



Beacon for Life

WALTON PRIORY MIDDLE SCHOOL Spring Term 2011

Secrets revealed.....author Michelle Harrison chose Walton Priory to launch the last book in her trilogy — The 13 Secrets. This is Michelle's third visit to our school and once again she spent the whole day with the children inspiring budding authors and signing copies of her books.



This year to celebrate Fair-trade Fortnight we will be getting involved in a number of activities. We have a visitor coming from Ghana who works in a co-operative to talk to our pupils. She will also work alongside our Yr5 pupils plus some pupils from Pirehill and Manor Hill to help break the world record for the longest piece of bunting. The local Co-op has very generously donated Fair-trade items which the children are going to donate to Autumn House. If you would like to donate non-perishable Fair-trade items please leave them in our shopping trolley in our school entrance.



Music is in the air here at Walton Priory with our Spring Concert taking place on **Tuesday 5th April 2011 at 7.30 p.m.** Performing on the night will be choir, orchestra, composition group, recorder ensemble and soloists. For more information please contact Mr or Mrs Garside.



eSafety

Congratulations to Dylan Kennerell-Walters who won first prize in the e-safety competition organised by the Staffordshire Children's E-Safety Group. In recognition of his achievement Dylan won £30 for himself and £200 for the school. The £200 will be used to help run Social Enterprises within the school. His poster will also be reproduced by a professional printer. More news about this exciting project next half term.

Red Noses go on sale at Walton Priory Middle School this week and will continue to be on sale on our return after the half term break.





Staffordshire Children's E-Safety Group

Christchurch Middle School in Stone were selected as the Staffordshire Children's E-Safety Group on behalf of Staffordshire County Council.

Group members James, Alex, Anna and Katie, supported by Mrs Natalie Davies their ICT teacher, designed the logo and were granted permission by Lord Stafford to use the Staffordshire knot in their design. They also organised an E-Safety Competition for Year 5 and 6 children in schools in Stone and Stafford.

The E Safety Group chose the winning design from over 100 entries. Dylan Kennerell- Walters from Walton Priory Middle school in Stone will see his design printed and distributed to all Primary and Middle schools in Staffordshire. It will help to remind students, teachers and parents, how to keep children safe on the internet.

Thanks to Dylan his school has received £200 in a presentation assembly held at Walton Priory..

Pauline Davies from the Children and Young People's Engagement Team who are overseeing the project for the Safeguarding Board would like to thank the E Safety Group for all their hard work and all the schools for their fantastic entries.

All entries will now be displayed in Stafford Library over February half term.



Supporting the Local Community and wider

Congratulations to members of 7c (Ellen Butter, Charlotte Gartland, Bethany Newman Fox, Jordan Russell, Poppy Roper and Rebecca Gratton who raised £107.60 for the Donna Louise Trust. Mrs Cope is very proud of you as is the whole school.



Community Shield awarded to ...

Andy Whitehall and 'the Right Stuff' for their work with our pupils supporting them on Monday nights. With their help 20 pupils passed their boxing assessment. They received their medals and awards during the awards ceremony on the 17th December 2010.

Many thanks to Sophie Stewart and Nicola Sims for all their help.

Reporting children's progress to parents

The parents who have children in Years 5 and 6 were recently invited to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss progress since the beginning of the year. These discussions also provided a good opportunity to determine how parents and teachers can ensure that their children's motivation and learning can continue to be maintained.

The arrangements for the parents of our older children in Key Stage 3 are different because they are taught by more teaching staff.

The parents of children in Years 7 and 8 will recently have received a report on attainment and progress for the different subjects which are taught. There will be an opportunity for parents to meet with staff during the Key Stage 3 parents evening which will be held on **Tuesday 8th March.**

Meetings will be made by appointment and details can be found in the letter which was sent out with each child's report.

This is a useful time perhaps to remind all parents that although we set specific times aside during the year for meetings between parents and staff please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have a particular concern or query.

Communication between home and school

At the beginning of the year in September all the children were issued with a School Planner in which to record their homework and important information. The planners however are also a very convenient means of communication between teachers and parents and are proving to be very effective and useful. They are also a useful way of letting parents know of the amount and type of homework which is being given. If possible (and we understand that parents are often very busy people) could you please sign your child's planner at the end of each week. By doing so we know that you are being kept up to date.

Many thanks for your help.

Information from the Parent-Staff Association

The P.S.A. would like to thank all parents and families for their support of events – particularly with regard to the Christmas Fair last term.

As a result of the fund raising activities a new flat screen TV with a remote keyboard has recently been purchased for the Learning Resource Centre. The P.S.A. are currently investigating the possibility of a sound system for the hall which will be of great benefit for the weekly assemblies which take place and for other events during the school year.

Forthcoming events

Thursday 18th February

There will be a disco for the children during the evening. This will start at 7.30 p.m. and finish at 9.00 p.m.

Parents who are able to come along (even if just for a while) will be most welcome .

Sales of gifts for Mothering Sunday

This idea proved to be very popular with the children last year and therefore we have decided to provide the opportunity once again.

Gifts for mums and special people which can be given on mothering Sunday will be on sale each lunchtime during the week of Monday 28th March.

A range of gifts will be available at a cost of just £2.00

Easter Egg Raffle

Easter is not very far away!

It has become one of Walton Priory's traditions to ask parents to donate Easter eggs in advance of our Easter assembly which is held at the end of the spring term. During the assembly the Easter eggs are raffled off to lucky children!

If you are able to help out with this we will be pleased to receive your donation any time soon!

Finally members of the P.S.A. committee hold regular meetings throughout the year. If you would like to come along – perhaps now and again when you have the time to spare – you will be made most welcome.

Information about future meetings can be found on the school website or by contacting Mrs Kelly or Mrs Turner at school.