



celebrate the opening of their outdoor classroom.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

Work will begin in early January on an extension at the front of the school, to house a new library and SEN area.

Fund raising events for the new building include a group of mothers who took part in the Flora Light 5 km run in Hyde Park and raised £1,145.30; selling donated items on the ebay website; the school's own lottery scheme.

Athlete Joice Maduaka, the British 100m champion in three separate seasons, came to present the prestigious Activemark Gold Award granted to the school by Sport England last term (see August *ARCHER*). Pupils were thrilled to be shown her medals and to hear about her training sessions with Lynford Christie. Joice really inspired her audience and spent a lot of time answering their many questions.

The Christmas Fair is on Saturday 6 December from noon to 2.30pm.

Martin Schools

A portfolio has been sent to the National Gallery showing work inspired by Canaletto in their *Take One Picture* scheme for schools. Junior children have been building gondolas, painting in acrylic, studying philosophy and architecture, looking at patterns and texture and exploring textiles and music in response to the painting *The Stonemason's Yard*.

To support the school's Gifted and Talented Programme Mr Jackson has coordinated a newsletter to celebrate achievement and inspire children to excel in academic subjects, sport, art and music.

The deputy mayor is to present senior staff with a certificate at the Barnet Education Business Partnership Gold Award Ceremony for the school's "on-going support for education business activities delivered." Two children who completed the maths trail created by the school's Mr Jackson at the Long Lane Fire Station will also be there to help the Station Commander describe what they did on their visit.

The recently formed football team has begun the season with a resounding win over Coppetts Wood and a defeat by Tudor Primary but with a wonderful display of sportsmanship in both matches.

Many clubs are being run to support and enhance learning in the juniors. There is a long established French club; for musicians there is a recorder group and a newly founded orchestra; for sports enthusiasts there is netball, football or gymnastics; those with creative talents can join the art or sewing club.

A stunning firework display took place on the school field on Bonfire Night.

The infant school is delighted to have been chosen for a return visit by the Iroko Theatre Group, which now has Arts Council Funding, for a three-day residency. As an extension to Black History month they will be performing African dance, drama and music and will hold a special assembly. Children throughout the school will be involved in workshops.

The National Gallery's *Take One Picture* work is well under way. A visiting sculptor has helped the children to make a 3D image of the painting *The Stonemason's Yard* by Canaletto in the playground. They have also been making models to go inside the buildings depicted.

Martin Schools' Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday 6 December from 12 noon to 3 pm.

The Great Outdoors

By Diana Cormack

Children in the reception class at Holy Trinity School are now able to spend part of their learning time out of doors, thanks to the completion of the outdoor classroom.

Before the official opening Sally Barnes, formerly Early Learning Advisory Inspector for Barnet, told parents how important outdoor play is in the development process. Educationalists now believe that it is better for nursery pupils, who have ready access to a playground, to come into an infant school scenario similar to that which they have grown used to. They also say that these youngsters need to be able to move around rather than sit at

desks for hours on end because physical activity stimulates and develops different parts of the brain and so helps the learning process.

Children learn an amazing amount through outdoor play and through experimenting with their environment. However, the play has to be structured by the careful planning of the class teacher so that the activities available and the equipment provided reflect or continue with other

work undertaken indoors. Each infant classroom has a door leading directly into the outside area, which is safely fenced in.

Future plans are for some sort of cover to keep off the rain, but that would have spoiled the fun on the opening day because each child had a labelled balloon to set free. Just think how much learning will be involved when the children find out about where the balloons eventually end up!

First in the Country for Holy Trinity

By Diana Cormack

Teachers and students who need advice and training in physical education are coming to East Finchley to visit the country's first sports academy for the primary age group. The *On Your Marks* Sporting Academy is the brainchild of Duncan Mills, head teacher of Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Eagans Close, which received high praise from OFSTED last year for its excellent after-school clubs and sports activities. It is also one of the few schools to receive Sport England's top grading, the Activemark Gold Award, for promoting sporting activities to children.

Going it alone

Based on these achievements as well as his own studies and years of involvement with sport for younger children, Duncan decided to realise his dream of sharing this good practice. Whilst secondary schools are given funding to attain special status in a chosen field, primary schools are not, so Duncan decided to go it alone and set up the sports status on his own initiative. The Sports Foundation has helped financially and the school has been able to buy a set of footballs, new netball

posts and gymnastic mats, but one of Duncan's aims is for there to be enough equipment for each pupil to use individually.

Sharing expertise

At present, this remarkable head teacher is running programmes at the school for students from places of learning like The Institute of Education and the University of Hertfordshire as well as for Barnet's own newly qualified teachers' induction course. Other schools are seeking his expertise in such things as setting up after-school sports clubs and organising

sporting events.

But whatever their need, in the long run they are helping the pupils at Holy Trinity, for all the money Duncan earns through instructing others is to be ploughed back into his school to provide more equipment and facilities.

Heartening

At a time when childhood obesity and inertia is making worrying news, it is heartening to report that a local school is giving the whole country a lead in the teaching of physical activities.

YOUNG ARCHER

Garden of Wishes

The children in Martin Infant School have each planted a crocus bulb in large pots in the playground. Little cards with their wishes written on have been stuck on sticks which are dotted in between the bulbs.

Some of the wishes are for things like money, holidays, health and happiness. Some are a bit different. Here are a few of them:

I wish that Cherry Tree Woods was better with big swings. *By Ella*

I wish that East Finchley didn't have traffic jams. *By Jade*

I wish people wouldn't dig up the roads. *By John*

I wish there were no robbers. *By William*

I wish that old people had a very good living at their homes. *By Hannah*

I wish that everybody was rich and had plenty of food. *By Jamie*

I wish everyone could be my friend. *By Aaliyah*

I wish I had a fairy. *By Shamina*

Chess Club Appeal

The Barnet Knights Chess Club, based at Moss Hall School, Nether Street, N3 has a serious shortage of members and is in danger of closing down. The club is run during term time by volunteers on Mondays from 5.30-7.30 pm for beginners and improvers and from 7.30-9.30 pm for more advanced players.

Contact Laurie Winston for further details on 8959 8376 or visit www.barnetknights.co.uk.

Christmas is Coming

By Diana Cormack

Can't believe it's on the way
Hope it won't be long!
Rush to write my present list
Is Santa feeling strong?
Shall we have a Christmas tree
To decorate with lights?
Might exchange my stocking for
A giant pair of tights!
Super Santa Claus!!