



Looking back at what I wrote this time last year for our December 2020 issue of Prep Headlines is quite an educative experience. We'd just had to move to online learning for the final three days and I commented: 'I know the children will cope, as they have with everything that has been thrown at them this term.' I was right about that but perhaps I shouldn't have been quite so confident with my sign-off: 'I have a feeling that things can only get better in 2021!' It's true to say that 2021 has been an extraordinary year in which all the children have shown great resilience and positivity, not least our new Alpha intake who continue to brighten the place both individually and collectively. We love having them here! We are also delighted that the Prep 2s are back with us for the final three days of term after learning remotely through last week- something they took in their stride since all of them are far better at using Microsoft Teams than any adult users! Of course, it's tempting as a year draws to a close to look forward to a day in the future when everything will be perfect but I suppose life tells us that the perfect day is never going to come. As teachers, we are here to guide the children on their learning journeys but the truth is that they have so much to teach us. Primary school aged children tend to live in the moment, make the best of things, take their fun where they can and smile in the face of adversity. That's why I still look forward to coming to work every single day. Something life enhancing is always happening here and a highlight of today has been the inter-house dance competition- a thoroughly joyous and uplifting event. It reassures me that, whatever challenges 2022 presents, we won't just cope as a school community - Bancroft's Prep will flourish!

Joe Layton

MUSIC AND MUNCH

On Friday 19th November, we were treated to the second live *Music and Munch* of the year. It was so lovely to once again welcome an audience of parents and Prep pupils to watch 16 musicians from across every year group perform various pieces on a variety of instruments. The programme was varied and included songs from musical theatre, a personal composition by Nell, and rhapsodic piano works. Annabel, Risha, Summer and Riyan were even able to showcase one of their pieces before their graded ABRSM exams taking place the following day. All children involved played so well, and should be very proud of themselves; performing is no easy feat!
Jenny Akroyd

BANCROFT'S KINDNESS

Ambition Aspire Achieve (AAA) was founded in June 2016 by Kevin Jenkins OBE. This charity delivers a range of services and opportunities for children in East London. They are always in need of toys to support their clubs, activities, projects and play areas. We decided to support the Kevin Jenkins OBE Newham Christmas Toy Appeal this year in order to help provide over 3000 children with a Christmas stocking. So many pupils contributed to this important appeal and brought in a new toy of their choice to donate and the AAA team came to collect our gifts on Monday, 13th December. They were delighted by the collaborative effort of our children and overwhelmed by such kindness and generosity. Every child deserves a happy Christmas and it has been wonderful to make a difference this year and spread a little Christmas cheer. Your donations of chocolate treats for the Christmas Fayre Tombola were taken to Redbridge Mutual Aid as exciting additions to their food boxes this year. Despite it being a pity that the Fayre did not go ahead, we can be assured that your kind donations have gone to a good cause instead.

Sarah Strong



On Friday 10th December we held a festive non-uniform day to get us into the Christmas spirit. The children looked fantastic in everything from reindeer antlers to Christmas jumpers; sparkly dresses to Santa hats! All thanks to your kind donations, £315.65 will go towards our conservation project in conjunction with Lambourne End—please see more details on the back page!



FIREWORKS AND MAGIC!



After missing out on a fireworks event in 2020, and holding only Zoom events for the past year, the Bancroft's School Parents' Association were determined that this year's firework display was going to go ahead. So, on Friday 12th November, we kicked off - with a BANG! - what is hoped to be a fantastic year of PA events. The night was a great success; completely sold out and attended by 499 children and parents. In addition to the awesome fireworks display there were tea-cup rides, a giant snow globe, super glow stalls, a mini disco and warm food and drinks. The plan, as always, was to make it a fun night for all, but we also managed to raise £1400 towards the PA's funds. We are already planning our 2022 fireworks event - it will be even bigger and better and we hope it will become a Bancroft's tradition. The next date for your diaries is our fabulous and fun 'Curry and Comedy' night on Saturday 12th March. All tickets can be purchased online at:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/BancroftsPA>



The much loved 'Welcome to Bancrofts Party and Magic Show' went ahead this year after being cancelled due to restrictions last year. Held in the Prep School hall, the Betas played host to the new Alphas to give the 'new kids on the block' a big warm welcome into the Bancroft's community. It was a full house, with both Alphas and Betas in full attendance! Dressed to impress, over 134 young ladies and gents partied the evening away with their peers. The lovely Papalarny entertained the kids with magic tricks, sing-a-longs, fun competitions, games, smoke and bubble machines. There were lots of fun prizes and medals to be won. With music blaring, smiles, giggles, impressive dance moves and beautiful singing, the children danced and partied the night away. The PA provided pizzas and refreshments and the children went home with a Bancroft's goodie bag, a balloon and a doughnut. A good time was had by all!
Bancroft's PA

OPENVIEW THEATRE

On Friday 12th November, OpenView Education came to present an anti-bullying workshop. Sasha from OpenView showed us examples of bullying and talked about how bullies operate. Sasha introduced the phrase, ONE KIND WORD! Then she showed us a story about four children: Nathan, Amber, Jo and Lewis. One evening Nathan was playing video games with his friends and won. Amber was being a sore loser and called Nathan a cheater. Lewis joined in, but Jo kept quiet. The next day at school, Amber said, "Oh look, it's the cheater!" Lewis joined in but Jo kept quiet. Sasha put us into groups and asked us to make up a freeze frame. My friends were Amber and Lewis, and I was Nathan. Bhavika stuck her leg out and Megan was laughing. I was on the floor pretending that I had fallen over Bhavika's leg. Then, Sasha picked my group to come to the front. Our final activity was to be the characters. Jo would tell Amber and Lewis about Nathan. First, I was Jo and said to Bhavika (Lewis) and Megan (Amber), "You're making Nathan upset because you are being a sore loser just because he won." Amber and Lewis said, "It was only a joke, we didn't mean it." And I said, "It may be a joke to you, but you are upsetting him. Please stop." I really enjoyed the workshop because everyone learned a lesson... ONE KIND WORD!

Mia BCB

MFL WORKSHOPS

On Tuesday 30th November, BNB had a Spanish taster session organised by Bancroft's sixth-formers. We were all looking forward to this as Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world; spoken in 21 countries and by 400 million speakers. I have been fascinated by the language since childhood having been a huge fan of 'Handy Manny'! While most of us could get by with counting in Spanish we really wanted to learn some basic language skills to be able to have a conversation and understand the culture better. Our Seniors taught us some basics like saying hello, goodbye, how are you and how old are you. They were very patient and answered our questions in a manner that we understood. The session lasted half an hour and we were given a sheet to make notes and an opportunity to practice what we had learned. We were all excited following the session and spent the rest of the afternoon chattering away in Spanish. A big thank you to the sixth formers for taking the time out to introduce us to a new language. Adios for now!

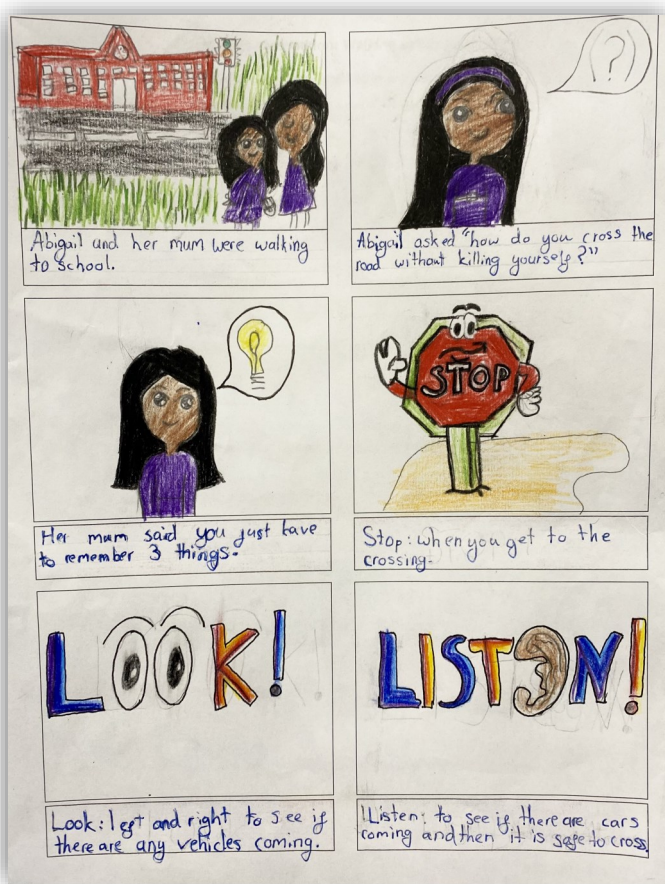
Amelia BNB



ROAD SAFETY

The School Council gave everybody a blank comic strip to design a story about road safety in order to win a prize. We had two weeks to complete this task over half term. I decided to enter and made a comic strip about 'STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN'. I had a really great time creating the comic strip and I am so happy; I won an electric maze kit! There were other winners from different classes. At break time everyone who had entered and won went to the library and there was a raffle. People won all different and exciting things like laser guns, bicycle pumps and locks. Some people also won science kits. Everyone who entered got to stand up in assembly and was recognised for their efforts. I did it because my favourite subject is art and this involved a lot of creativity.

Aarya BSS



FRENCH STORYTELLING

On Wednesday 10th November, Freshwater Theatre Company performed a French storytelling workshop. We saw two familiar tales entirely in French. The stories were 'Jack and the Beanstalk' – or *Jack et le Haricot Magique* and 'Little Red Riding Hood' – or *Le Petit Chaperon Rouge*. I really enjoyed this, it was a lot of fun. It was helpful because we got to listen to French to help us learn and understand the language. The highlight was when Elodie aggressively killed the giant! Even though it was completely in French, I understood what was happening because I knew both stories.

Mia 1SE

POPPY APPEAL

In the Prep School, every year, we observe a two minute silence on Remembrance Day. It is a silence in which we remember those, not much older than us, who lost their lives in the world wars. Mr Baum plays '*The Last Post*' on the trumpet to end the silence. It is important to remember those who protected us and help them when they need us. We associate poppies with the world wars because John McRae, a soldier in the Second World War wrote a poem called '*In Flanders Field*'. The poem is about how poppies would grow in the field, when no other flower could grow there. It says that when the soldiers die, they will rest under the field. This is why we wear poppies for Remembrance Day.

Julia BSS



DEBATING TEAM

On Monday 15th November, six pupils and Mr Paramour travelled to South Hampstead High School to take part in a debating competition. We had prepared for the first of our debates and shared our points with one another during the tube journey; we were excited but nervous as this was the first time Bancroft's Prep had participated in a debating competition. Our first debate began at 4:20pm. This first debate was '*Should Private Cars Be Banned From Zones 1 and 2*' and the girls' team had to give speeches for the opposition as did the boys. Both of our teams had prepared and we both won our first debates. For the second and third debates we had no idea what they were going to be, nor did the other teams. It turned out we had to debate whether homework should be banned. Bancroft's girls were *proposing* the motion (supporting the idea) while Bancroft's boys were *opposing* the motion (disagreeing with the idea). We were given 15 minutes to prepare and both our teams won. The third debate was tricky because, since we were running late, we were given only 10 minutes to prepare. The motion was '*Should Some People Have Super Powers*' and both teams were proposing the motion. This time we were narrowly defeated by very experienced teams from other schools. In the end both of our teams won two out of three of our debates. We had a great time and it was really fun. We learned a lot and are looking forward to the next competition.

Elise 2TP

SPORTS NEWS

It has been a great start to the year and it has been wonderful to return to playing competitive fixtures. Once again, every child from the Betas to Prep 2 have represented Bancroft's Prep in either hockey or rugby. Our Alphas have also been busy finding their way with rugby, hockey and netball too. It has been great to see large numbers of children at training sessions and even more exciting to see how the younger pupils have 'stepped up to the mark' when competing against their older peers during mixed age group clubs. The boys' rugby knowledge has come on leaps and bounds, with a real understanding of the value of playing as a team to achieve a successful result. We thank the Prep 2s for their contributions in rugby and look forward to competing in more fixtures and tournaments next year. We are also so pleased with the progress all girls have made on the hockey pitch this term. Lots has been learned on and off the pitch and it has been a pleasure to watch them develop and enjoy their hockey, too. A big well done to all of our Prep girls!

Kelly McNelis

SWIMMING NEWS

On Monday 15th November, Bancroft's Swim Squad faced a tough Forest School Swim team in the London Swimming League heats. Many of the Bancroft's participants were excited and nervous, but up for the challenge! The relays were a big opportunity to score points and lots of our swimmers edged out Forest in their races. It was really close, but in the end Forest won narrowly, 531 points to our 492. Well done to both the Alphas and Betas as it was their first swimming gala for Bancroft's! Amazing work from everyone.

Helena BSS

BANCROFT'S EARTHSHOT

Prince William and Sir David Attenborough, together with many other conservationists, are determined to tackle one of today's greatest challenges; climate change. They have devised 'The Earthshot Prize' to help repair our planet over the next ten years through collective action. Bancroft's Prep School pupils, in partnership with Lambourne End Centre for Outdoor Learning, have decided to support 'The Earthshot Prize' and start their own conservation project. Through Outdoor Education, our school has the chance to really make an important impact. Lambourne End has allowed the Prep School some areas to plant trees and hedges, to encourage more biodiversity on their site and reduce our carbon footprint. Alongside this, we can learn about the local biodiversity and habitats. These areas will be nurtured and enjoyed by many pupils now and in years to come. We are so grateful to Lambourne End for granting us the land to fulfil our mission and for all their help with the future planting. We are looking to raise £4000 to fund

this amazing project. Money raised will be used to purchase the trees, stakes, protection tubes and equipment for planting 160m of hedgerow. This term's Business Enterprise money will be donated and, in the New Year, our very own man of iron, Mr Hall will be undertaking a feat of human endurance to raise awareness and funds. Contributions can already be made via the link below. Thank you for your support!

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bancroftspreearthshotappeal?utm_id=1&utm_term=zMDMW3xpq

HOUSE NEWS

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Or, is it Superman? No, it's the Big Green Manor Steam Train chugging its way to the top spot at the end of the term. Manor have fared very well in some of the physically demanding activities, however they are not a one trick pony, after recording a victory in the inaugural 'apple in a box' competition. The challenge has been set to the other Houses and there are two terms and plenty of events to claw back the points to achieve ultimate House success.

Scores stand at:

Manor	134
Hereford	102
Monkhams	86
Knighton	86

DANCE OFF

On the penultimate day of term, we enjoyed the House Dance spectacular! Each House, led by their Captains, battled it out to win points for choreography, music and costumes and overall performance. Monkhams, dressed in jeans, bandanas and leather gave a mean and moody performance to Aerosmith's 'Walk This Way'. Knighton, bringing memories of summer back to the Prep Hall, performed a Hawaiian inspired dance to 'Iko Iko' and Hereford got their 'Head in the Game' by performing the High School Musical basketball themed hit of the same name. But in the end, it was Manor, performing a slick routine to Queen's 'Don't Stop Me Now', that stole the show - I think everyone especially loved the air guitar solos from Percy and Francis, resplendent in Brian May wigs! Well done to all the House captains who made it such a success.

