

4 November 2016

Dear parents, carers, staff, governors and friends,

This week at Brindishe Manor

Shakespeare Schools Festival



A cast of 14 of our Y6 children from across all 3 of our schools took part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival at Greenwich Theatre on Tuesday night. After months of dedicated rehearsing, these young actors put on a magnificent performance of Twelfth Night. Feedback from the festival directors and audience alike was that this very talented group captured the immense fun of this comedy and brought it alive. They certainly brought the house down!

Thank you to directors Kimberley Givens, Laura Yardley, Jonette

Bowen (BG) and Tara Ingrei (BL) for their hard work and dedication to giving the children an experience they will remember for many years to come. As one BM performer told us, "Doing this, I've learned to be confident in myself."

Educate and celebrate – our Equalities learning

As you will know from previous newsletters, our Schools' Community Development Plan for this year includes a strong focus on diversity and equality. Our own diverse community includes people from a range of cultures, family structures, identities, languages and heritages. As a school we recognise we are educating the next generation to understand that our differences are to be recognised and celebrated.

Our community, in school and in Lewisham, is very diverse; it is culturally rich, and strong. It can and does work very well together.

We want to develop a 'no tolerance' culture of abuse, homophobia, bullying and segregation. Indeed under the Equalities Act of 2010 schools must ensure that they are inclusive and accessible to all and that includes our LGBT+ community.

In school we have worked well to understand and embrace family languages, cultures and heritages and to challenge stereotypes and gender expectations. We know that our community includes different family structures or types of families including lesbian and gay families. Our community includes young people and adults who are questioning their gender identity, transitioning between genders or exploring their sexual orientation. It is important that as an inclusive community we educate ourselves and show compassion, understanding and acceptance.

This year, across our 3 schools we are working to achieve a 'best practice' award for Educate and Celebrate: www.educateandcelebrate.org .

We are focusing on LGBT+ inspirational people and families. This will include a focus on books and stories which enable children to understand and explore different identities including their own, to challenge assumptions and expectations, and think about the communities in which we live and the groups to which we belong.

We are holding a 'Celebrating Diversity' week starting on Nov 14. Using the rainbow or 'equalities' flag as our theme, we will help children embrace diversity and explore some of the more complex issues affecting young people today. We shall be inviting parents and carers to join us to celebrate the learning that has taken place – look out for an invitation from your child's class to come and share their learning.

Dates for your diary

7 November: Flu vaccine for Ys 1 and 2

8 November: 'Early reading and writing' workshop for parents and carers of children in N, R and Y1. 9.15am (with creche) and 5.45pm (sorry, no creche)

9 November: Full Governing Body meeting at Brindishe Lee at 6.00pm (let us know if you wish to attend as an observer and we'll arrange seating)

9 November: 2pm SSF cast (see above) perform Twelfth Night to Ys 5 and 6 at BGreen

9 November : Lewisham Library Service visiting to celebrate Summer Reading Challenge successes

10 November: Trinity Laban Brass Quintet performing to Ys 4, 5 and 6.

10 November: Blue Cross visiting Y2 (Animal safety) and Y6 (Animals at War)

Week beginning 14 Nov: 'Celebrating Diversity' week at Brindishe Schools
25 November Winter Fair 3.15pm

Best wishes,

Gerlinde Achenbach
Headteacher

PSFA (Parents, Staff, Friends Association) News

WINTER FAIR 25th NOVEMBER 3.15 - 5.15pm

Plans are underway for the Winter Fair. We will need plenty of volunteers to help run the stands and games - please contact us if you could help for 30 minutes or an hour. We need donations for the children's tombola prizes and for the gift room (this is where the children can choose gifts for their parents/carers, so we need any non-alcoholic items which adults might like to receive). Please bring your donations to the office. We are also looking for prizes for our raffle - if you run a business and could donate a prize please let us know. Many thanks!

THANK YOU to all the bakers, decorators, donors, helpers and scoffers who contributed to the cake sale. We've kicked off this year's fundraising with a wonderful £197.80! Thank you also to all those who attended our AGM and/or Connect meeting yesterday/this morning. It was great to meet new faces! There's always room for more ideas and more help, so if you missed these events please don't hesitate to contact us.

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