

St Margaret's School Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Issue 68 14th June 2010

I hope that you and your children were able to enjoy some of the wonderful Whitsun weather at half-term. Everyone appeared well-rested on Monday morning and for Key Stage 3 exams during the week.

The lead-up to half-term saw our Upper Sixth enjoying their traditional good-luck send-off. Not just a bouncy castle, also some jousting and (later) sack races along the newly painted tracks (intended for the Pre-Prep) on the front lawn. The last morning in school is always rather moving, for all of us. Several students have been at St Margaret's since they were five. You may already know that they call themselves the 'Old Originals'! Favourite hymns from younger days could be heard wafting up from the lawn . . .

This Friday, our Lower Sixth returned after Study Leave, ready to take up their posts of leadership and responsibility. In their absence Year 10 Form Reps and Games Captains have stepped up to the mark. Led by Hannah Longworth, they made a leaving presentation to Miss Tucker in Friday's Assembly. We were all very sad to bid farewell to Miss Tucker, whose smiling, poised presence at Reception has been such a support and help to so many pupils and parents. We send her every good wish for the future, in Brighton, and we hope she will let us know of her singing successes!

Another sad farewell took place just before half-term, as Mr Richard Purkis, Bursar for nearly nine years, was toasted by staff, both present and former governors, and Mrs Peggy Crossman, on behalf of the PSA. Like Miss Tucker, nothing was ever too much trouble for Mr Purkis and many are the pupils and parents he assisted after hours, when transport difficulties home arose. I owe him a great debt of gratitude for all his help and support in my first two years here. He helped to transform several areas of this site – the Arthouse, the Sixth Form Centre, Westall House (and its relandscaped garden) has welcomed the Pre-Prep and the Prep has moved to Baring Lodge. It has been an immense amount of work which Mr Purkis shouldered willingly and to the great benefit of so many students. After a connection with St. Margaret's lasting 16 years (so far), we all wish the Purkis family every happiness in the future!

Mrs Forbes is always busy preparing students for careers and future education; this week particularly so. First of all she organised another superb Enterprise Day for Year 10, then she accompanied the Lower Sixth on their pre-taste of Higher Education down at Plymouth. They were, as ever, a credit to the school. There were several appreciative comments about the students' great interest and courteous behaviour. Some of their own comments about the day can be found later in the newsletter. Many thanks to Mrs Forbes for her energies on both days!

The week ended with the Pre-Prep's summer musical: this year, 'Eddie the Penguin Saves the World'. It was enormously enjoyable and a real feat of learning for such young children. Many congratulations to Mrs Allen, Mrs Maby and the team of staff! The eco-message was echoed by a Prep Assembly: I suspect food-miles may have been mentioned in several kitchens at the weekend.

The Prep Swimming Gala saw some hotly-contested races last Tuesday. Then, energies recharged, Year 6 departed for their trip to London. Everything went to plan and everyone enjoyed themselves, with some more personal triumphs! My very grateful thanks to the tireless Mrs McClune, Miss Roberts and, of course, Mrs Maxwell. We are all so fortunate in pupils who are such a credit to their school and, in particular, in such dedicated staff.

With best wishes
Sheila Cooper
Headmistress



'enjoying excellence'



Jane Iffla

A requiem mass was held on Friday 28th May 2010 to celebrate the life of Jane Iffla, who died recently. Jane was closely connected to St Margaret's as she served as a governor, representing the Prep and as a Fellow of the Woodward Corporation.

The parish church of St James was packed to overflowing as Jane had held so many prominent roles within the city and its surroundings. Amongst her many achievements was her position as Headmistress of Redhills School. Jane's sister gave a most moving address, in which we learnt the full extent of Jane's many talents. She was a great support and inspiration to many and will be sorely missed.

A new look to Sports Day, 16th June

Sports Day is approaching faster than Usain Bolt! This year we are, in the current spirit of coalitions, giving an opportunity for Senior and Prep school to share a part of the experience jointly.

The Prep will travel up to the Arena in the morning and will exert loads of energy on their track events. At the same time, some Senior field events will take place.

At lunchtime, the rest of the Senior school will have arrived and parents will be able to bring a picnic hamper, to eat in the sun (fingers crossed) to sustain them through the exertions of watching the athletes.

The Prep will receive their medals, to the applause of the rest of the school. Before leaving, the Prep will be able to watch some senior events. If they wish, Prep children may remain with their parents to watch remaining Senior school sports. Otherwise, the Prep will return to school, leaving the rest of the pupils to their activities. School will finish at normal time.

It is hoped that these arrangements will increase the spectacle of Sports Day whilst still allowing both Senior and Prep schools to retain their own special feel.

Mr Lee Bergin

Prep School Swimming Gala



Last Tuesday the Prep Department's Swimming Gala took place at St Luke's swimming pool. An excited group of pupils set off to the pool in eager anticipation of what was to follow. With a warm up completed, 25 keenly contested races ensued showing off a variety of strokes and skills. It was pleasing to see such wonderful sportsmanship with much cheering for all the participants in each race regardless of their finishing position. Some races had very close finishes and some

pupils displayed excellent technique to win outright. The races showed how much the pupils progress over the years from width races for the Year 3 pupils to an individual medley race for Years 5 and 6. At the end, the medals were awarded and Taylor Williams was presented with her Gold Challenge certificate which she completed a few weeks ago. This is the highest award you can achieve in swimming which is a credit to Taylor's

hard work and determination. Everyone who took part in the Gala participated to the best of their ability and even if they did not come first, they knew they had gained valuable points for their House. The overall winners were Bronte with a massive 91 points!

Open Morning and Fete

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who have already offered help to the PSA on Saturday. Its not too late to send in your reply and if you have mislaid our original letter, we are asking for help on the morning or by providing tray bake items for our refreshment stall. Cakes can be brought into school on Friday or taken straight to the stall on Saturday morning.

The House hampers are coming along but we do need some additional items please. Each House hamper has been given a theme as follows: Nightingale's is Health and Beauty; Pankhurst's is Home and Garden; Bronte's Summer; and Curie's Games and Puzzles. Raffle tickets will be on sale shortly with the draw taking place on Saturday. The House with the most successful hamper will receive a prize.

We hope to meet as many parents as possible on Saturday. Do come and have a cup of tea and find out what the PSA has planned for the new term.

Peggy Crossman,
PSA Chair

Family Wimbledon at Open Morning

It must be Wimbledon! Family doubles teams can take part in our Family Wimbledon. Dads, Mums daughters and sons can compete for the "Wimbledon" title and shiny new trophy. Playing in a knock out tournament.

So pick up a racket, Tennis Shoes and convince another family member to do the same ready for Saturday!

Entries can be made in advance to Miss Eastmond.

The Year 6 London Trip

On Thursday, 10th June Year 6 went to London. First, Year 6 and the teachers met at the train station at 9:30am. It took us two and a half hours to get to London. When we got there, we travelled to the hotel and dropped our bags off. After that we had our lunch outside the butterfly shop at the Natural History Museum. We then made our way to the Science Museum which was awesome. In the museum, Erin put a glove on her hand and the woman who was doing the show set some fabric on fire. Next, we went to Pizza Hut and had some amazing pizza. Tara ate lots of pizza! Then we walked to the Lyceum Theatre which was showing The Lion King. It was brilliant! When it finished, we got a taxi back to the hotel, Ruth got to sit on a seat in the taxi which a famous footballer (Didier Drogba) had sat in! On Friday, we went to the Tate Gallery of Modern Art where we did some sketching. After that we went to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, there we saw people rehearsing for Macbeth. We also did a drama workshop. When we had finished that, we went to the Imperial War Museum where we went through the trenches and did an activity booklet about a 1940's house. After that, we went to the Hard Rock Café which served delicious food. On the final day, we got the tube to the train station where we promptly got on our train at the right time. It took us 2 hours to get back home where we all had amazing stories to tell our families.

By Tara Searle and Freya Cartwright



Eddie the Penguin Saves the World!

Last Friday, the Pre-Prep and Nursery classes performed 'Eddie the Penguin Save the World'. The play was all about how Eddie and the Penguins saved the icebergs which were melting because the planet was getting too hot. It told everyone how to save energy.

I was Eddie. It was a bit scary at the beginning because I was on my own on the iceberg, but once the others came on, I felt much better, especially after we had sung the first song – Drip Drop. My favourite bit was when Eddie and the penguins travelled to America to meet DJ Donnie. I loved singing in the rock band. It was great fun on the stage and I think we all did really well.

Eleanor Greatorex



Richard Purkis

On Friday, the staff, governors and friends of St Margaret's had a special celebration on the front lawn to say a fond farewell to Mr Richard Purkis, our Bursar for the past eight years. Mrs McClune and Mrs Maxwell created a wonderful setting and served drinks along with delicious brownies, succulent strawberries and vanilla ice cream while we sat at tables and on blankets dotted over the grass. A presentation of a gift from the staff and Governors was made by Mrs Cooper to Mr Purkis and Mr Ian Marfell gave his thanks on behalf of the Governors. It was a fantastic afternoon in the (almost) sunshine. Mr Purkis will be sorely missed but we couldn't have said our goodbyes in a lovelier way.

Rhiannon Tucker

Although when you read this, I will have left, I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the parents and friends of St Margaret's for all the support you have given me during my time here. It has been a pleasure meeting and getting to know you all and I wish you and your sons and daughters all the best of luck for the future.

Much love,
Miss Tucker (School Secretary and Receptionist)

Calendar

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| Mon-14 | | Y12 return to lessons |
| | 13:45 - 15:45 | House Tennis Tournament - Yrs 9 & 10 |
| Tue-15 | 16:00 - 17:00 | U12 + U13 Rounders vs QECC (H) |
| Wed-16 | | Sports Day |
| Thu-17 | 14:30 - 17:00 | U14 + U15 Rounders vs QECC (A) |
| | 16:00 - 17:30 | KS3 Exam Review Meeting |
| Fri-18 | | Woodard Glastonbury Pilgrimage - Yrs 6 & 7 |
| Sat-19 | 09:30 - 12:30 | Open Morning |
| 19/06/10 - 20/06/10 | | D of E Bronze Practice Expedition |