

Old Buckenham High School

Newsletter

February 2007

from the Headmaster



Dear Parents,

Our 'Friends' committee have been very active recently. Two successful whole-School Discos have already taken place, with another scheduled for 2nd March. Not to be outdone, an adult Disco is planned for 28th April, an event at which we hope parents will be able to nominate their favourite songs from their past and, for a small sum, hear them played 'loud and proud'. Maintaining the musical theme, there will also be a Pop Quiz on 15th June, where teams pit their wits and test their knowledge on music, old and new.

In addition, next week the children will be bringing home raffle tickets for a Grand Easter Draw, with cash prizes of £50, £25 and £10 and, as it says on the tickets, "other Easter delights"! Tickets are £1 and the draw will take place at School on 23rd March.

The funds raised from all these events will, as ever, be used to support and enhance the educational experience of the children. Subject Heads, individuals and groups of students make bids to the Friends for financial support, which are always carefully considered. Since Christmas the Art Department have successfully bid for a sewing machine to support the use of textiles in the pupils' Art work, especially at GCSE.

The Friends are also part of our major fundraising initiative to raise £50,000 to support our bid for Specialist Schools Status in Humanities. By building on our proven strengths in subjects such as English, History and Religious Studies, we are seeking to develop our understanding of multicultural issues and enhance our awareness of global matters.

Through our Specialist Bid and associated events, we hope to involve our partner Primary Schools and the wider community in these important issues. If successful, the additional funds will enable us to significantly improve the range of opportunities and experiences available in School and for the whole of our local community.

I will be writing to you shortly, specifically to outline how all families can help us achieve our ambitious goals.

G J Hodson

TEXTILES COLLECTION

The next textiles collection is planned for Tuesday, 13th March, so we give you advance warning if you are thinking of clearing out winter wardrobes. Income generated from the collection will go towards refurbishing the children's play area on the Green in Old Buckenham. Thank you in advance for your support.

READING CHALLENGE

After the February half term holiday, Mr Brandreth will be offering a reading challenge to all pupils. Ten different books of varying degrees of difficulty and on a range of themes will be selected for each Year Group. In Library reading lessons and at other times, all pupils will be encouraged to read the books and to write a very brief synopsis of each as a proof of reading. Certificates will be awarded along the way, and specific rewards for those who complete various stages of the challenge. Our aim is to encourage reluctant readers – some of the texts are not too demanding! – whilst helping keener readers to diversify and explore new territory in their reading. So, whether you can read one, some or all of the texts on offer, please join in. Parents are asked to help the pupils by looking at the book list when it is sent home, and adding their encouragement.

DESIGN A GIFT CARD

World Book Day is on 1st March this year and, as always, the School will be distributing the vouchers for free books. There are some excellent writers on the free book list this year, including Anthony Horowitz, so we hope pupils will use their vouchers wisely. At the same time, a national competition is running to design a Gift Card. All pupils will be given a template and asked to complete their design during Library lessons. The best will be submitted to the competition by Mr Brandreth. Lots of books will be up for grabs as prizes, so get your thinking caps on now in preparation for the competition!

PERFORMING ARTS DIARY

- On Tuesday 23rd January, the Year 11 GCSE Drama group saw the National Theatre's production of Brecht's 'Caucasian Chalk Circle' at Norwich Playhouse. Having had a Workshop with associate director, Liz Freestone, in School the previous day, our appetites were whetted for a good show, which it turned out to be. We particularly admired their use of sound and role-changing and the change from seriousness to physical comedy in Act 2. This production is, rightly, selling out wherever it plays; let's hope the Year 11s review it effectively for their coursework!

Events this month

- Friday 2nd February, 7.15 p.m. "Blues 'n' Jazz" – a concert of songs and instrumentals performed by pupils and guests. Admission £2 on the door.
- Saturday 3rd February, 7.15 p.m. "Kiss the Sky": - the songs of Jimi Hendrix. Attributed to the master guitarist, focussing on his song writing, often overlooked amid the pyrotechnic guitar displays. Performed by pupils and guests. Admission £2 on the door.

Each show is expected to last around 90 minutes, no intervals.

- Sunday 4th February, trip to "Little Shop of Horrors" at Menier Chocolate Factory, Southwark, London. Departure 11.15 a.m. Expected return 9.00 p.m.
- Friday 9th February, 7.15 p.m. "Modest Memory" in concert with guest Ellen Nicholls in the Drama Room. Tickets £2, only available in advance from the School Office. No admission without a ticket on the night. Limited availability, so book early. Show lasts approximately 75 minutes.
- Saturday 24th February, trip to "Sound of Music" at the London Palladium and "Woman in Black" at the Fortune Theatre, London. Departure 9.00 a.m. Return by 9.30 p.m. (approximately).
- The trip on 27th February to see Luke Wright is cancelled owing to insufficient interest.
- The booking for "Dirty Dancing" is now closed. No further tickets will be booked through the School for this trip in December 2007, although later in the year a complementary theatre trip will be announced.

JUDO TROPHY

Sherridan Dye in 7F has gained another Judo trophy from her Judo club in Wymondham. Sherridan regularly attends the club and is becoming a force to be reckoned with! Well done, Sherridan

CROSS COUNTRY

Old Buckenham competed very well in the Norfolk Schools Cross Country Championship on Wednesday 24th January at Earlham park. Many of our runners finished in the top 30, with an outstanding performance from Tom Francis in 9B, who is now the official top U14 boy runner in Norfolk. Well done to all other competitors: Anna Haywood, Tristan Butler, James Holm and Edward Gilford in Year 7, and to Lucy Tyler, Ryan Parker and Sam Dellbridge in Year 9.

OLD BUCKENHAM JUNIOR HOCKEY

A number of pupils from the School have been busy training and playing for Old Buckenham Junior Hockey Club. The squad has had three games and continues to train on the School Astroturf on Monday evenings between 6.00 and 7.00 p.m. The level of improvement and commitment from players has been really impressive. Player of the match awards have so far been awarded to Old Buckenham pupils Grace Darrah and Louise Watson. Hanna Green played exceptionally well last match to set up a goal. All new players are welcome to join the club, regardless of ability. See Miss Pigg for details, or just turn up on a Monday evening and you'll be made very welcome.

LEICESTER TIGERS

Many congratulations to Luke Beales, who will be leaving us at the end of this year to join the Leicester Tigers Academy. In joining 'the Manchester United of Rugby', Luke has taken a huge step forward in his ambition to become a rugby star. Well done, Luke, we wish you every success.

WRITTEN BY.....

Isabella St John Cooper, 8CO, provides us with an excellent example of triumph over adversity. Having broken her leg very badly in a 'freak' PE accident, she spent some time at home recuperating. To pass the time, she entered a competition run by the EDP to write a short story. Her story, about a girl coming to terms with the death of her father, won the competition. Izzy received a £25 gift token and much praise. Well done.

GENERAL STUDIES

Our GCSE and 'A' Level General Studies groups are thriving, but we would really like your help. If you work within the areas of Social Services, Law Enforcement or Scientific Research, or if you are involved in the running of, for example, a stately home or an art gallery, Mrs Hodson would like to talk to you about your job – or, even better – for you to consider talking to a group of children. If you think you can offer any expertise, please contact Mrs Hodson at School. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Friday 2nd: 'Blues 'n' Jazz' concert - 7.15 p.m.

Saturday 3rd: 'Kiss the Sky' tribute to Jimi Hendrix - 7.15 p.m.

Friday 9th: School closes for half term

Ski trip to Italy departs

Saturday 17th: Ski trip returns

Monday 19th: School reopens

Tuesday 27th: Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00 p.m.

March

Friday 2nd Whole School Disco 7.30 – 9.45 p.m.

