



AROUND THE PALACE



Helping hands

Reception J visited the School Office this week as part of their work about 'People who help us'.

They learnt about the work our School Secretaries do and Mrs Jordan and Mrs Rayner showed the girls the equipment they use to help them do their different jobs. Evannah Sarpong even sat in Mrs Rayner's chair ready to answer the telephone.



Welcome

We have reached the end of a busy and fulfilling half-term. All staff, students and parents are deserving of my thanks for the effort and commitment demonstrated throughout each day at Old Palace.

We have seen the children at Nursery through to the older students in Sixth Form, represent the School with pride throughout the diverse weekly activities offered to each individual.

May I wish you a well-earned rest, and I look forward to seeing you all again after the break.

Carol Jewell

Carol Jewell, Head

Rocket science



Year 13 Physicists braved the cold to test and assess thermodynamic and Newtonian principles.

Students applied higher order practical and thinking skills to determine the optimum fluid load of a water rocket.

This particular experiment allowed the students to test what they have learned, during Sixth Form.

Junior swimming success

Last week, a team of 18 Juniors represented Old Palace at the Croydon Schools Primary Preliminary Championships.

For many of the team it was their first taste of competition but all of them managed to swim magnificently. They all looked extremely smart in their 'teabag' t-shirts (perforated for warmth and easy drying) and the Old Palace team spirit was evident for all to see.

Old Palace achieved a fantastic joint 1st place overall. Well done to all the girls who

participated in the competition. Below is a list of the students who represented Old Palace:

Year 6: Cara Benjamin, Meera Patel, Renée Austin, Urwah Mirza, Katharine Hollinshed and Safiyyah Choudry.

Year 5: Franky Light, Lorelei Drew, Emily Brunt, Jessie-Eve Okasili, Karis Walker-Stuart and Thakera Gaandan.

Years 3 and 4: Abigail Simms, Alexandra Roy, Aashni Shah, Hayley Uffindell-Esparan, Eugenie Bailey and Angelina Johnson.

Musical meeting



Last week Year 13 student Francesca Higgins was fortunate enough to meet world famous composer and conductor, Eric Whitacre, after a concert at Cadogan Hall.

Eric Whitacre is one of the most popular composers alive today and his choral music is widely performed around the world. As well as composing music for choirs such as The King's Singers, The National Youth Choir and The London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, he co-wrote the Mermaid Theme with film composer Hans Zimmer for the soundtrack of Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides. His Virtual Choir projects, which make use of YouTube and allow people from around the world to form large virtual choirs, have attracted thousands of participants, the most recent project featuring participants from 73 different countries.

Francesca, a keen choral singer and a member of Senior Choir and Head Chorister of Polyphonic (as well as being a Choral Scholar at Croydon Minster) is a huge fan of Eric Whitacre. "It was so amazing to meet him and see him conduct. I love his music and it was so inspirational to see him performing it."

Francesca and the other members of Polyphonic will be singing Whitacre's stunning Five Hebrew Love Songs with one the UK's leading string quartets, and Old Palace quartet-in-residence, the Maggini Quartet, during the school's annual Musicfest week (5-9 March).

Debating

Annie Forbes (12O) and Amanda Green (12W) represented Old Palace at the United Nations Association Debate this week and proposed that social networking sites remain unregulated.

They argued powerfully for the right to freedom of speech, and were commended by the judges for the clarity of their presentation.

Surrey Schools problem solving challenge

by Grace Sinden Year 11 and Dara Rasasingam Year 13



For the 2012 Problem Solving Competition 1st heat, we had to design and build a model Olympic High Jump for launching a Tetley's teabag over a bar, to be operated on the surface of a table top.

The only equipment we were given were some A4 paper, A4 corriflute board, six straws and two paper-clips, so it was quite a challenge. We had to use the energy from one elastic

band to fire a teabag over the high jump post.

Our Year 11 team soon rose to the task and built a magnificent structure whilst our 6th Form team, although finding the task difficult had fun attempting to create a mechanism that worked.

We waited nervously for the result, and even though we did not win, we enjoyed working as a team.



Careers convention

This week students from Years 9-13 attended a Careers convention that provided them an opportunity to understand, in more detail, the options available to them in the working world.

The convention was split into three working areas: Creative, People and Legal; Public Service, Finance and Engineering; Science and Health, and was well attended with students armed with questions for the delegates.

There were also a series of talks by delegates who each provided more detailed information about their profession.



Fun in the snow

On Monday morning all the Nursery children played together in the snow - having lots of fun building snowmen, sledging and throwing snow balls.

Transition children worked together to make a large snowman, and later they had snow in their water tray to make smaller snowmen using pebbles and twigs to make them come to life!



Olympic memories

This week, students in Years 4 and 5 who have been attending early morning fitness training had a glimpse into Olympic history.

Mike Fleet, a former UK athlete, who has been working with the students on their athletic skills, bought in some Olympic artefacts from the local Olympian Dorothy Odam-Tyler.

Dorothy was just 16 years old when she competed in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. She won Silver in the High Jump. She

also went on to compete in the 1948, 1952 and 1956 Olympics. The artefacts included photographs, bus passes, picture and certificates.

