

Amazing Grace

September 2007

Vol.10 Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?
- Students of the Month
- Year 8 Library Lessons
- Geography Awareness Week
- Sainsbury's Visit to D&T
- Parking
- 6th Form News
- PE News
- PTFA News
- Old Folks Christmas Party

Dates For Your Diary

Half Term
Mon 22 Oct—
Fri 26 Oct

Thurs 29
November - Old
Folks Christmas
Party
3.30pm - 6pm
(approx)

PTFA Quiz Night
Sat 10 Nov

Christmas Fayre
Sat 24 Nov

Message from the Headteacher

Amazing Mount Grace!

I am sure you will all know by now that the Inspection report, due to be published by OfSTED on Thursday, is very positive and praises the school for its progress since the last inspection three years ago.



I think it is a fantastic report, reflecting three years of hard work by everybody at the school, to make Mount Grace the talk of Hertfordshire. I am very proud to lead a dedicated team of professionals who go the "extra mile" for the sake of the students; I am very proud of all our students, who demonstrated such self-discipline and courtesy to our team of inspectors, impressing them at every level; and I am very proud of our local community who gave such a ringing endorsement of the progress being made at the school. But, more importantly, the inspectors believe we have "an outstanding capacity for continued improvement". So do I!

Attached to this copy of Amazing Grace is the final version of the OfSTED report. It can also be downloaded from our website.

Results 2007

The results this summer played a significant part in persuading the HMI that Mount Grace has an "outstanding capacity to improve".



The key stage 3 results were better than expected with students doing very well in all three core subjects – see table below. All targets set in 2005 were met or exceeded.

At GCSE, the results were excellent – as expected, in fact. The headline figure of 62% at 5 A* - C means that the school has now overtaken the national average. Furthermore the context value added (CVA) figure of 1027.3 puts the school in the top 10% nationally.

The results for Y12 and 13 students were as expected. These figures never compare favourably to national figures mainly because we enter all students irrespective of the likely outcome. In addition, we allow students to study at level 3 (A-level equivalents) when many schools would dissuade students from staying on into the sixth form. In fact 12 of the 48 students entered for level 3 examinations this year had achieved good passes after studying in our sixth form for three years. I believe this is the correct approach for a community school. We are not complacent though,

and one of priorities for the next few years is to drive up standards in the sixth form, in the same way we have done so at key stages 3 and 4.

Finally, let me congratulate all involved in producing these outstanding results: students and staff for all their hard work and parents for their continuing support of our school.

| Indicator | Result 2007 |
|----------------------|-------------|
| KS3 En level 5+ | 79% |
| KS3 En level 6+ | 29% |
| KS3 Ma level 5+ | 75% |
| KS3 Ma level 6+ | 50% |
| KS3 Sc level 5+ | 74% |
| KS3 Sc level 6+ | 34% |
| KS3 Agr % level 5+ | 229 |
| Avg KS3 points score | 34.2 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| GCSE 5 A* - C | 62% |
| Uncapped GCSE Avg Points | 429 |
| GCSE 5 A* - G | 91% |
| Two plus levels progress KS3 – 4 (English) | 48% |
| Two plus levels progress KS3 – 4 (Maths) | 35% |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| A-level Avg Total Points | 506 |
| A-level Points per entry | 168 |
| Students progressing to HE | 23 |

Peter Baker

LOST PROPERTY

Since September we have accumulated 4 bin bags of lost property. We have coats, blazers, bags and other odds and ends, none of which is named! If your son/daughter has lost something, ask them to come to Reception at break or lunchtime to see if their property is there. If property is named, we make every effort to return it to the student.

Any lost property unclaimed at the end of term is sent to the charity shop.

Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?

If your child is eligible, please claim what they are entitled to. Below are nine good reasons to claim your free school meals (FSMs).

1. The school's AWPU (finance per student) has a significant component based on FSM
2. The school's relative "social deprivation" is judged using FSM as one measure
3. Special grants are allocated to schools based on the number of students on FSM
4. In fact, last year, the school received over £80 000 in funding because of the number of students on FSM. (This works out as over £650 per claim)
5. If you are eligible for any sort of tax credits, your child is probably eligible for FSMs
6. The school will support you to make a claim – in complete confidence, of course
7. The value of the FSM is added to your child's smart card completely confidentially and you can top it up if necessary.
8. If you are claiming FSMs, you can also claim support from the school for trips and visits
9. Oh and I nearly forgot, your child will receive a balanced, healthy meal to keep them going in the afternoon!

Please, please claim free school meals if you are eligible – you will be supporting your school financially as well as providing a hot meal for your child.

Peter Baker



Students of the Month

English

Harry Bayley
Andrew Nicolaou
Shelley Fitzpatrick
James Dunphy
Xenia Langlais
Manpreet Dhillon
Victoria Clark
Iskin Has
Ploy Tammatattayotin
Dani Lizdek
Yvanna Godwin
James Micklewright
Sadie Loftus
Meghan Bentley



Media

Anil Ahir
Luke Sussex

Drama

Georgia Trupia
Lee Wolsey
Rochelle Drinkwater
William Jennett

Covenant Scheme

Are you contributing to education at Mount Grace? One easy way to do this is by the Covenant Scheme (a registered charity) which is now managed by the Gift Aid System.



As trustees we would like to thank those of you who already belong for your support. This has helped provide your children with many extras which could not be afforded from the school's budget but which enhance their education. For example:

- Gifted and Talented PE Day
- White Boards
- School assembly hall projector
- Assisted rail journeys to Universities

If you are not already helping please join us by donating a set amount per month/year to the scheme, from which we can re-claim the

tax, so every £1 given automatically becomes £1.28. For details of how to do this, please see the attached form at the back of this newsletter.

Remember every little helps and makes a difference—from little apples do large trees grow!

Year 8 Library Lessons

Year 8 have now completed their library course. This year their aim was to achieve a Silver and Gold Certificate.

Silver was achieved by reading 10 books of different genres and then completing a simple task on each book.



Gold was achieved by reading a further 10 books and completing a further 10 tasks.

This year there were 3 students that competed their Gold compared to 4 students last year, however some extra Gold Certificates are being awarded for students who put in a superb effort to try and get a Gold Certificate.

Gold Achievers:

Rebecca Jenkins
Alwin Joby
Bradley Patterson

Special Gold Awards for effort:

Ryan Baker
Rebecca Davies
Stephanie Jones
Amit Khatri
Nina Umali
Donna Perkins
Katie Southwell
Charlotte Robinson

Well done to all of you, and also to the many students that achieved a Silver.

Mrs S Tomlinson
Librarian

Geography Awareness Week

Congratulations to the following form groups for winning the 2007 Geography Awareness Week



- Year 7 - 7LJ
- Year 8 - 8EP
- Year 9 - 9A

Well done to all form groups for trying!!

Miss Parrott

Sainsbury's visit to D&T

On Wednesday 26 September, as part of their 'Get children cooking' initiative, Sainsbury's visited a Year 8 D&T class. The duty manager and 2 other members



of staff arrived before the lesson, armed with all the equipment and ingredients necessary for the class to make pizzas. Students worked hard and thoroughly enjoyed the lesson. We are now the proud owners of new scales, bowls,

baking trays, knives, chopping boards and very smart aprons! A Big 'Thank You' to Sainsbury's.

Mrs Beveridge

PARKING

Please can we remind all parents/carers that when collecting/dropping off students, they SHOULD NOT be entering the school in their vehicle. Doing so puts all our students and staff at risk of accident.

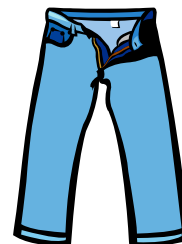


Please wait for your child in the adjoining streets (away from the main entrance).

Thank you

Sixth Form News.

The school managed to raise an impressive £630 for Jeans for Genes day. Big thanks to Natalia Kyriakides and Natalie Jones for organising the Non-Uniform day!! The girls have also organised the "Wear it Pink" day in support of the Breast Cancer campaign, which is being held on the 19th October. This month has been Breast Cancer awareness month and we are delighted to support a very worthy cause. The Sixth Form has also voted on the Charity of the Year. There were 4 charities on the shortlist. The chosen Charity is the First Step KDVSS Butterfly program. More about this in future editions.



Thanks.

Oliver Deed

PE News

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

At the end of last term the Duke of Edinburgh's Award group embarked on their practice expedition for their bronze award. This involved a three day trip to East Grinstead to participate in team building activities and expedition training. Despite the constant rain from the moment we left to when we arrived back at school, spirits were kept high throughout the weekend. On the Friday students took part in wall-climbing, abseiling and crate challenge. During each of these activities, all of the 6th formers used and developed their teamwork skills giving each other advice and encouragement throughout.

The Saturday saw the whole group begin their expedition training following routes planned by themselves through footpaths

and woods in preparation for a whole day of unsupervised walking on the Sunday! Even through the slippery mud and huge puddles, all walkers found their way back to the mini bus without getting too lost!

The group will be completing their final expedition in the spring and will be receiving their bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



The award will start again for the **current year 10 students** starting after half term so watch this space for more details!!

Miss Rose

Primary School Netball Festival

On Tuesday 25th September, Mount Grace School hosted the annual Potters Bar Primary School Netball Festival. This festival included almost 100 primary school children from 9 local schools, competing against each other to test out their new squads in a variety of positions.



The friendly atmosphere was excellent with many parents watching and supporting the players.

20 of our students were there to umpire the matches, and were as usual, fantastic role models.

The event ended up getting called off half an hour early due to a huge downpour. Despite this, all players left in high spirits.

Miss Rose

Arsenal Ladies Football Tournament

On Thursday 3rd October, Mount Grace School joined up with Arsenal Ladies Football Club to host a primary school girls'

football tournament. This tournament featured six teams from local primary schools competing for a place in the final. The tournament reached an exciting climax with Oakmere playing Wroxham. Wroxham eventually won on penalties.



This tournament was a fantastic opportunity for Mount Grace students to work alongside international player Faye White and her team of Arsenal Academy players.

Miss Rose

Congratulations

Caroline Cameron, a former student who left us in 2002, has graduated with a 1st Class Degree in Social Sciences and Psychology from Middlesex University. Well done Caroline.



Would your Grandparents like to come to our festive Christmas party?

A sumptuous afternoon tea, glass of Sherry on arrival and a visit from Father Christmas are included in the event, as well as the chance to make some new friends.



For more information and to confirm your attendance please send your name, address and phone number to reception in an envelope FAO Sam Moore.

PTFA News

The school year has started and we are already wondering if there will be anyone to help at the first two events—but everyone turns up trumps—as always. O ye of little faith

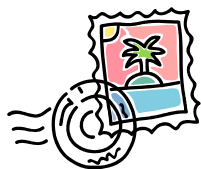
Elm Court Car Boot Sale—Saturday 8 September

Another successful money raising event by the PTFA—due mainly to the great support

of so many helpers—parents and friends. We had two people cooking, five people preparing sandwiches and rolls, several serving at the front counter and not forgetting Daphne and her outside crew! Oh yes and we mustn't leave out Heather who always arrives around 3pm to wash-up!!

Please—we need to you to come along for an hour—Jenny will be telephoning you. 3 November 2007 has been confirmed by Tom at Elm Court.

Stamp Fair—Sunday 16 September



We provided refreshments at the fourth Stamp Fair to be held at the School. It was well supported by friends and members. Pleased to say we had time to catch up on all the news and have a good laugh. Sunday 2 December—your phone will ring.

Annual General Meeting and Taster Evening—Wednesday 19 September

We have enclosed a copy of our Chair's Report so that all our members can see what happens in a typical year. A copy of the Accounts is on the Noticeboard in reception.

We had a lovely evening—some of which was due to the odd glass of wine and the delicious 'tasters' provided by our hardworking crew from the Canteen. Many thanks for their help and support.

Open Evening—Thursday 27 September

The school was a hive of activity and we were pleased to provide a welcome at the entrance to each block.

The two Sues did sterling work advertising the PTFA and we met some lovely people—bodes well for the future.

Primary Schools Football Tournament—Saturday 6 October

By the time I arrived, the early birds of the PTFA had the urns on and the tables set out. Luckily I was there to take the money and direct operations.

17 primary schools took part in this, the 18th competition. Congratulations to Cranborne who were this year's winners. They were presented their trophy by Mr Baker and Mr Ray Cattermole, the event organiser.



A big thank you needs to go to the Brookman's Park Rotary Club for their continued support of this popular event. At 2.30pm, after selling out of all of the food, the PTFA packed away having raised the grand sum of £545.98 at this event.

Watch out for the next PTFA events: Car Boot Sale at Elm Court on Sat 3 November.

Supper Quiz on Sat 10 November

See attached sheet.

Mini-Bus Fund

Perhaps you have mislaid the sheet or just forgotten to send it back amongst the one hundred and one other things we all have to do. It is not too late—19 October is the deadline! Another copy is on the next page.



Next Meetings

Christmas Fayre—Monday 15 October at 7pm in the School Library—everyone welcome - it is not an overlong meeting.

Committee Meeting— Monday 29 October 7pm. Held in the School Library—if you are feeling a little uncertain or wonder what it involves—do come along between 7pm—9pm.

HELP!!

Buy one get one free

Buy 3 for £5

Buy one get one ½ price

... all seem familiar?! If you think about the above, we can put them to good use at the Christmas Fayre. Any bottles should be handed in at Reception for the attention of Mrs McMahon.



Mount Grace School

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**We're on the Web! Visit
www.mountgrace.org.uk**

Committed to Excellence



WANTED



We desperately need cakes and biscuits to sell at the Elm Court Boot Sale (3/11/07) and the Christmas Fayre (24/11/07).

If you can provide anything, it would be gratefully appreciated. If you are worried about having the time nearer the events, perhaps you could bake now and it can be frozen in the school freezer.



MOUNT GRACE SCHOOL
Church Road, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1EZ
Parent, Teacher & Friends Association
Chairperson: Mrs J McMahon

MINI BUS MONEY MAKER

How would you like to win
£5 maybe £10 or even £20?

Then why not join our **Mini Bus Money Maker** monthly draw throughout the *school year (2007-08)* and also help us in our fund raising for another new school mini bus. (We bought a Peugeot minibus in Spring 2006). For an annual subscription of just £12, you will be entered into our monthly draw, with a chance of winning one of the above prizes – what could be easier!

MINI BUS MONEY MAKER DRAW

Application form for membership:(please return to Mrs J McMahon, c/o Mount Grace School by Friday 19 October 2007)

Name:(please print)

Address:

..... Telephone:

Please tick the following where appropriate:

I wish to belong to the Mini Bus Money Maker draw()

I enclose £12 subscription for the year 2007-8 ()
(Please make cheques payable to Mount Grace PTFA 100 Club)

I am a UK taxpayer intending tax to be reclaimed on the enclosed donation made under the Gift Aid Scheme . ()

I understand that I will be sent a copy of the rules of the monthly draw and kept informed of draw dates and names of winners.

Signed: Date:

Our school needs you!