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Newsletter

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Volume 05

February 2010

Headmaster's Notes

Subjects:

- Headmaster's Notes
- PTA News
- Agenda

Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

I hope you had a good winter break, either at home in the South of France or in places further afield. Since our return to School, we have had a busy month, particularly Form 11, who recently sat their mock (!)GCSE examinations over a two-week period.

Form 11 Post Mock Parents Evening

There will be a meeting for all parents and students of Form 11 on Thursday 11th February at 8h00 in the Examination Room to discuss individual mock examination results and to look at subject options for next year. Details to follow.

Names in Clothing

Many of us remember the days when you had to buy printed or embroidered name labels and sew them in every item of clothing you possessed. Although it was a laborious task, it certainly meant that your lost items of clothing were returned to you. We have a huge lost property problem at School, made considerably worse by the fact that none of the children's clothing is labelled. Clothes left outside at night are generally put inside by the cleaning staff, generally in the nearest classroom. Most clothing that people believe to have "been taken" turns up somewhere. Why not ease the situation by ensuring you child's name features in main items of clothing?

Things Are Disappearing

Unfortunately, as within any large group of people, theft exists. We are currently suffering from an increase in theft at School, particularly concerning items of new technology – mobile phones, i-pods, etc, but also money. Whilst we have heightened our security measures and checks, we would encourage you to follow the advice given in the Family Guide and ensure your children keep valuable items at home. Wallets in jackets left in the changing rooms or outside around the campus are an enormous temptation for our tiny handful of thieves. It goes without saying that when we catch someone responsible for stealing, the consequences of their actions will be very serious.

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Urgence Haiti

Earlier this week, you will have received a letter from the Mougins School Student Council, informing you of their fund raising action next Tuesday 2nd February in support of the victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti. Please support them as much as you possibly can – either by sending in cakes for their sale on Tuesday or sending in a donation to “Urgence Haiti”. Thank you in advance of your generosity.

AS Level Art Students Visit to London

In the middle of January, students studying Art at AS level, accompanied by Ms Jane Hart, had a very successful three-day trip in London, where they visited a number of the City’s famous galleries to enhance their studies in Art.

Another Oxbridge Success for Mougins School

We are please and proud to inform you that following a gap year, Lara Jane Ideo, who graduated last June with excellent A Level results, has obtained a place in Homerton College, Cambridge to study English. She will take up her place this coming September 2010. You may remember that Casper Lindberg, from the same year group, started his first year at Cambridge in September 2009.

Snow White and the Masses of Dwarves

Congratulations to the many students, both past and present, teachers and parents who made up a massive team, under the guidance of Margot Renssen, to put on three nights of fun and laughter for just over 300 spectators in our annual pantomime – this year Snow White (see photographs in this newsletter). Well done to all involved!

February Vacation

Our half-term break is already only two weeks away. School finishes on Friday 12th February at 15h30.

During the break, a number of students in Form 11 to 13 will be on an eight-day Winter Camp at La Fouc d’Allos. There are three places left for any students in these Forms who would like to join us. See me for details.

Whilst the teaching staff has an INSET day on Monday 22nd February, School resumes after the break for students on **Tuesday 23rd February** at our normal starting times (08h45 Secondary, 09h00 for Primary).

Best wishes,
Brian G. Hickmore
Headmaster



Mougins School Classifieds

Charity Yoga Mini - Retreat

Experienced
Saturday 06 March 2010
10h00 – 15h00
40 Euros



Beginners
Sunday 07 March 2010
10h00 – 15h00
40 Euros

yoga ° meditation ° asana ° pranayama ° relaxation ° lunch



Celebrate International Women’s Day with Soroptimist Club of Vallauris–Sophia-Antipolis

* Soroptimist is an international NGO run by business and professional women volunteers who work to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide *

www.soroptimist.asso.fr

www.soroptimisteurope.org



Snow White

PTA News

I would like to review January's events/activities and invite you to our next events.

PTA Meeting - 12th January. The Committee decided that 10,000€ would be spent on a good quality piano, a much needed moving spotlight for the stage and a TV/DVD with a projector for Early Years and Reception.

It was also decided that some urgent fund-raising should be started to help the media section of the main library to develop much faster.

Themed Coffee Morning – 13th January. The guest speaker was no other than Anna Percy -Davis herself, who also is one of the co-ordinators of the Coffee Morning Club. From her experience as a Life Coach, she gave a very lively presentation entitled «How to fire on all cylinders and have fun doing it!»

Well dear Anna. We not only learned a few new self-help tips but we also had so much fun listening to you as your talent as a speaker is enhanced by your unique sense of humour!

Now please mark your agendas for the following February dates:

Wednesday 3rd February at 09h00 in the Cafeteria - Themed Coffee Morning. Lars Hoie, a father at the school, will be talking about "The benefits of soya". Lars is a brilliant speaker who has done some extraordinary research and come up with some

amazing conclusions. His talk should be fascinating.

Wednesday 10th February at 09h00 in the Cafeteria - an open invitation for breakfast to all parents, offered by the Hotel de Mougins. Don't miss the opportunity of enjoying a free and delicious breakfast. Please mailto marketing@mougins-school.com if you think you would be able to join us.

Thursday 11th February at 08h45 in the car park - Culture Club visit to the Asian Arts Museum in Nice.

As the visit scheduled for the 21st January was cancelled due to a lack of participants, the same visit is proposed again for the 11th February. Please don't miss the opportunity of enjoying this exotic experience without having to travel. Come and admire various art works from India, China, Japan and South East Asia. Afterwards a tea ceremony and a calligraphy demonstration will follow.

As February is a short month at school, our list of events is equally short. Therefore, my team and I would like to wish you as much fun as possible during your winter break and a fantastic time on the slopes, if you choose to go skiing.

Kindest regards,
Lea Assi
PTA President

From the Desk of Sue Dunnachie

Although I mentioned this in the January Newsletter, I would like to reiterate thanks for the generosity of our parents with regard to the gifts you donated at Christmas and which were distributed to seriously sick children in the Lenal Hospital in Nice. Here is an extract from a card sent by Madame Gentil who was responsible for the collection and distribution of these gifts. *<Merci du fond du cœur pour l'accueil exceptionnel que vous m'avez réservé cette année encore. Merci aux parents d'élèves qui ont si généreusement donnés tous ces beaux jouets, que j'apporte ce matin à l'Hôpital Lenal ... >*

As part of our policy concerning the **prevention of drink and drugs**, students in Form 10 participated in a presentation by two members of Alcoholics Anonymous on 26th January. This exercise proved to be very successful last year and, once again, gave rise to some interesting exchanges. Along the same lines we will be welcoming a British midwife who practices in France on 2nd and 3rd February. She will be talking to Forms 9 and 11 as part of their **PHSE** (physical health and sex education) programme. This is the third intervention of its kind organized by the School. It allows for a frank and open exchange of information and also permits students to put questions to an expert.

Following the terrible catastrophe which struck **Haiti**, our **Student Council will be devoting Tuesday 2nd February to fund raising** in order to help with the eventual re-building of this tragic country.. Rather than pass the funds to a large organization, we have decided to support **Urgence Haiti** which is organized by the 'Association humanitaire sapeurs-pompiers Grasse-Mention 06'. A team of firemen is ready to go to Haiti as soon as possible in order to

help with the rebuilding of the important infrastructures such as hospitals, schools and orphanages. These extraordinary men did similar work in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami. The fund raising will include a **'Bake Sale'** and we would be grateful if parents could contribute as many cakes as possible (to be brought to the Office on the Tuesday morning).

The cakes will be sold to students during break and after school when parents can also purchase. Collection boxes will be available for donations throughout the week. Your support of this show of solidarity is much appreciated.

A further 580€ has been raised for our Guide Dog by the sale of ice-creams and popcorn thus adding another paw to **'Paws for Thought'**.

Start the Day the Healthy Way. As part of our nutritional awareness information, Mougins School invites its parents to breakfast in the *'Café des Amis'* at School on Wednesday 10th February at 09h00. The breakfast will be generously provided by the **Hotel de Mougins** and is a forerunner to a breakfast for students which will be organized as soon as the weather permits this event to take place outside. If you wish to participate in this breakfast, perhaps you could confirm your presence to me by mail, or let the Office know in order to facilitate catering: maketing@mougins-school.com The menu is very varied including hot food and a presentation on good nutrition at the start of the day will be given. We look forward to your company.

Seventeen of our students who entered the **LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art)** examinations are to be congratulated. They all passed their exams which included Speaking in Public, Musical

February 2010

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2 Urgence Haiti Prevention of drink and drugs	3 PTA Coffee Morning Prevention of drink and drugs	4	5 19h30: Are You Ready for 2010	6	7
8	9	10 Breakfast by the Hotel de Mougins	11 Culture Club 18h30: AS and A Level Music Recital	12 Valentine Primary Assembly Disco	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Staff Inset Day	23	24	25	26	27	28

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Deputy Head: Jane Hart

PTA website: www.mouginsschool-pta.org

Theatre, Solo Acting and Duo Acting and their were five who passed with Merit and six with Distinction. Achievement in Drama continues to strengthen within the School and our thanks to Mrs Lecoy for her enthusiastic support of the students.

On Saturday 13th March Mougins School will be hosting a **Drama Festival** for the four international schools: ISN, CIV, Monaco and Mougins School. A group of twenty students from each school, aged between eleven and fifteen, will participate in organized workshops with professional actors and a dancer. On **Thursday 11th March at 19h30 at Mougins School** there

will be a public performance of 'Words Alive' with **Aidan Dooley** who has already appeared at the Antibe Theatre in 'Tom Crean – Antarctic Explorer' and presents workshops in schools in the United Kingdom as well as his work in theatre. This performance is open to parents and students and tickets will be available from the Office from **Monday 1st March. The price is 5€** which will go towards the running costs of the Festival. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to see an English theatre performance by professional actors – you will not be disappointed.

From the Gossip Desk



Despite the fact that Johnny Jones and Brian Hickmore were both involved in the recent pantomime in somewhat strange roles, they have no desire to change their current professional positions. They are both happy and content in their jobs and do not want to "exchange scripts". Therefore, there is

absolutely no truth in the rumour that one is leaving and the other taking his place.



From the desk of Sue Filer

A Big Thank You

More than 500€ has now been collected from the sale of popcorn and ice cream in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind. A big thank you to the parents of Form 2, who are continuing the sale of popcorn this term.

Primary School Events:

Friday 12th February, 09h00 Valentine Primary Assembly – all parents welcome

15h30 – 17h00 Valentine Disco, 5€ entry to include refreshments – open to all children in the Primary School - in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind