



PREP HEADLINES

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AUTUMN 2 2018

The festive season always starts early in the Prep School. Since September, Mr Baum, our Musical Director, has been reminding us that ‘all roads lead to Christmas’ through the various concerts and carol services in which the children are performing! Our orchestra have been rehearsing ‘Frosty the Snowman’ and ‘Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer’ for many weeks now to ensure they are note perfect, whilst the whole school have been learning their lines for our Nativity Production.



This year, Christmas proper started for me on November 24th with a memorable visit organised by Mrs Yelverton to the Christmas market in Aachen, Germany. It was an ‘old school’ sort of trip which departed from Woodford at 4am and involved coach and ferry travel - though Arya in the Betas insisted that the ferry element was really a cruise! It was part of our bid to raise the profile of German which Mrs Yelverton and I

started teaching this year—along with the puppets Felix and Franzi! It was a wonderful cultural and educational experience, enjoyed by all, and one we’ll certainly be repeating.

I must also say that the festive mood here has been heightened further by the generosity of Bancroft’s children and parents. Your gifts and the kind comments you’ve written in cards really are appreciated by us all. The run-up to Christmas is always a magical, if exhausting, time in the School calendar! We wish all the members of our Bancroft’s community a restful and happy break, and look forward to being together again for an exciting and rewarding 2019.

Joe Layton

MUSIC AND MUNCH

On a chilly day in November, a generous group of parents came and listened and watch our second ‘Music and Munch’ of the year. And a lovely concert it was too, with 20 individual solos from near beginner up to grade 5. The level of preparation was impressive from Lois Dawney’s performance of ‘Hatikvah’ on the clarinet to George Williams’ drum solo of ‘Seven Nation Army’. It has one of the most distinctive riffs in pop music. We had several vocal solos, emphasising how popular singing is at the school and a lovely cello duo played by Thomas Madden and Ellora Hand. I am grateful to Mrs Raw, Ms Tarrant and Mr McGee who all attended and got their pupils ready for the performance; it makes such a difference to the aspiring confidence of the players. The informality of the concert eases nerves and is a great introduction to performing to an audience. There will be two more ‘Music and Munch’ events next term to look forward to.

Adam Baum

AACHEN WEIHNACHTSMARKT



On Saturday 23rd November, my toes were tingling with excitement as I woke up at 2:30am for my trip to Aachen, Germany. After an early start and a smooth trip in the spacious coach and then on the ferry (where I’m sure I saw a dolphin leaping in the water), we arrived in beautiful Aachen. The wet and cold weather was no match for my elation at visiting the famous Christmas market. My favourite stalls were the ones selling handmade leather books, beautiful Sterne (star) lanterns that twinkled in the night, and the hot roasted chestnuts that warmed my frozen hands. We were amazed to see the grave of the great King Charlemagne in the Aachen Cathedral but unfortunately the Munster (Church) next door was closed. My dad and I tried to see everything we could before the market shut for the night and I will never forget the numerous aromas, colourful sights and sounds of the musical band. It was great to get the chance to spend so much time alone with him too and we both spoke some German. The trip was over too soon but it was marvellous! Such a special time and the Germans were really friendly to us. Felix and Franzi loved it too!

Aleyha Saeed BKY



WW1 CENTENARY

On Friday 9th November, Bancroft’s Prep School commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that brought the First World War to an end. The children sang several songs together including *Abide With Me* and a piece called *Remember Me* which was written to commemorate the young people who died in the 22nd July attacks in Norway in 2011- who were of a similar age to the majority of the British dead in the First World War. After this, the Prep 1 and 2 drama club delivered a presentation explaining the events of the ‘war to end all wars’ and sharing poems written by some of the soldiers who fought in it. They delivered an important message with confidence and conviction: that by always remembering the sacrifice of young life in the trenches of France and Belgium between 1914 and 1918, we stand a chance of ensuring that it never happens again.

Tim Paramour

MACBETH



On Monday 12th November the Young Shakespeare Company came and performed 'Macbeth' to the Betas. It was quite funny in some places whereas some parts were terrifying! First, we saw Macbeth and Banquo, two best friends, encounter the witches. The three witches told them some strange prophesies and disappeared! When Macbeth returned to his castle, Lady Macbeth, his wife, told him that he had to kill the present king to become the new one. So Macbeth did.

The next morning, people found out and accused the king's sons, Malcolm and Donalbain. They both ran away: Malcolm to England and Donalbain to Ireland. Macbeth became the new king. He wasn't the happiest person on earth because he knew how the previous king had been killed. Macbeth was a very stern king. Whoever questioned his commands was executed. Then there was a war between Macbeth and Macduff, Thane of Fife. Macduff had joined Malcolm's army and led the English troops to Scotland. Later, Macduff killed Macbeth and Macbeth's wife died too. Malcolm, the previous king's eldest son, took the throne. The Young Shakespeare Company were a huge success and we all loved the play. It was a fantastic show by fantastic actors!

Bella Zhao BLD

TRIP TO PARLIAMENT

On Thursday, 15th November, I went to the House of Commons with my dad and sister. It was quite a coincidence as it was Parliament Week at school. My sister and I were invited to play music at a party that was being held there. My sister played a solo on the flute and I played a piece on the clarinet. It was extremely exciting as I had never been there and we were playing in front of a large audience. When we arrived at the Houses of Parliament, we could hear someone saying, "All in favour say aye" and others replied by saying "Aye". We were lead through a gigantic hall full of statues of past Prime Ministers. I had some photos taken with the statues of Robert Walpole and William Pitt. After we arrived inside the House of Commons, I noticed there was a TV company called Zee TV filming us! After we played, we received a round of applause. After we sat down, messages were read from Her Majesty the Queen, the Prime Minister and the Mayor of London. When the party came to an end, we set off home and walked past 10 Downing Street. There were gates surrounding it and police officers were guarding the entrance. We also passed the Cenotaph where hundreds of poppies still lay from the week before. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the experience in this amazing building.

Shona 1SS



EMERGENCY! EARTHQUAKE

On Tuesday 20th November the Betas went to the Natural History Museum. In the museum we went to the Earthquakes and Volcanoes section. First we saw pictures of real eruptions and the devastation left behind after an earthquake. The volcanic eruption that fascinated me the most was in 1980, when St Helen's erupted creating an ash cloud 73,200 feet high. Next we moved onto an



Earthquake simulation machine which was really fun, yet scary to



think it could be real! After that it was off to the Attenborough Studio for a workshop called, 'Emergency! Earthquake' where we had to be scientists learning about what causes earthquakes in order to predict them. We also learnt that effusive volcanoes have runny lava and explosive volcanoes have sticky lava. Overall it was a really fun filled learning experience.

Renee Bhargava BCB

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

We were all excited on the coach to the Natural History Museum. We saw lots of London sights on our way there. The first things we saw at the museum were the marine fossils and then the land fossils. I enjoyed seeing the iguanodon because it was gigantic! I also saw a giant ground sloth. It's much bigger than a sloth today. The trip was awesome because we were able to make a poster, build a stegosaurus, answer questions about Sophie the stegosaurus and *did you know facts*. My favourite fact was that a stegosaurus' brain is as big as a lime! The trip felt like we had gone back in time millions of years because we saw realistic robotic dinosaurs and the biggest fossil found for years! Throughout the day I heard really interesting and useful things to help me progress with the topic in Science. Did you know the allosaurus was alive at the time of the stegosaurus not the T-Rex?

Nell DeSyllas AHS

CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 16th November we had a fun day supporting 'Children in Need'. The playground was a variety of bright colours. I was happy to see so many people supporting the charity by wearing non-uniform; there were Pudsey ears and badges galore! Everyone was surprised by Shona's giant Pudsey teddy which sat at the front of assembly. The day was a real success and we raised £543.05. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed.

Mathuran Arunan 1SS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas' here at the Prep School and, at the Christmas Concert last night, it was beginning to sound a lot like it too. From the convivial chords of the Flute and Guitar group and the String Orchestra to the joyous tones of the Wind Band and Recorder Ensemble, a magical atmosphere was created. Among the many classics played on the night was *Little Donkey* by the Cello Ensemble and *Frosty the Snowman* by our Orchestra, directed by the ever exuberant, Adam Baum. As always, our three choirs were a joy to behold, filling the Great Hall with their dulcet tones. After the interval, the audience were entertained by the talented 1TP and their modern twist on the traditional nativity, namely *Nativity Nightmares*. Thank you for giving generously to our collection, we raised £473.43 in aid of Shelter, so thank you for your kindness and in the words of Burl Ives, 'Have a Holly Jolly Christmas' one and all.

Sarah Strong

NATIVITY NIGHTMARES



This year's nativity performance featured a 'play within a play' as the children in 1TP told the story of six teachers struggling through the staging of a school nativity production. It's late November, and in our 'parallel universe' Bancroft's School, Mary and Joseph won't even look at each other, Herod relishes the frightening aspects of his character a bit too much and the teachers quickly realise they haven't got enough children to fill all the parts. After hastily recasting the school caretaker as a shepherd and taking on the roles of angels themselves, the initially reluctant teachers eventually succeed in putting on a successful performance and decide it really is worth the effort after all. Thankfully, in our own universe, the staging of this production wasn't nearly as stressful as it was for its semi-fictional heroines due to the fantastic attitude of the children. They all showed great enthusiasm and professionalism as they prepared for their big night, making their real-life teachers (and no doubt their parents) extremely proud.

Tim Paramour



LUCINDA OFFER – NASA



On Friday 16th November, Lucinda Offer came to our school to talk about the planet Mars. We learnt many facts about the planet. Lucinda used to be an Earth and space science teacher in the US; she also worked for NASA which made the talk even more interesting. She told us some facts about the Red Planet and I found it fascinating that Mars has several satellites and rovers. It is made out of iron oxide which gives its rusty red colour. Mars is about half the size of Earth and it only has a 40 minutes longer day than Earth! If Earth is 1 AU away from the Sun then Mars is 1.5 AU away. If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth then you'd weigh 30 pounds on Mars! Earth's atmosphere is 100 times denser than Mars'. A Mars year is about twice as long as Earth's. In Mars, Spring is 7 months, Summer is 6 months, Autumn is 5 months and Winter is 4 months! Scientists have another language when they discuss Mars - today is ToSol, tomorrow is Solmorrow or NexterSol, yesterday is YesterSol and holiday is Soliday. To be an astronaut one needs courage, bravery, to be collaborative and be able to solve problems. I really enjoyed the presentation and thanks goes to Miss Ellery for organising the event

Zara Ahmed 1SS

KNITTING NEWS



The finger knitting craze continues every lunchtime with Mrs Allen. Lolade (AAK) is proud of the necklace she has recently made. 'You can make so many wonderful things in Mrs Allen's club!' she told us. It is so popular that there is even some knitted 'tinsel' adorning BLD's tree! Mrs Allen is always grateful for any donations of wool to keep her club 'running'.

SCIENCE QUIZ

On Monday 12th November, two teams went to Avon House for the Science Quiz Area Heat. We were asked 40 challenging questions and we knew what position we were in at the end of each round. There were 10 other teams that were playing from Avon House, Woodford Green Prep, Daiglen, Channing and Gatehouse. One of the Forest teams beat my team for the first half but we overtook at the last minute. Our team came in first place overall with Forest in second. Everyone received certificates for coming first or taking part. Our team also received badges for coming first. I felt so proud of my school. Thank you to Miss Ellery for organising the competition for us.

Charlotte Elliott 1SS

HOCKEY

I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the Prep girls for their commitment and effort at training, fixtures and within Games lessons this term. With a jam-packed fixture calendar against some tough opposition, it's been a very positive term of hockey. Highlights include the Prep 2 B team's performance at the New Hall School Tournament where the girls finished in 2nd place with excellent performances from Carys Biston and Maariyah Alli. Some of the Beta girls' teams have been unbeaten in their fixtures with outstanding performances from several players. The Prep 1 girls have enjoyed a range of results and put on an excellent display of hockey against St Cedd's School in their final fixture, showing tremendous grit and determination. Last but not least, our Alpha girls have thoroughly enjoyed their introduction to the game and are excited to start their fixtures next year. Watch this space! Well done to everyone and a special thanks to all of the staff who help with running the Games lessons and fixtures here at the Prep, we couldn't do it without you.

Kelly McNelis

NEW HALL GALA

On Wednesday 21st November our swimming squad went to New Hall School for a swimming gala. We changed, ready for our warm up. The swimming pool was so noisy when the gala started with everyone cheering for their school. Everybody had a chance to swim in a race and swam really well. There were lots of exceptionally close races in butterfly, breast stroke, backstroke, front crawl and lots of relays. We had 16 first place finishes. We really enjoyed the gala and everybody cheered for Bancroft's. Everybody had fun and had a smile on their face when they went back to their parents. Well done to everyone!

Jocelyn Lai BKY and Ella Baldwin BLD

SWIMMING HEATS

The North London Heats of the London Swimming League took place on Monday 12th November, one of several heats taking place across North London. The Bancroft's Team of 38 swimmers competed against Forest and City of London School for Girls (CLSG). The swimming team have been working hard on their stroke technique and gala skills and it was well deserved that many of the team recorded impressive personal best times and it was fantastic to see so many parents supporting and cheering them on! First place positions in the individual events went to: Percy Aldis, Ella Baldwin, Atronna Sebyala, Jocelyn Lai, Freddie Kent, Dhiya Venkateswaran, Nicholas Gebhardt, Tristan Law and Joe Matthews. First place positions in the team relays went to Charlotte Jones, Ella Baldwin, Atronna Sebyala, Mya Clewes, Jocelyn Lai, Tristan Goodfellow, Matthew Yan and Freddie Kent in the Year 4 Medley and Freestyle relays, and Theo Atanlusi, Leo Frachet, Martha Coyne and Dhiya Venkateswaran in the Year 5 Freestyle relay. The results were: Forest 1st with 519 points, Bancroft's 2nd with 454 points and CLSG 3rd with 444 points. The overall results will be announced at the end of all the Heats.

Susan Cheshire

IAPS RUGBY



On 28th November, twelve boys from Prep 2 represented the school in an IAPS rugby tournament hosted by Brentwood School. This season has been very successful for the boys and they have fully embraced the qualities needed to be successful rugby players. Some of the rugby that they have been playing has been scintillating to watch and how they have progressed as a team is a credit to themselves. In wet conditions the boys won four of the pool matches, drew against Brentwood and lost against the eventual winners, St Faith's. We ended up in fourth place overall out of the fourteen which attended and the coaches were extremely proud of their efforts. They will be missed on the Prep rugby field next year; however, the Senior School are fortunate to have such a good group of boys coming to perform at a higher level.

David Archer and Chris Hall

RUGBY

Bancroft's rugby has made great progress over the term. The boys are starting to get an appreciation of how to use the space on a rugby pitch and are improving their skills, especially in contact situations. As with all the sports at Bancroft's, every student from Beta to Prep 2 has represented their school in a competitive fixture and done so with great enthusiasm. They have always come off the field, having learnt something extra and having enjoyed the experience. Their resilience in training sessions has also been noted, especially during what they have named the 'suicide run'. With more experience and application of their knowledge, they will all continue to progress further.

Thank you for your efforts in Boys' Games this term.

David Archer and Chris Hall

