

Junior Prize Giving Speech - 2012

Mr Spencer Ellis, Governors, parents, teachers and staff, dear pupils.

I am privileged to address you today on this Prize Giving Day to report on the successes and the activities of our Junior School and to congratulate all pupils and staff on their achievements.

My Deputy Ms Smith, as leading teacher, started setting the pupils for literacy and numeracy within Years 4-5. This new way of organising the groups has been very successful. We have children already achieving L5! I would like to thank Ms Smith for all your hard work with planning and delivery of lessons and for guiding teachers and staff to do such a fantastic job. Thank you.

In October, Year 5 had the opportunity to be Victorian Children for the day. They went to Guildford Museum where the children were dressed in Victorian costume and followed a Victorian style role play recreation.

For the second time this year we took part in The Samaritans Purse Christmas Appeal. Tuesday 16th November was collection day. The final count was a massive, beautifully wrapped and decorated, 90 shoeboxes filled with all sorts of goodies, toys, pencils, sweets, hats, gloves and toiletries.

At the beginning of December we had our very successful Christmas Play 'The good, The Bad and the Donkey'. Miss Williams directed the Christmas play for the second time and once again she did a great job!

Students also took part in a very successful Gatton Performers Christmas Production and attended the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk.

In March we celebrated Book Week with a study of Fairy Tales. Pupils enjoyed the presentation by Ruth Young and the highlight of the week was the Fancy Dress parade. We also had the visit of the West End School Production, which children enjoyed very much. Thank you Miss Williams for being such a great literacy co-ordinator and for organising so many fantastic events and activities.

In March Year 4 went to Hever Castle, we had a terrific Spring Concert, and for the 4th year we supported the NSPCC, I am pleased to inform you that the children raised £1882 for this cause, which is brilliant. Well done Boys and Girls!

In sports we continue our competition with local schools. We had a PGL trip and the very exciting Ski Trip to Austria. This year we continued to work with lacrosse, kayaking and we introduced tennis coaching during the 4-5 activities.

We had a cycling morning in the park, children took part in a 3 mile cycle, around Gatton Park as part of the Bikeability programme, in which we are about to receive our Bronze Award. Sports Relief was a highlight in the Spring Term as children, parents and teachers took part in running a mile in the park.

We also had several inter-house competitions throughout the year; cross country, football, dance, swimming just to name a few. The culmination will be sports day next Saturday morning. Let's hope for a sunny day!!

I would like to thank Ms Donohoe, our school PE co-ordinator for all her dedication and hard work this year. Also Mr Llewellyn must be thanked for his contribution to the football team which brings me to recognise his work for the last 2 years, as he moves on to further his career at Salford's Primary School. We wish him every success. You will be missed!!!

Our Swimming team has done very well this year. In March ten of our swimmers took part in the Surrey heats of the English Schools National Swimming Team Championships. In April seven of our year 5 and 6 qualified to represent Reigate and Banstead in the Surrey Youth Games. Well done to them for all the hard work and to Mr Raeburn and Mrs Rice for all their support!

The junior school celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, with a Street Party organised by Ms Atkins and Mrs Moorcraft. In preparation for the celebration, the junior school presented to the Queen the 'Jubilee Book', with a summary of the major events in the last sixty years. The work was directed by Ms Williams with some G&T students. We were delighted to receive a letter from the Palace thanking the children for such a lovely gift!

Creative Week, will take place this month. We have planned a Whole Junior School Visit to Drusillas Park, a Rounders Tournament, a Dance Workshop and finally the Junior Production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat', organised by Ms Butler with the support of Ms Trenner. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ms Butler for all her support and dedication to Music in the juniors!

In June students in Year 6 will take part in a one week residential trip to the Isle of Wight. This is the second year that the students go to Kingswood Centre to complete an educational programme as part of the culmination of their KS2 studies.

This year the juniors have taken control of three more allotments, this time in Rank Weston. The boarders had great fun digging out and planting a variety of fruit and vegetables including, sweet corn, broad beans and lettuce. We have already sampled some delicious spinach and leeks and I can vouch for the quality and value of both! I would like to thank Mr Leoffeler for continuing this project in the juniors and for passing on to the children his farming skills.

Mr Spencer Ellis, here, in recognition for all the work you do for the Junior School is a selection of our produce presented by Owen Earnshaw, the Year 4 Allotment Captain- Please enjoy!

In dance we had the annual Choreography competition and the dance show, 'Lets go to the Movies' which sold out on opening night. It had amazing costumes, lights and dancing with over 30 junior dancers taking part.

In the Junior House we started this year with the election of the house prefects. They have been very busy with Mrs Mac organising discos, cake sale and the end of

term BBQ. They had to choose a charity and they decided on Rays of Sunshine Trust giving terminally ill children their wishes. And they raised £191 for their cause! I would like to recognise here the hard work and dedication of Mrs Mac to Rank Weston House. Mrs Mac - you are a fantastic Deputy Head of House!

You must agree with me that this work is not possible without the individual commitment of every member of staff in the School and in the House. I must emphasise that the academic work and the personal progress that is made every day by your children is the result of an enormous amount of hard work and dedication by our excellent teachers and staff, and also the house staff of Rank Weston.

Finally on behalf of myself and my team I would like to thank you, parents and carers, for all your help, personal support and assistance to make this year another successful one.

Thank you.

Ines Salman,
Head of Junior School
Housemistress Rank Weston House