

THORNGROVE NEWSLETTER

25th February 2010

Rather bizarrely the school had an Antipodean feel to it earlier this week. A cockatiel was seen flitting from tree to tree in the grounds. Mrs Molyneux, whilst on duty outside the boot room, was first to spot it. Within minutes children were eagerly looking into the branches of every tree hoping to spot more exotic birds. It turned out that the cockatiel, called Sparky, had escaped from its cage and was seeking refuge in the school grounds. Mr Roberts and Mr Barrett with the help of Sparky's owners tried to catch it with a large net and several ladders. He was last seen flying high over the school buildings hopefully towards sunnier climes.

I was unable to send a newsletter out over half-term because we have just had the **server updated**. It is hoped that the update will speed up the system, allow for more users and prevent it from crashing. As a result, this newsletter will have a few pieces of older news.

Before half-term we took part in the **Chandlings' Cross-Country Event** and performed exceptionally well. Jordan Hole, in Form 7, won the U11 race and Thorngrove won the boys' overall trophy. This was against some formidable opposition including Pinewood, Crosfields, Cheam, Chandlings, Cokethorpe, Moulford and Magdalen College.

Sadly, **Phyllis Gibbs**, Connie Broughton's mother, died just before half-term. For many children she was the old lady who sat at her dining room window (now my office window) smiling and watching them play at break time. I'm sure that you will join me in sending the Broughton family our thoughts and prayers.

Our **scholars** have done exceptionally well so far and I am very proud with all their efforts. The following children in Form 9 have been awarded scholarships or exhibitions to their senior schools:

Eleanor Adams	Music Scholarship	Bedales
Cara Adams	Music Scholarship	Pangbourne
Michaela Adams	Music Scholarship	Pangbourne
Gareth Bown	Music Exhibition	Pangbourne
Natalie Jones	Music Scholarship	Bradfield

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Harry Tanner	Drama Award	Lord Wandsworth College
Yasmin Shaikh	Academic Scholarship	St. Gabriel's
Jack Willis	Music Scholarship	Bradfield/Monkton/Clayesmore
Elliot Wood	Music Exhibition	Radley

Several other children are in the throes of academic scholarship exams and I look forward to informing you of future successes.

I am also pleased to announce that I have awarded Millie Marbus an internal Music Scholarship for her overall contribution, dedication and ability in music.

As I'm sure you realise, the first round of the **poetry and public speaking competition** has begun in earnest. Many forms will be doing it in their lessons. The final round will be judged by Kevin Carson, the Head of English at Abingdon on Thursday 4th March at 7pm. The parents of most finalists will be told by 1st March and **ALL** children in Form 6 will be performing on the night. Of course all parents are welcome to attend. It is shaping up to be a very entertaining night.

The **Art Exhibition** is also on its way. Mrs Skingley would like me to remind you that all entries must be delivered to form teachers by 12th March. The entry forms are available from the school office. Vincent Stokes from Marlborough College, Soraya French an Artist and Chris Mills from Bryanston will be judging the competition which will be held in the New Hall on Thursday 18th March at 7pm.

Eleanor Adams raised a rather splendid £278 for the Little Princess Trust charity. A really super personal effort.

A reminder from Mrs Boulton that there is a **second-hand uniform sale** in The Old Hall on 4th March between 3.00-4.30pm. The new summer dress for the middle and upper school girls has had a delay in manufacturing so it's important that the girls have skirts for the start of the summer term until the new dress is available. Mrs Boulton would also like some more skirts to sell at the second-hand sale.

Breakfast club numbers have dropped off dramatically midweek so Sally will now be tweaking the menu. On Monday to Thursday the breakfast

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will be continental in style and on Friday there will be an impressive fry up, offering the 'Full Monty' which I'm sure will attract most dads!

The Future Schools Event is fast approaching. So far over 70 parents have indicated that they will be attending the evening. Please hand in the slip to Mrs McQuillen or tell her if you would like to come. The caterers will need to get a clear idea of numbers.

Rather interestingly Mr Mudie pointed out to me that Thorngrove ranks 3rd out of 75 independent schools in Berkshire on the Independent Schools website (www.independentschools.com).

On that pleasing note, I wish you a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Adam King (Headmaster)

Fixture Changes for Week 9

The following are new fixtures:

U12 Football v. Hugh Farringdon – County Cup 2nd Rd – Monday 1st March – 4pm @ St.Barts (Enborne Road)

U12 Football v. Park House – West Berks League – Tuesday 2nd March – 3.45pm

Girls' Results

U8 netball v St Francis w 8-3

U9 netball v St Francis w 6-1

U11 league netball v Inkpen W 15-0

U10 hockey v Crosfields w 4-0 - J.Feather 2 S.Sawyer 1 K Parkin - 1

U13 hockey v St Gabriels w 2-1- Lara F 1 Catriona S 1

Boys' Results

The U11 rugby team played in the St. Francis 7s tournament and won all 4 games in their pool games only to be beaten by the hosts in the semi-final. They came 4th overall.

U13 7s A team v St. Francis won 51-21

U13 7s B team v St. Francis won 28-24