



Junior School Events & Achievements

Issue 4 October 2011



Welcome to Events & Achievements

As we look back on 2011 it is hard to believe that we managed to fit it all in! Congratulations to the real stars of the show, your daughters, but also to staff, parents and the wider community for ensuring that 2010/2011 was such a memorable year. We welcome every chance to create breadth of opportunity for your daughters and it is particularly rewarding to see them thrive on the challenges and continue to aim so high in all aspects of school life. The Good Schools Guide visited us in June and in their fantastic review they said of the Junior School: "Fizzes with energy and enthusiasm". It certainly does!

Beyond the school gates

Girls from Nursery to Year 6 have been enjoying a wide range of trips throughout the year, some local and others, like the Year 6 residential to Osmington Bay, further afield. Our Nursery girls had a wonderful time exploring the grounds of Delapre Abbey and made regular visits to our 'Wild Area' in the school grounds.

Year 1 had a fascinating trip to the Milton Keynes Museum as part of their History topic 'Houses and Homes in the Past'. They were interested to learn about the numerous ingenious ways in which people managed without refrigeration, electricity and piped water and by the wealth of interesting items on display. Year 2 took a walk on the wild side when they visited Woburn Safari Park and were lucky enough to see lions, tigers and bears and many other fascinating animals at very close range.

All of the girls in Years 3 to 6 went to watch a performance of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' at the Royal Theatre. It was an excellent production of this popular story, which they watched attentively.

Year 3 had an exciting time at Piddington Roman Villa. Each class had a session in the museum when they learnt about Roman writing, childhood and medicines and they also had the opportunity to dig for artefacts. They



experienced other archeological skills such as cleaning and cataloging artefacts.

Year 4 went to Sulgrave Manor where they had a hands on day learning about the Tudors. They dressed in Tudor costumes, learnt about cooking Tudor foods, took part in a play and even had a Tudor style lunch. Year 4 also went on a three day residential visit to Burwell House near Cambridge which, for many, was their first trip away from home and family. They had a range of interesting and enjoyable activities to do, including enamelling and batik, a village survey, hide-and-seek type games in the large garden and games in the evening. The highlight for all was undoubtedly the walk to Wickham Fen where the girls did pond dipping and mini beast hunting.

Year 5 had an unforgettable day



at the Black Country Living Museum where they had a trip through a reconstruction of a Victorian coal mine and walked around the replica village. They also experienced a fun, informative and very wet trip to Everdon in order to study Snorscombe Stream, a tributary of the River Nene, which flows through the site.

Year 6 girls went on a residential trip to Osmington Bay. They had a challenging and exciting week of PGL activities including archery, fencing, aeroball and trapeze.



Year 6 also had a fantastic day out in London at the Houses of Parliament and the 'Britain at War Experience'. They were shown round the Houses of Parliament by Chris Heaton-Harris, MP for Daventry and saw the House of Commons, House of Lords and Westminster Hall.

On the stage

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 delighted audiences with their brilliant and entertaining performances in their Christmas production, 'The Landlord's Cat'. Everyone rose to the occasion and played their part with great enthusiasm, including our youngest Nursery girls, who made delightful little mice and cats in their special costumes. Reception were lovely twinkling stars, Year 1 made an amusing group of townspeople and dancing animals and Year 2 took the lead parts in the story with a group of clear speaking narrators and main characters.

The Year 5 and 6 production of 'Peter Pan' was of a superb standard and thoroughly enjoyed by friends and family who came to watch the show as well as those who saw the extract performed as part of the Arts Festival in Senior School.

The musical life of the Junior School continues to thrive. A group of our musicians provided a musical treat at a Teatime Concert playing one of their exam pieces to an audience of parents and friends. It was a lovely occasion and all the girls gave confident musical performances.



Our Orchestra, String Group, Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Band and both Choirs performed for parents and visitors on our Open Morning. We have also ventured into the wider community with three groups performing at the Northampton Music Festival. The members of the Years 3 and 4 Choir gave a "technically, really excellent" performance of 'Singing in the Bath' followed by 'The Kangaroo' with "great attention to detail, musically excellent". The older girls were equally praised for their performance of John Rutter's 'All things bright and beautiful' when they "sang with a real sense of line and sweetness of tone". Both choirs were placed second in their classes. The Guitar ensemble repeated last year's success by winning their class with 'Las Mananitas' and the adjudicator said that he "really enjoyed their performance and they kept together well throughout with a good balance of parts."



Visitors

We have welcomed many visitors into school over the year to enhance and enrich the curriculum. Year 2 increased their knowledge of animals with a visit from 'The Bug Man'. One by one out came some fascinating creatures which the girls were able to study at very close range; a gecko, a mouse, a snake and a tarantula to name just a few!

Girls in Year 5 achieved their Level 2 First Aid Course during a training session from the St John's Ambulance. Younger girls in the Junior School were an enthusiastic audience for the visiting County Wind Group. The musicians talked to the girls about their different instruments and played a selection of pieces.

The Junior School was also pleased to welcome Heather Marden, Waste and Recycling Education Officer for Northamptonshire County Council, who came to meet with the Junior School Council at their request, to discuss ways to increase awareness of recycling. Heather then gave a very interesting presentation to the Junior School girls, informing them about what happens to the waste produced by households and giving lots of practical examples of how we can all make more effort to 'Reuse, Reduce, Recycle'.

Tempus Fugit Theatre Group visited school last summer to enrich the history topics of Ancient Greece and Ancient Egypt being studied in Years 4 and 6. The girls thoroughly enjoyed learning songs, playing games and dressing up in costumes of the period.

In January, one of our parents, Mrs Dutteroy came in to talk to Year 2 about Chinese New Year. She told girls about the preparations that are made and the food that she cooks; everyone was very excited about the idea that many Chinese families will have a meal that includes twenty-five courses! Mrs Dutteroy told the story of the animal race and explained how the Chinese years are named.



Enrichment

We continued our enrichment programme this year with two events for our own girls as well as for girls joining us from local schools. At our Science Day for Year 5 over 100 girls enjoyed the opportunity to undertake science investigations in the Senior School, watched a show from 'Toxic Tom' on solids, liquids and gases and saw close up a variety of animals that they found both creepy and fascinating such as Madagascan cockroaches, a Chilean Tarantula, millipede and snakes.

At the Sports Enrichment day for Year 4 girls we were joined by girls from local schools and participated in a variety of sports with coaching from visiting professionals and our own Senior School PE staff.

Year 5 very much enjoyed a visit to the Senior School Art Department; they spent the morning creating individual screen prints and also contributed to a larger class piece and did some sketching. The following week Year 5 spent the afternoon in the Senior School Design & Technology Department. They used the screen prints of leaves made in the Art Department and printed a photograph of themselves onto some fabric, using a sewing machine to attach this to their screen print design. The final result was a very attractive diary cover and they also made book marks using lettering.

In the summer term Year 6 joined Year 7 for an interactive presentation in the Senior Hall by Marcus Sedgwick.



Marcus has written numerous books and won a number of literary awards. During the presentation a few of the audience joined Marcus onstage to entertain us with an amusing play based on characters in the Raven Mysteries series of books. The girls embraced the opportunity to ask questions at the end and have books signed.

In March, it was World Maths Day and to celebrate the girls participated in mathematical challenges, puzzles or investigations in their Mathematics lesson. Alongside this, Mathletics (an online interactive mathematics program which the girls have their own licence for) held a special event which involved children from all over the World playing against each other in real-time battles of mental arithmetic. A fun morning was had by all and the school was buzzing with talk of Mathematics.

On Display

Year 5 put together excellent displays for the Hobbies Convention which was enjoyed by family and friends. There were lots of stands at which the girls presented their wide ranging hobbies including horse riding, football and gardening. Girls even demonstrated their hobbies such as gymnastics and dance and there were some delicious cakes and treats to try.



One of the highlights of the year was the Fashion Show in June; a fantastic whole school event with everybody taking part whether as models, designers, paparazzi, hostesses, organisers or audience. The theme was 'Recycling' and each year group had been busy leading up to the show making their own jewellery, bags, hats and dresses; it was certainly an innovative and fun way to demonstrate a very glamorous

use for rubbish! The Student Council did an excellent job getting everyone involved and grandparents and parents helped out on 'Making Day'. The girls showed off their fabulous creations at the show as they strutted their stuff down the catwalk. We raised the amazing total of £510.80 which will be spent on something to make our playground an even happier place!

The School Community

Friends of Northampton High School have been busy organising events this year which have been greatly enjoyed by girls and parents as well as raising money.

The year started with an event that saw us greeted by Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee and younger visitors crawl through a rabbit hole to emerge in Wonderland! It was an afternoon of fun and games at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party with hedgehog bowling, throwing wet sponges at the Red Queen, a crazy croquet game and delicious afternoon tea.

The Spring Fayre was very well attended and the sun shone as the children enjoyed finding the rabbits hidden around the school. There were Easter eggs to colour, pottery and faces to paint, flowers and treasure to find, names to guess and the Spring Bonnet Parade with an array of amazing creations. The fantastic sum of over £1600 was raised during the afternoon.

Many girls enjoyed the Valentine's Disco and Movie Night before Christmas when they watched "Nativity".



Prizes and presentations

Many congratulations to Catherine Midgley and Ellen Watson who were awarded academic scholarships into Year 7 of Senior School and also to Katarina Hutchin who gained a Music Scholarship.



Year 6 girls took part in the Science Fair organised by the Senior School. The girls were asked to work on a project based on the Science of Communication. The range of projects was very broad and included models, posters, experiments and filmed presentations. The standard was extremely high with many projects showing an excellent scientific content, amazing creativity and meticulous presentation.

Well done to Keira Beatty of Year 1 whose lovely snowman picture was chosen to be used for the Junior School Christmas card. Many girls also entered a competition to design a lunch menu, Mrs McCue, Catering Manager judged the entries and the winning menus were made for lunch one day and enjoyed by all!

A number of girls entered the KS2 writing competition 'A Different View', judged by Mrs Edge, Senior School English teacher. She was impressed by the standard of the entries and said: 'Their work was so effective that it made me step inside the wonderful pictures which were a starting point for the writing'.

Supporting Good Causes

As has become tradition in the Junior School, we celebrated Children in Need in style, raising an impressive £845.88 whilst having great fun. This tremendous contribution to the nationwide appeal comprised many initiatives by the girls, staff and parents. Joanna Bradley and Abigail Hill made Pudsey paraphernalia which they sold to their classmates, parents matching the amount of money raised; Year 4 girls organised a cake sale; Miss Page spent a long weekend making over 500 Pudsey chocolates; teachers joined in the spirit of fun and held a 'Teach the Teacher' session supported by Miss Watson and Miss Harris and Anya Douras organised a raffle from home raising a significant amount. None of this could have been possible without the contribution of the School Council who helped organise such a wonderfully memorable day.

As usual, the focus of our Harvest Festival was 'Sharing' and we supported Advantage Africa, a small charity based in Olney, which helps poor communities in East Africa. We were very glad to welcome Andrew Betts, who explained the difficulties faced by subsistence farmers in Africa, told us about the work the charity does and showed us pictures of some of their projects. We are also helping Jinack Lower Basic School in Gambia and Year 5 girls gave an informative presentation about Jinack and education in Gambia.

Before Christmas Year 2 did an assembly which highlighted how much we have, and the fact that we have a responsibility to try and help those who are less fortunate. We decided to support the Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox Appeal which distribute present boxes to needy and vulnerable children all over the world.



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