



Dear Parent(s)

SHOE BOX APPEAL

You still have time to send in your shoe boxes for our annual 'Operation Christmas Child' appeal as the final collection day is **Monday, 1 December**; Archbishop Blanch School is the last collection in the City. We always have such a tremendous response from our school community and every year has managed to break the record of our previous year;  sadly this year the number of boxes is down. This weekend is an ideal time for girls to collect their goods and pack the shoe boxes ready to bring in on Monday.

CAROL SERVICE TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER

Our annual Carol Service will be held on Tuesday, 16 December at 7.00 pm in the Liverpool Cathedral. This is a compulsory event for all non-Muslim students. Pupils are to be seated by 6.45 pm at the latest. All parents and friends are welcome to this family service, which usually finishes around 8.15 pm. On this occasion there will be no car parking charges at the Cathedral.

School will close at 12.30 pm on the afternoon of Tuesday, 16 December to all except our Muslim students, who will be in school for instruction from a Representative of the Muslim Community. A sandwich lunch will be available for Muslim pupils on 16 December if this has been booked prior to the event through Mrs McElhinney-Samson. Any pupils who usually receive free school meals may order a sandwich if they wish; again please see Mrs McElhinney-Samson as soon as possible.

Please note that both the 600 and 646 buses are available at the early finish time of 12.30 pm on 16 December.

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE

YEAR 10 PARENTS' MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER

School will close at 3.00 pm to accommodate this event. Could you please make arrangements for your daughter to leave school at this earlier finish time. The 600 bus will be available at 3.00 pm but not the 646. The 646 bus will arrive at its usual time and any pupil wishing to catch this bus can stay in Homework Club (held in the Careers Room) until the bus arrives.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Canteen will be serving their Christmas Lunch on Wednesday, 10 December. We will be treated to a traditional Christmas dinner and pudding for the price of £2.50. There will also be a vegetarian option. Tickets should be purchased in advance from the Dining Hall.

ART ATTACK!

Year 8 girls enjoyed an exciting day this week working with the much-loved Art Attack presenter, Neil Buchanan on a Disney promotional project for the film, 'Wall.e'. This family film raises thoughtful issues about recycling and caring for the environment. Ten ABS girls, accompanied by Miss Ellie Jones, were chosen by the Art and Drama departments to spend the day at Otterspool working with Neil and using recycled materials to create their own collage of the film's animated character, 'Wall.e'. The girls were interviewed by BBC and appeared on local news that evening. They also received a master class and signed photos from Neil. Well done to the following girls for being so enthusiastic on such a cold day!

Helena Blundell, Alice Brazier, Riana Burton,
Stevie-Leigh Doyle, Eryn Erving, Bethany
Hamilton, Rachael McGanity, Faye Murphy,
Yasmin Ramos and Rebecca Whittle.

We have received complimentary messages on the behaviour and eagerness of our girls from the Everyman Theatre (co-ordinators of the event), Disney and Neil Buchanan himself.

POETRY OF PLACE COMPETITION

Joanne Bartels and Sophie Dickenson from Year 9 attended a lovely awards ceremony in the Royal Liver Building on Tuesday, 18 November. As finalists, they were presented with prizes and certificates by Steve Burnett of the Royal Liver Insurance Company and were commended on the quality of their poems. These can still be viewed on the Royal Liver website. Mrs Harmsworth also attended and came third in the teachers' poetry competition with her poem 'Cycling to Work'.

SKILLS CLUB

I would like to congratulate the ten pupils involved in this event which stretched over a period of 8 weeks and involved regular visits to Jaguar, a visit to Fazakerley Hospital and a special visit to the Police Centre in Mather Avenue. The girls particularly enjoyed this latter visit as they had the opportunity to work with the Police horses and dogs. We have received a wonderful email from Mr D Cassidy, Education Officer at Jaguar/Land Rover, who was the Co-ordinator of the Club. He writes "I don't think they realise just what a special group they were. Their manners, attitude and enthusiasm for everything, coupled with a great sense of fun for everything we did, was like a breath of fresh air." Mr Cassidy went on to thank Mr Jones (Science) and Mrs Tarpey for their commitment and help throughout the programme and that he looked forward to the prospect of working with the school again on a future Skills Club. So my congratulations and thanks go to Naeema Abdisalam, Titilope Adeleke, Joanne Bartels, Rabeeah Cowker, Keisha Drury, Lilly Hann, Olivia Hinnigan, Jess Holland, Meg Hulse and Chloe Willingham. Also special thanks to Mr Jones and Mrs Tarpey for their participation.

GET SMAART!

The latest issue of Smaart Parents Paper (parental engagement and advice) has been published. This free publication has information on applying to university, and features inspirational parents and an interview with the Skills Secretary, John Denham. It is available by registering your details at www.getsmaart.com and clicking PARENTS SECTION and filling in an online request form or by contacting Miss Ellie Jones here at school.

SIXTH FORM PROFILES

Parents of students in the Sixth Form should have received their daughter/son's profile in the post. If you have not already done so, could we please encourage you to return the reply slip as soon as you can to confirm that you have received this safely.

E-MAILING OF NEWSLETTER

Some parents may not be aware that the Head's Newsletter can be sent via email instead of a paper copy. If any parents would like to receive it by e-mail, please contact Linda Bryan in the school office; her email address is bryant@blanch.org.uk.

LORD MAYOR'S CIVIC SERVICE

On Monday of this week, Mrs McElhinney-Samson and Mrs Foulger accompanied a group of our pupils, from Years 7-10, to the Anglican Cathedral for the Lord Mayor's Civic Service for Liverpool's European Capital of Culture 2008. Many local dignitaries attended the service, which included "You'll Never Walk Alone" sung by Gerry Marsden. Thank you to all involved and especially the girls who were a credit to the school.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS RELAY GALA

Congratulations go to Rebecca Friar, Sophie Friar, Eilidh Kinnaird, Jennifer Leith, Kathryn Leith, Jess Stuttard, Katie Wilson and Hannah Young, who competed in the English schools Division 2 Relay Gala on Sunday 23rd November. The event was attended by schools from across Merseyside, Cheshire, Wirral, Lancashire and the Isle of Man and is one of the most prestigious events for school swimming in the area. The junior girls came 4th in the freestyle relay and 3rd in the medley relay. The intermediate girls gained two second places in both the freestyle and medley relays. The girls were true sports women and are great ambassadors for our school. Well done to all.

Also Congratulations to Sophie Friar who recently gained her black belt in Jujitsu

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

P A DISCO: The PA is holding a Disco on Thursday, 4 December, 7.00 - 9.00 pm. The Disco will have a Christmas theme and so girls can get dressed up. Tickets will be on sale at break times for Year 9 on Monday, Year 8 Tuesday and Year 7 on Wednesday. Please note there will be no admittance on the door.