



Dates for the Diary

Sept 2008	
Tue 2	Staff Inset Day
Wed 3	Staff Inset Day LVI and new Seniors in 2pm
Thur 4	Term Begins for pupils (week 1)

Notices

Please be aware that for all telephone calls to the Finance office the Direct number is : 01785 814638

Lost property

A light brown Monsoon suede jacket was left at the back of Priory Hall after the Prep Prize Giving. Please contact the school office if you believe you know the owner.

Do you have any news??

If you would like to share any news that you have with the school community via the School News then please e-mail:

marketing@st-dominicspriory.staffs.sch.uk

Alternatively drop a note into the school office marked for the attention of 'Marketing'.

Enjoy the Summer Break

It's that time again and hard to believe that another school year draws to an end. Looking back over the last 12 months the students and staff have achieved so much, from concerts and plays, sporting events, fundraising activities, exhibitions, trips aboard and at home, extra curricular activities and so on, while still maintaining a commitment and focus on their studies. I personally would like to thank the students and staff for their hard work and commitment this year and also I would like to extend this thanks to the parents, Trustees, Governors and friends of St Dominic's Priory School who continue to support the school and actively play a part in school life.

Have a truly wonderful Summer Break and together we can look forward to the new school year in September .

Mrs Pat Adamson

'Rest Assured' -We are simply the best!

45 students from P3 to P6 delighted audiences at the recent Prep School production. During two nights over 380 people including the new Mayor and Mayoress of Stone, Mark and Christine Green, Mr and Mrs Handley from Stone Lions and The High Sheriff of Stafford, Mrs Katie Evans, were transported back over 60 years to World War Two. 'Rest Assured' written by Mrs Dickson is a drama set in a rundown hotel telling the tale of disappearing war artefacts. Songs from the era such as 'We'll Meet Again,' were performed with great gusto alongside dancing, much of which was choreographed by the girls themselves. Many of the audience entered into the spirit of the play and came dressed in period clothes.



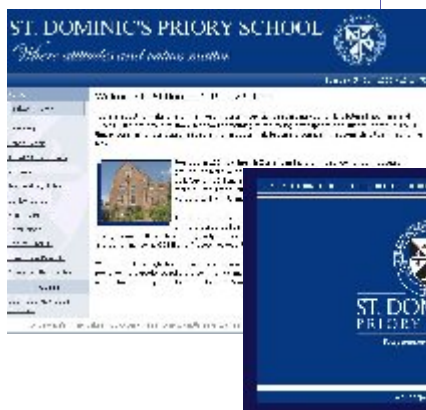
Students from P3-P6 getting into the spirit

From Old to New

Behind the scenes we have been busy working hard to improve the school website making it more accessible and user friendly. Currently the number of pages is over 40, but this is just the beginning , as plans are in place to have over 200 pages. New features include a School Calendar, downloadable School Newsletters, Registration Forms, News from the PFA and an Old Girls Association page. Future plans include adding curriculum information and a log in section for Staff, Parents and Students in order to improve communication between school and home.

Take a look at www.st-dominics.co.uk or www.stdominicspriory.co.uk

If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see on the website please e-mail, marketing@st-dominicspriory.staffs.sch.uk



News in Brief

'Primi della classe'

Old Girls continue to come 'Top of the class' in the latest degree results. Louis Terralis has gained a 1st in Italian and French from Warwick University and is going on to study for a Masters Degree; Elizabeth Slingsby also gained a 1st in Geography from Manchester University and can be spotted carrying out research at an Orchard in Herefordshire; Catherine Phillips has gained a 2.1 Degree in Italian and French at Birmingham University; Sam Buxton has graduated from Bangor University with a Degree in Psychology and will continue to study for a Masters and Laura Parker graduated in History of Art and Italian at Bristol University and will continue on to do a PHD in Italian at Manchester University. Further afield, Lynsey Dench, who emigrated to Australia having finished her A Levels at St. Dominic's, is studying Clinical Psychology for a PHD and is also teaching first year students Cognitive Psychology and Research Methods at the University of Perth.

Further results are eagerly awaited and will be reported in the next Newsletter.

Nursery Sports Day

Nursery children and staff were joined by parents and grand parents at the latest Nursery Sports Day held in the Tennis Centre. Mrs Lanyon said, 'the children had been looking forward to their special day for ages and really entered into the spirit of things.' Traditional fun races such as the egg and spoon race followed by cups of tea for the adults and well deserved ice lollies for the children. At the end of the day Mrs Adamson presented medals to all of the children.

A busy day was had by the Prep Department at their annual Prize Giving and Sports Day. The morning started with a concert for parents and guests who were treated to songs, music and dancing from all classes of the Prep School including the Nursery. After refreshments, Prize Giving saw all children recognised for their achievements during the academic year. Prizes were awarded for progress in key areas and there were some special prizes for RE, PE, Drama and Music. This year's Trustees Millennium Plate was awarded to Katie Swift. This award is presented to a pupil who shows true St Dominic's spirit through hard work, taking part in school activities and events, as well as being someone who has time for others and is kind, caring, thoughtful and helpful.

After Prize Giving everyone was invited to stay for a picnic of Strawberries and ice-cream washed down with a glass of Pimms before heading to Stone Community Centre field for Sports day. Emma Scholes summed up the day with 'Amazing.'

Senior Prize Giving will take place after this edition has gone to print however a thoroughly enjoyable evening is anticipated for all.

Invading Eccleshall Castle co-wrote by Leah Stubbs, Y9

Eccleshall Castle enjoyed not one but two performances from our students at a recent summer event. From the Senior School the Chamber Choir and soloists, Charlotte Hill, Emma Webster, Lucy Evans, Ellen Matthews, Abby Swift, Ellen Costello, Emily Tabbenor, Rachel Chambers, Caroline Furey and Leah Stubbs, and instrumentalists, Victoria Jenkinson, Emma Davies, Lucy Carroll, Emma Roberts, Rosina Bloor and Madeline Curtis performed a selection of pieces from 'The Sound of Music', 'When You Believe' and 'Halleluiah'. The



Prep Department Maypole Dancing Team

opinion of the performers was that, the only bad thing about the day was the weather! This sentiment was echoed by our Prep Department Maypole Dancing Team who also performed at Eccleshall Castle. They performed four dances twice - one included swapping ribbons half way through! Despite the awful weather, all girls danced beautifully. Lauren Charlton in Primary 3 said, "Even though it rained, I still enjoyed myself," and Katya Helliken thought that it was "Great fun!" Both Miss Lynch, for the Seniors, and Mrs Brunt, for the Prep, had worked hard preparing for this event, and their hard work was much appreciated by those involved.

Dragonfire Book Reading Event

Misha Herwin, author of a new children's fantasy fiction book called 'Dragonfire' visited us recently as part of her book launch. Girls from Primary 1 to Year 7 enjoyed listening to Misha read excerpts from her book and discussed creative writing and the mystical world of dragons before joining in a fun 'dragon drama' activity! "I hope the girls have been both inspired to read 'Dragonfire' and encouraged in their own creative writing" said Misha "and I'm very impressed with the wonderful dragon artwork, writings, poems and masks on display." Mrs Carey added "It's been great fun and wonderful to see girls from all age groups working so well together as a team." A proportion of the money raised from sales of the book will be donated to The Donna Louise Trust. For more 'Dragonfire' book signing venues, please contact the Donna Louise Trust, tel:



Misha and some of the students



Students engaged in dragon drama

Sports Results, by Miss Capper

Athletics

The Senior and Junior athletics teams have been in action at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham in the Midlands Independent Schools Championships.

In the Senior Championships in glorious sunshine, Mia Shaw Year 7 ran a very impressive 100m final to take the Midlands Sprint title, and combined this with third place in the hurdles final. Lucy Evans and Kate Furnival both took the Bronze medal positions in the 200m and 1500m respectively. Jessica Mierau and Niamh Murphy both finished as Midlands Runners Up in their javelin age group. Zoe Groom was Runner Up in the Senior girls high jump. A number of other girls did extremely well in registering top eight placements in their events.

In the Junior Championships, Hollie Stow qualified for the Nationals by taking the Year 6 high jump Midlands title. The Year 6 team performed very well in taking fourth team place overall out of the 25 schools taking part. Katie Lovewell took 3rd place in the Year 5 high jump competition. Daisie Mierau from Primary 3 finished 5th in the rounders ball throw for Year 4. Well done to all the juniors competing in very wet conditions for the second successive year.



Hollie Stow and Katie Lovewell in action at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham.

Having been selected to represent the District team at the U17/U15 Staffordshire County Championships the javelin throwers once again excelled themselves. Jessica Mierau took 4th place in the U17 age group. In the U15 age group Josie Hulme finished 7th overall. Producing a fantastic final throw and new personal best, Niamh Murphy was crowned Staffordshire County U15 javelin Champion. Congratulations Niamh! Niamh went on to represent Staffordshire in the Mason Trophy.

Moving on to the Year 7 and 8 Stafford & District Championships, Charlotte Reid (Yr 8) became District discus champion. Taking silver medals were Steffie Walters (Yr 8) in the javelin and Kate Furnival (Yr 7) 1500m. Girls taking the Bronze positions were Emma Cork (Yr 7) javelin, Lauren Bathew (Yr 8) long jump, Olivia Hart Yr 8 hurdles and Eden Atkinson (Yr 8) javelin. All these girls qualified to represent the District team at the County Championships in Cannock. Eden went on to finish 3rd in the County Championships and

has been asked to represent Staffordshire.



Olivia Hart competing in the hurdles at the County Championships

Girls from Primary 3, 4, 5 and 6 have also been competing in their District Championships at Rowley Park, Stafford.

In Yr 6, Giulia Landi was District runner up in the long jump, Hollie Stow and Ellena Thomas were 3rd in the 80m sprint and rounders ball throw respectively.

Katie Lovewell took 3rd place in the Year 5 800m and Celine Heraty 4th in the long jump.

In Yr 4 Leonie Grant won the standing long jump competition. Runners up were Taylor Swinnerton in the Yr 3 ball throw and Brittany Cartwright in the Yr 4 50m skip. Daisie Mierau and Lauren Charlton took third places in the 40m sprint and skip. Emilia Wyatt was 4th in the Yr 4 ball throw.

Congratulations to all the school athletes on some superb performances and results this summer.

Rounders

In the Stafford & District Tournaments the U13 team were runners up and the U15 team third.

Tennis

The U13 tennis team have had an excellent season. Having won their section in the Staffordshire County round of the National Nestle Competition beating Newcastle and St. Joseph's in the process they took on and beat St. Edward's Middle, Leek 5-1 in the semi-final. In a very high quality final the girls were beaten 4-2, so finishing their competition as the County Runners Up. A wonderful achievement to have reached the county final! The team consisted of Charlotte Reid, Lauren Bathew and Steffie Walters from Yr 8 and Emma Cork from Yr 7. Well done girls!

Canoeing

Some of the children from Primary 4, 5 and 6 took the opportunity to sample an introductory canoeing session on the River Trent in Stone, thanks to Jenny Holdway and the Stafford & Stone Canoe Club. One or two got extremely wet! By the end of the sessions

the girls were paddling quite confidently and competently, some even attempting the slalom poles.



Students enjoying themselves on the water



Editor's note—Well done to Miss Capper and the girls for delivering such outstanding results.

Old Girls and Former Staff enjoy lunch at Granville's,

Old Girls, former staff and current staff enjoyed a lunch organised recently by Helen Phillips for the Old Girls' Association. They enjoyed a three course meal at renowned local restaurant, Granvilles, followed by coffee and goody bags. Mrs Adamson observed that, 'such events are key at maintaining friendships and contacts made over many years, and it is always wonderful to hear how all of our former students are doing.' With two Old Girls having been at the school in the 1940's that's an awful lot of catching up to do.



Old Girls, former staff, Mrs Adamson, Helen Phillips and Miss Capper having fun



Summer Time

It's finally summer and the exams are over. Well done to everyone who had to do the school exams this year, we hope you all did well. They are now finally over and time to enjoy the summer to come.

By Tara Sewell and Rachel Chambers

Art Trip

On the 23rd June, Rachel Chambers, Alice Jones and Lauren Haynes went to see Stafford College's Art Department end of year Fashion Show. It was very enjoyable, with some very good ideas and was well put together, although the models weren't that good the clothes were amazing. "I really enjoyed my evening and I would definitely wear some of the items produced" said Lauren Haynes. "I thought that the show was really good, the music was very loud though! I think that there were some really unique ideas, and it was well worth the trip out!" from Rachel Chambers.

By Alice Jones

Editor's Note—Our girls are certainly developing a discerning eye for fashion having also been to the 'Clothes Show' at the NEC earlier this year.

Sport

Niamh Murphy, year 9 took part in the County Championships on 14th June. She came first with a personal best of 35.13 winning by 2cm. She has also been accepted to the Crewe Alexandra Football Academy and has trials for Ireland in the summer. We wish her good luck! "I think it is a great opportunity for me and I can only do my best," commented Niamh.



By Tara Sewell

Any ideas?

Our class is thinking about fundraising for some new activities, for example a new photography club. However, we need your support and views on this. Please e-mail if you have any ideas or you can help financially.

Studentsnewsletter@st-dominicspriory.staffs.sch.uk

And Finally.....

We are currently working on distributing the School Newsletter by e-mail as well as by hard copy. If you would like to receive the School Newsletter by e-mail please could you forward an e-mail titled 'School Newsletter' to:

marketing@st-dominicspriory.staffs.sch.uk

Thank you to all who have already responded!