

Woodlands Weekly

~ Keeping You In Touch With The School ~

19th October 2007

Assembly Theme for Next Week:
"Leadership"

Issue No. 649

Stars of Year 9

On Monday 15th October, 27 pupils from Year 9 enjoyed a fun afternoon at Basildon Bowl and Quasar. It was a treat for receiving 5 stars in the 5 Star Challenge set for us at the beginning of Year 8.

To obtain 5 stars we needed to have 30 days consecutive attendance, contribute something to our tutor group, go on an educational visit with the school and contribute something to the wider community.



Pupils worked really hard to achieve this and enjoyed their reward. Stars of the bowling were Michael Breen, Dale Gutsell, Danielle Hales and in first place Ashley Smyth.

The Quasar was split into boys then girls and the general opinion was the girls weren't as rough! The star play of Quasar has to be Mrs. Alden.



On behalf of everyone we would like to say thank you to Mrs. Alden, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Fillary for looking after us and giving us a great afternoon of fun and to Miss Sparrow for organising it.

Good luck to other year groups if you are set this challenge, it was worth all the effort.

Claire Essex 9JPe, Laurie Wakerly 9SMa, Nicole Fowler 9SMa

Trick or Treating?

DON'T GET EGG ON YOUR FACE THIS HALLOWEEN.

THROWING EGGS AND FLOUR AT HOUSES CAUSES CRIMINAL DAMAGE AND THROWING IT OR THREATENING TO THROW IT AT PEOPLE IS HARASSMENT, WE WILL BE WATCHING...



HEADLINES

by Andy White

HAPPY HOLIDAY

As we start our Half Term holiday could I congratulate pupils on their effort and achievement so far this year. It has been a hugely successful period of time with much to celebrate in particular in terms of teaching and learning. In particular I was so proud to be Head of the school when taking visitors around the school during Open Week. At the end of that week we had so many families commenting on how impressed they were with our pupils. Clearly the proof of that is that so far we have had over 500 applications for places next year – once again we will be massively oversubscribed. *I hope everyone enjoys the Half Term break and return refreshed and ready for the run up to Christmas. We return to school on Monday 29th October at the normal time of 8.45am.*

Woodlands School Pupil Voice

At Woodlands School we strive to allow all pupils their chance to voice their opinion and it is very important to us that all Students feel comfortable in their learning environment. We also have made many connections with the surrounding community to ensure that a variety of ages from young to old, can be a part of the great atmosphere at Woodlands School.

Written by Becky Fennelly and Ross D'Lima

Making a Difference

Once every half term we have a day that we call "drop-a-day." This is when large conferences with each year group take place. A wide variety of topics are discussed over the 6 conferences bringing many topics to the attention of the Year and School Council. After the conferences, the many ideas and suggestions are condensed and given to the Year Councils to discuss. This is when we try to reflect on certain topics that have been brought up. By doing this we can channel our ideas in a more effective way to put our earlier theories into reality. We have recently raised many important issues such as new carpets and water fountains to help improve the overall aesthetic appearance of the School. Another crucial topic that has been brought up on a regular basis is healthy eating. It is now clear to many pupils that these changes have been put into place to provide a wider variety of foods in the school canteen. One of the most effective changes that has taken place throughout the summer is the development of the Performing Arts Department. The newly built recording studios are sure to have a huge impact throughout the school in many years to come. It is by the combined efforts of Pupil Voice and the school that we can make these wonderful changes happen.



Involvement with the Community

Towards the end of the last summer term, Woodlands invited a group of elderly people to the school for a 3 course meal and entertainment. They were greatly catered for by the GCSE Food Technology students who were assessed on their performance by the visitors. Also many Music students took part in a variety performance. Some played instruments such as the piano and guitar, where as some pupils sang to entertain the guests. Everyone benefited from the day and took great pleasure in meeting new people and engaging in conversation with people of different ages.



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Wednesday 26 September 2007

This event was celebrated at Woodlands School throughout the week to encourage language learning and the awareness of the importance and diversity of all languages.

The Spanish film Pan's Labyrinth was shown to pupils in years 10 and 11.

Georgia House and Amy Wood: *It was a different experience – we don't normally watch foreign films. At first it was weird reading the subtitles but we soon got used to it.*

A Hello quiz was placed around the school for individual pupils to match how to say hello in 30 different languages!

Tutor groups were quizzed about Europe. Congratulations to 8 GSh 9 KPe 10JHa, and 11Nat who proved themselves to be the most able tutor group in each year group and were duly rewarded with some brain energy treats.

Christie Lee: *It was good to think about Europe – its history and geography and have a productive and educational tutor time.*

Language teachers taught their students about Europe and gave taster lessons in Spanish, Italian, Irish, Russian and Swedish.

I really liked the lesson; it was fun to learn something new! – Francesca Sott.

I think Russian was great because we learnt a new language! Brooke Nunn

The lesson was great as I learnt to write my name in Russian! – Kieron Gutsell

I love the food tasting – panetone is delicioso! Craig Hookings

French play *Murder at the Boudin Rouge* was performed by Year 8 to

160 Year 6 pupils from local junior schools. This play was written by Mr Morgan and translated by Miss Fordyce for the Year 7 pupils who undertook Performing Arts during Activity Week 2007.

The play, set in a Parisian café and using only French language, tried to discover *whodunit*, who killed Pierre Yves, a suave but untrustworthy chap? What was their motivation?

Year 6 pupils were immersed in the French café culture as soon as they entered the hall, with a fabulous effort from the Year 8 waiters from the leadership group serving croissant, pain au chocolat, crisps and drinks. The play which impressed the visitors greatly due to the incredible language skills on display was also performed to Year 7 students.

It was fantastic to take part in as I learnt loads of French and it was a great opportunity to act in a different language– Daniel Graves, Yr8

It was fun and educational. –



Chloe Lee Yr8

It was good to show Year 6 what I knew in a different language. - Ben Larke

The play was very exciting and I was desperate to know the murderer– Sam Francis Yr7

I enjoyed the play very much and would like to do it in Year 8– Thomas Mason Yr7



Unwanted books needed!

Do you have a PSP, loads of unused books, a TV, clothes suitable enough to live in, a free education, constant food in your house, clean running water, a house? We are sure that all of you would have said 'Yes' to the majority of all of these things. Well people in Africa would say exactly the opposite to what you just said. They don't have any of these things or they do, but in a poor condition. So don't you think you should do your bit?



A new Basildon charity has been set up by 'Make poverty history' to help people in Africa get the life they deserve. All they ask for are old, unwanted books from the ages of 3+. These books can be a variety of fiction, non-fiction, atlases and many more.

This charity has been set up to help improve the literacy skills of African people. By improving their literacy, more people will be able to achieve a better standard of living.

How can you help?

You can bring your books to W13 (Miss Mills' room) and they will then be picked up by the charity and transported to Africa.

Isn't it time for you to do your bit!?

Donate an unwanted book and give someone a better life.

by Jack Whiteford 9JLo and Lauren-Rose Major 9JLo

Library Halloween Competition



For a chance to win a Thornton's Halloween Goody bag enter our library competition. We have a spooky crossword for you to complete so be prepared for treats and avoid any nasty tricks.



Pick up your crossword from the library from Wednesday 17th October 2007. Closing date 9th November 2007.

The first correct entry out of the pumpkin will win the prize! Good Luck!

Mrs Knight

New Catering Point in West Block

After half term there will be a new food outlet point in the West Hall at lunchtime.

To start with they will be serving pasta from the Pasta King Bar, sandwiches, wraps, rolls and other 'grab & go' meals. There will also be a range of soft drinks.

Pupils entitled to a free school meal can use their ticket here up to a value of £1.68. Enjoy!

NUT ALLERGIES



Could parents and pupils please be aware that some of the new snacks sold in the canteen contain nuts. Pupils should check the information on the packets carefully if they have a known allergy.

Duty Pupils



To the following Year 8 pupils who have acted as Duty Pupils, thank you very much for all your hard work.

Josh Barker	Emily Pryor
Amy Cantwell	Dean Farmer
Sydney Englert	Louis Marsh
Stephen Cavalier	Louise Fensome
Chris Debotte	Tayla Finney
Stephanie Jones	Joshua Hounsome

Diary



Monday 29th October

Yr. 11 - EBEP Interviews start for 5 weeks

Wednesday 31st October

Yr. 11 - trip to Duxford
Yr. 7 - Extra Curricular Fayre



PARENTS' HOUR

Andy White is available to be seen by parents, without appointment, every morning 7.15am until 8.15am and Thursday evenings 5.15pm until 6.15pm.

Tel: 01268 282146 Fax: 01268 531655

E.mail: woodlands@btconnect.com



FIXTURES

Monday 29th October

Yr 10 Essex Cup Soccer v Gable Hall (h)

Tuesday 30th October

Yr. 7 Netball v Beauchamps (a)

Yr 9 Essex Cup Football v William Edwards School (h)

U16 Netball at Gloucester Park

Yr. 8 Basketball Tournament at Woodlands

Yr. 10 Basketball Tournament at Chalvedon

Wednesday 31st October

Yr. 7 Essex Cup Netball v Coopers (a)

Yr. 9 Basketball Tournament at Woodlands

Yr. 11 Basketball Tournament at Chalvedon

Thursday 1st November

Yr. 9 Essex Cup Rugby v Passmores (h)

Saturday 3rd November

Yr 7 Rugby v De la Salle School



Lunchtime Homework Club

As from Monday 29th October 2007 Homework Club will run from Tuesday to Friday lunchtime and **NOT** be held on Mondays.

This will take place in E44 and E46

TESCO SPORT
FOR SCHOOLS & CLUBS



Please hand in your vouchers to the girls' PE dept.