

MOOR HOUSE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER –JUNE 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

GLOBAL DAY OF GIVING

On 3rd June six employees from XL Insurance Group came to Moor House as part of their 'Global Day of Giving'. This is a day when the company supports charities and worthy institutions such as hospices, schools and children's charities.

The six, Bill Wharton, Louisa Hawkins, Stuart Essex, Patrick Wiltshire, Richard Norton and Francois Boit turned their hand to a variety of gardening jobs including clearing the 'Nut Walk', weeding, strimming and generally tidying the grounds.

We are indebted to Pippa Ball who made it possible for the volunteers to help and support the school in this way. We hope that we will be able to host volunteers from KL in the future and thank them for their efforts.

Trips and Outings (see website for photos!)

Royal Festival Hall

On June 2nd 45 students from Key Stage 2 and 3 went to the Royal Festival Hall in London to see the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The theme of the concert was Space and Dance. Prior to the concert, the students had studied the repertoire in their music sessions. The orchestra played Mars and Jupiter from The Planets Suite by Holst and Three pieces from the Peer Gynt Suite by Grieg. The concert culminated in a performance of a song that was sung by all the students and was accompanied by the London Philharmonic Orchestra. This was a unique singing opportunity and the students all took part with enthusiasm.

The concert was thoroughly enjoyed by all the students and staff and it was a wonderful opportunity for them to see the instruments that they learn about and to hear live music. As usual the students were a credit to Moor House School, and I was tremendously proud of them. Thank you to all the staff who supported this trip, as always it is very much appreciated.

S Hardman

COOK

On Tuesday 9th June the year 11 Food group went to visit Cook in Sittingbourne Kent to see how high quality ready made meals are made. We were warmly greeted by one of the co founders Dale Penfold. At this factory site meals are made in huge quantities and then packaged up and sent to all the Cook shops in and around the south. We saw first hand how fresh all the ingredients were and the lengths the staff there go to make sure all the food is made to the highest quality. We were treated like celebrities and at the end got to taste at least 10 dishes as part of their own quality control. Students that attended were Chris Arnold, Kate Baldwin, Annie Jones and Charlotte

Cox. Chris recommends that anyone taking food studies should visit the shop. Kate thought the trip was really fun and the food was 'yummy'. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and it inspired us to make some salmon and dill fish cakes when we came back. They weren't as good as Cooks, but they were still lovely.

Duke of Edinburgh – Practice Expedition weekend

On Saturday 16th May nine students from Year 11 all set out on their Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition weekend. Over the previous weeks they had been through a number of training sessions and now their goal was to put the many skills they had learned in school into practice in the real and testing environment of an adventurous expedition.

Once the students had checked that they had all had the items they would need to look after themselves they were taken to their drop off point at South Holmwood near Dorking. From this location the two groups - Alpha Team and Bravo Team - set off 30 minutes apart, following the routes that they had chosen and plotted using OS Explorer 1:25000 maps and the interactive Memory Map application.

On the Saturday morning the students were accompanied by a member of staff who provided basic guidance to ensure that the students were able to navigate successfully. At first some students were taken aback by how hard it can be to follow a route through the forests – even though a route on the map can look quite clear, it can be hard to work out how the paths and trails in real life match up with what is shown on the map.

This uncertainty can be unsettling at first, especially when you are faced with having to make a decision on which path to follow when you aren't completely sure which the right one is! This requires you to think carefully and to use the tools and skills you have available to work out your best plan - and then to follow it. If, later on, you realise you have taken a wrong turn – then you have to make a new plan!

Despite these initial nerves the students did well and managed to correctly navigate themselves to the top of Leith Hill, the highest point in South East England, where they enjoyed a well deserved lunch with a great view of Surrey below.

After lunch the teams set off once again following their chosen routes with their final destination for the day being Etherley Farm, near Ockley. In the afternoon part of the journey the teams relied very much on themselves with minimal input from staff, who tracked the students progress from a distance using a combination of skills learned from the Discovery Channel, and also the Yellowbrick iridium satellite tracking systems!

On arrival at the campsite the teams immediately set about putting up their new tents and ensuring they had shelter, and then cooked dinner using

Trangia stoves. The results looked extremely appetising and judging by the speed with which they were eaten, must have tasted good too! After washing up, a campfire with toasted marshmallows and games of 40:40 and Aerobie followed until darkness fell and people started heading for the comfort of their sleeping bags... until 15 minutes later an enormous boom alerted everyone to the start of an incredible firework display that lit up the night sky, celebrating a wedding nearby.

The following morning dawned clear with blue skies, but during breakfast the weather broke and a spitting rain started. By the time that tents were being packed up this had developed into a total downpour but this did not dampen spirits (though it dampened everything else). Bravo Team set off first, closely followed by Alpha Team, heading for the car park at Broadmoor. On this second day of practice the students walked in their groups with remote supervision from staff, and despite most of the journey being uphill they set an impressive pace; the lure of a dry minibus and celebratory chocolate may have provided a considerable incentive to complete the task.

All in all the students did extremely well, showing a positive 'can-do' attitude and generous teamwork, and keeping good humour throughout – even though at one point a student was overheard plotting to build a time machine in order to travel back in time to find the inventors of powder milk, and obliterate them from history! They all deserve to feel proud of their achievements, although they are now faced with the final challenge to complete their Bronze Expedition section – the Assessment Expedition weekend in June is not far off now...

Staff members on the trip were Laki Lee (Unit Leader), Jane Davies (Assessor) and Nick Hart (Supervisor).

Many thanks are due to the parents, staff, families and friends who support PSA fundraising events, and also to the PSA for organising the events and meetings. A recent funding contribution from the PSA enabled the school to purchase six new tents for use on the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, and the tents were very much appreciated by the students. The funding also helped to pay for the satellite tracking systems which enabled staff to monitor the students progress and maintain safety.

Your kindness really does make a positive difference to the students and these are just a few examples of the way in which your generous donations are used. Please do continue to support the PSA!

Our thanks also go to the Catering department who provided an excellent selection of snacks and drinks for the students to take with them on the expedition.

Report by Mr. Hart.

KIDS OUT

According to the BBC, on Wednesday 10th of June there was a 75% chance of rain.

It was just another day of lessons and work at school for 95% of children. However, for some lucky children, Wednesday 10th of June meant a 100% guarantee of fun!

Yes, Wednesday 10th June saw the return of the very popular 'Kids Out' trip to Chessington World of Adventures for new students in Key Stage 3 at Moor House School and despite the weather reports, we had warm sunshine and hardly any rain... unbelievable!

15 excited students and 6 fearless members of staff journeyed to Chessington World of Adventures for a day of rollercoasters, rides and exotic animals, all organised by the Rotary Club as part of their national 'Kids Out' activity day.

The day began with students being divided into three groups; Stage 1 Explorers, who were content to go on gentle rides and seek out the wildlife at Chessington Zoo and the new Sea Life Centre; Stage 2 Adventurers, who would try some of the more intense rides; and Stage 3 Thrillseekers, who wanted to go on every stomach-wrenching and brain-busting ride the park had to offer!

Oliver started the day gently but soon discovered that he survived even the scariest looking rides without even blinking – he may have got tips from Katrina and Hamish who were happy to go on every single ride, and would still be there right now if we hadn't needed to bring them home.

Nathan and Sam enjoyed losing themselves inside the mirror maze at Hocus Pocus Hall – I'm glad I don't have to clean all the mirrors, as they bumped into them a lot of times leaving fingerprints all over them!

Ben and Chris went on the Black Buccaneer swinging pirate ship and while they are to be congratulated on having the courage to face this challenge, their faces did turn a strange shade of green and one person was even noticed hugging the ground with happiness after the ride was over. This did not stop them going on the fearsome Billy's Whizzer ride (and getting soaked) afterwards!

Martin enjoyed the Rattlesnake and Dragon's Fury, while Alex and Sam enjoyed Tomb Blaster with Sam achieving a near world record of 18400 points, only 100 points below a member of staff who played way too much Nintendo as a child.

James absolutely loved seeing the sharks and rays in the Sea Life centre, as well as his favourite ride Dragon Falls. Kathryn and Jordan also enjoyed this ride and both managed to hold their arms up as their boat splashed down the big drop at the end – amazing! Jack loved Roger the Dodger's dodgem cars (or are they bumper cars?) and Sally particularly enjoyed the Runaway Train

ride. Finally, who can forget Eliot's bravery on the Bash Street Bus – I think he learned what the expression 'butterflies in your stomach' means!

This was an extremely enjoyable day out which will be remembered for a long time by all who took part.

Our thanks go to the Neil and Jack and all at the local branch of Rotary for their generosity in funding the event and arranging for the lunches that were provided. The experience meant a lot to the children.

Thanks also to Mr. Endersby, Mrs. Clark, Miss Sayers, Mrs. Willis and Ercan Agca who looked after the children on this extended day out, especially Mrs. Clark who drove the people carrier there and back.

Report by Mr. Hart

Assembly on Recycling in advance of Trash Week 2009

On Wednesday 10th June we had a special assembly on the topic of recycling, in preparation for Trash Week 2009 which is taking place in the last week of the summer term.



The assembly was given by Mr. Rob Luck, Amenities and Recycling Officer for Tandridge Council. His presentation was both interesting and fun and it made everybody think about what happens to the rubbish that we throw away. At present, much of it gets buried in holes called 'landfill sites', but these holes will eventually fill up, and landfill sites can cause pollution problems.



The solution is to try to re-use items instead of throwing them away, and if we cannot re-use them then we should try to recycle them so that they can get turned into something new and useful. He brought along some special recycled pencils which had been made from plastic cups - each pencil is made from one recycled plastic cup - amazing!

Each student in school is now equipped with a pencil that used to be a plastic cup - please do not try to drink out of your pencil!



Mr. Luck showed us how plastic drinks bottles, glass and metals are recycled in our local area, and did an experiment to show how it is important to take the lids off of plastic bottles before recycling them, as this allows them to be crushed flat which takes up less space.

Our thanks go to Mr. Luck for providing a very thought provoking assembly, and to Mrs. Greig for organising it.

Report by Mr. Hart

Annual Fete – Saturday, 13th June – 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

The fete was a great success this year, raising £5243

For the first time the fete was located outside on the grass area behind the playground. We are very keen to hear the views of parents and staff on this change so we can make the fete even better next year.

Thanks must go to all staff, students, parents and friends of the school who ran a stall or helped in some way on the day itself and in the preparation and clearing up afterwards.

However, a very special thank you must go to Christine Newman, our Office Manager, who took on the mammoth task of coordinating the administration of the fete with such energy and commitment.

Fete Organiser: Christine Newman DDI: 01883 719003

E: newmanc@moorhouseschool.co.uk

Gardening Club

A Small group of Students regularly attend gardening club which is run on a Thursday evening during the summer term. The students have been busy preparing the hard soil in order to grow a variety of vegetables and some fruit. We have also spent time planting a range of flowers in pots, ready to sell at our school fete which will be held on Saturday 13th June.

The gardening group will enjoy tasting their home grown produce later in the term when we will get together and prepare and cook supper!

Many thanks to Josh Fenn from year 11, who regularly waters the plants and cares for them during the evenings.

Dawn Carter STA

Staff News

Mr Duane Mackwood will be leaving Moor House School at the end of this term. Mr Mackwood has done so much in his time at Moor House School to raise the profile of Physical Education and team sports and he will be missed by all. He takes up a full time position in September at Henry Compton School in Fulham.

Mr Joe Endersby is leaving to take up a position as a class teacher at Green Street Green Primary School in Bromley. Mr Endersby has done a great deal to work to build on the success of the School Council, coordinate the Life Skills curriculum and develop the Healthy Schools policies and practices throughout the school.

Both of these valued teaching colleagues will be missed by all and we thank them for the excellent work they have done at Moor House in the short time they have been here.

Healthy Schools

The Healthy Schools group met again in April and May to discuss the Healthy Schools mark, looking through the audit to gather evidence for the renewal in March next year. We have been discussing the Emotional Health and Wellbeing aspect of the audit and how the school promotes this area which helps children and young people to understand and express their feelings, build their confidence and emotional resilience, and therefore their capacity to learn.

School Council

School Council are currently working on a Code of Conduct for all its members as they are seen as responsible members of their class and they believe that this needs to be set in writing for future members. The council made a request to SMT that new staff members are introduced to the whole school when they start and this was agreed. Topics recently discussed during meetings have been the recent visit by Peter Ainsworth MP for East Surrey and how to thank him for coming, the school council recently purchased items of dressing up clothes for Key Stage 2. The painting of snakes and ladders on the school tarmac is reaching a climax and John Halliday is organizing for it to be painted. Finally, members of the school council are researching items to buy from funds raised, items such as flags for sports day, and a satellite navigation system for the school minibus.

Assemblies

'Being Prepared': Margaret Cox
Out and About at the RFH: A Bathe
Buddhism: 3H and Mrs Lee

SPORT

ESSSP Special Schools Basketball Tournament.

Moor House School were asked to host a basketball tournament on Wednesday 13 May. This was for the special schools in the area and all

those that are a part of the East Surrey Sports Partnership. The organiser was Andy Butler who is the SSSCo from Sunnydown School. Moor House did not enter a team as many staff felt it was too near to exams and revision and coursework would be affected should our students take part. In the end, 9 teams from 6 schools took part and it was a very positive experience for all. Staff, students and parents from the other schools were awestruck when they saw the facilities that Moor House students are able to access daily. For the record Sunnydown 1 won the final against their own number 2 team.

Duane Mackwood

TRAMPOLINE GRADES

These students successfully completed a trampoline grade last half term. There is a badge and certificate award available for this achievement, the cost of which is £3.50 per award.

A few have completed more than one grade.

The awards will be presented in assembly for those who attend Moor House School. If you would like your son / daughter to receive this award please return this letter in an envelope with your payment to your coach or hand it in to the school office. Please mark the envelope:

"Saturn V - Trampoline award"

If paying by cheque, please make it payable to Saturn V. However, due to the level of bank charges we would prefer not to receive cheques for small amounts if at all possible.

The figures after the grade indicate the date the grade was passed.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Alex Cook | Grade 2 12/3/09 | Grade 3 26/3/09 |
| Martin Nemry | Grade 2 12/3/09 | Grade 3 26/3/09 |
| James Knowler | Grade 6 12/3/09 | |
| Christopher Jayasuriya | Grade 4 19/3/09 | |
| Katrina Payne | Grade 5 26/2/09 | |
| Caoimhe Patterson | Grade 6 26/3/09 | |
| Jack Luff | Grade 1 19/3/09 | Grade 2 26/3/09 |
| Jonathan Middleditch | Grade 6 19/3/09 | |
| Nick Bowen | Grade 8 2/4/09 | |

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Alex Cook | Grade 4 4/5/09 | |
| Jordan Cowie | Grade 1 14/5/09 | Grade 2 14/5/09 |
| Matthew Hamilton | Grade 3 30/4/09 | |
| Nathan Smith | Grade 4 30/4/09 | |
| Katrina Payne | Grade 6 21/5/09 | |
| Paul Banimi | Grade 6 21/5/09 | |
| Kane Burns | Grade 8 23/4/09 | |
| Samuel Bilby | Grade 1 23/4/09 | Grade 2 7/5/09 |
| | Grade 3 14/5/09 | Grade 4 21/5/09 |
| Sebastian Cash | Grade 1 7/5/09 | Grade 2 7/5/09 |
| | Grade 3 21/5/09 | |
| Jack Luff | Grade 3 30/4/09 | Grade 4 7/5/09 |
| | Grade 5 14/5/09 | |

EXAMS

Examination time is upon us again and Year 11 students are currently sitting final papers in a range of subjects at GCSE including English, Maths, Science, ICT, Art (both Painting & Drawing and 3D Design), History, Design Technology and Construction & the Built Environment.

Year 10 are also sitting modular Maths papers.

Good luck to all of those students who have worked so hard and we sincerely hope that they get the results that their effort and perseverance deserve.

GIFTED and TALENTED

On 25th June two Key Stage Three students, Oliver Riley & Gemma Cox, were selected to take part in a singing workshop at Nutfield Primary School, South Nutfield as part of the Tandridge Confederation Gifted and Talented programme.

Oliver said that he had loads of fun and Gemma was very sociable and mixed in well with the other students.

There was about 20 students altogether (some from Holland, Whytleafe and Nutfield)

We learnt the words to "I can see clearly now the rain has gone!"

We split into groups to sing in harmony and ended up on stage performing the song in front of all 200 students & staff of Nutfield Primary.

Both Gemma and Oliver were not phased by this at all; I, on the other hand, did feel a tad embarrassed being on stage – part of the requirement apparently!!

Congratulations to Oliver and Gemma for their fantastic performance and very gracious behaviour, especially as they had missed a school trip to the Docklands museum to take part in this marvellous event.

Samantha Thomas
Special Teaching Assistant