Welcome Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

The second term at school is also over. This was a long term and we have had a number of exciting activities. It has been indeed wonderful to see so many pupils develop and progress through their learning journeys in the recent months.

This term we had a number of events starting from the concerts held for Kindergarten 2 and Junior 1. The latter were delighted to be performing in the evening with most of the parents, grandparents and siblings present for this performance. Kindergarten 2 enjoyed a great performance titled ‘On Toy Town Street’ which had delightful costumes and a thoroughly good learning experience related to the comings and goings of street life. Junior 2 pupils had a festival in February related to ‘Author of the Month’ during which pupils presented a song related to a Julia Donaldson book. This was enjoyed a great deal by the pupils themselves as they danced and learnt about the different characters presented in the books of this well known author. Next term we look forward to the Kindergarten 1 concert!

Sports’ Days this term were held for both Junior 1 & 2. It is always a great delight to see the pupils involved in some much action with so much enthusiasm. This year was also another special year for parent involvement. Parents do not only turn up to cheer the pupils but also enthusiastically take part in the Parent race serving as very good role modelling to their own children. Keep it up Mums and Dads!

Reception classes this term covered a number of topics ranging from nursery rhythms to Easter to springtime. Teachers at this level meet regularly and plan their work and classroom activities with much zest and spirit. Kindergarten 1 and 2 teachers also take time to prepare their class work so that pupils are given the same programmes irrespective to the class they are in. In Kindergarten 2 programmes are started such as Jolly Phonics, Oxford Reading Tree, Numicon and Abacus in preparation for Junior 1. We hope and work towards having our pupils well prepared for more structured learning in primary schooling.

We have many plans for the coming term keeping in mind that this will be the shortest term and the hottest of all. We will continue ‘The Author of the Month’ for Junior 1 and 2 – taking Chris Wormell as our next author. In Reception, Kindergarten 1 and 2 we will have more topics – mostly related to summer time, the beach and water.

We look forward to the coming term and trust that this will be a good ending to this academic year! We enjoy watching our pupils learn and enjoy their days at school and we enjoy your participation and involvement whenever the opportunity arises.

A Happy Easter to ALL!

Denise Borg
Head – Early Years
HANDS ON CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES

CHS WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

All the pupils dressed up for Carnival this year in their beautiful and colourful costumes. This year Carnival took a special twist with the school’s participation in the Guinness World Record Attempt. Parents rose to the occasion and prepared some wonderful and elaborate costumes to fit to the story book character. We successfully exceeded the amount reached last year by another school and hope to be featured in the 2011 Guinness Book of World Record.

ANIMAL MONTH

The month of January was dedicated to teaching children about the care of animals. During this month Kindergarten 1 pupils had animals as their topic and were shown a variety of animals during Pet Week. Junior 2 worked on the topic “Animal!” during that month. Junior 1 and 2 learnt about a variety of books written by Eric Carle. He was the Author of the Month for January and some wonderful artwork related to animals was produced by these pupils. All Early Years pupils adopted an animal per class (using a laminated photo of the dog/cat) and collected foodstuffs for that particular animal. All pupils were shown a variety of dogs and rabbits. In each classroom in Junior 1 and 2 pupils were invited to bring in an animal for a show and tell session. Once again it was a pleasure to see the involvement of parents within the classrooms.

KINDNESS WEEK

As part of our Social and Emotional Learning Programme Ms Cathy Peric and Ms Nadia Galea organised Kindness Week during which activities were organised around this concept. Pupils were shown clips related to kindness and worked at an activity using an apple to understand the effect of kind vs unkind actions on others. During Assembly pupils were given the opportunity to read out poems related to kindness. Ms. Suzanne’s class in Junior 2 sang a wonderful song related to kindness. It was a pleasure to see parents join in our morning assembly.

JUNIOR 1 & 2 SPORTS DAY

Once again it was with great pleasure to have parents come to St Martin’s College to join in the fun for Sports Day for the Junior 1 and 2 pupils. This year’s Sports Days was organised by Ms. Rita Bonello, Mr Mark Buttigieg and Ms Katie Worley. Pupils were given the opportunity to work both individually and as teams. Parents and teachers were also encouraged to take part in races. At this level a non-competitive approach towards sports is encouraged and all pupils received a medal for their individual effort and participation.

RECEPTION

Reception pupils have been busily preparing arts and crafts relating to Spring and Easter. At present we have one teacher and two helpers in each Reception class and pupils are given a daily opportunity to work on an activity in smaller groups of six with the class teacher. This allows for individual attention and an augmented teacher/pupil relationship. Reception pupils have progressed extremely well since the beginning of the year thanks to our dedicated team of teachers and helpers.
HANDS ON CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES

NEWS REPORT

Junior 1 and 2 pupils received new reports this term since only continuous assessments will be taking place within the Early Years. Report cards gave descriptive information of each child’s ability in a specific skill related to six areas of learning. Single word reading assessments in English (using the Schonell Single Word Reading Test) took place for Junior 2 in October as well as in February. These will be carried out once again in May in order to assess each child’s progress in English Reading.

JUNIOR 2 FESTIVAL

This year the J2 pupils took part in a Festival which was organised in conjunction with the Author of the Month. Works done during Art classes with Ms Simone Stilton were exhibited in the Foyer for parents to view prior or following the class performance. Pupils in each class performed a song related to one of the books written by Julia Donaldson. These included Room on the Broom (Ms Lizzie’s class), Monkey Puzzle (Ms. Miriam’s class), A Squash and a Squeeze (Ms. Rosette’s class) and The Gruffalo (Ms. Suzanne’s class). Pupils were once again invited to read a poem or a piece of prose related to their favourite author.

WHAT’S COMING?

Mothers’ Morning (May 5th and 6th)

Mothers’ Morning celebrates Mothers during this special month of May. Kindergarten 1 and 2 pupils will be presenting a flower to our Lady and will sing some songs related to this occasion. Prior to this we will present a slide show of the pupils engaged in classroom activities.

Play Day

The Kindergarten 2 pupils will be having a Play Day which allows parents to see their children in a variety of sporting action. Pupils will be exhibiting the skills learnt during P.E. classes as well as during Rhythmic Movement. Activities will take place in stations and parents will be able to move from one station to another throughout the Play Day.

Kindergarten 1 Concert

This is our annual concert for our young pupils in Kindergarten 1. This concert is planned and managed by Ms Madeleine Vassallo, an ex-Headmistress of Kindergarten at Chiswick House School. The teachers work hard at organizing their class so that the pupils learn their lines and know their part. Come along and cheer your child during his/her first performance on a stage.

Parents’ Workshops

These workshops are extremely useful and during the last term they focus on the transition to the follow year. We will be discussing what has taken place during the last term and what will be covered in the year to come. Educational matters pertaining to the children’s age and level will be discussed. This year Ms Anita Seguna will be attending these workshops so that you will have the opportunity to get to know her better in preparation for the coming year.

Rewarding Achievement (J1/J2)

This is a celebration of the end of the year for the Junior 1 and 2 pupils who have worked extremely hard throughout the year. During this ceremony pupils are presented with a book as a memory of that particular year at school. Pupils will sing a few songs generally sung during assembly and music classes. We look forward to seeing parents for this event.

JUNIOR 1 CONCERT

This year to the excitement and exuberance of the pupils the concert was held in the evening. This was done to support working parents who require time off to come to school performances. The Junior 1 concert was extremely well attended by parents, grandparents and siblings. The concert was the result of hard work by Ms. Larissa Bonaci and Ms. Martina Caruana.
Christmas Fair

Another successful Christmas Fair was organized by the Parents’ Circle during Parents’ Day. The hall was beautifully set up with various stalls selling books, poinsettias, mince and apple pies, Christmas logs, homemade cakes and sandwiches, toys and games, costume jewellery and beauty products.

Proceeds from the sale of the above items were in aid of charity and an attractive sum of €1000.00 was donated to Dar Merhba Bik in Balzan.

A big thank you to all Parents!

Three lucky winners won the raffle prizes.

1st Prize: Marks & Spencer Hamper - Pink Ticket No 160 won by Ms Mandy Balzan (Faye – Jr 4 Ms Mandy).

2nd Prize: Home made Christmas Cake - Ticket No 080 (series 7349) won by Ms Mario Taliana (Nina – KG1 Ms Vanya).

3rd Prize: Avon Token - Light Green Ticket No 041 won by Mr Alistair Irvine (Delaney – Jr 1 Ms Rosalind).

Congratulations to the winners.

Christmas Parties

Christmas parties were organized by the Parents’ Circle over the festive period. These parties always prove to be very popular with our children who thoroughly enjoyed all the games which were put together by the Parents’ Circle.

It was great to see the children’s happy faces after many weeks of meetings and planning. A very big ‘Thank You’ is due to all the Parents who gave a hand, or two, to help make these parties so successful.

Carnival Parties

Two back to back parties were held in the School’s Theatre on Saturday, 5th March.

Entertainment was provided by Giorgio who kept the students thrilled and happy.

Forthcoming Events

A MOTHER’S MORNING WILL BE ORGANISED AT CHISWICK HOUSE SCHOOL ON MONDAY 9TH MAY.

Please keep this date free. More information will be given out closer to the date.

80’s Party for all parents on Friday 27th May

KEEP THIS DATE FREE.
REWIND AND RELAX!
Let us take you back to the 80’s.

80% OF PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE MALTA HOSPICE MOVEMENT.

A flyer with further information will be sent out soon.

Please keep this date free. Information will be given out date.