



Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 23 / Spring Term / 3rd March 2017



March	Time	Event
Mon 6 th – Fri 10 th	All Week	Early Years Arts Week

Headmaster's Headlines

Netball Tour: Good luck to our Netball teams who travelled to London on Wednesday to take part in the annual IAPS UK tournament. News filtering back so far is very positive in terms of behaviour, manners and the impression made on our hosts. I expect we will get a full report on events on the field on their return next week.

Notes of Former Pupils: We were saddened to learn recently of the passing of OR **Stuart Pollock**, who has died at the age of 96. Best known as an accomplished international cricketer, Stuart was still a regular visitor to the school on Founder's Days until just a few years ago. As well as cricket, he was an outstanding all round sportsman who also played squash at international level. He narrowly missed international caps in rugby and hockey; and only because his sporting career was interrupted by his distinguished service in World War II. As he stepped down from playing at the highest level he would serve as President of the Irish Cricket Union, as a member of the NI Sports Forum and Sports Trust, President of the touring Leprechauns CC as well as Captain of Royal County Down Golf Club.

Staff news: It is with much sadness that we also bring you the news of the recent passing of **Eddie Smiton**. Eddie, who passed away on 16th February, served Rockport loyally for around 34 years as groundsman. Not only was he fondly remembered by staff, but many of the pupils struck up a chord of friendship with him and he made an impact on many young lives throughout his years of service to Rockport. Until very recently, he continued to attend school events, despite having retired from his post many years previous, such was his connection to and love for the school. His funeral service took place at Ballygilbert Presbyterian Church on Tuesday 21st February, where Old Rockportians, governors and members of staff had the opportunity to reminisce about his influence on their lives. We would like to convey our sincere condolences to the entire family circle at this sad time.

What a Picture: “It’s like a postcard!” exclaimed one of our Chinese visitors on Monday morning as they stepped from their bus into the blazing sunshine at Rockport (Lucky they didn’t arrive on Sunday. Or Saturday). We extend a warm Rockport welcome to our visiting teachers from 30 Shanghai (Pudong) schools who will be spending some time over the next two weeks observing classes, taking notes and photographing everything that moves. They are particularly interested in education beyond the classroom, personalised education and the positive effect of small classes on developing character, confidence and personality. They have come to the right place.

George Vance
Headmaster

Stem Workshop

Peter Waugh, from Sentinus, joined the R10's on the last day of term to present a STEM workshop, providing the students with the opportunity to develop their coding skills, as well as furthering their knowledge into career options in the IT sector.

Fancy winning an Amazon Echo??? BringITonNI have 3 to give away! For your chance to win, like and share their facebook page (Facebook.com/BringITOnNI), before 31st March 2017.

Sarah Parke
Head of ICT
ICT Co Ordinator

Thankyou!

Many thanks to our talented parent Lynne Wright (Lovebeingcreative) for her gift to school of Rocky the Tour Bear. We love him and he has already been whisked away on his first school tour with the netball team. We look forward to seeing his travels and adventures which can be viewed on Rockport's social media channels.



Dawn Toland
Head of Boarding

GCSE Drama rehearsal

R12 GCSE Drama students will have a rehearsal on **Sunday 5th March from 3-5pm**, in the Tucker Hall. Please remember to bring your script and a snack/drink.

BBC Radio Ulster School Choir of the Year broadcast information

The series will be transmitted this Sunday (5th March) at 2.00 pm on BBC Radio Ulster, running every Sunday through to the live final in April on the 30th April. We have not been given an exact date as to when our heat will be broadcast, but please do listen in each week for a chance to hear our wonderful Junior Choir in action. You can also click on the following link, which will feature video footage and picture galleries from our heat www.bbc.co.uk/schoolchoiroftheyear

Melanie Carr
Teacher in Charge of Music and Drama

Celebrities Status!

R7 pupils Abi Toland, Ronan Jordan and Christian Simms enjoyed taking part in some of the publicity shots for the official launch of this year's Spelling Bee competition.

They met with Eason's Peter Murdoch, Cool FM's Rebecca McKinney and Downtown Radio's Kirstie McMurray. In fact, our three pupils have almost become local celebrities themselves, appearing in the Sunday Life (19/2/17), the Belfast Telegraph (21 & 24/2/17) and the Ulster Tatler (24/2/17). Our famous telephone box isn't looking too bad either!

It's not all lipstick, powder and paint, however, because our Rockport finalist, **Christian Simms**, has now begun an intense spelling programme as he prepares to represent us in the grand final in May. We wish him lots of luck as he works extra hard over the next few months.

Suzanne McCartney R7 English teacher



Junior and Senior Club List - Spring 2017

Week commencing Monday 6th March to Monday 3rd April and Monday 24th April

	1.15pm – 1.40pm	3.00-3.30pm	4.30-5.30pm
Tuesday	R5-R7 <u>Junior Choir</u> MC/VC		R5-R9 <u>Football/Rugby</u> SMcl/RR R8-R12 <u>Senior Choir</u> MC/LH R5-R7 <u>Science Club</u> VC
Wednesday			R5-R7 <u>Junior Dramatic Society (JDS)</u> CN/RB R5-R8 <u>Kn'ex</u> CR (starting after JDS and through next term)
Thursday	R5-R7 <u>Junior Choir</u> MC/VC	R4 <u>Greenhouse</u> CR	R10 <u>Duke of Ed Bronze</u> HMcb/KM R11 <u>Duke of Ed Silver</u> SP/JB

Clubs - *Alphabet Club has now finished.*

From next Wednesday and each after until the end of term, there will be Choir from 3.00pm-3.30pm. This is for pupils from R2-R4 and will be held in the Jackson Hall. Gardening Club will also be running on a Thursday for R4 from 3.00pm-3.30pm. There will be no charge for either club.

Arts Week

Our **Early Years Arts Week** will be running from Monday 6th March to Friday 10th March 2017. The idea behind this week is to enable our children take part in a rich range of creative experiences through Literacy, Drama, Art, Music and Dance. We are looking forward to welcoming professional artists, enjoying recitals from our own staff, parents and pupils and taking in a performance at the Lyric Theatre.

A reminder that the cost per child is £10. This will be billed to your account. There will be no PE or swimming during this week so children should wear everyday uniform each day. Don't forget to return the permission slip for the Theatre Trip to your class teacher at your earliest convenience.

We are delighted to involve [→] R5-R7 pupils throughout the week. R5 take part in a workshop with Author and Illustrator Paul Howard on Monday. R6 will enjoy a workshop with local Artist Ed Reynolds on Wednesday. There will be a small charge of £2 per child which will be added to your bill. The pupils in R7 will be spending time reading to our youngest children in Playgroup, Reception and R1. It's set to be a great week. We can't wait! Follow us on Facebook, Early Years at Rockport, to see what we get up to!

Lynn Athanasiou

Head of Early Years

	9am-9.30am	9.30am-10.30am	11am-12pm	1pm-2pm	2pm-3pm
Monday	<u>Violin Recital</u> Mr Kevin Maudsley	<u>Paul Howard</u> Playgroup, Reception, R1	<u>Paul Howard</u> R2-R4	Photography Workshops	
Tuesday	<u>Dance Recital</u> Emily Jackson Year 8 Mathew and Mimi Thompson R4	<u>Bright Young Things</u> R2-R4	<u>Bright Young Things</u> Playgroup, Reception, R1	Art Mrs S Noel	
Wednesday	<u>Movement and Dance</u> Mrs Melanie Holmes Playgroup-R4	<u>Ed Reynolds</u> Playgroup, Reception, R1	<u>Ed Reynolds</u> R2-R4	<u>Learn to Jive</u> Miss Breen Playgroup, Reception, R1	<u>Learn to Jive</u> Miss Breen R2-R4
Thursday	<u>Saxophone Recital</u> Mr Robert Wilson <u>Drama Duologue</u> Sophie and Libbie Gordon	<u>Fun With Drums</u> Playgroup, Reception, R1	<u>Fun With Drums</u> R2-R4	<u>Voices Speech and Drama</u> Poetry Reading Playgroup-R1	<u>Voices Speech and Drama</u> Poetry Reading R2-R4
Friday	<u>Music Recital</u> Sophie Sheil Ji Young Yoon Jung-Hun Hoon	<u>Theatre Trip</u> Playgroup-R4			

Rockport Colour Run – Thursday 6th April – Cricket Pavilion – 3pm!!

Are you mad enough to get blasted with tons of colour? This Easter we plan on doing just that around the cross country track. The Rockport School Colour Run will be making its debut this Easter at the end of Spring Term. This will be open to EVERYONE along with any crazy PARENTS who wish to run the gauntlet of the cross country track around school. Keep your eye on the school media pages for a short video of what we're planning☺ I hope Mr Vance puts his old tennis whites on.....

The cost is £10 and will include a Colour Run pack of a white T-Shirt, sunglasses and plastic poncho for the journey home. It will also include a hot dog (with vegetarian option) and refreshments afterwards.

Permission slips have been handed to pupils today and there is also one attached to this newsletter. Please return it by **Monday 6th March** as orders must be placed for the pack to ensure delivery on time. For all school children not at school today, please bring the permission slip in on Tuesday 7th March.

If your child is in Playgroup – R4 they must have a parent or guardian to take part with them.

Dates for Your Diary:

Easter Bunny visit – Thursday 6th April

Colour Run – Thursday 6th April

Dad's Day Out – Friday 28th April

Belfast Marathon – Monday 1st May

School Fete – Sunday 7th May

Speech Day – Thursday 15th June

Thank you all for your continued support for all our events. Together we raise much needed and appreciated funds for our school that benefit each and every child.

Carol Thompson
PTA Chairperson