



The Thomas  
Coram CE (VA)  
Middle School

*'Learning for living  
and caring for all'*



January 2012

The Eye

Issue 2



### Together we raised money for Children in Need

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November was Children in Need Day. Everybody at Thomas Coram took part by bringing in cakes to sell and wearing non-uniform in exchange for a donation of £1.

Following a special assembly led by 7GR, the cake sale was held. All of the School Council members and their friends helped to set up the stalls. Everybody had fun buying and selling their class cakes and most of all enjoyed eating them!

Altogether we raised a fantastic £828.14 – over £400 coming from the cake sale alone! The School Council would like to thank all the people who contributed and helped raise money for those children who do not have what we have.

Jessica S (6RW)  
School Council

### A Work of Art – our very own ‘Peace’ of magic!

Kate Saunders, 8SH, painted the winning poster in the Lions International Peace Poster Contest, showing a child gazing wistfully at the world. She wrote “To me, peace means that everyone is respected for who they are, and not judged because of their religion, race or gender. Children of today look at the world and know that tomorrow’s peace is in their hands.”

The winning posters were entered into the Peace Poster Contest at district level, covering the Boroughs of Greater London and the Shire counties north of the River Thames. Kate’s poster was judged the best and was entered into the next stage of the Contest, which is national level, covering the British Isles and Ireland. Kate has also been successful at this level and named as the **National winner**. Kate’s poster has now been entered into the International Contest, the winner of which receives a cash award of US\$ 2500, plus an all-expenses-paid trip to the United Nations Building in New York for the winner and two family members.

Lion Alex Evans, who is the Lions’ Youth Officer and organiser of the Peace Poster Contest in Berkhamsted, said “We’ve been running the contest here since 1998. Both middle schools have been very supportive of the contest, and it is now part of the Year 8 curriculum. Berkhamsted has done very well at District level with winners in 2000, 2006, 2007 and 2009. Now this year, Kate has triumphed at District and National levels. All this confirms the high standards of art in our two middle schools.”

See winning poster above and page 2 for further details.



## FAMILY LEARNING EVENT

Parents joined Mrs Cutler (T&L Co-ordinator for English and Literacy) and Mrs Winfrow (T&L Co-ordinator for Maths and Numeracy) in the Learning Resource Centre on the afternoon of Thursday 10th November to find out how English and Maths are delivered in KS2 and KS3. They also had the opportunity to talk to pupils from Years 6 and 8, who were demonstrating different English and Maths activities. As they left, parents were given leaflets explaining how they could support their children at home.



## Awards Evening

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November

It was a great pleasure to welcome Mr David Kilgallon, Hertfordshire's new Head of Secondary School Achievement, to our annual **awards evening** and to have him present the prizes to our Year 6, 7 and 8 pupils for all their hard work last year.

The smiles were infectious and there was a palpable sense of anticipation as each eager recipient came forward to receive their chosen book and certificate. Mr Kilgallon then took the opportunity to congratulate them on their individual achievements and to encourage them to continue to lay a solid foundation for future success.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

On **Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> November** class 5VM had their assembly on Remembrance Day. We had spent 2 weeks preparing and finally we were ready to perform it. The school was told about the significance of the poppy and why we use it to remember those who gave their lives defending others. We were all very nervous but thankfully it was a success.

Report by Matthew R, 5VM

## The Match Girl's Christmas

On 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December pupils from all year groups took part in our Christmas production, The Match Girl's Christmas. It was a musical production incorporating a number of carols and other Christmas songs and the event took the place of our annual Carol Service.

We had a great turn out for both evenings and would like to say a big thank you to anyone who attended and helped raise money for Shelter. With a cast of 35 and crew of 47, all pupils involved worked extremely hard to put this wonderful production together and their efforts really paid off, resulting in a fantastic spectacle and raising approximately £590. Well done everyone!



## LIONS INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER CONTEST

Cont'd

Nearly 90 pupils from our school took part in the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. The contest, now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year, is open to pupils aged 11 to 13, and attracts some 375,000 entries worldwide. The theme this year is 'Children Know Peace'.

See above for samples of our entries

Reproductions of the winning posters are on display on the Lions' notice board outside Waitrose. Reproductions of the Runners-up, Highly Commended and Commended posters will also be on display on the Lions' noticeboard in the Way Inn during December and January.

Results for Thomas Coram:

1<sup>st</sup> Kate Saunders

2<sup>nd</sup> Daisy Rayner

3<sup>rd</sup> Amy Bowen

Highly Commended: Madeleine Marsh

Commended: Victoria Ashby, Jamie Cullen, Helen Hardy, Desmond Murray.



# Sports Round-Up



On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, we entered 2 teams into the Bridgewater **Benchball** tournament. One team came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the competition and one team came 3<sup>rd</sup>. However, there was also a special award for good Sportsmanship and Charlotte B (5SW) was nominated for this award.

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, Year 7 boys took part in the Dacorum 5-a-side competition at Cavendish School. The boys played very well against Cavendish, Bridgewater, Longdean and Adeyfield but were unable to convert all the chances they made and unfortunately lost 3 of their games and drew one.

## Game-on KS2 Football Reports

On Tuesday 1st November Thomas Coram played Nash Mills at Ashlyns on the astro-turf. The players were Henry M, Ben F, Sam N, Gabriel D, James W, William B, Cameron B, Jamie H and Joe D (captain). It was quite a lively game but no team could get the break-through goal. There were a few good saves from both keepers but eventually Will B played a brilliant pass into Jamie H and he slotted it home, past the keeper and into the bottom corner. After close shots, getting closer and closer to getting the equaliser, Nash Mills just couldn't get a goal so after a thrilling match, Thomas Coram got the edge with a 1-0 win. Sam N picked up 'man of the match; with a brilliant performance.

Report by Joe D (captain) 6VB

On Wednesday 16th November Thomas Coram football squad having won valiantly in their previous match warmed up with confidence to face Leverstock Green at home. Within a few minutes Leverstock Green were ahead. TC fought back to get a goal, and Henry M (goal keeper) played his socks off. Nobody gave up the fight but this was not our day and we lost 7- 1. Every member of the team played exceptionally well and never gave up.

Report by James W (6VB)

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 17 year 7 and 8 pupils played **rugby** against Bridgewater School. It was a reasonably fair game and the sides were well matched. Unfortunately Bridgewater scored a try late in the first half. However in the second half, Thomas Coram were well on top of the game but struggled to reach the try line. Overall a great first game for Thomas Coram which ended 7-0.

Report by Sam B and Jamie C –8HC

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, pupils participated in the District **Cross Country** Championships at Longdean School.

### Boys Results:

23 Sam N – 5CC  
27 Cameron B – 6TR  
28 Will B – 6RW  
48 Gabriel D – 6AH  
67 Henry M – 6VB

### Girls Results:

6 Sasha P – 5SW  
15 Verity H – 6RW  
16 Maddie P – 5MM  
18 Amy P – 5SW  
23 Lara G – 5SW  
28 Cate M – 6RW

Overall the Girls team came 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Boys team came 6<sup>th</sup> out of the 15 schools that competed. This resulted in Thomas Coram boys and girls being placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the Dacorum District **Cross Country**.

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November the Year 8 Netball team played Longdean School in the District Cup competition. Unfortunately, they lost 11-6 and there were some superb individual performances, Cally F (8SF) deserves a special mention as she was nominated as player of the match and will go on to be the captain in the next game.

Joe H (6RW), Henry M (6VB), Daniel B (6VB) and Joe D (6VB) also deserve a special mention having qualified for the Dacorum District **Cricket** squad. Congratulations!

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November, Year 7 and 8 pupils participated in the District **Cross Country** Championships. There were some superb performances on the day and a special mention should go to:

Holly D (8SH) who came 4<sup>th</sup> and Lucy J (8HC) who came 5<sup>th</sup> in the Year 8 girls race; Dan M (8SF) who came 11<sup>th</sup> and Ed H (8HC) who came 12<sup>th</sup> in the Year 8 boys race; Chelsie C (7RL) who came 5<sup>th</sup> in the Year 7 girls race and Tom N (7RL) who came 7<sup>th</sup> in the Year 7 boys race.

## Game-On KS2 Football Reports – cont'd

On Tuesday 22nd November Thomas Coram played Bridgewater School. It was a good game and we all played well but Bridgewater won. Bridgewater and Thomas Coram should be pleased as they both played really well. Jamie H and Joe D scored goals for Thomas Coram. The result was 4-2 to Bridgewater.

Report by Cameron B (6TR)



On 29<sup>th</sup> November the Year 8 Sports Leaders took on their first leadership role by assisting Years 3 and 4 in the Swing Gate School Fun Run. They deserve a special mention, because the school received a letter of thanks from Swing Gate School commenting on how well the Year 8s had performed their duties.

“They explained clearly what the children needed to do and were polite and friendly to adults and children alike. When they ran with the children they always made sure they had a pace-setter to challenge the more able runners, and someone bringing up the rear to encourage the stragglers.

Even when it started to rain they remained cheerful, and displayed great maturity throughout. They were a credit to Thomas Coram, and it was thanks to them that our children found the Fun Run a very positive experience.”

### Sports Leaders After School Club

A very well done to the year 8 sports leaders who, on 6<sup>th</sup> December, finished a course of training year 3 and year 4 pupils, in different sporting activities. At the start of the autumn term, Mrs Coy trained a group of year 8 boys and girls in teaching PE. The year 3s and 4s thoroughly enjoyed all the sporting activities which included crash-mat rounders, bench ball, Danish longball and mini Olympic games.

**Report by Max S, 8HC.**

The club takes place every Tuesday after school and will continue until February half term. There are 9 sports leaders and approximately 18 year 3 and 4 pupils from local first schools come every week.

## Christmas Lunch and Talent Show

On 15<sup>th</sup> December the whole school, staff and guests sat down to our annual Christmas Lunch which was a most festive affair. Well done and thank you to our wonderful canteen staff who worked so hard to make the event so enjoyable, not to mention tasty!

Christmas lunch was followed by the annual Talent Show and acts included Natalie E singing, Peter S rapping and Elena V-R singing and playing the piano at the same time! Many people laughed along with 8SH singing the Twelve Days of Christmas with a ‘teenage twist’ and they were the winners of the pupils’ vote.

The audience were stunned as Maya W, Peri C and Charlotte C performed their gymnastics so they won the award for Key Stage 3 talent. People’s ears were blown as the Year 6 Djembe group played their rhythms and won the award for the Key Stage 2 talent.

A good afternoon’s entertainment as well as raising £102 for The Hospice of St Francis.

The Schools Trampolining Competition took place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in Essex.

It was a regional competition and I was competing in my age group but against people who were in much higher grades than me and some who compete for Great Britain! I had to complete two routines (a set and vault) and out of 22 girls I came 2<sup>nd</sup> in my category and 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Report by Zoe D, 8SH**

The Apex Dance Christmas Show took place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the Rudolph Steiner School and we performed to ‘Who’s Laughing Now’ by Jessie J. We have been attending Street Dance Club every Thursday after school. There were twelve groups who performed different Street Dance routines. From Thomas Coram there were 6 performers – Paige W, Daisy W, Mary R, Ella G, Martha I and Chloe R. It was a brilliant experience and although it was scary performing to over 200 people, we really enjoyed it.

Report by Daisy W & Paige W (6TR)

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December Louie E, 5CC took part in the Hertfordshire Schools’ Swimming Association Diving Championships 2011. The event took place at Hatfield Swim Centre and pupils from schools across Hertfordshire competed in age groups ranging from 9 to 19, diving from the 1, 3 and 5 metre boards. Louie represented the school to compete in the Primary Boys category and won gold for his three dives on the night. Tom Daly has some fierce competition on his hands!

