



Fortiter et Suaviter

# BRIGIDINE Matters

*It has certainly been a very busy year at Brigidine and pupils and staff have all worked extremely hard. The summer holidays have now commenced and I wish you all a happy and relaxing time and look forward to seeing pupils return on 6<sup>th</sup> September.* Mrs Elizabeth Robinson, Headmistress

## Diary Dates:

- /// A-Level results will be published 19<sup>th</sup> August
- /// GCSE results will be published 24<sup>th</sup> August

Please note that the finish time for all pupils at the end of the next academic year will be 12:00 noon on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011



## Magical Science Day

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June a gathering of witches, fairies and magical beings congregated at Brigidine from Years 5 and 6 and local schools. *"It made it even more fun to have people from other schools over,"* said Oilly Anderson & Heba Belkacem.

Guided by black-robed 'Brigwarts' staff and older spellbound students with ripped tights, big hair and gory make-up, the girls learned about fun science and created enchanting treasures in the laboratories.

*"The whole day was fascinating – I learned a lot. My favourite part was making 'silly putty'; it was really cool and even more so when I made it."* Izzy Anderson

*"Magical Science Day was Witch-tastic! I really enjoyed decorating my 'grass head' and I called it 'Potato'!"* Shaunagh McSweeney

*"On Magical Science Day we made 'floating boats' to carry weights - from tin foil, paper and sellotape. It was great fun and we would love to do it again sometime."*

Kirsty Baguley & Ellie Clark

*"My favourite part was presenting the 'flying mice' to the parents with Aleksee."*

Romina Reina

The Scientists devised the celebration day and their formula produced a memorable concoction of exciting Biology, Chemistry and Physics. A show presented the girls' experiments, a fabulous video of the day, a broomstick 'Witch Dance' and a vibrant 'Could it be Magic?' musical finale.

Our Year 5 and 6 classes have fed back that we had made the magic happen.....

*"I really enjoyed my day; I will love to do it again. It was the best day ever."* Jasmin Freer

*"It was one of the best days of my life."*

Vika Munn

*"It was a truly inspirational day packed with fun. We met new friends and learnt how to do things that we didn't know how to do before."*

Hafsah Hussain

Mrs Susie Clark

Science Laboratory Technician



## Year 11 and Sixth Form to Bray Lake

It was the 25<sup>th</sup> of June and excitement set in as we all arrived at Bray Lake Watersports Club.

As people arrived apprehension crept in as to whether both Year 11 and Year 12 would get on.

As the day passed we took part in numerous activities such as raft building, kayaking and canoeing. The main highlight had to be canoeing, due to a certain two people who managed

to seemingly crash into every boat that passed, leaving them in a bush. The once mutual feeling of apprehension turned into bursts of laughter as we all splashed about.

Thank you to Mrs Lilley for organising this team building outing, Mrs Slater & Mrs Williams for assisting Mrs Lilley and a special thank you to Mr Thompson for Fine Dining us with his delicious BBQ.

Jessica Beagle, LVI

## Year 6 versus Parents Rounders Match

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm was the time set for the annual Year 6 versus Parents rounders match. The girls were busy discussing tactics whilst the parents desperately tried to learn the rules and the 'dos and don'ts' of the game! Both sides fought hard, ran hard and the game became very competitive. There was a certain amount of 'foul play' involving a member of the Junior School staff, but her identity has to be kept under wraps to prevent

repercussions! It was a great game, with many rounders being scored, some fantastic fielding and some equally dreadful fielding. Everyone enjoyed the challenge and much to the girls' delight, they won 9 rounders to 7½.

Thank you yet again to all the Year 6 parents who played and supported their daughters. Tea on the terrace was gratefully received by all once the game was over.

Mrs Thalia Milton

Assistant Head – Head of Juniors



## Year 9 Field Trip to Braywick Nature Centre

On Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010, the Science department took the whole of Year 9 to the nearby Braywick Nature Centre for a series of environmental activities in Biology. The Nature Centre is situated in an old stable block, originally part of the estate belonging to Braywick Lodge.

The visit was very successful and the students gained useful experience of ecological techniques which will help with their forthcoming GCSE studies in Years 10 and 11.

Park Ranger Jason made the students aware of the interaction and competition between plant and animal species in this natural environment. The practical work involved pond dipping, bug catching in a woodland and grass area and a sampling exercise. The students were quite amazed by the diversity of wildlife they found in the different habitats.

**Mrs Annegret Finlay, Science Teacher**



## Junior Sports Day



Mrs Gittins has spent the last few weeks preparing all the Juniors for their events on Sports Day, which took place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

Nursery and Reception stole all our hearts as they ran their hardest up and down the field. Their determination and enjoyment of the events was clear to see! Parents cheered and made themselves comfortable under the gazebos as the sun shone down, rather too hot at times. All the girls and boys took part in events with the relays bringing a great climax to the afternoon for the children. The final result proved **to be a win for Catherine's House** – well done to all of them!

The parents were then invited to take part in the 'House Tug of War'. The rivalry was unprecedented and the heaving and pulling was a sight to see!

**Catherine's were the eventual winners.**

Thank you to Mrs Gittins for all her hard work and organisation, the Sixth Formers for their assistance and the parents for all their encouragement throughout the afternoon.

**Mrs Thalia Milton**  
Assistant Head – Head of Juniors

## Senior Sports Day

All the Senior School and Years 5 & 6 pupils assembled at Thames Valley Athletics Centre on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July for the Athletics meeting of the Year! All the girls had been training hard in the weeks leading up to this and all the sports field events had already taken place at school.

Once the gun sounded for the first race it was clear that we were in for a fantastic afternoon of track athletics. In all events the standard of competition was high and the girls really pushed themselves to run faster or overtake a competitor.

From hurdles to the relay the excitement and fun grew. It was wonderful to see the girls competing so confidently in front of their peers and for the school to support all competitors so enthusiastically.

The Years 5 & 6 students proved what great talents they possess by joining the Senior School. This was a great opportunity for the Juniors to experience what they will be fully involved with in the future.

The staff rose to the occasion by meeting the challenge from the 6<sup>th</sup> Form in the 4x100m relay. Both were able to field 2 teams. This time the staff were victorious after a blistering leg from Mr Payne!

At the end of the afternoon the results were as follows:



1 <sup>st</sup> place	<b>Catherine's</b>	391
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	<b>Brigid's</b>	371
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	<b>Joseph's</b>	353
4 <sup>th</sup> place	<b>George's</b>	257



Mrs Gittins and Ms Dear were delighted at the standard of performance from the girls on the day. This was a great way to finish what has been a very successful year for sport at Brigidine School. Roll on next year!

## Charity News

### You scream, I scream, we all scream for ice-cream.....

Last week the Lower Sixth have been selling ice lollies to pupils and staff each lunch and break time to raise money for the Alexander Devine **Children's Cancer Trust**.

After thinking long and hard about what we would do for a charity event during PSHE lessons we came up with the idea of ice lollies and, as the weather was looking up, it was the perfect product.

This selling event was very successful and raised £181.74 for Alexander Devine.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to our charity event by buying ice lollies.

Davpreet Kudhall, LVI

### Junior School Party

The majority of the Junior School together with some Year 7 and 8 pupils gathered in the hall on Friday evening, 2<sup>nd</sup> July for a party in aid of the Alexander Devine Children's Cancer Trust.

Booparties, an entertainment company from London, provided three entertainers for the event, free of charge, and the girls and boys had a great time. There were circus activities to try, games involving 'catch a duck' and a disco. Food and drinks were provided and the evening ended with the 'grand draw'.



Just over £500 was raised for the charity and I would like to thank all the staff who stayed on to assist with the party and the parents for their constant support of our Junior events!

Mrs Thalia Milton  
Assistant Head –  
Head of Juniors

## Brigidine sweeps the board.....

Brigidine swept the board in the Creative Writing section of the Slough Festival this year, with Shaunagh McSweeney winning the Junior trophy and Libby Oke retaining the Intermediate trophy for the second year.



I went to get my award for Creative Writing from the Slough Town Hall and I was really nervous! I realised that all I had to do was get up, get my award and have a photograph taken with the Mayor. The lady called my name, picking up a gleaming trophy. After an encouraging nod from my teacher, Mrs Perrett, I walked up and got my

The school also took the two shields for the Junior and Senior sections respectively. All trophies are pictured below, held by pupils and staff involved.

Mrs Deirdre Mallinson, Head of English

award. Some people took photographs and then I sat down, happily holding my trophy. At the end of the awards the Mayor asked if there could be a group photograph. He told me to stand in front of him as I was the smallest. I was so nervous! It was really brilliant!!

Shaunagh McSweeney, Year 6

## Windsor Mid-Summer Fayre

A large group of girls, parents and staff manned a school stall and performed at the Windsor Mid-summer Fayre on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Mrs Whittaker conducted the girls in renditions of Beatles melodies and a dance to accompany 'Thriller'. The girls performed throughout the afternoon and were supported by their parents who seemed to spend much of the afternoon enjoying Pimms and ice creams! Staff manned the Brigidine stall and the girls handed out leaflets.

Many members of the public commented on the girls' performances and the day was a great success.

Many thanks must go to the staff, parents and

girls for their support and particularly to Mrs Bates and Mrs Whittaker who were responsible for much of the organisation and also to Mrs O'Hara for the loan of her gazebo, without which we would have all frizzled in the heat!

Mrs Thalia Milton  
Assistant Head – Head of Juniors



## Sixth Form Community Service

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of June the Lower Sixth took part in voluntary work at a nearby school for children with disabilities, Holyport Manor.

Many of us were anxious to start with, and there were a few tears, but Mrs Lilley stood by us as we all entered the school. Little did we know that we'd have a very enjoyable day.

We were paired off in groups of 2 & 3 and assisted the teachers in Nursery to Year 6. The day passed quickly,

and many laughs were shared by both the children and the Lower Sixth. We played Hide & Seek and Tag with the children, watched them take part in a visit from an ambulance and put bandages on.

As the day drew to a close, we were all grateful for this experience and felt very satisfied about helping in this school. Hopefully we will be able to visit Holyport Manor again to assist them further.

Jessica Beagle, LVI

## Library News

Ms Penny King, Librarian

This academic year has once again seen some wonderful new books published including the second volume in **Sophie McKenzie's series, *The Medusa Touch***. Her books remain extremely popular, particularly with our Year 8 pupils. Another favourite author, Anthony Horowitz, published his latest instalment of the adventures of Alex Rider, entitled ***Crocodile Tears***. The author Neil Gaiman goes from strength to strength with his novel ***The Graveyard Boy*** scooping three prizes over the past 18 months; The Booktrust Teenage Prize and the (US) Newbery Medal in 2009 and, more recently, **CILIP's Carnegie Medal** just last month. Although some might find the topic of his book a little creepy, a boy being brought up in a graveyard by a group of ghosts, I would thoroughly recommend it.

This year has also seen some captivating authors and storytellers. John Harris, a renowned storyteller, delighted pupils with tales from his 350 repertoire. The day was certainly a lively event; a big hit with both pupils and staff, so much so that we will have him for a return visit in 2012. We were also lucky enough to have the American author Kimberly Green visit the school. Ms Green has had a varied

career including interviewing survivors from the Holocaust. She had our History students engrossed with real life stories.

The **Waterstones Big Book Bank** has proved to be a huge success this half-term with over 30 books being reviewed by pupils from Years 3 to 6. The girls have certainly earned their free book vouchers.

As the summer holidays stretch out **before us, don't forget the Summer Reading Challenge**. Just register with your public library from 10<sup>th</sup> July. The challenge is open to children up to the age of 12 years.

And finally... **Children's Book Week** will be running from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The theme this year is ***Books Around the World***, books that help you discover new and interesting places. In preparation, pupils in Years 1 & 2 and Years 3 to 6 will have the chance to enter a drawing competition about their favourite book character. Full details will be handed out in class and all entries will need to be returned to the Librarian by 20<sup>th</sup> September at the latest.

A big thank you to all the staff, pupils and parents for your continued support to the library and all its activities. Happy Reading!

## Junior School Prize Giving

This took place in the Main Hall on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July with all members of the Junior School from Pre-Nursery to Year 6 receiving a certificate celebrating their success throughout the past year.

Prizes were also presented to the pupils in Key Stage 2 for Attainment, Progress, Effort and Brigidine Ethos. Finally cups and trophies were presented to pupils for their achievements across the curriculum.

**The Years 3 to 6 pupils performed 'Thriller' and were suitably dressed and 'made-up' for the occasion.**



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr and Mrs Wyld for attending the prize Giving and to Mrs Wyld for presenting the prizes. It was lovely to have so many proud parents with us, also celebrating their **children's achievements**.

Mrs Thalia Milton  
Assistant Head—Head of Juniors

## Term Dates:

### Autumn Term 2010

LVI & New Sr Pupils in School: Friday 3 September (9.30-12.00)

Term begins: Monday 6 September

Open Morning: Saturday 9 October (all school attends)

Half-Term: Thursday 21 to Friday 29 October

Term Ends: Tuesday 14 December (3.30pm)

Parents' Day: Wednesday 15 December (8.00am to 1.00pm)

### Spring Term 2011

Term begins: Thursday 6 January

Senior Assessment Day: Tuesday 11 January

Half-Term: Monday 21 to Friday 25 February

Term ends: Thursday 7 April (3.30pm and 4.10pm)

Parents' Day: Friday 8 April (1.00pm to 7.00pm)

### Summer Term 2011

Term begins: Wednesday 27 April

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2 May

Half-Term: Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June

Term ends: Tuesday 5 July (12.00)

Parents' Day: Wednesday 6 July (8.30am to 4.00pm)

## Spanish Master Class for Years 3, 4 & 5



Names, ages and pets were the hot topics when Señora Deo and Señora Pelly visited the Junior School on Thursday. **We learned to say 'Me llamo ....., tengo diez años y tengo un perro'! ¡ Excelente!**

Please send any contributions to  
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Nicky Walsh, Editor