

# A VICTORIAN MISCELLANY OF MONTESSORI MUSIC AND MERRIMENT

This year's school production certainly lived up to its title; there was plenty of music, more than a little merriment and it was undeniably a miscellany. The audience at the Y Theatre, who were family and friends of the school, were entertained with poems, sketches, singing and even some rapping.

The evening began with the awards ceremony, to reward the achievements of the students. Pat Howard, the Leicester

Tigers' coach was the celebrity guest for the evening, handing out awards for accomplishments like 'Sportsperson of the year' and the 'Laura Godby Cup', among others.

After a short break, the second part of the evening began. Mr John and Mr Topley started the medley off with their usual banter and jokes, followed by Year 4 with an amusing sketch called 'Humbugs'. Dhruv Chudasama played a patient shop keeper who had

to deal with many exasperating customers. Year 8 were next with a selection of poems. A modern twist on a traditional tale was next with Year 5 performing 'Beans Talk Rap'. The Sixth Form pupils were on next to sing a song from the musical, 'Annie'. Mrs Lauriston, the Head Teacher of the Sixth Form even made an appearance as Miss Hannigan. The traditional Dickens tale, 'A Christmas Carol', was reproduced by Year 6 with Aaron Pike as the formidable Scrooge. One of

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# Montessori Corner

## CHILDREN AS TEACHERS

In 'The Absorbent Mind' Maria Montessori says, "the first essential for the child's development is concentration." Concentration stems from the child's own psychic needs being met by the attraction of the outside environment.

Interaction with other people gives the child the ability to see himself through the eyes of others. There is a profound rhythm to the first communications that occur between mother and child.

At first these attempts are purely intuitive, starting with primitive eye contacts and then increasingly moving on to vocalisations. The rhythm of 'turn-taking' begins with all the fun of shared attention and intention. Then the child begins to react to objects within the environment and the adult becomes a partner in his exploration of those objects. The child starts to use gestures to communicate and those gestures become symbols when both partners understand the meaning.

The first relationship between child and carer is an extraordinarily rich and important one. A young baby needs to be in the midst of an active person's life, in close physical contact and with a constant supply of new experiences. The cues that the young child receives from the environment are those on which he builds an image of himself and others.

The object of the child's activities is always to achieve a state of self-reliance. Throughout his early years, however, he must rely on

others to provide him with the environment and experiences that will help him to master increasingly more complex tasks. There are the needs for the child to be independent and his need of others to achieve this independence.

The young child has an innate curiosity and need to interact with others. Meaning making is the activity that connects his human intelligence with reality and such meaning making is embedded within the social context provided for him by his culture. Play provides a deep structure within which the child is safe to explore. The child has an innate desire to explore

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the environment and an enormous capacity for learning. What he needs from his environment is to be provided by a range of interesting, challenging activities with which he can be involved. If the environment is carefully structured it will have within it objects that immediately attract the child's attention.

Sometimes, however, it is involvement of more experienced others that spurs the child on to master his or her activities. Adults frequently do not intuitively understand the play scripts of children in the way that other children might. Montessori recognised this fact, talking of the 'natural mental osmosis' that occurs between children. Very often therefore, the best teachers of children are their peers, or children slightly older than themselves. Young children are naturally drawn to the activities of other children. "All the older ones become heroes and teachers, and the tinies are their admirers. These look to the former for inspiration, then go on with their work." – Montessori 1959.

*Mrs Bailey (Head Teacher)*

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the most amusing sketches in the show was 'A Victorian Schoolroom', which involved Mr Topley and Year 3 as a particularly naughty class of Victorian school children. Next was another famous musical, 'Oliver', performed by Year 6/7. They successfully managed to tell the Charles Dickens' story in just 15 minutes, complete with Oliver's (played by Arrondeep Sunner) dismissal from the orphanage and his encounter with Fagin (played by John

Fry). The show ended with 'A Vignette of Victorian Variety' from Year 9 – an assortment of sketches to leave the audience on a high note. Tom, Adam and Shamir were three tramps with a story to tell and Gurjoat, Dhruve and Zunaid narrated the Marriott Edgar poem, 'Albert and the Lion'. Ben, Saul, Joshua and Lydia wowed the audience with their amazing mind-reading skills in 'Psychic Sid', and Deanna, Shamir, Ammar, Ravi and Rathi acted

out a mini Victorian melodrama. The final sketch was Ben, Saul, Tom and Adam performing a re-enactment of the famous Monty Python 'Parrot Sketch'.

No Leicester Montessori School production would be complete without the final song and this year's finale was a rendition of, 'Don't Dilly Dally (My Old Man)' to neatly draw 2005s 'Victorian Miscellany of Montessori Music and Merriment' to a close.

# Nursery & Prep News

## FILBERT FOX

The Leicester City Football Club mascot, Filbert Fox has been turning up in our nurseries quite a bit in the last few months. He played with the children outside in the garden and the children had the chance to show off their football skills and show Filbert around their garden toys. In the last few months he has visited Stoneygate, Liberty, Syston and Loughborough Road Nurseries with the aim of entertaining the children as well as promoting the Junior Foxes at Leicester City FC.



Children at Stoneygate Nursery with Filbert Fox

## CHILDREN IN NEED 05

The theme of 2005s Children in Need fundraising was 'Be who you want to be' and as ever, the nurseries got involved and raised a lot of money. Most of the units let children and staff pay £1 to come in non-uniform in the selected theme. As well as the usual activities, Loughborough Road Nursery sold Pudsey balloons and badges and had a raffle. Wigston Nursery also had a raffle as well as a competition to guess the bear's name. Syston Nursery even had a Pudsey disco.



From top: Lottie Reedman (Hucknall), Amy Smith (Hucknall), Zoe Alvey (Hucknall), Loughborough Road Nursery Children

## JACK & THE BEANSTALK

Back in August, Loughborough Road Nursery children presented a production of their favourite story, 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. All parents were invited to watch the show and sales from tickets went to the local charity, Wishes 4 Kids. Everyone had a wonderful time watching the Pre-Montessori children perform and the children themselves thoroughly enjoyed it too. A total of £200 was raised, which is fantastic.

# Christmas Celebrations

## CHRISTMAS AT LEICESTER MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Here are a few photos to show what the Nursery, Preparatory School and Upper Preparatory School children were doing in the run up to Christmas. Baby Unit held a Nativity play; Stoneygate Nursery enjoyed taking part in a Christmas pantomime; Liberty House Nursery were busy with their Christmas dinner and Christmas party; Loughborough Road Nursery had a carol concert as well as their production of 'The Wizard of Oz'; Mickleover Nursery children enjoyed a Christmas party complete with party games and Santa; Syston Nursery had a Christmas carol concert for parents; Hucknall Nursery had Christmas and Hanukkah celebrations this year; the Preparatory School held a Nativity play; and the Upper Preparatory children at the Grammar School held a Christmas play called 'The Scarecrow's Christmas'.



Dillon Manik and Dylan Chauhan from Loughborough Road Nursery in 'The Wizard of Oz'



Dylan Sahota and Alexander Pickering pulling crackers at Stoneygate Nursery



Baby Unit Nativity Play



Preparatory School Nativity Play



Upper Preparatory Children in 'The Scarecrow's Christmas'

# Grammar School

## SECOND HAND UNIFORM

The school shop sells a selection of good quality second hand uniform, including blazers, cricket whites and 'tae kwon do' equipment. They are asking for parents to bring in any items, which their child has grown out of. All you need to do is hand them into the school office with a request for the amount of money, which you wish the goods to be sold for then leave the rest to them.

Mr Cheney equally operates a football boots swapping facility, if your child has grown out of their boots. Take in the old ones and see if they have a spare pair to swap with.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Grammar School held its Harvest Festival on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October. All the students and staff brought in packet and tinned food, which was distributed to the families and elderly people who need it in their local area. The guest speaker in assembly was the Rev. Sharp who is a parent at the school. She gave the children a delightful talk about fruit & vegetables and how they represent parts of the human body. It was certainly food for thought!

## THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005, the staff and students of the Leicester Montessori Grammar School participated in the world's biggest coffee morning. This was to support The Macmillan's Cancer Trust. Every penny raised will help people living with cancer to get the practical and emotional support they want and need. They raised a grand total £190 and would like to thank Mrs Munro for organising the event and also to the parents who came and supported it.

## NEW HOUSE CAPTAINS

The following students have been elected as the house captains for 2005/2006 they are;

### Chantry

Joshua Bailey & Deanna Dayah

### Beaumont

Rathi Pabari & Tom Brierley

### Skeffington

Adam Gask & Ravi Patel

### Tudor

Gurjoat Kareer & Lydia Simmons

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council meets twice a month and is made up of one student from each Grammar School class as well as three teachers. The students and staff discuss various issues, which they would like to resolve in the school. The latest requests have been to extend the playground facilities and to arrange some more inter-house competitions, not just sporting events. The first one was the revival of the inter-house general knowledge competition, which took place on 4<sup>th</sup> November and was won by Chantry.

# Sixth Form

## GCSE & A LEVELS

**B**y the time students leave the Sixth Form College, they will have grown in academic ability, social maturity and confidence. The aim is that students leave with confidence that their next choice is right for them, and qualified to take full advantage of each opportunity that is presented to them.

The School's reward is the delight they feel when students get good results. This was certainly the case this summer, when every GCSE student achieved five or more grades A to C and the A Level students achieved a 98% pass rate. The School are extremely proud of their students' achievements and at their subsequent success at university and beyond. All the A Level students gained their first place at university, with Rupal Patel and Kieran Dayah gaining medical school places at Manchester University and the University of Leicester respectively.

## FUNDRAISING FUN

**I**t hasn't been 'all work and no play' at the Sixth Form. On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October, students paid a small donation in aid of 'Breast cancer awareness month' to come to school in pink. Even the male students entered into the spirit of things with imaginative ways to be 'in the pink' and help raise around £150. Then on 'Children in Need' day, students again enjoyed a non-uniform day, in addition to taking over the kitchen and producing a mouth-watering selection of cakes which were sold to staff and students to help raise just over £200. An impressive effort and very much enjoyed by everyone who took part.



Left to right. Harpreet Sunner, Amar Bathia, Nikesh Patel, Vedang Tank, Amy Cooper

## ARMY DEVELOPMENT DAY

**O**n a freezing cold day in November, students from years 12 and 13 of the Sixth Form College went on a Personal Development Day with the Army. The 30 Signal Regiment arranged the day that was held on University of Leicester playing fields. Students took part in team building exercises like making a tower from lego and building a bridge. But on the downside, they had to do sit-ups and running if they didn't listen to instructions. All the students enjoyed the day, "It was freezing but a brilliant experience."



Left to right. Mohammed Suleman, Avni Vyas, Sonia Toor and Arrandeep Dhesi

## HOUSE TOURNAMENT

The Annual House Football Tournament was played at the University of Leicester playing fields on a freezing cold Thursday afternoon in November. All four teams were ready to compete and earn valuable house points in their quest for the House Shield. As it has been for the last four years, the pace was set by Beaumont winning their first two games and looking likely to add a fifth title to their tally. With only Tudor standing in their way this game was a 'winner takes all' and was a thrilling spectacle. With play swinging from end to end, minutes left and the score at nil-nil, Tudor were awarded a penalty and the chance to take the tournament. But the chance was missed resulting in the tournament trophy going to Beaumont.

	<i>Pld</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Pts</i>
Beaumont	3	2	1	0	7
Tudor	3	1	2	0	5
Skeffington	3	1	0	2	3
Chantry	3	0	1	2	1

## FOOTBALL

The annual seven-a-side tournament for the under-10 and under-11 Grammar School teams was a great success for Leicester Montessori School. After reaching the final stages, they only just failed to qualify for the final which, had they won, would have seen them represent the East Midlands in the final. Well done to all the students who took part.

<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>
<b>Under 11 League</b>	
Montessori 0	Richard Hill 1
Glenfield 3	Montessori 2
Montessori 5	Sparkenhoe 0
Forest Lodge 0	Montessori 0
Montessori 0	Forest Lodge 0
St Johns 2	Montessori 3
<b>Under 10 Billing Cup</b>	
Whitehall 0	Montessori 1
Willowbrook 2	Montessori 2
Coleman 2	Montessori 1

## LEICESTER CITY FC VISIT

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October, the year two and three football team at the Grammar School were invited to the indoor dome at Leicester City Football Club. They took part in some fun and games with Willowbrook School and played some small-sided games.

Top row: L-R Shiv Patel, Jamal Pinsent-Heskey, Vinay Patel, Francis Gurman, Joseph Gurman  
 Front row: Mehr Sethi, Dillon Patel, Jessica Seaton, Micah Pinsent-Heskey, Deyal Gill

