



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 2

16th September 2011

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

A slightly longer letter

We have 4 sides of news this time as some of our community partners (including Castelnau Community Centre, Brentford FC and the BCA) wanted to share news with you all.

All the teachers and I have been so pleased with how well the children have settled into the new school year. There's an excellent and exciting buzz of learning around the school. I am sure we will see the children make more wonderful progress this year. A special congratulations to Hanaa (Y5), Fawz (Y5) and Luca (Y2) who received the Lowther Family Golden standard last week. This is awarded to children who make an outstanding contribution to school life. I wonder which 3 children will be chosen by Mrs.Webster, Mrs.Colenso and myself this week?

A Golden Start!

Mrs Colenso set the children the first of her weekly behaviour targets — “To make their teacher smile with great work and attitude” Well done to the following classes who all scooped GOLD (the top award!)

- Pine,
- Elm
- Year 3.



In addition I had over 40 children visit me last week with excellent work—at this rate I'll run out of gold stickers!!

Attendance and Time-keeping

School STARTS at 9am. We ring the bell at 8.55am. Please help us show the children the importance of good time keeping as a life skill.

Our first weeks attendance was very disappointing but well done to **Miss Treble and the Maple class** who won the best attendance of the week with 95%. This week has been much better with the school attendance at 94% - (just below our target of 95%)

School Calendar on the way

In response to your feedback we are putting the final touches to our school calendar which will be available online. I hope this will make things easier for parents to see what and when things are happening. Your feedback on this is most welcome.

Whole School Homework Challenge I

What a picture!

After the fantastic success of last years photography competition (we had over 80 super entries) we are proud to announce the second Lowther Family Photography challenge.

The competition gives snappers of all ages the opportunity to get creative!

The theme for this years competition is **“SPECIAL”**

It could be a special person, place, time, occasion, possession - really anything that is special to you in some way.

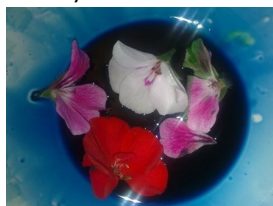
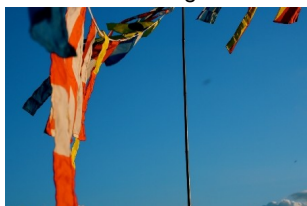
There are 4 age bands

- 7 and under
- 8-11
- 12-18
- Adult

You can enter up to 3 pictures each. Entries can be emailed to the school, info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk or dropped into the school office on a memory stick or CD (please label it!)

We will be holding an exhibition of the entries in October—where we will also be announcing the winners and commended shots. All entries receive a special “Bling Bling” as well being included in the exhibition. Winning entries will be displayed in the lobby and the school website. Winners will receive a special mug with their winning photo printed on it.

We will start taking entries from Monday 19th September until Monday October 10th 2011.



Some of our winning entries from last years challenge

Judges this year will be Mr Daniels (a very talented photographer) our fantastic school photographer Matt, Mr Tuffney and former pupil and talented artist Molly Russon.



Thank you for not coming in/leaving through the welcome lobby. We appreciate the entrance for the school this year is a bit of a loop but it is important that the welcome lobby does not get overcrowded with people cutting through. Of course if you need to see a member of the office team then please use that entrance. Many thanks for your help with this.



Uniform update

A HUGE thank you all for your support with our amended uniform policy—the children look fantastic—really smart. You really can't help but notice just how great they look. We did a spot check this week and just a handful of children didn't have a 100% perfect uniform. We'll let you know if there are any changes that need to be made to your child's uniform. Here's to keeping the Lowther School Family looking sharp and ready for learning.



Barnes StreetGames

FREE weekly Sports Coaching STARTS 28th September 2011

All sessions open to young people locally 8 - 13 years old

EVERY Monday 3pm - 5pm

**Venue – Lowther School Sports Pitch
Stillingfleet Road, SW13 9AE**

Sports will include –

Football, Tennis, Basketball, Mini Cricket, Touch Rugby, and more!

For more details please contact

Christopher Ward at Castlenau Community Project

07554322168 or 020 8741 090

Or email **chris@castelnaucentreproject.co.uk**

Social Inclusion Team at Brentford FC Community Sports Trust

0844 247 1889

Or email **inclusion@brentfordfcst.com**

Holiday Requests

We are getting an increasing number of requests for holidays during term time. Please be aware of the legal implications of taking your child out of school but more importantly the impact it has on your child's education. The following website has good advice for parents.

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/YourChildsWelfareAtSchool/DG_066966

If you do ask for a holiday request form we will check your child's attendance - be aware that if it falls below 95% (our school target set by the Local Authority) then it is likely to be turned down. We will also check whether you have made a previous request—this could also mean any other requests are turned down.

In addition to this, Ofsted now check pupil attendance as part of any inspection. Poor attendance levels will have a direct impact on any grading given to your school.

The most important thing of course is to give your child the very best opportunity to learn and be fully involved in school life. Please do support us and your children in promoting good attendance at school. There is clear data that proves good attendance supports excellent learning.



Community news—an update from some of our community partners



CASTELNAU YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Hey everyone, Chris from the Castelnau Community Centre here just wanting to say welcome back! I hope you all had amazing summer holidays and have returned to Lowther refreshed and ready to go for another action packed year! Whilst your teachers were putting their feet up and enjoying a well deserved rest, I was busy working with children and teenagers from the local area all summer! We had trips and activities going on all summer and it was great to meet some of the Lowther gang!

I hope to see some of you at the activities I will be running at both the school and the centre this term, see below for details.

School

Wednesday 3.15pm – 5pm Year 5 / 6 Film Club

A brand new after school club! Members will be able to watch films, write online reviews, take part in group discussions, design movie posters and much more!

Thursday 3.15pm - 4.15pm Year 5 / 6 Football

Whether you're the next Wayne Rooney, want to get fit and active or just keen to try a new sport, then this is the activity for you!

Community Centre

Tuesday 6pm – 7.30pm Cooking Club

5 week basic cooking course available to anyone aged 9 and over. Contact me to reserve a place!

Wednesday 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Friday 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Castelnau Youth Club

Aged 10 and over? Looking for fun stuff to do in the evening? Looking for somewhere to make new friends? Youth club is for you! Arts and Crafts, Computer games, sports, board games, Internet access, baking and more.



CHRIS WARD
YOUTH PROVISION MANAGER
CASTELNAU CENTRE PROJECT

Message from Lucy Mayfield (Extended School Co-ordinator)

Choosing a Secondary school for your child

We are pleased to advise you of the opportunity to talk about secondary school choice—a big decision for any family.

Thursday 22nd September

7pm -9pm at Sheen Mount School.

We are very fortunate to have Kim Stanford Smith -Head of school admissions, Richmond Borough and Sue Laidlaw-Education advisor for the independent sector to come and speak and take your questions.

The programme is as follows:

7.00 -7.50pm Kim Stanford Smith - applications to state secondary schools and taking questions

7.50pm Break for tea and coffee

8.10pm Sue Laidlaw - Applications for the independent sector and taking questions

9pm Finish

Parents may attend both or only one session. The talk is free but places are limited so please reserve your space by e mailing: lmayfield1.318@lgflmail.org or ring 07432 696985 for more info.



The BCA

How many of you are aware of the Barnes Community Association (BCA) and the contribution it makes to keeping Barnes special?

The BCA was set up in 1974 in response to proposals to build tall blocks of flats along Castelnau. Since then the BCA has developed as a thriving organisation involved in a range of community activities. For example when the pond suddenly drained 10 years ago, Richmond Council raised the possibility of making the space into a car park! The BCA raised the money to match Council funding to re-establish the pond and improve the island. Later the BCA persuaded the Council to share the cost of a Common-Keeper who maintains the pond and its environs. And now the BCA sells good seed with which to feed the ducks and thus we have a fun place for a family outing!

The BCA runs the amazing fair in July, the jumble sale in October, late night shopping with Father Christmas in December and maintains Rose House for the benefit of the community.

The BCA does not receive funding from the Council; it is funded solely from its own efforts and from membership subscriptions. If you live in Barnes and your community and environment really matter to you, but you are not yet a member, think about the things we do and please join us. Family membership is priced at a very modest £15pa, and the more members we have, the more resources we can devote to keeping Barnes alive and well in these changeable times.



Forthcoming events from the Barnes Community Association

Thursday 29th September – Barnes Charity Fashion Show

Come and be entertained and see the latest fashions from our local boutiques in St Mary's Church, Church Road, Barnes. Profit will go to Barn Elms Sports Trust (BEST), The Castelnau Centre and Friends of St Mary's Barnes. Drinks and refreshments will be available from 7pm and the show starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets, **only available in advance**, are £10 each from St Mary's Barnes Church Office or the BCA Rose House Monday - Friday from 10am - 3pm or email barnesfashion@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday 1st October – Barnes Food Fair 9.30am – 5.30pm

There will be a marquee on Barnes Green with more than 50 stalls including local restaurants and specialist retailers who will be demonstrating and offering samples of their products. In the Barnes Green Centre, there will be cookery demonstrations - with Michelin chefs Phil Howard and Bruno Loubet amongst others - and there will also be fun and games on the Green and a Taste Trail to follow.

Tickets at £3 for the marquee and £5 for the cookery demonstrations are available in advance from BCA, Rose House, 70 Barnes High St

Monday - Friday from 10am - 3pm and selected retailers. They may also be bought on the day.

Friday 7th October and Saturday 8th October – BCA Jumble Sale

The not-to-be-missed jumble sale is with us again, including the regular favourites of Daisy's Den and Good as New Clothes. If you would like your jumble collected please phone 8878 2359. Otherwise we look forward to seeing you on Friday night 7-9pm (entrance £5) or Saturday 10am - 2pm (entrance £1) in Kitson Hall, Kitson Road, Barnes.