

15th June, 2009

Dear Parents,

Year 6 production – ‘Guys and Dolls’

Tickets are now on sale for next month's Year 6 production at the Compass Theatre, ‘Guys and Dolls’. We are using the Junior version from The Broadway Junior Collection, and the show is suitable for all ages. Set in New York in the 1940's, it is a fast moving musical full of romance, action and dancing with show stopping numbers like ‘Luck be a Lady’ and ‘Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat’.

This is likely to be an outstanding production and tickets sell out very quickly, so parents are urged to order early (booking form enclosed). Performances will take place on Thursday 9th July at 2 p.m. and 7.30 p.m., and on Friday 10th July at 7.30 p.m. Parents will be allowed to take their children out of school if they wish to attend Thursday's 2 p.m. matinee performance.

Relay for Life

Many of you will recall that last year a team of St Helen's College staff, family and friends took part in a 24 hour walk in aid of Cancer Research UK. Thanks to your generous support and to the hard work and dedication of the team members, we raised over £9,000.

For the third year running we have decided to rise again to the challenge. Our team stands at 18 and we hope to bring our overall total raised over three years to £25,000! Relay will take place on 12th/13th September and we are planning a series of events before then to raise money. As always we would welcome anything you can do to help.

- Will you sponsor the team at <http://www.donatetomyrelay.org/sthelenscollege> ?
- Do you work for a company which would like to pledge matched funding?
- Would you like to donate a raffle prize?
- Would you like to dedicate a Candle to somebody? This can be done online or on the enclosed. (At the end of your message please write St. Helen's so that the donation can be credited to our team).
- Would you like to buy advertising space in our high-quality event brochure?
- Can you suggest a possible contact for somebody who may be interested in becoming a Team Captain or forming a team?
- Do you have access to a celebrity – minor or major!! – who might make an appearance at the Relay?
- Will you support our events?

Plans so far:

- Years 4 and 5 are currently completing sponsored events

- Ms Turner is organising a Murder Mystery evening in September
- 2T are selling home-made jellies and instant whip and are also doing a sponsored number bond challenge
- Mrs. Patel – sponsored fast
- 3B – cake sale
- Lower school staff – Soak the Teacher
- Alan Ferris – sponsored parachute jump
- Ms Walker and Mr. Stidder – fastest serve competition.
- All classes are racing to fill a three litre plastic bottle with coins

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs. Stark if you would like any further information about any aspect of Relay.

Breakfast Club

Two years ago we wrote to parents offering to start a Breakfast Club, however there was very little demand and the club did not go ahead. Recently a number of parents have asked if we could start a club, so we are writing now to gauge interest.

The club would run from 7:15 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. during term, would provide breakfast and indoor activities. At 8:15 a.m. the older children will be released to walk through the garden to the Upper School; the younger children will be taken to the Lower School by Françoise and Beatrice via the zebra crossing. The charge would be £6 per day.

Please let the office staff know by Friday 26th June if you have a firm interest in the club. If sufficient number of parents commit to the club, we shall start it in September.

Cricket News

Ms Walker writes: 'The girls' cricket team played very well last week at the borough cricket tournament winning three matches and reaching the final to play Breakspear School. The team played very well but lost 228 – 242 to a solid Breakspear team, who have been in training since October last year! I was really impressed with the girls who have had only a few practice sessions. They encouraged each other, communicated really well with each other and improved their bowling skills particularly as the tournament progressed. Well done to Kaveri Bagga, Jessica Buckley, Kiran Cheema, Lauren Fletcher, Lucy Roach, Priya Saini and Manisha Thind.'

Tennis News

Ms Walker writes again: 'Our A team and B team completed in the schools competition for Years 3 and 4 and came 1st and 2nd. They have therefore qualified for the West London Finals (this has replaced the county finals) due to take place on 10th July at David Lloyd Club, Heston.'

Return of Trophies

If your child has a trophy that was presented last year either at Sports Day or at Prizegiving, please arrange for it to be returned to the office as soon as possible. We need the Sports day trophies by the end of this week, and the Prizegiving trophies by Friday 26th June.

Parents' Forum

The Parents' Forum meets this week, on Wednesday evening. The main topics for discussion will be electronic communications with parents and healthy eating. If you have any issues of school-wide importance which you would like to have discussed, please contact your class representative.

Coffee Mornings

We have been very pleased with the success of the coffee mornings. This was a new initiative this year, to create opportunities for informal contact between staff and parents, and most coffee mornings have been well attended.

The final coffee mornings of the year are as follows:

N2 Thursday 18th June from 8:15 to 8:40 a.m. followed by a class assembly
4P and 4H Tuesday 23rd June from 8:15 to 8:40 a.m.

Class Assemblies

A reminder of the remaining three class assemblies:

3B 8:45 a.m. on Friday 19th June (note earlier than usual time)
5S 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday 30th June
3W 8:45 a.m. on Friday 3rd July (note earlier than usual time)

Transfer to Senior School - Meetings

There will be a meeting for Y4 parents at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 23rd June when I will explain options and procedures concerning transfer to senior school. September 2011 is a long way off, and you do not have to take any action for some time, but parents often find it helpful to know well in advance what will be involved.

Y5 parents are invited to meet me on Wednesday 24th June at 7:30 p.m. to discuss senior school application procedures.

Meetings for Parents of September's Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 Classes

May we remind you that meetings have been arranged for parents of children who will be moving into Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in September. The meetings will give you the opportunity to meet your children's new teachers, who will brief you on the education, activities and routines for the new school year.

Parents of children joining Nursery in September: Wednesday 1st July

Parents of children moving to Reception in September: Wednesday 8th July

Parents of children moving to Year 1 in September: Tuesday 30th June

Parents of children moving to Year 2 in September: Monday 6th July

All meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and last about 45 minutes. With the exception of the meeting for parents of children moving into Y2, which will be held at the Upper School, the meetings will take place at the Lower School.

Lower School Informal Concert

The Lower School children are keen to perform some songs which they have been learning this term, so we have arranged an informal concert on Thursday 9th July. The Nursery will perform at 2 p.m., Reception at 2:20 p.m. and the choir at 2:50 p.m. Invitations will be sent out shortly, and we hope that you will be able to attend.

Schoolstrader



St. Helen's has registered with Schoolstrader. School community trading online is becoming increasingly popular and www.schoolstrader.com, a free-ads website for the independent sector, may be worth a visit if you have items to buy or sell. It is the UK leader in school trading online and was created to meet the demand by independent school parents for a simple school community website where they can advertise to each other.

Parents, staff, friends and family can all trade - everything from pets to property, furniture to holiday homes, bikes to musical instruments.

The site has appeared in The Sunday Times, as a Top 50 website in The Daily Telegraph and online in Which. To register, or to read more about Schoolstrader, go to www.schoolstrader.com.

Yours faithfully,

D.A. Crehan

G.R. Crehan