



West Exmoor Federation

'Passionately pursuing educational excellence with our children and community for their lifetimes'

November 2008

Dear Community,

Federation School Council

Last month the first Federation School Council meeting was held at Kentisbury. The Council is made up of six democratically elected members from each school and they provide a voice for their peers. The Council will meet at least once per half-term and discuss matters that are important to the children. In the words of the council members, they want to 'help other pupils by improving everything and making school a better place'. This is an extremely exciting development within the federation as it is giving our children a voice that is valued and that has a genuine impact upon day-to-day school life. The children are our most critical inspectors who see the school experience from a different perspective to those who create it. They are extremely astute in pointing out things that could be altered or improved, invariably devising creative ways of doing so. By providing their own solutions the children have genuine ownership to the agreed plan of action which in turn means that children are more likely to commit to the solution.

Eid-Ul-Fitr

At the end of last month, the junior children at Kentisbury celebrated Eid (the end of Ramadan) to fit in with their 'celebrations' topic work. Mrs Freer very kindly cooked up a feast to resemble this day when Muslims party with friends and family, share a meal and have lots of sweet things to eat. The children ate figs, dates, olives, pitta bread, humus, couscous, tzatziki and falafel and all enjoyed tasting the foods and wishing each other Id Mubarak which means have a happy and blessed Eid. They also enjoyed listening to Mrs Freer's account of the time she spent

living in Dubai and hearing how the Muslims of the United Arab Emirates celebrated Eid.

Toffee Apples

The Infants at Kentisbury have also been cooking up delicious eats. With the apples picked from the fruit trees in school they have made toffee apples. They have also weighed and bagged the remaining apples and are now selling them within school as part of their maths learning.

Congratulations

I would like to congratulate Liam Hazell, Zach Parker and Tauseef Khan of Lynton School, who have had their animated film 'The Guitar' selected to be showcased at the North Devon Schools Film Festival. The boys produced the film last term with the support of Peter Cooper, the Community Media Arts Co-ordinator at Ilfracombe College. The Festival will be held at the Landmark Theatre on 23rd October.

Governors Meeting

Each half-term a group of children make a short presentation to the Governing Body at the start of their Governors' Meeting. Last month Luke Caley, Charlotte Dappling, Jake Freer and Will West delivered a power point presentation entitled 'our links with the community'. I would like to thank them very much indeed and look forward to the children of Lynton making a presentation at the next meeting.

Dairy Bus

On Friday 17th October, the ASDA 3-a-day Dairy Bus visited each school within the federation. The road shows aimed to educate children about the nutritional benefits of milk, yogurt and

cheese in their daily diet. The bus was full of exciting interactive, activities including a life-size model of a cow that the children were able to have a go at milking!

Gymnastics

The infant children at Parracombe are very much enjoying their weekly session of gymnastics coaching at Gazelle's in Barnstaple. It is very much hoped that the younger children at Kentisbury and Lynton will also be able to benefit from the coaching later in the school year.

Big Draw

The Big Draw took place at Parracombe last month and the 3D rainbow is now well and truly under way. However, it is going to take considerably more photographs to cover it, as it spans nearly 4 meters. If you have not yet contributed to the photograph collection, it's not too late. Photographs that depict scenes, events, people, pets, etc, of Devon can be dropped into the school office at anytime. Once completed the rainbow is going to be exhibited across Devon and will provide a wonderful legacy of local history.

Half Term Festivities

Over the half-term holiday both Lynton and Kentisbury are planning autumn parties for the children, whilst Parracombe is planning a spooky walk around the village. I am sure that the children (and adults) will very much enjoy these events. Thank you to the various PTFAs for organising them.

Kind Regards,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

'Together we love learning'

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