

November 2011 / Issue 8

## Kidlington Partnership Family Fun Activity Sessions – October 2011

Families from Gosford Hill School and the Partnership Primaries came together at Gosford Hill School once again during the October holiday to take part in a variety of family fun activity sessions.

### Parent and Child Yoga

Parents and children worked side by side throughout this session, focusing on relaxation, stretching, balancing and building strength. They practiced all sorts of difficult positions and it was interesting for everyone to find out how well their family members could do.



"It was very relaxing and we enjoyed it very much, best thing my daughter had ever done."

"We really enjoyed this session. Great to exercise as a family. Thanks!"

"Some good hard stretching – hard but brilliant!"

### Pyramids, Mummies and Pharaohs

This popular and informative session was led by Susan Griffiths from the Oxford University Museums. Susan had brought along lots of artefacts from the Ashmolean Museum, so families had the chance to handle and find out about real Ancient Egyptian objects such as make up pots, perfume vases, scarab beetle charms, and shabtis, which were all between 3000 and 5000 years old!

"Fantastic! Lots of wonderful craft activities, very enthusiastic leaders and we learnt something too!"

"I enjoyed the Egyptian writing, Luke enjoyed the feeling of items and Sam enjoyed the beetle!"

"Excellent session from the lads"

"Enjoyed all the games and would like to attend it again"

### Get Activated

Families used up lots of energy during this high impact session of alternative sports! They split into two highly competitive teams to play games such as capture the flag, and dodgeball in a variety of forms! The games were all highly inclusive and everyone had a chance to excel, using tactics, physical ability, size or speed to their advantage!

The Activators finished off the session with a hilarious game of clap catch, and then catch/header (you have to do the opposite of what is called!)



## How well are we doing?

At the end of last term's Parent Forum we asked those present to complete a questionnaire. The feedback was very encouraging. (Please note not all questions were answered so figures do not always add up to 100%).



Gosford Hill School –

• Keeps my child safe	100% agreed		
• Sets high standards in learning and teaching	73% agreed	6% disagreed	
• Controls truancy	50% agreed	50% did not know	
• Is well led	87% agreed	6% disagreed	
• Has excellent ICT resources	66% agreed	6% disagreed	26% did not know
• Has a dedicated and caring team of teachers	73% agreed		
• Has improved the provision for homework	27% agreed	27% disagreed	27% did not know
• Works hard to ensure children are happy	86% agreed		

In other questions we asked whether we had made progress in the following areas:-

- 80% agreed progress had been made to clamp down on bullying
- 66% agreed we have improved behaviour, 6% disagreed
- 80% agreed we have improved academic results, 6% disagreed
- 100% agreed we have improved communication between home and school.

As a result of the survey we are piloting a new on-line homework tracker and will assess its impact. If it is successful we will let parents know.

Next Parent Forum : **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012.**

**S. Bizley - Headteacher**

Other dates for your diary:

- Year 7 Parents' Evening – **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November**
- Carol Service at St. Mary's Church – **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

### **FOSTERING AMBITION AND INSPIRING SUCCESS AWARDS EVENING**

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding an awards evening to celebrate the achievements and efforts of many of our students at Gosford Hill School.

The awards will be for students of all year groups and we will be writing to parents shortly with invitations.

**C Hall**  
**Assistant Headteacher, Community Development**

### **PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION**

Every Parent or Carer will be receiving a ballot form for the Parent Governor Election. Students will be bringing the ballot forms home in a sealed envelope on Friday 4 November 2011 so please ask for your letter if you have not already received it! If your child is absent on Friday 4 November and Monday 7 November, your ballot form will be posted.

Nominations have been received from four candidates for the three vacancies and information regarding each nominee is given on the ballot form. The ballot is secret; you can post the ballot paper back in a sealed envelope, or place it in the ballot box at Reception. All the votes must be received by 3p.m. on Wednesday 16 November 2011 and they will be counted on Thursday 17 November 2011. The results will be published in the newsletter sent out on Friday 18 November 2011.

**Doreen Rose - Chair of Governors**



### **RYAN WHITEHEAD**

You will remember that Ryan Whitehead was Cherwell's Volunteer of the Year last summer. His name automatically went forward to the Oxfordshire Sports Awards and I was asked to complete a nomination form for him. I was delighted to hear that he is one of three candidates who have been short listed and he has been invited to attend the Awards Ceremony taking place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at the Kassam Stadium, Oxford.

**P. Selby – School Sports Co-ordinator**