

A WORD FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

This term draws to a close in the snow and although Christmas is still several weeks away, the scene outside my window is certainly festive; Kirkstone looks truly beautiful. The time for celebration is yet to come however as mock exams are underway and the Lower School is busy practising for their Nativity Play.

September seems a long time ago but it began well with a celebration of our superb GCSE results. Successes have then continued in Sport and Drama and in terms of our charitable fund raising which is always outstanding. The Parent Guild has been particularly active providing new furniture to enhance the Year 11 Leisure Area and fund raising for the Youth Theatre through the Kids on the Catwalk Fashion Show. As always I give them our thanks for the work they do to provide the wonderful 'extras' for our pupils.

I hope that you enjoy reading about some of the activities we have been involved with this term and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Who knows, Christmas may yet be white.

Corrine Hayes.

KIRKSTONE IN GOOD VOICE

For over a decade Young Voices has been staging the largest children's concerts in the world in the hope that many children each year will be inspired to start their musical journey, wherever that may take them. On the 24th November students from our choir attended the LG Arena in Birmingham and became part of Young Voices 2010/11.

The children had a fun packed day, rehearsing a medley of songs that they sang with the stars at a spectacular evening performance. Artists included VV Brown, a 24 year old singer/songwriter who brought her own brand of soul to the stage whilst classical superstars All Angels, having just finished their third studio album, inspired the pupils with their fresh take on classical music. Young Voices is also the proud supporter of CLIC Sargent (Caring for Children and Young People with Cancer).



JUNIOR VERSE SPEAKING COMPETITION



On the 5th November Lower School held their annual Inter House Verse Speaking Competition, in keeping with the date the theme was 'Bonfire Night'. Mrs Catherine Myland, the daughter of the late Mrs Little a former Headmistress at Kirkstone, kindly adjudicated again this year. The individual prize was won this year by Philippa Ramsay.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On the 24th November Lower School celebrated Harvest Festival by reading poems and singing hymns in the Pavilion.

A big thank you to the wonderful produce that was donated by parents and was most appreciated by Baston Church who raised money by auctioning off the fine fayre.



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FUNDRAISING CONTINUES

A Halloween 'Spooky Day' was held on Friday 22nd October. The seniors paid to dress up and sold spooky muffins, whilst the juniors paid to dress in non-uniform house colours and bought cakes to decorate in the Halloween theme. The event raised a total of £250.00 for the Sue Ryder Hospice.

PARENTS GO BACK TO SCHOOL!

A mathematics workshop for year 7 parents was held in November by Mr Adamson and Mrs Maguire.

The aims were to create an awareness of the developments in maths education, to demonstrate alternative methods in arithmetic and to suggest ways in which parents could help their child. The new 'Functional Maths' initiative was introduced and it was explained how this will impact on the GCSE exam. Both teachers demonstrated some interesting starter activities, maths tricks and computer software, and parents were given a list of recommended mathematical websites.

Some parents were a little apprehensive at being back in the classroom but after some tea, coffee and flapjacks they relaxed and said it was an enjoyable and worthwhile activity. Some parents have requested another workshop in the future!



E-SAFETY PARENTS WORKSHOP

On Thursday 13th January (7.15 p.m. - 8.15p.m.) there will be an E-Safety Parents Workshop.

Here parents will get the most up to date advice on all aspects of e-safety, covering topics such as firewalls, parental controls, issues concerning social networking sites and chatrooms. Questions including those of a legal nature will be answered by an expert e-safety county advisor. Please book your place by calling school, returning the reply slip on the information letter or by emailing Mrs Maguire on pastoral@kirkstonehouseschool.co.uk

CHILDREN IN NEED

On the 19th November both seniors and juniors paid £1.00 to come to school in non-uniform. A mini fair was held in the lower school hall, Year 11's were washing staff cars and together with various other activities we raised a massive £592.73.

Thank you to everyone who made donations.



HELP IN THE KITCHEN

The Food Technology department has been very busy this term with one old favourite for this time of year and a new class which has proved very popular with year 5 and their Mum and Dad Helpers.

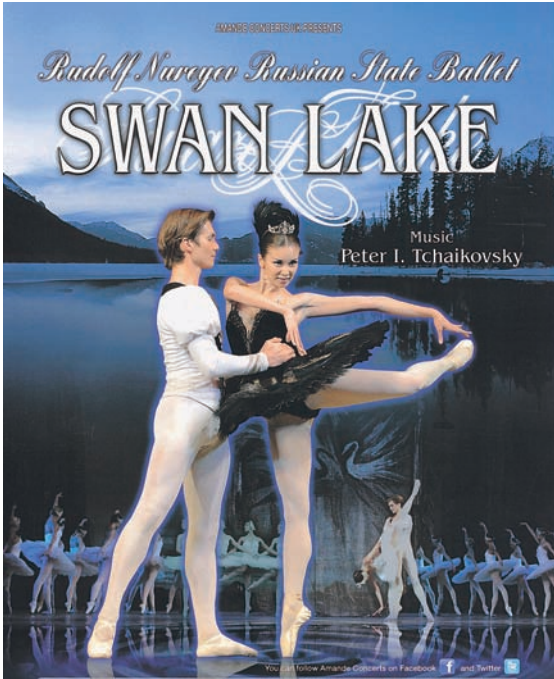


The old favourite is Christmas cake club which has proved very busy on Monday evenings and Thursday lunchtimes with lots of excitement weighing stirring mixing and creating interesting designs for the cakes. Without a doubt the families will be proud of the children's efforts when they are sampled on Christmas Day.

The new class for this term has been on Thursday afternoons and has proved very popular with parents and year 5 alike. The idea is to introduce the children to a life skill, to be able to produce nutritious well presented food in a relaxed family atmosphere. The parent helpers have been working alongside their children and sharing the tasks involved in making a variety of dishes. We have made soup, one pot dishes, pastry, carved pumpkins, pumpkin pie and a range of Christmas fayre that any top quality foodie shop would be pleased to sell.

SWAN LAKE TRIP

On the 20th October pupils were taken by Mrs O'Rourke to visit the Theatre Royal in Lincoln. The Russian State Ballet performed Swan Lake, the compelling legend of tragic romance which tells the story of Odette, a princess turned into a swan by an evil curse, the choreography allowed the very best dancers to show just how impressive they can be. Swan Lake is considered by many to be one of the greatest classical ballets of all time and all the audience were in total agreement.



CRAFT CLUB



Shh! Creativity in progress. Mrs Ingle's Craft Club on Monday evenings from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. **All Welcome**

KIDS ON THE CATWALK

On the 12th November our Parent Guild organised another fantastic Kids on the Catwalk fashion show for Year 1 to Year 7 pupils.

The children enjoyed their modelling experience and their personalities certainly shone through in their poses and dance moves. It was great fun for everyone.

SCIFEST WEEK

Kirkstone House School fully participated in the Bourne Scifest week. Our lower school students Key Stage 2 and Year 7 enjoyed Mad Science Fire and Ice in the pavilion whilst Key Stage 1 students were visited by Zoolab and introduced to a number of mini beasts.

Year 9 visited Bourne Grammar School and were entertained by the Science Museum show 'It takes Guts' which followed the journey of food in the human body from your mouth to the other end! They also whizzed through great moments in science with Ian Dunne who demonstrated catapults, big sparks and flying things.

Some Year 10 students attended the evening show 'Fizz Pop Think' at Bourne Corn Exchange. Everyone enjoyed it all!



JEWELLERY CLUB

Mrs Maguire has started a Senior School Jewellery Club on a Wednesday and Friday lunchtime.

Boys and girls are welcome.

ZOOLAB

On the 9th of November all of year 7 and 8 were invited to see some creatures from Zoo Lab. We were all seated and then introduced to a lady who showed us these creatures.

The first were two large African snails and we each got the opportunity to hold them (if we wanted to). We were told that the snail's slime was used in medicine, food and cream (yes snail slime is used in cream to moisturise the skin).

We got to look at lots of creatures like the tarantula, a snake, a rat, cockroaches and a poisonous toad.

We all had a great morning and enjoyed holding and experiencing different animals.

By Alice Hill Year 7



KIRKSTONE SUCCESSES

Y11 GCSE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION EVENING

Further to last summer's most successful GCSE results (89% of pupils achieved at least five A* - C grades) it was good to see so many of the past pupils return for the presentation evening in November to receive their results. The certificates were presented by Mrs Jones and the evening included a slide show of pictures from the pupils' time at Kirkstone along with music composed by the GCSE music pupils. The evening concluded with drinks and canapés provided by Mrs Brewster and her catering team. Again congratulations to all receiving their certificates and thanks to those who helped make the evening so enjoyable.

HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

On the 16th November the South Lincolnshire U16 Indoor Hockey Championships were held at Robert Manning School in Bourne.

Kirkstone House School won the tournament to become Champions for 2010/2011. In an excellent tournament the team lost 2-1 to Deeping School; won 3-1 against Robert Manning and in what turned out to be the deciding game won 3-2 against Bourne Grammar School.

PE teacher Mrs Thurlow, said that team spirit, determination and hard work were the deciding factors it was a delight to see the girls achieve such success and we are very proud of them.

U16 team pictured with the trophy and wearing their new hockey kit for this year.



SNIPPETS FROM THE SUMMER



CINDERELLA & ROCKERFELLA SUMMER CONCERT

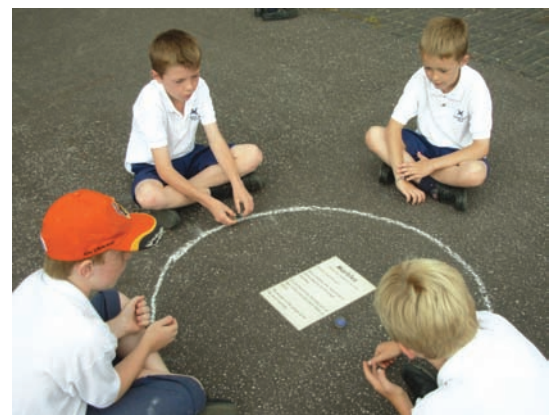
On the 1st July Reception to Year 4 performed a modern, panto-style version of the classic tale of Cinderella. It went down a storm and there was standing room only!

MUSEUM OF LINCOLNSHIRE LIFE TRIP

An enjoyable trip was had by Years 5 & 6 when we visited the Museum of Lincolnshire Life on Thursday 24th June. Once the coach had arrived, we separated into two groups in order to view the Ellis Windmill and the Museum in turn.

Three gentlemen explained how the windmill operated and told us the history behind it. We learnt that the Ellis family bought it towards the end of the Victorian era after their previous windmill blew down in a severe storm. In the 1970's a fire almost destroyed the Ellis Windmill but then a grant was awarded to them so that the restoration could begin.

The children thoroughly enjoyed looking at all the different farming equipment used throughout the ages and learnt about rural life a hundred years ago. There was also time to participate in Victorian games such as playing marbles and hopscotch before setting off home.



FORTHCOMING DATES

Open Morning - March 10th 2011
Austrian Adventure - May 2011

Finally we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

