

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 12

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

22nd February 2008

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful half term holiday.

We have certainly had a very exciting start to the new half term. Thanks go to Mrs Yendell and our resident artist Andy D'Cruz, who led a fantastic 'Look Closer Day' yesterday as part of our involvement in the Creative Partnerships Project. Children participated in a day of exciting and unusual literacy activities. With recorded voices and whispers hidden around the school building, a dedicated art studio and the opportunity to leave a word trail it was a day to remember! It was great to see all the children actively involved in a range of activities – please check the website for some photographs of what we got up to!

Robert Staples
Headteacher

YEAR 3 MINI-OLYMPICS

On Tuesday, Year 3 children took part in a fun-filled and exhausting morning of sport at Stevenage Leisure Centre.

Students from Stevenage Secondary Schools and staff from Stevenage Sports Partnership organised a two hour round robin of activities that included athletics, rugby, football, tennis, hockey, canoeing, trampolining and team building. Our children were enthusiastic, well behaved and represented Fairlands well.

AID FOR AFRICA

Before half term the School Council asked everyone to bring in spare 5p coins to raise money for schools in Africa.

The event was a great success, raising £104! Well done to Cedar, Hawthorn and Hornbeam, who were winners of the 'highest 5p towers', and to Cedar, who collected the most money.

PARENT / TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Parent / Teacher Consultations will take place on **Monday, 3rd March (3.30 – 6.00pm)** and **Wednesday, 5th March (5.30 – 8.00pm)**.

Appointment boards will be in the KS2 entrance area from **Monday, 25th February**. Please come in and make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher and discuss how they are progressing at school this year.

MOTHERS DAY PRESENT ROOM

Next **Tuesday, 26th February**, The Friends of Fairlands are giving all children the opportunity to purchase gifts for their mums/carers for Mothers Day.

This will take place in the Lower Hall in the morning (for KS1, Reception and morning Nursery) and the KS2 Learning Room in the afternoon (for KS2 and afternoon Nursery).

Gift prices will range from 75p to £3.50 – please send money into school in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, class and who the gift is for.

If you have any queries, please see a member of the Friends of Fairlands.

DO YOU NEED TO TALK?

Ann Devlin, the school nurse, will be coming into school on the afternoon of **Wednesday, 27th February** to be available should any of our pupils wish to 'have a chat' with her. This will be for any pupils who would like to speak to her about 'anything' that is bothering them! Should any parent **not** wish their child to meet with Ann, please let the office know.

ATTENDANCE AWARD



Congratulations to Hawthorn, who won the award for the last week of half term with 97% attendance.

STEVENAGE DANCE FESTIVAL

Some of our Year 5/6 children are taking part in this year's Stevenage Dance Festival at the Gordon Craig on **Thursday, 13th March**. There will be two performances; 2pm and 7.00pm. Tickets are now on sale from the Gordon Craig at a cost of either £6.50 per person, or a Family Ticket for 4 people (group must include at least 1 adult and 1 child) at £20.00.



SCHOOL MILK AND BREAKTIME SNACKS

At the last Parent Forum some parents were asking for clarity about our policy on breaktime snacks. Please see below an extract from our school prospectus :

At Fairlands Primary School & Nursery, we encourage healthy eating and promote healthy lifestyles.

Free milk is available daily for all children. Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils are currently provided with free fruit at break/snack time via the National Fruit Scheme.

Key Stage 2 children are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit or prepared vegetables to enjoy at break time. Water is provided for them. They are not allowed to bring their own drinks, chocolate, crisps or snack bars of any description.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Some parents have suggested we sell fabric school badges, which can be sewn onto a plain blue sweatshirt. We have looked into the cost of this and found it to be no more cost effective than the sweatshirts we presently sell.

IT'S A BOY

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Denis has had a baby boy – Charles Henry weighed in at 5lb 14oz and was 5 weeks early!

PARENT PARTNERS

Parent Partners is a magazine issued especially for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities. The Spring issue of this magazine is now available from the leaflet stand in the KS2 entrance hall.

'TWITTER' UPDATE

We have had a really good response from parents / carers and now have 45 followers! Unfortunately, there have been some teething problems with this service and it seems that some parents are not receiving messages. If you have signed up, but have not received any messages this week, unfortunately you need to sign up again, as follows :

1. Just text **follow fairlands** to **07624 801423**
2. You will then be asked to text back your name, PLEASE DO THIS – it helps us keep track of who has signed up!
3. You may then be sent a text to ask if you want to sign up for your own twitter account; DON'T DO THIS, you can always do this later if you want to.

This should sort out any problems you have been having. Anyone who hasn't yet signed up and wishes to do so should also follow the above instructions.

SAINSBURYS ACTIVE KIDS IS HERE!

This year's scheme runs from 14th Feb to 4th June and we are, once again, collecting Active Kids Vouchers to help us claim invaluable PE equipment for the school. Shoppers receive 1 AKV for every £10 you spend in store, and a bonus AKV for every £10 you spend on fresh fruit and veg displaying their health apply symbol. Please ask all your family and friends to help us beat the 16,193 collected last year!

As usual, if anyone has some free time to help count the vouchers we would be very grateful – please let the office know.

Don't forget, we are also collecting Nestle Box Tops and Asda Go Green for Schools Vouchers.

DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/2008

Monday, 3 rd March : 3.30 – 6.00pm	Parent / Teacher Consultations
Wednesday, 5 th March : 5.30 – 8.00pm	Parent / Teacher Consultations
Thursday, 20 th March	Last Day of Term : 2.15pm finish
Friday, 21 st March	Good Friday
Monday, 24 th March to Friday, 4 th April	Easter Holiday
Monday, 7 th April	INSET

