



YOUNG ARCHER



Joseph and Amaan proudly display their masterpieces. Photo taken by David Aronsohn

Look what we painted

By Helen Drake

Children across all year groups at Martin Primary School got an opportunity to unleash their creative juices during Art Week from 8 – 12 June. Six artists from the East Finchley Open group worked on projects with the children which culminated in a colourful and imaginative art exhibition.

Joseph Johnson from Year 4 said: "The artist who worked with us was Christine Watson. Christine taught us some simple nature landscapes using crayons. My drawing was a lavender field with a farm and a blue clear cloudless sky. I used light blue tissue paper, paint, cork and fabric."

Amaan Nath, also from Year 4, said: "My picture was of cypress trees and purple flowers shaped like a kite. I used green coloured paper and

fabric the most, but I also used paints, ice lolly sticks and tissue paper."

Katy Wards, art co-ordinator at Martin Primary, said: "Art Week really gave the children a chance to get their imaginations going. I want to thank all the artists for sharing their time and skills with us."

Artists taking part were Ann Froomberg, Adam Justice-Mills, Christine Watson, David Aronsohn, Philip Valentin and Sheila Seepersaud Jones.

Homeless in London through Raphael's eyes

When Raphael Abedi came across homeless people on the streets of the capital, he was moved to put his thoughts into poetry. His poem has just won him an award for children's poetry in the national Muslim Writers Awards 2009, and earned clear praise from the judges.

Raphael, who lives in East Finchley and goes to school at Merchant Taylors in Northwood, won the 11-13 age category in the competition.

The judges commented that Raphael's poem was: "Painfully real, thought evoking and gripping. Raphael is a very talented young writer with the ability to show the world painful truths without hesitation."

Raphael said he wrote the poem for his English homework and tried to imagine himself in the shoes of a homeless person. Here's Raphael's winning poem:



Photo courtesy of Muslim Writers

Homeless London

Cold, wet, this is London.
Heartless, forgetting, these are its citizens.
Dark, freezing, these are my surroundings.
Tired, starving, this is me.

I stare around at soulless bodies,
Hoping to get enough for dinner.
Rain and sleet, it never stops.
Tired, begging, this is me.

Across the street is a warming glow,
Beckoning to me to come in.
But I mustn't, no!
Tired, wanting, this is me.

It's ten o'clock, no more tourists now.
I roll out my tearing sleeping bag.
But not to sleep, dangers are here.
Tired, scared, this is me.

Next morning there's snow,
Joy for some, death for others.
Businessmen going to and fro.
Awake, hungry, this is me.

Later on in the day,
Someone enters my space.
I am shivering with fear and cold.
Hungry, scared, this is me.

He draws something from a pocket.
Is it a knife?
I shut my eyes.
Cold, wet, London is me.

World cuisine at school food festival

In a change to the more usual summer fair, this year Manorside Primary School on Squires Lane will be holding an International Food Festival. Taking place on Saturday 11 July, between 12pm and 3pm, visitors can sample cuisine from places as diverse as New Zealand and Norway, Poland and Portugal.

Entrance is free, and there will be activities for children with stalls and bouncy castles, as well as dance displays and singing. For those who prefer a cup of tea and a cake, there will be a great range of home-baked cakes and pastries available to eat in or take away.

For art lovers, there will be a chance to see, and buy, the work of some young up-and-coming artists at the Manorside Art Exhibition. Inspired by great paintings, and a visit to the National Gallery, the whole school will have been hard at work during Art Week creating their own masterpieces.

Playgroup opens its doors

By Diana Cormack

East Finchley Methodist Church on the High Road has become host to a new playgroup that started in mid June after another playgroup had to close. EFM Toddlers is open from 9.30am to 11.30am on Thursdays (term time only).

Up to 30 children can be accommodated in the large hall, where a wide range of play equipment is available. Various painting and handwork facilities are set out in the annex. To

allow for change, all activities take place on a rotational basis. Story time and music sessions feature regularly.

It is run by volunteers who are mostly from the church and

is led by Linda Askew and Chris Fairclough. Linda, who lives on the Thomas More Estate, told THE ARCHER of the need for more playgroups in the area. Sadly the one at St Mary's Church has had to close for financial reasons.

EFM Toddlers is open to everyone and, as well as giving youngsters the chance to learn through play and begin to socialise, it provides parents and carers with an opportunity to meet and form friendships. The kitchen serves adults with drinks and snacks at nominal prices but these are free to children. Entrance fee is £1.50 for the first child and 50p for a second. All proceeds go to funding the group, which is also run on a first come, first served drop-in basis. For more information contact 07905 102 721 or efmtoddlers@yahoo.co.uk

Bringing new blood to the art world

Jake Eiseman-Renyard, one of THE ARCHER's volunteer writers, has loved to draw for as long as he can remember. For the past three years, he has attended the University of East London, studying a combined BA of Graphic Arts and Illustration.

His work was selected in June for 'Newblood', an art exhibition at Olympia, during a private inspection of a degree show put on by the students in their final year. On the day the exhibition opened, he was amazed to hear his work had also been selected for the Dean's Award for Digital Arts and Visual Communication.

Jake has had to work hard to get everything ready for the exhibition and has said he was anxious just to get a passing grade. Works of his on display included five A1-size panoramic pictures of his 'Utopia', a land created with influence from Finchley and parts of London, places visited on holiday, seen in films or TV, and dreams all mixed together. Two of these drawings have already been bought.

Other, smaller pictures and narrative strips were on display here, along with a video monitor showing computer-animation of two short films.

Jake's artwork (which a classmate has described as "Where's Wally On Acid") is usually very colourful and has a strong sense of visual detail. Jake is considering putting his work to use in children's books, murals, advertising, birthday cards, and live action storyboards.

**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.**

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