



STABLE MANNERS

On Tuesday 13th December the Middle School children produced a spectacular performance of 'Stable Manners' to parents. There were some wonderful dance routines and

super costumes and make-up. The audience were left wanting more and joined in clapping rapturously in time to the finale song - 'Celebrate this Christmas'.



WHOOOPS-A-DAISY ANGEL

On Wednesday 14th December, the children of the Lower School performed their Nativity Play, 'Whoops - a- Daisy Angel' to their parents and friends. The play tells the story of a very clumsy and untidy Angel who is never given any interesting jobs. However, in the end, she is given the

most important job of all. She has to tell everyone about the baby Jesus. The role of Whoops a Daisy was played beautifully by six year old Siobhan Stears. The children all sang and spoke magnificently. The audience heard every word and were captivated by the solo singing of Siobhan and her classmate, Lizzie James.

WESTBROOK HAY IS AN EXCELLENT SCHOOL - FACT

It seems like an age ago that the Inspectors came to call, but this is the first Hay Wired since then. The Independent Schools Inspectorate, who have responsibility for visiting independent schools give a week's notice of their intention to arrive and ask for relevant paperwork to be sent to them immediately. This produces a frisson of excitement for those responsible for the raft of paperwork, although thankfully, these days the rain forests are safer given the use of email and electronic media. The importance of the inspection cannot be overstated. This is peer-review, from experienced professionals, most of whom have been or are current school leaders. Their findings stay with us for the next six years, so that three day visit can have a dramatic effect on our school. These are some of the headline comments that the inspectors made:

"Pupils' achievement is excellent and they are very well educated in accordance with the school's aim for pupils to realise their intellectual, social and physical potential.

The pupils' overall achievement is excellent, well supported by a broad and very well planned curriculum and good teaching.

The personal development of pupils is excellent; pupils' spiritual development is strong, they develop self confidence and self esteem through their life in the school.

The school offers excellent pastoral care, fully supported by policies and procedures and the pupils feel cared for and safe.

The school provides an excellent curriculum which covers all the requisite areas of learning and which creates independent learners, well prepared for their senior schools.

The effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage is outstanding."

One could be forgiven for thinking the school had written these comments, but they come from the ISI report. Was there a sense of relief? Of course, but also an understanding that our parents would expect nothing less than the splendid summation of Westbrook Hay this time round.

Visit www.isi.net/schools/7232
to read the full report

During a visit from St Albans Museum, Year 2 enjoyed exploring and playing with toys from Victorian times. The children had to think about the similarities and the differences between the toys of long ago and their own toys in terms of the materials that they are made of and how they

TOYS FROM THE PAST

work. They also discovered the contrast between the lives of rich and poor Victorian children and their own lives. Teddy, Finnlee, Seren and Jasmine had the opportunity to dress up in typical clothes of the time.



WAR MEMORIAL ART AND ENGLISH TRIP

At the start of the term, during one of their English lessons, both Year 7 and 8 went to visit local war memorials. The trip drew together links with their English studied literature 'War Horse' and a subsequent unit on 'War Poetry and Song'. As part of their Art and Design curriculum this term, the children were invited to enter into a competition to 'Design a War Memorial'. The competition, championed by Mike Penning, M.P. for Hemel Hempstead, jointly with The Mayor of Dacorum, the Royal British Legion and the Hemel Hempstead Gazette will see the building of a new war memorial to commemorate Dacorum residents who have lost their lives in post-World War II conflicts. The competition (now closed) was open to anyone, including children, and as designs needed only be submitted in sketch/concept form (as the winning design shall be passed on to a professional design architect), we felt it would be an excellent cross-curricular project for our older pupils to be involved in. Pictured left are Year 8 at the Boxmoor Memorial.



House Music 2011

On the 14th October we held the 'House Music Competition 2011' which was extremely competitive as we had sixteen children surviving the first round to perform in the Finale. Our chorister, Alexander Hall was by far the most outstanding act of the night singing 'The Lord Bless You', but there were also

many other excellent quality performances. Lara Mills really worked us up to a 'Fever Pitch' with Adele's 'Rolling in the Deep'. We also had some amazing instrumentalists including Caroline Kelly's grade 5 Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue', played on her sonorous saxophone. Rebecca Wagstaff's rendition of

'Who Will Buy' brought tears to our eyes, (particularly Mr Wagstaff's, our Director of Music!) With a choreographed, Santa-capped 'Last Christmas' (by George Michael), Marlborough children wowed the judge and took the cup for the House Music Song 2011.



DANCE DISPLAY

The 2011 dance display was a triumph featuring 170 children, more than any previous show. The show began with the ballet school performing the Nutcracker, featuring Mrs Henderson as Mother Ginger with the Year 1 children; Mrs Henderson's huge hooped skirt was very entertaining. We had two solo bal-

let performers, Alex Caine dancing the "Sugar Plum Fairy" and Jonah Levy dancing to "The March" – both were of a tremendous standard. It was good to see so many boys enjoying ballet and perform so beautifully on the stage. The second half of the Dance Display was based around music from the 50s. The

children threw themselves into the rehearsals and delivered a wonderful entertaining performance on the day. The Jackson Warriors from Year 4 have been rehearsing for many months, and finally got to show their talent on the stage. The finale, Rock Around the Clock, got everyone in the mood to dance!

WET AND WINDY WALES

A week before departing to Wales we had the warmest weekend on record. A week later it was somewhat different. Low cloud, driving rain and 60 mile an hour winds; welcome to the Welsh trip! Based in Barmouth, our intrepid researchers studied the flow of rivers, completed a beach study, looked at the importance of National Parks, followed the path of a glacier and studied different forms of power stations. Much of this was done in poor weather conditions but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of an excellent group. Everyone had a great time and a big thank you to Mr Hill for organizing it.



JUNIOR TEAMWORK CHALLENGE

On 20th September an intrepid and rather excited group of Year 6 boys and girls nipped down the M4 to Pangbourne College for its Junior Teamwork Challenge. Five schools took part in what turned out to be a fun day of something a bit different. As the fifty under 11s all sat looking at each other across tables in the Pangbourne dining hall, guessing who would break the ice first, a former Regimental Sergeant Major (gulp) stepped forward as organiser of the day and set about getting everyone into teams. The ice broken, fifty pairs of feet dashed off to five corners of the school, following their lower sixth form leaders (who were excellent throughout with the boys and girls), to begin a round robin of nerve, brain and muscle-testing tasks, including the high ropes course, a 'murky swamp' the 'Tower of Hanoi'. They all learned a little about themselves, about teamwork, making new friends and that not all learning has to be done sat at a desk; sometimes it can be done thirty feet up, hanging from a rope.

The first weekend back at school proved to be an exciting one as our Upper School girls embarked on a new adventure for Westbrook Hay into the 'wilderness' on a three day residential survival camp. This 'girls-only' course was great fun and a fantastic first step towards the development of prefect and leadership skills, demanding resourcefulness, decision-making and practical thinking from the girls. A series of interactive workshops, games and activities, all of which were designed to educate and entertain, kept the girls busy and engaged. Not only did the trip help our Upper School girls to form strong bonds, it also explored many aspects of the curriculum, including Personal, Social, Health and Emotional Education, Speaking and Listening, Geography, Science, Physical Education and Design and Technology. Based at Cornbury Park, near the Cotswold town of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, we camped in an isolated and beautiful part of the largest privately owned ancient forest in the country. The 'tribes' quickly recognised the importance of teamwork in order to achieve the best results, with each 'tribe' working together to successfully complete a number of challenges, from orienteering their way through the forest and competing in our bush craft tournament, to building an effective shelter and cooking their own meals over open fires. Each evening the girls (plus an enthusiastic Mrs Thomson and Mrs Brown!) played organised games in the ridings, enjoyed delicious suppers around the fire, and



YEAR 5 AND 6 GIRLS 'THINK OUTSIDE'

engaged in night time wildlife, survival and camouflage exercises. By the end of the course, the girls all claimed to have gained a far better understanding of the natural British landscape, themselves and each other... They also all survived their night under the stars AND the trials of the 'Thunderbox Latrine', which I will leave them to embellish! The Year 5 and 6 boys also participated in a short-course 'taster' survival night the subsequent weekend.



Westbrook Hay hosted the Inter-schools' Water Challenge with 47 pupils from local primary schools including Two Waters, Potten End, Victoria and Kings Langley Schools, looking at conservation and the role of scientists at Veolia Water. Ted Casey and Chris Sharp from Veolia's Education Department showed primary school pupils how Veolia purify our drinking water. Mixed teams of pupils carried out experiments to purify dirty water in the laboratory. Pupils learned about water conservation, how to make a garden waterer and finally 'what goes down your toilet'. The final event of the week was Mrs Wood's fantastic Family Science Challenge where parents and children worked together on the different tasks and experiments giving the children an opportunity to do some of the experiments they conduct in class.

SCIENCE WEEK

Westbrook Hay Prep School hosted a wonderful week of science for all the pupils aged between 3 and 13 years. "Science Week has enabled all the children to see how science is fun and also touches our everyday lives in so many ways," commented Teresa Harris, Head of Science. On Monday the Year 8 children visited Beaufort Court, the RES (Recyclable Energy Sources) headquarters in the old 'Ovaltine egg farm' in Kings Langley. On Tuesday, working as STEM ambassadors (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), Paula Batchelor and Andy Peel engineers from RES and Inbuilt helped pupils look at how they could design a carbon neutral building! "This is fantastic" said Ewan Phillips, a Year 8 pupil, "the ideas we are working on now could be used for a new school Performing Arts studio. We are helping to make a difference to the amount of energy the School will use in the future." Fun was had by all on 'Pets day' when Siouxsie Gillett of Ameyzoo visited the school and showed off their wild and wonderful exotic creatures including a 20ft baby python. On Friday,



In early September Year 5 enjoyed their annual visit to the museum as part of their studies on the Victorian era. Pupils were able to compare the basic way of farming then to today's large scale industry. We also visited a couple of cot-

CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM

tages and saw how small these were, especially when students realized that a large family were expected to live in such cramped and simple conditions. Perhaps the biggest impact came when pupils saw the outside 'privy' and metal bath!



On Friday 30th September, Lower School presented their harvest assembly to their Mums and Dads. The assembly began with an enthusiastic rendition of 'The Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' by Robins and Swallows. This was followed by Reception singing two songs. The second of these 'Big, Red Combine Harvester' was a very popular choice and enjoyed by all. The Assembly finished with the Year 1 children telling the story of an apple, from seed to fruit. They then sang a new song about all the different kinds of apples and the ways they can be eaten. The hall looked great with a magnificent display of fruits, vegetables, bread, flowers and other gifts, all kindly donated by children's parents from throughout the school. It was a lovely occasion.

LOWER SCHOOL HARVEST ASSEMBLY



MATHS CHALLENGE

Four intrepid mathematicians took on others from 29 local schools from North London in the annual Mathematics Challenge. A mixture of mental arithmetic, countdown and problem solving resulted in the challenge being an 'all action' two hours. The pairing of Vasanth Balla and Niamh Stears ended in a very creditable 7th place with William Upson and George Stockbridge finishing in the top half. Congratulations to the children and thanks to Mr. Agboke for taking them to the event.



All the girls have enjoyed their netball this term and, with every girl playing in a team, it has been pleasing to see that each age group has managed at least one win. It has been especially rewarding to see how the U8 girls' netball has gone from strength to strength. They have supported the

U9 girls in matches and with being introduced to the 7-aside game early on has brought on their skills. A wonderful end to their season came with a win for the U9/U8A & B teams in their matches against Swanbourne House. We will look forward to more of the same next term with a mixture of netball and hockey fixtures.

NETBALL



The U10 girls had a very successful netball tournament, winning all their four matches in their group to reach the semi final. They played Stormont who were the runners up in the other group and this was a very close game with neither side conceding any goals. As there had to be a result, extra time was played but again both teams were keeping it tight in defence and no goals were scored. Unfortunately, this game then went to a 'Golden Goal' and Stormont scored to go through to the final. Kingshott (who



were the runners up in our group and who we had beaten 2-0) were the other finalists who then went on to win the tournament beating Stormont 2-1. The girls played exceptionally well throughout the morning. Georgia Hurley was nominated as player of the tournament and all girls received certificates at the presentation ceremony. U10 netball team – Lara Mills, Lauren Bennett, Ellie Thomas, Paige Atkinson, Georgia Hurley, Molly Custance, Alice Ripper and Georgina Taylor.



1st X1 FOOTBALL



As a team, the 1st XI has enjoyed a very good term. Two victories over Lockers Park (home and away) are obvious highlights but the success away at Aldwickbury at the start of term also stands out – even more so now as they beat Edge Grove who were the best team around. Individually, Ben Yeo has showed his value in goal. Saves away at Kingshott and home v Beechwood were some of the best I have ever seen on the circuit. The captain, Ewan Phillips, has led the team well. His work-rate and tackling have broken down many an opposition attack. Two Year 7s, Jamie Turner and Oreofe Akinseye, formed a great central defensive partnership that we look forward to see blossoming next year and Alex Taylor has been the linchpin in midfield. Seun Koya has been the outstanding player. His balance, poise and manipulation of the ball have been something to behold, while his performance away at Lockers and free-kick at home to Beechwood were outstanding! His link-up play with Ed Khan has created many an opening and Ed's movement and pace have been pivotal in our offensive play. All the boys can be very proud of the part they played this season and with most of the side here next year, we can look forward to another strong term!

COLTS A

The Colts A team had a very impressive term. After a very comfortable win on the opening day against Lockers Park the boys continued to improve and develop into an exciting team, playing entertaining football and becoming a difficult team to beat. David Burnell was not only a brilliant shot stopper but also organised his defence well where Harvey Graham and James Holden both worked tirelessly forming an excellent partnership. The captain and midfield engine, Alex Wilkinson, led the team magnificently and also scored some impressive goals. Billie Busari and Josh Yeo caused the opposing teams many problems from the wings, with both players creating and scoring a number of important goals. Joe Rabey worked extremely hard for the team, holding up the ball and creating chances for others whilst scoring some excellent goals himself. After our only defeat, the boys picked themselves up, worked hard and finished off the term very well!



FOOTBALL

COLTS B

Colts B have been a fantastic team to coach this season. They have played some beautiful football and worked well as a team, digging in and supporting each other when the result was going against us. There have been several commendable individual performances, but what I will take away from my first season is how they shone as a team. By the end we had won 4, drawn 2 and lost 2. A fair reflection of our season. I look forward to coaching again next year.





TOP DRAMA AWARD YEAR 6 GIRLS



Congratulations to Charlie Bugar and Hannah Gunn, both in Year 6, for gaining Distinctions in Grade 2 Solo Acting LAMDA examinations. Both girls took these exams in London in November as they are trying for scholarships in Drama to their next schools in January 2012. Charlie and Hannah worked extremely hard to achieve the top mark; not easy, especially as they were in unfamiliar surroundings in front of an examiner they had never met. I am extremely pleased with both girls who showed wonderful commitment and have achieved the highest accolade.

Nicky Woodward, LAMDA.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre was a truly splendid event at Westbrook Hay, enjoyed by all, and one very happy child remarked *"It was the best day of my life!"* - praise indeed! There were a few small changes: we held it a week nearer to Christmas and the start time was the same for all year groups. At 2.30pm the Fayre opened and the Christmas spirit was high! The parents and staff manning the stalls were met with so many eager, smiling faces who were definitely spoilt for choice! The Lower School building was used for the first time, and held a present making room and a Christmas market. While the children were making their surprise presents for friends and family, mums and dads could choose some special gifts from the several invited stalls that formed the market in the Atrium. The Assembly Hall was transformed again and here parents could catch up over a glass of mulled wine or buy one of the spectacular Headmaster's Hampers - these just get better every year! A huge thank you to all who donated items to fill the hampers, and also for all the wonderful cakes baked for the famous Westbrook Hay cake stall. There were also stalls running games for the children and others with gift items on offer. The ever popular Mystery Gifts were sold out by 4pm. Thank you again to all who donated items for this stall. The self portrait tea towels were also huge success, very nearly selling out during the afternoon. The Middle School building was full of games and treats for



the children, with over 100 children visiting Father Christmas in his grotto - this kept his elves very busy indeed. Many children had their faces or nails painted whilst they patiently waited for their turn to see Santa. Year 7 and 8 sold all of the Christmas decorations and gifts they had made this term and the charity stalls were well attended. This year a room was designated for upper school children, kitted out with the latest Wii games to play. More traditional games could be found in the Sports Hall which had three differ-

ent activities - putting, slalom run and target throw with prizes on offer to the winners, given out in Assembly. It was a very successful event, raising just over £3,000, but the happy smiling children and parents on the day were priceless. The Association Committee alone could not stage such an event without the staff and parents of Westbrook Hay, who were truly magnificent on the day.

Dinah Ripper, Westbrook Hay Association



CAR STICKER COMPETITION

Thank you for your entries to the car sticker competition this year. We have had some very interesting photos...and not just involving cars! Top prize goes to William and Alex Jones 5ST and 2S for their persuasive skills. They managed to persuade the pilot of their Virgin Atlantic plane to display the sticker in the cockpit!

I want to thank you and all the children again for their generosity in giving so many toys, games and books for the 'Save the Children' Christmas Fair last Saturday. We raised a magnificent £1,039.02 of which £310.00 came from the toys given by Westbrook Hay children. They were beautiful and of a high quality. In the end we had 4 car loads to sell and enough for next year's sale which is brilliant. Thanks to the money raised 'Save the Children' is able to help millions of children worldwide with healthcare, food, education and the protection they need. To give you a few examples of how the money will be spent:-

£29 buys 40 chickens which not only enriches a family's diet but also helps the family to sell eggs and so earn much needed money.

£21 will pay for a child's place in a brand new class room.

£12 buys a set of text books for a child for a whole year. If they can't afford to buy them then the child cannot go to school.

£21 will pay for 5 mosquito nets. 40% of the world's population are at risk from malaria caused by mosquito bites and most at risk are children.

£270 will pay for a year's teacher training. In many countries there is a great shortage of teachers.

Great teachers, as you all know, are the first step to a brighter future! So thank you again WESTBROOK HAY for your kindness and generosity.

Save The Children



PUPILS GIVE TOYS FOR CHARITY

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY..

We enjoyed a wonderful Teddy Bears' Picnic this year, hosted for our Robins and Swallows families. The event was more popular than ever with many visitors not currently with children at Westbrook Hay attending.



Mr. Marvel started the event with his very entertaining magic show – enjoyed by the adults as much as the children! We just about managed to avoid the showers to complete the bear hunt around the grounds. Chef provided a scrumptious tea for the children complete with teddy crisps and the event concluded with a Mr. Marvel disco. Many thanks to all of the Lower School staff for hosting such a wonderful 'nursery' event.

Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to:

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