



# *The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter*

## *Volume 15, Issue # 5, 5th December 2011*

The Somerhill Christmas Fair took place on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November and was, as always, hugely popular. The Bickmore Hall looked very festive and jolly, and it was lovely to sit with a coffee and a mince-pie whilst listening to the carols. A fun time was had by all and over £6000 was raised - £1600 of which has been given to our chosen charity chYps. Another £1000 was also raised by other charity stalls on the day, so a big thank you to everyone who helped in whatever capacity, made a donation to the fair – and of course to everyone who came along and enjoyed the day. We would also like to thank Mrs Pinnell, Mrs Scott and Mrs Drew for all their hard work behind the scenes, and everyone from the SSPA who worked so tirelessly to ensure the event went smoothly.



### **LOST PROPERTY**

Mrs Wilkes has several iPods, mobile phones, spectacles and a pair of sunglasses! Please check with Reception if you have lost any of the above.



### Shoeboxes

A huge thank you to everyone who donated a filled shoebox to the Operation Christmas child appeal. The van came to collect them today (Friday) and we were thrilled to be able to load up our 185 boxes. These will be sent out to needy children in Eastern Europe over the next few weeks.

Many thanks to you all for your generous support of this very worthy cause—and indeed all the appeals, charity fundraisers and collections over the past year.

### K’NEX Challenge

On Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November a man from STEM Kent came into Yardley Court to do the K’NEX challenge with Year 6 boys.

We had to build a catapult that used an elastic band to fire a ping pong ball over a wall made out of Lego. The catapult also had to fit through a Lego arch and could be no bigger. The catapults had to be designed, made and then tested. We found out that triangulation helped strengthen our design and then it was time for the competition to see which design won. Team work and design were also factors taken into account.

Max Vorster and Alex Ford won the competition and will go forward to the Kent final later in the term where they will meet another challenge.

We all found it great fun and enjoyed the morning.

Alex Ford, John Ferrigno and Charlie De’Ath



CucumKhamun's Resting Place - After 40 days and nights in salt (natron) Pharaoh Cucumkhamun IX was laid to rest in his sarcophagus. If you smell rotting cucumbers near the Yardley Court Year Four classrooms it may have something to do with our mummification skills!



On Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November Years One and Two enjoyed the performance given by the Quantum Theatre on “Materials”. There was much enthusiastic audience participation!



### BURNS NIGHT SUPPER AND DANCE



Don't miss our first PA event of 2012 – The Somerhill Burns Night Supper, which takes place on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

This fun and stylish event will be held in the Mansion Hall and Long Library, promises a delicious mix of good food, good company and country dancing.

Tickets are limited, so apply early to ensure you don't miss out.

For more information, see the recent parentmail communication or contact Reception.



Following the success of the current DROP AND RUN sessions and after a number of requests, we will be offering weekly sessions from the start of next term! Full details to follow soon.

## Christmas letter from The Kusasa Project

Greetings to the Somerhill family and apologies for the silence during the past three months, but events here have rather taken us over.

First and foremost, **The Kusasa Project Early Learning Centre** is a reality and we will open our doors to our first 40 children in January 2012. We will initially be working from a Church Hall until our little school has been built and that too is exciting news!

We have established a partnership with another NGO, **Hope Through Action**, who have agreed to build our ELC as part of an indoor sports complex for the disadvantaged communities of Franschhoek.

All going well we should have a state-of-the-art little school in the very centre of the communities we serve and catering eventually for the whole of Foundation Phase. Thanks to the very generous support of a school in Sweden (IES Bromma), we have been able to purchase all the necessary furnishings and materials for the school and JPMorgan has given us the funding for three fully qualified and experienced pre-school teachers for a year! You can imagine how much dancing-for-joy has been going on down here and for those of you who still remember 'madame' you know just how much I love dancing!

The second big piece of news is that the **Chello Foundation** has agreed to sponsor a further 16 students to Franschhoek High School, which brings our numbers of pupils who are now on a full scholarship from Grade 8 to Grade 12, from 24 to 40. The logistics of all of this are daunting as there are only two of us full time on the

ground, however there are so many willing volunteers and so much good will amongst the local and disadvantaged communities that things seem to just get done.

In addition, our two very passionate and highly motivated co-founders Dave Riordan and Doug Gurr, who both have full time jobs in the commercial world, give hours of their free time to the project. In this way they ensure that every aspect of our organisation runs smoothly and that neither the children nor the team lack for anything – they are inspirational human beings, who manage somehow to find funds and support through their vast network of contacts both locally and abroad.



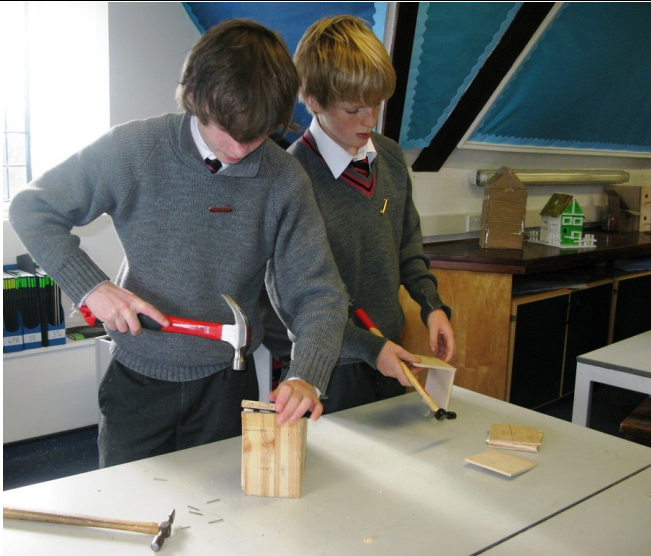
It is also so much due to the generosity of schools such as Somerhill and more especially Yardley Court that we always feel looked after – we have been deeply touched by the numerous gifts and donations you have sent over during the past year and the many books and pencils you have given the children. They loved the pencils from the summer fair with your names on, boys, and they excitedly tried to pronounce your names in English - 'Jonethen' and 'toemiss' and 'jemmee!' Thank you, boys, what a brilliant idea and what a success it was!

We were also delighted to receive three very special visits from Yardley Court families both past and present - the Pinhorn family brought with them oodles of enthusiasm, warmth and generosity; Jo Leroni and Daniel brought suitcases full of goods, all beautifully packed and labeled in true Leroni-style and all donated by Yardley Court boys and their families and Juliet Dammers, who came laden with books and teacher aids, worked tirelessly helping with testing and assessment. We are hoping to see more of you next year?! There may even be some 'real' building to do.

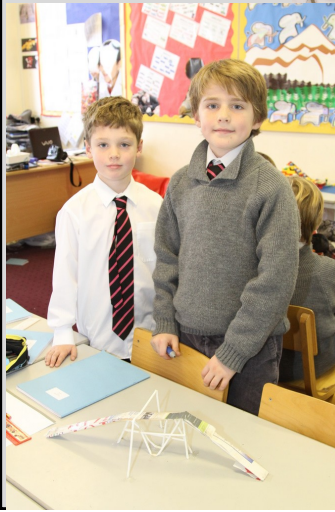
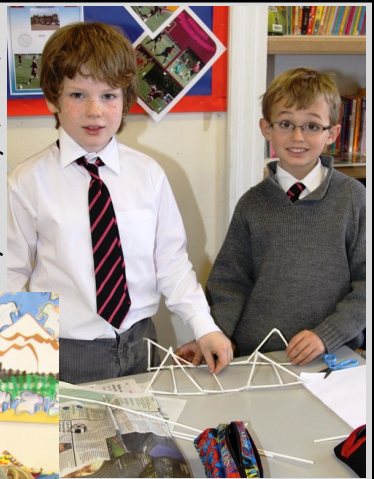
A final word of thanks must go to the boys of The Kusasa Project club, who have kept up our morale and done fun things for the kids over here and exchanged letters and photos and to Mally and Tineke – unsung heroes in the background – thank you all – you are all truly amazing – what WOULD we do without your generosity and your enthusiasm for this project and that wonderful Yardley Court moral support!

Happy Christmas to you all – you are always in my thoughts and prayers and know that I miss you all greatly.  
Mama Jacquie (Madame)

**Year Eight Bird Boxes** - The boys in Year Eight have been practising their Design Technology skills to create bird boxes in Art this term. This involved planning, building, painting and then assessing the final product.. It was amazing to see the different responses to the design brief!



**Yr 4 Science** - The boys of Year Four have been studying materials and their properties. As part of this unit of work they needed to build bridges out of a given group of



supplies including paper, sticky tape and straws. The winning group in 4SH used a variety of triangles and rectangles to build the winning bridge.

Year Three appear to have enjoyed their first term of netball, and they have all competed in at least four matches against other schools. Fifteen mixed ability matches have been played, and the girls have won 7, drawn 2 and lost 6 of these. We have put out a full A team just three times so far, and this team have won 2 and lost 1 match. In total, 40 goals have been scored this term, which is no mean feat at this age. Emphasis will be on netball and tennis next term in PE lessons (taking over from hockey and gym), so rapid progress with netball skills is expected! No pressure girls!



Derwent Lodge had a wonderful race at The Dobson Trophy. Our teams did exceptionally well, and won three medals in all. Anna Williams-Walker and Grace Annetts-Bronze and Kathleen Faes-Gold. We are looking forward to next term and The Woodmansee at Somerhill!

## Sports News



As the hockey term draws to a close, we can reflect back on the many highs of the short season. The U10, U11A and U11B teams are unbeaten in fixtures, and we look forward to our U11 hockey team representing Kent in the East of England championships in March. Out of 25 matches played, we have only suffered 4 defeats, which shows the depth of talent in the senior part of the school. Most girls in Years 5 and 6 have enjoyed representing the school in mixed ability matches.