

Head of Junior School – introduction

Dear Parents

Although our main Christmas events are yet to come, there is definitely a festive feel in the Junior School. The Christmas tree arrived on Monday and as soon as the fairy lights had been arranged homemade decorations were added by members of every year group. During the last couple of days pupils' seasonal designs have appeared around school on posters advertising the PFA's Christmas Fair, which is being held on Saturday, and also in the form of Christmas cards and finally programme covers for the Christmas concert which is at 2pm on Tuesday in the Senior School Hall.

At this time of year concert rehearsals tend to impact on daily routines but, for much of the time, it is business as usual in the classroom – even when that is actually out of doors! Year 4 pupils and teachers spent this morning at Latham Road making use of the Foundation's largest space which really lends itself to outdoor learning. As part of their current topic on 'Where does our food come from?' which has included learning about food miles and Fairtrade, today's task was to bake bread over an open fire. We are grateful to Chris Brickel, founder of the Exploration Society (ESoc), for leading this activity. Not only does today's lesson link with the year group's topic but it also gives pupils the chance to have a taster of an ESoc experience. Further information is available via this link [click here](#). One important aspect of ESoc is that it is open to students in the Senior School and Sixth Form College so those who enjoy the outdoor life can look forward to this excellent extra-curricular dimension offered by the Foundation for years to come.

Years 5 and 6 have also enjoyed lesson time out in the open recently. [Click here to find out about Year 5's day trip](#) when they learnt about rivers and [click here to discover what happened when Year 6 went back in time](#). Meanwhile, indoors, Year 6 welcomed Dr Gideon Simon, father of Hannah, to a year group RS gathering in order to extend their understanding of Jewish festivals in general and Chanukah in particular. The girls greatly enjoyed celebrating both Shabbat (albeit on a Monday morning rather than a Friday evening!) and a splendid Chanukah party complete with the Dreidel game, including chocolate coins, and lots of doughnuts!



Dr Gideon Simon explaining Chanukah

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During the last fortnight we have enjoyed another two house assemblies. Last week Pollock took Comet Ison as their starting point and the members of this house managed to inform and entertain us in equal measure; their presentation even included three excellent interviews recorded during Year 5's recent visit to the Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory. Yesterday it was the turn of Clark members to present their collaborative effort and a fine job of it they made. Taking the Christmas tree as their theme they reminded us of the stories behind traditional decorations and they had their audience singing along with them by the end of the assembly!

Tuesday 3 December was a notable date for the Foundation as it was the centenary of the death of Kate Harding Street, our first headmistress. Year 6 joined senior students for a special assembly when they learned about Miss Street's pioneering spirit of education, and also quite a lot about the history of the school thanks to Dr Stringer's quiz! Here is a link to how the centenary was marked: [click here](#).

Later that afternoon members of Years 3, 4 & 5 took part in the second Performers' Platform of the term. The Junior School Hall was packed and, in spite of feeling a bit nervous, the young soloists performed with enthusiasm and confidence. So too did the members of Years 5 & 6 who participated in the Scratch Youth Messiah at the Royal Albert Hall last Sunday. This was a really exciting event for our 33 young singers who have been rehearsing for the concert with Miss Vincent since September. It was thrilling to see and hear them in performance and wonderful to be supported by so many parents. [Click here to find out more](#).

As this is the final Junior School newsletter of the term, I would like to take the opportunity of wishing you and your family a very happy festive season and a really good break from term time routines.

Kind regards,
Katie Milne
Head of Junior School



Scratch Youth Messiah at the Royal Albert Hall

There are also photos here - <http://www.classicfm.com/pictures/concert-pictures/youth-messiah/>



Marina, Junior School House Captain of Street, at Miss Street's grave after the Y11 students' wonderful tidy up and laying of the wreath.

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Foundation photograph

If you would still like to order a school photograph it is not too late. Please use the login and password below, and click on the link for the Gillman & Soame website: www.gillmanandsoame.co.uk

Login: 286041

Password: 304582



Holiday Orchestra

The Cambridge Holiday Orchestra Christmas Course runs from 30 – 31 December and 2 – 3 January at West Road Concert Hall. This long-established Cambridge organisation runs courses every holiday for students aged 7+. There is a very wide range of activities, including orchestra, wind bands, choir and recorder groups for all ages. Visit www.holidayorchestra.co.uk to find out more.

Book Club

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 6 January, at 8pm (contact Sarah Beeson, 01223 294108). We will discuss 'Stoner' by John Williams and 'The Humans' by Matt Haig. We always have a lively discussion and are keen to welcome new members. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Martha Crouch for details (020 7638 6983, martha.crouch@btinternet.com)

Christmas Fair

*You are warmly
invited to the 2013*

Stephen Perse Foundation Junior School & Pre-Prep Christmas Fair

TOMORROW!

LOTS TO ENJOY
INCLUDING...

FATHER CHRISTMAS
GROTTO



CAKE STALL

RAFFLE

Date: Saturday 7 December

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

at the

Stephen Perse Junior School

St Eligius Street

Cambridge CB2 1HX

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