

Newsline

Spring 2010



Dear Parents and Friends of Saint Martin's

As another term draws to a close this Spring newsletter contains some of the events from this term and you will find more on the website www.saintmartins-school.com on the Profile page, under News.

On Sunday we held the official opening of the astroturf and some of Olton Ladies 1st XI Hockey Team gave up their valuable time to coach over 60 girls from Year 4 upwards. With only two weeks to go before the team fly to Berlin to represent England in the European Club Championships, the girls were able to benefit from this unique opportunity with the local experts.



Lucilla Wright cutting the ribbon to open the Astroturf on Sunday 21 March

Lucilla Wright officiated cutting a ribbon to declare the pitch formally open. Solihull born and bred, Lucilla has been a key member of the Olton Ladies 1st XI since the tender age of 15 and has been an inspiration to many younger players. She is one of England's most experienced internationals having played in two Olympic games, in Beijing and Sydney, three World Cups, three Commonwealth Games and four European Championships. As a midfielder, she has over 200 caps for England and Great Britain, scoring more than 50 goals in so doing. It was a real honour having such fantastic support for the Official Opening Ceremony and the gloriously sunny weather matched the occasion.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you a very good Easter break.

With kind regards

Jane Carwithen
Headmistress

Drama



Girls staged a phenomenal production of "Beauty and the Beast" over 3 nights at the School. The story was a Royal Shakespeare Company adaptation of the famous tale, and included two robots and a dysfunctional family to add to the humour and chaos. Once again the girls and staff have had the pleasure of working with Guest Director Kirsteen Wray. Pupils from Years 7 up to Sixth Form were involved in the production.

The stage set was minimal, with the clever use of props to set each scene. The cast spent several weekends rehearsing and their hard work and commitment paid off as the audience were treated to an amazing performance each night.

In Drama Club, around 30 girls from Year 11 and Sixth Form are working on a production of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" to be performed next term.

Alice House

Vet Visit to Nursery

During the recent topic on Animals Leigh, a veterinary nurse, visited the Nursery. She brought her boxer dog called Molly with her.

Leigh explained how a vet looks after small animals such as rabbits, cats and dogs in the surgery, and also has to go out to visit larger animals such as cows and horses.

The girls all had a chance to stroke Molly who was a very quiet and gentle dog. Leigh showed us how to use a stethoscope and the girls all had a turn at listening to Molly's heartbeat.



Other News stories on the website from Alice House this term include :
Snow!, Hair for Haiti, Year 1 visit to St John's Museum

Junior School

Year 2 and Year 5 Rainbow Day

Girls from Year 2 became Juniors for the day and enjoyed a very exciting time with their Year 5 'buddies' on Rainbow Day. After a shared assembly, the girls joined together in the Junior school for an action packed day.

Activities included an interesting treasure hunt around the Senior School, finding out just a little about what the Senior girls get up to and spotting treasure along the way. Symmetry provided a selection of activities in a shared Maths session and in English the girls worked in pairs to create imaginative and beautiful poems on the theme of "Imagine a world where.....". The collaboration between the two year groups inspired some extravagant and very moving ideas on their imagined worlds. The Sixth Form provided a fantastic feast in their common room at break time. The younger girls very impressed by the Sixth Form building and the fact that the older girls did not have to wear uniform!



A special gym lesson with Mrs Burgess was a great hit with the girls from Year 2 who are now very excited about the opportunities they will have when they are in Junior School. Another high point of the day was the craft session when all the girls co-operated in making finger puppets.

Staff were very impressed by the way both year groups worked together and the Year 5 teachers were proud of the care their girls gave to their young 'buddies'.

Please see the website for other Junior School News, includes:
Fire brigade visit to Year 5, Netball Skills Competition, Junior School Football Team, Year 6 Readathon Challenge, Carpe Diem Workshop, Year 4 Lunt Fort Visit

Senior School



Imperial War Museum Visit February 2010

Girls from Year 9 took part in a visit to the Imperial War Museum in London. They were completely absorbed by the excellent Holocaust Exhibition in the morning. The girls followed the story of the persecution of the Jewish population across Europe in the 1930's and 1940's. The exhibition vividly conveyed the journey to the extermination camps through challenging and thought provoking displays along with audio and visual testimonies given by survivors from the period. Year 9 were clearly fascinated and moved by the experience and behaved impeccably.

In the afternoon the girls visited the Children's war exhibition, which was a more light-hearted exploration of the impact of the Second World War on Britain's youth. Girls enjoyed finding out about evacuees, rationing, Anderson shelters and homes and schools in the 1940's. It was a very enjoyable day out. Staff were very impressed by how well Year 9 responded to the experience.

See the website for more Senior School Spring Term News including:
Physics Quiz, Arabian Nights, Helping Haiti, Tate Modern Visit, LAMDA Examinations

Sixth Form

In February the Lower Sixth got a taste of university life as they attended masterclasses in a range of subjects at Aston University. They took part in seminars or attended lectures and joined students from a range of other schools in giving presentations and taking part in discussions.

They have also all had an individual interview with an ISCO adviser as they begin to formulate their thoughts about future university applications.

We were very proud to have a group of girls attend Warwick University's Model UN conference in March. They worked with university students and took on roles within various countries as they grappled with the problems of global warming.

Special thanks should go to Toni Bannister who has been instrumental in organising this opportunity.

Saint Martin's is the only school to have been invited to take part in this event thus far although there are plans afoot to extend the event to other schools in the future.



Some Upper Sixth attend Warwick University's Model UN Conference

Charity

Girls in Alice House and Junior School raised money for Haiti by holding a "Hair for Haiti" fundraising day. Mrs Woods said "After an assembly on the tragedy in Haiti, and in particular the plight of the injured and orphaned children, the girls were very keen to do something to raise money."



They decided upon the idea to come into school with outrageous hairstyles for the day. Linking up with Aesthetics in Dovehouse Parade, two stylists helped some of the girls create their hairstyles and came up with fantastic results.

In the Senior School girls also raised funds for Haiti - girls and staff donated money in return for the chance to wear their favourite hat for the day. There were some wonderful sights, with caps, knitted berets and even wedding hats being worn! The money raised on the day was sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee Haiti Earthquake Appeal, along with funds raised by Alice House and Junior School donated £711.

One Year 11 girl, Tasnia Zaman, raised £150 towards this total - Tasnia designs and makes "grafitti" tags at home and decided to sell her unique name tags to fellow pupils. She was overwhelmed with orders, selling 96 tags in total. Tasnia admitted the tags take her a long time to make, but felt the end result was well worth the effort to help those people in need.

Sport



The **Year 6 Netball team** enjoyed an emphatic win in the **Borough High Five Netball Tournament** at Lode Heath School. With only 2 goals scored against them throughout the 7 match tournament the team won outright. Well done girls!

Twenty five girls from Years 9, 10 and 11 ventured to **Holland** on their first ever **hockey tour**. They played against Athena Club and the experience was tremendous, the standard of hockey being very high. With the weather leading to further matches being cancelled the girls spent their time visiting landmarks such as Anne Frank's house, the Amsterdam dungeons and the famous canals. They also swam in Duinrell, bowled in Scheveningen and ice skated in Den Haag. It was an excellent tour enjoyed by everyone.

Girls and staff were proud to attend the **Solihull Schools Sports Federation Roll of Honour Presentation Evening**. Awards were presented by the Mayor of Solihull, Norman Davies. **Brooke Jones** and **Anna Trenchard** received an award to recognise their selection for the West Midlands Hockey team. **Michelle Turner** received her award for representing England at Basketball. The Under 15 Cross Country team of **Megan Blake, Amy Bullard, Amy Moone, Alex Newbery** and **Charlotte Ray** were selected as Team of the Year for their achievements in the ESSA Cross Country Cup.

The **Senior School swimming gala** was a huge success with all swimmers doing their best and gaining points for their House. The overall winners were **Helmets with 353 points**, followed by Swords 330 points, Shields 273 points and Cloaks 271 points.

Congratulations to **Evie Topping** who broke a school record on the day by swimming the 25 metre breaststroke in 18.15 seconds, beating the previous record of 18.93 seconds held since 2001.

More Sports news and photos can be found on the website.