



Nadia and Adele of the Loop Academy.

Zest for life at Loop Academy

By Lucy Chamberlin

Cheerleading champions and professional performers Nadia Nadry and Adele Keating exude excitement and gusto as they lead their troupe of children round the hall. It is Saturday morning at the Loop Academy, and the pair are doing what they do best: teaching, acting, singing, dancing and enthusing their small charges with confidence and zest for life.

Nadia and Adele have known each other since childhood, attending the same school in Leeds and then meeting again, as if by fate, on the same acting degree course. Last Christmas they set up Loop (which also features an adult street jazz class) at Highgate Primary School on North Hill.

"Acting has always been in us," says Adele, "and we work really well together. The kids seem to love it, and the adult class has really taken off this term."

Personal touch

One mum, Debbie, has just come from the adult dance class, which Nadia runs from 10am-11am while Adele takes the children for acting. "It's great exercise and it challenges your brain as well as your body: much more fun than just going for a run," says Debbie. Her son Emir has autism, and didn't learn to speak till he was five years old. "He gets loads of

confidence here," she says. "He can be himself and really enjoy it too."

Journalist Martin Bright from Park Hall Road has come to drop off his two sons, Felix, seven, and Victor, five. "We've tried lots of things in the area, but a lot of drama schools are oversubscribed. Here you get the t-shirts and the professionalism, but you also get that personal touch."

The Loop Academy is offering a free taster class for next term, which starts on Saturday 7 May. To book a place, call 07758 616774 or email info@loopacademy.co.uk

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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>

Smart moves at Holy Trinity

Pupils at Holy Trinity Primary School have taken part in some high-profile rugby and dance projects.

As part of the Aviva and Premiership Rugby Schools Programme in Barnet, Year 5 and 6 children had tag rugby coaching with a Saracens team coach for five weeks, and were invited to watch Saracens play Newcastle Falcons at Vicarage Road, where they created a Guard of Honour cheering out the teams at half time.

First Team player Andy Saul also visited the school for a question and answer session at assembly. In May, Holy Trinity pupils will be competing against other schools in the Barnet Schools' Sports Partnership at the Saracens Tag Festival.

Year 5 and 6 children also took part in the Barnet Schools' Dance Festival at artsdepot in Finchley, along with pupils from 16 other schools.

They performed an amazing dance version of Shine On, choreographed by teacher Miss Artemiou, and were part of the 'cast' finale with a very colourful 'Waving Flag' dance.

Young Voices sing out

Young people with an interest in singing now have an opportunity to join a new choir. Joel Thomas, a professional conductor with many years of experience working in schools across London, has established a new vocal group called Barnet Young Voices.

Meeting at Trinity Church Centre in North Finchley on Thursday evenings, the group offers its members the chance to explore a wide repertoire of songs and styles including jazz, pop, and classical choral music.

It is open to all young people with no auditions so everyone is welcome to come along and see if singing is for them! Younger singers, aged 7-13, meet from 5-6pm and are followed by the group's older singers, aged 14-18, who rehearse from 6-7pm.

For more information, contact Joel by phone on 020 8445 6898 or 07986 582844 or by email on joelthomas12345@hotmail.co.uk. Sessions are held at Trinity Church Centre, Nether Street, North Finchley, N12 7NN.

YOUNG ARCHER

Red Nose runner

My name is Stanley Dryden and this Red Nose Day I wanted to do something to help people who need our help. I had a great idea to run laps around Stanley Field. So I asked my neighbours and my relatives to sponsor me for my run and they said "yes".



Done it! Stanley Dryden crosses the finishing line on Red Nose Day.

I did the run on Red Nose Day and I did nine laps; it was very hard work but I did it! I raised £152.31 to help children in other countries but in our country too.

Red Nose is a good idea because it engages people to do fun things to raise money to help others. In three words I would explain it as unregretful, enjoyable and unforgettable. I will do something different next year. Hope you had a good Red Nose Day too.

Headteacher under the hammer

By Rachel Ellis

A parent paid £150 for their child to be headteacher for the day as part of a charity auction at Martin Primary School, and raised an impressive £5,000 for the school.

Parents and teachers turned out in force to bid at the event organised by the Parent, Carer and Teacher Association. Other items going under the hammer included a signed Arsenal photo, a tour of the House of Lords, cooking lessons from parents and the chance to join the school office team for the day. All prizes were donated by parents, teachers and local businesses.

The money raised comes at a time when school budgets across the country are becoming tighter. It will be used to improve facilities in the Key Stage 2 school playground. Headteacher Helen Morrison said she was overwhelmed by the generosity of parents and donors.

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