Mulberry School for Girls is committed to working with parents and the local community around the school. We recognise how important you are to the life of the school and the success of our students.

The aim of this newsletter is to let you know about the Community activities that took place at school between April and July 2009 and give you information regarding the new opportunities for the Autumn term beginning 5th October 2009.

Contact us:
Please contact Sabina Khan
skhan@mulberry.towerhamlets.sch.uk
07983696730
pennyc@mulberry.towerhamlets.sch.uk
ks Stevenson@mulberry.towerhamlets.sch.uk
School: 020 7790 6327
Richard Street
Commercial Road
London E1 2JP

Penny Constantinou
20th June 2009, the Big Day, Mulberry Community Day, had finally arrived! The preparations behind the scenes for the last three months have come to an end. Over 1,700 Tower Hamlets residents turned out for a fantastic free fun day at Mulberry. Over sixty organisations attended either giving information or sharing their skills with members of the community.

There was: a bouncy castle, candy floss, and a clown for the children; competitive sport activities, flower arrangement, fruit carving and some delicious food. There was an array of local professional entertainers who were invited to perform on stage; and local school groups also performed their various dance and songs. Cllr Abdul Asad, Lead Member for Children, Schools and Families at Tower Hamlets Council said: “Events like this are a great way of bringing the community together, and letting our residents know about the many exciting activities on offer through our Extended Services team. They provide a great service, and there really is something for everyone – giving Tower Hamlets families lots of opportunities to play, exercise and learn together.”

New Courses: Weekday Activities

Passport to Learning
Building Skills and Confidence Course
by Rukshana Amir

The course was extremely helpful, giving us the opportunity to think about the way we live, our future and making us realise that it is important to spend quality time with our families. During the 4 weeks we learnt how to improve ourselves socially and use the talents we have in a more positive way. I would be very happy to do the 10 week course if it is offered.

Volunteering in Your Child’s School
by Aysha Chowdhury

I attended this 4 week course which I found very useful as it helped me become aware of how to present myself. It gave me the confidence to speak up among other people and showed me how to succeed if I want to become a volunteer. I would certainly consider this as I am interested in working with the community.

Open University Courses

There have been introductions to Open University taster courses. These were: Understanding Children, Understanding Society and Understanding Health. There were also Starting with Maths, Starting with Psychology and Starting with Law. These taster courses were successful introductions to interesting subject areas which the participating mothers found very valuable and enjoyable.

Daytime Adult Classes

We have also continued with ESOL, ICT, International Cooking, Yoga and Keep Fit classes which have been extremely successful. The mothers attending these courses have enjoyed and continued learning from their tutors as well as from each other.

The Future

Please complete the enclosed enrolment form if you would like to join these excellent new courses. Forms should be returned to Mulberry School main reception.

Working in Partnership with Parents September 2009

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Celebrations and Trips:

Parent Celebration

by Saman Begum

A Parent Celebration Evening took place on 17th June 4.00 - 6.00pm. It was a great opportunity for all the mothers who have attended the adult courses throughout the year to meet with each other informally. Mothers received a certificate for their achievements in lessons and their efforts to attend the classes; they enjoyed the Bollywood dance performed by Key Stage 3 girls from the Bollywood Dance Club run by Shalma; and a free raffle was drawn where five lucky winners went home with a prize which put a smile on their faces. Everybody enjoyed an afternoon tea and some dancing. We all appreciated all the hard work that everyone put into organising the Parent Celebration Evening for us.

Kew Gardens

On 14th May a group of mothers/carers made their way to Whitechapel Tube station from where they took the district line all the way to Kew Garden station. As they were walking towards Royal Botanic Gardens they spotted the famous dynastic duo, Ant and Uuc in a coffee shop. Inside the Gardens they enjoyed the different plant houses, admiring the various beautiful greenery, each with their individual sweet smelling flowers. After a calm packed lunch by the lake, they admired the views from the Treetop walkway. The mothers said that this has given them the confidence to make the trip with their families again.

Edinbugh University

by Morlon Khanom

On 20th June at 6.30 in the morning nine excited mothers with their daughters including myself, met Keita, Penny and Sabina at Whitechapel Station on our way to the Harry Potter Station. From there we travelled on the 8.00 o’ clock train to Edinburgh. The journey was one of the most beautiful I have ever seen with the green countryside all the way. Once there we visited the University, covering a very large area with lots of buildings. We were shown around by a very friendly student who is training to be an RS teacher. I was very impressed and if my daughter is lucky enough to be offered a place there I would be very happy. We all enjoyed seeing a new city and the time we spent with our daughters, as at home we cannot do this due to other pressures. We all want to thank Mulberry for giving us the opportunity to have such a different experience.

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Activities and Information Sessions:

Adult Learning Activities

The Family Learning classes have been very popular and there was a huge response from parents. The parents have been attending regularly and have learnt new skills. Creche facilities for these after school Family Learning classes have been successfully growing and the children have been encouraged to play and take part in different activities which they enjoyed enormously.

Fruit Carving

The most popular of all our afternoon classes has been Fruit Carving where mothers learnt to carve fruit and vegetables, turning them into beautiful display pieces which they proudly took home to show their families.

Men’s Computer and Badminton class

Every Thursday evening 4-6 pm Mulberry fathers attended the computer class where they learnt about hardware and software applications. The Men’s badminton class also continued with a big success. Next year we hope to have a Men’s football club.

Yoga, Keep Fit and Aerobics

These classes gave the community an opportunity to come and participate in a healthy regime. They all enjoyed being active together and benefitting from a more active lifestyle.

Jewellery Class

On Saturdays mothers and daughters attended Mulberry school where they learnt jewellery making skills. They enjoyed working together and produced beautiful pieces for themselves. Thank you to Claire Hart for her inspiration and hard work.

Calligraphy

The Calligraphy class has been engaging and inspiring families. The mothers have learnt about the history of Arabic language designs and enjoyed producing these using delicate techniques.

Arabic Language

In just seven weeks the mothers who attended the course were able to pick up words and phrases. This was achieved through their sheer determination. It has increased their confidence in language acquisition and help build up their language knowledge.

Child and Emergency First Aid

Graham Garforth delivered two courses of three weeks each to members from the local community. Here they learnt valuable First Aid techniques which will last them a life time.

Parent Information Sessions:

Year 7 Parents HPV

On 13th May Year 7 Parents attended a HPV (Human Papil-lomavirus Virus) information session where Glyn Buckmaster (inclusion coordinator) with a National Health Trust professional, Annie Bruce, informed them about the need for immunisation as a preventative measure against cervical cancer.

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Transitions /workshops

From May to July a number of events took place involving the parents of our new Year 7 who were invited in small groups to meet each other and to ask questions and meet key mem-

bers of staff such as the head teachers, police officer and Year 7 tutors. One father thought that these sessions were “very informative and a valuable opportunity to meet the teachers.” He said that this “was a good way to understand the inner workings of the school.”

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