

8th May 2009

Issue 8/09

DELIGHTED BUT NOT SATISFIED

Thank you to the 100 parents who completed our second survey of 2008-9, we were particularly grateful to the 30 parents who took time to provide comments - we will be responding directly where contact details have been given. We are delighted with the overwhelmingly positive responses and the improvements since survey 1, but this does not mean we are satisfied and we will be using the results of this survey to drive further improvement.

Improved assessment (where we are taking a regional and national lead) and a more robust use of our behaviour management system (dealing firmly with repeat offenders) have led to improvements in many aspects of the Governors' Vision. We have been using "Gold Friday" to keep parents better informed about the work of Governors and to improve parents' understanding of our leadership structure.

The survey indicates that parents want more help and opportunities to become involved in their child's learning. We will be discussing this at the next Parents' Voice meeting. If you have any ideas please attend the meeting or let us know.

You will find a more detailed summary of Survey 2 on the school website at www.rattonschool.co.uk

David Linsell, Headteacher

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Is it Gala Time?

Very nearly! This year's concert promises to be a fantastic medley of choirs, orchestras (including our year 7's Opening Minds orchestra), Jazz, World Music, Stomp, Musical Theatre, and Dance plus various ensemble pieces and solos. This (our 21st) Gala Concert takes place at the Congress Theatre on Sunday 31st May. Tickets are on sale now from Eastbourne Theatres box office on 01323 421000, £8.50 for adults, £7 children and seniors. Containing something for all tastes and showcasing the abundance of talent Ratton students & staff have - you really should be there!

What should replace the Tank?

As you may be aware the Centurion MkIII tank, which has been at the Redoubt since 1990, has now gone to a new home for much needed restoration. The Council are now interested in what local people (young and old) think should happen next. It takes just 30 seconds to vote on line via <http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/leisure/museums-galleries/redoubt/replace-the-tank/>. You can vote for a flower bed, a grass bank, a new military vehicle or make a suggestion of your own. I urge you all to vote and have your say.

Any budding photographers out there?

The international Environmental Photographer of the Year competition seeks to honour photographers who use their ability to raise awareness of environmental and social issues. The competition categories include: climate change, sustainable development, quality of life, the natural world and the Young Environmental Photographer of the Year for under 21s. Winners will receive cash awards of up to £1000 and their images will be exhibited around the world during the year, starting at the awards ceremony in October in London. The competition closes at 5pm on 31st July 2009. Find out more - http://www.ciwem.org/arts/photographer/epoty_competition_2009.asp

Are you a trend setter?

There is currently some potential funding available for a fashion/textiles group at Ratton School. I know we have some very keen students out there so I will be hosting a meeting at break time on **Wednesday 13th May in room 219** to work out how we should proceed. Just turn up, or if you can't make it, get in touch with me at m.wells@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk

Miz Wells, Arts Development Officer

IMPORTANT REMINDER...

Don't forget, the next meeting of Parent Voice is being held on Thursday May 14th at 6.30pm in the Dance Studio. The meeting will last one hour and is an open invitation to parents to come along and raise any topics you wish.

'WHETTON' SCHOOL!

Filming has been great fun, and very successful, so thanks to all our wonderful students - we're all eagerly looking forward to seeing the finished product!

GOVERNOR MATTERS

THE CRUCIBLE

What a splendid production it was! Congratulations to Mr Stocker, the students, and everyone else involved. When I heard they were tackling Arthur Miller's difficult play - witchcraft in the 17th century - I wondered if they would pull it off. It took five months of dedication and commitment to study the play and learn the words - however, it was well worth the wait! We had 3½ hours of absolutely riveting performances, and the entire audience was amazed with the fantastic standard achieved.

The students and Mr Stocker have every reason to be very proud of themselves and we were privileged to be there.

Joan Williams
Vice-Chair of Governors

COULD YOU BE OUR NEW PARENT GOVERNOR?

We are looking for a new parent governor to serve on the governing body. If you are interested or would like to find out more details we would love to hear from you - please contact Mrs Murphy (Clerk to the Governors) at a.murphy@ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk or by phone on 01323 504011 ext 236

MAKE WAVES & SAVE LIVES SWIM fresh2o CHALLENGE

fresh2o is a unique charity initiative founded by Oscar-winning photographer Candice and based locally in Hadlow Down, East Sussex, to raise awareness and funds to enable access to safe and clean water globally. Candice photographs modern icons underwater to create a unique photographic campaign to raise the media profile of the charity and communicate a vital message. It has attracted support from celebrities such as Keira Knightley, Kelly Brook, Natalie Imbruglia, Lewis Hamilton and Will Smith to name but a few, and is now running a national swimathon being supported by Olympic superstar Rebecca Adlington and champion swimmer Mark Foster. The challenge can be completed in any pool at any time between now and 31st May, and anyone can take part from club and competitive participants to fun and charity swimmers. Participants can swim as an individual or as a team and there are some fabulous prizes on offer for the top fundraisers.

Please take a look at their website www.fresh2o.org for more information.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<u>Tuesday 12th May</u> Governors' Meeting (Development Committee)	7.30pm
<u>Thursday 14th May</u> Parent Voice	6.30-7.30
<u>Tuesday 19th May</u> Governors' Meeting (Staffing (Pay) Committee)	5pm
<u>Friday 22nd May</u> Last day of term 5	

SCHOOL HOLIDAY 25-29TH MAY
TERM 6 BEGINS MONDAY 1ST JUNE

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to our highest achieving students whose hard work and commitment we are proud to recognise -

Week ended 20th April

Michaela Message, Jessica Davis, Summer Donnachie, Eric Barrell, Heledd Evans, Jamie Russell-White, Megan Dennis, Ashley Hilton, Elin Pugh and Rosalie Hide

Week ended 1st May

Michaela Message, Jessica Davis, Megan Dennis, Heledd Evans, Jamie Russell-White, Eric Barrell, Ashley Hilton, Summer Donnachie, Elin Pugh and Aidan Pittman

DANCE EVENING

We are having a Dance evening on Wednesday 20th May in the Dance studio starting at 6.30pm.



It is to showcase GCSE and Gifted & Talented Dance, and parents of those involved will be invited to attend.