

Brandles Newsletter December 2013

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Over the past 12 weeks groups of students have been attending Fairlands Valley Lakes in Stevenage as part of the Enrichment Programme. Activities have included High Ropes, Abseiling, Rock Climbing, Crate Stacking and my personal favourite The Leap of Faith. Students have demonstrated fantastic teamwork skills throughout, especially within the Crate Stacking (pictured) and have overcome some very challenging scenarios. This isn't too surprising when they have been asked to jump off a 30ft pole!



Music

The boys we took out to the 'show and share' day at Mid Herts Music Centre made a very good impression and represented Brandles School very well indeed.

They showed off their music ability and even more impressively displayed outstanding mentoring and leadership skills working with some very physically and mentally challenged children

Well done boys!!

PE - A busy autumn term has seen some great performances from Brandles teams across a range of sports. The junior badminton team kicked things off with a spirited team performance at Knights Templar School in the district badminton tournament. Some excellent play was demonstrated by those in attendance. Blake B, Sam D, Harry A, Michael B

Table tennis tournament, 21/11/13

Harry A, Michael B, Tom N, Rhys B-S

The students arrived at Hitchin Boys School in anticipation of what might be ahead of them as they were competing at the Annual County Table Tennis Tournament. There was a high calibre of competition with many strong athletes competing for each of their schools. To finish runners up in a mainstream district tournament is a great accolade.

Football tournament junior boys, 21/11/13

Ryan S, Chris R, Aidey I, Aiden G, Alieu J. A, Blake B.

A successful first football tournament from the junior team saw them win six out of eight matches and start the season strongly defending their title.

Senior boys EBD table tennis county tournament, 6/12/13

Brandles entered another tournament and came out victorious after 24 games played with 24 wins. It was a demonstration of great skill and good sportsmanship in assisting some of the other athletes.

County Football Trials 5/12/13

Seven students from Brandles played a trials match at the county ground with the opportunity to be selected for a Hertfordshire EBD county team alongside several other EBD schools from the area. It was a great day with some great performances and a high standard of football showcased, we wish all the students good luck in their selection.

A week before they had been victorious against the centre school, Cottenham. A hard away fixture in Cambridge.



The School Panto Aladdin

This year's pantomime was written by Mr. Bassett and directed by Mrs.Barrett and saw more pupils than ever before getting involved.

Apart from the actors, we had pupils involved in preparing the scenery and helping with the props and music.

Besides performing for the rest of our school, the cast had to perform a second time for a local primary school , St Marys.

Here is a quote from their thank you letter.

“The little children were very enthusiastic and joined in all the “its behind you “ and booing our baddie Uncle Musthava”

Well done to everyone who took part and to all the staff who took part. They should all be very proud of themselves.



Attendance

Attendance has been very good this term and we would like to thank you for your support.

Unfortunately, there are still a few pupils who take time off without a good reason ,and this term we have again had to refer these pupils to our School Attendance Officer.

Sadly this will result in Penalty Notices for a couple of families.

Please ensure you contact the school when your son is unable to attend , and keep appointments outside of school hours.

Pupils with 100% Attendance

C.Atkinson

R.Brigham Slow

A.Irving

A.Jallow - Ansell

S.McAteer

T.Needham

R.Smith



Community Lunch

The Food Tech Department cooked a community Christmas Lunch for 10 of our local residents.

The meal was cooked by T.Durham,T.Needham, R.Crawford and Ms. Turner. C.Mcgee and K.Varia were the hosts.

The ladies really enjoyed their meal and the hospitality and thanked the pupils by giving them a small gift.



Science at Brandles

We have had a very active term in the lab!

We are working very hard to help our younger boys enjoy the riches that science has to offer and here you can see Chris and Ryan dissecting a kidney when we were looking at the relationship between cells and organs. We have also looked at chemical reactions where we made pancakes and are now studying forces that help power vehicles. Great fun!

Our older boys have been working hard to get into their qualification courses and as part of that some year 10 boys have been looking at the chemical reactions that will produce the best volcano. Marcus has created a good reaction from bicarbonate of soda and acid.

If you want to follow what we are doing in the science lab you can follow our twitter feed @brandlesscience. We will soon be launching a blog too where the boys will be sharing their work and celebrating their successes. watch this space!

Dr Davis
Science teacher



Please remember that your son needs to wear the correct uniform.

This includes only plain white

T Shirts under a school shirt and black shoes.



Diary Dates

Pupils return to school on Tuesday 7th January

Pupils break up for half term Friday 14th February and return Monday 24th February

Easter Holidays - pupils break up on Friday 4th April and return on Thursday 24th April

May Day is 5th May

