

Prep School

ROUND UP



6th December 2019

Christmas is definitely in the air in the Prep School! Years 5 and 6 performed both in the Tenovus Lovelight concert and at Penarth Pier during this past week. Our Year 3 and 4 girls wowed their audiences with their fantastic interpretation of Peter Pan. Finally, rehearsals are very much under way for 'Eddie the Penguin Saves the World' our infant concert. I hope you enjoy reading about some of these events in this week's newsletter.



Brecon Mountain Railway

Last Thursday, our Reception and Year 1 classes had the most magical day! We went to the Brecon Mountain Railway. Once there, they climbed aboard a steam train and travelled through glorious countryside to their destination. At the final stop they found Father Christmas in his Grotto! After spending some time talking about their hopes and dreams for Christmas they returned to Howell's Prep School with a bag of presents! It was a great day and the girls all behaved perfectly.



Tenovus Lovelight Concert

Last Friday night saw nearly 60 girls from Years 5 and 6 take part in the annual Tenovus Cancer Care Lovelight Carol Concert which made a welcome return to the majestic Llandaff Cathedral. The choir from Howell's Prep School was just one of many acts on the programme, which included the inspiring Tenovus Sing with Us Cardiff North Choir, the very moving Cwmbran Deaf Choir, pianist, Malcolm Mason and saxophonist, Jo Wood. Hosted by TV and radio personality, Wynne Evans, the Howell's choir sang a set of 3 songs and also joined their fellow artists in a finale rendition of The Greatest Showman's, *This is Me!* and the seasonal favourite, *White Christmas*. Interspersed through the evening's entertainment were 3 poems on the theme of *Lovelight*, beautifully and sensitively written and read by Zita S, Catherine H and Sasha L from Year 6. During the lively concert there was also time to reflect and remember when the cathedral lights dimmed and each member of the audience held a lit candle. Broken only by the



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distant strains of the cathedral clock striking, this was the most poignant moment of the event. The girls from Howell's School sang and read beautifully and the staff accompanying them were delighted by both their performance and behaviour. Thank you for your support at this event - a really special way to begin the Christmas season!

Mr Beckett

Crucial Crew

Year 6 visited the Field Hospital in Llandaff North for a morning packed with mini workshops for Crucial Crew.

They enjoyed talks from Food Hygiene, Resolve It, RNLI, Samaritans, Fire and Rescue, Western Power and Network Rail. They learnt skills that will be useful for life!



Peter Pan

I believe in fairies...and I think we all do after Years 3 and 4 fantastic evening performances of Peter Pan this week. The Great Hall was transformed into Neverland and the girls' acting, singing and dancing was superb. We are very proud of them all. I would like to thank all the staff who were involved and you the parents for providing the super costumes.

Swim Gala

On Thursday December 5th the Urdd held the heats of their regional swimming gala at Penarth Leisure Centre where primary schools from all over Cardiff and the Vale competed for a place in the National Finals. There were amazing swims from our Year 4 team, Sophie D, Georgina G, Mai G, Eve W, Isabella T and Emily T, also our Year 5/6 team, Mollie D, Isabella C, Francesca B, Nell C-P, Elizabeth S, Yume A and Phoebe C. Only the fastest overall swimmer in an individual or relay event will qualify to represent the school and the region in the finals which will take place in January at Cardiff International Pool.



'We set off for Penarth Leisure Centre eager to swim in the Urdd Gala. We all competed in our heats and all tried our best to succeed in all our races. In the medley relay and freestyle, Howell's came first quite a lot. We hope we get to the final! By Phoebe and Mollie

Penarth Pavilion – Lights to Remember



Yesterday, Year 5 and 6 provided the musical accompaniment for the Lights To Remember event for the charity, Marie Curie. Held at the Penarth Pier Pavilion, the event drew together families and friends of those who have been touched by the work of Marie Curie's hospice for Cardiff and the Vale in Penarth. The girls entertained the guests by singing a variety of seasonal songs as they arrived and then lead everyone in the communal singing. The guests at the event even ending up singing a verse of White Christmas on their own! During the short event, those attending were given a chance to reflect on those loved ones who they had lost and encouraged to hang a small decoration on the large Christmas tree as a token of remembrance.

The girls both sang and behaved superbly and the staff were proud to have taken them and supported Marie Curie.

Alice W has written about the afternoon:

'We spilled onto the bus, buzzing and chirping about our excitement as we set off to Penarth to sing for the Marie Curie Christmas Remembrance. As we arrived we shivered in the breezy cold before stepping into the Pier Pavilion. We glanced at the magnificent Christmas tree filled with messages for ones we've lost. Our singing was amazing, bringing smiles and joy to people's faces. As we boarded the bus it was quiet, slowly, slowly it began to be louder and louder. We realised the bus had broken down! When we finally came back, we were all exhausted. However, it was spectacular to bring smiles to people's faces. A miracle of Christmas.'

Thank you Alice, what a wonderful account!

Apologies for the late return to Howell's due to the coach breaking down.

Prep Sport

The four houses in the Prep School played out a thrilling inter-house hockey tournament this week in Year 5 and Year 6. The age groups combined to create two teams per house, with twelve matches taking place during two PE lessons. After some fantastic matches played by all teams, it was Hywel that won the competition and added their yellow ribbon to the Hazelwood hockey stick! Congratulations Hywel!



Prep School Christmas Music on the Bandstand 2019

Once again, there will be music in the Old Tennis Pavilion in the Car Park during the final week of term. Parents are very welcome to come along and listen or even sing! Many of our Prep School instrumental and vocal ensembles will be performing.

Monday 16th December

From 3pm to approximately 3.20pm

Infant Choir

Shake, Rattle & Roll Percussion Group

4S Class Brass

3J Class Strings

Tuesday 17th December

From 3pm to approximately 3.20pm

Junior Flute Choir

Junior Rock

Band Skills Groups (*some still TBC!*)

Wednesday 18th December

From 3pm to approximately 3.20pm

String Machine

Junior Orchestra

Junior Wind Band

The groups will play as parents arrive at the end of the day, but we will make sure that we finish playing in time to catch school buses.

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas jumpers may be worn over uniform for the morning of Thursday 19th December.

Paracetamol Elixir

Please do not send in any Calpol to school with your child, we have a supply at school that we can administer, if you have given consent, if your daughter is unwell during the day until you can collect her.

Speech and Drama

The girls have all been working very hard for their LAMDA examinations this Saturday at school. Good luck to them all!

There **will be** Speech and Drama next Monday and Tuesday December 9th and 10th but **not** on Wednesday December 11th. There **will be no sessions in the last week of term**. Speech and Drama will resume in the first full week of term beginning on **Monday January 13th 2020**.

Any girls from Year 2 upwards wishing to join the after school sessions please contact Mrs Cooksey at sarahcookseydrama@gmail.com .before the beginning of the spring term.

GDST Creative Writing Competition

Following the success of the Creative Writing Competition over the last few years, the GDST is very pleased to offer girls the chance to take part in another writing competition this year.

Your story/creative writing piece can be fictional or factual and should be based around the theme of **'New Rules for the Future World'**. This should allow you space to express your thoughts, feelings, experiences and demonstrate your creativity through words.

The entries will be adjudicated by author, Rachel Hore (a GDST alumna) and the finalists for each age group will be featured on the GDST website.

The word limit for each piece is 1,000 words (not including the title) and each girl may put forward one entry to the competition.

Process

Students from all year groups will be able to submit an entry of up to 1,000 words (not including the title) to their school.

Each school can then submit one short story or creative writing piece for each of the following age group categories:

Years 1 and 2

Years 3 and 4

Years 5 and 6

Each entry should be typed on a Word document with the following information clearly indicated on the document:

- The pupil's name, school and year group
- The title of the story
- Number of words used (not including the title)
- Confirmation from a parent / guardian that permission is granted to publicise the piece and in particular post it onto the GDST website together with the pupil's name

By entering, you are stating that the writing is your own work and also giving the GDST permission to publicise the piece and in particular post it onto the GDST website together with your name, if you are a finalist.

Please return your finished story to Miss Kenyon by emailing it to: s.hatcher@how.gdst.net using 'GDST Writing Competition' as the subject. **Entries should be emailed to school by Friday 10th January 2020 at the latest.**

We are sure you'll agree this is a very exciting competition, and we hope that as many of you as possible will demonstrate your creative flair by entering!

Good Luck!

Miss Kenyon

Diary Dates

Carol Services

Llandaff Cathedral will once again provide the perfect setting for this year's Carol Services which will take place on Wednesday 11th December. There will be two services, one at 1.45pm and another at 6.30pm, which will include performances from the Year 5 and 6 Choir (afternoon only), Junior Competition Choir (evening only), Senior Choir, College Choir, Youth Choir, Wind Ensemble and Senior Orchestra. The services will also incorporate readings from students, staff and governors. There are no tickets required so we recommend arriving early in order to get a good seat.

Fusion Dance Show - Save the Date

On Thursday 30th January at 6-8pm, Howell's will present its first dance show, *Dance Fusion*, in The Warehouse venue off Penarth Road. Involving over 60 Senior School students, the evening will showcase a wide variety of dance styles. Tickets will be available to buy when we come back to school in January.

Prep School Dates

Wednesday 11 th December	Year 5 & 6 (afternoon) and JCC (evening) taking part in the Howell's School Carol Service at Llandaff Cathedral
Wednesday 11 th December @ 1.45pm Thursday 12 th December @ 9.30am Friday 13 th December @ 9.30am	Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 2 Production in the Prep School Hall
Monday 16 th December Tuesday 17 th December Wednesday 18 th December	Prep School Music on the Bandstand in the carpark after school
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas jumper over uniform
Thursday 19 th December	End of term – Prep School finish at 1pm No After School Care.