

DOTTY ABOUT LICHTENSTEIN



'Explosion' by Roy Lichtenstein 1965

This month, it has been my pleasure to accompany Year 5 and 6 on two separate trips to the Tate Modern Gallery. Initially the main purpose of the trip was to see the highly popular Lichtenstein exhibition. However people react to his work (it seems, like marmite that you either love it or hate it), Lichtenstein is undeniably a central figure of American Pop Art and is certainly one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. His visually powerful work, which was largely inspired by comic strips, often holds great appeal to children who love the striking visual clarity and strong colour palettes. Year 5 and 6 knew little about Lichtenstein before going to the exhibition. Some merely knew him as the artist who "uses dots". It was a joy to observe them in the exhibition as they gradually began to fathom out how he created his work. Attracting plenty of interest from the public, they sat in little groups on the ground and got out their sketchbooks to draw anything and everything that appealed to them. Although we had an hour in the exhibition, we had to tear many of them away as they were so engrossed in creating their own compositions. It is the small events after school trips that give you the indication of their value to the children, and as I witnessed them all sitting continuing with their drawings on the tube back to Kew Gardens, I knew that this would be a visit for them to remember. I have a feeling that we will be seeing some dotty work popping up in school in the near future! *Mrs Elden-Ford*

DANCE LIKE NOBODY'S WATCHING ...

...laugh like no one is listening, move like you just can't stop. That's certainly what some of the Reception children did on Wednesday, 15th May, when Mr Roy and his highly trained dancers performed to a fantastic audience - their parents! They demonstrated a three part routine which involved an intensive warm up, a group composition and a 'free style' solo dance. The children showed great style, rhythm and confidence. I think the photos show what a wonderful time they all had and how much the audience enjoyed their performances. *Miss MacDonald*



Strike a pose!



The routine



Freestyling



More Freestyling

SHARPEN YOUR ELBOWS ...



On Thursday, 6th May, the much anticipated staff v parents netball match took place. It was pleasing to see the number of staff who volunteered this year along with ex-pupil Anna Ciprini bolstering our numbers and talent! The parents however struggled to get a team and had a core seven players, so fitness was going to be key for them. As always it was a very closely contested match and as the umpire this year I found myself blowing the whistle frequently for contact violations and shirt pulling - something you rarely see on a netball court. Both parents and staff needed timely reminders as to where they were permitted to go on court, too. It was a very fast paced match with some great shooting at both ends, from Ruth Woods for the parents and our 'ringer' Anna Ciprini for the staff. There was great defensive play at both ends. Greg Searle managed some great intercepts and Bev Turner was very feisty for the parents. The two teams were very evenly matched but the staff just won with the final score 15-13. Following end of match refreshments 'Player of the Match' awards went to a mother and daughter duo. Anna Ciprini for the staff with her wonderful shooting and Sally for the parents for her talent and commitment to her team over the last 7 years. I look forward to an equally enjoyable and competitive rounders match after half term and cricket match, too. *Mrs Gillett*



... and finally ...

There has been a great atmosphere around the school this half term with so much excellent and exciting work going on: Creative Writing Week, residential trips, visits, workshops and visitors - not to mention the best music assemblies the school has seen to date. Enjoy your break. *Jem Peck, Editor.*



KEWLIFE

The News Letter of Kew Green Preparatory School

HOW DOES CREATIVE WRITING MAKE YOU FEEL?



Helping to inspire the children to write, the Jamaican Bird story from the visiting Spud and Yam workshop surely did that!

The week of 20th to 24th May was Creative Writing Week. The children were given a creative writing passport to visit Australia, Ireland, Japan, Wales, South Africa and India to hear about the music, stories and traditions of these countries. They were also introduced to individuals who are involved in creative writing in its broadest sense. The idea was to inspire them for a 'Big Write'. The children chose a genre of writing and worked collaboratively through the rest of the week to meet the publishers strict deadline of Friday morning, 24th May. All work needed to be sent off to the publishers to be made into our own book. A whole school book of Kew Green creative writing! From the abundance of positive feedback it is apparent that the excitement of Creative Writing Week extended beyond the school day ... below is a small glimpse of the week.



Visiting Japan



A traditional Irish tale



Mmm ... Saffron?



The art of great story telling

Ever wondered what your parents were like when they were growing up? Well look no further! ... A lucky selection of parents and grandparents can look forward to featuring in the Kew Green Creative Writing Book in the Biography section! Clever questioning and superb reporting skills from all the children working with Miss O'Hare will ensure that most embarrassing moments are shared, childhood stories are told and memories long forgotten are unearthed for the family biography! *Miss O'Hare*

Whilst in Ireland the children learnt briefly about the conflict which has occurred in Ireland over the past few hundred years with a particular focus on the 1798 Rebellion. This led into the learning of a traditional Irish song called 'The Rising of The Moon' which was written about the event. Once the children had mastered the lyrics they began learning to play the verse using glockenspiels. The children thoroughly enjoyed the piece and couldn't help but sing along with an Irish accent. *Mr Reed*

Australia! Well g'day mate! What a ripper of a day we had. The little ankle biters explored Australian slang which they could use in their writing. Seriously, they woulda sounded like a fair dinkum drongo if they keep yabberin' like the Queen! *Miss Jurgs*

Hiromu's parents, Mr and Mrs Tanaka, came to talk about Japan. Mrs Tanaka was looking so beautiful in her kimono and we learnt so much about life in Japan. We decided that we are much luckier only having to learn 26 sounds but we still know how to write the numbers one, two and three in Japanese! We're also now able to use chopsticks, say hello and even know how to bow to the Queen! Mr Ward, whose mother is Japanese, also taught us some interesting facts. Lower School were very grateful to Mr & Mrs Tanaka and Mr Ward. *Miss Seed*



Yes, the brave 'Sir George of Derbyshire' turned up on his horse to speak to Lower School about being a Knight ... he looked familiar to me!

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine you are at the beach. What are the first things that come into your mind? What can you see, hear, smell, taste, feel? Whilst describing settings, the children in this group have discovered the power words have to affect and influence people's opinions and ideas about a range of settings and places. *Mrs Halle*

Our plan was to generate a play script based upon a nursery rhyme. We also set our writing in one of the countries we visited on Monday's whirlwind tour of the globe. Our 'playwrights' were helped on their way by the screenwriter Irena Brignull. She brought in copies of her work so we could see the format of a proper script. It was also reassuring to hear even professional writers are constantly refining their ideas! Ms Brignull emphasised the need to be very clear about the core theme of our writing and encouraged us to think about reorganising the sequence of events, such as starting at the end rather than the beginning. We enjoyed sharing our varied ideas with her ... Humpty Dumpty will never be the same again. *Miss Bratton*

The Hall rang with the echoing of Winston's brilliant guitar strumming, percussion playing and singing. Several stories were told and funny songs were sung entertaining adults and children alike. We were all clapping, dancing and singing with great enthusiasm. The hilarious Jamaican bird story had everyone mesmerized. The story of 'Nothing' taught us that 'If you have nothing to say, say nothing!'. He was inspiring and what a storyteller. *Miss Nicholson*

We were delighted to hear Prentis and Jackie Rollins talk about their work as Illustrators, Authors and Reporters. Their vast knowledge, enthusiasm and insight inspired the children. As an illustrator, Mr Rollins focused on characterisation, creating a setting and story structure and conflict in fantasy stories. Mrs Rollins explored language and sentence structuring in both fiction and non-fiction texts. Consequently, the children working on the upper floor didn't want to finish at the end of the day. The wealth of knowledge Mr and Mrs Rollins have about creating a story is really something!

Thank you for the effort put into this week by our children, staff and parents. I have been impressed by so much of what has gone on. It was great to see Upper School year groups mixed up so children had the chance to work with, and learn from, others younger and older than themselves. It has been a real success but of course you won't know that until the book is published. Miss Jurgs, Head of English

RECEPTION NATURE

ART HISTORY, ANYONE?



On Wednesday, 15th May, 4K travelled to leafy Dulwich to the Picture Gallery. We learned lots about the artists and the architect, Sir John Soane, who designed the Gallery. When he built it he was poor, so instead of using marble, he used bricks and concrete. People didn't like it to start with because it didn't look very fancy! He designed the building so that the light came from a glass roof instead of windows. This meant that the natural light wouldn't fade the paintings on display. We saw a selection of paintings by Thomas Gainsborough. He loved doing landscapes but had to earn his money by doing portraits of wealthy families in Bath. He usually tried to do the portraits over a landscape background so that he would still get to do his beloved landscapes! He painted a lady called Mrs Moodey. After she was married and had two children, he added them in to the painting. They used x-rays to discover this! After lunch we went to the Education rooms where we looked at the Art of Gustav Klimt.



Messy job screen printing but the results look great!

We made our own screen prints using his wiggly lines as inspiration! (You will hopefully be able to see them in the Kew Green Art Exhibition). *Gabriel and Ethan, 4K*



Reception explorers... expounding upon explaining their exploratory exploits... excellent... and very exclusive... and slightly existential. OK that's enough!

On Friday, 10th May, Reception children embarked on an adventure to the Natural History Museum for an action packed day of exploring. We have been learning all about growing and mini-beasts. To support our learning we visited the 'Sensational Butterflies' exhibit at the museum to find out more about the life cycle of a butterfly and different habitats. The butterfly house is home to hundreds of beautiful butterflies from a wide variety of species. We saw all four stages of the life cycle in the butterfly house, from egg to caterpillar and chrysalis to butterfly. The butterflies took a liking to Miss MacDonald and her class, landing on them to take a closer look. Some of Miss



Seymour's class were even lucky enough to witness a real life butterfly emerging from a chrysalis - they thought it was amazing! Then we arrived at the wild and wonderful gardens, excited and curious to find out more about the similarities and differences between living things. After much searching we finally collected lots of different types of leaves and flowers to compare. Roaming free around the pond gardens were cute, fluffy Moorhen chicks. We found out there were eggs about to hatch in their nest too. Patch got a real shock when

one of the gardeners opened up a tree trunk to find a huge bee-hive! We always have a wonderful time taking our learning out of the classroom and would like to become Kew Green keepers, gardeners and wildlife experts in our very own school grounds. *Miss Seymour & Miss MacDonald*

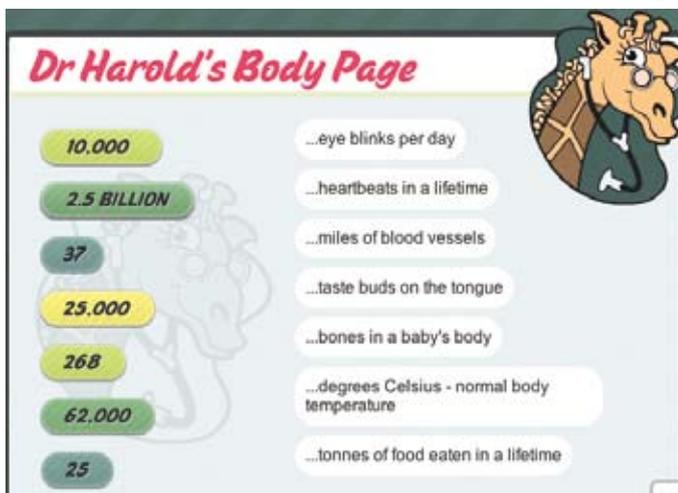
DO YOU KNOW HOW YOU FEEL?

Each year we are visited by the 'Life Caravan' from Coram Education. Their aim is to encourage children to make informed choices about a



healthy life style. It is nationally recognized that obesity, drinking, drug use and smoking among children and young people are significant health issues and indicate that health is not a priority in their lives. Many reasons are given for this, including socio-economic factors and peer and media influences. Work with the younger children focuses on how they feel as a way of understanding how their bodies work.

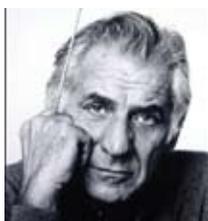
2K explain ... Mark from the Life Caravan came to speak to Year 2 about feelings and how to stay healthy! Harold the giraffe had a headache, we learned about different ways to care for his headache, like resting and getting some fresh air. We also talked about a safe place to keep medicine so that young children could not reach it. We talked about the different organs in our body and why they are important. We used our magic fingers to light up the brain in the pretend body. We wore our magic fingers to light up the brain in the pretend body. We also looked at some picture cards of different people with various expressions and we had to guess how each person was feeling.



How well do you know your body?

Can you put the correct statement with the correct figures?

COPLAND, BERNSTEIN & THE LSO



Leonard Bernstein



Aaron Copland

On Wednesday, 8th May, Year 5 visited the Barbican for a special performance by the London Symphony Orchestra. As part of a school project based on the American composers Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein the LSO gathered together children from across London for this live performance. The children were captivated by the marvellous performances of 'Appalachian Spring' (Copland) and 'America' (Bernstein) whilst gaining valuable insights into the images the composers hoped to create through their music. The whole auditorium was united as we sang about Copland's life in an adaptation of the song 'Lord of the Dance'. This was a great start to our America music project and a memorable experience for Year 5. It is worth remembering that the London Symphony Orchestra is recognised as one of the very best in the world - no wonder it sent shivers down our spines! *Mr Reed*

SEND THE CHILDREN TO THE LIONS!



As part of our Year 3 topic, 'Born Free: a study of Africa' the children have been learning about the different habitats of animals from all over Africa and how they adapt to their environment. What better way to get a true grasp of some of these animals than seeing them in real life? Although a Year 3 residential on safari was a good idea, we settled for the next best thing - London Zoo! What an amazing time we had. Some couldn't contain their excitement it was clear to see, however, once the grown-ups had calmed down we set about studying the animals we had been learning about. We came face to face with giraffes, okapis, hunting dogs and more monkeys than you could swing in a tree! The joy of a good old fashioned trip to the zoo clearly held the magic for the children and clearly the magic remains for the adults too - even if they have been several times before. Serin commented: "I love it when the giraffes do the splits to drink water from the creek." Talisa exclaimed, "The Komodo Dragon was sooooo big!" Mrs Halle agreed "London Zoo rocks!" *Mrs Halle*

ASK QUETZALCOATAL



Quetzalcoatal - God of learning - was definitely an influence over Year 4 during their Aztec workshop

On Tuesday, 9th April, Year 4 had the pleasure of being visited by Mexicolore, where they participated in all things Aztec. Two and a half passionate visitors taught Year 4 about the Aztecs and how they lived. Ian, his son and the little animated Aztec character called Tec, took us on a journey into the past. First, they taught us the structure of society and how people lived. Ian also stressed to us that although regular human sacrifice was not unheard of, they also enjoyed the finer things in life and were very grateful people.



The Aztecs made instruments that used water and air to make noises resembling nature. Wind chimes were also very common. Our favourite instrument was in the shape of a face. When you tilted it, the water would move through it and trickled out of the eyes creating a sound similar to crying. Noah and Gabriel showed their true warrior selves in a very serious ball game. This popular game was a mix of basketball and soccer. No hands were allowed and to score you needed to 'hip' the ball through a very high hoop. Although near impossible, Ian explained that this was because Aztecs liked to spend the whole day watching matches. The rules state if the ball stopped both would be sacrificed or at the end of the game, the losing captain would be. We are pleased to announce that no sacrifice was performed and both boys are safe and well. Rituals and Gods were also very popular topics and there seemed to be a gender split on the interest in sacrifices and rituals! This interactive and much enjoyed experience was a tremendous kick start to our topic and really brought the Aztecs to life. *Miss Jurgs*

Definitely looking for someone to sacrifice!

SURFING IN THE ATLANTIC, ROCK CLIMBING, BATTLING A RAGING TORRENT AND A BAR-B ON THE BEACH ... AH, THAT'LL BE THE YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL IN DEVON

Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic last residential together at Moorland Hall in Devon during the last week of the half-term. Having visited Moorland in Year 5, the children were immediately familiar in their surroundings, however the activities and challenges they encountered this year were definitely more formidable! During the week they experienced mountain biking on Dartmoor, rock climbing and abseiling, kayaking, surfing in the Atlantic Ocean and, a particular favourite of the children, gorge walking! All of the other activities are relatively self-explanatory, however the name 'gorge walking' doesn't really do it justice! It involved putting on a wetsuit, a buoyancy aid and a helmet and wading into a deep, fast running river on the lower slopes of Dartmoor. From here the children walked upstream, scrambling over and through hundreds of boulders slippery to hand and foot, fully submersing themselves in swirling rock pools and even dipping their heads into waterfalls! This is a challenging activity at the best of times, however the recent cold, wet weather meant that the river was a good few degrees colder and stronger than normal at this time of year! This didn't stop the children as they got stuck in, supported each other and relished the cold conditions. This rather summed up their attitude towards the whole week and indeed all of their residential over their time at Kew Green. I have been privileged to accompany them on all but one of their trips since Year 3; they are a hardy bunch who are willing to give everything a go in great spirit. They really pull together and show a positive attitude towards everything they are confronted with. Well done Year 6 and thank you for a fantastic week! *Mr Puckle* (You can see the full gallery of this trip on our website - www.kgps.co.uk/gallery)



EATING FISH EYES, STARTING FIRES, SLEEPING OUT, GUTTING FISH... AH, THAT'LL BE THE YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO BUSHCRAFT

As 'People of the Wilderness', Year 5 had an amazing residential week roughing it in the stunning woodland environment of Bushcraft in the heart of the Charlbury Forest "Oggy, oggy, oggy... oi, oi, oi!" was the sound heard drifting through the trees as forty budding Ray Mears learnt survival skills. They now know all about the importance of 'Essential Living'- building shelters, making fires, animal traps, basic first aid, tree climbing and finding water. They cooked their own lunches which included panassed salmon, grilled trout and pizzas in a clay oven. There were even a few brave children who tried fish eyes for the first time! In teams they constructed their own shelters to experience the ultimate outdoor adventure of sleeping under the stars. Their first aid skills were invaluable when the children discovered a plane crash in the woods. The scene was scrutinised and the condition of the pilot assessed. Eventually the unconscious pilot was dragged and man handled to a clearing for the helicopter to take her away. The children returned home smelling of wood smoke and in need of a long and very hot shower! This type of residential is a first for us and placed everyone - including staff - out of their comfort zone, which has to be a good thing. We all learnt many key survival skills and appreciated the teamwork and camaraderie that blossomed amongst the trees. *Messrs Reed, Puckle & Ward & Miss Nicholson* (You can see the full gallery of this trip on our website - www.kgps.co.uk/gallery)

