

News from Connaught school

October 2006

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Although it seems a long time from Monday 4th September, the first day of term, the seven weeks of the autumn term have flown by. We have been very busy and the school has had a good half term. Here is our latest news :-

STAFFING

Mr Kwesi Hammond, our caretaker, has resigned. He has a new job as a pharmaceutical technician.

Mr Hammond has worked very hard for the school and we will miss him. We wish him best wishes and good luck in his new job.

We have appointed Mr O. Golding as Head of Science. He will take up his post in January 2007.

We have also appointed Mr G. Cross as Deputy Head, He is at present an Assistant Head teacher in a Harlow secondary school and he will also be joining us in January 2007.



CURRICULUM

Our plans to include more ICT in lessons continues. We now have 17 new data projectors installed and most teachers are using them regularly. Although many staff have laptops our next step is to buy fixed workstations for the teaching rooms and to possibly link these computers to the network

ATTENDANCE Attendance has been very good over the first half of the autumn term. The national average is 92.5% so you can see that we are above this every week!

Averages for the half term

Week1 : 96.2% Wk 2 :96.9% Wk 3 :97.1% Wk 4 :96.5% Wk 5: 96.6% Wk 6: 96.7%

BEHAVIOUR Generally behaviour has been good over the half term. There are fewer "on call" referrals and disputes between pupils.

Figures with comparison for similar times in the year :-

"On call" incidents : these are serious incidents of poor behaviour

Sept -Oct 2004 21 incidents involving 21 pupils

Sept -Oct 2005 9 incidents involving 9 pupils

Sept -Oct 2006 7 incidents involving 12 pupils

Exclusions : used for very serious incidents such as fighting or extreme rudeness

Sept -Oct 2004 8 incidents involving 8 pupils : totalling 36 days exclusion

Sept -Oct 2005 9 incidents involving 11 pupils : totalling 30 days exclusion

Sept -Oct 2006 6 incidents involving 8 pupils : totalling 13 days exclusion

PROJECTS

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Elections were held for form representatives of school council. We have 20 new representatives who are also members of one of three committees, premises, healthy eating and charities.

A school council meeting is held every Thursday lunchtime.

HEALTHY EATING Every pupil has now been given a plastic water bottle and pupils are encouraged to use them in lessons and fill them from the water coolers situated around school.

School lunches are to increase in price to £1.65 from **MONDAY OCTOBER 30TH**



SCHOOL COUNCIL REPS

7C Ruby Sanford Smith

7S Amelie Waspe

7W Hayley Fitzpatrick

7F Sarah Fox

8C Jade Whitfield

8S Elysha Joseph

8W Claudia Biriwaah-Yehoah

8F Hafsa Khan

9C Kinsa Velanatham

9S Stephanie Matthews

9W Cecilia Fisayo

9F Tehreem Tahir

10C Sara Patel

10S Aysha Gati

10W Izzy Burgess

10F Althea Lovell

11C Sanna Azar

11S Faiza Mohamed

11W Shamiso Banda

11F Reem Kalim

EVENTS

YEAR 11 PARENTS' / CARERS' EVENING

This was held in September. Over 86% of Year 11 pupils attended the evening. Copies of the pupils' predicted grade sheets and their subject targets were given to the parents before they saw the different subject teachers.



CAREERS PLAY FOR YEAR 11

A play group performed a good presentation to show Year 11 that the National Health Service, which employs a large number of people in Waltham Forest, has a vast range of jobs available and not just medical jobs.

CHARITIES

Pupils of all ages (and staff!) enjoyed "Bring your bear to school day" and with a raffle, a total of £192.20 was raised for medical research for very young children.

A special thank you to

Stephanie Matthews 9S

Ashleagh Williams 9S

Lydia Amartey 9S

who organised the raffle and sold tickets every break & lunchtime

Year 9 pupils have also been working hard selling pink brooches for "Breakthrough" to raise awareness of breast cancer and with a "Wear pink" day this week we hope to raise a total of £785

BLACK HISTORY

Many subject areas organised special events for Black history month and Mrs M. Williams organised workshops for the whole school.

The workshops included a play, story telling and poetry reading and were enjoyed by the pupils.

NETBALL COMPETITIONS

At the Waltham Forest Borough netball tournament, our Year 9 team came third and our under 16 team won all their games including against Forest school.

The team was Cherrelle Bryan 11W, Asha Phillips 11F Adeva Bryan 10C, Bryony Kay 10F, Chidi Onyeche 10F Sarah Bucknell 10S, Natalie Small 10F, Shemsa Suleman 10S and Rebbie Morgan 10W. This means that this team will go onto the next level of the championship. We are also playing in the Essex Cup this week.

Thanks to Mrs G.Parker who worked with the teams and accompanied them to the competition.

Youth Ambassadors

Year 11 School council representatives, Mrs Kidman and I attended the launch of Youth Ambassadors for the 2012 Olympics. This scheme is an opportunity for our pupils to take part in 2012 borough events, visits to the Olympic site and to the Houses of Parliament.

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Two teams of Years 8 & 9 pupils performed very well in this evening competition. Other schools taking part included King Solomon's, Forest, Leytonstone, Walthamstow.

Each team consisted of a chairperson and a speaker, the pupils were Selina Williams, Keziak Kissi, Sehyr Khairdin and Rakaya Baree. Special congratulations to Selina Williams who won the best chair person of the competition. Thanks to Ms S.Maniar and Ms C.Burton for helping the pupils prepare for the competition

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Thank you to the Year 11 pupils who have organised this event to be held on Wednesday 18th October. Over one hundred tickets have been sold and the girls are going to give speeches about the importance of Ramadan and the festival of Eid. I am sure we will all have a good time.

OPEN EVENING

The evening was a great success with over 120 prospective pupils represented. Staff worked hard to prepare different activities in their rooms and the display around the school is fantastic. Over one and fifty pupils helped on the evening, taking part in music around the school in teaching rooms and being tour guides. Our visitors were full of praise for the friendliness and knowledge shown by our pupils and staff.



I would welcome feedback from parents as to whether you find such bulletins of news from the school useful or not. Please email me your comments ann.betts@sch.lbwf.gov.uk or complete the slip below returning it via your daughter to the school office

Wishing you all a good half term holiday and a Happy Eid and Diwali to pupils and parents celebrating these festivals.

Headteacher

FEEDBACK Re : Half termly parent newsletter

Please tick & send back to school Pupil's name Tutor group

I think the half termly parent newsletter is a good idea	
Thank you but I do not want a half termly newsletter	