



Budding astronauts at Martin School. Photo by Helen Drake

Mad Science at Martin School

By Helen Drake

Martin Junior School pupils watched in awe as a rocket flew over the roof of their school and parachuted into the Infant School playground. This wasn't some top-secret military manoeuvre gone wrong but an experiment in rocket propulsion conducted by the after-school science club, run by the organisation Mad Science.

The eight-week course started on 19 January at Martin School. It is called "The Academy of Future Space Explorers", and is a joint collaboration between Mad Science and space agency NASA.

Louis Masseron, in Year 6, was hugely enthusiastic. He said: "It's really brilliant. We've been learning about lasers and have seen lasers in action and have got to handle them. We've learnt about living in space and how fast it takes to leave the earth's atmosphere."

With other topics included in the course such as making rainbows, investigating the life cycle of stars, creating a lunar eclipse and probing

the mysteries of meteors, the children certainly have had plenty to spark their imaginations.

Maggie Driscoll, headteacher of Martin Junior School, said of her pupils: "They love it. It's a brilliant experience for the children, extending their knowledge and adding to their enthusiasm for science."

Mad Science is a Canadian company set up by two brothers, Ariel and Ron Skilien, who discovered that children like "fun, cool science". For further information see the website www.madscience.org. The nearest Mad Science office is in west London and can be contacted on 0845 330 1881.

YOUNG ARCHER

The power of Pericles

Following a series of workshops on Shakespeare's *Pericles*, Year 6 in Martin Junior saw a performance of the play at their school by actors from the National Theatre. As well as learning a tremendous amount about drama and Shakespeare, the children were also required to write a review of the production. Here is a really good example of one, written by Ellen Ellis:

This morning I went with my year and year five to see a shortened production of *Pericles* in the school hall. The play that had originally been written by William Shakespeare had been shortened and directed by Carl Heap.

To help the children to understand it the script had had some words changed. Sometimes, luckily more fre-

quently, it worked but unfortunately sometimes it didn't. One of those words was "flapjack" which broke up the script somehow, but it soon went back into the rhythm.

The set worked extremely well with the acting. One of my favourites was the front of the stage. This could be moved to suit the scene e.g. front of a boat.

I adored the costumes because although they were practical, they also worked brilliantly. They contrasted greatly between the flamboyant colours

of the rich, and the dull clothes of the poor fishermen. I particularly liked Thaisa's costume at the beginning.

The actors were absolutely fantastic. They made you believe that they were who their character was and in changes of character it was quick and easy to understand. I thought that they also sang well.

In short, I would definitely recommend this for any person, young or old. The costumes were wonderful, the set clever and the acting was fantastically brilliant. A definite five stars.

Lots on offer at Holy Trinity auction

A meal cooked in your own home by a gourmet chef is one of the lots on offer at a fundraising auction at Holy Trinity School.

Other goodies available through the event on Friday 24 March include a cricket coaching session at the Middlesex CCC in East End Road, tickets for a stadium tour at White Hart Lane and a host of tickets for family days out.

The auction will be combined with a fun quiz, all designed to raise funds for the school while being a great evening's entertainment. Tickets will be available from the school office in Eagan's Close.

Have a go heroes

By Helen Drake

Encouraging children to "have a go" was one of the key messages taken away by attendees at the Literacy Evening held at Martin Infant School on 25 January.

The audience was taken through all the stages of literacy - speaking and listening, reading and writing - by teacher Wendy Diamant, and were given information on how to help their children at home.

Displays set up in the Infant Hall meant parents and carers had a chance to make letters with their fingers in sand and salt, try out educational games, count out money in the role play area and see examples of school work.

The Literacy Evening, organised by headteacher Kevin Anscumb, was the first of a series of curriculum-based events aimed at keeping parents abreast of current teaching methods.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Edited by Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

The bid for funding to increase the range of activities currently on offer has been successful. These will be available not only to Holy Trinity children and their families but also to members of the wider community. For instance, use of the ICT facilities after school and the planned resource centre for outdoor adventurous activities will eventually be open to children from other schools.

Reception and nursery children learned a great deal on their enjoyable visit to the RAF Museum, Hendon.

THE ARCHER editor John Lawrence has been visiting Year 6 to tell them about writing and editing news stories.

Recent fund raising events included a "Soles for Souls" day, where children brought money in return for being allowed to wear trainers to school, raising £141 for the RNLI Lifeboat Appeal.

Junior pupils raised money for Children in Need with a playground charity wheelchair push.

Relaxing therapies and pampering treatments were on offer at the HTSA's Indulgence Evening.

Money will be allocated to Holy Trinity if their School Travel Plan, aimed at improving travel safety to and from school, is approved.

Joint ventures to build on the links between Holy Trinity and Martin Schools are being planned.

Martin Schools

Thirty juniors have taken part in the World Class Maths and Problem Solving Tests, in which many gained merit or distinction. Out of these excellent results one girl was so skilled that she also took part in the 11-14 Test. Competing against children up to four years older, Susannah Fleiss gained a distinction and has now taken the Primary Maths Challenge, where 10,000 British primary children compete. She is one of only 57 to qualify for the final.

Inspired by Hogwarts, the junior school has recently introduced a house system with the names Earth, Fire, Water and Air, suggested by the school's mealtime supervisors. The children's eagerness to gain house points has been reflected in all areas of their school life including studying hard, showing good manners and being helpful and friendly.

Among the ideas submitted by the whole school community for The School Travel Plan is to encourage children to walk and lead a healthier lifestyle by wearing pedometers to check if they have walked 10,000 steps a day.

A surprise performance in assembly by a clown from Zippo's Circus delighted the juniors. The visit was organised as a thank you from the travelling community.

A brilliant performance of Shakespeare's "Pericles" by actors from the National Theatre was much appreciated by Years 5 and 6. This was the culmination of weeks of workshops led by an actor involving Year 6, some of whom helped with the professional production. Class 6G are preparing to perform "Pericles" next term.

Martin Infant School is taking part in a programme about inclusion made for the Teachers' TV channel. It will show a child from Tree House, the centre for autistic children on Woodside Avenue, during the time he spends at Martin School. Head teacher Kevin Anscumb will speak about the benefits this brings, such as developing the children's social and personal skills, breaking down barriers and preparing them for later life, as well as extending the staff's special needs skills.

The Infant School Council has been actively involved with the juniors in preparing a School Travel Plan. One of their suggestions is a school walking bus.

Don't forget the Open Afternoon on Tuesday 7 March.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.
Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

For more information
please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome