



# Rockport School News

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS 3-18

Newsletter no 04 / Winter Term / 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017



October	Time	Event
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	19.00	PSNI Safety Online Talk for R1-R7 parents, Holywood PS
Thu 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.45-11.45	R3-R4 Trip to Tesco, Springhill

## Headmaster's Headlines

**Old Money, New Money:** You are probably aware by now that the Bursar, Russell Hannah left us yesterday to take up a new post in the city. As an Old Rockportian, it was a hard decision for Russell to leave his old school for a second time and all of us here at the school wish him every success in his new role. This is a key management post and we are already busy in the process of appointing a successor, (closing date next Friday) but in the meantime please continue to use the same email account [rhannah@rockportschool.com](mailto:rhannah@rockportschool.com), where your messages will be picked up by Christine Hamill (or by a temporary accountant who will also be providing us with some temporary financial management support in the coming weeks).

**On the Scrounge:** Ever-fond of recycling as he is, Mr Lutton has asked me to appeal to parents for one or two items required for the Sixth Form Centre (and just before he asks me for the school credit card). So, if you have any old unwanted **lap top computers** at home or at work, we can rebuild them and put them to good use for presentations. I am also reliably informed that a **flat-screen television** is required to be used for PowerPoint presentations to small groups (and definitely not for watching daytime television).

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**Long Ping Pong:** Well done to **Jack McGimpsey** who, along with his fellow members of Ormeau Table Tennis Club and led by special guest Dame Mary Peters, set a new world record for the most consecutive opponents in a table tennis rally. Involving a remarkable 113 opponents in a single rally, the club have earned themselves a place in the **Guinness Book of Records**. Jack is pictured here with brother Conor and Dame Mary. Great effort, Jack.

*Jack, brother Conor and the lady who is named after the track*

**Anti-Social Media:** As part of our on-going crack-down on the misuse and dangers of social media and digital technology (and there is much more to come on this...) I am pleased to note that some parents have already signed up for the **Hollywood and District Primary Schools** event to be led by the PSNI and held next Wednesday in Hollywood Primary School. There is still an opportunity to sign up for this important and informative talk. Just let Anja in the office know if you are planning to attend.

**Cape Crusaders:** Good luck to **Robert Burke, Ashleigh Riddell, Sophie Shiel** and **Phoebe Wright** who embark on what promises to be a wonderful experience at the **Round Square International Conference 2017** in Cape Town. Delegations from 150 schools from 40 countries will converge on South Africa's southwest coast tomorrow and I accompany the Rockport team, safe in the knowledge that they will be great ambassadors, not only for the school but for Northern Ireland. The theme for RSIC 2017 is 'The Journey that Makes Us' and as I sit in row 50 of an aging Boeing jet for 13 hours overnight tonight, I will try hard not to see any irony in that message at all...

**George Vance**  
**Headmaster**

## Rockport Dramatic Society

### PERFORMANCE

This year the senior school production will have a Shakespearean theme with Ken Ludwig's critically acclaimed farcical comedy, *Shakespeare in Hollywood*. Performances will be on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th February 2018, so please keep one (or both!) dates free in your diary. It is not to be missed!



### CASTING

With a variety of ensemble, minor and major roles available, there is a part for everyone in this production. If you would like to be involved, please come to a meeting in **Mr Lutton's room at 1.15pm on Monday.**

For those hoping for a speaking part, auditions will be held in the **Tucker Hall at 4pm on Wednesday.** You are asked to prepare a dramatic performance of the prologue from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Copies of the prologue will be available from the notice board in the Centenary Arts Building from Monday. Extra credit will go to those who can perform the prologue without a script! Rehearsals will be every Wednesday and Thursday 4.00pm to 5.30pm, starting on Wednesday 11th October. A rehearsal schedule will be published to inform cast members when they will be needed.

### PRODUCTION TEAM

If you are more comfortable adjusting the spotlight than standing in front of it, then there are lots of ways for you to get involved in the production. For example, Mr Hamilton will be running a **set design** club after half term. If you would like to be part of the set design team, then please register your interest with him.

### Romeo & Juliet

#### Prologue

*Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage:  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.*



## **R5-R7 Games**

To facilitate the new Games timetable the following changes have been made:-

All R5- R7 children should come to school on Monday morning in their uniform, leaving their sports bags in the changing rooms. They will change into games kit after lunch and remain in their games gear until Wednesday afternoon. They will return to school on Thursday morning in school uniform.

Thank you for your continuing support.

**Clare Neill**  
**R5 Form Teacher/French**



## A-Level Art

This week features A-level pupils Timothy and Phoebe and some photos, manipulated digitally, from their recent shoot in Belfast, based on the theme of "Networks". **Timothy Li** has highlighted the network of various fences, walls and barriers that criss-cross the city, framing and sectioning off areas and on occasion becoming pieces of art in themselves. **Phoebe Wright** has chosen to look at the hierarchy of society that lives, sometimes uncomfortably, side-by-side on the city streets and is also interested in the signs and symbols that direct and dictate our journey through the environment. Well done to both!



## **Get Outdoors**

Following the success of our Arts Week last year, we are excited to announce **Get Outdoors Week** which will be during the week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October. We are so excited for the learning experiences we will be able to offer our children during this week. It's going to be GREAT! *More information will be sent home with your child early next week.*



## **Trips and Visits - Medical Forms**

Don't forget to return trip forms and medical forms to class teachers at your earliest convenience.

## **A date for your diary... - Early Years Fork Supper**

We look forward to seeing you at our Fork Supper on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm in the Centenary Building. This is always a really lovely evening and the perfect opportunity to enjoy a good chat and delicious food! Please let the office know if you plan to attend.

## **Parent/Teacher Meeting**

There will be an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher during the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Sign-up sheets will be available closer to the time.

**Lynn Athanasiou**  
**Head of Early Years**

### **Coughs and Colds**

All three of my children had to take time off school this week with a heavy cold and sore throats. When I took the decision on Monday morning to keep them off school I had envisaged a day of three little angels wrapped up in quilts, sipping warm honey and lemon watching soothing Disney films. Nope, not this house. After the initial diagnosis of needing their mother (yip I'm a smother) and an hour of watching Nickleodeon they all declared themselves BORED. By 1030am they were asking "what time was it at school", "what would they be doing in school", "can we go to school" aaaaagggghhh. Through the runny noses and croaky voices and no doubt achy little bodies they all wanted to go to school. Monday was a loooong day!

### **Love is.....**

On Tuesday my very good friends Lynne and Stephen greeted me at school with two boxes of Krispy Kremes also known as "food of the gods". If only every day at school could have that bonus☺ A coffee machine and a Krispy Kreme cart just outside the Jackson building is definitely the way forward!

### **PTA-ers!**

I am delighted to say we have had an even better response this week to the call to the PTA by parents. The PTA are looking forward to getting to know you on Monday morning.

### **Fireworks!! – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

This year we have decided to change the timing of the Halloween fireworks due to school commitments. Instead we will enjoy Mr Shiel's annual explosions after our Thanksgiving Dinner. As many of you know Thanksgiving is a highlight for families at Rockport. Not only do we get to have a DELICIOUS meal catered for by our very own top notch kitchen team but it is a time to enjoy each other's company. It's a noisy occasion but one I highly recommend you come along to.

Cost:

Thanksgiving Dinner

Adult £15

Child £7

Under 4s Free

Fireworks to be billed at £5 per family to cover costs

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Halloween – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October

Thanksgiving Dinner & Fireworks – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November