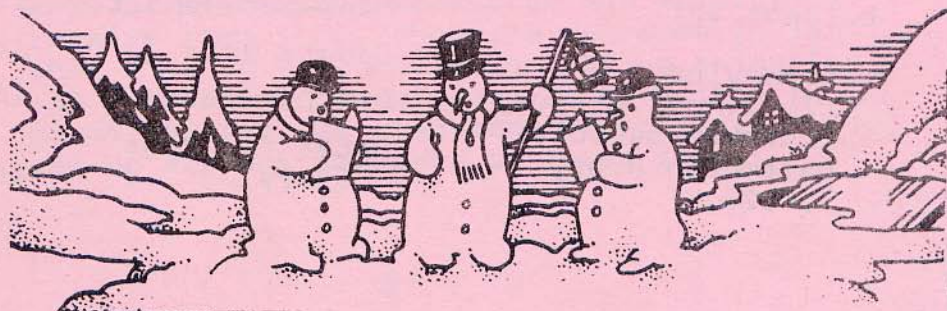


sydenham school

christmas grapevine



Grapevine is the news letter of Sydenham School PTA. It is a joint production of parents and staff and its aim is to keep people informed about school affairs.

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Editor:

Leslia Thauoos

Contributions to Grapevine are always welcome. They should be sent to:

Grapevine,
c/o School Office,
Sydenham School,
Dartmouth Road,
S.E.26.

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EDITORIAL

I am sure that most of the parents at Sydenham School are fighting a constant battle to make their housekeeping budgets balance. Some prices go down but there always seem to be more going up. The ILEA is facing just this problem at the moment with the Government giving every indication that for the third year running ILEA will not be given any money whatsoever from them.

Ours is the only education authority in the country which has to find all of its money from local rates. As income tax payers we pay our taxes to fund state education everywhere in the country including London. So we pay twice.

The Government refuses to give ILEA any money because ILEA will not lower its standards which is the only way they can possibly spend as little as the Government wants them to. We are back to 'swings and roundabouts' because although there may be less children in our schools now, and therefore less money is being spent, the increased National Insurance contributions next April will cost ILEA an extra £2 million in 1983/84, and that is only one of many increased costs.

As parents we have already let the Government know we prefer the standards and service we receive from ILEA, the time has come to let them know we will not go on paying twice for our childrens' education. We want ILEA to go on raising the standards of education and we are not prepared to lower them.

PTA NEWS

It's been quite a busy start to the new school year, and in common with the staff the PTA Committee are all looking forward to a Christmas break.

Our Jumble Sale on October 9th raised £192 and our thanks go to all parents, staff, and girls who contributed jumble or helped on the day.

An innovation we tried this year was to ask new parents when they came to their meeting at the school last July, whether they would like to contribute £5 to PTA funds which would also entitle one parent free to our next major social function. Many parents thought this was a good idea and made a donation. We would like to thank all those parents who should have received an official acknowledgement, but a few parents donated money anonymously and we would like to thank them now.

All funds raised by the PTA do of course, go to the school to pay for various projects, and any other parents who would like to make a donation to the funds can do so at any time by sending contributions into school for the attention of Mr. Luckings, the school secretary, but all cheques should be made payable to Sydenham School PTA.

We hasten to make quite clear, however, that a monetary donation is not a condition of membership of the PTA. There is no membership fee - all parents are automatically members of the PTA as soon as their daughter joins the school.

A big thank you to last year's PTA Committee for all their hard work and fund raising efforts which are very much appreciated, and we are glad to see that many of them are continuing as members of the new Committee which was elected at the Annual General Meeting of the PTA on November 9. (The new Committee is listed at the back of "Grapevine"). The AGM was followed by a cheese and wine party which turned into quite a lively evening!

The parents are entitled to have four representatives on the School Council. So far we only have two volunteers and one reserve who actually works full time so it is difficult for her to attend meetings immediately after school. Therefore we need two more School Council reps. If you would like to know more about the School Council and what is involved you can ring Mr. Ian Ryde 699 5650 who has been a member for some time and will be very willing to talk to you.

The **STRANGE EVENTS** "S'Cyds

The Christmas drama production this year will have taken place by the time "Grapevine" reaches you, and takes place after we have gone to press so we are unable to actually review the play. However, we do know that "Strange Events at St. Cyds" not only displays the acting talents of our 2nd and 3rd years girls, but also the writing skill of Mr. Ross Kightly, of the English Department who is the author of the play. It explores in a light-hearted way, the topical themes of cut-backs, co-education and feminism. There should be something for everyone, although it's not supposed to be suitable for those of a nervous disposition!

HEADMISTRESS' LETTER

Dear Parents,

A number of events have already taken place this term, and we have had the opportunity of seeing parents at the Sixth Form Parents' Evening, at the Grundig Centre and at the PTA Meeting. By far the greater number, however, came along to our Medieval Evening when everyone said how much they had appreciated the occasion. At these functions, when there is exciting food and drink to be sampled, and music and drama to entertain us, the solid hard work of the exhibitions can sometimes be overlooked. However, behind the revelry the books and charts on display showed how many hours of interesting and thorough work had been put in by the girls and by the teachers of a number of departments; that, of course, is the most valuable part of an enterprise of this kind, and the Medieval Evening was an excellent example of "learning is fun".

Our next venture is something quite different for Sydenham: a school story written by one of our own teachers, Mr. Kightly, is to be this year's Christmas drama production. This should certainly be of topical value and of interest to us all. I am sure that we shall see you at one of the performances on 14th, 15th or 16th December.

On looking through past copies of "Grapevine" I notice that a number of teachers write for it, and occasionally some of the girls, but very rarely do the parents themselves send in a contribution. I know that our long suffering Editor would be delighted to hear from you. Please write something for the next issue and send it to her c/o the School Office.

With good wishes to you and your family for a very happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Y. B. ZACKERWICH
Headmistress

Can you help?

A sixth form business studies group taking a one year Basic Clerical Procedures Course has the opportunity to do 2 weeks office 'work experience' as part of their programme. We are always looking for new contacts in businesses that might like to help.

The pupils will have studied, Office Machines, Communications, Numeracy and Background to Business, so they should be able to perform basic clerical tasks. It is of enormous value to them if they can use their new skills in a 'working' office.

This year the dates involved are March 14-25th inclusive. If you could possibly help to find placements for our girls would you please contact Mrs. Scott, Head of the Business Studies Department.

Sydenham in Food Survey

Sydenham School has been selected 'at random' as one of the schools to take part in a national survey of childrens' dietary intake! In other words, the purpose of the survey is to study what sort of food children eat at school and at home.

At least 70 groups of schools have been randomly selected for the survey which will be carried out sometime next term by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. A letter will be taken home by the children chosen to take part, telling the parents about the survey, asking for their co-operation, and also giving them the chance to decline to take part.

SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations - to the seven girls who are members of the Special Ability Class at the Strand Dance Centre who recently gave a demonstration to pupils in Division 7, and also performed at the College of P.E.

- to Karen Lindsay 6R, Marva Dyer 6P, Julia Daley 6W, Allison Haynes 5R2, and Lorna Rowe 50, who all auditioned successfully for the Laban Special Ability Class.

- to the six girls who successfully auditioned for a place in the ILEA Dance Performing Group - Maria Mackey 7Y (Senior Group), and Maxine Plunkett 4Y, Anna Galitis 4R2, Samantha Webster 402, Sonia Dyer 302, Sandra Martin 3P1 (all Junior Group).

- to Helen Sharp 7R and Yasmin Fotton 3P who have both been accepted to play the violin in Goldsmiths Youth Orchestra. Helen also recently passed her Grade V violin exam.

- to Julie Argent 4R1 who was selected to go on the Outward Bound School Course last month, and Nicola Dennis 401 who was selected as first reserve.

High Standards Three old girls employed by a large firm of solicitors in Lincoln's Inn have so impressed the Personnel Officer that when another job became available she rang Sydenham School first to see whether we had a girl to fill the position. The three old girls are Claire Cameron, Paula Dowling, and Claire FitzSimons.

Staff Runner Member of staff and old girl, Miss Helen Barnett, who took three weeks' leave of absence to take part in the Common-

wealth Games in Australia, reached the final of the 200m race. Miss Barnett brought back a signed poster for the school which Mr. Bert Foster from the Art Department has framed and it is now on display in the school.

School Council Officers elected at the first meeting in October were as follows: Chairman - Justin Hellicar 60; Secretary - Annmarie Fearnley 6/7Y; Treasurer - Julie Heasman 6R.

Floral Finalist Old girl, Wendy Higgins, was one of the final six in the Florist of the Year Competition, which lasted a whole weekend. Wendy has offered to come to school to talk to senior girls about jobs in floristry.

Replacement Miss Wilkinson joined the school at the beginning of term to replace Miss Jobbins who is on a year's leave of absence.

D & T Suite Work has recently begun in the old building on adapting three rooms which will form the beginning of the Design and Technology suite. A former needlework room will become a large combined workshop; the former computer studies office will become a store room for the D & T department; a former art and pottery room will become a drawing office. A second workshop is planned for the future and will be adapted from a present needlework as soon as it can be made available. The computer terminal is being moved into the Maths Department. It is hoped that most of the noisy work will take place outside school hours.

Quick Success Another old girl, Dionne Smith, who left last June to work as a junior copy typist/general clerk at a firm in West Norwood, has already been promoted to become secretary to the Regional Director, Sales Director, Divisional Co-Ordinator, and Chief Accountant. She says her success "is really a reflection of the good work all the Business Studies staff do at Sydenham".



Medieval Evening

Over 700 people attended Sydenham School's Medieval Evening held on November 17, and thoroughly enjoyed an event which was intended to entertain as well as enlighten. Organised along the lines of similar inter-disciplinary functions, such as the American Evening (1976), Chinese Evening (1979), and the Elizabethan Fayre (1980), the event was based around a period of history and involved many of the School's subject departments. The work of pupils in many lessons this term was centred around the 'Medieval' theme, and not just in their History classes, as was seen by the splendid displays in the main hall on the night. These were "Women's Work" (Careers), "Science in the Medieval Period", "Aspects of Medieval France and Spain", a model Medieval Village built by girls in the Grundig Centre, Musical Instruments in the Medieval Period, the Medieval Monastery (R.E.), and the English Department's extensive story of "Sir Garwain and the Green Knights".

During the evening visitors sipped their mulled wine and tasted medieval food provided by the H.E. Department to the sounds of music from the era. The Dance Department students performed "Dances from Provence" whilst the Drama Department put on their entertaining "Medieval Kings" or "Is a Crown of Thorns a Bed of Roses?".

Outside the main hall teachers, pupils and many guests in period costume mingled with crowds of visitors who had passed under an authentic "Traitors' Gate" with assorted gory heads constructed by enthusiastic young historians. An

Exhibition of "Memorabilia" from Sydenham School's performance of the Chester cycle of Mystery Plays at Southwark Cathedral reminded everyone of the successful drama production of earlier in the year, whilst the Textile Studies Department were able to display a fine tableau of 3rd year pupils in Medieval dress. Visitors were frequently stopped by Medieval-clad youngsters dressed as pedlars or as 'Mystery Kings' of the time. In the foyer many were interested in the exhibition and video-films shown by the evening's sponsors - The League Against Cruel Sports - who compared the Medieval bloodsports of our present time with the times when cock-fighting, bull and bear baiting were popular pastimes.

Down the steps of "Traitors' Gate" and across the grounds to the History Huts, people were able to experience torture and punishment in Sydenham's very own 'Dungeon'! Stocks, screams and strange sights in the darkness of what is usually called "Hut 4"! The other main History Rooms changed their names to the Queen Matilda Room and the Wat Tyler Room where visitors saw displays of pupils' work on the Medieval Period and enjoyed two colourful and popular ILEA films "Medieval Society" and "The Peasant's Revolt".

Such an event cannot be conceived, never mind organised, without the commitment, dedication and hard work of very many teachers and girls. Our evening was a tremendous success and is a tribute to everyone who helped to make it so, especially our most appreciative guests. Thanks!



Sue Hargadon & John Holbrook
(Joint Organisers)



Pyrenees Expedition 1983

Probably not too many people are aware that at Sydenham School we have a group of hard-working dedicated and daring girls and staff who are preparing for their most ambitious project so far. I refer to Sydenham's Mountaineering Group who are busy preparing for an expedition to the Pyrenees Mountains in France in July this year.

The group will consist of 26 students and 10 adults who have been following a training programme of mountain experience during the past five years. Some of the girls have already experienced extremes which vary from the climbing wall at Islington, to the sandstone outcrops of Harrisons Rocks near Tonbridge Wells; from the austere grandeur of the Cader Idris massif in mid-Wales, to the greener fells of Langdale in the Lake District; from the summer in the Isle of Arran to the bitter icy gullies of Coire an Sneachda in the Cairngorms in winter. Some members have already tasted the delights of hauling themselves and their packs to

the Pyrenees summits of 10,000 plus whilst on their reconnaissance of the area in 1981.

The expedition is principally a climbing one although some work may be carried out on a photographic project, and some studies in geology may be forthcoming.

On an expedition such as this the range of skills required is considerable. The members will be required to rock climb to a high standard, efficiently handle and manage ropes, knots and climbing equipment; confidently use ice axe and crampons; carry out a rescue operation; maintain themselves and their equipment; navigate; camp without tears; walk long distances; administer first aid; understand the weather and meteorological information; and cook!

The expedition will travel in three long-wheelbase Ford Transit mini-buses and perhaps one trailer. Their departure on July 28 will be one step nearer to an even greater achievement - a Sydenham School expedition to the distant summits of the South American Mountains!

Annual Review

Copies of the Annual Review are now ready for distribution. As this is an important and costly document the school is not prepared to put it into the hands of girls who may not deliver it to their parents.

As last year, copies will be distributed at all parents' meetings throughout the year. However, if any parent wishes to receive a copy immediately, they should either write a note to that effect or telephone the school secretary.

HOUSE NEWS

KELLER HOUSE

The School year began with some changes for us. Mrs. Richards, our Deputy Housemistress, is spending this year on the campus of Njala University, Sierra Leone, and is keeping us all up to date with her news through a series of very interesting letters and cards to the House. We all miss Mrs. Richards, especially 301, her tutor group, but the newsy letters certainly help! Mrs. Williams is acting deputy for this year and I am grateful for her help and support. We also welcomed Mr. Finer to the House in September.

Our social calendar began with a "Hallowe'en Happening" in October, complete with fancy dress, ghost stories and wonderful witches floating above us grimacing horribly - the work of Mr. Pim, ably assisted by 20! The evening was planned as a party for the House, but we also managed to raise in excess of £100 for charity which is a tribute to the success of the evening and the hard work of staff and girls.

We continue to support the work of John Grooms House for the Disabled and the Premature Baby Unit at Kings College Hospital. We are also collecting mounds of ring pulls and used postage stamps to help Kidney Research, but our tutor group charity reps may bring us fresh suggestions in the New Year.

Keller House girls derive a great deal of pleasure from their efforts to raise money for charity. An extremely exciting idea has come from a few girls in 402 who wish to organise a sponsored assault course session! Needless to say, half the House wishes to take part and we are currently negotiating with the Army Barracks at Deptford. More

news of this venture in the next issue of "Grapevine".

Keller is breaking new ground by starting its own House Newspaper. Our Editor is Justine Hellicar, aided and guided by Mrs. Grabowski. We are hoping to see the first issue by Christmas. I am sure Justine would welcome contributions from Parents.

A happy Christmas to you all from the staff and girls of Keller House.

G. Collins

The Tale of the Homeless Minibus

Our grateful thanks go to all who have helped with the various events over the past 18 months which raised the money required to buy our very own mini-bus.

Mini-bus OHV 185Y was collected on October 20th. On October 21st it was off on its maiden "voyage" to the ILEA Advanced Field Study Centre in Abergavenny, South Wales. As I write, it is on a field trip at Sayer's Croft, and has already played hockey and squash at least four times per week. It obviously will not be long before it has earned its living!

However, there is one problem, OHV 185Y is homeless, and now the Mini-bus Committee are getting ideas together again in order to raise another £1,500 to buy and erect a safe, secure and comfortable garage for Sydenham's OHV.

Thanks again for your support.

Steve Walker
Mini-bus Officer

SPORTS NEWS

Judo Congratulations to our Junior and Senior teams on being selected to represent London in the National Individual Schools Judo Championships in Birmingham on November 27, and on obtaining silver medals. The Junior team tied for 1st place but were placed 2nd on points. Members of the Junior team were: Karen Ramp-ling 10, Samantha Houston 301, Nicola Parnell 301, Paula Brailey 301, Nipa Smith 20. The Senior team was Kim McArthur 401, Julie Webb 401, Amanda Scanlon 4P2, Lisa Smith 402, Kim Smith 60.

Badminton Sydenham have entered the South London Badminton League for the first time this year. Unfortunately their first draw was against Peckham School, last year's winners, and although Sydenham lost their matches they gained good experience and enjoyed playing.

Hockey Earlier this term our Senior Hockey team won 2-1 and our Junior team won 2-0 against Malory School. During October our team won 3-0 against Sedgely School, and in November the junior squad played a no score draw against Alleyns, but a strong attacking was played.

Netball The netball teams have achieved some spectacular results this term. Against Alleyns our A team won 6-2; B team won 5-4; and 4th years won 10-8. Five Sydenham teams played against Catford School with the following results: 1st years won 8-3; 2nd years won 6-3; 3rd years won 4-3; 4th years won 12-5; and Seniors lost 1-2. Against Lewisham School our 1st year A team won 4-1; 1st year B team won 6-0; 2nd years lost 2-4; 3rd years lost 0-11; 4th years lost 3-6; and the Premier team won 5-4. Our 1st and 2nd teams both won against Deptford Green 5-4 and 9-5 respectively.

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

At the Annual General Meeting on November 9th a new Committee was elected for the PTA which we list below.

Chairman:	Doreen Burr	291	2686
Vice Chairman:	Mike Stone	690	6996
Secretary:	Mrs Proctor	733	9047
Treasurer:	Fred Burr	291	2686
Parent Governors:			
	Elizabeth Ray	699	0357
	Margaret Sharp	778	8776
	David Thomas	659	5151
School Council Representatives:			
	Ian Ryde	699	0357
	Pat Russell	-	
	Brenda Reid(Reserve)	690	6191
Editor, "Grapevine":			
	Leslia Thauoos	699	4452
Other Committee Members:			
	Sylvia Webb	699	7156
	Hilary Jarrett	778	9560
	Zig Levy	274	3615
	Mrs K Xtoumouzienna	-	
	Iris Gibbs	697	4604
	Brenda Reid	690	6191
	Pat Russell	-	
	Jennifer Lea	-	
	Marguerite Weedy	693	3915
	Mr D Marrett	-	
	Dr & Mrs Adade	-	
	Geraldine Martin	699	7763
	Maureen Spires	659	4575
	Jan Kennedy	699	3959
	Frene Clyde	-	
Staff Representatives:			
	Miss S Rees		
	Miss B Hotham		
	Miss J Honey		

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 10th January

Friday 14th January

Monday 24th January

Wednesday 26th January

Wednesday 2nd February

Wed/Thurs/Fri 16/17/18
February

Monday 21 - Friday 25
February

Wednesday 2nd March

Friday 18th March

Wed/Thurs/Fri 23/24/25
March

Monday 28th March

Thurs 31st March -
Fri 15th April

Monday 2nd May

Wednesday 11th May

Wednesday 18th May

Friday 20th May

Monday 30th May -
Friday 3rd June

Return to School 10.20 am

Old Girls' Reception 7.30

PTA Committee Mtg. 7.30

5th Year Parents Evening

Staff Conference 2.30

Dance Production

HALF TERM

Third Year Parents Evening

Staff Conference 2.00

School Play 7.30

2nd Year Parents Evening

EASTER HOLIDAY

MAY DAY HOLIDAY

Aylward House Evening

4th Year Parents Evening

Staff Conference

SUMMER HALF TERM

