

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands News

The newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 13

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

3rd April 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

We are coming to the end of a very busy and hectic term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the school for their hard work so far this year. Yesterday, we were visited by two government officers from the National Strategies, who were very impressed to hear about how well the school is doing and the way in which the whole school community is constantly working to ensure Fairlands goes from strength to strength.

I hope you have an enjoyable Easter break and look forward to seeing you all back at school at 8.50am on **Tuesday, 21st April.**

Robert Staples
Headteacher

EARLY READING EVENING

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Early Reading Evening. Feedback was very positive and we will be running the session again in September, for those who missed it.

FOUNDATION STAGE 'SPONSORED PIRATE DAY'

We were overwhelmed by the response to this event. The children had a great day, full of nautical challenges! We have certainly raised enough money to buy our guinea pigs – look out for a school-wide competition to name them.

DANCE FESTIVAL

There was a 'whole lot of shakin' going on' at Fairlands Primary on Tuesday when we hosted the Stevenage Schools Sports Partnership Dance Festival, along with Barclay School. We were joined by a mix of pupils from local primary schools, who treated us to a whole feast of dances ranging from street dance to 'Thriller'.

Hornbeam performed a street dance to 'Forever' and Reception performed two dances – an improvised piece entitled 'Echoes of the Sea' and our show stopping 'Purple People Eater!' Well done to all those who took part and thank you to the parents who came to see our dress rehearsal.

EASTER DISCO

A good time was had by all at last night's Easter Discos and there were some fantastic fancy dress outfits. Thank you to the Friends of Fairlands for organising the event, and to the staff who helped out.

ATTENDANCE AWARD



Congratulations to Cherry class, who won the Attendance Award w/c 16th March 96.3% and to Laburnum who have won again, with 94.4% last week.

PARENT FORUM

Are you free on a Thursday morning? If so, why not come along and join Mr Staples and other parents/carers from the school for coffee and a chat!

The Parent Form is a really good opportunity for parents/carers to come along and discuss any matters about the school (good or bad) in a relaxed, informal environment. The next Forum is at **9.05am on Thursday, 24th April, in the Upper Building.** A crèche is provided for pre-school children.

THANK YOU!



This week our thank you goes to **Mrs Julie Jeffries**, one of our parent governors & a member of Friends of Fairlands.

She is becoming very well known for making wonderful home-made cakes, which she brings in from time to time for the school.

This week she made an amazing 'Treasure Chest' cake for the Foundation Stage Pirate Day – you can see the photos in the Galleries section on our website!

Julie is available to make cakes for all occasions – visit her website www.cakes4everyone.co.uk or call 07930135918 for more information.

SKIPPING WORKSHOP

On the first day back after the holiday, **Tuesday 21st April**, we have invited Skipping Workshops into school. The British skipping champion will be coming to demonstrate and pass on her skills.

They will be working with 12 of our older children during the day and then running an after-school session in the upper hall from **3.30 until 4.30** for children in Reception through to Year 6, at a cost of just **£3.00 per child**. Children will be taught a variety of skipping skills and steps.

There may be one or two places for this workshop left by the time you read this letter! Make sure you contact the school office by telephone or email if you wish your child to participate. By the time they watch the demonstration in assembly at the end of the day, everyone will want to take part and there might not be room!

Skipping ropes will be on sale after the demonstration for both children and adults. They would make great presents!

INTERNET SAFETY

We are aware that many of our children use the internet and some regularly communicate with their friends using Facebook, MSN, etc.

It has come to our attention that there has been some inappropriate use of MSN by some children from Fairlands and would like to alert parents to this matter.

Please take some time to sit down with your children and talk to them about the use of these sites and, indeed, whether they are receiving (or sending!) any inappropriate messages.

If children do receive abusive messages, then they should report them. There is a red 'Report Abuse' link on the MSN site - this should be used to report abuse to CEOP www.ceop.gov.uk

There is also a really useful website to visit with your child: www.thinkuknow.co.uk which has different sections depending on the age of your child.

FAIRLANDS SCHOOL GAMES LIBRARY

"When we first used the games library I was amazed at the amount we had available to choose from. The variety of games is excellent and it's a nice way of doing homework with your child. When we play the games, Tom doesn't even realise they're about learning - he's just having a fun time, so that's a bonus! I just wish my teachers had encouraged us to play games as part of our learning - it would have been more enjoyable" - by Julie Jeffries (KS1 parent).

I like using the games library. They have good games. My best game is the one with ghosts. I always beat my mummy and we laugh a lot. I like the word games best because they are funny ones' - by Thomas Jeffries (Cherry).

Fairlands Games Library is FREE and is run on **Friday mornings in the lower hall from 8.50 - 9.10am**. Come along and have a look!

WELL DONE

Well done to Chloe Rogers (BEECH) who was nominated 'Cheerleader of the Week' at her cheerleading club.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS - ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

You could be eligible to receive **FREE SCHOOL MEALS** if you currently receive one of the following benefits :

- Income support or
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance or
- Pension credit (guarantee credit) or
- Child Tax Credit with a taxable income or no more than £16,040 and not in receipt of Working Tax Credit.

Any Foundation & KS1 children who are entitled to Free School Meals will also receive free school milk.

The system for applying for Free School Meals **is now much easier**. Just fill in your application form online at www.hertsdirect.org or phone the **Customer Service Centre** on **01438 737370** or 01923 471370, and the rest will be done for you. Your application will be processed within 7 days.

Even if your child does not have school dinners, if you are entitled to Free School Meals, please still apply as this will benefit the school.