

BETA NETBALL

On Thursday 26th January, the Beta girls travelled to Redbridge Sports Centre to play in matches against Brentwood School. Divided into four teams, Green, Yellow, Light Blue and Dark Blue, there was one loss, two wins and a draw. I played as wing defence in the Green team. It was our first netball match against a different school. I had fun!

Zaina Alam BLD

IAPS SWIMMING



Twenty members of the swimming team took part in the Eastern Region qualifying round of the IAPS Swimming Championships, with Bancroft's competing in the U10 and U11 categories. The competition was held at Bishop's Stortford College, with 209 swimmers competing from twelve schools. In the freestyle relays, the U10 boys: Nathan Dakoh, Mustafa Suleman, Finlay Jones and Joe Matthews and the U11 boys: Kunmi Adebayo, Daniel Fostiak, Olly Hughes and William Packer, both finished 3rd. In the individual events Finlay Jones competed in the year group above and finished in an impressive third place in the 25m backstroke. Anya Pitt was placed 2nd in the 25m butterfly and Olly Hughes was placed 3rd in the 50m freestyle. The whole team performed well, but for three of our younger swimmers, Finlay Jones, Joe Matthews and Sophia Horgan, it was their first experience and they swam exceptionally well.

Susan Cheshire

PREP 2 NETBALL

On Friday 27th January, Prep 2 girls travelled to Bishop's Stortford College for their first match of the season. It was an A, B, C and D team fixture so everybody could join in. Once we got there we started our warm up before the opposition team arrived. With the weather being cold, it was a good thing we were soon running around the court. The first quarter was challenging for the A team however we managed to get in the lead with 2-1. In the second half all the girls were on fire and we won the match by 8-2. The B team also won, the C team lost and the D team drew. We came away feeling proud with the results of our first match. Well done to all the girls!

By Anavi Shah 2LP

GALA V HEATH MOUNT

Forty two members of the Bancroft's Prep Swimming Team took part in the Gala vs Heath Mount. The Heath Mount team, as pointed out by one of the Betas, were 'giants' and the standard of swimming was exceptionally high. All the swimmers looked good and there were some incredibly close finishes. I had to try not to blink in order to place the swimmers!

There were team wins from the U9 Boys relay team: Finlay Jones, Krishan Arya, Mieszko Watson and Ben Peters - and the U11 Medley relay team: Kofi Adjei, William Packer, Olly Hughes and Kunmi Adebayo.

There were impressive performances across the board, with 1st place finishes from: Harry Cartwright, Dhiya Venkateswaran, Finlay Jones, Sophia Horgan, Carys Biston, William Packer, Oliver Hughes, Lucy Fox and Anya Pitt. The Final score was 228 points to Heath Mount and 166 points to Bancroft's.

Susan Cheshire

10K WINTER RUN



On 5th February, teachers from Bancroft's Prep School joined 16,500 other runners to take part in Cancer Research UK's London Winter Run.

Mr Layburn, Mrs Life, Miss Ellery, Miss Phelps, Ms Moore, Mrs Hewitt, Mr Hall, Mrs Sylvester and myself battled the cold, early morning start to join in what is hailed as the capital's largest 10km run. To keep our spirits up we were treated to a snow blast off, 'Penguin Party', a Swiss themed water station and live music along the course. As we crossed the finish line we were greeted by a team of polar bears who awarded us with our fabulous winter medals. We are proud that we raised £1677.00 for Cancer Research, thanks to donations from colleagues, parents, family and friends. This team effort meant that we could embark on a new challenge, whilst raising money to beat cancer sooner. Well done everyone!

Sarah Strong

PREP HEADLINES

EDITION: 200



SPRING 1/2017



This term we've been focusing on the word 'Curiosity'. One of the great things about Bancroft's children is that they are so incredibly curious about the world. But as I said to them in assembly recently, to be truly curious, you need to look up! As a Londoner, I've always been struck by the huge number of statues, gargoyles and other architecturally interesting features you miss if you only ever walk around looking straight ahead, or worse just down at your feet. I showed the children some pictures of iconic landmarks on the London skyline, like Lord Nelson in Trafalgar Square and the Justice Statue above the Old Bailey; we also looked at some other less obvious ones which are there for all to see if only you bother to look. I included some that are very close to home, like this gargoyle and the snarling head of a lion. Perhaps surprisingly, given that we walk past them every day, none of the children- or indeed the staff!- noticed that they are to be found on the roof of the Bancroft's chapel and above an arch on the Great Hall. Once they knew they were there, the children were very excited to locate these and other similar features around our School site. I'm sure you'll now find when you're out and about with them over the half-term break, that these naturally curious Bancroft's children will be constantly looking up!



Joe Layburn

MUSIC AND MUNCH

The school presented the first 'Music and Munch' of the calendar year on Friday 3rd February and what a lovely and joyful occasion it was! We squeezed in eighteen well prepared and well thought through performances, starting with Amit Bhat playing a Grade 4 rock drum piece and finishing with Maira Khan, playing a Grade 3 oboe piece; a brilliant start and finish. In between there were solos from a singer, pianists, saxophonists, cellists and violinists. It was lovely to have Mr End and Mr Bailey there supporting their pupils and Mrs Tarrant who always attends with Mr McGee. An appreciative audience of mums, dads and grandparents, proudly and tearfully, enjoyed all the solos.

The next Music and Munch will take place on Friday 17th March, St Patrick's Day!

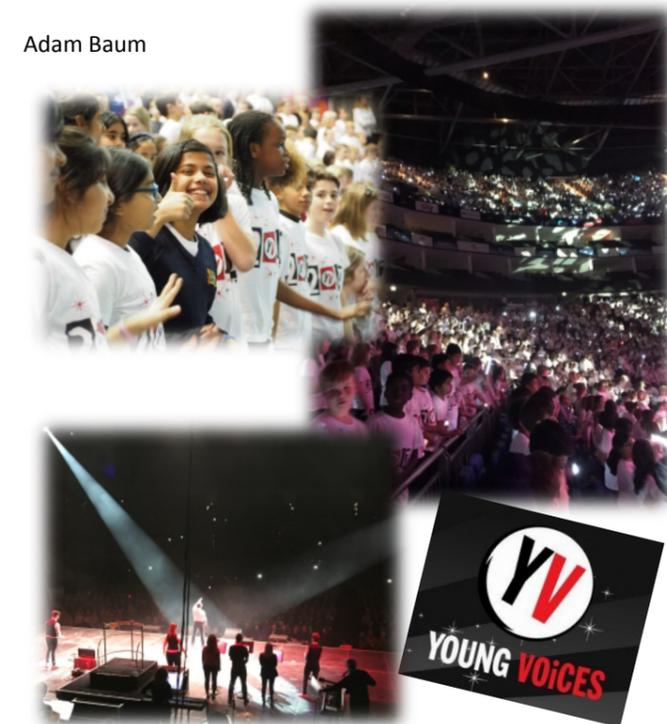
Adam Baum

YOUNG VOICES

Young Voices 2017 was an extraordinary experience for pupils and parents alike. There were 7,400 children singing their hearts out and raising the roof of The O2 arena; a feat in itself. Little dots of light from a thousand torches created a totally magical atmosphere and reminded us of Christmas not too far gone. We had the best seats in the house and were blessed with views of the conductor and the band; we were so lucky! But the music: The Beatbox Collective are three extraordinarily talented voice artists who, with only voices, sound like a rock band and rap artists rolled in to one. The children were mesmerised. They were hooked, too, by the dancing of Urban Strides and their director, Andy. How brilliant that parents and children together could strut their stuff to Justin Timberlake. It doesn't get better!

Our guest star singers, and in particular former X Factor finalist Tabby Callaghan, were incredible. Tabby led rock anthem after rock anthem and to hear ten thousand people sing *I Love Rock and Roll* was truly memorable. There are too many highlights to mention, though I think the Mexican Wave stands out for a lot of Bancroft's pupils. They say they started it! Did they? "It was a truly exhilarating experience for children and parents alike," said one parent. In short, it was one of the most enjoyable nights ever. And, as the song goes, there was magic in the air.

Adam Baum



ANIMAL WORKSHOP

On Thursday 2nd February all of the Prep 2s had a workshop on animal movement for our production of *The Lion King*. In the morning a lady called Anna came in to help us understand the movements and personalities of all the animals from the Savannah. Anna teaches actors to act like animals and helps them in productions.

We covered lots of animals like buffalo, monkeys, flamingos, hyenas, lions and buzzards. We also had to think about the weight of the animals as this affects how they move. The buffalos were sturdy and angry, the monkeys were very playful, the flamingos were full of pride, the hyenas were cruel and always cackled and the lions were quiet when they crept up to their prey. We mimicked all the animals and everybody got to try out all of them. Altogether everyone had a great time and we thank all the teachers who helped: Miss Phelps, Ms Moor and Mr Baum. Of course we also say a big thank you to Anna.

Millie Lall 2LP



BETA HINDUISM TALK

On Wednesday 1st February the Betas were delighted to be joined by Mrs Shetty (Annika Shetty BLD) who had kindly agreed to come in and talk to us about what it means to be a Hindu. Mrs Shetty had prepared a very professional and informative talk and she was inundated with questions at the end.

Annika said: 'When my mum came in to teach us about Hinduism, she talked to us about what Hindus do and why. She gave a demonstration of how we pray using the Puja tray and showed us pictures of the home shrine. When she had finished everyone got a sweet and I got the left overs!'

We are grateful to Mrs Shetty and we are all working on our karma!

Laura Dalton

SNOT, SICK AND SCABS

On Tuesday 31st January the Prep 2s had a Science workshop entitled 'Snot, Sick and Scabs'. We learned about different types of bacteria, where they live around our body and whether they are good or bad. We found out that there are bacteria living in our feet and that they eat all the sweat we produce, so that's why they sometimes smell! The reason our feet can sometimes smell cheesy is that the same bacteria is used in cheese production. We also found out about viruses and the fact that scientists don't think they are living because they cannot reproduce on their own. We completed a booklet about viruses and had to diagnose the virus Tuberculosis. It was a really interesting and fun experience.

Leela Katyal 2LE



ALPHA HUMANITIES WALK

Last Wednesday, 25th January, it was an exciting day for the Alphas as we were going on a local walk. In Humanities, we are learning about our area, Woodford, and the Alpha teachers knew it was the perfect chance for us to learn, explore and be familiar with the buildings and the area around our school.

We battled the freezing temperatures with multiple layers of scarves and hats. We were split into groups with parents helping too. The teachers provided us with a map and a worksheet to keep us busy throughout the day.

We identified different types of houses (detached, semi-detached, terraced and flats) and marked them on our maps. We were impressed to see the police station and the fire brigade buildings very close to our school. There were commercial, retail and public services as well. Around Epping Forest, we saw two adorable, cute dogs barking at us loudly through a window of a house. We observed more than three churches and also two schools. I think this walk was educational and a great experience because we learnt so much about our area, as well as having fun!

Thihansa Wimalasundera AEN

THE LION KING

On Wednesday, 25th January the Prep 2s had the amazing opportunity to watch *The Lion King* at the Lyceum Theatre. This was incredible because we will be performing *The Lion King* later in the year therefore we could see all the enthusiasm and power that each character used. We travelled by train and once we arrived in London we went for pizza and ice-cream before the show.

Our seats were in the Royal Circle; up high and right in the middle of the stage so we could see everything. The show was spectacular and everyone was excited after all the snacks and sweets we had demolished during the show! The show ended and we made our way back home during rush hour, which was a bit of a squeeze! However, I got a brilliant opportunity to go backstage and see where all the magic happened. I took Nimaran Sandhu with me and her mum also came along. The tour was led by Debbie, a makeup artist for all the main characters. We saw the fabulous puppets and costumes including Timone's, Pumbaa's and Zazu's however, as there is oil on our hands, we could not touch them as we could ruin the beautiful design. Backstage we got to see the actual Scar (in his gym clothes) and we got to go on the stage and pretend we were performing. This was a fantastic trip and thanks to Miss Phelps for organising it all. We have been inspired and hopefully we can perform an equally good show.

Samah Butt 2LP



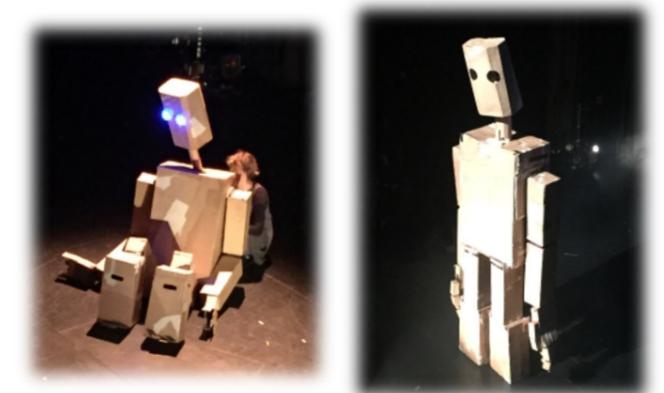
REDBRIDGE ROAD SAFETY

On the 26th of January, the Redbridge Road Safety Team came and visited us. A woman called Helen gave a helpful and informative presentation. We learnt some new and old things, for example we knew why we should wear our seatbelt but we found out what the consequences of not wearing one are. Everyone enjoyed it. There was a great video at the end. Thank you to Mrs Life for organising it.

Saira Khan 1BR

THE IRON MAN

To bring our reading of *'The Iron Man'* by Ted Hughes to life, two specialist practitioners from the Unicorn Theatre came to the Prep School on Wednesday 1st February to give the Betas an immersive drama experience. They opened up key ideas, themes and characters from the book in preparation for their theatre trip which took place on 7th February. The show itself was a striking blend of puppetry and performance depicting the story of a giant, metal man who is destroying the English countryside. This was brought to life before our eyes and the stop-motion animation really captured the imagination. It was a wonderful experience for the children and it was stimulating and meaningful as they could compare the story through print, film and theatre.



The children were also treated to an after show Q and A session with the performers and designer. It was amazing how the performance had so many cross-curricular links with work we have been doing in the Betas: from circuits to upcycling; costume design to protecting the environment; the Betas had covered it all. The children were curious about lighting and sound effects and how it all came together. They asked sensible questions and we were proud of their intelligent contributions. We also took advantage of having our picnic lunch in Hay's Galleria and worked it off with a stroll along the Thames taking in the iconic view across the river. It was a magical afternoon.

Sarah Strong

