

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 14

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

19th March 2008

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Friday, you should have received the full Ofsted report in your eldest child's book bag. We hope you are as proud as we are of what it says about our school. Essentially, the overall judgement of 'satisfactory with good features' confirms that we are getting the basics right, excelling in some areas, and that the school is set to go from strength to strength over the next few years.

Everyone has worked so hard to get to this point and **I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, children and parents for their valued contributions towards making Fairlands such a great place to be.**

There are, of course, things in the report that we still need to work on. But please rest assured - we are onto it!

I hope you all have a very enjoyable Easter break and look forward to seeing you all back at school on **Tuesday, 8th April.**

Robert Staples
Headteacher

SCIENCE WEEK

Thank you very much to Miss Pearson, Yr 5, for organising some really exciting events for Science Week last week:

In KS2, Year 6 were visited by Chris Woodard from Stevenage Borough Council Pest Control, who brought along some bugs, spiders and a snake and talked to the children about what makes an animal a 'pest' and how best to look after pets.

Year 5 visited Stevenage Museum where they designed and made a rocket to transport diamonds across a canyon! Years 3 & 4 carried out the same activity in school.

Children in KS1 and some of the children from the Foundation Stage enjoyed a wonderful workshop delivered by SETPOINT, on the theme of Our Bodies and Our Senses. There were many "doctors" in white coats, assisting the children, who were able to practise their scientific skills and learn new information. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all and photographs should appear on the web site soon.

Those children in Reception who did not attend the workshop were treated to a short performance of "It's not magic - it's science", where they witnessed the power of magnets and static electricity.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

On Wednesday, children in Foundation Stage & KS1 took part in a Sponsored Egg and Spoon Obstacle Race. Photographs of this event will be published on the school website. The event was organised by the KS1 School Councillors, but KS2 Councillors helped as well. We had to spend loads of time wrapping eggs (luckily there were one or two spare ones to eat!), and making decorations for the course. If you've lost your sponsor form, don't worry, we can always get you another one!

Money raised will go towards creating our Science Garden and Pond. We will be buying the Friendship Bench soon from the last time we had a fund raising event!

The X Factor competition planned for KS2 has had to be put off due to the pressure on the school halls due to the fire, but we hope to have it soon.

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN WITH BARNARDOS

This week KS2 children were asked to decorate a hard-boiled egg, make it into a character and care for it for the whole week and designed a container to keep their egg safe. We have seen some fantastic ideas and hope the children enjoyed this challenge, which was all in aid of the children's charity Barnardos. **Don't forget to bring your donation envelopes into school by Wednesday, 9th April** to be entered in a draw to win a Barnardo's Bear.

EASTER DISCO

A good time was had by all at Monday's Easter Disco/Party. Thank you to the Friends of Fairlands for organising the event, and to the staff who helped out.

SPORTS RELIEF

Last week Cedar class took part in sponsored spelling, skipping and ball bouncing activities and managed to raise £30.00 for Sport Relief.

ATTENDANCE AWARD



Congratulations to Walnut, who have won the award for 2 weeks in a row with fantastic attendance of 98.6% and 96.2%!

In assembly on Monday children with 100% attendance this term were presented with certificates – well done to them all.

KS1 SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

Next half term KS1 will be having some of the sex and relationships lessons which form part of their curriculum. If parents wish to view any of the material prior to their children watching it, then they may borrow the DVD's from the Games Library. There are also books which you may borrow to share with your child.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to Neve Muggleton (Beech), who achieved her 10 meter distance and Level 2 swimming badges on Saturday.

FAIRLANDS – SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

We are very excited that Fairlands School will be featured as **School of the Week on Heartbeat FM 106.7 / 106.9** when we return to school (**8th – 12th April**). Visit www.heartbeatcountry.com to find out more.

Listen to 'Test Dawn' every day at 3.40pm, with Tyler McKenna (Poplar) as the Quizmaster, 'Test the Teacher' every morning at 7.40am to see just how clever our teachers are and Listen to 'You Say I Say' at 8.10am each day, when 4 of our children compete against their mums. Click on 'Win a Seat in Streetbeat' and you could win a lift to school in Heartbeat's super cool BMW X3 live on air and listen to assembly live at 9.25am on Friday.

NESTLES BOX TOPS

This year's Box Tops Scheme is coming to an end – please have a look in your cupboards over the holiday, cut out any tokens you find and send them in for us to post off when we come back to school.

NOMINATE OUR SCHOOL!

printing.com are working with Tree Appeal and David Bellamy to plant 50,000 trees. They want to encourage local schools to make the most of their grounds by planting trees. This helps create woodland habitat, increases biodiversity and, most importantly, provides an excellent learning resource – planting trees, watching them grow, seeing how wildlife is encouraged and charting the changing seasons and weather.

They will be selecting schools based on the number of on-line nominations they get for each school, so please go on-line and nominate Fairlands School at www.printing.com/trees

DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/2008

Friday, 21 st March	Good Friday
Monday, 24 th March to Friday, 4 th April	Easter Holiday
Monday, 7 th April	INSET
Tuesday, 8th April	Return to school
w/c 8th April	Heartbeat FM School of the Week
Thursday, 10th April	Yr 3/4 Viking Activity Day
Thursday, 10th April 9.10 – KS2 Building	Parent Forum
Monday, 5 th May	Bank Holiday
Monday, 12 th to Friday, 16 th May	YEAR 6 SATS
Monday, 26 th to Friday, 30 th May	Half Term
Monday, 2 nd June	INSET
Friday, 20 th June	Occasional Day's Holiday
Wednesday, 23 rd July	Last Day of Term : 2.15pm finish
Monday, 1 st September	INSET Day
Monday, 8 th – Friday, 12 th September	Year 6 to Boreatton Park, Shropshire