

What's New?

Senior School

Fortnightly Newsletter

New Hall School, Chelmsford



Founded 1642

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Friday 10 December 2010

Dear Parents

A Christmas Carol



The Ghost of Christmas Present (Sophia Miller de Vega, Year 12) and Scrooge (Lauren Sudders, Year 12)

Congratulations to the cast, carollers and crew of the senior school production of *A Christmas Carol*. Despite disruptions by the snow, the show went on as planned and it was a huge success. In this modern adaptation for stage, the story is conveyed through 6 storytellers who are on stage for most of the play, providing amusing interjections and leading the audience through the story. The outstanding use of physical theatre and clever devices was executed brilliantly by the whole cast to great effect. There were some excellent performances throughout, but notable mentions must go to Dominic Munro (Year 11) for his interpretation of Marley's Ghost, Camille Hamilton-Villemur (Year 13) and Felix Fardell (Year 7) as father and son, Bob Cratchitt & Tiny Tim and most especially to Lauren Sudders (Year 12) for her brilliant portrayal of mean Scrooge himself. The play was supported by a wonderful group of carollers, led by Mr Castell.



Tiny Tim (Felix Fardell, Year 7) and Scrooge

Dance Christmas Show



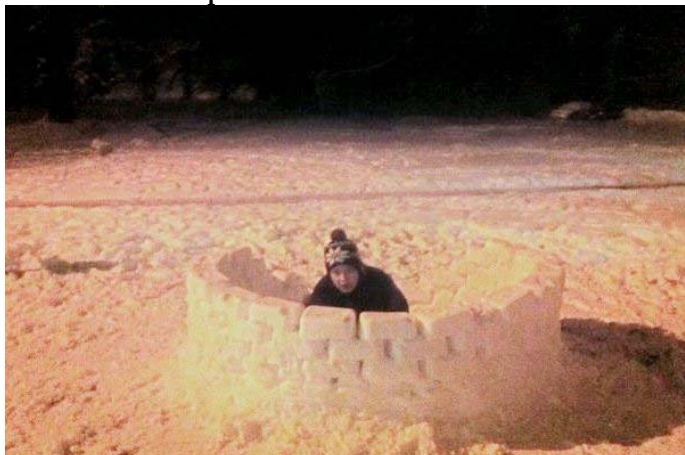
On 29 November, the New Hall Dance Company and the children from the Saturday Dance and Musical Theatre classes performed a spectacular show which left us filled with Christmas spirit! The students performed dances and sang songs from a medley of favourite Christmas songs. Pavel Kahout and Christy Chan performed a magnificent adage, Charlie Treacher did some impressive moves and Sarah Barrett and Faye McCarthy performed excellent solos. The evening concluded with mulled wine and mince pies. Thank you to Mrs Molina for organising the performance and to Mrs Fisher and Mrs Jackson for their help backstage.

A Night at the Opera



New Hall Music School joined forces with Chelmsford Opera at the end of November, for two wonderful evenings of opera. Performances included music from *Carmen*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Dido and Aeneas* and *The Magic Flute*. We were delighted to welcome back Old Fish, Stefanie Kemball-Read who is a professional opera singer, to sing for us once again. It was an excellent experience for the students to sing some of the most famous music from the operatic repertoire and with such confidence and enthusiasm. Congratulations to all involved.

Student Snow Report



Last week heavy snow and ice hit Britain, closing New Hall for day students for part of the week. The boarders enjoyed time out in the snow and snow-creations included amongst many snowmen, a dog and an igloo (pictured)! As part of the work set during the snow days, Year 8 students were asked to write a news report about the weather. The following report is by Dionne Wong (Year 8):

“The ‘Big Freeze’ has returned to Britain worse than ever before, with temperatures falling to a shocking -20C. Just how will we cope with the climate falling dangerously daily? Thousands of flights were cancelled due to the appalling weather conditions. A journalist from Aberdeen, Scotland reported on the closure of 168 schools for more than 9 days. Treacherous conditions hit the North East and over 50 gritters, 6 snow ploughs and 48 footpath gritters were needed for this area alone. Many people have said that the Government should do more to help prevent the chaos that the snow causes. They believe that a larger amount of grit trucks should be purchased, in addition to clearing motorways with snow ploughs to better the situation. It would seem that a few inches of snow is able to bring the country to a standstill.”

Religious Education

In the past, Sixth Form students have been taught in small groups for General RE. This year the format has been changed to a lecture series. Every Thursday morning in the Eaton theatre, students gather to listen to a talk (often given by an outside speaker). There have been a diverse range of topics so far: vocation, the history and ethos of New Hall, the mission of the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, Oxfam, forgiveness, abortion and euthanasia. On Thursday, students listened to a speaker from the Council for Arab-British Understanding who spoke about Islamophobia, a pertinent issue for today’s society. Next term, students have the opportunity to listen to Camilla Carr as a speaker, who hit the national news when she was kidnapped and held hostage in Chechnya.

Modern Languages

Spanish Exchange

It is with regret that we announce that we have had to cancel the Spanish Exchange scheduled for next term, due to lack of interest. Any cheques sent in will be returned and cash transfers will be credited.

NHVS Christmas Lunch for the elderly

On Wednesday, NHVS volunteers and Sixth Form leaders welcomed more than 50 guests to a special Christmas lunch served in the North Room. After a special lunch with all the trimmings, the guests were treated to some entertainment provided by the Preparatory School Junior Choir and Senior Recorder Ensemble. All of the guests took home a lovely food hamper that had been made up by the NHVS volunteers using the food that had been donated at the Harvest Festival and through the Christmas Appeal. Thank you to all of those who donated the food for the hampers. Thank you also to those that helped to organise the lunch, which was enjoyed by everyone, but particularly the elderly guests, some of whom had been housebound for the last few weeks due to the snow.



Art

Sixth Form trip to Paris

Art & Photography students recently spent 3 days in Paris exploring the magnificent art collections. Their tour covered 6 art galleries; they enjoyed looking works including: the *Mona Lisa* at the Louvre, Rodin’s *Thinker*, Monet’s *Water Lilies*, Greek Sculptures and video installations and conceptual work at the Museum of Modern Art. The students also had the opportunity to attend Mass at Notre Dame and to visit the Eiffel Tower. Photography students were able to study some early experimental photographs, in addition to the works of artists such as Man Ray, and a contemporary photographer who has recorded experiences in Iraq. The students also embraced their location to do many exciting photo shoots. We hope that the students enjoyed the experience and that their trip to Paris will provide an inspiration for their own work.



English as an Additional Language

As part of their cultural curriculum, the Year 12 EAL students enjoyed two trips this term to Cambridge and Windsor. Punting on the river was an amusing new experience for all the students. Having learned about the importance of Henry VIII at New Hall, they were able to see more of his influence in the colleges and the Chapel at King's. The students enjoyed a visit to Windsor Castle, where they saw the restored parts that had been damaged by the fire of 1992 and they took pleasure in seeing the doll's house and the armour in particular.



Latin and Classics Day

On Saturday 20 November, 45 excited students and 3 enthusiastic teachers came together at New Hall to enjoy a day of fun and learning at the Latin & Classics Day. Children in Years 4-6 from a vast number of schools in the Essex area took part. The Latin language and the Roman period came to life as the students discovered etymology and had great fun recreating Roman mosaics and making models of famous Roman buildings. The day culminated in a wonderful performance of a play, which ended with a rendition of the popular Roman song 'MacDonald est arator', which was accompanied by Mr Walker on the piano.



Music

ABRSM Examination Results

Congratulations to Liam Merrigan (Year 11), who achieved a pass in his Grade 5 theory examination and to Elysia Farrell (Year 9) who achieved a Merit in her Grade 4 piano examination.

Charity



Well done to two Year 8 girls who have been busy fundraising this half term. Congratulations to Ella Banks who raised £200 for *Children in Need* by selling cakes and cookies and to Claire Wallace who raised £190.82 for CAFOD by selling cakes and organising a raffle.



Sport

Hockey

The Inter-house hockey tournament took place on 29 November. It was a fantastic event, despite the freezing weather! Congratulations to Southwell House who were the winners of the tournament.

1 st	Southwell House	9 points
2 nd	Pole House	6 points
3 rd	Fisher House	3 points
4 th	Owen House	0 points

Lifehouse Spa Offer

The Chamber Choir have been invited to sing next week at the opening of Lifehouse, a contemporary residential and day spa in Thorpe-le-Soken. Lifehouse are offering New Hall parents the following opening offers: 15% off gift vouchers, 50% off all day packages and the opportunity to bring a friend for free on all day packages and stay breaks. Offers must be booked and paid for by 31 January 2011. Please visit www.lifehouse.co.uk, or contact 01255 860 050, or info@lifehouse.co.uk and quote 'SBOO' when booking.

Generals Lane

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Generals Lane (the road you exit on when leaving the New Hall site), is a two-way road. There are a number of residents down the lane who need access to their homes and, when there is a constant stream of traffic from New Hall, it is difficult for the cars to pass. We would be grateful if parents, staff and visitors could ensure that cars coming in the other direction can get past. We have received a complaint from a resident who has unfortunately experienced abusive behaviour from people exiting the site and driving too fast down the lane. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Jeffrey
PRINCIPAL

Forthcoming Events:

Date	Time	Event
Mon 13 Dec	6.00-6.30pm	Boarders' Advent Service
	6.30-8.00pm	Boarders' Christmas Party
Tue 14 Dec	2.00-6.00pm	NHPA Christmas Fayre
	4.30pm	End of term
Sun 9 Jan	4.00-6.30pm	Boarders' return
Mon 10 Jan	8.15am	Term begins
Wed 12 Jan	7.00-9.00pm	Year 9 Options Evening
Thu 13 Jan	4.45-9.00pm	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Mon 24 Jan	5.00-6.30pm	OMEGA Lecture

BRAIN CHALLENGE

Brain Challenge Number 20 Solution

Congratulations to Daniel Mardi (Year 7), who correctly identified that when a moth jammed up the workings of an early electric counting machine we coined the new phrase a 'computer bug'.

And the next challenge is:

After some help with names for the lead character from his four year old daughter, who insisted on something other than Reginald, what story did Robert May, an advertising copywriter, come up with for Montgomery Ward department store's 1939 Christmas promotion?

See Dr Thomas with the first correct solution to win a prize.

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New Hall School

OWN A PONY DAY

at Runningwell Equestrian Centre

Thursday 16 December from 9.30am-3.30pm

Spend the day with us at Runningwell Equestrian Centre, where you will be given your own pony for the day.


The day will be packed with fun activities and you will learn how to ride and care for your pony.

The theme for the day is Christmas, which will be just around the corner! There is a prize for the best Christmas fancy dress outfit and you can even bring items to dress up your pony!!



For more details please contact Runningwell, on 01268 711 221.

www.newhallschool.co.uk



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Bring a friend for free on all day packages and stay breaks
50% off all day packages
Offers must be booked and paid for by 31 January 2011. Quote SBOO

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enjoy, enrich, evolve

