



Hammersmith & Fulham Urban Studies Centre

Welcome to our Summer 2014

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME to our summer newsletter. What a busy year it's been at the Urban Studies Centre! As we approach the summer break, here's a look back at all the great work local schools have been doing with us.

Children's Parliament on the Environment 2014 The season kick-started with a whirlwind of activity from the ten brilliant Year 6 classes who worked on projects with the Urban Studies Centre for LBHF Children's Parliament 2014. This year some great project work came from Addison Primary (*How we Live Now*), Good Shepherd (*Pollution isn't the Solution*), Langford (*Fulham Wharf's Environmental Centre*), St. Thomas of Canterbury (*Our World War One Hero*), Our Lady of Victories (*The River Thames at Chelsea*) and Queens Manor (*Fulham FC- Own Goal or Penalty?*) Children's project presentations were made to peers and guests at the council chamber of Hammersmith Town Hall. Councillor Georgie Cooney chaired the event and special awards were given out by the deputy mayor, Councillor Adronie Alford. Judges includes Jenny Stark from the Urban Studies Centre and Trevor Bowyer from Holland Park Ecology Centre. Special congratulations to these schools for achieving awards for particularly strong projects and presentations: Fulham Primary (*The Red Fox Code*) - Children's Award, St. Stephens Primary (*Making Fruit Fun*) - Presentation Award, Ark Bentworth Primary (*Grand Union Canal Discovery Trail*) Research Award, St. John's Walham Green (*Our Science Garden*) - Environmental Action Award. Councillor Cooney praised the standard of all of the presentations and recommended future jobs in politics and television presenting for the children. Well done to all of you!



Fulham's First World War

Seals class from St. Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School has been uncovering secrets from the past to understand how life changed in Hammersmith and Fulham after war broke out, one hundred years ago this year. As part of their Heritage Lottery Funded WW1 project we visited the Blake's munitions memorial to the 13 workers, most of them local women, who did the dangerous job of making bombs and who died tragically in a factory fire just days before the end of the War. 'Trench soup' was on the menu at Ravenscourt Park, where we found out about how Britain went food-growing mad to cope with wartime food shortages. The Seals uncovered a very special story when visiting LBHF local archives and to Fulham Library. Lance Corporal Edward Dwyer was one of only three soldiers from the borough to receive the Victoria Cross medal for outstanding bravery. He was also the youngest ever VC and he went to St. Thomas of Canterbury School! The children are creating a performance to share and celebrate their stories. Many thanks to everyone who has helped us with the project.



Young Friends Young Friends of Hammersmith Park from Pope John RC Primary School have had a busy time exploring and helping to improve Hammersmith Park. We met local and Friend of Hammersmith Park John Gordon-Smith, who talked about happenings in the park as well as inviting the children to create a trail for future visitors. The group also met PC Hazel Ryan from the Parks Police to discuss litter and dog fouling. After a survey, the children found that posters they'd made warning about littering and dog mess have helped to keep the park tidy. Sophie (Year 4), from the group said *'I enjoyed the project because it was fun and I got to learn new things. I liked it when we had a picnic and collected different colours. I like the little stream'*. Andi (Year 5) liked being near the trees and hiding under them in the rain.



EVENTS... Empty Classroom Day 30th June - Almost a hundred children from Avonmore Primary and St. James Junior school

came together to take learning outside in Marcus Garvey park. Key Stage 2 children assessed the environmental quality of the park and shared their views with LBHF council officers, parks police and the Friends of Marcus Garvey Park. KS2 children learned about plants and nature on a Reading Nature trail, sowed some seeds and made bookmarks.

Children's Choice Conference - Children representing 12 schools in H&F and RBKC came together to take part in a range of workshops to explore the theme of Education, to share their views on local services and learn some new skills. Epic Youth Participation team, The Tri-borough library service, Holland Park Ecology



Centre, Hammersmith Community Gardens, the Design Museum and the local Children's Safeguarding Board provided thought-provoking and lively workshops. **Green Day at Queens Manor 3rd July** - The whole school was involved in green activities on Green Day. Early Years discovered what sorts of animals live in their school garden by following a Garden Animal Mystery Trail. They made wild wall-hangings to take home. KS1 followed a reading nature trail and played environmental games in a local park. KS2 explored and assessed the riverside environment near to school and did some birdwatching.



Picnic in the Park 14th June Hundreds of local people enjoyed music, food and fun in South Park. Some of the children painted bird boxes which will go up in the park for local birds to use.

Local Studies Sessions

What an action-packed local studies timetable, meeting many new faces and getting more children out and about to explore things of interest in their local environments. Sessions have included: Healthy Living activities with New Kings Year 3 class, Climate Control with Eridge House year 4, Rocks and soils with John Betts, Foreshore explorer with St Mary Magdalene (Westminster) year 5, Environmental quality surveys with St Augustine's year 5, visiting Fulham Reach Environmental Centre as part of Sands End history with Langford year 5, investigating Fulham Reach for GCSE Geography fieldwork with Cardinal Vaughn year 10, Wormwood Scrubs conservation with Old Oak year 5, Foreshore explorer with Park Walk (RBKC) year 4, Growing plants with St Johns Walham Green year 1, Rocks and soils with St Augustine's year 3, Plants and the environment with Old Oak year 4, exploring Fulham for clues about World War One with year 5 and 6 girls from Kensington Prep and going on a Minibeast safari discovering animals in their habitats at Ravenscourt Park with years 2 and 4 from John Betts. Great work everyone and we hope to see you all for more local discoveries soon!

Get in touch to book your local studies sessions for next year! 020 8741 7138

New curriculum, new programme! Check our website for new sessions later this summer www.hfusc.org.uk/teaching-resources

Discovery Trails Year 4 children from Flora Gardens Primary helped us create our next Discovery Trail, exploring the wonderful world of **Ravenscourt Park** right on their doorstep. We delved into the depths of the park to find the wildlife pond teaming with new tadpoles, and to the glasshouses where Hammersmith Commu-



nity Gardens Association offer fun ways to help us learn about how to grow our own food. Children put their drawings and ideas from the day into a handy leaflet, to help others enjoy this great park. We now also have a fourth Discovery Trail from a good day spent with year 6 class from Ark Bent-

worth Primary Academy exploring the **Grand Union Canal**. The children ventured across Wormwood Scrubs to find the canal and also explored Kensal Green Cemetery with the help of Robert Stephenson from the Friends of the cemetery to find out about some of the important historical figures buried there – including Isambard Kingdom

School Travel Project A busy 2014 so far with Addison Primary Year 6, St Paul's Year 4, St Augustine's Year 5, Greenside Year 6 and Wormholt Year 5 classes all working hard to get more children out of cars and onto their bikes, scooters and feet on their school journeys. Well done to children for your hard work. Call **02087417138** to book your FREE KS2 programme.

NEW! John Lyon's funded Tri-Borough Outdoor Learning Project. Watch this space for more discovery trails, numeracy and literacy sessions and cross-curricular programme for schools across the Tri-Borough region.

and finally ...many thanks for all the enthusiastic walkers who came and joined us for some lovely walks in in Barnes,

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