their best to realise their potential. Last year's school magazine will be out soon and I will be delighted if we can have as happy and as positive a year again in 2010/11.
John Coakley



YC Pupil Youngest Briton Ever to Climb Mount Kilimanjaro!

Many congratulations from all of us at Somerhill to George Forbes-Nixon (who has just left us to go to Tonbridge), who straight after term ended in July was off with his father, David, to climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for their charity.

Braving Africa's highest mountain, 13 year old George reached the 19,340 foot (5,895 m) summit at 6.50am on Saturday 17th July 2010. They began their final ascent at midnight from Barafu camp (4,600m) and walked non stop for 17 hours (7 hours up to Uhuru Peak and then 10 hours down to the bottom of the mountain at 1,800m). George is believed to be the youngest Briton ever to have successfully reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.



SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Somerhill will again be supporting this very worthy cause this term. Definite dates and guidelines on box contents will be sent out later, but it's never too soon to start collecting empty shoeboxes, and items like colouring pencils, small soft toys, toothpaste and toothbrushes ready to tuck into the boxes. Check out the videos on

To see what a difference your generosity can make visit <http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk>

SPP SCIENCE DAY

Last Friday Reception and Years One and Two enjoyed a super Science Day organised by Mrs Davies. The theme was "Science through Fairy Tales". Reception made porridge for Goldilocks, Year One designed houses for the Three Little Pigs and Year Two built bridges for the 2 Billy Goats Gruff to cross!





The new Year 3 girls settling happily into the routine of Derwent Lodge—they certainly look to be enjoying themselves!

Welcome to the new members of staff who join us this term:

YC

- Mr Davey—no longer a gap student! Now a Year 5 form tutor
- Mr Reid— replaces Mr Davey as our Gap Student
- Mrs Powell—Head of French
- Dr Dodd—Science Teacher
- Mrs Collins – Year 6 Form Tutor
- Mr Close—Returning as Deputy Head, academic

DL

- Just one NEW member of staff:
- Miss Kerr-Sheppard—our Gap Student
- Mrs Lilley returns after maternity leave as RE co-ordinator

WEDDING BELLES! Two Summer weddings turned Miss Robinson into Mrs Bingham and Mrs Middleton into Mrs Taylor—Congratulations Ladies—we think you look stunning!

To Pre-Prep parents

Please may I ask for your co-operation on a couple of matters relating to the courtyard in the morning. As you will know, it gets very busy! I would be grateful if Reception children could play on the far side of the green cones to be supervised by Kindergarten staff as there is more space for them there.

Would parents who are waiting please stand around the perimeter of the courtyard so that the assistants can effectively supervise the children who are playing.

Many thanks. Ruth Sorensen



DL Eco Club started this week with a fabulous fungi forage. We found over 20 different species in half an hour! Can anyone help us with their identification?



Whilst the Year Six 11+ boys were working hard in the Bickmore Hall, the remainder of the school had their break on the Paddock. Thankfully the weather was kind and a great deal of fun was had.

National Association of Gifted Children

NAGC West Kent is offering a fantastic one day course on Aztec Civilisation. Explore the Aztec culture and belief systems through integrated learning and Art workshops. This is for young people aged 4-14 and takes place during half term on 25th October 2010, from 10am-4pm, at Beechwood Sacred Heart School. The cost is £15 for each child for the full day's workshop.

For further information please email nagcwestkent@hotmail.com

SCHOOLS AT SOMERHILL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The SSPA are holding their first meeting (and AGM) on Wednesday of this week in the Dining Hall at 8.00pm. Anyone is welcome to attend and find out more about all the events—both fund raising and social, that this hard-working body organises.

Extra helpers are always welcome, so if you fancy making gallons of mulled wine, manning a stall at the Christmas or Summer Fair, then come along and have a chat. Form Representative volunteers are also much needed

Dates for diaries, full details will be sent out later
Wednesday 22 September, 8pm
 SSPA Meeting and AGM

Friday 15 October
 Parents' Autumn Golf Day at Hever Golf Club

Friday 5 November—evening
 Fireworks at Somerhill

Friday 19 November
 Children's non-uniform day for charity

Monday 22—Friday 26 November
 Collection Week for Christmas Fair

Saturday 27 November 10 am—12.30pm
 Somerhill Christmas Fair

Wednesday 1 December
 SSPA Meeting

January 2011
 Burns' Night Supper and Dance



We are delighted that so many girls are eager to learn to play musical instruments. The latest statistics are that 78% of girls have peripatetic music lessons, with 29% learning more than one instrument! We can't wait for the soirees and concerts!

LOST PROPERTY

Mrs Wilkes in Reception still has an iPod left at the summer fair. Please see her to claim it back.



Some of the new Nursery children thoroughly enjoying their first days at Somerhill.



Ever wondered about those weekly cake sales—well this shows you just how popular they are with the boys! Thank you to everyone who supports the form charities in this way.

Somerhill Parents' Autumn Golf Day :Friday 15th October at Hever Golf Club

The day will follow the usual format:-
 9am onwards - arrive for coffee and biscuits
 10am - Tee off on the Princes 9 Hole Course (Texas Scramble)
 Followed by Lunch.

Cost: £26.00 (Cheques payable to SSPA and leave at Reception marked Golf Day)
 Raffle and 'Strings' in aid of a chosen charity.

For further information or to be added to the mailing list please email: office@somerhill.org

Year Three DL girls are already proving they will make super scientists in the future. They buried objects made from different materials to investigate whether they will rot – or not! We'll dig them up in the summer term and see the results!



Sports News



45 boys and girls from Yr 5 'gave up' some of their summer holiday to attend the United Kingdom Sailing Academy in Cowes for a water sports course. They were jumping off the pontoon into the sea within minutes of arriving at the centre, having squeezed into their wetsuits. Such fun! The children were divided into groups to learn windsurfing and dinghy sailing, and also most of them had a chance to help crew the Keel boats as they ventured further out to sea in the Solent. Kayaking was also very popular, particularly the water polo type game that was played. Mrs Michau and Mrs Harman did allow their competitive side to show, but everyone had fun in this high-scoring game. Some interesting rafts were constructed from barrels, wood and ropes, and some of them even stayed afloat! Evening activities included an 'egg-drop' where amazingly three eggs survived the ordeal. Well over a hundred crabs were captured using the infamous Harman crab lines, and enjoyed (?) finding their way back home again after racing each other down the slipway. This was another fabulous trip—many more photographs can be found on the school website.



Yr Internal Football Festival - On Monday 13th of September all boys in Year Three took part in an internal Festival of Football. It was great to see the excellent spirit which the matches were played in and the high level of skill. This undoubtedly helped the boys as on Thursday they recorded three wins over Rose Hill. Well done boys!