

5 NOVEMBER 2009

Newsletter #5



National Breakfast Together Week

This week the whole school has enjoyed a healthy breakfast together over three days. To reflect our international community we enjoyed a Dutch/French breakfast; an English breakfast and an Asian breakfast. Every morning the school hall looked warm and inviting thanks to all the staff and we were very grateful to all the parents who helped with the preparation of some special dishes. The children ate well each day and enjoyed the time together sharing food and conversation to make an enjoyable start to the day. We talked about the importance of eating a balanced and healthy breakfast as well as the social importance of sitting down together. Next year we hope to invite friends from a local Dutch school to join us and we will include breakfasts from other countries. A huge thank you to Mrs Beattie for co-ordinating the project and a special thank you to Mrs Haji Ahmad, Mrs Shorter, Mrs Donnellan, Mr Rosellón and Mrs Prakoso, Mrs Dhagam and Mr and Mrs Fahyani.

Hot Lunches

This autumn and winter we are doing 'hot lunches' slightly differently. Last week was the first of our lunchtime cooking sessions with Year 5&6, who made vegetarian pizza and cooked jacket potatoes stuffed with cheese. Mrs Shorter is running the cooking sessions and will do these with each class over the coming weeks. The sense of achievement in preparing and cooking their own lunch as well as eating healthy, wholesome recipes has been a positive experience for the children. Thank you to Mrs Shorter for all your help and ideas.

Second-hand Uniform

A reminder that there is a stock of good quality second hand uniform available from school. Each item is 5 Euros and the

money from items sold will go to the 'Friends of The Helen Sharman School'.

Senior Management Team Workshops

Next week Miss Warner and Mrs Beattie will be in Den Haag on Wednesday and Thursday to attend an extended Board of Management meeting with the Heads and other Senior Leaders from all of the BSN schools and Business Units as well as a course on Absence Management. On Wednesday Joanna Morgan will be the teacher in charge and on Thursday it will be Mr Keoghan.

Theatre Visit

On Wednesday morning, November 18th, all children from Y1 upwards will be guests at the Vrije School primary school in Assen. We will be watching a performance of traditional English tales by 'The Classic Fairytale Company' from the UK (www.classicfairytales.co.uk). The children will be taken to the performance by bus, leaving school at 8.45, and we will be brought back to school at 11.15. The Vrije School will be providing the children with a drink and snack so on that day the children won't need to bring anything to eat or drink. We're really looking forward to the performance as well as the contact with another Assen school.

Visit to Town Hall

Last Thursday, 29th October, the children in Y6 joined their ex-classmates from last year's Y6 for a presentation at the Assen Town Hall (Gemeentehuis). This was because of our links with the Van Liefland School, who joined us for our 'Songs around the Christmas Tree' last year and who Y5/6 visited before the summer holiday to learn about the history of Assen. The Van

Liefland School had made a journal about their links with our school, which they entered in an Assen-wide competition based on the history of Assen. The school won a prize for this, and our children were invited to share in the prize-giving! The prize is a workshop by two local professional artists, so we are now discussing with the Van Liefland school how to organise this to ensure that all of our past and present Y6 pupils can take part.

Inner Garden Project Gets Going!

This week a group of green fingered gardeners worked with Mrs Jippes to start our inner garden project. The aim of the project is to develop the inner garden as a learning area and involve the children in the school in the planning and development of the space. All the children will have an opportunity to work in the garden during all the seasons throughout the year. A



gardener's diary will be kept to catalogue the learning from this project. Already the children have begun to lay a stone path to improve the access to all areas of the garden and have begun planting for next spring. Over the winter months the children will be researching different plants and soils; making bird feeders and preparing plans for the different parts of the garden. We are looking forward to seeing the landscape change and to hear more from the children as things progress.

Clubs Update

In the Parents Forum before the half term break we discussed the clubs available to the children and the timing of the clubs. We recognised that having a number of lunchtime clubs for the same children affected their time to eat and play outside. In the future, we'll organise the clubs such that one age group will not have more than one lunchtime club at a time.

Before half term, the KS2 children had a hiphop dance lesson taught by a professional dance teacher who runs the Malu dance company in Assen. If any KS2 children (Y2 and above) would like to join her dance school, she gives lessons for Y2/3 from 15.00-16.00, for Y4/5 from 16.00-17.00 and for Y6/7 from 17.00-18.00, all on a Wednesday afternoon. This costs €16 per month. Forms are in the office for anyone interested.

From next week, all children from Y1 upwards will be able to join a choir club on Mondays after school, which you will have received a letter about. Drama club will remain a lunchtime club for KS2 until Christmas, after which it will move to a Wednesday after school for KS1. Art club will continue after school in January for Y3/4. A new ICT club will start in January as a Wednesday after-school club. Information about all January clubs will be sent to you by letter this term.

Many thanks, as always, to all parents and staff who volunteer

their time and energy to make the clubs possible.

We would now like to put together a list of after-school clubs and other activities in the local area and would like your help with this. If your child attends any activity out of school, for example a sport, music or creative activity, please let us know of the details and we can put together an information list of possible activities.

Coffee Morning

Don't forget that the 'Friends' are organising a coffee morning this Friday morning, 6th November, from 09.30 onwards at Jacki Donnellan's house, Volmachtendreef 10, Marsdijk. Younger siblings and friends are welcome.

'Write Dance' CD

In last Friday's Golden Assembly, we listened to a CD of songs which accompany a handwriting scheme for young children called Write Dance. Rosie and Jenny Sanders, Adeogo and Adewura Adeiye, Eleanor and Samuel Bailey, and Eerde Weening went to a recording studio to record this CD, after months of rehearsals at school. Rosie has written about this adventure....

Singing!

Every Thursday after school Adeogo, Adewura, Eleanor, Eerde, Jenny, Samuel and I went to the music room to practice singing for a CD. The CD was going to be called 'Write Dance' and it was called that because it was made to help people with their writing. The first week we looked through all the songs and people got their solos. The first song we sang was called the volcano and I had the first solo. All together there were 9 songs. After about 10 weeks of practising (my favourite song we called the kongeladong) it was time to go to the recording studio but sadly when it was time to do the big thing I was in hospital with my broken arm so Jenny did all my solos!

By Rosie Sanders

Key Dates	
6 Nov.	Coffee morning at Jacki's Donnellan's house (9:30 onwards)
9 Nov.	St. Maarten's assembly (08:40) Parents welcome
12 Nov.	F1/2 visit to Tuinland
13 Nov.	No Golden Assembly Cake Sale in hall (15:00 onwards, Organised by 'The Friends')
18 Nov.	Theatre performance