



ELMWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JUNE 2018 – NO. 134

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LION KING PRODUCTION PART TWO

What a treat everyone who attended the second performance of the Lion King production had on Thursday 24th May. Once again the cast and crew did themselves and the School proud with their performance which was witnessed by parents/carers, governors and staff. Very well done to everyone involved in this fantastic show which was also highlighted in an article in the Express and Star newspaper. A big thank you to all who supported the fundraising raffle which raised £67.00 and congratulations to the winners who were Connor Berry (pupil), Tracy Brandwood (Chair of Governors), Craig Williamson (pupil), Rhys Leach (pupil), Oliver Fletcher (pupil), Krystian Kastelik (pupil), Mr Webb Senior (Mr Webb's dad), Rose Burley (Vice Chair of Governors) and Callum Walker (pupil). A big thank you also to Ms Shaw's dad who made a £20 donation to this fundraiser. All monies will be used to fund the drama trip to watch the West End version of the Lion King in London in September. A very big thank you to parents/carers who have also donated money towards the cost of this trip which included a £100 donation from the parents of Oliver Fletcher which is absolutely brilliant. Pupils enjoyed a celebration party organised by Mr Webb as well as a treat from McDonalds (thanks to School Fund) on Friday 25th May; a nice way to end the term.



Student Tom Carter, who stars in the production of the Lion King

School pupils are recasting a West End classic with their rendition of the Lion King. Pupils at Elmwood School in Bushall have worked tirelessly for around six months on their own production of the show.

Staff and pupils at the school were treated to a final performance of the extravaganza last week, and parents and family members will have the opportunity to see their loved ones in action on Thursday.

Report by Steven Jones
steven.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Thursday Matt Webb, the school's drama teacher, said: "We always do a performance but we wanted to do something bigger this year."

"It's been absolutely fantastic. It's a massive achievement for these kids. Some don't normally have much confidence but acting brings that out of you."

Thirteen students from Years 7 to 11 are taking part in the performance, presented with a signed poster of the cast and crew of the West End version of the show.

Matt said: "We wrote to the London Theatre and they sent us a signed poster from all the cast and crew with a good luck letter. As a staff team it's just brilliant to see the pupils up there. I just think it's an amazing achievement."

Message from Mr Webb (Head of Drama):

'I would just like to thank all pupils, staff and parents for their support and giving up their own time for rehearsals etc to make this show the success that it was.'

The whole experience for me has just been amazing, watching the pupils confidence develop and grow has been a pleasure and hopefully something we can repeat again and again'.

BREAKFAST CLUB SUPPORT

A big thank you to the Midland Langar Seva Society (MLSS), a charity based in Walsall, who provide food and aid to those less fortunate and needy and who, over past two years, have provided support for breakfast clubs. On Thursday 17th May the School received its first free weekly donation of 10 loaves of bread from the Charity which will be used during our breakfast period. We are very grateful to MLSS for their help and support. If anyone would like to donate to this Charity, their Justgiving Page link is <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TeamPadda>

Staffing News



On Sunday 27th May Di Cadman, teaching assistant in pathways, celebrated a very special birthday. Di was presented with a number of gifts and cards on Friday 25th May in recognition of this momentous occasion. Congratulations Di you are our little treasure and good to see that you are still going strong!

Becky Knight, teaching assistant in pathways, headed off to Bulgaria on Friday 25th May to take part in an International Women's Football Tournament. This was a fantastic experience which Becky thoroughly enjoyed. Well done Becky.

Following interviews on 11/12th June for teaching assistant posts, we are pleased to inform you that Christopher Young and Jenna Wilkins (currently on supply in nurture) will be joining the team. A big thank you to Dave Watton, Associate Member Governor, for assisting Mr Hubbard with the interview process and also to our School Council members who did an amazing job over the two day period.

Julie Burnell, kitchen assistant/cleaner, took part in a summer solstice walk on Saturday 16th June to help raise funds for St Giles Hospice. Julie set off at 10.00 pm and completed her walk around Lichfield at 2.00 am! As a result Julie helped to raise £40 for this excellent Charity—well done Julie on your achievement, bet you slept well afterwards!



GOVERNOR NEWS

We were pleased to welcome Rita Martin on to the Governing Body as a Co-opted Governor from Wednesday 23rd May 2018. Rita will be a great asset to the team and has been involved with the School for a number of years offering careers guidance and support. A big thank you to Rita for this commitment; we hope you enjoy the experience.

FISHING DONATION

A very big thank you to Hilary Shaw, Food Technology Teacher, who has kindly donated lots of fishing equipment that will enrich pupils' experiences when fishing. Mr Wood would like to extend a huge thanks from both himself and the pupils for this very kind gesture.
You are a star.

BIKEABILITY COURSE



Students in Year 8 were put through their paces during a two day Bikeability course held on the 14th to 16th May. The weather was excellent and pupils behaved brilliantly with the Council Road Safety Team. With the exception of two students who achieved Level 1 certification, all other pupils achieved Level 2 and were presented with Certificates in a whole school assembly.

A big thank you to Jo Hughes and Leon Donaldson, Teaching Assistants who assisted on the days in question and also to Mr Whittaker for organising it. Special mention goes to our stand out Star pupil, Tyler Nutting, for his excellent control of the bike and putting the Instructors to shame in the 'slow race'. Jo would personally like to mention Tom Allport. Tom has recently joined Year 8 and was very shy and anxious about engaging with other students. This was a perfect opportunity for him to get to know his peers better. He has settled well and his confidence has grown. Report by Jo Hughes, Teaching Assistant

FOODBANK APPEAL

Ollie in Year 7 is always trying to help the homeless which has previously included food being shared with sleepers in Walsall and donations to the Salvation Army. Ollie is currently appealing for support in helping families who rely on free school meals to feed their children during the six week summer holiday. In conjunction with the 3rd Pelsall Scouts group and, in partnership with Walsall North Foodbank, we are collecting donations for a Holiday Hunger initiative. If you are able to donate any of the following items: rice pudding/custard, tinned fruit, pasta/curry sauces, tinned tomatoes, biscuits, tinned meats, tinned fish, pasta and rice and long life fruit juice by Wednesday 18th July to the School Office, Ollie will be very grateful. Good luck Ollie with your quest to help others, we wish you every success in your mission.

LEADERSHIP EVENT ON 15.5.18



The Year 9 sports leaders went to Little Bloxwich School this year to run an event for a Year 4 class. Over the term they learnt skills in communication, explanations and activity structure to be able to lead to a small group at the event. All pupils were able to lead their activity with success which was a joy to see. The sports leaders gave the pupils a wide array of activities to try including athletics, dodgeball, tchoukball, tennis and basketball. It was great to hear the Year 4 children enjoying themselves and saying they were having fun. Well done to Rico, Sophie, Ashley, Jordan, Ciaran, Nathan, Tia and J'Ermiel. A special mention also to Rico and Sophie who led outstanding sports sessions and would be superb candidates for BTEC Sport next year. Report by Mr Hawkes, PE Teacher



Report by Mr Hawkes, PE Teacher

CHICKEN UPDATE



The "ladies" have settled well into their new surroundings. The pupils are genuinely excited to see if they have laid and to have their morning feed of corn and cuddles. This is a far cry from the poor conditions that rescued them from. They have added value to the school environment, and its particularly pleasing to hear the chirping away throughout the day. Nurture, Transit and Pathways base are busy voting for the name of the base's hen. Staff have also started a donation pot for a eggs laid which will contribute to the upkeep of the hens when in school and at Mr Cross' house during the holidays. Report by Mr L Cross, Deputy Head

DENTAL VISIT ON 21.5.18



On Tuesday 22nd May Gemma Webb and Harriet Walker from the

NHS dental van returned to School. Aided by Di Cadman, teaching assistant, a number of pupils were seen by the dental team, some of whom required treatment. Very well done in particular to Harrison in Year 11 and Kacey in Year 8 for their positive attitude and behaviour during treatment. The dental team returned on the 18th June to carry out more treatments.



NOMINATION FOR A BEST PRACTICE AWARD

Congratulations to Bev Bailey, Family Welfare Officer, who was nominated for a Best Practice Award for Excellent Earl Help Practice.



Bev and Mr Hubbard attended the Early Help Celebrating Schools Event on Friday 7th June at Forest Art Centre where she was presented with her certificate.

Very well done Bev on this much deserved accolade.

NEWS FROM FOOD TECHNOLOGY



Polish taste testing. Krystian in Year 7 very kindly translated the words on the packaging to some Polish food and snacks that was donated to food technology. Krystian was welcomed by all the Year 7 groups who thoroughly enjoyed taste testing lots of yummy snacks.



Kacey in Year 8 worked really hard making a cake and all the flowers for the decoration for the top of it for our very own wonder woman, Di Cadman for her XX birthday (there is a big clue on top of the cake however)! This was presented to Di in assembly before being taken home by Di to share with her family.

Report by Ms Shaw, Food Technology Teacher

NEW ARRIVALS



Mr Whittaker captured these lovely before and after wildlife pictures taken in the school barn area in May, hopefully the fledglings all safely flew the nest. We were also very excited to discover that a duck had decided to



take up residence on the pond area in the nurture quad area and given birth to 10 ducklings. Unfortunately our new additions were not with us for long which was disappointing as pupils and staff were looking forward to watching them grow. Our front garden area is also looking very colourful thanks to the members of the gardening club together with Ms Shaw and Mrs Cadman.



10K RUN ON 27.5.18



Thank you to staff and students for sponsoring my recent 10k run around Chasewater. I raised £96. Nearly 200 runners turned up on a glorious Sunday morning to raise money for 'Man up to cancer'. It was their first organised event and the supporters and weather did not disappoint. Their next event is take place on 24th June at Walsall Arboretum and runners can either compete in either a 5k or 10k run. All details on how you can get involved are to be found on their website manuptocancer.org.uk. Report by Jo Hughes, Nurture Teaching Assistant

NEW REGISTER MONITOR



Habib in Year 10a has taken over the role of register monitor following the half term break. Habib is so far carrying out his duties efficiently and seems to be enjoying the responsibility; well done Habib.

A big thank you to Tom Hill, Thomas Carter and Ethan McKenzie in Year 11 who carried out this role previously and who did a brilliant job. All boys received a £5 gift certificate at the end of term as a thank you gift.

EDUCATION HEALTH AND CARE PLAN CONSULTATION EVENT

Walsall Special Educational Needs Team have organised two consultation events for parents/carers to give their views on the development of a new EHC plan template. If you are interested in attending Walsall Town Hall Conference Room 2 on Friday 6th July from either 10.00am-12 pm or 12.30—2.30 pm, please contact the SEN team either by ringing 01922 652871 or emailing sen@walsall.gov.uk.

OUTDOOR LEARNING—STAFF TRAINING DAY

Staff wellbeing has always been a significant component to our School's ethos and we have always invested in staff development as the staff are our greatest asset. This year staff wellbeing has been a whole school priority and this year's staff training has contributed towards the work around the Wellbeing Award for Schools – promoting wellbeing and mental health and acknowledgement within our re-accreditation of Gold status for Investors In People. We also welcomed Tracy Brandwood, new Chair of Governors, to join in the fun and who was able to witness for herself how important staff wellbeing is taken into consideration at Elmwood.



In addition to this we wanted to celebrate the work of some inspirational women and organisations as part of recognition of International Women's Month (March 2018). So we welcomed Sara Morris (Barlaston Women's Institute, <http://barlastonheronswi.webs.com/>) and Margaret Thompson (Birmingham Back to Backs, National Trust, <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/birmingham-back-to-backs>) ably assisted by her colleague to deliver some age old techniques and applications using a variety of natural materials to produce some fantastic pieces of work that staff will feel able to support our own pupils during out and about lessons in the coming years (and keep for themselves as mementoes of the fantastic day).



Sara's enthusiasm and creative flair enabled staff to experience different colours and textures in their very own A4 masterpiece of wet felting (which will be carefully created into wall banners to enhance the School's environment; so keep your eyes open you never know when or where they will appear!) and Margaret took us through the history and application of rag rugging by making Christmas tree decorations – which will further enhance fund raising at our school fetes. This was delivered authentically both from the materials used and her dress code, staff felt they were in the terraced houses in the heart of Birmingham. Some staff even dressed especially for the occasion.

Our very own Mr Whittaker (SLE for Outdoor Learning) treated us to some nail art, using different coloured threads to create some truly spectacular pieces of work that will create "awe" for the pupils when they see them. The awe and fear for staff was generated by Mr Holmes when he demonstrated and enabled staff to safely and effectively participate in axe throwing, using angel stars and single blade tomahawks – some even progressed to the double bladed axe!

This was all delivered at Blymhill and Weston Village hall <https://www.blymhill-westonvillagehall.co.uk/> with a picturesque landscape of local farms and village tranquillity, which really enabled staff to focus on the learning at hand and do so in a truly mindful and "Elmwood way". The facilities enabled all facilitators to deliver outstanding sessions and the kitchen was well equipped to enable Mr Cross and special invited quest to cook up a storm of pulled pork and slow cooked beef baps with accompaniments and a special salmon, okra and rice dish for Leon and a nice vegan burger for Jenna.



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I am sure you can see from the gallery that a lot of fun was had by all and initial feedback is very positive about the experience and all are looking forward to supporting the pupils next year. Report by Mr L Cross, Deputy Head

SCHOOL COUNCIL RECOGNITION



Our School Council members are a credit to the School and play a vital part in the Elmwood Community.

In recognition of this all members were presented with Ambassador badges; this included Tom Carter and Harrison Bickley Year 11 leavers who have been longstanding members.

EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE

Many congratulations to the 20 pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the summer first half term. These were Connor Berry, Adam Choudhury, Sophie Clewley, Tyrone Peakman, Levi Dingley, Amarn Ewen, Oliver Fletcher, Dion Griffin, Charlie Haddock, Miles Hall, Jack Hulse, Ciaran Lawrence, Rhys Leach, Rico Maritza-Yates, Nathan Naylor, Tyler Nuttall, Mark Reddington, Kieren Spencer, Christopher Taylor and Callum Walker.

Keep up the good work and hopefully you will achieve 100% attendance for the whole term.



Reward trip to Drayton Manor

We were fortunate once again, thanks to Mrs Gemma Francis, Maths Teacher, to receive ticket visit Drayton Manor Park on Wednesday 13th June. Pupils who had achieved 100% attendance enjoyed a fabulous day out in the sunshine in recognition of this achievement. Very well done Charlie Haddock, Jack Hulse, Oliver Fletcher, Jack Henworth, Swayvon O'Connor, Kieren Spencer, Tyrone Peakman, Callum Groom, Connor Berry, Miles Hall, Rhys Humphries, Isaiah Jagirdar, Alice Dewsbury, Craig Williamson, Rico Maritza Yates and Nathan Davis Sealey. Tickets were also shared with a number of Year 6 pupils at Phoenix Academy who will be beginning their journey at Elmwood in September. Feedback from Nick Cunliffe, Interim Head, was that pupils had an amazing day.

VISIT TO THE MAD MUSEUM



On Monday 11th June the Maths department arranged a trip to the MAD Museum in Stratford to enable Years 9 and 10 to begin their Pathways journey together, and be wowed by some amazing technology and marble runs along the way.

The museum is full of wacky creations, bizarre ideas, and fabulous contraptions that kept students and staff entertained during our visit there. Special mention should really go to Year 9's—Jordan Hathaway who was an absolute delight to take and showed particular skill and diligence when creating his own extended marble run that spans the entire room!!

The beautiful sunshine enabled us to enjoy lunch by the river before making our way home at the end of a super day.

The MAD museum have since contacted me to congratulate Elmwood school on our students' exemplary behaviour and their consideration of such delicate and intricate exhibitions. Well done to all students involved and can I also say a massive thank you to the staff who accompanied the trip without whom the trip would not have been possible. Report by Mrs Francis, Head of Maths



BUSY TIME IN OUTDOOR EDUCATION



Sheepwash Farm

Our annual trip to Sheepwash Farm near Whittington took place on Friday 9th June when all pupils in Year 7 enjoyed an educational and fun day down on the farm! A big thank you to all parents and carers who helped to contribute towards the cost of the visit, which was very much appreciated.

From feeding the lambs, learning about the growing of crops as varied as asparagus, parsnips, potatoes (for McCoys), barley, wheat (for Warburtons) and enjoying a tractor trailer ride—a great time was had by all. The group also visited the farmer's wind turbine and sun tracking photovoltaic panels.

A big thank you to Mr Whittaker who organised the event and also returned with a few strawberries to sample!



OUT AND ABOUT VISIT THE AGRICULTURAL SHOW



The Royal Agricultural Show at Malvern on 15th June was a great educational opportunity for Elmwood pupils to become aware of a variety of different careers. Whilst there we saw sheep shearers, farriers, blacksmiths, the armed forces, professional sports coaches, retailers, lumberjacks, food specialists, farmers, foresters, cowboys and many more.

Pupils enjoyed seeing cattle, sheep, rabbits, goats, alpacas, ferrets, birds of prey, as well as watching the sheep shearing and horseshoeing competitions. They saw luxury and vintage cars, tractors, quad bikes and off road vehicles.



The medieval village proved very interesting as we learnt about middle ages medicine, the art of blacksmithing, weaving and candle making which we will be turning our hand to in out and about lessons (well perhaps not the medicine and blood letting)! Report by Mr Whittaker, Head of Outdoor Learning