

St Thomas Garnet's Gazette

ISSUE 40

AUTUMN TERM 2007

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PTA Chairperson's Report

Dear Parents and Friends

WOW! What a term this has been for me. Since taking over from Aiden Foy as PTA Chairperson, I've met so many of you and have been overwhelmed by the level of community spirit and caring that makes our School so special.

September saw another School year begin, the PTA has welcomed some new faces and I have introduced a system of Class Reps to make it easier to keep in contact with you all. The PTA has funded some smart new fencing, making our grounds more secure. Of direct benefit to the children, we have given each class teacher £100 to purchase DVD's to enhance the usage of the DVD players the PTA funded a few terms ago.

This term is our party term! We are delighted to be able to give the children free Christmas parties this year, with entertainment, pizzas and Father Christmas has the dates in his diary. Our Christmas Fair was held on the 1st December and was a huge success, being one of our main fundraising events.

Our ongoing campaign 'Steps to the Future' to build a new ICT suite for School now stands at an impressive £16,500. As most of you know, I am very involved with this and would like to thank Suzy Wood Power for all she does.

I would like to use this space to say a heartfelt thank you for your encouragement and support in taking over this role. Aiden has left a legacy of warmth and happy co-operation within parents and friends and I know this will continue. I would also like to wish him every success and enjoyment in his new role of Chair of the Trustees.

Finally, my personal wishes to you all for a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

See you all in the playground!

Julie Mc Call



Dates for your diary 2008

January.

Monday 7th : start of term

February

Wednesday 6th : Ash Wednesday Service for Juniors

HALF TERM : 18TH to 22ND FEBRUARY.

Return to school : 25 February

March

Thursday 6th Parents' consultations: 4.00pm to 7.30pm

Thursday 13th : Music Concert in school Hall

Wednesday 19th : 9.15am Infant's Easter Mass in the School Hall

EASTER HOLIDAY : 20th March to 11th April

April

Monday 14th return to school.

Correction to list of dates handed out at the beginning of year.

Start of term for 2008 is the 4th September

New Parents Welcome Evening



Mrs. Cutler and Mr. Rafter.

On Thursday 20th September 2007, the parents of the new intake of Reception children

met with many members of the Trustees.

Mrs. Forte gave a very informative talk about the curriculum that the children would be studying in the forthcoming year.

Mrs. McCall, Chair of the PTA

gave a most excellent talk and managed to recruit some new committee members to the PTA.

Father Ron, our School Chaplin, spoke about the uniqueness of our school, and about how we are a Catholic school that embraces all other faiths.

Aidan Foy attended in his new role of Chair of the Trustees.

After the more formal part of the evening and with the speeches over, everyone enjoyed the lovely buffet and a glass of wine. This

part of the evening provided an ideal opportunity for parents to meet and talk together.

We also welcome grandparents to this event, although it seems that most of them had been given the task of babysitting so that the parents could attend. Well done to Mr. and Mrs. Rafter who managed to escape this duty and join us!



Welcome to all the new children and their parents who have joined us this year!



Photographs from the evening

Creative writing in J4

This term I have enjoyed teaching J4 on a weekly basis focusing on the art of creative story writing, which is my great passion. We are creating a J4 Adventure Storybook

which will be the result of much redrafting and hard work. Our J4 pupils have achieved many of their target areas in order to produce

these extended stories. We have looked at other authors as part of this work, and have realised that there is really no limit to our imaginations!

Mrs. Cutler

Would you or your family consider fostering a child or young person?

Beaufort Fostering is an agency based in Southbourne. We are looking for either experienced or new foster carers who are able to provide short term, long term and respite placements.

We are also recruiting people who already have experience of working with vulnerable young people and who wish to develop specialist assessment skills. These may be required for a placement of a young person or a young parent or adult and their child.

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If you would like more information please contact us on 01202 428169
All information given to us will be treated in confidence

Interested in advertising?

If you would like to advertise in the next issue of the St Thomas Garnet's Gazette please contact Mrs. Fox in the school office who will be happy to deal with your enquiry and will forward your advert to the Editor for inclusion in the next issue. Tel 01202 420172.

Alternatively you may contact Louise King directly by e-mail at lking312@btinternet.com. Please title your E-mail 'Gazette enquiry'. Thank you.

Introducing Alice Flynn - Drama Teacher



Alice Flynn
Drama
teacher

Hello, my name is Alice Flynn and I am delighted to be teaching Drama at St Thomas Garnet's this year. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a little about my background in the theatre.

In addition to my role as a drama facilitator I also work as an actress and playwright and am an experienced practitioner within the field of performing arts and arts education. I continue to work throughout Dorset with companies such as Bournemouth Theatre in Education, Wave Arts Education Agency and Treehouse Theatre and I am actively involved within the regional arts scene.

This term I have drawn upon my experiences within the aforementioned areas and so the children have been able to explore a variety

of approaches to theatre together - from performing poetry (in preparation for the LAMDA exams in 2008) through to improvisation, devising and more movement-based work in order that they can gain a well-rounded experience of drama. I hope that they are enjoying themselves, I am certainly enjoying working with them.

Alice Flynn

Celebrating Diwali



I am very grateful to our Trustee, Mr. Dhanus Ramdharry for presenting such a clear and colourful presentation to everyone who attended this spectacular assembly on the Feast of Diwali. It was lovely that the Pre-School children from Kindergarten where also able to join us this time. I know that the children particularly enjoyed the power-point presentation that was shown.

I would also like to thank all the ladies who dressed up so beautifully in traditional dress. This made the occasion even more

vibrant and colourful. I am sure that you will see what I mean when you see the photographs for yourselves!

Well done Hasty (Preparatory) who dressed up along side her mother. A big 'thank you' to Mrs. Houshmande-Moclagh who kindly allowed us to borrow some of her beautiful saris for the occasion.

Mr. Ramdharry spoilt us by making us some traditional sweets which were enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Cutler



*'Diwali is
the
Festival of
Lights'*



Photograph of the wonderful clothes worn during the Diwali assembly

Start of year assembly

On Friday 14th September 2007, parents joined us for this special assembly. We all sang the school song, and then the boys and girls from each class read some very special prayers.

We prayed that we may

listen attentively and do well at all our studies in the coming year. The children then prayed that they would become even more accomplished at those subjects that they liked, whilst others prayed that their

studies may eventually help them to follow the professions that they hoped to pursue.

All classes contributed to our assembly, with the Reception children making an excellent first effort to read in front of the whole school. I was very proud of them!

Summer Diary Competition



The overall winners were Jonty Hughes in J2 and Mathew Young in Transition

The results of this competition formed the second part of this start of year assembly and was when I awarded the prizes to all the entrants. I was delighted to see that on this occasion, there were more boy diarists than girls! This overall winner for the school prize was Jonty Hughes from the Juniors, and Mathew Young from the Infants. These winners received a variety of prizes, from pastels, art paper, files and pencils and also a box of Maltesers to munch!

Naturally a diary account is something personal, but I am sure that Oliver Mac Donald-Taylor would not mind if I give him a special mention as his diary gave an account of his appendix operation which Oliver was most unfortunate to have experienced in the Summer break. Dear Oliver, I am sure you will have a truly fantastic Christmas Holiday! On a different note, our congratulations must go to Jack Dew in Preparatory, and his family, for Jack wrote of the birth of his new little brother Luke.

I am sure that this years' diarists have done an excellent job at inspiring the whole school to enter next year, and so I am very much looking forward to many more entries to read at the start of Autumn term 2008! I feel it is a wonderful way of ensuring that the children write every day during the holidays but that it also gives a very precious record of their Summer Holidays. I think I had better start buying the prizes now!

Mrs Cutler

Steps to the Future

*A Fundraising Campaign to raise £30,000
to build an ICT Suite for St Thomas Garnet's School*

Olivia
receiving
her prize.



The start of term was brilliant for one young pupil – we began by presenting Olivia Adams with her £30 of TOYS R US vouchers, the prize for winning our annual Balloon Race. Olivia's balloon travelled as far as the Isle of Wight, and she has since written to the lady to thank her for sending back the ticket. Well done Olivia!

Our main fundraiser this term has been the 'Jobs 4 Steps' week. This is where the children do extra jobs and be extra helpful to earn money towards the ICT Suite. They seemed to really enjoy this as they raised nearly £800 – well done all of you. We did have fun reading your jobs, it seems that Mums don't like paring those odd socks, emptying the dishwasher or cleaning out the hamster cage! Prizes were awarded in assembly for Juniors and Infants who raised the most money.



Competition prize winners!

Next term, look out for our Grand Raffle and don't forget the diary date of Sunday 18th May 2008 for the return of the fabulous MUSICAL MANIA 2. It honestly is not to be missed, just ask anyone who came last year.

So, just to say a huge thank you - we couldn't achieve so much without you all.

Have a very Happy Christmas and see you next term

Julie McCall and Suzy Wood Power

*We are over
half way
now and the
fund is a
magical
£16,500.*



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