

## MOOR HOUSE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER –OCTOBER 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the October newsletter.

### RESEARCH

Lindsay Chura is a PhD student at Cambridge studying at the Autism Research Centre directed by Professor Simon Baron-Cohen. She is looking for families to consider participating in a study that have adolescents (age range of 12-18 years), where one child has been diagnosed either autism or Asperger's Syndrome and the other child does not have this condition. She and her colleagues are also searching for control participants (12-18) who do not have an autism diagnosis nor relatives in their immediate family with autism or Asperger's Syndrome. The study is investigating differences in brain activity between these groups. Compensation for time and travel will be provided and participants will receive a picture of their brain. The study involves two visits and Ms Chura and her colleagues are happy to travel to the family's home for the initial meeting.

Parents who are interested should contact her directly. [lrc36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:lrc36@cam.ac.uk)  
01223 746157

### TANDRIDGE CONFEDERATION MEETING- 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

On the 14<sup>th</sup> October Paul and Clark from the school council represented the school at the Tandridge federation meeting in Oxted. The two boys got to meet lots of other school council members in the local area of all ages and have a talk about what after school clubs are on offer locally. This was great, as currently one of the school council's objectives is to look at offering more after school activities to the children at Moor House. We found out that locally there are libraries, cinema, art clubs and even a regular Friday night Splash disco held in Oxted. Paul and Clark did an excellent job of representing our school. Other activities to look out for are a Summer party and a Talent competition. So watch out! Next federation meeting is in March when other school members will have the chance to attend.

Report written by: Mrs. Lee

### SPONSORED WALK

The Sponsored Walk took place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. There were two walks, one of 10 miles and one of 3.

Many parents joined us for the event which has so far raised £433.50 for the school. This year's walk was organized by the Therapy Department. Thanks go to those who took part or helped behind the scenes and in particular Kate Horne, the Speech and Language Therapy Assistant whose commitment and hard work ensured we had a very successful day.



## **NEW FOCUS OF ATTENTION IN SCIENCE ROOM**

Since acquiring a new tropical fish tank in the science room, Mr Kitchen has had difficulties keeping students focused on such diverse topics of interest such as how to extract iron from its compounds, and just what is fractional distillation all about.

This is because their attention is constantly drawn towards the latest occupants, currently ten assorted tetra "starter" fish in a new tropical fish tank.

Class 40 accompanied Mr Kitchen, Miss Carter and Miss Horne to choose fish for the new tank just before half term. Armed with a wish list comprising several exotic and dazzling varieties, they were informed in no uncertain terms by the Aquarium Centre that most were off limits because the tank is new and must be allowed to mature for several weeks before species such as catfish, loach or angel fish can be introduced. Undaunted by this, tetra were purchased and introduced to the tank. They seem happy in their new surroundings and the more exotic fish will have to wait until November!



### **HALLOWEEN DISCO**

The school Halloween Disco was held on 21<sup>st</sup> October and a very frightening time was had by all, as you can see from the scary photos.....



Mmmm...maybe not so scary after all.....



## **GAMELAN**

### Trip to the Gamelan Orchestra.

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 3M and the year 10 and 11 music option group went to St Lukes Church in Old Street, London to engage in a Gamelan workshop. Gamelan Orchestras are originally from the islands of Bali and Java in Indonesia. The orchestra that we were to play is owned by the London Symphony Orchestra. This workshop was to learn about music of other cultures and traditions which is a core area of study of the KS4 music Entry Level Course.

After removing their shoes( no holey socks in evidence!) the students met with their instructor. She talked through the history of the Gamelan orchestra and its uses in Indonesian culture. Then we were taken to the instruments. They are visually quite stunning and when you play on them the sound is incredible. All the students wanted to play on the very large gong. You feel the floor vibrate when you play this!

During the course of the workshop, we all learnt to play a traditional Javanese piece. The end result was fantastic and was recorded onto CD.

The students were a pleasure to take out and were excellent ambassadors for Moor House School. I would like to thank them all and thank the staff that supported this trip.

Sian Hardman

