

PREP HEADLINES

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SPRING 2 2019

I've been lucky enough to attend some memorable sporting events: West Ham winning the FA Cup at Wembley; Usain Bolt going for 100m gold at the London Olympics. I'll admit I wasn't expecting quite the same highs at a school chess tournament but I found myself totally gripped watching our Prep 1 team do battle with twelve others in the Wessex Auditorium at Brentwood School. Anyone who views chess as a rather tranquil, sedentary pursuit hasn't seen it played at high speed with timers which the players whack every time they've made one of their quick-fire moves. This was the first tournament since our queen of chess, Mrs Life, introduced professional coaching to the Prep School and it was clear from the outset that this had paid off. Our famous five, Yusuf, Alec, Agam, Thomas and Harry swept the boards in the first round they played- coaches, Lorin, Mikel and Colin would have been extremely proud of them. Ultimately, they came third, beaten by schools who had benefitted from chess coaching for considerably longer. But this is just the start of something which I believe will grow and grow here. Currently, more than eighty Prep children take part in the coaching sessions before and after school. Mr Archer has introduced an inter-House chess competition for break and lunchtimes too. Naturally, we want the children to have fun, to pick their wits against their friends, to stretch their brains and get their adrenalin pumping in a way I now realise that chess truly can. I'm also delighted to report that thirteen of our boys and girls have qualified for the next round of the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge, the largest chess competition in the world in which 60,000 children nationally have taken part so far this year. As you can see, I'm a total convert- I've even started playing on an app on my phone. Chess: it's the new rock and roll!

Joe Layton

MUSIC AND MUNCH

The '*Music and Munch String Special*' was the brain child of our violin and mini bass teacher, Ronan McManus. There was a splendid start from three soloists which set the tone for a delightful concert ahead. Mrs Raw's budding Alpha cellists played an endearing tune and a string quartet comprising Mr McManus, Benji Shamrakov, Tristan Law and Eddie Jiang played the complex rhythms of George Gershwin. Then came the moment that the audience had been waiting for: the 45 strong String Orchestra, playing music in a popular style from Scotland and Ireland. A personal highlight was *Action Movie*; music in the style of Superman. It summed up the whole spirit of the concert: good musical skills, splashed with humour and conviction. Mr McManus played us out inspiringly with music by the great Paganini and a toe-tapping Hoe Down. Huge thanks to him, Mr End, Mrs Raw and Mr Pearson for making the concert happen and here's to more themed concerts in the future.

Adam Baum

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. It also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. We marked this in the Prep School in a number of ways. Pupils and staff took part in a whole school photo in the Quad at the senior school. It was to form the Venus symbol. We were also invited to attend a forum at the senior school where Prep 1s and 2s could meet female Old Bancroftians who have become successful in previously male dominated professions.



There was a fabulous display of books in the Prep library related to successful women and girls and display boards promoting the occasion. One particular display showed the original uniform girls wore at Bancroft's when they first joined in the 1970's! There were assemblies promoting International Women's Day and pupils were invited to wear purple and green accessories to mark the occasion. These colours represented the Women's Liberation Movement. Furthermore we were extremely fortunate to have Rashmi Prabhakar (Vedant 2BR) come in to talk to us. She is a Credit Business Analyst and runs workshops in her workplace on gender equality. She answered many questions the pupils had. Throughout the week we celebrated women in particular academic fields; in particular female authors and protagonists in English Literature, famous female scientists and successful female musicians. We are fortunate at Bancroft's that balance is one of our key character values and something we regard highly; #balanceforbetter is also the initiative of this year's International Women's Day campaign. We are fortunate to have a gender balanced school where everyone has the same opportunities, support and guidance to achieve their goals; long may it continue.

Sarah Strong

WINTER WHEELERS

Winter Wheelers was an opportunity to cycle or scoot to school between the 18th and 22nd February. It was organised by Redbridge Council to help the environment and reduce the number of car journeys. Some people cycled to school from close by, like Woodford. Other people cycled from further away - including me from Loughton! My dad cycled with me and carried my bags in his rucksack. Our route curved through Epping Forest as we didn't want to cycle on main roads. While cycling I saw two tree stumps that look like Minecraft crafting tables and lots of friendly dog walkers. On one journey back from school at night I also saw two deer. Every time a child cycled to school they received a raffle ticket. I received 5 but there were over 250 raffle tickets for journeys completed by the end of the week. On the last day we had a prize draw and around 25 people were given a prize. BKY had the most raffle tickets so won a trip to the Olympic Velopark. My class, BLD, came in second dropping just two points behind! Everybody who cycled or scooted put a lot of effort into it. It was a fun and enjoyable week and I think children who get to cycle the whole way to school every day are lucky - when it is sunny! I hope I can cycle in again soon when my little sister is ready.

Myles Brunger BLD

RED NOSE DAY

Since its launch in 1988, Red Nose Day has become something of a British institution. Every two years, people across the country get together and raise money at home, school and work for a range of very worthy causes both in the UK and abroad. We are very proud to have collectively raised **£353.90** for Comic Relief thanks to our army of red nose painters!



BARBICAN TRIP

On Monday 4th March the Prep 1s went to watch a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican. The concert began with 'Hall Of The Mountain King' by Edward Grieg, followed by 'The Flight Of The Eagle' by Sally Beamish and then we heard a piece which was the music to an Icelandic Folk Dance. Afterwards, everyone sang 'Folksong And Fantasy' and then we heard a story called 'Catch The Wind'. To end the concert, we heard 'Hall Of The Mountain King' one last time before leaving. After the show Adam Jaleel 1TP said "I was amazed at the speed they hit at the end of Hall Of The Mountain King!" Thank you to Mrs Strong and Mr Baum for organising a wonderful day.

Atharv Gupta 1SS

GOETHE-INSTITUT

On Wednesday 20th March the Betas travelled to the Goethe-Institut. The Goethe-Institut is a German cultural association with 159 institutes worldwide, promoting the study of the German language abroad. It was a long and tiring journey, but really worth it! When we got off the tube we had a long walk through Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. We continued walking and came upon Princess Diana's Memorial fountain. We sat down and had our snack whilst appreciating our beautiful surroundings. Then we continued onwards to arrive at the Goethe-Institut. We were given goodie bags upon arrival and taken into a cinema. We sat down and relaxed whilst watching a film in German. The film was a love story whereby animals talk and communicate with the people. They help them to escape so that they can marry and live happily ever after. After the film we went back to the park to eat our lunch amongst the crows and pigeons. Then we started our journey back to school. My friends and I had an amazing day.

Charlotte Jones BCB

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS

The Prep 1s visited the Institut Français, the official French government centre of language and culture in London, on 22nd March. They spent the morning visiting the newly refurbished Bibliothèque Quentin Blake and took part in a language activity with Héléne and Laëtitia. In the afternoon they went to the Ciné Lumière to watch a celebrated French film, 'Gus, Petit Oiseau, Grand Voyage' which touched upon themes of perseverance, team work, courage and trust. It was a very special and rewarding experience for our young linguists where we could immerse them in French culture for a day.

Sarah Strong



EUROPA CENTRE

On Monday 18th March the Prep 2s went on a trip to the Europa Centre in Hornchurch. Everyone there only spoke in French so we had to listen very carefully. This helped boost our French vocabulary and made us practise what we had been learning in class. It was an amazing experience and I learnt lots of new French words too. There were mock shops like a boulangerie, patisserie, banque, epicerie, etc- with a variety of things to buy. We were given a shopping list and fake credit card to purchase goods on a list. We had a booklet to write down what we bought, its cost and any special offers in the shop which were fun to look out for. Later, we took part in an exciting activity to find out information about a missing person who we were to look out for around town. The first three to finish were given amazing prizes! Overall it was a fantastic experience and the fact that we could speak with native speakers so close to home was amazing!

Iva Garg 2BR

L'OREAL YSC

On Wednesday 27th February 1SS went on a school trip to the L'Oreal Young Scientist Centre at the Royal Institution. The other Prep 1 classes had gone earlier in the week. We found out a lot about oil and waxes and investigated the difference between acidic and alkaline solutions. We got to make lip balm and bath bombs ourselves. It was very interesting to see how these products are made; a fascinating science lesson. Dani and Rosie, two scientists at the Institute, talked to us about the different acids and how they react. They made it really fun and we all learnt a lot. To make the bath bomb we used a little bit of acid mixed with bicarbonate of soda. We mixed it with a base colour and I chose blue. We then mixed it with another colour - I chose purple. Finally we mixed in a scent to make it smell nice; I chose dark chocolate. We made it into a shape and put it in the oven. When the bath bombs came out, they were like the bath bombs from a shop! Visiting the L'Oreal Young Scientist Centre was so much fun. I found it a very interesting trip and I have loved using my lip balm and bath bombs.

Tom Knight 1SS



SCIENCE QUIZ

On the 11th March the Bancroft's Prep Science Quiz Team went to Oxford University's Science Museum. The team was comprised of me, Sebastian Knuckey, Charlotte Elliott and Blake Goodfellow. We had some time to look around the museum. The quiz was very fast-paced and tense. We were all determined to beat Westminster under School. We scored full marks in the first group of questions, flying into the lead. Sadly, the others caught up and we finished in fourth place. The questions were extremely difficult!

Why don't you try some?

What is the term that describes the ease of flow of a liquid?

What is the most stable type star?

What is a baby hedgehog called?

What are the elements in the Periodic table grouped into?

What is the best conductor of electricity?

Tristan Law 2AA

Answers: 1. Viscosity 2. Red Dwarf 3. Hoglet 4. Groups 5. Silver

CENTRE OF THE CELL

On Wednesday 15th March, the Prep 2s went to Centre of The Cell; the Science Department for Queen Mary University. In the Neutron room, which looks like a neutron, there were many games like the 'Burns Clinic', 'Fight the Bad Bacteria', 'Troublesome Twin', 'Produce a Drug Target' and 'Poo Race'. For the second half of the day we went to the 'Evolution & Genes Show' where we talked about the way we evolved from bacteria, which can kill us or heal us and how we inherit the parts of our parents identities like our hair colour. We played games to demonstrate this where Phoebe and Lois had to compete to get the most butterflies to show the survival of fittest and the game where Dan and Ameerah vs Aashay and Zaki had to try to pair the most socks together to show how our chromosomes work (the things inherited from our parents). The host of the show was very funny and I loved the show. Overall, I would love to go to Centre of the Cell again and you can experience this yourself in the Easter holidays—just visit the Centre of the Cell website.

Harshini Bakeerathan 2AA

SCIENCE SHOWS

On the 19th March we went down to the hall for a Science show. The first thing we saw was Alex, the presenter, pull a tablecloth from beneath a teapot and cup. Everything stayed intact! This proves the theory of inertia. Inertia is



the property of matter that describes its resistance to any change in its motion. The second thing he did was put a tube into a funnel and fill the funnel with corn flour. He held a blow torch to the funnel and blew through the tube which led to flames shooting out of the funnel. This reaction is caused by the increase in surface area. When you separate the particles, there is more surface area for the oxygen to react with, so when combined with a butane torch, the result is a big ball of fire. He did many more experiments like this involving his brave friends *Phil the Frog* and *Geoffrey the Jelly Baby*. Something that surprised us was he brought a can of liquid nitrogen and made ice-cream right in front of us! Sadly, we were not allowed to eat it. After this he chose a volunteer, which was me, and asked me to dip a bunch of roses into the liquid nitrogen. When I pulled the bouquet out, he put a glass shield around the table and asked me to smash the roses onto the table. Instead of the flowers bending like they usually do, they shattered all around me. This is because liquid nitrogen is extremely cold. It will freeze any living tissue it comes into contact with. It is even more dangerous than boiling water if it makes contact with your skin. We were able however to touch the clouds even though our feet were firmly on the ground because the effect it has and its consistency is just like a cloud. I would say this was a wonderful experience and I'm sure everyone else agrees with me. A big thank you to Miss Ellery for organising this visit.

Selin Halil 1TP

INTER-HOUSE NETBALL

The girls demonstrated excellent collaboration, with all abilities working together, attempting to win the title of inter-house champions. The girls impressed us by conveying all of the skills they have acquired and developed throughout the term and for some it was a chance to experience playing a different position with other team mates. Some teams were more successful than others, but all teams showed excellent sportsmanship and knowledge throughout. All matches were incredibly close, making it difficult to predict the results; on a few occasions the results had to be decided on goal difference. However, Hereford won 3 out of 4 year group tournaments making them the overall winners.

Eleanor Mitchell

HIGHGATE GALA

The gala against visiting school Highgate was a wonderful opportunity to involve all of the team swimmers. There was an impressive number of individual first place finishes, twenty in total, with the swimmers showing great form in competition. In the team events the swimmers won 14 of the 17 relays. We came from behind in several of the relays and I was impressed with the grit and determination individuals had to take over the lead and win the race! Several swimmers suffered goggle malfunctions with their goggles coming off following their dive and showed courage and great character to swim on and not let a pair of goggles in the wrong place slow them down! The final race, the 8 x 25m Freestyle relay, involved two children from each year group with Sareena Nagpal 2AA swimming the last leg. I can safely say that this was the loudest cheering I have EVER heard and the cheers raised the roof for Sareena as she swam her heart out to win the final relay. Well done to all of the team!

Susan Cheshire

NETBALL FESTIVAL

The annual U11 Bancroft's Prep Netball Tournament had another successful year with a record number of teams involved. Over 220 girls took part on the day and represented their school with great sportsmanship, enthusiasm and drive to do as well as they could for their school. The standard was extremely high and with three pieces of silverware up for grabs. The Bancroft's A team made it through to the Shield Final against Heath Mount in a hotly contested game but it wasn't to be their day and they came 2nd in this competition, taking home silver medals for their wonderful performances. As this is predominantly an A team tournament our B team had the honour of taking part on the day too. They progressed to the Shield quarter final, which is a fantastic feat in itself and they should be extremely proud of their efforts on the day. Players of the tournament went to Carys Biston 2CP and Dhiya Venkasteswaran 1LE. A huge well done to all players and big thank you to all of the Games staff as well as Miss Adams and Miss Sargent for helping out on the day too.

Kelly McNelis

IAPS U11 HOCKEY



The U11 boys have exceeded all expectations this hockey season because they developed an amazing team ethos. Constantly remaining positive on and off the pitch, they have demonstrated what a group of heroes, who have been led by superheroes, can achieve. The National Finals took place at Rugby School and included 24 of the best U11 teams in the country. We successfully navigated our way through the group in second place and qualified for the Cup Quarter Finals. After a tight match we lost to a golden goal in extra time, however, due to the character of the squad, we were able to pick ourselves up to win the play-off match and finish in 5th place in England. Huge credit goes to the whole team, but a special mention should go to the 'man mountain' between the sticks, Aayan, who only conceded two goals in the whole tournament. Thank you, gentlemen, for an incredible ride. IAPS squad: Aayan, Dan, William, Zaki, Xavier, Aryan, Finlay, Krishan, Theo (c), Luca and Arda.
David Archer

PARENTS V STAFF

On Sunday 24th March staff played parents in our first charity netball match at West Grove. It was a competitive game, close and gripping to the end. At half-time parents were leading 6-4, nevertheless, despite a slow start, the staff team had a victorious finish with the score 12-11 at the final whistle. There was excellent play by all, but the Players of the Match for the parents went to Kim Donnelly (Centre) and Viji Kajanthan (Goal Attack). Hannah Marchant (Captain and Centre) and Antonia Fryer-Green (Goal Keeper) carried away the trophy for Players of the Match for the staff team. This ran alongside the staff versus parents' football match. Mr Vohmann helped to organise the parents' football team and Mr Jones won the 'Man of the Match' award with a goal, which was described as a 'screamer', by Mr Hall. The parents were looking to combat the teachers but this year the teachers won with Mr Hall getting the 'Man of the Match' trophy after scoring four goals! The event was well-supported by family and friends who all enjoyed complimentary pizza and drinks on what was a sunny Sunday afternoon. Thanks to Chris Butler and the Parents' Association for organising the great occasion in aid of Haven House Hospice; in all we raised £250.00! We are anticipating revenge in the staff versus parents cricket tournament next term!
Sarah Strong