

THORNGROVE NEWSLETTER

12th March 2010

It was super to see so many parents at the **Future Schools Event** last night in the New Hall. There were eighteen senior schools at the event and all the parents there seemed to find it useful and enlightening (it was also rather congenial). The beauty of this type of event is, by having so many schools under one roof, you gain an immediate impression and if necessary a comparison. I would like to urge all of you (in Forms 5 and up) to come and have a chat with me about your child's future school. After last night, you might have a shortlist of schools you would like my opinion on or you might want to visit a few schools before you 'pick my brains'. The most important thing is choosing a senior school which will allow your child to flourish and ultimately be successful. All the schools at the event last night were supportive of prep school education to 13+ (leaving us after Form 9). It's lovely that children are given the opportunity to rise to the top of their prep school with all those responsibilities and privileges and leave at 13 well-rounded and quietly confident young people well equipped to take on the rigours of their senior school. Incidentally most of the girls' schools attending last night have the same number of girls admitted at 13+ as they do at 11+.

Last week Tamzin Howard was awarded an Art Scholarship to Dauntsey's. I congratulate her on this super achievement. This brings the official tally of scholarships to 11 overall. That means that nearly 50% of the top year group achieved a scholarship to their senior schools. This is an amazing feat and I'm so proud of all their efforts.

Eleanor, William, Nick and Fred travelled to Bradfield College on Thursday for a delicious tea and of course the Demosthenes Public Speaking Competition. We have won this competition for the past two years in a row, so the stakes were high. They performed brilliantly and did themselves proud. We unfortunately didn't retain the trophy but had an entertaining afternoon.

Next week is a busy one with the Music Festival on Monday and the Art Competition on Thursday. Please come along and support the children on both occasions. I apologise in advance for my absence on Thursday as I will be accompanying the 1st XV on their rugby tour. Mrs Lynas will, I'm sure, say a few words on the night.

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This year Thorngrove School is embarking on an exciting project to boost the involvement of its pupils in creating a sustainable environment. The Government (in their wisdom) wants every school to be a sustainable school by 2020 and we are aiming for that goal. In the summer term we are beginning our very first project; a vegetable garden. We also have a great many other plans which we aim to develop over the coming months and years including a sensory garden, recycling projects and possibly in the future, caring for chickens! However, Mrs Worrall needs your help. Do you have any gardening tools that are lying idle and need a good home? Could you donate a packet of seeds? A seedling or perhaps even a grow bag? If you have any resources at home which you feel would benefit the beginning of this project please can you speak with her or send them into school. The gardening club will begin on the second week of term and will run from 3.45-4.45pm on a Tuesday and also from 12.45-1.15pm on a Thursday. All pupils are welcome. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to take learning outside the classroom and to engage them in the rewards that gardening can bring. I hope that you will be able to support Mrs Worrall and the children in any way possible.

PC Dan Lines was invited by Mrs Worrall to talk to all the Middle School in their assembly on Thursday. He talked to them about 'staying safe' and 'doing the right thing'. It's true what they say about policemen looking younger and younger. All the children responded to his talk positively and had some very sensible questions. Of course his car proved very popular!



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Finally my wife, Claire, would like to invite all the mums in Form 3 to coffee at our house on the last day of term-Friday 26th March at 2.30pm.

I wish you all a sunny weekend.

Best wishes,

Adam King
(Headmaster)

Boys' Results

U12 Boys Football
County Cup Quarter Final
v. Claire's Court
Won 3-1 (Bolkiah 3)

U9 Hockey
v. Elstree
A team Lost 4-5
B team Lost 0-6

U8/9 Tag Rugby
A team
Elstree Lost 4-7 Woodhead 2, Clarke & Bennet
Crosfields Drew 5-5 Woodhead 2, Clarke 2 & Exelby

B team
Elstree Won 7-4 Klewicki 3, M DuSart Murray 3 & Phillip
Crosfields Won 4-2 Klewicki 2, Talbot-Williams & Boulton

U11A VII Hockey v. Crosfields Lost 1-2 Patrick-Smith

U11B VII Hockey v. Crosfields Lost 1-3 Mitchell

U11C VII Hockey v. Crosfields Lost 1-3 Steelsmith

U11D VII Hockey v. Crosfields Lost 0-1

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Girls' Results

U8A netball v Cheam L 3-0

U8B netball v Cheam L 5-0

U10B netball v St Francis W 8-1

U11 netball v St Francis L 13-8

U12 girls took part in the SW Berks netball tournament

Pool Results

v Downe House A D 2-2

v St Gabriel's D 2-2

v Downe House B W 2-0

v The Downs W 4-0

v Park House W 3-0

v St Bart's W 2-0

Semi-final v Downe House A won on Golden goal Final v St Gabriel's lost 2-3

All the girls played brilliantly beating some big schools in the pool matches . They were unlucky to lose narrowly in the final.