

Who put the fun into fundraising? We did!

It might not have had the same budget as a similar BBC production, but the entertainment put on for the Children in Need Appeal by MACS' Sixth Form was of an equally high standard. If its success was measured by the fun Years 7 and 8 had and the amount of money raised, this production would definitely rate ten out of ten.



Fresh from winning a talent competition hosted by Owen Money, Vikki Bebb captivated the audience with a couple of songs before the main event. The TV game show Family Fortunes was resurrected with Mrs Sarah Allen reprising the role previously played by Bob Monkhouse, Les Dennis and, more recently, Vernon Kay.

Two teams, one of students and one teachers, battled it out to guess the most popular answers to a range of trivial questions.

The production concluded with a number of musical and dramatic items before pupils were unleashed upon an unsuspecting cake stall based in the foyer.

Sixth Formers went to a lot of trouble and, in many cases, expense to hire fancy dress costumes to aid with their fundraising. Between working from classroom to classroom, collecting donations in the hall and then making a brief visit to Mountain Ash town centre, the students raised £1,220. Special mention must go to two Year 8 pupils Lauren Brittain and Leah Care who had raised a further £63 earlier in the year and have now decided to pledge this sum to the same worthy cause.

We make no apology for printing so many pictures of what many have described as our best organised and most entertaining fundraising event ever.



BBC Children in Need Appeal



Season's Greetings

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the production of this newsletter over the last year. Particular thanks must go to Mrs Howells and Mr Mason for their ever-reliable technical support.

We wish all our readers a relaxing festive period and a prosperous new year.

*We remind all pupils that it's back to school on Monday 7th January 2008. This is **not** an INSET day.*

Christmas Carol Service

Our Christmas Carol Service takes place at St Margaret's Church, Mountain Ash on Thursday 20th December, commencing 7.00pm.

Everyone is invited to what promises to be yet another evening to remember.



PhotoNEWS

Last year's Year 7 raised in excess of £1,300 to help cure people of leprosy and other poverty-related diseases when they took part in LEpra's Fun Workout. This charitable organisation was so pleased with our pupils' contribution that they presented the school with a plaque and certificates for our top fundraisers Shaunna Samuel and Marco Griffiths who raised sums of £75 and £50 respectively.



PhotoNEWS

Sixth Formers and Year 7 pupils are pictured after loading more than one hundred parcels for Operation Christmas Child. This scheme delivers presents to children abroad who would not normally expect anything at Christmas.



PhotoNEWS

As part of the Education Business Partnership's World of Work programme, Year 8 pupils visited a range of local venues to discover what employment opportunities were available. This group are pictured at Garw Nant Visitor Centre where they learned how the Forestry Commission manages this area of woodland.

Food from the frontline

Our Year 11 Food Technologists were pleased to welcome Colour Sergeant Mike Beaton and Chef Caroline Jackson to MACS. Our guests from the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre tackled issues of healthy eating and good nutrition in the armed forces.



Pupils discovered what foodstuffs service personnel would most likely have in their ration packs and how meals would be prepared in adverse conditions.



The group prepared a chicken curry to an army recipe and were shocked to find out what ingredient Sergeant Beaton used to add sweetness and a coconut taste - a Bounty Bar!



Watch this space



When pupils spotted a digger in our front yard they may well have been surprised. When it actually started digging they were definitely intrigued. What on earth is going on?

BTEC Construction students need to demonstrate a range of bricklaying skills but their opportunities to do so have been limited by our erratic weather. Even though it is hard work, in summer it is a pleasure to be outside but in the depths of winter it is a very different proposition.

After gaining funding to the tune of £150k from the Heads of the Valleys Programme and gaining full planning permission, it's now all systems go! In the next few months, Kingfisher Developments will deliver a building to solve our problems and, in addition, provide further opportunities for community use of facilities beyond normal school hours.

As a bonus, our students will be able to study every stage of this construction process at very close quarters.

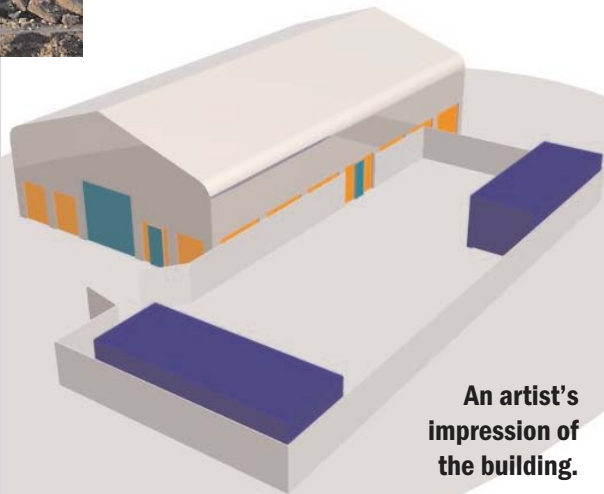


Congratulations

School Receptionist Mrs Paula Evans recently celebrated the birth of daughter Cerys Anne who weighed in at 7lb 3oz. We wish them both all the very best.

Grease will be the word!

Early next year, MACS will be staging a production of Grease. Tickets will surely be in demand so make a note of the following dates. This show will run for three nights from Tuesday 5th to Thursday 7th February.



An artist's impression of the building.

Ffarwel!

We wish a fond farewell to Miss Janine Venables who has taught Welsh at MACS since 1994. She becomes Head of Welsh at Llantarnam Comprehensive, Torfaen. We wish her all the very best for the future.



5x60 update

As the term has progressed, more and more sporting opportunities have been made available to pupils at MACS. Activities now include dodgeball, dance and trampolining. Now, pupils who wish to organise and coach activities, as opposed to taking part themselves, have the opportunity to get ahead in sport in school or in the community.

The Sports Development Team are allowing pupils to develop knowledge and gain skills as well as complete coaching courses that are fully accredited by national governing bodies.

For more information about these popular courses or any sporting activities, contact our 5x60 Officer Mr Geraint Lewis as soon as possible.



The MACS is published by: Mountain Ash Comprehensive School, New Road, Mountain Ash, Rhondda Cynon Taf, CF45 4DG. Tel: 01443 479199. Fax: 01443 473412. Website: www.macs.rhondda.sch.uk

If you have a story you think we could feature you can e-mail us at: newsletter@macs.rhondda.sch.uk



PhotoNEWS

One sure way of keeping warm at this time of year is to play an extremely competitive game of cup rugby. Our Year 11 team soundly beat Treorchy Comprehensive by seventeen points to nil. Our try-scorers were Josh Bowen (2) and Leigh Gunter.