



SPRING 2 2023

@prepcommunityandcharity
@BancroftsPrep

Sustainability, recycling and upcycling are all concepts we are keen to embrace. These past weeks, the Prep School has been green with plants grown by our children and parents to raise money for charity; World Book Day saw a sale of good condition, favourite books; at our Spring Fayre the second-hand uniform stall did a brisk trade; this week we are selling 'vintage' clothing (not jumble!) to raise funds for various good causes we support. The idea of 'pre-loved' clothes was something that three of our teachers, Mrs Rathod- who leads our Green Team - Mrs Biston and Miss Ware spoke about in an assembly recently. They were keen to showcase a different approach than that of throwaway, 'fast fashion' which can see clothes end up in landfill sites after being worn just once. Mrs Biston shared that her go-to fashion outlets are not on Bond Street but local charity shops. Miss Ware and her husband run their own vintage market across East London. The message was taken on board by a new generation with new priorities and a different take on consumption and waste. The children loved Miss Ware's inspiring call to give an item of clothing a new lease of life. As she told them, "It may not be new, but it's new to you!"

Joe Layton

SPRING FAYRE

After months of planning, Spring Fayre 2023 was in full swing on 18 March. The Prep children have been eagerly awaiting the occasion. Thankfully the weather didn't deter our Bancroft's community from coming together and enjoying this Spring event. It's a really special event to see children, staff and parents all join in the festivities. The Prep School Hall was full of colour with the beautiful bunting produced by our wonderful Prep children. We are incredibly thankful for all the Easter egg donations; this is definitely one of the busiest stalls as every child battles the raffle to walk away with an egg (or eggs in some cases!) The Prep 2 children had some fantastic stalls including 'Football Shoot Out', a table tennis competition, 'Nerf Gun Shooting', 'Pick a Duck', 'Spin the Wheel', ping ball throwing, stress balls, biscuit decorating, nail paint and sand art, mini games and lots of sweet related activities. The Prep 2 children donated £808 from all their efforts. A very big thank you from the PA for your enterprising ideas and donations. The fun didn't stop there: we had PA stalls including face painting, nail decorating, tattoos, daffodil sales, a treasure hunt and raffles! Everyone listened with anticipation for the announcement of the Head for the Day, this year being won by Harris in Prep 1. The first prize of the raffle was a gold venture photography voucher of £550, won by Arabella in the Betas. There was pizza and soft drinks, samosas and masala tea plus sweet treats such as waffles and cream to keep the crowds full. Miss Kelly kept the children busy with multi sports in the PAC whilst

parents shopped at the second-hand uniform stall. The day wouldn't have been complete without the Chingford Morris Dancers entertaining and engaging the crowds and our own Alpha street dancers performing a finale of pure energy! Thank you to the Prep School staff, children and parents for coming to support the Spring Fayre. We have many more events planned such as salsa night, family camping and the upcoming ball. We look forward to your support! If you would like to help or become more involved in the PA then please email bancrofts.pa@gmail.com

Sumeeta Dhir

Vice Chair Bancroft's Parents' Association



WELCOME OLIVIA!

Welcome to the world Olivia Rose. Our very own Chris Hall and his wife Sarah are now the proud parents of a beautiful little lady born on 27 February weighing 7lb 7oz. We are delighted for you both and welcome her into our Bancroft's community!



SCIENCE FAIR



On Tuesday 14 March we were lucky enough to attend the Science Fair at the Senior School. There were 16 stalls, run by Year 12 students. They all had fun things to do and activities to take part in. At the end, we had to vote for the best stall. There was information and displays on the three sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There was even fun to be had with slime! My favourite experiment was when I mixed cabbage juice with either washing up liquid, lemon juice or vinegar. The cabbage juice changed colour from purple to turquoise, pink and green. This is because red cabbage leaves contain a substance called anthocyanin that changes colour depending on whether mixed with an acid or a base. It was fun, as I learnt a lot about science, in a practical way.

Ellie BSS

CHESS

It was not the usual start to a half term holiday for myself, Mr Layburn and 12 of the School's chess enthusiasts! On Saturday 11 February we met at the Tower ready to head off in the mini bus for the first round in this year's EPSCA (English Primary Schools Chess Association) Schools Championships. It had been three years since we last visited Moulsham Primary School in Chelmsford and it was lovely to be there again. Even though the teams had been well prepped by Mr D'Costa, for those who hadn't attended a tournament before it is a rather strange but wonderful thing. A room set up with tables, boards and chess clocks for about a hundred games of chess beginning at the same time. The room falls to (relative) silence and this quiet concentration remains until the last game has finished before the players start all over again! In total each player plays five games throughout the day so huge focus is required from all the players. Our teams were magnificent and all our players were rewarded for their efforts. The U9 team (Zoe, Ashwin, Irina, Advik, Aryan and Aakarsh) received silver medals for coming in second place and the U11 (Jake, Ishaan, Riyan, Aashritha, Olivia and Jun-Le) team came third and received bronze medals. We have yet to receive written confirmation that we are off to the semi-finals but we are fairly confident, albeit quietly because after all this is chess!

Lisa Life

MFL FAYRE

The Prep 1s were treated to a fun cultural afternoon at the MFL Fayre hosted by Senior School pupils. Activities and games encouraging the learning of French, German, Spanish and Russian were set up around the Prep Hall. There were French pastries and crepes on offer and music to dance to from around the globe. They were joined by pupils from some neighbouring schools, Woodford Green Prep School, Avon House and St Anthony's – it was a wonderful way of bringing our local community together and sharing our love of languages.

Sarah Strong



ENSEMBLES CONCERT

This concert took place in the Senior School on Thursday 2 March and what a wonderful musical treat it was. The theme of the concert was to feature small, self-rehearsed groups or those led by our talented members of the music department. On this occasion, Mr Landen, the soul bands, Mr Hanson, the rock bands, Mr Trebilcock, the Ukuleles, Ms Saumerez, the cellos and Ms Tarrant, The Prepettes. Last year's Prepettes are now the Thirddettes, and what a wonderful start they made with Elvis's 'Hound Dog' featuring Percy. Then our own Prepettes, standing out as the youngest group on stage. It is safe to say that they brought the house down, firstly with Jun-Le singing 'When I Was Your Man' by Bruno Mars and then the beautifully in tune Sia, with 'Better When I'm Dancing.' Jun-Le's mature performance was the talk of many and it is right that The Prepette's performed this again to the whole school two weeks later. Rock Bands and Souls Bands followed, featuring many pupils who used to be in The Prep School. It illustrates how a wonderful musical journey begins when you start so young. I was very proud of all of them. Mrs Whitbread comments that in all of her six years here, "this concert is one of my proudest achievements" Quite right too.

Adam Baum

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

A Tuesday lunchtime in March is a perfect way to listen to music and the joy that 17 of our children brought to a grateful audience was clear to see and witness. This time without drums, so without a need to change room, there was a feast of acoustic instruments on show, with the piano leading the popularity contest. But, French Horn, Flute, Clarinet, Pop Vocals, Cello and Oboe happily demonstrate that music in all forms continues to flourish. I thank all of the children who so bravely agree to take part in these concerts. They all performed so well and were a credit to their music teachers and parents.

Adam Baum

CHARITY & COMMUNITY

My Spring charity initiatives have all had sustainability at their core, educating our children to be kind to our planet whilst collaboratively being kind to others, helping those people who need it most. Firstly, thank you so much for supporting our Prep Goes Potty Plant sale, £254 is making its way to a *local* charity, 'Haven House Hospice.' The hospice, in Woodford Green, has supported hundreds of families, looking after children and young people, from birth, who have life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. It was amazing how the children were able to make so much money from planting a tiny seed and then seeing the fruits of their labour! Thank you too for contributing generously towards our Preloved Paperbacks for a Pound initiative; £285 has been sent to 'BookTrust', a *national* charity. BookTrust transforms lives by getting children and families reading. Each year they reach millions of children across the UK with books, resources and support. Finally, we have supported a charity working for an *international* cause: 'The Disaster Emergency Committee' is an umbrella group of charities which coordinates collective appeals to raise funds to provide emergency aid to humanitarian crises around the world. We raised £841 for the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal in yet another sustainable fashion. We held a children's pre-loved clothes sale and asked our Prep 1s and 2s to donate two or three treasured items of clothing that they had outgrown but had looked after. The items were then sold to the whole school at lunchtimes. Thirds from the Senior school donated items so that the Upper Phase had some choice too. Thank you, parents, for your support as always and encouraging our children to nurture our school values of kindness, collaboration, initiative and integrity. It is always much appreciated.

Sarah Strong



INSITUT FRANÇAIS

The Prep 2s were treated to a trip to the French Institute in South Kensington for a Language Workshop and a screening of 'Calamity, une enfance de Martha Jane Cannary' at the *Cine-Lumiere*. Utterly practical and bold, the protagonist of the film's title can be seen as a fearless role-model to many. This French-Danish animated film is directed by Rémi Chayé and is loosely based on the life of the American frontierswoman Calamity Jane. The children were able to show off their French knowledge during the Language Activity which was led by native speakers. It was a very enjoyable way to experience and enjoy the French Language.

Sarah Strong

THE POWER OF READING

Educational research tells us that the best indicator of a child's future educational success in every subject, including Maths and Science, is their reading. A child who is an avid reader at primary level is engaging regularly in a mental process that greatly enhances their cognitive development. A child who doesn't read is missing out. At Bancroft's Prep, our homework policy stipulates that children should read independently, on average, for at least fifteen minutes a day. Many of the children at the Prep School read far more than this and that is fantastic - they are setting themselves up for a richer, more fulfilling and ultimately more successful life. However, I am also aware that some of the children are not hitting that fifteen minimum. We live in a world full of stimulating distractions and it can be easy for reading to become less of a priority. I spoke to all of the children in assembly about the importance of always having a book on the go and I challenged them to go home today knowing exactly what they are planning to read over the holiday. We don't set much in the way of written homework over the holidays but we do expect children to carry on reading. I hope that parents will support us in ensuring that children are reading regularly over the Easter break. To paraphrase George RR Martin, *"a reader lives thousands of lives before they die, while a person who never reads lives only one."* Educationally speaking, there really is nothing more important we can do for children than ensuring they become lifelong readers.

Tim Paramour

LSO AT THE BARBICAN

It's not every day that you get to hear one of the world's greatest orchestras play some of the world's greatest tunes accompanied by hundreds of children waving, pointing and shouting "taxi"! But on Tuesday 28th March, the Alphas were able to enjoy just such a treat as they sat in the Barbican and listened to the London Symphony Orchestra and a few guests tell the story of the great composer George Gershwin. They listened intently to presenter Rachel Leach explain the inspiration behind two of his most famous pieces, Rhapsody in Blue and An American In Paris, and joined in enthusiastically with the actions she introduced. It was all rounded off with a stirring performance of the special song the children had learned about Gershwin called Train! Boat! Plane! Taxi!

Tim Carson



HOUSE NEWS

The second half of the term is an opportunity for the children to show off the skills developed in the major sports in a competitive environment. What has been evident from both the netball and boys' hockey is the obvious progress the children have made due to their commitment to engaging in the games' sessions and after school practices. Moving to the summer season we are entering the world of extreme activities, with a House CrossFit competition and a House Aquathlon part of the program which will also see the usual House Cricket, Tennis and, of course, our Prep School Sports Day on the afternoon of Wednesday 21st June. Manor currently lead the overall tournament; however, Knighton and Hereford have closed the gap over the course of this term. It's all to play for!

David Archer

NETBALL

ALPHA	BETA	PREP 1	PREP 2
6	6	8	6
10	8	4	10
8	10	6	8
4	4	10	4

BOYS' HOCKEY

ALPHA	BETA	PREP 1	PREP 2
8	6	10	12
8	10	8	9
10	8	6	15
4	4	4	6

FIXTURES

What an amazing term it has been with over 40 competitive hockey and netball fixtures played by every single pupil in the Prep School. It is great to see so many of our pupils passionate about sport. We now look forward to the start of the cricket season in the summer term.

SWIMMING SUCCESS

The Prep 1 and 2 swim team represented the Prep School at the Qualifying Round of IAPS. This took place on 6th March at Bishop's Stortford College. This level of competition requires all swimmers to meet with technical rules and all the practice at training has paid off with only one relay disqualification. As individuals they have all made super progress during their training, once the pre-race nerves had settled, it was great to see the swimmers as individuals and in their team events swimming at this level of event giving their all as we cheered on from the

balcony. We now wait to see how swimmers have performed from around the county.

Well done to:

Ariella, 1st in the 50m Butterfly time of 41.48

Robert, 2nd in the 25m Butterfly time of 20.67

Lily 2nd in the 50m Breaststroke time of 51.73

Well done team!

Susan Cheshire



NETBALL AT THE COPPERBOX

Earlier in the term, some of our girls had the opportunity to watch live netball at the Copper Box Arena in a highly competitive professional match between teams London Pulse and Manchester Thunder. With three wins from three under their belt, London Pulse was ready to get started with a bang in front of a record crowd at the Copper Box Arena of over 2,000 fans. With it becoming impossible to hear anything in the Copper Box thanks to the amazing crowd and electric atmosphere, the score was bobbing around between a six and four goal difference throughout. Manchester Thunder took the win and all of our students and parents had a great day out. We look forward to future netballing expeditions.

Sasha Kelly

