



SPRING
TERM

March 2013

Compiled by
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NTS NEWSLETTER

Rotary Chef Competition 2013 Miss Bryan

Cumbria Finals



Prior to going to the Cumbria finals, Nadia spent two afternoons with Adrian Hyde, who is the head chef at Overwater Hall Hotel, working on her menu. Adrian elevated Nadia's menu to three restaurant quality dishes. I would like to express my thanks to Adrian for his continuing support during this competition.

The Cumbria finals were held at St. Benedict's on the 6th February with 12 competitors this year. The standard of the food was again very high and showcased the vast talent that these young competitors have.

I am pleased to announce that Nadia won the Cumbria finals with three fantastic dishes which were highly praised by the judges. Nadia should be extremely proud of her achievements.

Regional Finals

Nadia went forward and represented the School in the regional finals which were held in Wales on Saturday 16th March. Nadia was one of eight competitors who displayed exceptional culinary skills in preparing her three courses which consisted of:

Starter - Chicken liver parfait served with melba toast and salad garnish.

Main - Pan fried duck with dauphinoise potatoes, squash purée, cabbage parcels and a bramble jus.

Dessert - Cinnamon poached pears served with vanilla ice cream, a tuile and rhubarb compot.

Unfortunately, Nadia did not win but she should be extremely proud of her achievements in getting through to the last 16 in the competition.

I would like to express my personal thanks to Len Baseley and Ian Downes for all their support on the Saturday.



Technology Rotary Challenge 2013

Mr Fitt and Mrs Winskill

Mr Fitt and Mrs Winskill took 3 teams to this year's Rotary Challenge held in Carlisle on Friday 15th March. The competition is held annually by Rotary Clubs all over the UK and usually involves designing a solution to a set problem. This year was no different with teams having to design a 'green' vehicle powered only by weight. The vehicle then had to travel along a track at various degrees of incline depending on the Key Stage of the team.

Key Stage 3 teams were represented by groups from Year 7 and Year 9, with KS4 represented by last year's winners Year 10. It proved a very tough challenge with many vehicles literally crumbling under the pressure, including Year 9's model. Year 10 didn't fare much better and their vehicle collapsed within moments of taking to the test track. However, they were commended for their Red Nose decoration. The success story of the day was the Year 7 team which not only managed to construct a stable vehicle but engineered it so that it also moved (albeit a small way) along the track under the judges' scrutiny. Their team approach, portfolio submission and their vehicle's design enabled them to take the first place in the Foundation competition. Well done to William Ismay, Oliver Lomas, Preston Newton and Daniel Evans.



Debating Society, 2013

Miss Beattie

In January, Nelson Thomlinson had the privilege of hosting the North West regional round of the English Speaking Union's national debating competition, with schools travelling from as far afield as Lancaster and Burnley to compete.

Our students, Chloe Esslemont and Lydia Newton, narrowly missed out on a place in the next round of the ESU debating competition to Lancaster Boys' Grammar. It was a very close run competition but Chloe and Lydia's intelligence and their ability to construct a range of complex arguments was impressive and commented upon by judges and fellow competitors alike.

A special thanks should also go to our Year 13 students, Alison Ogden and Bev Noble, who stepped in at the very last minute to provide a reserve team. They had only forty minutes to construct a debate on a difficult motion and were given special mention by the judges for their superb performance.

Thanks to all members of staff who attended and to those behind the scenes who helped the event run smoothly. It was much appreciated by me and everyone in the Debating Society. We have since received two letters from visiting schools commending our students on their warm welcome and impeccable manners.

The Debating Society now plans to organise and host a competition for the schools within the Carlisle Consortium and is very much looking forward to meeting other local students and improving their skills in a competitive environment. They also hope to encourage younger debaters to try their hand by showcasing a cycle of debates in J-Block Hall, on a range of topical issues. We hope to have a fledgling lower school team up and running by the close of the academic year.

Magistrates' Mock Trial Competition

Miss Beattie & Mr Proudfoot



On Friday 8th March, a team, comprised of thirteen of Nelson Thomlinson's Gifted and Talented Year 8 and 9 students, travelled down to Kendal Magistrates' Court to compete in the National Magistrates' Mock Trial event.

Students were selected based on their achievements in both English and History, with each taking a role best suited to their particular talents, including lawyers, magistrates, witnesses and legal advisers. Students performed a mock trial on a criminal case they had prepared, giving them a taste of life in the courtroom and the opportunity to compete against other teams in Cumbria.

Competition was particularly fierce, with no less than thirteen schools in Cumbria battling it out in the courtroom for a place in the quarter final. Our students narrowly missed out on a place but acquitted themselves superbly, garnering a host of praise for their efforts.

Quinn Cundall and Stefan Clarke were singled out by Mr. Richard Rose, Cumbria's Police and Crime Commissioner, for their outstanding contribution on the day.

We look forward to next year's competition as a further chance to hone our skills in the courtroom.

Vive la France!

Mrs Carroll



Gird your loins, we are planning to hoist 'Le Tricolore', grab our muskets and man the barricades. Yes, you guessed it, we are delighted to announce that we been offered the licence for the popular musical '**Les Misérables**' (School Edition) for our school production on 5th – 8th March 2014.

As we need a cast of around fifty pupils, the cream of the school's performers have been 'strutting their stuff' in auditions. The cast will be finalised by the end of March. They will be amply supported by an orchestra of around twenty five of our finest musicians who are needed to do justice to the powerful and stirring music. Head of Music, Miss Raven, will be announcing her plans regarding this aspect of the production in the Newsletter, during the next academic year.

We now have around fifteen members of staff who have offered their time and expertise to help design and create the set, make and organise the costumes, train the singers and actors, organise the sound and lighting and do the myriad of other tasks that go into creating such a show. If any of you would like to offer your time to support them in any way, we would be most grateful. Please leave your contact number with a member of the school office staff and we will call you back as soon as possible.

In terms of costume, we have a huge task ahead; happily, Keswick Operatic Society has kindly offered us the use of some of their costumes in return for a small donation: they do ask in return for their generosity that we encourage people to come to their forthcoming production of *Kiss Me Kate* on 30th April - 4th May at Theatre by the Lake, in Keswick. They need an audience of 80% capacity in order to financially 'break even'. I hope that you will try to support them as we are most appreciative of their support of our production.

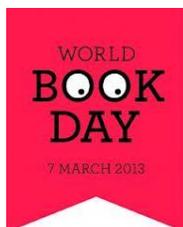
In terms of costume we are hoping for donations of any longer skirts and dresses, top hats, bodices, waistcoats, long dark coats, dark sleeveless gloves, dark shawls, sacks (we need around 26 large hessian type), fabric, paint, two or three old farming implements, silver (coloured) candlesticks and plates and anything that you might think would be useful in creating the illusion of France in the early/mid eighteenth centuries. So, get rummaging; we would be grateful of any of these.

These productions are nothing without your support; the whole cast, crew and orchestra were overwhelmed and delighted by the many letters and kind words expressing your appreciation for 'Sweeney Todd' last year. We were most grateful for large audiences (desperately needed to pay the huge cost of the licence for these 'high end' musicals): in the end, we raised £80 after the bills were paid! We hope that you will support us again; put this latest offering in your diary, start learning your favourite tunes so you can sing along and wish us.

Bonne chance; we look forward to seeing you there!

Library News

Mrs Crone



World Book Day 'Design a Bookmark' Competition

Pupils from Years 7 & 8 took part in the World Book Day 'Design a Bookmark' Competition. The winners for each category were as follows:

Year 7 winners were Edward Gray 7SC & Ciera Haggart 7KLT.

Year 8 winners were Christopher Allen 8RA & Emily Kean 8SK.

All winners received £10 book tokens and the 16 runners-up received novelty pencils. The winning entries have been forwarded to the National WBD 'Design a Bookmark' competition.

Sixth Form Charity Challenge 2013

Mr Walker



Members of the Sixth Form took up the annual charity challenge, an interform competition to raise the most amount of money possible for Comic Relief and Project Gambia. This year, between Monday 11th and Friday 15th March the students managed to raise over £1400 from a whole range of events including cake sales, leg waxing, a nail bar and who could forget the now legendary 12TP French Bistro! Students also raised money by busking on the new grand piano during Friday lunchtime providing, for the first time ever, live music to the pupils eating their lunch in the Dining Hall. Another first was the Common Room opening its doors for one day only to younger members of the school for a Charity Extravaganza. The Year 12 and 13 students set up stalls, held competitions, raffles and sold sweets and cakes to a large number of lower school pupils. In addition, £180 of the grand total was raised from a pitch side collection during the recent Year 12 v Year 13 rugby match on Friday 1st March. A thrilling game, expertly refereed by Mr Northwood and eventually won by the Year 12 team. We look forward to the re-match and also to next year's Sixth Form Charity Challenge. Well done to all the students (and staff!) who were involved.



Stop Press!!! The Sixth Form Charity Fundraising Cup for 2013 has been awarded to **12TP** who managed to raise an impressive £375.38. Well done to all the members of 12TP who worked so hard to raise the money!

Community and Enrichment

Mr Beechey

Neighbourhood Forum

Wigton's Neighbourhood Forum met in March in The Nelson Thomlinson School Library. The event was chaired by Sixth Form students, Trent Warmate and Alex Wood. Astud Turner, Leon Turner and Bethan Spencer made a presentation about the Tercentenary plans for the following year. It was also pleasing to see another large cohort of NTS students who presented details of the 'Something for the Summer' concert they are organising together with the Wigton Youth Station.

Charity News

Red Nose Day

15th March was Comic Relief Day with the culmination of lots of Sixth Form fund raising activities as part of their fund raising week. There were a huge range of activities taking place including a French Bistro in Mr Priddle's history classroom. In addition to £200 worth of red noses there was a large amount raised for this worthy cause.

Emily hits the £5000 mark!

You may have read in the last newsletter of Emily Jackson's efforts raising funds for Complex Regional Pain Syndrome research. Following on from this, Emily has now raised £5400 for this charity having organised a fund raising dinner and auctions at the Greenhill Hotel. The event raised over £2000 with Emily auctioning a signed shirt from Tottenham Hotspur.

Tercentenary plans

In 1714, official agreement was made to establish the Wigton Free Grammar School. This means 2014 will be the official Tercentenary of The Nelson Thomlinson School that exists today. Plans are underway to celebrate this with a range of events. We welcome suggestions from parents and the local public. It should be an exciting year for the school!

Friends of Nelson Thomlinson Draw What are the odds of that?

The draw was made for the PTA 100 Club this month. Each number is drawn for: 1st place £25, 2nd Place £15 and 3rd place £10. After the 3 numbers are drawn out they are then placed back in the bag and shaken up.

Prizes were drawn for January-April and as you can see despite the numbers being well shaken (I know I was there) some amazing results came out with some entrants winning twice.

The results are as follows

January 1st - Ray Foster, 2nd Karen Myers, 3rd Jeff Parker.

February 1st - Barbara Stanton, 2nd Charles Welbourn, 3rd Mike Beechey.

March 1st - Barbara Stanton, 2nd Karen Myers, 3rd Charles Welbourn.

April 1st - Sandra Meier, 2nd Jack Swainson, 3rd Sarah Bragg.

Cheques will be posted out soon.

If you still wish to join and bag some of the cash the fee for the rest of the year is £8. Please send your cheques to Mr Beechey payable to FONTS.

Maths question: what is the chance of Mrs Stanton being drawn first for two draws in a row?

Answer in the next newsletter!

'Stars in your Eyes'

The 'Stars in your Eyes' event had to be postponed last Friday due to the weather. Staff will now take to the stage in aid of this Tanzania fundraiser on Friday 19th April; please use existing tickets if you have purchased them. There will be ten varied staff performances from Abba to the Spice Girls to look forward to!

Young Enterprise



Our Young Enterprise team, **Kick Start**, have been working hard preparing for their Company Programme regional final event which takes place on the 27th March at the Crown and Mitre in Carlisle. The team has produced a book called 'Ziggy's Cumbrian Adventures' which is aimed at Key Stage 1 students. The aim is to encourage boys to read. The book is available for download on Amazon, so please support the team and download the book. It costs just £1.50 or is available in hard copy from school for £3.

Activities Day Tuesday July 16th 2013

This year we have a fun-packed day planned with lots of activities for the whole school. There would be the opportunity to help out with a wide range of activities, in particular, we need help on a Manchester United/War Museum trip, Ice skating and Keswick walk. If you are interested please contact Mr Beechey - mb@nts.cumbria.sch.uk

Internationalism at NTS!

A busy half-term!

Mrs Johnson & Mr Broster



(Our international mentors with some of the East Asian teachers)

On Wednesday 20th February 2013, we were fortunate enough to receive in school 25 teachers from East Asia. They came from a number of countries including Korea and Taiwan. Some of the teachers were already known to us through our existing links, e.g. Miss Wu, who is currently pursuing further study in Education at Durham University, and former student Mr Eliot Moore, who has been teaching in Korea following the completion of his History Degree, both attended.

The day was a busy one – the teachers were welcomed by Mr Northwood and were then looked after by Mrs Johnson and Mr Broster for the remainder of the day. They observed lessons (with twenty of our staff involved), had the chance to watch a lesson being coached in L5 (from a choice of two) and were invited to a "Meet the Asia Club" event held in J Hall and run by our younger pupils.

The day was rounded off with a professional development session in the school library, led by Mr Proudfoot, which sought to enable the teachers to reflect upon what they had seen throughout the day, focussing particularly on use of ICT, Cooperative Learning Strategies, Independent Learning and Assessment for Learning. The canteen staff provided an excellent buffet and many of our teachers and pupils took the opportunity to meet the teachers in the J Hall at lunchtime. This included our maintenance team and was a very pleasant event.



(David Matthias, British Council, East Asian teachers and Mr McConnell observe a French lesson in L5)

Sports News

Mrs Lee & Mrs Clark



(Year 7 Netball Team)

U12 Copeland and Allerdale Netball Tournament

This year we entered four teams into the tournament. All the girls had attended practice each week since September and therefore, rightly deserved the chance to represent the school. Team 1, entered into the 'A' tournament, won all of their matches apart from one in the section and proceeded to the semi-final as winners on goal difference. After a real team effort in the semis they emerged victors and moved on to the final. Here, they met Keswick and at full-time, after winning the match, became tournament champions.

Teams 2, 3 and 4 played their own round robin tournament. After playing some of the best netball of the season, team 2 won all of their games and were the victors, team 3 won 3 of their games and team 4 won 2 of their games.

Special thanks to Shakayla Okesene, Sophie Studholme and Aimee Watson for umpiring and coaching teams 3 and 4 on the day. Also to Sophie, Aimee, Molly Tweddle, Amy Dixon, Ellie Skelhorn and Lauren Spowart for helping with practice religiously every Monday and Tuesday since September.

This was a fitting end to a very successful season.

National Cross-Country

Sarah Brookes finished 101st out of approx. 300 competitors. Scott Wilson finished 13th and has been invited to run in the Junior London mini marathon. Unfortunately, Abbie Hetherington had to retire in her race. Congratulations to them all on their success.

Royal Navy Visit

Week beginning 4th March saw the Royal Navy in the Department for three days. Their Fit for Life and Leadership programme was delivered to all groups over the three days with all year groups involved at some stage. Pupils enjoyed vigorous exercise and fun games and hopefully now understand how important exercise is for everyday life. They were also given an insight into the Royal Navy.

Basketball - U15s



Nelson Thomlinson won the Cumbrian Northern Regional finals day held at Caldew School beating Caldew 10-6 in the final. The team, made up of Karlton Rudd, Harry Sawdon, James Lightfoot and Keenan Hayton, played fantastically well as a team with their tight marking and accurate passing major reasons for their success - they will now progress to the County Championships to be held in Barrow on Sunday 28th April where we wish them further success! Team photo above!

U18 Football

The U18 football team have progressed to the final of the County Cup for the 3rd consecutive year after an excellent 4-1 victory over Kirkbie Kendal School in the semi-final. Hugh Hodgson scored a superb hat-trick with Jake Bennett adding the other goal. The midfield was excellent throughout and the defence extremely disciplined through to the last minute. Nelson Thomlinson will now meet Queen Katherine School in the final. Good luck to all involved in attempting to retain the trophy!

SSCO

Mr Clark has visited four of our local primary schools during the spring term, Kirkbride School, St Cuthbert's, Ireby and Thomlinson Juniors, as part of the school sports co-ordinator role. He has also been taking Year 1 and 2 Dance (The Haka and Bollywood styles) as well as some Tag Rugby.

David Wise held the annual Tennis Festival at Solway School with eight Nelson Thomlinson school boys officiating and helping to run the tournament - James Holyoake, Jay Charters, Kyle Hetherington, John Kemp, Sean Millican, Daniel Oldham, Alex Green and Nathan Gray - these boys did an excellent job throughout the festival. Well done!

Next up is the County Gymnastics Tournament on the 27th March - where 28 of our pupils will be officiating and judging the competition. Good luck to all!

HAPPY EASTER!

**SUMMER TERM STARTS ON
MONDAY 15TH APRIL.**