



Headlines

December 2008

School Website www.jamesbrindley.bham.sch.uk



In our ongoing quest for national publicity, a few weeks ago I was interviewed by the ICT guru Russell Prue for his podcast that is transmitted monthly. Russell was interested in finding out how we had managed to be the first hospital school in the country to gain Specialist Status and details of our plans for the future. The interview was a positive experience and enabled me to reflect upon our outstanding achievements in this area and also with our recent Ofsted report.

Staffing

This term we have appointed:

- Caroline Mace to be the Assistant Head of Parkway
- Michelle Holland as the new Teaching Assistant at BCH.

We also say goodbye to Clive Hartwell who is retiring after eight years service with JBS. We will miss Clive and wish him well for the future.

Although we have not had many staffing changes this half-term, we have had 3 junior arrivals. Emilie Zajac, MSO, has had a girl – Elizabeth. Lucy Leggett, teacher at Ardenleigh

has had a daughter – Ellie, and Emma Byrne, also from Ardenleigh has had a little girl called Isabelle.

News & Events

Almost all sectors of JBS fund raised for Children in Need. BCH raised almost £1600 with Joel raising over £1000 on his own by selling his 'Pudsy' merchandise. If Joel looks familiar to you it's because he featured in a Central Today news report. Well done Joel!



Northfield had their most successful MacMillan coffee afternoon raising over £100 selling cakes and coffee to pupils, staff and parents. Many thanks to Viki Skidmore and the pupils for their hard work.



On Monday 8th December Thinktank visited the wards at BCH and brought activities designed to complement the primary Science Curriculum, which were also suitable to use by the bedside. The activities were fun, exciting and also thought provoking. Comments from the children included “I have learnt how electricity flows”; “I have really enjoyed making a spark”; “I couldn’t get blue magnets to stick together, but a blue one would stick to a red one”; “I was surprised how much I could do with one hand” and “It was fun!”



We have been successful in our application for a £2000 grant from the Charles Henry Trust Fund. The grant is to be used to provide a one day workshop at BCH and Dovedale. The dance workshop will focus on developing emotions through expressive art.

Julia Smith (Teacher for PE/Leisure) has been working with pupils from all sectors and has announced the following awards:

Football:

Most improved player: Sebastian Stafford Cooke (Northfield)

Best team player: Nadeem Rasool (BCH)

Bowling:

Most improved player: Chantelle Pierre (Parkway)

Top scorer: Tom Swapp (Northfield)

Personal Achievement: Elliott Davies (Northfield)

Swimming:

Making the most progress: Hayley Whittaker (Northfield)

Fitness:

Making the most progress: Philippa Hibbert (Northfield)

Table Tennis:

Most improved player: a pupil from Willows



We have made an excellent start with our Media Arts Specialism. There are many projects beginning across our sites such as the BBC project that supports our pupils to become reporters for the BBC and will hopefully result in some pupils being featured on national television. We have also secured the help of both Birmingham City Football Club and BRMB in order to establish our Media Bus. We are working hard on this and hope to have the bus operational by Easter 2009.

We are now conducting our own internal reviews of curriculum areas and sectors of JBS. We are planning to do one of these each half term and have started the process by looking at the ICT department and Willows. We would like

to thank staff and pupils for their co-operation and support for these reviews.

A 'raising expectations' day aimed at thinking skills, problem solving and teamwork was held at Northfield on the 10th December. The day was enjoyed by all who took part with the Home Teaching pupils, Laura Harrison, Lauren Draper and Luke Doyle being particularly successful when it came to teamwork.

A French theatre group performed to a number of Home Teaching pupils who thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Nadeem Rasool from BCH demonstrated considerable initiative by organising a Christmas card competition across all sites of JBS. Entries were judged during Monday SLT meeting and prizes were awarded as follows:

1. Dillon Johnson (Home Teaching) - £25 voucher



2. Katie Jones (BCH) - £15 voucher
3. Sarah Abdulhraman (Home Teaching) - £10 voucher

Congratulations to the winners and to all the young people who took part as the standard was very high. The winning card will be the James Brindley Christmas Card for 2009.

Current year 11's at Northfield raised £380 from Enterprise activities as part of the WRL program. They did this by washing cars, selling and making hot chocolate drinks and Christmas gifts.

Hannah Twiname (Northfield) entered the Young Persons Poet Laureate for Birmingham and was shortlisted to the last ten. The theme was 'work' and Hannah had to read her poetry to an audience including the famous poet Benjamin Zephania. A nerve wracking experience, but one which we hope made Hannah very proud.

Asdan Bronze awards were achieved by Elliot Davies, Reis Fell, Shelby Newton-Spencer, Clare Palmer and Sarah Jones, all members of year 11 at Northfield. An outstanding achievement, well done!

At the end of another very busy term, I would like to thank staff, parents and pupils for their ongoing enthusiasm and support and to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

School returns on the 5th January 2009.

Nicky Kendall
Head Teacher

