



Taste of adventure for Oak Lodge pupils

By Teresa Ellis

This summer, 36 students and staff from Oak Lodge Special Educational Needs School, off East End Road, were sent packing for a week of extremely challenging situations. Activities included canoeing, sailing, horse riding, archery, zip wires and abseiling plus a range of team building tasks.

The trip was to the Calvert Trust, Exmoor, which specialises in totally accessible adventure holidays for wheelchair users, vulnerable young people and adults.

A number of organisations in East Finchley including Budgens, and Belmont School in Mill Hill, helped raise significant funds to

sponsor the adventure, which also provided a rare but very important respite for the students' families.

Please contact Oak Lodge School for more information at www.oaklodge.barnet.sch.uk/ or if you would like to support future challenges. Oak Lodge School's charity link is www.hearts-of-oak.org/

Open afternoon at Tudor School

Interested parents are invited to visit the nursery at Tudor Primary School on the afternoon of Thursday 7 October between 1.30 and 3.00pm. The nursery is housed in a separate building from the main school, which is situated at Queen's Road, N3. It has its own large outdoor area with space for climbing frames, sand pits and an area for bikes and trikes. The outdoor area can be used all year round due to the recently installed extensive canopy.

Inside, the very large nursery space is fully equipped with a range of play equipment for the children to explore and use in their learning. With a flexible

provision for all families, the nursery also offers extra sessions at a very reasonable rate. Telephone 020 8346 6010 for further details.

Reach for the top

North London-based chartered accountant Dipesh Chhatralia and his cousins Mehul and Pratik raised £4,000 for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

All the team members have strong family connections to Tanzania so the motivation to climb the mountain was both physical and personal.

Dipesh said: "We were very keen on ensuring that our chosen charity was a small charity so we could see where the donations were going. I realised

that Noah's Ark was such a fun and caring charity that my team and I would be honoured to raise money for such a cause."

Their trek started in the jungle, going into the moorland, then into the alpine desert and finally on to the ice cap. The ascent took 4.5 days to the peak and 1.5 days back to the gate.

Manorside stays international

Manorside School in Squires Lane has once again been successful in gaining the International School Award and is accredited for a further three years.

Amongst the internationally focused activities undertaken are: language of the month, with every class using a few key words of the chosen language every day; an international food festival; cultural exchanges (of both staff and children) from schools as far afield as Beijing and Namibia, and other activities that fit into the curriculum seamlessly.

The school has expressed a big thank you to Mrs Cohen who was responsible for co-ordinating the application and to the

staff whose global outlook helps shape much of the international focus of the school.



Vegetables and plants are flourishing at Martin Primary School. Photo by Rebecca Bakar.

Garden glory

By Rebecca Bakar

Pupils and staff at Martin Primary School were delighted when they heard they had been awarded first prize for the most eco-friendly garden in the recent Barnet in Bloom competition.

For the past year, pupils from the school's eco-council have worked hard on developing the school's garden, growing a wide range of fruit and vegetables such as cucumbers, tomatoes, strawberries, peppers and cabbages. Some produce has already been sold to parents to generate funds for further gardening projects.

Inventive ideas

The eco-council members decided they wanted to recycle items being discarded during the school's refurbishment programme, so objects ranging from old wooden desks to toilet cisterns have all been used as unusual plant pots.

The emphasis throughout the project has been on being as eco-friendly as possible. For example, natural materials such as willow have been used to construct frames for runner beans. At the same time, rainwater collected in water butts has been used for watering and a composting area has also been established.

Although setting up and maintaining the garden has been a lot of hard work, it has been tremendous fun for the pupils. "I've really enjoyed doing all the digging and learning about different plants. We've also seen lots of birds because we've put bird feeders all over the garden," said eco-council member Olivia

Manzi-Richmond, aged 8.

Special praise goes to Oliver Clymer, who left Martin Primary School in July to go to secondary school. He devoted lots of his free time to the garden project and was awarded a certificate of merit in Barnet's 'Young Gardener of the Year' competition.

Green fingers galore at Tudor School

How did your garden grow this year? Tudor School gardening club worked really hard in the spring and summer and put lots of colour in the grounds. Pots and tyres were planted with flowers and dark dull patches were transformed.

Children from the Junior and Infant gardening club planted vegetables, which they harvested in the first week of term. The beans did extremely well and the cook had enough to use for school lunch. They were also very lucky as the slugs and snails failed to find the beautiful

lettuce and ruby chard. Their harvest also included potatoes, spinach and carrots.

Club members are not letting their green fingers go to sleep over the next few months and will be planting out winter vegetables ready for another crop in the spring.

Theatre bursaries for young people

If you are in the appropriate age range, meet the right criteria and are interested in the performing arts, you could be eligible for a bursary to support your studies on a part-time course at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Funding from the Tottenham Grammar School Foundation can provide tuition fee discounts on courses that include acting, musical theatre, TV and film and street dance. Each bursary will be considered on the basis of individual need and a percentage of the course fees awarded as appropriate.

To be eligible students must be aged between 11 and 25, resident in the Borough of Haringey, attending or have attended a Haringey secondary school and be in need of financial assistance. So, if you think you've got talent, call 020 8826 9217 or visit www.mountview.org.uk for more information.

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.all saints-eastfinchley.org.uk>