



in partnership with Blanche Nevile

Headteacher's Newsletter June 2009

Dear parents and carers,

So much has happened since my last newsletter with a wealth of events and activities, an International Week and a successful OFSTED inspection! The June newsletter brings you up-to-date with the enriching activities the children have enjoyed over the last few weeks, and provides information and dates for your diary as we approach the end of the school year.

International Week



Thank you to everyone who helped to make our International Week such a huge success. The week was full of activities and interest as each class studied the geography and culture of a continent, with everything coming together in a special sharing assembly on Friday. Highlights of the week included 'Adante', a West African dance and drumming ensemble, bhangra dancers, an Australian didgeridoo player and a visiting story teller who entertained children with traditional tales from Africa. Particular thanks go to Livia and Julia for putting together such an eventful and exciting week that was enjoyed by children throughout the school.

The Highgate Carnival



If you happened to be in Highgate last Friday, you will no doubt have seen our Year 3 pupils parading along the High Street in their amazing carnival costumes. The stunning headwear was made by the children in the art department at Highgate School. Taking part in the Highgate Carnival was a great way to finish a week spent studying the culture of South America.

One World Evening

Last Thursday's One World Evening was a huge success, with a lovely atmosphere and over 400 people in attendance. The highlight for me had to be the incredible array of food which represented the diversity and generosity of our school community. A number of parents have enquired as to some of the secret recipes – just to say that plans are underway for a Highgate Primary Cookbook. Many thanks to everyone who supported the evening, but particularly thanks go to Aldwin for his brilliant disco, to Kirsten for the salsa demonstration and to our PSA for putting on such a successful event.

Tintinologist



As part of a cross-curricular project, Year 5 were recently visited by Michael Farr, the world's leading expert on the Tintin books. The children were fascinated by the talk which gave an insight into Herge's unique characters and was a memorable way to complete their topic.

Music Concert

The school music concert which took place On Friday 5th June was a very special occasion and showed the wealth of musical talent we have at Highgate Primary. There were some memorable performances Nick Would's guitarists, Jeremy Brooker's young cellists, the school's choir and many soloists. Congratulations to Hilla for organising this lovely event.

Links with Channing

A group of our Year 2 and 3 children were lucky enough to be invited to Channing School on Tuesday to meet up with children from the school and experience first hand a wide variety of farm animals. As well as handling rabbits, ducklings and geese, all the children had the pleasure of milking Liquorice, the goat.

Whilst the younger children worked with the animals, some of our most able older writers were invited to take part in a writing workshop with visiting author Helen Dunmore, who wrote the Ingo series of books.



Centrepoint for this year's Chelsea Flower Show. As well as providing a lovely entrance for visitors, the garden is being used to teach the pupils about growing vegetables - and the produce is making its way into our school salad bar.

The raised beds in the playground have also been very well received and provided a lovely sitting area for our children and parents. Thanks are due to our parent gardening volunteers, particularly Tessa and Laura, for their excellent planting and ongoing work within our school grounds.

Family Learning visit to the Palm House



Kim Slater took a group of Reception children and their parents to the Palm House in Wood Green last week for a family learning session which involved looking at the different climate areas: desert and rainforest. The children were able to handle some of the animals including stick insects, giant land snails, tree frogs and a corn snake.

Garden



I am particularly pleased with the new raised beds and planters that have recently appeared at the entrance to the school. The vegetable garden was kindly donated by parent Johnny Arkin, who designed this sustainable garden for the charity

Athletics



Congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 athletes who represented the school so well at the Haringey Athletics Championships at New River Stadium last week. Individual honours went to Darntae who won the boys 150m sprint, Ethan who was overall winner of the Javelin event and Mabel, who took 1st place in long jump (beating Lois Dean into second place!)

Also a special mentions to Carlos for his 2nd place in the long Jump, Sofia for 3rd place in the Girls 60m sprint and Ayla for her 3rd place in the Girls 150m sprint. Overall it was a great day out and all the children performed with credit.

Rugby

And well done to our Year 5 rugby players who represented the school in a closely contested rugby match against St Michael's. Although the teams were evenly matched, it was the hosts who held a big early lead at half time. Highgate gave everything in the second half with great tries from Ethan, Otto and Kevin which bought the scores level, but St Michael's just edged it with a try in the last minute. We all look forward to the re-match.

Events coming up in June and July.....

Sports Day

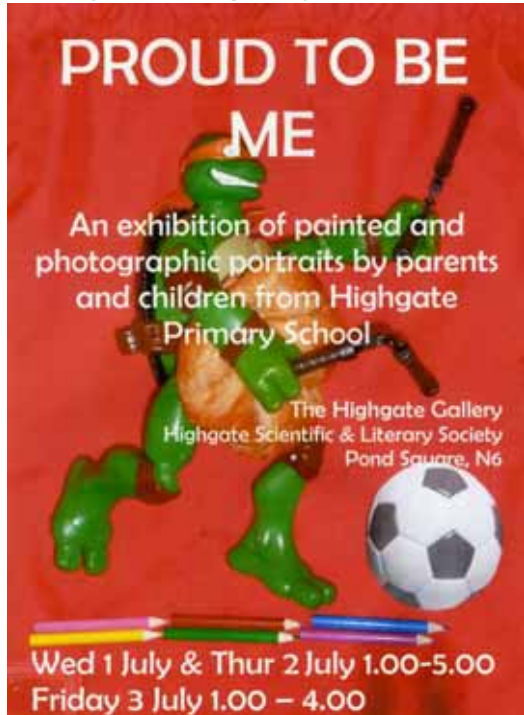
The format for sports day has been revised this year to include a range of athletics and some more traditional events. Parents are invited to attend the events which will be taking place on the field at St Michael's School in Highgate.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 will be competing on Wednesday 1st July, whilst the Junior Sports Day is being held on Friday 3rd July. Proceedings start at 10.00 am. Please look out for a separate letter which will provide further details.

Summer Festival

Following the One World Evening, our PSA should really be enjoying a well earned rest, however it is now full-on in the lead up to the Summer Festival, which is taking place at school on Sunday 5th July, between 12.00 and 3.00. Everyone is of course invited to attend what is sure to be a lovely community day out.

Family Learning Project



Parents are invited to a very special exhibition of work created by children and parents through the Family Learning project 'Proud to be Me'. The work was led by parents and artists, Yvonne Maxwell and Tanya Schwartz, and is being shown at the Highgate Scientific and Literary Society's gallery in Pond Square from Wednesday 1st July to Friday 3rd July.

Parent's Coffee Morning

Please come and drop in to a coffee morning hosted by our Parent Support Advisor, Simona, which is being held in The Family Centre on Tuesday 23rd June from 9.15 am. You will have the chance to chat to other parents and put forward suggestions and ideas for creating parent support groups. We very much hope you can attend.

Grease

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a trip to the Piccadilly Theatre to see the West End stage production of 'Grease'. The visit was a welcome treat after the hard work the children put into their preparations for the end of year exams, and was an excellent way to start rehearsals for their Year 6 leaver's performance of Grease, which is taking place on Friday 10th July 2009.

Term Dates

Term dates for the next school year have now been set and are published on the back of the newsletter.

Dates for your diary

w/c 29th June Dining centre	School Book Fair
Tuesday 30th June 2.00 pm School Hall	Year 2 Performance of The Wizard of Oz
Wednesday 1 st July 10.00 am St Michael's School	Infant Sports Day
Friday 3 rd July 10.00 am St Michael's School	Junior Sports Day
Thursday 9 th & Friday 10 th July 6.00 pm	Year 6 Leaver's performance to the parents
Tuesday 14 th July	School Open Evening
Wednesday 15 th July 2.45 pm	Year 3,4 and 5 French Performance to parents

Other news and information.....

Parking

You are probably aware that planning notices have again been served to create a Controlled Parking Zone in the roads surrounding the school. If you have views on this issue, you are invited to submit them to the local authority by 18th June, either in writing to:

Haringey Council, Transport Policy and Projects Group, River Park House, 1st Floor South, 225 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8HQ,

or by e-mailing: frontline.consultation@haringey.gov.uk

Petition TFL

Local MP and past pupil Lynne Featherstone, is gathering signatures to support the campaign to install a pedestrian crossing on North Hill with the junction of Church Road. This is something that the school is supporting. If you would like to add your name to the campaign, please visit the link below:

<http://highgatecrossing.notlong.com>

Children's Centre Update

After much anticipation we now have a date for building work to commence on our new Children's Centre. The start date is Tuesday 7th July, with the building work scheduled to last for 22 weeks, taking us up to the start of December. The project will involve renovating the existing Family Centre and adding an extension to bring it up to 21st Century building specifications.

There will of course be some impact on the school during the construction process but we are hoping this will be restricted to the temporary loss of a small section of the KS1 playground. There is an open meeting at 3.00pm on Friday 19th June in The Family Centre to meet representatives from the construction firm and have another viewing of the plans.

With best wishes

William Dean
Headteacher