

# Mangotsfield Newsletter



Issue 18

Newsletter Date: 26th June 2009

## Special points of interest:

This is a great time to start a new after school club. There are 2 new ones on Mondays, Break-dance and Tennis. Ask staff for more information.

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## Year 7 Trips a Success!



This term Year 7 students embarked on a Religious Studies and Geography field trip to Glastonbury Abbey and Cheddar Show Caves. The sun was shining as we made our way to the historic Abbey, the legendary burial place of King Arthur. The History was brought to life by our costumed guided tours, and students were dressed up in the Abbots Kitchen to learn about Pilgrim life; Georgie-Lee Harvey and Georgia Price were great Kitchen maids!

After looking at the religious aspects of the Abbey, students boarded the coach and we headed to Cheddar. We were lucky enough to have great guided tours, where we learnt about the formation and exploration of the caves. Students were spooked with tales of ghosts and legends, and were shocked to find out cheese is actually stored in the caves!

The trips were very successful and students will now be completing work in lessons based on their findings. I would like to thank parents for their support in the trip and all staff and teaching assistants who helped on visits.

Mr Emery, Acting Head of Geography



## Mangotsfield Students Win Award

On 25<sup>th</sup> March the Year 7 reading group, accompanied by our Librarian, Mrs Wells, and Head of English, Mrs Cross, attended the Concorde Book Awards at Bradley Stoke Community School.

The reading group was set up to read the short-listed books for the award and met regularly to discuss the merits or otherwise of the selected titles which students published on a blog set up for the purpose. On World Book Day, 5<sup>th</sup> March, students voted for their favourite book and the chosen title was 'Ways to Live Forever' by Sally Nicholls.

An award for the best blog was given to Mangotsfield School and each student also received vouchers in recognition of their efforts. We are hoping to continue the use of the blog to enable students to share their reading experiences.

The overall Book Award winner was Sally Nicholls with 'Ways to Live Forever', the title chosen by the reading group earlier in March. She was present to discuss her work as a novelist and sign books, as was last year's winner, Steve Voake.

Any students interested in joining the reading group should see Mrs Wells or Mrs Cross. The reading group has now chosen to 'shadow' the National Book Award short list for The Carnegie Children's Book Award.

## Mangotsfield Students Lead Primary Zoo Trip

A group of our students took 80 primary school pupils to the Zoo earlier this term. Children from Barley Close Primary, Emerson's Green Primary, Mangotsfield Primary and The Tynings Primary were shown endangered species which are being protected by the Zoo. Each school attended a workshop about endangered species and their habitats and the students were allowed to handle some of the animals and insects from the Zoo - including some hissing cockroaches (guess what noise they make!). They were also able to handle animal products, like a tiger skin rug and crocodile skin bags, that come from animals which are now in danger of extinction. The students were shown that a small change in the food chain can have a big impact on the whole eco-system and even on us humans.

### Crocodiles are good!

We were shown how hunting crocodiles in Africa can lead to a huge rise in deaths from the disease malaria. The hunted crocodiles aren't around to eat the bigger fish, therefore the larger numbers of bigger fish eat more of the smaller fish so the smaller fish aren't around to eat the mosquitoes that bite humans and pass on malaria. So now crocodiles are being protected to keep malaria under control.



*Fewer Crocodiles = More Big Fish = Fewer Small Fish = More Mosquitoes*

Our students spent the day talking to the primary children, explaining how the different animals they saw were being endangered because their natural habitat is being destroyed and how we can help by using fewer of the earth's resources like trees that are made into paper. At the end of the day they were all thanked by the primary children and their teachers for all their hard work.

### **ORIENTEERING: Family-friendly Summer Evening Informal Events**

Bristol Orienteering Klub (BOK) welcomes beginners and experienced navigators of all ages to try orienteering at the following summer evening informal events: Wednesday 24 June at Blaise Castle, Wednesday 1 July at Overscourt, Wednesday 8 July at Kingswood School Bath, Wednesday 15 July at Durdham Downs. Start anytime between 6 pm and 7 pm. Juniors £1.50, Adults £3.00. For more information see [www.bristolorienteering.org.uk](http://www.bristolorienteering.org.uk)

### **TALENTED AND GIFTED CSI DAY - A report by two TAG members**

On Thursday 7th May a selection of Year 7, 8 and 9 students took part in a 'Talented and Gifted CSI Day'. We had 3 separate tasks to complete in our teams. The first task was called 'Bomb Disposal' where we had to work out a way of safely defusing a bomb. The second challenge was called 'Gorilla Kidnap' where we had to investigate the story of the young, kidnapped gorilla. The last of the 3 tasks was called 'Murder Mystery' where, as the name suggests, we had to work out who committed the murder. On behalf of everyone on that day I would say that we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

ROSIE SAY (8.6)

At the start of our day we were in the hall and were split into 6 groups. Most of the people in our group had never met before. We warmed up and got started with the first of our 3 activities of the day. Our team's first activity was 'Bomb Disposal' which combined mental and physical activities. A box was placed in the middle of the area marked out and contained a briefcase which we guessed held the bomb. We were supplied with a long piece of rope and expected to get the box out of the area by lifting it whilst completing several puzzles to get the combination for the briefcase. One more puzzle waited for us ~ defusing the bomb! After break we were ready for our second challenge, 'Murder Mystery', which was more mental than physical. We had to decide who committed a murder and work out how they did it. The final challenge was 'Gorilla Kidnap' which was our toughest challenge of the day and relied on strategy and teamwork. A gorilla was kidnapped from a zoo and we had to find him on a large-scale map which gave us hints, tips and clues. Finally we had the results where special and individual awards were given out. Overall it was a very enjoyable day and we look forward to the next day that has been planned for us.

CHRISTOPHER GREEN (8.7)

## Mangotsfield's Energy Saving Bid Success

The school has been successful in its bid, led by governor Jonathan Seagrave, to raise funds for a solar energy scheme to be installed at the school later this year.

We have been given £25,000 from the Government's Low Carbon Buildings Programme and £20,000 from the EDF Energy Green Fund. Together with another £5,000 from the school's own funds we have a total of £50,000 to install a solar photo-voltaic electricity generating system. We will soon be harvesting the sun's energy to make

some of the electricity we use without damaging the environment.

### Classroom Workstations

The plan involves installing solar electric panels on the roof of the D&T block. Most will feed power directly into the school's normal electricity supply and back to the grid. A few will feed a set of 12 volt batteries which will lead to 10 classroom workstations and a security light back-up system. It is hoped that some student projects will be directly powered from this.

The system will be set up so that energy production data can be monitored and used in D&T and Science lessons and as part of the personal development curriculum.

The system should save us around 7514 kWh per year, and will be worth about £1,500 off the annual bill.



## Sponsored Walk

As always this event is proving popular and Mr Gregg is being inundated by students wanting sponsorship forms.

This is Mr Gregg's last year and he is hoping to go out with a bang, by having the most students ever taking part and raising even more money for the two worthwhile charities.

It is a fun event, the money raised is used to help people, and people taking part can get fit at the same time!

Join Mr Gregg and others on the track this year and get walking.....

### SPONSORED WALK

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

SPONSOR FORMS AVAILABLE  
FROM MR WAIT

EVERYBODY MUST DO IT!

ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BE  
SPLIT BETWEEN



IT IS MR GREGG'S LAST  
YEAR THIS YEAR!



SO LET'S MAKE IT THE BEST  
FUNDRAISING YEAR EVER!

HALF MILLION POUNDS  
RAISED SO FAR!

## A great way to start the day!

### Don't let children skip breakfast!

- Children who skip breakfast generally won't get all the nutrients they need.
- They don't get as much calcium, iron, dietary fibre and other vitamins.
- They will have a poorer concentration level throughout the day at school.
- They are more likely to put on excess weight.
- They have less energy to work and play.

### Easy ideas:

- **Fresh or tinned fruit** (in natural juice) with wholegrain breakfast cereal and low fat milk.
- **Toast** with cheese and tomato, or banana.
- **Boiled eggs** with finger wholegrain toast.
- **Porridge oats** with raisins or sultanas and low fat milk.
- **Baked beans** on toast.
- **Tub of low fat yoghurt** and fresh or tinned fruit.

If you are in a real rush, at least send your child with a piece of fruit or slice of toast to eat on the way.





**MANGOTSFIELD  
SCHOOL  
AN ENGINEERING AND  
SCIENCE COLLEGE**

Please give any feedback or  
articles for later editions to Ms  
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**We're on the Web**

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org.uk

*Remember  
Breakdance  
club on Mon-  
days after  
school for  
Years 8-10*

## Waste and Litter-free Lunches

Packed lunches cause an enormous amount of waste within the school. Ready made packed lunch items such as Dairylea lunchables, individual yoghurt pots, snack wrappers, crisp packages, drink cartons and so on all add to the amount of waste produced at school.

There are numerous alternatives to plastic and foil based packaging which include: paper bags, reusable plastic containers, non-wax lunch paper or reusable lunch bags. Instead of purchasing boxed juice or plastic drink containers, refill existing drink bottles with water from home.

Fresh fruit and vegetables often come in their own natural packaging and may not need any other or, if chopped or peeled, could be put in a reusable plastic container.

By reusing lunch bags you can save money, decrease demand for natural resources needed to make new bags and cut down on the amount of rubbish. So instead of using 20 - 30 plastic sandwich bags per month, try to use just one plastic container. Reusable plastic storage containers are also great to keep left-over foods stored in the fridge at home.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL BALLOON RACE



**FRIDAY 10TH JULY**  
**£1.00 EACH BALLOON**  
1ST PRIZE £25.00  
2ND PRIZE £15.00  
3RD PRIZE £10.00  
ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN  
LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH & THE WILLOW FOUNDATION  
TICKETS ON SALE AT BREAK IN THE FOYER OR SEE  
SAM DOUGLAS 10.3

## Balloon Race

On Friday 10th July the school will run its annual Balloon Race. This is a great event that in the past has seen balloons flying many miles and ending up in different countries. There is a prize for the balloon that goes the furthest. It is a great fun way to raise money for charity and it has been totally organised by Mangotsfield School's very own Student Council. So please support us by buying a balloon for £1.00 and seeing how far your balloon can go.



## New Governors Wanted

Being a school governor can be a rewarding and challenging experience and many are able to serve for a number of years. However, from time to time, other commitments, pressure of work, undertaking additional study or even illness means that colleagues have to tender their resignation before their term of office has expired.

At present we have vacancies on our Governing Body and I am therefore inviting any interested Parents to contact me (through the Head's PA Julie Scull) or the Clerk to the Governors (Marie Walkley) for further information.

Some of you may be thinking 'I couldn't do that' or 'I won't know what to do or say' or other similar thoughts. Don't worry! All new governors have similar anxieties – but they soon go when you get to meet the rest of the team.

We need a full team of governors so that the various tasks can be spread. We also need a variety of experience, age and expertise on our governing body. At present we have a good spread of those things but we do need to fill the vacancies.

I hope that you will want to join my colleagues and me so that we can continue to develop our school to ensure that a vital area of the school's administration is fully operational and undertake its many tasks refreshed by 'new blood!'

Omar Beg, Chair of Governors