



# *The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter*

## *Volume 14, Issue # 5, 29th 2010*



### **SOMERHILL CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Somerhill Fair on Saturday—it just seems to get bigger and better every year. Brilliantly organised by the SSPA team, the whole event ran very smoothly. Special thanks to Mrs Julie Pinnell, Mrs Caroline Scott and all their helpers, and of course our wonderful maintenance and cleaning team who turned out in the frosty small hours to ensure that the Bickmore Hall was ready.

Monies are still being counted and accounts balanced, but Mrs Buckley (Treasurer) tells us we are on target for having raised in the region of £6,000. In addition the toy stall from the mufti donations raised another £890 which will go to 'Action for Children'. Again, thank you everyone for making the Fair such a great success.



DL and YC Cake Sales all set up and ready to go last Friday (no uniforms as it was Charity Mufti Day too!) The weekly cake sales raised over £2,700 last year and each form chooses which charity they will support with the proceeds of their sale. Thank you for your generous support that makes all this possible.



On Thursday Year Two had a super "Coronation Workshop" day organised by the teachers. Many of the children turned up in 1950's clothing. Each teacher was responsible for a workshop and the classes moved round to enjoy all the activities. Mrs Osman was in charge of artefacts and memorabilia (she had spent many hours on eBay collecting it all!) Mrs Davies was i/c crowns, pen and ink and slate writing and Mrs Samworth was i/c flags and postcards. The children had a fantastic day. Thanks to the teachers for their hard work with this and thanks to the parents who supplied a super coronation tea including spam sandwiches!

### **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Update**

Thanks to your generous support of this appeal this year we were able to send a cheque for nearly £500 to the Royal British Legion last week.



Mrs Sorensen and Mrs Southall were privileged to receive an award from the Kent Deaf Children's Society. Somerhill Pre-Prep had been nominated by a parent for the support of a pupil with hearing loss.



Congratulations to Sarah M in 5HW who has been 'Highly Commended' for her poem 'Home', entered in the 9 – 11 year old category of the Old Possum's Children's Poetry Competition 2010. She has won a poetry book which will be presented by Roger McGough and James Carter at a special poetry gala in London on the 10th December. Sarah won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the competition last year in the 7-8 year old category with her poem 'Barack Obama'.

### **Success at SVS Maths Competition**

Congratulations to our Year 7 boys who won the Sutton Valence Under 12 Maths Competition.

On a wet and windy Thursday evening we sent two teams to compete in the annual SVS Maths Competition. Prep schools and senior schools from around Kent and Sussex took part entering four children into each competition. The children have to answer 20 questions in 30 minutes. They answer one question at a time and each team sends a runner to the front to find out if they are right or wrong.

Our Year 7 team of David Wilkinson, Michael Freeman, Harry Forbes-Nixon and Daniel Power were up first. They raced into an early lead and with 5 minutes to go looked certain to win. However, as the timer ticked away, Holmewood House drew level and it looked like we were heading for a tie break situation. But with 5 seconds left on the clock David sauntered up to his marker and with a final correct answer took us onto 70 points, just 5 clear of Holmewood House.

Our second team of Daniel Leroni, Jonathan Smith, William Atkin and Elton Wen found life a little tougher in the challenging Year 8 competition. They worked hard and finished a creditable 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

All eight boys made the long journey to Sutton Valence late on Thursday night, after a very busy week. They worked very hard and each boy represented the school very well. Thank you boys





**YC 7M Assembly**  
'Don't judge a person by their looks'

The boys of 7M recently performed an assembly featuring the ugly duckling who turned into a beautiful swan, reminding us all not to judge by outward appearance. Great fun was had by one and all though Mr C thought the assembly was 'quackers'!



**MUSIC AT SOMERHILL**

We have had another highly successful series of Soirees this term. Pupils from Years Two to Six impressed their audiences with children playing a variety of instruments, ranging from Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone, Cello, Violin and Guitar, Piano, Trumpet, French Horn and Trombone and not forgetting the budding singers!

For many of these children, it was their debut as a soloist and it was wonderful to hear them performing so confidently in front of their proud parents and teachers. They clearly enjoyed the opportunity to show how much they have learned.

Our thanks go to all the music teachers who work so hard with the children enthusing them with their passion for music! Well done to all who performed and we look forward to our next and final Soiree of the term, on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Year 7 and 8 will be performing in the Grand Salon at 4.45pm and all are welcome!



The boys from Year 6 recently visited Horton Kirby Environmental Centre as part of their Geography curriculum. Whilst studying rivers this term they had first hand experience of measuring and observing the flow, shape and features of the River Darent. Readings and data were collected and collated to show the effect of erosion and deposition of a river.



All the boys had an opportunity of a field sketch and tried their hand at conducting a practical piece of field-work. Fortunately the weather was sunny, though chilly, and a great deal of information was gathered during the day.

#### **Paper-less Reporting in YC**

This term we are currently on schedule to trial paperless reporting in Yardley Court for the end of term reports and further details will follow shortly. **We are conscious that whilst most parents will welcome this step, some might for the time being prefer to receive their child's reports in hard copy and we shall endeavour to do this for those who request it.** Please let Jan McGeary know if you would rather receive a hard copy of your child's report. Thank you.

Malcolm Gough, Head of Teaching and Learning



#### **SHOE BOX APPEAL**

Thank you to everyone who put together a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child this year. The organisers were delighted to collect our 162 shoeboxes which are destined for unprivileged children in Belarus. Thank you for your generous support of this very deserving cause.

# Sports News



It had been a very good hockey season for the DL teams. 28 matches have been played, with 14 wins; 8 draws and 6 losses. In the latest matches, the U11A's and B's played Cumnor House and were pleased to come away with a 1-1, and a 2-0 win respectively. The U10A's and

B's are unbeaten, and many of them show skill, maturity and a sound understanding of set pieces and system play on the pitch. Beth Peachey, Emelia Hollingsworth, Alice Tyler, Francesca Reali, Eliza Lewis and Octavia Bathurst are our fabulous field players in Year 6, who have developed a passion for the game and have been great ambassadors for the school. A number of girls have played in goal for the A team; all of who should be pleased with their achievement.



## House Cross Country

Severe weather conditions on the scheduled House Cross-Country afternoon forced the races to be postponed. Over the following week the year groups braved the elements to complete their races. Strong results abounded with individual winners being:

Yr 3:  
Drew Beasleigh

Yr 4:  
Alexander Freeman

Yr 5:  
Miles Christian

Yr 6:  
Freddie Brewer

Yrs 7 & 8:  
David Wilkinson

Well done to all runners!