



VIRTUS SAPIENTIA HUMILITAS

St. John's School Porthcawl

St John's School Newton Porthcawl CF36 5NP T: 01656 783404 F: 01656 783535

Newsletter Week Commencing 8 February 2010

Issue 8

Sporting celebrations across a half-century!

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------|
| | Page |
| Visit from past pupil Kenfit Nature Reserve Talk | 1 |
| Comenius Visit | 2 |
| Friends of St. John's | 3 |
| Sporting Events | 4 |



Our sporting tradition was celebrated with a visit from past pupil and former captain of the school's football team, Mr John Rosser, of Cowbridge. Mr Rosser attended St John's in the 1950s and presented the school with a framed photograph of the 1957 football team. In that year Mr Rosser also won the coveted

Victor Ludorum cup (winner of the school sports day competition) and current football captain and 2009 Victor Ludorum, Tom Brown, received the photograph on behalf of the school. Mr Rosser also told the pupils about another member of the school's 1957 football team, former England test cricketer Graham Roope. We have a thriving Alumni network and still maintain regular contact with several members who attended St John's in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. We are always delighted to be visited by past pupils of any age and to hear about their fond memories of their time at the school.

WELCOME

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following pupils who have joined us this term:

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Maddison | Year 2 |
| Morgan | Nursery |
| Piers | Nursery |

Kenfig Nature Reserve Talk

This week Mr. Graham Holmes for Kenfig Nature Reserve came to talk to us about Food Chains. He showed us some very interesting things like horse, fox, rabbit and badger skulls. He said we can find out what these animals ate by looking at their poo!

He played a good trick on us by pretending that there was inside a locked box a creature that was dangerous to the countryside. We were frightened but when he opened the box there was a mirror inside. We were the dangerous creatures who could cause damage to the countryside. Thank you Mrs. Evans for arranging this Science talk.

Simran Dhaliwal Year 3





St. John's Hosts Comenius Visitors from Turkey, Iceland, Ireland and Germany

"Any horizontal Irish? Or a vertical German?" Quickly - I need horizontal and vertical Turkeys!"

Such was the intriguing conversation during many January lunchtimes in St. John's. Alongside baking Welsh cakes, burnishing banners and display boards and rehearsing for a special Comenius concert, several pupils from our newly established Comenius Club devoted their spare time to cutting and pasting flags from our partner countries, to put around the edges of all the displays.

"It was like a military operation" says Languages teacher Mrs. Sarll. "We'd have one pupil "doing" 3 Icelandic flags to be stuck vertically, another in charge of "horizontal Turkeys", another overseeing Ireland and two more producing the Welsh and German flags. I was there, in the midst of it all, pasting like mad and shouting out for the required flags. Had any of those nations been passing an open window, they'd have thought we have very strange language classes. The vertical Turkey command always got a hearty laugh from all. A very strange image, indeed!"

As well as decorating the school with displays from each partner country (Turkey, Wales, Iceland, Ireland, Germany), balloons bearing each country's colours were blown up (thank you Pre-prep!), Welsh cakes and cawl prepared by the kitchen and two special assemblies arranged. The Pre-prep classes performed a superb rendition of their "Welsh not" play and stole the show when they held up their extremely long banner of Llanfair PG! Each country gave a presentation and pupils from St. John's also gave their own presentations about some of the partner countries. An educational feast, we learned that Turkey is the only capital city in the world to span two continents, that Iceland has 13 Santa Clauses- and that the Irish really do believe in fairies!

On the Thursday, all visitors attended lessons and enjoyed a typically Welsh lunch in the dining hall. The four Turkish and four German pupils integrated well into their classes and were able to share stories of their different lifestyles and cultures. The German children commented on the length of the St. John's day, as they are used to going home at lunchtime. They very much enjoyed staying with their host families, whom we would like to thank again for their hospitality and kindness. We would also like to thank those families who hosted the Turkish children on Friday evening for tea. All of the visiting teachers confirmed that this had been a great success and that "Wales had set the bar extremely high" with regard to the visit as a whole. They congratulated everyone for their hard work and dedication to the Comenius project, making us all feel that it had been very worthwhile,

On Thursday evening, the concert was another success. From Pre-Prep to Seniors, our pupils entertained our enraptured guests with plays, songs, individually penned poems on our Comenius theme of Respect and many musical items, both vocal and instrumental. Our second showing of Who Wants to Be A Millionaire, in Denglish, with the incomparable, ever-enthusiastic Stefan "Bauer" as host, was welcomed by an appreciative audience and Year 8's other production, the X factor, was the cause of much merriment, with our very own "Sedward" (Sam Bevan and Edward Rees) taking the much-coveted "crown". Year 7 also excelled themselves with their lively "Stomp" version of the Comenius rap. Thank you to Mrs. Mead for the inspired interpretation. A big thank you also to Hugh Perkins, in Year 9 for his dedication, expertise and superb work as Senior Sound Engineer. Years 4 to 6 had everyone singing and clapping along to their catchy Respect songs, which all the other countries are keen to try out.

Well done to the three boys in the front row with their cheeky solos! And a huge thank you to all pupils who trod the boards and helped out. You should all feel extremely proud of what you achieved. All of our visitors commented on the professionalism of the production and on the many talents that our pupils in St. John's have to offer.

Father Jonathan gave a very warm, official welcome to all 20 guests and emphasised the benefits to pupils and staff of being involved in such a stimulating, multi-lateral project. He talked of the "rise in intellectual competence" that such a project encourages, as well as "improved European citizenship and greater awareness of one another's cultures, which will hopefully bring the wider benefits of improved tolerance and respect.... building on St. John's ethos of creating an environment where its pupils develop virtue, wisdom and humility". You can read his full address below.

After introducing the visiting staff to an "alternative" version of our Welsh culinary traditions (thank you for a lovely Indian meal, Le Raj!) Thursday drew to a highly successful close.

On Friday morning, we were fortunate enough to welcome Mrs. Madeleine Moon, M.P. for Bridgend, to our own "Welsh assembly"! Mrs. Moon welcomed all our guests to St. John's and Porthcawl and echoed Father Jonathan's sentiments about this opportunity to learn from one another's cultures, as well as celebrating our "uniqueness". As Mrs. Moon had only recently arrived back in Porthcawl from Afghanistan, we felt very privileged and grateful that she was able to pop in and lend further gravitas to an already successful few days.

The rest of Friday, for the staff, was spent in a Comenius conference, where plans were made for this term's project work. Last term, the focus was very much on "Respecting Myself", so this coming term, we will be developing ideas on the theme of "Respecting My Family". All ideas are very welcome and discussions will be held in the next Comenius Club. Visiting pupils continued to attend lessons on Friday and some were able to join in with our Games lessons. To round the afternoon off, Mr. Gwyn Petty took the teachers on a mini guided tour of Porthcawl and regaled them all with very interesting tales of Porthcawl harbour. It was much enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Mr. Petty for giving up his time and sharing his extensive knowledge of local history.

Friday evening was spent in the Salthouse, where, after a hectic two days, there was time to unwind and get to know our visiting teachers in a more relaxed atmosphere. After much cajoling, Mrs. Sarll was also persuaded to deliver the valedictory ditty she had scribbled down just before leaving the house. As the project's website is to be called www.twiiger.com (Turkey, Wales, Ireland, Iceland, Germany Encourage Respect), her poem is entitled "Ta Ta To All Twiigers! See below. Mrs. Sarll gave all visitors a copy of the poem over a farewell drink on the Saturday night – and can assure us that Iceland took the monetary joke in the light-hearted vein it was intended! Mrs. Sarll says: "I would personally like to thank everyone – staff and pupils- who helped with the organisation of this very memorable, one-off visit. I found it quite an emotional experience, seeing all those visitors in our small school for two days and feel that we have all benefitted enormously from their presence. We would like to thank them all for the beautiful gifts they brought and for their continued commitment to Comenius. Turkey, for example, travelled over 2,000 miles to be with us. Thank you to them and to all the partners for their dedication. I am excited about the coming two years and, despite many sleepless nights, midnight e-mails and tiny flags all over my house (I even found one in the cutlery drawer yesterday!), I am delighted that we have embarked on this enriching experience, which will open all our eyes to the wider world, the people who live in it and the need to show respect in all we do"



News from the Friends

Huge thanks to Mrs Alice el Kilany who has been working hard and tirelessly on arrangements for an exciting "Mums' School Trip" (Dads are welcome too of course!). The trip is to see a London show (probably Wicked, possibly Mamma Mia) planned for Friday 11 June and will be a day return by train. In order to take advantage of early booking discounts for the theatre and the train it is crucial that we know exact numbers for this trip as early as possible. Alice has 10 confirmed mums so far which is enough to qualify for a group discount at the theatre so the trip will definitely be going ahead. The expected total cost for theatre and train is in the region of £60 which is less than half the normal cost BUT this does assume that we can buy enough APEX train tickets at £24 return on Friday 10 May! The trip is open to everyone and the more the merrier! Please let the office or Alice know as soon as possible if you would like to come so that we can be sure of getting enough theatre tickets! This promises to be a great day and evening out!! (and would make a lovely Mother's Day present!)

Also don't forget "Mums Lunch" at the Great House on Friday 14th May, details nearer the time – so nice to see the mums having a few organised treats!

Catherine Perkins
Chairperson



Sports News and Results

Cross Country

The latest meeting was held at Porthcawl Comprehensive school and Mr. Gatt, Mr. Wilkes and Mrs. Jones were extremely pleased that so many of our runners participated. After 2 meetings we are now placed firmly in 3rd place in the district league, which is a great achievement.

In the Year 3/4 girls race Cerys Clark came 2nd with Sophie Rogers, Bethan Williams, Alice Rees, Chloe Atkinson and Simran Dhaliwal close behind her. In the Year 3/4 boys race Tom Pick, Charles Creffield, Matthew Greenwood, Lucas Hoven, Harrison Churchill, Jake Bromhead, Sebastian Cooke, Iskander El Kilany, George Ward-Thompson, Daniel Wigglesworth, Aditya Swaminathan, Jack Honeywell and Elliott Griffiths all ensured that their team came 3rd in their group. Amy Thomas won the Year 5/6 girls race and Alys Pritchard came 3rd with Amy Collins finishing closely behind them. This enabled their team to finish 1st in their group. In the Year 5/6 boys race Matthew Wigglesworth, Edward Rees, Daniel Cowdery and James Lewis all ran well to ensure that their team finished 3rd in their group. Next meeting 27th February at Ogmere Comprehensive
A fantastic run by all our runners—Well Done!!



Senior girls played netball against Kingsmonkton at home and won 17 - 5, girl of the match Megan Lewis—well done.

They also played against Llandovery and won 20 - 1! Girls of the match were Alicia and Martha—well done to everyone who played - an excellent result.

Prep netball Cathedral A versus Years 5 and 6 team lost 8 - 3 but played really well and our second team consisting of Years 3/4/5 lost to Cathedral Year 6 B team 5 - 1. Again all girls played very well.

We're looking forward to watching professional netball match in Welsh Institute of Sport on March 8th.

A reminder that the British Heart foundations 'skipathon' takes place on 26th February. Years 3-9 will be taking part and trying to raise as much money as possible—whilst at the same time getting fit.

Football

Under 15s v Ffynone House Away Drew 2-2 Goals were scored by Will Perkins and James Kearle. Man of the Match Will Perkins.

Under 15s v Llandaff C. S. Under 16s Home Lost 7-1 Goal James Kearle. Man of the Match Will Davies

Under 14s v Ffynone House Away won 3-0 Goals. D. Jones 2 Luke Griffiths Man of the Match Dylan Jones

Under 11s v Oakleigh House Away lost 5-0. Man of the Match James Lewis.

Under 10s v Oakleigh House Away Draw 2-2 Tom Pick (2) 'players' of the match Tom Pick and Amy Thomas.

Under 15s v Llandaff C. S. Under 16s Home Lost 7-1 Goal James Kearle. Man of the match Will Davies



Uniform

Please could all parents ensure that their children have the correct P.E./Games kit. Also for Senior pupils we now have a supply of black sleeveless jumpers available from the Uniform shop.

Don't forget that you can order uniform online at:

www.thefamous1886.com

Diary Dates: February/March 2010

| | | | |
|-----------|------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 22nd | 8.50am | Term Resumes |
| Tuesday | 23rd | | Yr4 visit Roman Museum, Caerleon |
| Wednesday | 24th | 2.00pm | Senior Netball v Ffynone House School HOME |
| | | 2.15pm | Yr6 'It's your choice' - PC Carpenter |
| Thursday | 25th | 2.30pm | U11 Football v The Cathedral School, Llandaff HOME |
| | | | Pre Prep Parents' Eveing |
| Friday | 26th | | U11 Rugby & Netball v Newton Primary School HOME |
| Monday | 1st | | Eisteddfod |
| Tuesday | 2nd | 9.30am | Yr9 Anti-bullying conference |
| | | 2.30pm | Eisteddfod Pre Prep Concert |
| | | 7.00pm | Eisteddfod Highlights Concert |
| Wednesday | 3rd | | GCSE Science Modules |
| | | | World Book Day Quiz at Porthcawl library |
| | | pm | Snr Netball v Christ College AWAY |
| Friday | 5th | 2.00pm | Prep Netball v Nottage Primary School |
| | | 3.15pm | Yr11 Safer Relationships—PC Carpenter |



St. John's School
Newton
Porthcawl
CF36 5NP

Phone: 01656 783404

Fax: 01656 783535

E-mail: office@stjohnsschool-porthcawl.com

www.stjohnsschool-porthcawl.com