

# INFORM

## The Newsletter of Jack Hunt School

A Specialist Language and Sports College

### CONGRATULATIONS!

#### Jack Hunt Musical Theatre Group Production "The Wizard of Oz"



The Wizard of Oz was a popular choice for the 2009 musical production, generating a lot of enthusiasm amongst students and staff – most of us had memories of being both fascinated and terrified by Miss Gultch and the Wicked Witch of the West. But, sometimes, the familiar old favourites are the most difficult shows to produce.

*The Wizard of Oz* certainly presented its own peculiar challenges. The libretto indicated casually, for instance, that the Munchkins should "roll out" the Yellow Brick Road (*from where?*), that the Wicked Witch should use a flame thrower and that the Wizard should

make his exit in a hot air balloon in full view of the audience. Mmm-mm... We decided to rely on the skill of our actors, the imagination of the audience and two dozen painted vinyl tiles to overcome those particular knotty little problems. The range of costumes required this year, with everyone (apart from Dorothy, ironically) needing two or three changes, would have been daunting for any mere mortal to produce – but we're lucky enough to have Elaine Harburn, the closest you can get to super-human in costume design.

We were absolutely delighted with our cast – a really strong line-up. However, one of my recurring nightmares over the summer was where we would find a Toto! But, to everyone's delight, that was solved by the generosity of Jenny Hawcroft, the Director of the Dance Academy, who loaned us her beautiful little dog, a Lhasa Apso. Charlie, luckily, would do anything we needed him to do in return for cheese and sausages!

With two weeks to go, thanks to the enormous dedication of our team, the tickets were sold, the props (including scores of day old chicks and a pair of witch's legs) were prepared, the complicated set was almost complete, nearly all the amazing, quirky costumes, including 24 tutus, were ready – and the highly effective tree masks, thanks to Ann Bellamy and her team at HMP Peterborough, were lined up in a sinister row. But we just weren't ready.....

And then the snow fell. Our wonderfully Wicked Witch slipped on ice and broke her ankle. We were locked out of school for two crucial rehearsal and technical days. Now, with less than two days until we were to perform to primary schools, we really were *nowhere near ready!*

Once again – and it never fails to amaze me - the magic happened some time between the seeming disarray of the final Sunday and the first performance on Monday morning: our young performers, supported by superb technical and backstage crews and accompanied by wonderful musicians, gave us five awe-inspiring performances, including two fully signed in British Sign Language. Our Wicked Witch thankfully managed two performances before being taken into hospital for a serious operation – and was replaced by a faithful Jack Hunt musical veteran!

Of course, as I must reiterate, it's not really magic but a lot of extremely hard work by a group of extraordinarily talented young people, supported by very, very many more.

#### CAST LIST

Dorothy; - **Amy Garratty**; Featuring, as TOTO - **Charlie Hawcroft**; Aunt Em/Glenda, Good Witch of the North - **Jessica Stanley-Jones**; Uncle Henry/Emerald City Guard - **Joel Philip**; Hunk/Scarecrow - **Conor Merrygold**; Hickory/Tin Woodsman - **Matthew Morton**; Zeke/Cowardly Lion - **Oliver Brook**; Miss Almira Gultch/Wicked/Witch of the West - **Laura Arundell**; Professor Chester Marvel/Wizard of Oz - **Stuart Catlin**.

Mrs Keber

#### Diary Dates

##### 2009

**Friday 3 April**

Term ends

**Monday 20 April**

Staff Professional Development Day

**Tuesday 21 April**

Term starts

**Tuesday 21 April - Saturday 25 April**

Year 10 Sports & Language Trip from France

**Monday 27 April - Friday 1 May**

Year 8 Examinations

Year 10 Sports & Language Trip to France

Year 11 Revision Week

**Monday 27 April - Sunday 10 May**

Year 10 Work Experience

**Wednesday 29 April**

Spring Music Concert

**Thursday 30 April**

Junior Maths Challenge (Years 7 & 8)

**Monday 4 May**

May Day Holiday

**Tuesday 5 May to Friday 8 May**

Year 7 Examinations

**Monday 11 May - Monday 22 June**

Summer Examinations

**Friday 22 May - Thursday 28 May**

Football & Hockey Tour to Spain

**Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May**

May Half Term





## Headteacher's Column

All schools are required by Government to meet some key targets to become 'Extended Schools' by 2010.

This includes providing a varied menu of activities (eg sport, music, art and other school clubs) for students beyond the formal school day, access to child care (for primary schools), parenting support, access to facilities for the local community and swift and easy access to specialist support services. The overall objective for this agenda is to provide greater support to children and families to enable all students to succeed and get the best of out their schooling.

Together with our eight main partner primary schools and the Local Authority we have made some progress on this agenda as 'The Jack Hunt Cluster'. However, with the recent appointment of Maureen Stringer as

Extended Schools Manager for the Cluster, we will now see greater communication and involvement of partners in the western area of the city to provide a vibrant programme of extended school activities across the cluster schools and organisations. Although Maureen is based at Jack Hunt she works across all the schools in the cluster. Please contact her if you have any questions or ideas concerning provision in the local area.

Since the last edition of INFORM we have received re-accreditation of Sportsmark, a quality standard for the provision of sporting activities in the school. The school has also been designated a Top Link Hub by the Youth Sports Trust for developing student leadership across other schools in the region. Congratulations to the PE/Sport Curriculum Area on this success. Following successful application the school has also been appointed a Lead School locally for

gifted and talented students, to share our practice and develop initiatives with partner schools.

Students in years 11, 12 and 13 will have completed preparations for their important GCSE, AS and A2 examinations by the time the next edition of INFORM is published. Staff are working hard to support them in this important final phase leading up to the examinations. We are grateful for the support that parents are providing in encouraging their youngsters to plan their revision, attend the revision sessions in school and completing their coursework by the required date. Please contact your son/daughter's Personal Tutor should you require further details of the revision support the school is providing. Good preparation in this final phase of their examination courses can make all the difference to the eventual outcome.

*Mr Duncan*

### Watch Out for Jack Hunt School's Budding Entrepreneurs!

Two groups of sixth form students have set up their own companies as part of the Young Enterprise Scheme which allows young people to gain personal experience of how business works. The companies, named "Unique" and "Vibe" plan to provide a variety of products with the aim of satisfying their customers and maximising profits. Each team has a Business Mentor who gives advice and expertise to the budding entrepreneurs.

By taking part in the Young Enterprise Scheme which is run over one academic year, students gain practical experience of business and enterprise through setting up and running their own business and the skills they develop throughout the programme are directly relevant to the workplace.



"Vibe" who have been supported by Jonathon James from Perkins have been producing and selling handcrafted cards, candles and scarves, whilst "Unique" who have been supported by Martin Lieghfield from Cummins, have produced and personalised green bags.

The teams competed with businesses from other schools and their products have been well received by the customers. Both teams have participated in trade events held at Serpentine Green Shopping Centre, Hampton in December and at Peterborough Town Hall in February where their talent and creativity was praised by the judges.

Year 12 student, Farrah Khalid, Managing Director of "Unique" stated "I'm really enjoying the experience of starting and running a business. I'm learning about the importance of each role in a business and about sales and marketing. My leadership skills and communication skills have improved and I can tell I'm becoming more confident".

*Mr Zaman*

### Comic Relief

Twenty Jack Hunt students and four staff went to Queensgate to take part in the Whoopee Cushion Orchestra organised by BBC Radio Cambridgeshire as part of the BBC Comic Relief Day.

The music chosen was Johann Strauss's Radetzky March and the students had a few minutes practice before the live event which saw the BBC Orchestra on a screen and all the students, plus camera and radio crews around it with crowds of people watching them.

The live broadcast went very well with the 'music' complementing the famous orchestra and some said improving it!



The BBC Radio Cambridgeshire DJ said very positive and nice things about all the students and Jack Hunt School saying they were a credit to the school and showing that young people today were not bad as often portrayed in the media.

The students also helped in the waxing of a Radio Cambridgeshire DJ's legs by their verbal encouragement of the activity.

The broadcast was aired live on the Radio, there are pictures and recordings of the event on the play back facility on the BBC Radio Cambridgeshire website.

Back at school students took part in a Non - School Uniform day to show their support for Comic Relief by wearing Red and giving a donation of £1. Along with individual activities in school, over £1,543 was raised.

*Mr Keber*



## Maths Challenge



Cambridge University's Further Mathematics Centre has set up a challenge competition for mathematically able Year 10 students.

The local heat took place at Thomas Deacon Academy, and Jack Hunt's four

volunteers, Farzin Mavani, Asha Parekh, Josh Gostellow and

Michael Brown spent a couple of hours solving mathematical problems, (including questions from 50 years ago about pounds, shillings and pence), in the company of the



best mathematicians in the area. Unfortunately they were beaten into fourth place by only four marks, but they did well against the other competition and enjoyed using their brains working on some very tricky problems. Well done to them!

*Mrs Mashford*

## Drama Club Panto

At the end of January, the Drama Club presented its annual pantomime to friends, family and members of the public. The story of 'Wacky Soap'



told the story of Vanessa Fudging and her sinister plans to take over a kingdom by using magical bars of soap and the accidental heroics of Doug and Terry, the royal plumbers.

The show was a sparkling success and both performances were sold out and very well received.

The success of the cast was richly deserved. Through hard work, commitment and sheer determination, the students triumphed over a number of challenges. From the auditions process of the first week, when nearly 50 keen students turned up to take part, through the later group improvisations

which saw the story slowly come together, the Drama Club team was always impressed by the

determination of the cast to make the show a success. The cast was

unfazed by changes to the script to bring the running time down to a trim

90 minutes – even when the new scene orders were issued on the

morning of the first performance! Nor was the cast daunted by the short circuit of one of the key lighting systems, leading to the show being postponed beyond the January exams. The cast was resolute: the show must go on.

Thanks to the hard work of the students, the superb support of Mrs Brace, Mr Westall, Miss Andrews and myself, not to forget our volunteers on the door, the show was a star-studded success. (Excuse the terrible pun.)

*Mr Roberts*



## Bag Packing

On Friday 27 February 2009, 26 students volunteered to help bag pack at Morrison's Supermarket to raise money to buy tour T-Shirts for the Football and Hockey Tour to Barcelona, Spain in May Half Term.

The students worked very hard for the two and a half hours we were there and raised £382 to go towards our much needed shirts.

A big well done to everyone who was involved, bring on Barcelona! *Miss Thurley*



## Motivational Master Class

On Friday 30 January 2009, a group of 45 selected Year 7, 8 and 9 Gifted and Talented students visited Churchill College, Cambridge to attend a Motivational

Master Class led by Eugene Matthias, President of the Magic Club of Great Britain and British Olympic 400m Gold Medallist Derek Redmond.

The day was planned to support the themes, Keys to Success, Overcoming the Impossible and Self- Belief. Students were

encouraged to believe in the importance of self motivation and overcoming problems as they arose. The day was lively and the 300 students from the Eastern Region were enthusiastic in their praise for an exciting and stimulating day.

*Mrs Perkins*



## Jack Hunt's Got Talent

On Friday 13 March 2009 the Year 11 Prom Committee put on what was billed as "The Greatest Show on Earth" to Year 7 students. The "Jack Hunt's Got Talent" competition in aid of the Year 11 Prom saw performers from Year 7 to 13 battle it out for the accolade of "greatest talent."

Particular highlights included one Year 7 act arguing with Mr Blant's scoring, Toby and Nic's re-working of the Bangles "Eternal Flame", and the Year 13 boys' inspirational super hero performance.

We would like to thank all the acts who performed and the Year 7 students who watched the acts and created a really positive atmosphere. A further show is planned for after Easter when the best acts and some new ones, will perform for a selected audience of students who will choose their favourite overall performer to win the show.

(Pictured "Screams of Destruction" - James Atherton, Luke Thompson, Kelsey Brace).

*Mr Craig*



# Leading Parent Partnership Award



## Email Communication



If you would like to receive future copies of INFORM, or indeed other general school correspondence, by email please register for **ParentMail** by sending your child's name, Form Group and the words 'Parentmail Please' to: [eward@jackhunt.peterborough.sch.uk](mailto:eward@jackhunt.peterborough.sch.uk). Your request will then be actioned and further general communication will be sent to you via this method.

## 'You Said....We Did'

Several suggestions from parents have been received on improving school policy and procedures. These together with the school's response can be viewed on the 'You Said...We Did' board on display in our Main Reception and also viewed on the school's website, under the 'Parent' link. If you have any suggestions to make to school policy and procedures please post these in the suggestion box in Main Reception. Your opinions matter to us and we need to hear how we can improve our partnership with parents.

## Eco-Schools

We have been making lots of progress as an Eco-School this term. Firstly, each form now has an Eco-Rep who is responsible for promoting sustainability in the tutor group. Each house's Eco Team has met once where we discussed our ideas about how to make Jack Hunt School more of an environmentally friendly place.

The whole school is involved in a massive sustainable project whereby each Tutor Group is creating a sculpture from waste. The aim of this project is to highlight how much we throw away each day and to have fun recycling and reusing waste which would otherwise go into landfill. The theme is "Global Community" and these sculptures are to be judged by Peterborough City Council, The Peterborough Evening Telegraph and a professional Sculptor. The sculptures are to be displayed around the school, Peterborough City Centre and in the Town Hall and the winning form will win cinema tickets.

Finally, Jack Hunt School are to take to the catwalk at Peterborough Green Week (23 - 30 May 2009).

The theme for Peterborough Green week is "food" and so a group of eco-friendly student fashion designers along with Miss Dellar, myself and with Mr Keber's technical advice are creating outfits and accessories made from Food packaging and waste. Feel free to come and see us strut our stuff on 23 May 2009 in the Town Hall.

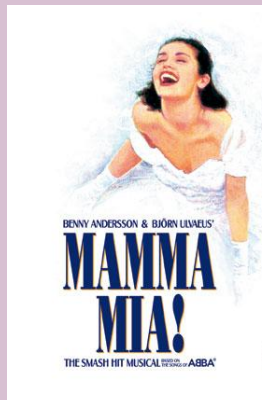
Mrs Pantling

Sustainable Schools' Coordinator



## Jack Hunt Theatre and Dance Academy

The Jack Hunt Ballet School has now changed its name to "The Jack Hunt Theatre and Dance Academy" This is because the school is no longer offering just ballet classes after school, but have now introduced classes in Jazz, Musical Theatre and Irish Dancing! These all take place after school in the Dance Studio. The timetable of classes can be found on the notice board outside Room 402 in Block 4.



Recently, the Theatre Academy students have been dancing in a competition in London where the students won the Musicality Award and Jessica Kennedy (Year 8) came 2<sup>nd</sup>, receiving the Junior Medal. They are currently rehearsing for their variety show of the Four Seasons which will take place at the Cresset Theatre on Sunday 10 May 2009. During the production the students will perform a variety of dance styles, songs and provide entertainment for the whole family!

If you are interested in any of the classes please see Miss Hawcroft in the Dance Studio any day after school or Susan Spencer in the Community Education office during school hours. Watch this space for more classes to be announced soon.

If you are a fan of Musical Theatre then why not come along to a day of Mamma Mia! Richard Reynard is coming to Jack Hunt in the Easter Holidays on Wednesday 15 April 2009. He is currently performing in the West End show of Blood Brothers! He will be giving a workshop where you all sing, dance and act for the day and find out what it is like to be part of Mamma Mia! Book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited! Fee for the day £18. Please see your Personal Tutor for an application form.

Miss Hawcroft

## Travel Safe to School Poster Competition



Ecovert FM recently launched a Design a Poster Competition. The theme of the poster was "Travel Safe to School" which included three categories, walking, cycling or travelling to school by bus. The competition was open to students in Years 7, 8 and 9 at The Voyager, Ken Stimpson and Jack Hunt.

Prizes were judged across all three schools by poster theme and the top three designs in each category have been awarded a Sony Ericsson Mobile Phone and the runners up received a £30 Argos voucher.

The winner from Jack Hunt was Year 7 student Louise Scimeca who designed a poster in the "Cycling to School" category (pictured) and runner up was Year 9 student Geraldine Mkwidza who designed a poster in the "Walking to School" category.



All the winners attended an award ceremony at Ken Stimpson where they were presented with their prizes.

Mr Black