

SPRING
TERM

March 2011

Compiled by
Mrs Crone
School Librarian

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The Nelson
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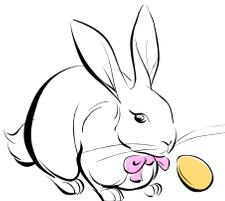
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NTS NEWSLETTER

Rotary Chef Competition 2010 Mrs Bryan

On Wednesday 19th January the following 5 pupils took part in the Rotary Young Chef Competition: Rachel Harker, Chloe Hickman, Colette Blakley, Katrina Shirvinton and Jonathan Tallontire.

Each pupil had to research, plan, prepare and serve a healthy two-course meal for two people within a budget of £10 using local produce. They had to demonstrate a variety of practical skills and work under pressure to prepare their meals within an hour and thirty minutes. The standard of the competition this year was very high and the judges commented that the pupils were all talented young people which made it difficult for them to choose a winner. Their menus were challenging and their table displays were simply elegant, which reflected the amount of time that each pupil had invested in the competition. The result was:

First place: **Jonathan Tallontire**, whose menu consisted of - Grilled cod with a herb crust served with new potatoes, green salad and tartar sauce followed by cinnamon pancakes.

Second place: **Chloe Hickman**.

Third place: **Rachel Harker**



(Pictured from left to right: Chloe, Jonathan & Rachel)

Both Jonathan and Chloe then went on to represent the school in the Cumbria finals of the Rotary Chef Competition which was held at St. Benedict's School in Whitehaven on Wednesday 16th February. As always, the standard of the competition was very high and this year was no exception with a record entry of 12 pupils taking part from in and around Cumbria.

Jonathon Tallontire was the runner up in the Cumbria finals with his menu which consisted of scallops on a bed of pea puree and black pudding, grilled cod with an herb crust served with new potatoes, green salad and tartar sauce followed by pancakes served with oranges and a chocolate sauce.



The winner was Oliver George from Ullswater Community College with his menu consisting of scallops with a spiced onion dressing, lamb served on a bed of spinach with a sweet potato fondant, onion purée and a lamb jus and to follow, plum soufflé served with a plum compote.

Both Jonathon and Chloe should be extremely proud of their achievements throughout this year's competition.

As always, this competition cannot run smoothly without the help and support of others. So I would like to thank Mrs Linda Johnston and Mrs Litt for all their hard work and support in making this competition a success.

I would also like to thank Len Baseley and Mr and Mrs North for giving up their time to judge the competition and in supporting the pupils and giving them the benefit of their combined years of experience and advice.

Music Advance Notice: Mr Thorpe



Spring Concert - Thursday 7th April 2011 -
School Hall - 7.00pm - £3/£2

Prize Concert - Friday 13th May 2011 - Venue
to be confirmed - 7.00pm - £4/£3

Library News

Mrs Crone

'Spellbinding' 2011

Thirty-eight members of the NTS Reading Club are now reading their way through the shortlisted titles for the Cumbria Schools' Book Award Scheme. They have up to the beginning of May to read and review as many of the books as they can. The scheme has changed back to its original format this year with 10 shortlisted books for all pupils to read instead of 6 different titles for junior and senior members, as was the case last year. We also anticipate the reinstatement of the Spellbinding Award Day at Newton Rigg in June but this has yet to be verified.



(Senior members of the NTS Reading Club at the Spellbinding launch which was held in the Library on 19th January)

The shortlisted books are listed below for those who would like to try them out:

Candor by Pam Bachorz

Tripwire by Steve Cole & Chris Hunter

Halo by Zizou Corder

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

The Enemy by Charlie Higson

Unlocking the Moon by Greg Hughes

The Death-Defying Pepper Roux by Geraldine McCaughrean

Wasted by Nicola Morgan

Day of the Assassins by Jonny O'Brien

Timeriders by Alex Scarrow

World Book Day 2011

On March 3rd all pupils received £1 WBD tokens from their form tutors which can be exchanged for one of the specially produced books or used against the purchase of a book or audio book worth £2.99 or more at participating bookshops. World Book Day also saw the launch of a new website for teens. This is a space for young people to share their opinions on books and reading. The website will host exclusive book-related videos, a "what to read" and writing competition, with prizes ranging from a Nintendo DSi to online publishing opportunities. The website address is: www.digi-tale.co.

World Book Day Literature Quiz – The winners were:

Sophie Rheam 9DRF

Reece Parnaby 10CL

They both received £6 book tokens to purchase a book prize from the C2C Scholastic Book Club catalogue.

Tesco Computers for Schools



We will, once again, be providing collection boxes for the Tesco computers for schools vouchers in the School Library and the main office. We hope you will continue to support this scheme which enables us to acquire educational equipment for the school in exchange for the vouchers.

Design and Technology Department News

Mr Chapman

Our links with Innovia films is longstanding and is going from strength to strength. Following a conversation with Dennis Graham, and with the support of other personnel, there arrived in the Engineering room a brand new TIG welding kit kindly supplied by Hunter Engineering Ltd. at the request of Innovia. For those who don't know about the intricacies of welding this Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) set will compliment the MIG, Oxygen and Acetylene and the resistance welding ability we already have. The department also invested in some very effective consumables, personal protective equipment and complementary kit so that we now have a welding facility that we can be proud of. The pupils particularly like the Electronic light reactive welding helmets, which make them look like Darth Vader. Jimmy Hunter was kind enough to come into school and train a number of technology teachers in the finer points of welding great lumps of metal together.

As is the case with all of our equipment the welding set was put to immediate use with our year 13 pupil, Alex Johnston, using it to assemble the calf crush that he has designed and is now making. This project is part of his A-level work for Product Design/Resistant Materials. Alex has received an offer to study Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College London where we are sure he will put his Engineering experience to good use. As a department we would like to thank Innovia films for their constant support of the department. The donation of the TIG welder is a very visible example of the help they give us.

The following are just some of the other ways:

- Supplying and maintaining our gas welding facilities.
- Cutting material to size.
- Helping pupils with their project work.
- Giving advice and guidance on technical queries.
- Taking our pupils on work experience placements.
- Hosting visits from our Engineering groups.

(pictured below - Alex using the new welder)



PTA Debbie Williams

100 Club

The 100 Club is a lottery run by the PTA to raise funds for the school. Each month 3 numbers are drawn and prizes sent out to ticket owners: 1st - £20, 2nd - £15 and 3rd - £10. Tickets for the 100 Club cost £12 each and can be purchased using a form that is available from the school office. The closing date for purchasing tickets for this year's 100 Club is 28th February 2011. If you have not already bought a ticket we would be grateful if you would consider joining the 100 Club this year.

Ceilidh

'The Reel Jigglers' will be playing at a Ceilidh in the school hall on Saturday 2nd April at 7.30pm to raise funds for the PTA. Ticket prices are: £4 for adults, £2 for students/children and £10 for a family and can be purchased from the school office or at the door on the night. Ticket price includes a drink on arrival. Refreshments will be available on the night.

Next PTA meeting is on Monday the 28th of March at 7.30pm at the Wigton Rugby Club.
All welcome.

Parent help – Mr Beechey

This year's Summer Activities Day is on Tuesday 12th of July. Parents on one-off supervised activities can now help on such activities without requiring a CRB check. If you are interested in helping out and joining us in a range of activities (such as Keswick walk, visit to the life centre, ice skating etc) please contact Mr Beechey or email mb@nts.cumbria.sch.uk

Similarly you may wish to help us with our Curriculum Enrichment Day on June 30th where a range of activities will be taking place in and out of school.

Year 10 Debating Mrs L Pettifer

Current Year 10s had the opportunity to choose a non-examined activity course at the start of the year, and one of these options was in Philosophy and Debating. In total, 45 pupils have worked on a range of philosophical issues, discussion skills and argument protocols. In recent weeks, star performances in debating have been given by Trent Warmate, Jamie Dodd and Jay Brannan, arguing that 'The class system is a British tradition and should be maintained' against Elise Warwick, Eleanor Servante and David Carr, all of whom used rebuttal tactics and counter-arguments with flair. On another occasion, a motion of 'This house holds that equality between social groups is not achievable' was carried, after a very combative discussion with notable contributions from Elle Moxon, Will Smallwood, Lawrence Smith, and Chelsea Postlethwaite, with valuable comments from the floor, from Ed Moore, Chloe Esselmont, Maisie Lear and Luke Williams. Ewan Docherty and Rachel Harper also deserve a special mention for their patient and calm Chairperson skills.

The Debate groups have also been lucky to have received support and guidance from members of the Wigton Rotary Club who, along with Miss Beattie, arranged a debate also involving Sixth Form students which took place in the School Library. Mr Ian Downes, Dr Alison Miles and Mr Len Basely were the judges

of the competition which resulted in a victory for Trent Warmate's group, presenting arguments on the benefits of sports in schools. Trent was subsequently selected to lead a team at the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition held in February (full report below).

Lancashire and Cumbria Youth Speaks Competition Miss Beattie

After a very successful speaking competition organised and held in the school library by Miss Beattie in December and judged by members of Wigton Rotary Club, a team was chosen to represent The Nelson Thomlinson School in the National Rotary Youth Speaks competition.

On Saturday, February 12th, Emily Graham (L6), Trent Warmate (Y10) and Chloe Esslemont (Y10) represented the school and Wigton at the Lancashire and Cumbria finals of the competition, which this year was held at Heversham.

Emily was the Chairperson, Trent the main Speaker, Chloe gave the Vote of Thanks and the subject they spoke on was 'Sport and Aspiration'.

The standard of the competition was very high indeed with 10 schools from Cumbria and Lancashire having won through to the finals. Emily, Trent and Chloe gave a very good account of themselves and were unlucky not to have come away with the prize. However, they all found it a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience.



SIMS

Jackie Prosser (Data Manager)

SIMS (School Information Management System) is the system we use in The Nelson Thomlinson School to manage a wide range of information on all aspects of school business. We have recently introduced a new feature, the SIMS Learning Gateway (SLG), which in response to the previous Government's legislation, made it obligatory for schools to make certain information available to parent(s)/carer(s) online. This includes a pupil's

- Personal details
- Attendance data
- Assessment data including reports
- Behaviour data

The Learning Gateway became live on 7th February to those parents who have filled in the Learning Gateway Parental Access Request Form.

If you require one of these forms please contact slghelp@nts.cumbria.sch.uk.

Community and Enrichment News

Mr Beechey

Rock Night

Our February Rock night was as usual filled to bursting with over £ 500 raised for charitable causes. The Rock night is mainly organised by the students themselves with help from staff and parents along the way. They continue to be a real crowd puller.

Cyber-Bullying

This year's Year 12 Young Enterprise team 'Safety Net' is making a huge impact in school and regionally. Their company sells cyber-bullying presentations and accompanying materials to a range of groups. They have completed 20 presentations to NTS students, North Cumbria primary and secondary schools and members of the County Council and Neighbourhood Forum groups. The team has been featured on local radio and on Border TV spreading their important message. They also plan to stage an extended parental information session on such issues as 'Facebook' safety after Easter.

Adult Education Centre success

Cumbria Adult Education centres (including our own) received an Ofsted Inspection in January. Two NTS classes were observed; belly dancing and guitar. The overall judgement across the 40 centres was a grade 2 which was above previous 3 judgements for the regional centres. Mrs Wastaney was pleased with the outcome which placed greater emphasis on the quality of teaching and learning within classes.

For up to date information on such courses see the school website and associated link page.

Wigton Neighbourhood Forum

In February NTS students hosted the Wigton Neighbourhood Forum in the School Library. School Council students had collected and collated survey results from across the school to identify what our students think of their local communities and what services they access and would be interested in accessing in the future. Three year 11-13 students hosted the whole evening which included a presentation on the results of the Wigton survey (this was a summary of 500 responses to a questionnaire). Many local clubs and organisations will use this information to aid their provision.

A copy of the results are available from Mr Beechey at NTS.

This was a highly effective community event which will be held at NTS once a year in the future.

(6th Formers - Andrew Purdham & Chris Connell – during their presentation to the Neighbourhood Forum)



P.E Department News

Mrs Lee

P.E. Display

The P.E. display held over two evenings in early February was very entertaining. It demonstrated talented dancers and gymnasts and the challenges requiring the audience to participate in other sports were a great success. All demonstrated the array of activities offered by the P.E. Department to all age groups. Many thanks to Miss Moody and Mrs Small, who organised the event and to all pupils and staff who helped in whatever capacity.

Fixtures- Spring Term 2011

Tuesday 22nd March:

U12 (A & B), U13, U14, U15 & U16 netball teams v Stainburn at home.

U12 & U14 boys' football teams v St. Joseph's at home.

Thursday 24th March:

U13 & U15 boys' football teams v St. Joseph's at home.

GCSE P.E. external moderation practical assessments.

Saturday 26th March:

English Schools' Cross-Country Cup final at Alnwick - Intermediate Girls.

Tuesday 29th March:

U13 & U15 Hockey

U12B, U14B & U16 netball teams v Keswick away.

U12 & U14 boys' football teams v Netherhall away.

Wednesday 30th March:

U12, U13 A & B, U14, U15 & U16 Netball teams v Cockermouth at home.

Thursday 31st March:

U12 Netball Tournament away at Keswick – leave school at 12.45p.m.

U13 & U15 boys' football teams v Netherhall away.

Tuesday 5th April:

U12 & U14 B football teams v Southfield at home.

Thursday 7th April U13 & U15 B football teams v Southfield at home.

N.B. There are still some fixtures to add and the dates are subject to change depending on the weather. Lists are on the wall in the Sports Hall and Reception. Also, look out for two new after school activities coming your way in the summer term. A new Trampolining Club will be running in the evenings during the week with a fencing course being run after school in the summer term.

Finally, thanks to all who have supported the P.E. Department so far this year.

Year 8 Darts Competition

Mrs Foster

In February, Ben Law 8AM, organised a lunchtime darts competition. 32 Year 8 boys signed up and played a game of doubles. Rhys Benson and Chad Little went on to become winners of the competition after a week of exciting competition in H18.

