

PREP HEADLINES



EDITION: 216

SUMMER 2 2019

On Visitation Day, I took along a prop which I wanted to share with the Prep 2 parents, governors and other guests during my speech. I'm looking at it as I write. It looks like a humble potato, but it isn't any old potato. In fact, it's a Bancroft's potato grown in the Head, Mr Marshall's garden by members of our Sustainability Committee. No pesticides, no fertilizers, totally organic and delicious! The Sustainability Committee have taken a strong lead in a number of key areas this year- climate change, air pollution, plastic waste and the importance of reducing and recycling. They have worked closely with their counterparts at the Senior School to raise awareness and encourage practical solutions. Their generation faces incredibly serious challenges caused, sadly, by what older generations have done to our planet. I'm proud to see the active engagement and, despite the daunting outlook, the positivity of these children. Elsewhere in this edition you'll find a piece by Prep 2 pupil Fatima ShamyI about the big impact that small things can have. I love her optimism! It's easy to be demoralised by an uncertain future, but one thing that I know for sure is that the children here will hold on to their positivity and that they'll find ingenious and, as yet, unimagined ways of making our world a better place. Wishing all of you a relaxing, enjoyable summer- have fun, keep discovering new things and stay safe!

Joe Layton

SUMMER CONCERT



We were entertained on the evening of Thursday 13th June, with the Prep Summer Concert. The show opened with Mrs Raw's Cello Group; they played *Stopping off in Louisiana*. Next, the Flute and Guitar group followed with, *If I had a Hammer* and *Sugar Sugar*. There were also a few solos performed by Julia Boots on the piano, Shona on the recorder, Eddie on the violin and Jocelyn on the harp. We also heard from the Recorder group, Ukulele club and String quartet. String Orchestra played *Three Reels*, *The Piper o' Dundee* and *Action Movie*. Windband played *Yankee Doodle* and *Shrimp*. Together they performed *Toreador Song* and *In the Hall of the Mountain King*. I really enjoyed playing in the Summer Concert; it was so happy and uplifting. Everyone played to a large audience; it was the place to be last week. Music is such a very special part of the Prep School and it was so lovely to celebrate the start of summer in this way.
Sakina Poernomo 1SS

JUNGLE BOOK



The Prep 2 children worked hard to put together 'The Jungle Book' for their end of year production. The show was vibrant and energetic and there were so many magical moments from both casts. We were presented with excellent singing, fun dance routines and strong performances from all of the children. We sang, danced and laughed our way through the first half of this year. Thank you to this year's Prep 2s for their hard work and sense of fun! In the words of the children:

"It was a very thrilling experience. Whether you were a lead or not, being under the bright lights was a fabulous experience. It will stay with me for a long time." Aashay 2AA

"It was an amazing experience and helped us become more confident when performing in front of people." Sareena 2AA

"During the whole process you saw the true confidence of the person. The show was magical." Rani 2BR

"It was really fun. I enjoyed watching the other cast and improving my acting." Vedant, 2BR

"I loved acting - I could let myself go and let my attitude run wild!" Rumaysa 2CP

"The Jungle Book was an amazing experience that let you make a character your own. We were all nervous but as soon as we got on stage we became our characters." Ameerah 2CP



MFL DAY

So much fun was had on MFL Day in the Prep on Wednesday, 19th June. The day kicked off with a French breakfast for the whole school; it was lovely to see a sea of red, white and blue interspersed with black and yellow as the children dressed in the colours of the French and German flags. During the morning there were many cross-curricular activities. The Upper Phase focused on French activities creating a mosaic image of the Eiffel Tower with Mrs Doctors, singing a French number song with Mr Baum, learning about Louis Pasteur with Mrs Williams in Science and studying word derivations in English lessons. They looked at €/£ conversions and problem solving in Maths and even learnt about body parts in French during their swimming lesson! The Lower Phase focused on German with maths word problems and viewings of 'Schneewittchen', 'Der Froschkong' and 'Rapunzel'. The Onatti Theatre Company joined us in the afternoon and the children were entertained with a show called 'Ticket Pour L'Espace'! It was fun, full of frolics and in French! After more afternoon activities, the children were treated to some German cake. It was great to see many of the children conversing with each other in French and German throughout the day. Thank you to the French and German assistants in the Senior School who came down to visit us too! Bien fait tout le monde and vielen Dank!

Sarah Strong



BIKEABILITY

Several of us took part in a Bikeability course to help us improve our confidence and skills when riding a bike. It was really fun bringing our bikes to school and be able to ride around on them after school on warm summer afternoons. The course was lots of fun and the instructors taught us lots of skills through fun activities and games to help us learn new skills. Finally, on Friday, we went out on to the road! I now feel really confident about riding a bike and I would encourage everyone to take part in Bikeability.

Amelia Shapland 2CP

CHINESE HARP

On Tuesday 18th of June my mum came in to play the Chinese harp for the Betas. The Chinese harp is called Gu Zheng. My mum played two pieces and everybody enjoyed it. She told us that each piece had a theme to it. One piece was about life in Mongolia and the other piece was about Chinese fishermen going home on the boat at night. The music my mum played was calm and gentle. Then she told us about the history of Gu Zheng, for example, it was first built 2500 years ago! It has twenty-one strings and has a stand to keep it in place. My mum's one is a mini Chinese harp but a normal one could be as long as 5 foot! My mum showed the Betas her false nails. They are made of plastic but originally the fake nails were made of tortoise shell. She uses special tape to wrap around her fingers to keep the nails in place. My mum also bought two more Chinese instruments to show us – the Chinese violin and Chinese flute. First she showed us the Chinese violin which has only two strings and it makes a nice tender sound. It's a small instrument and it has snake skin on the front of the violin. My mum never showed it to me until that day! Next was the Chinese flute. The Chinese flute looks a bit like our flute but it's made out of bamboo. The sound it makes is very smooth. Then our lesson was over with a big round of applause. We all enjoyed learning about all three Chinese instruments.

Jocelyn Lai BKY

SCRATCH OFF

On Thursday 20th June, there was a 'Scratch' competition. 'Scratch' is a free programming language and online community where you can create your own interactive stories, games and animations. It included the best Scratchers in the Prep 2s and two of the best in the Prep 1s. We were asked to work in pairs. It was held at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. We had to make a project at home before the competition and also make one on the day. The theme for the home project was arcade games from the 70s and 80s. For the competition, we had to design and code a stopwatch that was analogue and digital in just two hours. We showed the judges our finished projects and then we had pizza for lunch. After that, the pairs who got the best score got to show their projects to everyone and the judges chose the best three. Nicholas and Tristan did Pac-Man and came 3rd in the arcade game. Everyone enjoyed it and it was great fun! Thank you to Miss Ellery for organising the opportunity.

Leo 1SS



BIKER'S BREAKFAST

Bancroft's Prep School held a Biker's Breakfast on Tuesday the 18th June. On that day, all the children that came to school on a bike were invited to have breakfast with Mr Layburn. Many children thought this was a great idea and took part. I have never seen so many bicycles at school! Cycling to school is good exercise, but it is also good for the environment as it reduces pollution that poisons the air. The idea behind the Biker's Breakfast was to reduce air pollution. We need to do this to lower the chances of 'wacky weather'. Wacky weather is when the weather is extreme, like heatwaves around the world. Global warming is an issue of growing importance and traffic is a major cause to global warming. Hopefully, this day showed children that cycling to school was fun and encourages more children to use public transport or cycle to school every day, lowering pollution. People who cycled to school got tasty toast and butter with jam as a reward. It was a brilliant breakfast!

Clara Redeker BLD



NOT JUST ANY POTATOES

As part of our whole school effort to be more eco-friendly and sustainable, some Prep 2s have been helping grow potatoes. Digging them up was not such an easy job. It was fun and rewarding but it was hard work so you couldn't be afraid to get dirty. However, needless to say, it was a brilliant experience. The pride we all felt when we had completed it was unimaginable. Knowing that a lunchtime or two spent growing potatoes could be a part of making our school a more sustainable school, really felt great. Sometimes small things like growing some potatoes could have a huge effect. If everyone in the world thought that they couldn't make a difference, no one would do anything. However, if everyone believes they can make a difference, the change can prove to be phenomenal.

Fatima Shamyl 2AA



GARDENING

The School Council recently visited a garden centre and bought some plants to make the school greener and more beautiful. We planted sunflowers, cucumbers, tomatoes, nasturtiums, chillis and more. These were all planted in beds and pots in the adventure playground. Every lunchtime School Council members gathered together to feed and water the plants and we hope that they will produce lots of fruit and vegetables. This has also become a cross-curricular activity as the Prep 1s have been learning about lifecycles this term. It has been a great way of bringing year groups together and having fun. Overall, we're on the road to creating a greener and healthier school!

Luca Bennett 2BR

We are also extremely grateful to the Parents' Association who have funded some wonderful wooden planters which are currently thriving in the Prep School playground. You will notice from the photographs that they represent our House colours of red, blue, green and yellow. Some pupils in Manor described theirs as 'just green' but, unlike the other, theirs will actually produce some beans later in the summer! They have made a real difference to the playground area and we will continue tending to them to make sure they remain to flourish and brighten up our environment.



MUSIC AND MUNCH

On Friday 21st June we had the final Music and Munch concert of the year. As usual, it featured a range of talents, with sixteen performers playing six different instruments, including Bethan Penn playing the Harp to an audience for the first time. It was a joy and the audience were enchanted by her lovely sound. Malika Khan played one of her starter pieces on the Piano, but at the other end of the spectrum, Benji Shamrakov and Luca Bennett, playing the Violin and Piano respectively, were playing difficult and rewarding pieces. Their talent will be welcomed by the Senior School next year. Miss Fitzgerald's and Mr McGee's flautists played very well and Flute playing appears to be thriving at the Prep School. The Music and Munch series of seven concerts has been a huge success again this year, with the more informal approach to public performing being a good starting point for many children. I would like to thank Ms Tarrant who has been hugely supportive of the concerts. The series carries on in the Autumn Term. I look forward to seeing you next academic year.

Adam Baum

SPORTS DAY

There was a gap in the clouds and the sun came out to play, once again, on the annual Bancroft's Prep Sports Day. There was great excitement and enthusiasm for this event as all pupils in the school were guaranteed to participate in a minimum of two events in front of a large crowd of parents. The practice and the heats during their Games and PE lessons went well, however, were they going to be able to produce their best on the 'big stage'? Answer: Yes! And they did it with tremendous smiles on their faces. It was a very close run contest and, ultimately, came down to the double-double points jumbo relay race at the end. Congratulations to Hereford who took the trophy on this occasion, but well done to all the children and parents that contributed towards making it a wonderful morning celebrating sports at Bancroft's.

David Archer



AQUATHLON

Bancroft's Prep hosted the first ever House Aquathlon this term and the effort from all the children made it a great success. With three different levels in each age group, the children all challenged themselves appropriately and reflected superbly about what they would do better next time.



OLYMPIC DREAMS

Over the weekend I got the chance to swim with two Olympian swimmers: Grant Turner a 2012 Olympian fast swimmer and 2010 Commonwealth Games silver medallist and Genevieve Randall, a synchronised swimmer, who was a solo free silver medallist at the 2013 British Championships. I learnt how to do CPR and synchronised swimming with Genevieve and some rookie lifesaving skills with Grant. He also taught us how to play water polo and we took place in a race against him! Although he beat me, I wasn't far behind thanks to Mrs Cheshire's swimming lessons. I really enjoyed being able to swim with some Olympians and I loved learning some synchronised swimming skills. The most important thing I learnt from them is "NEVER GIVE UP" so don't be surprised if you see me twirling around in the pool.

Alayna Hussain BLD

CHAMPIONS – AGAIN!

The U11s finished off a great year by adding the Essex Kwik Cricket Championship to their Essex Hockey Championship. Great effort and thank you boys!



HOUSE RESULTS 2018-19

The House Competition came to a climax on the penultimate day of term with the swimming gala. It has been neck and neck for the majority of the year with different Houses excelling in different events. The variety was very wide this year with the children given the opportunity to take part in; Hockey, Tug of War, Rugby, Drama, Skipping, Netball, Captain's Challenge, Football, Quiz, Spelling Bee, Chess, Photography, Cricket, Tennis, Athletics, Aquathlon and the Swimming Gala. A big credit goes to the House Captains, in particular, Rani, Lois, Amelia and Keerithika whose organisation and dedication has enabled them to build on their already competent leadership skills. The final results were:

HEREFORD: 350

KNIGHTON: 348

MANOR: 348

MONKHAMS: 376