



AROUND THE PALACE



Students in Year 4, as part of their Geography unit on “Improving the Environment”, have been thinking of ways to reduce the amount of waste that is produced and has to be sent to landfill sites.

The girls were challenged to make something using waste materials and they created some wonderful pieces of work.

Pictured from left to right: Isra'a Malik, Rhea Scotland, Stephanie Haynes and Angelina Johnson - all in 4J.

Doctor in the house

Dr Jetha came to Old Palace Nursery last week to talk to the Pre-school children about healthy eating, washing hands and germs!

He brought with him a range of equipment and demonstrated how he used a stethoscope and a thermometer as well as explaining how he measured blood pressure. He was also able to explain about all different parts of the body.

Pre-school children asked a lot of questions and were very interested to learn how food passes through the body!

Juniors remember



To mark Remembrance Day, Juniors met for a reflective and moving assembly this week. Mrs Jill Lindsey shared her war time memories with the girls and Lucy Frost played *The Last Post* on the cornet.

Year 2 have been learning about life during World War 2 and visited the Remembrance Service in Croydon.

Welcome

It's been another stimulating week at Old Palace with the highlight being the Senior's production of the Snow Queen.

Well done to all the students and staff who have worked extremely hard to produce an outstanding show.

An Alumnae event in Covent Garden during the week also brought together many Old Girls - it was a delight to hear about their successful and flourishing careers.

Carol Jewell, Head

Remembrance

by Callisto Singh 8W



On 11 November 2011, 16 girls from Yrs 7-8 went to a Remembrance Day service in Katherine Street, Croydon.

We walked down from school and as we got there we saw some of the people who had fought in the World Wars arriving. We met up with some girls from Year 2 and we had to look after one or two each. As the clock struck 11 o'clock we stood in silence for a minute to commemorate those who died in the World Wars as well as other wars. When the one minute silence was over we went up with the younger girls as they placed some crosses onto the ground in remembrance.

Book Fair

Old Palace Juniors is hosting a Book Fair every night next week between 15.30-17.00. Reading at Old Palace is encouraged from the earliest age, and plays an integral part of the curriculum.

The findings of a recent survey, commissioned by Booktrust and publisher Pearson, show that for many parents (71%), reading with a child is the highlight of their day, and that parents spent an average of one hour and 26 minutes a week reading with their children in 2011, up from one hour 18 minutes in 2009.

Mystery debate

About 25 Year 11 students turned up in Durham at the beginning of their lunch hour to learn a surprise motion for their debate, which was 'This house would make organ donation compulsory'.

After a brief period of preparation, they launched vigorously into the debate, sensitively raising a number of issues surrounding this controversial subject. Particularly notable for her eloquence was Taiwo Alli (11O). Rachel Pallant (11W), Mary Sadid (11P) and Rachel Moore (11J) also made powerful contributions.

Music competition

The 5th annual Old Palace Music competition was held just before half term and during the previous two weeks, the music staff listened to about 120 students from Yrs 6-13 ranging from beginner pianists through to experienced flautists and singers performing music in a wide variety of styles from traditional Indian music to Mozart (and virtually the complete works of Adele!).

Those students who gave the most successful performances for each heat were put through to the final, adjudicated by the Organist and Master of the Choristers at Croydon Minster, Mr Andrew Cantrill.

Prizes were awarded to the winners from each of the different classes and to the students who were felt to have given the most successful performances: Beginner (Alice Talleux, 8P, Piano), Intermediate (Talisa Tossell, 11O, Voice) and Advanced (Emma Kerr, 11J, Piano) and Fiona Brown (12O), winner of the Advanced Wind and Brass class.

Diwali at the Nursery



Old Palace Nursery children celebrated Diwali in style before half term, with the staff and children dressing up to mark the occasion. It was a fantastic week of fun and festivities that included staff demonstrating Indian Garba dancing with sticks. The children learnt how to touch the sticks high and low as they went around in a circle to Indian music. They also made shakkarpara biscuits, made 'Toren' - a welcome sign using paper leaves and coloured in rangoli patterns.

Everybody enjoyed a tasty curry with naan bread and poppadums followed by an Indian vermicelli pudding. It all went towards the children's Knowledge and Understanding of the World, gaining awareness of cultures and beliefs.

Expanding Horizons by 6W and 6J

Last month we have been studying the Indus Valley and particularly the links that this ancient civilisation had with rivers and symbolism.

Also we have been learning about the Indus Valley 'seals' which were probably used to seal documents and mark boxes of goods for the traders (perhaps like our signatures) and they also researched the animals which were around at that time (about 4600 years ago) and how they were treated.

Some of us decided to make an animal statue and others made seals copying the pictures of those which archaeologists have found.



Munich language trip by Alice Talleux, 8P

On Sunday, 23 October, a group of nine girls from Year 8 to Year 13 left for a three day language trip to Munich. Our stay in Munich was a great time for bonding with other girls who we would not usually spend a lot of time with, but we all got on so well and had an amazing time.

On day one we had a brilliant guided tour through the city, exploring the architecture and sampling aspects of German life. We also visited a museum, which had something to interest everyone.

We had the opportunity to visit the Bavaria Film Studios. I really enjoyed this as we were told how to make people disappear and how a car was made to look as if it was moving, before other methods were discovered. We even got to see some of the sets that the actors used in various productions.



A trip to a typical German restaurant was definitely a massive treat - the food was delicious and we were able to sit back and watch some German entertainment while enjoying some more lovely local food.

Mr O'Neill and Ms Evans treated us to seeing 'Footloose' in the cinema. Even though it was in German, we still grasped the main storyline!

On our last day, we were able to go to the zoo. This was a great part of the trip because there was an amazing variety of animals.

It's in the stars

On Tuesday 18 October, the extracurricular GCSE astronomy class linked up with and successfully operated the Faulkes Telescope South in New South Wales Australia, where it was the middle of the night.

Pictured is a globular cluster of stars approximately 7 billion years old, situated in one of our neighbouring galaxies, the Small Magellanic Cloud.

Students who hope to gain their GCSE Astronomy in Year 10, attend this after-school club.



DT product success

Zoe Brown in Year 13 is currently liaising with Lakeland plastics with regard to a cake stand which she designed and made as her DT AS Level coursework during the summer.

Zoe first contacted Lakeland plastics about patenting her design due to potential commercial viability. She submitted design plans for her product and is currently making adjustments to suit Lakeland's own specifications and will then re-submit her design and plans this month. We all wish her the best of luck when she re-submits her work to Lakeland Plastics.



Cross country success

Old Palace performed well at the Croydon Primary School Cross Country Championships just before half term.

Faith Chen (pictured left) finished 3rd in the Yr 3-4 race.

Overall, the Yr 3-4 team finished second, and the Yr 5-6 team also finished as runners-up.

Over 25 primary schools from Croydon were involved!



Steel pans

Croydon High Street rocked and reverberated to the sound of Old Palace Pans on Thursday 17 November.

Lunchtime shoppers heard the Steel Pan groups from Years 11-12 in full flow as they performed as part of the Croydon Christmas Lights Switch On Celebrations.

An enthusiastic audience of shoppers clearly enjoyed their music as much as the girls enjoyed performing it!

Netball skills

Old Palace students were invited to Farringtons School for their PE lesson and experience a match.

All the girls really enjoyed it and learnt lots of netball skills and really enjoyed learning how to play the game.



Christmas Fair

The Old Palace School Community is organising a Christmas Fair on 3 December at Seniors, 10.00-12.00.

There will be a variety of stalls, activities and musical events with all the proceeds going to The Prince's Trust and Croydon Churches' Floating Shelter which offers food, companionship and a warm place to sleep to the homeless in Croydon.

Poetry reading

Old Palace is very fortunate to have among our Year 11 poets like Katie Fredriksson (11J), Katrina McKrirk and Danisha Daley (both 11P), who captivated a whole room when reading their own powerful work.

Aniqah Rao (11J) delighted the audience with The Cookie Thief, a poem with a cheeky twist at the end. Emma Millington (11W) read The First Time, a poem with a horrific final twist. There were poems which ranged from being angry, to beautifully descriptive, to slightly provocative, in a very enjoyable and well attended reading.

Music Taster Day

Solyana Dawit 5J



It was a wonderful experience; it really inspired me. Seeing the beautifully laid out instruments really excited me.

I enjoyed the cultural African drum and Steel Pans, as well as being part of an orchestra. I like the way that music leads in to technology, learning the interesting part of composing music to be able to compose your own. I was amazed that an orchestra can present a piece of music from five hours of practice. It was wonderful to see the senior girls' enthusiasm. I would like to say a great big thank you to Mr Hemmings for letting us taste the sweetness of music.

Solyana Dawit 5J

Forthcoming events

Mon 21-Fri 25 - 15.30-17.00

Book Fair, Juniors

Mon 21 - 17:30

Polyphonic Evensong, Croydon Minster

Tues 22 - 10.45-16.00

Year 12 to Biology Lectures, London University

Tues 22 - 18.00-19.00

Yrs 7-8 e-safety workshop, Banqueting Hall

Wed 23 - All day

Year 13 Economics and Business Studies students to Economics Competition, London

Wed 23 - 16.00-16.45

Lady Gaga: Freak or Genius Lecture, Chapel

Wed 23 - 16:30-18:30

Year 11 consultation meeting, Dining Room

Thurs 24 - All day

Year 3 trip to Polka Theatre, Wimbledon

Thurs 24 - 15:45-17:00

DoE Training (Green Expedition), Shah E

Thurs 24 - 16:00-19:00

Dance Workshop, Banqueting Hall

Thurs 24 - 18:00-20:00

Senior Recital, Chapel

Thurs 24 - 19:00-21:00

Years 7-13 Swimming v Croydon Schools, (Trinity)

Friday 11 - 16:00-17:00

Stafford House Social Event (Palace Group), Whitby

**For a complete look at the week ahead please visit
www.oldpalaceofjohnwhitgift.org/parent-calendar**