



## *The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter*

### *Volume 14, Issue # 6, 24th January 2011*

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2011; the school is off to its usual busy and energised start. I hope that you were pleased with the ISI inspection report which spoke so positively of our work here at Somerhill. Without blowing our trumpet too loudly, there would be few schools in the country that can match such a report but with it comes the burden of living up to that reputation. I know the Chairman of Governors has already done so in his letter to you, but I would like to add my thanks to parents, employees but, more importantly, pupils, for all that they contribute to making Somerhill such a special place. It is getting a little lighter at pick-up time, but please drive with vigilance during these murky evenings so that our children can all be as safe as possible on site. Many thanks. John Coakley



#### Reception's Special Visitor

Reception children were so pleased to have a very special visitor this week: Stanley, Mr Coakley's dog. Stanley had had a bath especially and was immaculately behaved while Mr Coakley told all the children about him. We found out what Stanley ate, where he slept and how he will recognise us the next time he sees us (he will sniff us!) The most exciting part of the visit was when we were allowed to give Stanley a stroke and a special dog biscuit that Charlotte H had brought in!



The sponsored swim is just over a week away and we still have plenty of slots available for any Mums and dads who would like to help out between 4.30pm on Monday, 31st January until 8.00am the following morning. If you would like to swim then please e-mail Jan McGeary with your preferred time and she will then contact you later this week with exact details. (jmcgeary@somerhill.org) All monies raised are in support of the Pink Ribbon Foundation which supports a number of Breast Cancer charities. Thank you.

## SCIENCE WEEK IN DL

### 'Scientist in a Box'

We have had a record breaking response to our science competition this year. The range was huge, with ingenious entries showing achievements of the great giants like Sir Isaac Newton and Leonardo Di Vinci, more contemporary scientists such as James Dyson, and the less well known Pan Wenshi who does so much work with giant pandas. Winners were very hard to choose but there were prizes in every year group. Mr Coakley awarded certificates to every entrant and the prizes to the winners in a special 'scientific' assembly!

Our science week coincided with that of Sevenoaks School and they kindly invited us to some of their events. Year 4 enjoyed the fantastic and interactive presentation focussing on animals from all over the world, then had a hands-on session with snakes, toads, geckos and many more creatures!

Year 5 witnessed loud bangs in the great demonstrations during the Super Cool Show and found out about the incredible effects of the coldest substance they will ever see – liquid nitrogen. Whilst for Year 6 girls it was a hair raising, high voltage demonstration of electricity and magnetism. A really fantastic set of presentations and we are very grateful to Sevenoaks School for allowing us to share in them.



AND FINALLY NEWS JUST IN ....

### DL success at young engineers K'nex challenge

A DL team selected from our thriving Scientific Club were winners at this competition held at Sevenoaks School. They had to design a bridge with a mechanism that would allow it to open and close. The judges declared it 'an excellent design and very robust' and considered that it could actually be turned into a real bridge.

We would like to welcome the new Tuesday / Thursday group into the Nursery. They started only at the beginning of this term, but you can see from the photograph how busy they already are and....no tears!!



Towards the end of last term Mrs Davis and the classroom assistants took Year One out for a lovely long tramp around our grounds. The children had lots of fun getting plenty of fresh air and particularly enjoyed walking through the 'Ha Ha'

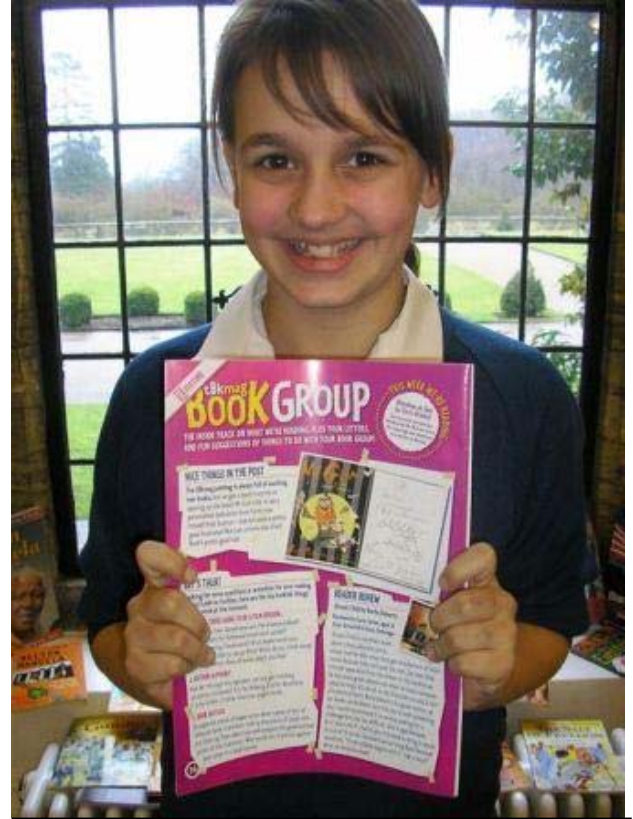


### **DENTISTS AND WHAT THEY DO**

Mr and Mrs Gunter who are both dentists, came into school last term to talk to Year 5 in DL about dental care. The girls were able to see and handle lots of interesting items and to ask many questions and get expert answers! The girls also learnt about the importance of brushing their teeth properly and used disclosure tablets to discover how well they had done!



The boys from Year Three and Year Four travelled all the way to Canterbury on the last Tuesday of the Michaelmas Term to see the Marlowe Theatre's pantomime of Robin Hood. A great time was had by all, even Teddy who was attacked by a giant pea! It really was 'Behind him!'



**BOOK REVIEW PUBLISHED!**  
 Congratulations to Isabel C, Year 4, who had her review of the book 'Street Child' published recently in the tbk magazine. Having had the story read in class, Izzy was moved to read it again and then write the review. Her endorsement of the book can be seen in full in the school Library. Well done Izzy!

#### DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Kent West Dyslexia Association has a parents' group meeting on 3rd February at 7.15pm. It will be led by Imelda Eve, a highly experienced learning difficulties tutor. For more details visit the website: [www.kentwestdyslexia.org.uk](http://www.kentwestdyslexia.org.uk)

**SOMERHILL QUIZ NIGHT—11 February, tickets £10 per person including fish supper, bring your own drinks. Ticket request forms on website, or see Mrs Wilkes to book your place for this fun event.**

Two world record attempts were made by girls in assembly, but sadly the record for stacking golf balls on top of each other remains at just nine, and the 2003 record of eating 146 smarties in three minutes, with chopsticks is still intact. The assembly theme was 'perseverance' and the girls learned that to achieve anything worthwhile takes dedication and resolution. Reference was made to the national athletes currently training for the 2012 Olympics, and some of our own 'stars' acted out a drama to explain why they work so hard and what makes them persevere with training. Several of our 'old girls' currently represent Kent or Sussex in many sports. Two recent leavers are doing rather well for England: Mia Smith continues her tennis training in Florida, representing Great Britain in junior tournaments, whilst Isabel McNab is training as part of the England U19 lacrosse squad and hopes to secure a place in the team who will play in the World Cup next year.





The boys from Year Four visited the Natural History Museum to enrich their understanding of the Geography topic, 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes'. They learnt about the effects that both of these natural events have on the people who experience their full force and about how we can limit the damage caused. They also visited the dinosaur exhibit to broaden their knowledge of these fascinating creatures. The behaviour of the boys throughout the trip was outstanding - thank you!



## Sports News

Staff v girls netball  
(report by Isabel Carter)

On the first day of term, DL staff played the under 11A netball team. In the first quarter the staff had the first centre pass and they were strong. Having some teachers double our height, we found their overhead passes hard to intercept. Miss Kerr - Sheppard did some very good passes to Mrs Dicks into the circle and at the end of the first quarter the score was 5-0 to the



staff. Some changes were made to both teams and then we got back on court. In the second quarter Emelia scored a great goal after a couple of attempts. Sadly though for us, the staff stayed strong with a couple of members of staff being sent off by Mrs Forward for one minute! At the end of the second quarter the score was 10-1 to the staff. More team changes at half time changes resulted in the best quarter for the girls. We passed a lot quicker but unfortunately didn't score even with our shooters hard at work. The staff scored one more goal to make the score 11-1 at the end of the third quarter. In the last quarter Emily P-T scored after a couple of attempts. Mrs Forward was obviously trying to help the girls and at one point there were only 3 members of staff on court! When the staff were all on court, which wasn't very often, they were a bit too good. In the end they scored a further goal after many attempts. The final whistle blew and the score was 12-2 to the staff. Afterwards we got a twirl and a drink, YUM! It was a great game. Thank you very much Mrs Harman for organising it.



**BRACKEN CUP—YARDLEY COURT WINS** for the first time in 19 years!!! Yardley boys produced excellent performances in the Bracken Cup this week, culminating in YC winning the cup for the first time since 1992! Well done to all our runners. Doubtless the boys were spurred on by Mr C's promise of a special half-day holiday if we won!!! Several girls also took part in the event and ran strongly.



### DL Inter house Cross-Country

Conditions were wet, but relatively mild for the junior and senior cross-country races on a brilliant course on the Parkland. The senior event was stunning to watch as almost every girl ran her socks off! Once again Beth and Kathleen, our experienced and very talented runners, battled it out and it was anyone's race. Indeed, as they crossed the line there was less than a second between them, but Kathleen just beat Beth. It was lovely to see them smile and 'high-five' each other in the finishing funnel in a spontaneous display of respect and friendship. Such is the quality of our senior athletes this year that the top six all broke the existing course record, so congratulations to Kathleen F (C), Beth P (C), Octavia B (G), Grace A (U), Holly T-F (U) and Emily P-T (U). From recorded times, Olivia G-F (W), Eliza L (G) and Georgia R (U) were the most improved runners and deserve much credit for their hard work and effort. Final senior house results: 1st Grasmere - 332 points, 2nd Ullswater - 435, 3rd Coniston - 479 and 4th Windermere - 589.



The junior event was just as exciting, and it was a joy to see how the girls really got behind each other to cheer on their house-mates and friends, particularly in the latter part of the race. Jasmine L (C) ran a fabulous race to finish in 1st place, chased all the way by Lexi G-P (G) who finished just behind her. The first Year Three home was Sasha A (G) in third place, Rosie P (C) 4th, and two more Year Threes, Charlotte S (C) and Olivia M (U) in 5th and 6th places. Most improved runners were Rebecca A (W), Zoë W (G) and Anna H (C) who all dug deep and worked especially hard to earn points for their houses. Final junior house results: 1st Ullswater - 366 points, 2nd Coniston - 373, 3rd Grasmere - 378 and 4th Windermere 484.