

21st March 2007

Issue 6

HeadLines



It has been another busy few weeks – if anything, even more hectic than I had imagined! First, congratulations to Tom MacKinnon, who has won both an academic and an art award at Wellington; and to William Travers, who has won an academic scholarship at Radley. Then, blessed with some proper spring-like weather we were able to see plenty of action on the hockey pitches (with some

outstanding results from the under-9s) and the rugby sevens season reached its climax at Rosslyn Park on Monday. And, of course, there was “Honk!” – a great production of an ambitious and funny musical that was much enjoyed by all: You can read more about some of these events elsewhere in this edition of “Aldro Link” and there are plenty of photos of “Honk!” available at www.aldro.net.

David Aston

Test your Poetry knowledge on Page 4!!

Maths Medals



Well done to MacGregor Cox and Matthew Shore, in Form 6H, who have won bronze medals in the Primary Maths Challenge. This is a nationwide challenge open to children in Year 6. It is a real achievement to have secured medals.

National Schools Sevens, Rosslyn Park



As usual the National Sevens was above anything else our great rugby party, the opportunity to take part in the biggest tournament in the World and meet dozens of wonderful friends, and this year we even had hands from Ukraine to shake. The competition was hard and we crashed at the start with a defeat to St John's, Cambridge. We kept hope alive with a demolition of Taverham Hall but the showdown against The Dragon turned to their advantage after we had taken an early lead.

It has been a great, exhausting Sevens campaign, with thirty-six matches played in eight tournaments. Congratulations to the squad and thanks for your enthusiasm and efforts, your gifts of faithfulness and friendship. Be thankful for the privilege of playing rugby.

YGBL

Hockey Season Review



The brief hockey season came to an end with a full fixture list against Highfield. It proved to be the 3rd XI's second game of the season due to inclement weather at the start of half term making the grass pitches unplayable.

The 2nd XI obtained a deserved win against Edgeborough. However, that all illusive win evaded the 1st XI and the VII teams despite some great hockey.

The team that enjoyed the most success were the U9s with the B team undefeated this season. The A team finished 3rd in the Parkside Festival, going through the tournament undefeated!

Well done to all the boys who have played and shown commitment towards the sport.

RD

In this issue...

Fantastic Hydraulic Systems • Year 4's Roman Feast • Honk!
• Poetry Corner • Poetry Quiz • Squad Marks Treat

Technology Designs using Hydraulic Systems



This term form 4 looked at hydraulics and pneumatics. Using syringes filled with water, each boy had to design and construct a 3D visual solution to illustrate movement. Solutions ranged from a hot air balloon taking off in the Alps, a Panda eating bamboo, an axe man swinging an axe, an anteater eating ants. The range and diversity of solutions was amazing.

Linked to this were handouts and worksheets. Pupils also looked at commercial applications found in the outside world such as diggers, cranes, car brakes, robots and robotics. A fun, challenging and stimulating coursework module.

David A Smith

Eggcellent Response to Easter Appeal



We had an overwhelming response to The Eagle Radio Station's Egg Appeal. The eggs will be distributed via Social Services and family support initiatives throughout the area to children and adults who would be without an egg this Easter. With your help we gathered over 150 eggs! The eggs were collected on Monday, 19th March by an Eagle Radio representative. Thank you for taking part in this appeal.

Year 4 Roman Feast



On Tuesday 20th March the school room transported the Year 4 boys back into Roman times. The boys came dressed in everything from the simple tunics of Roman boys waiting for full citizenship to be granted, to full Roman emperor and warrior costumes. They were armed with scrolls and swords and Alexander Fomin had a particularly splendid shield created from a bin.

The feast got off to a rousing start with the fire alarm bell ringing and a quick trip outside, where the temperatures were far



from Mediterranean! Once back inside the boys were quizzed on the food which was not available in Roman times, we discussed the important role of the slaves and then the feast commenced.

We contrasted the food eaten by the wealthy Romans to the food on offer to their slaves, but fortunately our meal was open to everyone.



Although we were short on supplies of peacock, stuffed dormice and ostrich, there was still a magnificent variety of other food on offer, thanks to the very kind donations from parents. Each boy was set the challenge of sampling at least three unfamiliar dishes from the endless choice on offer, ranging from vegetable soup, olives, flat bread and tzatziki, through to dates, figs and apple cake - to name but a few!

While the boys tucked into the feast, the entertainment commenced. First our singers (L-R Cameron Jones, Hugo Follis, Thomas Farrell and Edward Christie) performed 'Samson', this was followed by Ben Harris playing his violin and finally by Milo Nicholson juggling.



It was a memorable afternoon!

We send very, very many thanks to all the parents for their contributions and support and additional thanks to Miss Collett-White and Mrs Wahl for their invaluable help.





Pictures From Previous Weeks



Click on picture to enlarge



Roland Young 8D



Nick Tauwhare 8D



Elliott Charles 8H

'Honk!' – A Crack'in Good Show!



A streetwise drake, a well-meaning duck, an unruly brood of ducklings, a wicked cat, a couple of upper-class pampered pets, a mass of other farmyard creatures, not to mention frogs and fish – and, of course, an ugly duckling: put them all together and what do you get? The musical, Honk!

There were some outstanding performances – Tom Pinfold brought real menace to the part of the cat, Cameron Mitchell as Ida managed to convey the troubled instincts of a mother and Elliott Charles' Drake was pretty laid back until he had some real work to do looking after the ducklings.



The second act began with Jack Gault as Lowbut and James Warrington as Queenie bringing some well-rehearsed banter to the proceedings whilst, throughout it all, Robin Brignall as Ugly brought to life the fear and excitement of the life of the ugly duckling. Many others could be mentioned for the quality of their performances and it was clear to the audience that all the company were really enjoying themselves!

It is a great re-working of the classic Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale and the boys managed to bring it to life with real panache for three nights towards the end of term.



Many thanks to everyone involved for their commitment and dedication that ensured that all ran very smoothly on the night; and particular congratulations to Mrs Leach for successfully producing her 25th Aldro play.



Poets Corner

Year 3 and 4 got poetry week off to a rousing start with their performances in front of the whole school on Friday 11th March. Year 3 read the following poem which they had composed about the moon. Year 4 chose to enact a poem in line with their focus on Knights and Castles: "Bad Sir Brian Botany" by A.A. Milne.



**"I am Sir Brian!" (Sper-lash!)
"I am Sir Brian" (Sper-losh!)
"I am Sir Brian, as bold as a lion!
Is anyone else for a wash?"**

Boys in front row L – R: George Rix, Harry Moore, Thomas Farrell, Edward Christie, Ben Harris, Back row L – R: Adam Carden, William Dewar, Joseph Moore, Morgan Davies, Cameron Jones

Headmaster's Poetry Quiz:

Today is World Poetry Day and to celebrate we had some poetry recited at our Final Assembly. For boys (and parents!) with a bit of free time over the holidays, here is a little poetry "teaser" competition for you which requires you first of all to identify a famous poem, secondly, the poet and finally answer a couple of questions about the poem and the poet:

- Who lived in Xanadu,
"Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea."?
- Which famous nineteenth century poet wrote the poem?
- How did "the man from Porlock" allegedly have a great impact on the poem?
- In which Somerset village does the National Trust own a property where this poet lived for a number of years?

Email your answers to schoolsec@aldro.org. There will be a prize for the first correct answer opened on Friday 20th April. Good Luck!



The Moon

By Year 3

The moon is a white face sticking out of the darkness,
A football that has been played with on a muddy pitch.

It is a bow with no string, hanging in space.
The thin moon hides its face and is shy,
But the fat moon shows himself.

The moon is a sharp sickle blade and,
Streaming fast through space, turns it red hot.
In the summer it is bright,
Surrounded by an army of stars.
Like a king moving gracefully around the earth
It bobs and floats.

In the night, it is the lamp that lights up
The streets of space.

The faded lump of misty rock,
stays in the sky as the clouds sail past.
This faded lump of misty rock looks like half a
piece of white cheese
that has been tossed through the sky,
or a curled up greyhound fast asleep.

On a cloudy day it hides in the clouds for some
sleep,
but soon the faded lump of misty rock will shine
like the sun.

The moon in the day is a cloud in the sky,
but at night it's not the moon it's the sun.

Squad Mark Treat Day



Action Stations
at Portsmouth
Historic
Dockyard



On Monday 19th March 39 boys received an action packed treat for receiving highest marks in their Squad. Action Stations is an interactive attraction showcasing the skills and technology needed in the modern Navy.

Summer Term starts

Wednesday 18th April (boarders) - Thursday 19th April (dayboys)