

Dallington School Newsletter

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www.dallingtonschool.co.uk

Headteacher Mogg Hercules
Deputy Headteacher Vanessa King



The Mogg Blog

How good was Open Evening! I was so very impressed, especially as it has been such a long time since I have walked around the school. It was to everyone's credit, particularly on the part of the staff, that the children's work and the wide-ranging activities they enjoy, were evident in every area. It was great to see past pupils and parents and to meet with parents whose children will be joining us in April or September. The wine and food were good too! Abi's ironed tablecloths and fairy lights were bonuses!

I loved your card, Marcel and, thanks to Luci Evers, I shall have to invest in a coffee table, to show off the wonderful book, on Morandi, which she chose for me. Elvira McElfresh has offered to come round on Thursday, to cook a 'healthy' lunch for me. Must find some rice! Debbie Anness - what a fantastic gardener! She doesn't pull out my violets, mistakenly believing they are weeds.

Kate Constable's card made me do emotion and, as my group knows, I don't ever go there!

Lovely to hear from Gus and Mo Rottenberg and thanks to their mum, Sue, for giving me their low-down.

Sixth and final session on Tuesday! So proud of myself for seeing it through!

Finally - what about this finalists' thingy? Nobody asked me!

Picture of the Week

Painting by Holly Anness-Bradshaw. This term Year 4 are looking at landscape paintings, and perspective. Holly's painting is a copy of The Avenue at Middelharnis, painted in 1689 by Meindert HOBBEEMA.

Mogg Finalist for Teaching Award

For those who haven't heard already, I am delighted to let you know that Mogg is a finalist for **The Tedd Wragg Teaching Award for Lifetime Achievement**.

On Friday 27th March, three judges will visit the school from 9-12am during which time they would like to meet people who will support Mogg's nomination, such as current and ex pupils and parents, governors, colleagues etc...

I shall be creating an agenda for the morning during which there will be a slot for parents to speak in support of Mogg and her work. As I hope you will appreciate, it would be impossible to allow 250 parents to meet with the judges. We shall, therefore, invite a small handful of current parents to support Mogg's nomination and meet with the judges.

Supportive testimonials from those not present can be handed to the judges on the day, but not after. **If you would like to write a few words in support of Mogg's nomination, I would be most grateful. Do email me or bring something to the office before Friday 27th.**

I hope you agree, it's all very exciting!

Thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

Abi



Upcoming Events

- ◆ 26th March - Board of Governors Meeting
- ◆ 27th March 9am-12am - 3 National Teaching Awards judges visit school
- ◆ May - Friends of Dallington Social Night and Auction of Promises at The C & H
- ◆ 25th June - Board of Governors Meeting
- ◆ 9th July - 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' - Wilton's Music Hall.
- ◆ 11th July - Summer Fete
- ◆ 22nd October - Board of Governors Meeting

Red Nose Day

What a success! We raised £250 in total: £133 for noses and £117 for cakes.

Well done to everyone for their amazing cozzies! Abi and Maria-Luisa were particularly impressed with a little nymph, Yasmin Daffodil, who magically appeared, adorned with fresh daffs, a centipede and various other insects... Wonderful!

Special thanks to Megan Davis (Louis Grayson's mum) for her wonderful Lamingtons cake stall. Aussie yumminess at its best!

Car Share

If you would like to post an offer or request to do with Car Share, feel free to email abi@dallingtonschool.co.uk or find her in the office.

Joke of the Week

Q: Why did Captain Hook cross the road?

A: To get to the second hand shop!

Syrie Constable Year3

Recycling

Finally, we have been granted a recycling collection on Thursdays. Hoorah! Unfortunately, it didn't get off to a great start when the normal rubbish collection snaffled all our rubbish bags - both normal and recycling. All this educating the children to recycle seems a little in vain if they don't educate the dustmen! Better luck next week, we hope...

Transition News

Year 1

The children in Year 1 are completely captured by our Dinosaur topic. Every day, a fascinating dinosaur book or toy (such as a robotic dinosaur!) is being brought in from home. Quiet reading time is quite often not so quiet (Rooooarr..) and I am on a seriously steep learning curve to become level with the children's extensive knowledge. It is often a challenge to find information that they don't already know. Next week, we will be going to the Natural History Museum to become Dinosaur Detectives! Have you seen our huge Diplodocus on the staircase?
Claudia

Year 2

Year 2 has been searching for different kinds of fish under the sea. We have found all sorts of strange and wonderful fish! We are getting very good at finding the information ourselves and then writing about what we have discovered.

We have also been working with money over this half term and have got rather good at spending it! Watch out mum and dad!
Kate

Recorder News

Abi is getting a troop of wandering minstrels together to offer an in-house 'Dial a Dallington Minstrel' service for birthdays. Children will be able to call down to the office and request a rendition of Happy Birthday. Members of this talented troop will then arrive in their class on the special day and perform Happy Birthday on their recorders.

Calling all recorder players! Please keep practising as next week, players who can play the tune perfectly, by heart, may be invited to rehearse with our new troop, 'Dial a Dallington Minstrel' ...and we're not talking small round chocolates that melt in your mouth, not in your hand!

Middle School News

WoW Badge Competition

The 3 entries chosen for the WoW badge competition were designed by Jemima Gordon (Year 3), Max Wou-Smith (Year 4) and Marius Sheppard-Skaerved (Year 6).



Abi asked an old friend Jojo, who was a Dallington classmate of hers, to write something to endorse Mogg's award nomination. This is what she wrote...

Jojo Moyes, pupil from 1978-81

Jojo was born in 1969 and was brought up in London. A journalist and writer, she worked for the Independent newspaper for ten years. She has been a full time novelist since 2002.

I was removed from my first primary school abruptly, when my mother arrived to find I had been left, aged 8, teaching the class. That same day she drove me to an independent school that had recently been opened in a tiny side street in the City, with some 20 pupils. We walked in and were greeted by the scent of a hundred hyacinths dotted around the bright, airy classroom. "When would you like to start?" the headteacher, Mogg Hercules, asked me. "Now?" I replied.

The contrasts between the two schools couldn't have been greater. In my first, I had been bullied. For two years I was not allowed to read to my true ability, as it would apparently "disrupt the class". My classmates included M, who never spoke, and B, who rocked violently on his chair for the entire school day. Now, this would be seen as an indication of trauma. Back in the early seventies, it was "just the way they were".

Life at Dallington School, however, was a different matter. For my three years there I felt like part of a secure little family. Mogg was firm but affectionate and, most importantly, inspirational. I don't remember ever wanting to please any teacher as much as I wanted to please her. She had a natural authority, tempered by humour and genuine warmth. It felt less like going to school than some vast, extended family.

A lot of her teaching methods seem mainstream now - down to being allowed to call her by her first name - but then were quite radical. We were encouraged to revel in learning, to explore our creativity. The approach to teaching mixed the traditional with the eccentric - I still remember the egg we incubated which fell down the back of a radiator - and emerged, weeks later, as our class pet: Tandoori, the multi-footed cockerel. We were allowed to grieve Farthing, the guinea pig, as part of our family. Mogg missed nothing. Misbehaviour was not tolerated, but I don't remember her raising her voice. She knew every child personally even as the school doubled, and tripled in size; she never let its relatively small size hamper its pupils' ambitions.

I flourished, grew in confidence, became part of a tightly knit band of friends. Under Mogg's tutelage this weedy little girl from Hackney finally took entry exams for five of the top secondary schools in London - and was offered a place at every one.

Looking back, it was probably the best three years of my childhood. I made friends there I am still in contact with - or still hear about. My classmates have had various degrees of success - although the singer Dido probably takes the prize for outstanding achievement. Every one I have met since has been decent, friendly and doing something that they love, and I can't help thinking that it's no coincidence.

Two of my own children now go to our village state primary, which has a similar atmosphere to that tiny independent school. Hopefully it will give them what Dallington gave me: a place of safety, a love of learning, confidence and friendship. I wish Mogg had been their head teacher.

A big thank you to everyone else who contributed to Mogg's endorsement. We look forward to receiving more testimonials in support of her award nomination.



Not on the mailing list?
email

abi@dallingtonschool.co.uk

Mogg's Facebook

Why not find
Mogg Dallington Hercules
on Facebook and write on her wall!

Don't forget

DVD copies of 'Help! Teach is Coming to Stay' are held in Middle School on a loan basis. Just ask Julius if you want to borrow a copy.

Our 30th Birthday tea towels and eco-friendly shoppers make ideal prezzies, available from the office.

Memory Lane

Abi is still collecting memories of Dallington from ex-pupils, to celebrate 30 years of the School.

If you are in touch with any ex-Dallington pupils, please encourage them to email Abi with their Memory Lane contributions. Thank you!

abi@dallingtonschool.co.uk

The Times - Books for Schools

Please keep up the good work and also keep nagging friends and colleagues!

Many thanks.

Upper Nursery News

Upper Nursery children have enjoyed a busy week cooking. The children made Cheesy Twists and Cheese Biscuits for Open Evening. Both of these were a great success with all the visitors. If you enjoyed either of these delicious nibbles, the recipes are below. On Friday 13th, Red Nose Day, the children in Ambika's group baked red nose buns for all the children in Upper Nursery.

Cheesy twists

150g {6oz} self-raising flour
25g {1oz} butter or margarine
75g {3-4oz} cheese, grated
teaspoon of mustard powder
1 egg and 2 teaspoons of milk mixed.

Method

Put flour into a mixing bowl and add butter.
Rub in butter to form breadcrumbs texture, add cheese.
Add mustard, egg and milk mixture and mix into a soft dough.
Roll into long sausage shapes and twist two together.
Stick the ends together with water, brush with milk and sprinkle a little grated cheese.
Bake for 10-15 minutes in a medium oven.

Cheese Biscuits

100g (3½oz) mature Cheddar cheese
60g (2oz) ready salted potato crisps
70g (2½oz) plain flour
5ml (1tsp) icing sugar
4ml (¾ tsp) mustard powder
pinch of cayenne pepper
70g (2 ½ oz) butter

Method

Grate cheese into a bowl. Crush crisps lightly and mix in.
Sift together the flour, icing sugar, mustard powder and cayenne pepper.
Stir into the mixture.
Melt the butter and stir into the mixture until well blended.
Divide the mixture into 14 pieces and place onto well greased baking trays in small heaps.
Bake in oven at 190C, 375F, gas mark 5 for 15 minutes until golden brown.
Enjoy.

Race for Life

Calling all running/walking mums/grandmas/nannies/female teachers and assistants.

Fancy getting fit and raising money for Cancer Research ?

RACE FOR LIFE 2009 (www.raceforlife.org)
REGENTS PARK EVENT
SATURDAY 16TH MAY 11.00 5km

SO RUN TO THE NOTICE BOARD AND SIGN UP TO BE ENTERED AS PART OF THE DALLINGTON TEAM.

Once you are signed up, Charlotte, Lily's mum will email you for your postal address and emergency contact details. It costs £12.99 each to enter. She will set up an online sponsorship page and email you the link for you to send to your friends so that they can sponsor you.

It could be fun.....

Board of Governors

If you would like to contact the Governors directly, you may email them at:
governors@dallingtonschool.co.uk

Dallington Logo Clothing

We have found a new company to make clothing with an embroidered Dallington logo. We think there is a demand out there and supplies are short! Expect to receive a sample order form /price list soon so we can get an idea of demand.

All garments have a permanent pre-sewn name label and come with a free marker pen.

We will also be able to offer an online service via our website.

The company offers sweatshirts, sweatshirt cardigans, woollen cardigans and jumpers, poloshirts, body warmers, reversible fleeces, T-shirts, fancy book bags, rucksacks, jogging bottoms, shorts....all with the Dallington Logo!