



# SDC - The Week

26 February 2009

## Geographers take a trip to Morocco



15 students accompanied by Mr Atkinson, Mr Lea and Miss Wilson left for Morocco early on Monday morning of half term. After a 4 hour flight, the group arrived in Marrakech where the afternoon was spent investigating

and visiting the new part of the city, developed by the French. In the evening the group visited the famous square and amongst other activities tried some local food produce!

Tuesday was spent investigating various parts of the city, starting with a horse drawn carriage ride, followed by visiting the tanneries and the souks. This continued throughout the day, finishing with the group tasting the local brew of mint tea overlooking the square.

On Wednesday the group headed towards the Atlas Mountains where they spent two nights in one of the most beautiful places in the world. The food was fantastic and it was a real treat to stay up in the mountains. The group studied aspects to do with the local flooding, site and situation of settlements and the various impacts of the tourist industry. They trekked, ate, rode mules, studied, observed beautiful skies, talked and generally relaxed!

The final day was spent traveling back to Marrakech for some final shopping time. A great trip for all, thank you to the staff involved.

## Junior School Book Day

The Junior School thoroughly enjoyed Book Day yesterday. The children dressed up as characters from books and alongside Disney princesses, pirates and magicians were Pippi

Longstockings, Hermiones and Super Heroes. Archie McGillivray dressed as a realistic Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, James Williams as Hercule Poirot, Ben Hull as the aviator Biggles, Peter Robson as Captain Underpants and Matthew McGuniess as a Mini Oxford Dictionary. The teachers joined in the fun too with Mrs Smith coming as Miss Butterpat, Mr Wilkins as Mrs Trunchball, Miss Strachan as Cruella deVil and Madame Smith as The Wicked Witch of the West, complete with green skin!

The author Bernard Ashley visited the Junior School for the morning and spoke to the Pre Prep and the Prep children about how and where he gets his ideas for stories. Mr Ashley read from his books and the children were completely absorbed by his stories. Tim Parkins from Catford Library also visited and after his talk many children joined up for the Lewisham Libraries on the spot. Mr Ashley signed plenty of books and enjoyed talking with the children. Both Mr Ashley and Mr Parkins commented on how much they had enjoyed



the morning and asked when they could come to visit again!

Well done to all the children for working so hard on their costumes. Don't forget to use the Free World Book Tokens at the Book Fair next week.

## History Trip to Poland

The four day tour during February Exeat was led by Mrs Molteni and accompanied by Mr Glavin, Mr Sharp and 32 students from Years 10, 11 and 13.

The trip started off on Monday with some drama as the coach that was supposed to pick the group up was late and so they missed their flight to Krakow. 24 hours later, following a flight to Budapest and a coach ride through Hungary and Slovakia, all arrived safely at the hotel, wearied but full of heightened

expectations of the trip!

On Tuesday, at a later time than stated in the itinerary, the group, led by a NST guide, went on a guided tour of Krakow taking in the Medieval Town square, the wartime Jewish ghetto, the Holocaust memorial and other sites relating to scenes featured in the Steven Spielberg film, "Schindler's List". Later in the afternoon the group stopped at the Galicia museum where they met a concentration camp survivor and had the opportunity to listen to his experience of wartime Poland as well as ask him questions about his imprisonment. The group was genuinely touched by his honesty as well as the amount of time he spent with them.

The third day was spent mainly at Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Here a guide took everyone around the museum, the former extermination camp and the labour camp. To see the scale of the Nazi operation to eliminate groups of people they deemed inferior was mind blowing. The group witnessed artifacts left when the Nazis vacated the place before the Russian army arrived and liberated the camp, and had the opportunity to walk around the site and see the living quarters of those incarcerated there. It was a truly thought provoking and deeply emotional day.

Once the group had returned from Auschwitz they had some spare time in Krakow to visit areas they had not seen as well as spend time to buy souvenirs. However, the weather was not particularly conducive to staying out for long - with snow on the ground and the average temperature being minus 3, so many returned after a while to the warmth of the hotel.

In the evening, the group was taken to a shopping mall where they had some time to go bowling or play in the arcades. The best entertainment, for some, was watching a driver spin and slide around the car park (on purpose!) from the safety of the coach at the end of the night.

Thankfully, the return journey was straightforward apart from the heightened security afforded by the presence of the US Defence Secretary and Air Force One at Krakow airport! By 6pm all had arrived at St Dunstan's College and ready to spend Friday wrapped up in bed for the whole day!

### Prep Instrumental Concert

Laura Packer and Jordan Waugh (5F) report: "On Wednesday 11 February, pupils from Year 3 and Year 5 played in a wonderful Prep Instrumental Concert. There was a selection of instruments performing, such as trumpet, flutes, clarinet and



many violins, violas and pianists. Everybody tried their best and played sensationally well. Well done everyone!"

Honor Kingsnorth (3G): "I was going to the concert to play my violin. As Mr Dickson was about to announce the next person I huddled to Milly because I was so scared it might be me. When it was my turn I was nervous, but not too nervous or scared. When it was over everyone went "aaaah" and when I went to sit down again I couldn't stop smiling. Everybody said I was great and when I got home I got a special piece of mint chocolate and then went straight to bed."

### Year 4 Tudor Day



David Evans reports: "On Tudor Day Richard of York came to tell us about the Tudors. I was dressed as a Tudor prince. The costume

had imitation purple velvet on it and imitation leather. The hat was elasticated and it had shiny gold bits on it. I felt like I was wearing my pyjamas.

I learnt that a man with a rod was always at the front of the Queen's processions. I also learnt that Anne Boleyn had her head chopped off with a sword not an axe and she had to pay for her head to be chopped off out of her own pocket! Richard of York also told me that sometimes Queen Elizabeth had a hall flooded and people got into small boats and acted out the battle of the Spanish Armada. I found these facts very interesting. I enjoyed the dancing because there was so much to do! I really liked the pike drill where the boys pretended they had 5 metre tall pikes. The thing I liked best was playing the harp. Its strings were made of sheep gut.

The Tudor Day really helped my information on Tudors."

### St John's Smith Square Choral and Orchestral Concert

This year's Choral and Orchestral Concert will take place at St John's, Smith Square on Thursday 19 March 2009, at 19.30pm.

The main concerto soloists are Clare Skinner (Year 12) on the flute and Joe Ashmore (Year 13) on the organ. Joe has recently been offered an Organ Scholarship to Pembroke College, Cambridge for September 2009.

Old Dunstonian Eamonn Dougan will again be one of the vocal soloists in the main choral work, along with current singing teacher Heather Hunter and former singing teacher Claire Underwood.

Tickets: £10 (Concessions £6, Family ticket £20 for 2 adults & 1 child). Available from: The Box Office at St John's, Smith Square, Tel: 020 7222 1061, [www.sjss.org.uk](http://www.sjss.org.uk)

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