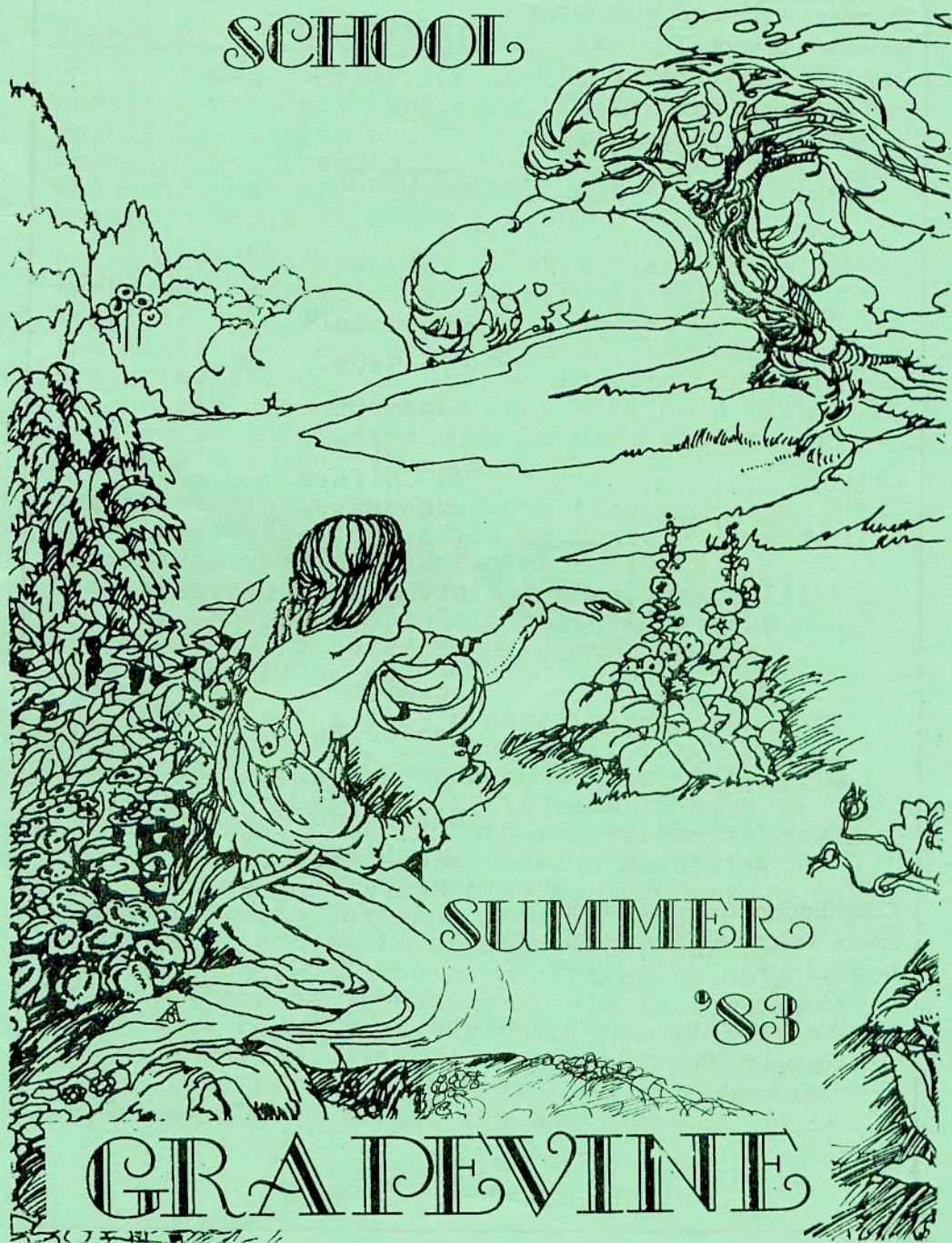


SYDENHAM

SCHOOL



SUMMER

'83

GRAPEVINE

Grapevine is the news letter of the 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

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

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

EDITORIAL

PLEASE MAKE A COMMITMENT

Whilst I was considering what was the most pressing national happening in education I should be writing about on this page, something happened much nearer to home which made me think of that old saying that one "should put ones own house in order first"!

At various PTA meetings we make lists of volunteers who say they are prepared to help with specific jobs when required. We try to keep the lists up-to-date and when we need help with a particular job, we look up the list and contact the people who have said they will help with that particular thing. So when we need cake-makers we contact those volunteers.

The contacting takes precious time and money for either telephone calls or postage. It is therefore, very disheartening to the PTA Committee, and makes their job so very difficult when out of 45 people written to only five have the courtesy to reply at all, and only four could actually help.

The most frequent reason parents give for not helping when asked, is that they work. But so do the majority of both parents these days. We know that if mum works it is usually much harder on her to find time for other commitments because even in these days of increasing equality, although she works, she also has to carry out the household tasks when she returns home. So yes, it is hard, and it is a tough life, but you are not alone. If you have offered to help the PTA and therefore the school, please, please carry that commitment through. Make time to become involved. You, your daughter, and the school will all benefit from your involvement and also help to spread the work load.

PTA NEWS

Our second Jumble Sale of 1982/83 was such a success that it inspired our PTA Chairman, Doreen Burr, to put pen to paper!

"I would like to say a very big "Thank You" to the following people who gave their support to our Jumble Sale held on May 7.

The parents who donated jumble; the mums who made and donated some delicious cakes for the refreshment stall; the parents and helpers who turned up on the day to give us a hand; the members of staff who also helped out; Deborah Kingsford and Tracy Robinson who turned up every morning to make sure the jumble got to the right place. Finally, but by no means least, members of the PTA Committee who not only collected and stored the jumble but also did a tremendous job of sorting and selling on the actual day.

With all their combined efforts we managed to raise £243.

My sincere thanks to everyone concerned for a job well done."

After that mammoth effort in May it was unfortunate things did not go quite as smoothly when we organised the stall in Wells Park for the Sydenham Festival in June. However, the Editorial criticism in no way detracts from the efforts made by the few who did bake cakes for the stall or those who organised the stall. Our thanks to them for their hard work which resulted in a profit of £55.

At a recent PTA Committee meeting it was agreed to donate £300 towards the expenses involved in taking "Scapino" to the Edinburgh Festival in August.

HEADMISTRESS' LETTER

Dear Parents

As usual this summer term is speeding by, changing from the serious mood after Easter when examinations coloured the thoughts of everyone, to the almost holiday atmosphere which pervades at the moment in the hot July sun.

I am sure that parents will have heard from their daughters that we now have a cash cafeteria installed at Sydenham School. This finds great favour with all pupils and I hope that parents will ensure now that their daughters buy their lunch at the cafeteria rather than going to shops in the neighbourhood. It is obviously wiser for parents to require lower school pupils, in particular, to remain under supervision on school premises during the lunch hour. Do ask your daughter to show you the tariff; I am certain you will appreciate that it is excellent value for money.

We hope that you enjoyed Open Day, which gave us an opportunity to show parents and friends examples of our work, as well as providing some entertainment.

School resumes for 6th form pupils on Monday 5th September and for other pupils as directed, and we hope that all holidays will have been completed by that date.

With good wishes to you and your family,

Yours sincerely

Y B ZACKERWICH

Headmistress

NO UNIFORM CHANGE WITHOUT CONSULTATION

From time to time rumours circulate concerning a change in school uniform. We can assure parents that this will never happen at Sydenham School unless a full period of consultation has taken place. On the last occasion, which was about ten years ago, a committee sat for almost 12 months and parents and pupils were consulted before the final decisions were taken.

Your co-operation in making certain that your daughter wears correct school uniform will be much appreciated. In the Lower School (Years 1, 2 and 3) pupils are required to wear a blue regulation blouse, navy blue school skirt and plain navy blue cardigan or pullover. Girls in the Upper School may wear a white blouse instead of the blue one, together with the navy blue school skirt and plain navy blue cardigan or pullover. Garments worn in the street should also be plain navy blue.

Although regulation school trousers are on the uniform list, they are an optional garment and should not be worn instead of a school skirt. Girls who own them, however, may wear them in really cold weather.

Denim in any form, for trousers, skirts, jackets or waistcoats, etc, does not form part of the school uniform.

In the interests of safety as well as in an endeavour to introduce our girls to what it is appropriate to wear with a uniform, jewellery is not permitted, the only exceptions being one signet ring or religious emblem, if it has some significance for the owner.

Mrs. Y. Zackerwich.

A MIXED BAG

Most parents never get to hear of the many and varied visits groups of our girls make during the school year unless their own daughter is involved.

During the past few months theatre visits have included "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Regents Park Open Air Theatre, "The Marriage of Figaro" at the French Institute, "Hamlet" at the Leicester Square Theatre, and a Theatre Arts Group to a stage management course at the Curtain Theatre.

There have been visits to London Zoo, Regents Park Mosque, the Department of Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy at the College of Fashion, the Police Stables at Dulwich, a course on "Origins of the English Civil War" at the Tower of London, a lecture on Explosives at the Royal Institution. Boulogne, Canterbury, Margate, Hampton Court, the Auschwitz Exhibition and an Assault Course at Woolwich Barracks are as varied a range one could envisage. And thats only a small sample of this year's visits.

ATTENDANCE CRITERIA FOR MAINTENANCE GRANTS

Girls who receive school grants, particularly maintenance grants, are having their attendance at school checked by ILEA. If their attendance is bad they can expect to be asked to return part or all of their grant. ILEA may also stop the next payment of the grant if there has been no improvement. The standard of attendance required is 80%, the same as that needed for entry to public examinations.

SCAPINO—A SHOWCASE FOR TALENT

A play which was a smash hit in London and on Broadway was Colin Dean's ambitious choice for the school production earlier this year.

"Scapino" is an adaptation of a Molier play by Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale. It concerns the problems that beset two young men while their respective fathers are away on business. Both fall in love but know that the ladies of their choice would not meet with their fathers approval. The boys are also broke and both fathers already have plans for their respective son's marriage. All the ingredients for the resulting complex tangle of intrigue and deception!

Colin Dean is taking the production to the Edinburgh Festival in August and as far as we know this will be the first time a London school has performed at the festival. But if you missed the school production "Scapino" can be seen at the South London Theatre Centre, Norwood from August 10 - 12. And to convince you it is really worth seeing here is what one parent, Yvonne Levy thought of the play:

"Scapino" was an amazing choice of plays; in complete contrast to the Chester Mystery Plays. I would have thought it was very difficult technically, crammed full of demanding male roles. But of course no one should really be surprised at the choice. Colin Dean keeps his sights very high indeed and quite rightly makes no concessions to the fact that his team are (a) amateurs and (b) all female.

It suddenly dawned on me while watching "Scapino" that one way round the problem of there being relatively few good female stage roles is to hand over all roles to actresses. Apart from redressing the balance it gives girls the chance to rehearse (literally!) traditionally male roles.

The play itself was marvellous. Hilariously funny, very fast-moving and full of vitality. It was a showcase for the immense talent to be found in Sydenham School.

As usual, the details were marvellous. The programme which many professional companies could usefully learn from came in the form of travel documents and was a tempting appetiser. The Italian atmosphere front of house was really festive and got everyone in the mood.

The set was a work of art, transforming the stage into an Italian square and drawing us into the action, quite a bit of which took place among and round the audience.

Every part was superbly played, from the lead to the non-speaking parts. Every girl deserves a special mention but suffice to say that the talent and dedication displayed was immensely impressive.

Well Colin Dean and his team have done it again. Congratulations to every single person connected with this wonderful production. It is a credit to each of them and of course to Sydenham School. We wait impatiently for the next one. What on earth could it be this time? Something completely different What about the Japanese Noh plays?

SCHOOL NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS - to Helen Barnett, former pupil and now a teacher at Sydenham School, who was invited to run in a number of international athletic events this term. In Yugoslavia she came 1st in the 200 metres.

- to Rachel Duffet and Jo Palmer 5R2 who both play the violin in the London Schools Concert Orchestra, and were invited to attend a five day orchestral course in Ipswich organised by ILEA during the Easter holiday. Rachel Duffet has also passed her Grade 6 violin examination with merit.

- to Annmarie Fearnley for passing her Grade 6 violin examination with merit, and for taking part in a BBC radio play called "A Fair in the Park" which she also helped to write.

- to Susan Durston 5P who recently passed her Grade 1 piano examination with merit.

- to Vanessa Mahoney 1P2 who has been granted an ILEA award for the bassoon.

- to five girls in the 6th form who were awarded Modern Language Scholarships which they took up during the summer term, and to five girls in the 5th year who applied for places on the French and Spanish Summer Schools.

- to Mr. Luckings, the school secretary, who received the MBE in the New Year's Honours List. He has given long

service to the ILEA and GLC, has worked with handicapped people, and also gives a great deal of his time helping to train young swimmers.

NEW HEAD GIRLS - Jane Brown 6W and Donna Dyer 6Y were elected Head Girls for 1983/84. Their deputies are Leena Kothasi and Samantha Stillwell 6R. They began their duties at the beginning of the summer term and we wish them luck in their year of office.

DANCE SUCCESSES - Well done girls and staff in the Dance Department who received two invitations to give public performances in London. The first was on July 15 at the ICA Theatre when some of our junior girls took part in a dance festival. The second performance will be on Sunday September 11 at the Barbican Theatre.

Congratulations also to five senior girls, Karen Lyndsay, Jackie Best, Marva Dyer, Carol Thompson, and Ikmat Shyllon who are members of the ILS Dance Group. They performed at the Royal Albert Hall on June 11, and also during the Brixton Festival on July 9.

STAYERS COURSE - About 140 girls came back after they had completed all their exams to take part in the sixth Form Stayers Course. This was a larger number than had been expected, but it is reassuring to know that more girls are giving serious consideration to returning to school to obtain further qualifications. Some of those girls however may obtain employment during the summer holidays and will not return in September.

MUFTI-DAY - It has now become tradition for Sydenham School to hold a mufti-day during the summer term when girls can obtain a

permit for 20p entitling them to wear their own clothes to school instead of school uniform. The money raised is donated to St. Christopher's Hospice. Staff also take part usually by wearing their versions of school uniform!

STAFF NEWS - Mrs. Richards who has been spending this year teaching in Sierra Leone has kept in touch with Sydenham by sending back long news letters and she will be back with us in September. Miss Hipkin who has spent this year in the USA has already returned to school. Mrs. Sparkes, who was a part-time teacher of English at Sydenham and also an old girl, had a baby daughter in April called Polly Kathleen.

CARPENTRY COURSE - Fifteen Sydenham girls were given a unique opportunity to attend a course at SELTEC recently to learn some of the basic skills in carpentry and joinery. It is hoped that it will encourage girls to consider a career in the building crafts and is certainly extending the range of equal opportunities.

TOP FUND RAISERS - Duncan Goodhew visited the school earlier this year to present the British Heart Foundation's main trophy to the 140 girls who took part in a sponsored swim to raise funds for this charity at Crystal Palace. Sydenham School raised £1,948.90 and the runner up school raised £465. The total sum of money raised by Sydenham during the last nine years is £4,678.26 but almost all of this total has come during the last three years. Jane Denton SGL, collected the second highest number of sponsors and was presented with her award by the Mayor of Bromley.

SPORTS NEWS

HOCKEY Congratulations to the Junior and Senior Hockey teams for both winning their leagues after an excellent season. The Juniors have an unbeaten record. As a mark of how highly rated they are in Lewisham they were asked to represent the Borough in the London Youth Games this month. Some of the credit must also go to Mr. Hickman who trained them.

JUDO Sharon Farmer 1P1 and Amanda Scanlon 4P, took part with the London Team in the National School Girls Judo Championships in March. London won the overall trophy, and as a member of the Junior team Sharon was awarded a bronze medal. As a member of the Intermediate team Amanda won a silver medal.

At the Orchard Playing Fields Tournament where the Juniors also won, all their opponents scored NIL goals. Well done Sue Brooks who has scored 50 goals!

NETBALL Results in the Orchard Playing Fields Tournament - 2nd years - 1st; 3rd years - 3rd; 4th years - 2nd. At a 12 school tournament in March the 1st years were 1st, and were again 1st in a 6 school tournament a week later

The Senior Netball team had already won the Orchard Road Sports Centre Senior Netball Tournament a month earlier. This was only the second time the shield had been awarded, both times to Sydenham School.

GYMNASTICS Our Gymnastics team performed well at the ILSGA Finals at Crofton Park in March. In Grade 2 Jeanne Barry 2G2 - 4th place, and Emma Hanson 401 - 9th place. In Grade 3

Joyan Best 4R1 - silver medal in 2nd place;
in Grade 4 Diane Austen 2P - 9th place.

ATHLETICS At the South London Athletics event in May results were: Seniors - 2nd; Inters - 3rd; Juniors - 5th. Nine Sydenham girls were then selected to represent Southwark in the All London Athletics event where Yvette Hill came 2nd in the 400 metres.

SWIMMING At the L.S.S.A. event Lynn Rogers came 1st in the 100m Junior Breast-stroke; Wendy Lehec came 1st in the 100m Inter breast-stroke and 1st in the Inter Medley.

TENNIS In the Kent Inter Schools Tournament Under 15, we won the first round but lost the second round to Bromley High. In the Kent Open Tournament our 4th Year team lost to St. Ursula's. Well done Pam Dyer and Maxine Plunkett who were the winning 4th year couple in the Orchard Playing Fields Tournament.

GIRLS & PHYSICS

This was a course we first heard about in March of this year. It was sponsored by the Equal Opportunities Commission and was intended to persuade girls to take Physics at A-level. The course took place at Sussex University and was extremely enjoyable. We stayed in study bedrooms, but spent most of the day in the Physics building where there was an impressive lecture theatre, tutorial rooms, and labs where we did experiments in the afternoons. We worked hard and learnt a great deal about waves (the subject of the course). We would highly recommend it to anyone offered the course next year.

Frances Fahey

Elizabeth Sharpe

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 5th Sept.	7th Years Return - 12 noon
Tuesday 6th Sept.	1st Years - 8.50 a.m.
Tuesday 6th Sept.	4th Years - 8.50 a.m.
Wednesday 7th Sept.	Everyone Returns
Monday 19th Sept.	P.T.A. Committee Meeting 7.30 p.m.
Monday 24th Oct. - Friday 28th Oct.	Half Term.
Thursday 22nd Dec. - Friday 6th Jan.	Christmas Holiday.
Monday 20th Feb. - Friday 24th Feb.	Spring Half Term.
Wednesday 11th April - Friday 27th April	Easter Holiday.