

THE LINK

St Michael's Catholic
School

John Felton Road
London SE16 4UN

Tel: 020 7237 6432

www.stmichaelschool.org.uk
contact@stmichaelschool.org.uk

A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils,
parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic School

Issue 17 - 16th December 2009



St Michael's Christmas Concert.

I am convinced that music really is the universal language of beauty which can bring together all people of goodwill on earth'. Pope Benedict XVI

Our Christmas celebrations got off to an uplifting start on Thursday night at the Christmas concert. The beautiful singing of the choir and the orchestra's performance certainly generated plenty of goodwill.

Particular highlights for our reviewer? Well, the choir and band's performance of 'Silent Night' was lovely. What made this particularly special was that the first verse was sung beautifully for us in Polish. Christmas Canon Rock by the choir and the year 10 GCSE ensemble was an awe inspiring version of Pachelbel. The Samba band had everyone nodding in time, the virtuoso piano performances – with special guest Ogbaoma Awala had us listening in wonder. Empire State of Mind was a multi media performance – we watched impressively choreographed dance while Lawrence Boahen rapped for us. Not only that, we were given cards, illustrated with an image of New York – created by the Art department and various pupils. The World's Greatest, was my personal favourite though – watching the sheer joy in singing shown by various members of the choir.

The Fire Poet

(By Daniel Mota 7S)



On Friday the 27 of November a famous poet called Philip Wells who calls himself the Fire Poet came to St Michael's School.

We had an assembly and he talked all about his career and he recited some of his poems. He also showed his amazing skills of improvisation. His poems had a high speed and quick rhythm. Also he would pick from the audience to tell him a word and he would make an entire poem from those three words e.g. ice, fish, banana. They would rhyme as well! After the assembly he visited all the Yr 7 classes and helped us make an amazing word. We took one syllable from three words e.g. Triceratops, banana, three. We then combined them to make a new word e.g. Reebatops. We had to shout it out loud and make a gesture with our hands. Next we had to think what our hands might be doing and write a poem about it. It was so fun and enjoyable. Try it for yourself! Here's mine.

I have found the triumphant fighter
And the infinite lighter
Or a super warrior
A blast of fists pushing you
Into a dimension of nothing at all.

Destroy the time
Distort the space
Clash the dimensions
For a whole new world
Do not betray the Creator of all



Find the power and erode the wall
Fuse the power
Of time and space
Go beyond creation
And unleash the Reebatops
Out of the world of imagination
Let spirit be no more
Banish emotions
Destroy willpower
And Crush Intelligence
All will end
And all will begin.



Youth Club Christmas Special— Aladdin.

Some of you may know that each year Youth Club hold a Christmas Special. This year we went to the Theatre Royal in Stratford to see Aladdin. The pantomime was fantastic from my point of view. The show was good fun and we all enjoyed it. Aladdin was written by Trish Cooke and the music was by Robert Hyman. The pantomime followed the fairytale of Aladdin but it had a bit of a twist. It included break-dancing, singing and interaction with the audience. The main characters were of course Aladdin, Princess Jasmine and Abanazar.

In this production Aladdin is a lazy boy that disobeys his mother, Princess Jasmine doesn't want to find love and get married instead she wants to be a truck driver and Abanazar is not as mean as the character in Aladdin the Movie. The story is about a school boy named Aladdin who lives in a little

hut with his mum, window Twanky. Sadly his dad, Willy, died when Aladdin was young. He has just finished school and looking for a job. He soon finds out that the princess is coming and no-one is allowed to look at her but Aladdin obviously has to break this rule. Their eyes meet and soon they realise they're in love. Isn't that nice? That's not the end.

Aladdin soon meets his 'uncle' who is really Abanazar and soon they set out to find the lamp. Of course Aladdin gets stuck, keeps the lamp and uses all three wishes for himself. The first wish was to get himself out of the tomb, his second was for money and food. His third and final wish was to become a Prince (Prince Sebastian) so that he could marry Princess Jasmine.

In the end Jasmine finally finds out that Prince Sebastian is actually Aladdin, but I won't tell you the rest—if you want to find out you will just have to see if yourself.

Finally, St Michael's won a singing competition against St Mary's and everybody else in the theatre, which proves we're pure winners.

After we came back to school we were all tired but it was worth it.

Next time
you should
come along
too.

Antonia
Krupa 8S





Year 9 & 10 Retreat

Year 10 and a few of year 9 went to St. Vincent’s Centre, Whitstable at the end of November this year. Again it was the first time that this year group had been given an opportunity to experience a residential retreat. They were very well behaved though some were quite unwell with colds and headaches. They still battled on and took up all the challenges offered to them. Here are some of their comments.

‘When I was on the way there to the retreat by coach I was quite excited about it because I thought it could be an experience of a lifetime. The journey was long but I would like to go again because the food was delicious, the people were polite and there were enjoyable activities to do. I achieved quite a lot. The beach was not what I expected but all in all I would like to visit the youth centre again.’

‘Wicked, awesome fun time- I liked the team there.’

‘I liked the activities, the beach and the bowling.’

‘I liked that we stayed up late.’



CONGRATULATIONS!



Eight tough rounds were on subjects like, maths, Southwark then and now, sport and events in 2009.

Captain Charlie Beales, fourteen, praised his team-mates for their winning streak.

He said: “The team is great. We win every year.”

Noel Onuoha, thirteen, said: “I don’t want to brag, but I knew we would win. I just had a feeling.” While Omar Shehata, eleven, said his favourite round was sport and leisure.

St Michael’s deputy headteacher, John Buckley, told the ‘News’ that pupils should be proud of their achievements, rather than shy away from success. The quiz, for designated gifted and talented pupils was won by St Michael’s Catholic

Southwark Schools’ Quiz

(as reported in the Southwark News on Thursday 3rd December 2009)

Bermondsey Bright Sparks trounced schools from all over the borough for the fourth year running last week.

In front of a packed crowd of family and friends, the pupils from St Michael’s saw off their nearest rivals by more than 30 points in the tense quiz final.

Kingsdale School in Dulwich took second, the hosts, City of London Academy in Bermondsey, came in third.

Morgan Mitchell said: The day of the quiz finally arrived—all the hard work put in over the past months would now be put to the test and everyone’s nerves would be put to the test. I, however, sorted these through a whole pack of jelly beans. The quiz lasted a gruelling 2 hours with a total of 8 rounds, ranging from maths & science to history and geography (time and place). However, this year there was a slight twist—it wasn’t just an ordinary general knowledge quiz there were 2 different rounds called ‘brainteasers’ and ‘wordplay’.

The tension and suspense was finally released when the final scores were revealed and we were 1st. Yes, we’d won. The crowd went wild (literally) and I think the whole team breathed a big sigh of relieve. That was it done.....until next year!



The Chaplain’s Corner:

Lord Jesus, by your grace and mercy and wisdom, may we grow and build ourselves up in love and give witness to your goodness, your truth and your beauty. Amen

A Blessing

May the Lord help us to live each moment as his gift as we await his glorious coming when he will bring us to our joyful fulfilment.

Amen

VACANCY FOR A PARENT/ GOVERNOR
 St. Michael’s currently has a vacancy for a Parent/Governor.
 If you are interested in becoming a governor and would like more information please contact Mrs Ferguson c/o

ATTENDANCE FIGURES	
30/11/09 - 11/12/09	
Year	%
7	93.6
8	89.9
9	89.3
10	88.3
11	92.3
Whole School	90.6



‘Direct parent access to school via e mail’
parentemail@stmichaelschool.org.uk

DROP IN CENTRE
 If you have any concerns about your child please ‘drop in’ to speak to Mrs Carr.
 Every Thursday between 10—11 a.m.
 We offer advice and support on attendance or other related issues.