

## HAPPY NEW 2010 !!!

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! This edition of the Python News allows us to catch up on items from last term which could not be included previously for lack of space and to include new events which have already happened in the first couple of weeks of this term. As you can see the school continues to thrive!"

Robert Dillow

## The London Trip

The Y11 and Y12 theatre students took flight, literally, and visited London on the annual theatre trip last November 2009. We were very lucky, not only with the weather, which stayed fairly dry during the visit, but also with the quality of the performances we saw. As always the students were a credit to themselves, the school and their parents. I for one thoroughly enjoyed the visit. It was also nice to catch up with ex-students now at university in London, who met us for dinner one evening. A special thanks to **Mr. Timmins** who accompanied the trip and was integrated in to the wonderful world of the theatre, even uttering the words "Shakespeare's quite good when it's done like that", Indeed it is!!

Claire Fenton



## Upper School Library Monitors Wanted

Helpers needed in the library during break and lunchtimes between now and the end of the Summer Term. Full training will be given, and duties include using the library catalogue, shelving books, helping with displays, computer bookings sheets and general supervision of other students. Merits will be awarded for your efforts. Please come and see **Miss Lillie** in the library if you wish to volunteer. This is also a great opportunity for Sixth Form to become involved in the management of the library for **CAS projects**.



## COOK FOR CANCER

Very sadly, two Year 9 girls unexpectedly lost a loved one to Breast Cancer last year. The impact of these tragedies have made **Pia Foulser** and **Cosima Berger** want to do something to raise awareness of this terrible disease and also to raise money for a charity whose aim is to find a cure for Cancer. By running a series of Bake Sales, and by producing a Cook Book called "**COOK FOR CANCER**", the girls have already received a lot of support from parents, teachers and students at the school. They have been given many recipes, and dedications for the cook book, and before publication, **300 Euros** has already been raised. The launch of the Book is planned for February and, in conjunction with the cake sales, the girls are expecting to add to this total.

So, please look out for this Cook Book and help Pia and Cosima with this important and worthy cause!



"The unexamined life is not worth living"

Socrates

## THE POETRY COMPETITION

The Poetry Competition is an annual event in the English Department's calendar. We are publishing the winners of the 2009-2010 competition in the next few editions of the Python News. We hope you enjoy the poem that was awarded **third place**.

Wallace Stevens said that Poetry was "the supreme fiction", and in the Senior Poetry Competition our **Third Placed Winner's** entry was a beautiful, emotive and imaginative piece of writing. 'Acceptance' by **Elettra Ardissimo (Yr 11)** was possibly the most powerful entry of 2009. Congratulations on being willing to push the boundaries in writing this quite amazing piece.

## Acceptance

Flung, passive as he,  
veiled by old rags worn by Death before,  
on a hospital bed, collapsing, is her.  
His beautiful broken porcelain doll.  
Their hands interweave as sweet times elapsed.  
She is soft dusk, and  
as the brooding nightfall teaches, elusive as a  
ghost,  
a different warped certainty dawns. She is cold.  
Over the flight of the crows' leaden wing  
she soars. He is alone, her battle now his own.  
The quiet words he spoke in his ears jarring cries,  
the buried truth bare in her baby blue eyes,  
submissive  
to Fate's blind wickedness – she waited.  
'Daddy, don't be sad'  
The mask of Bravery falls. He knows.  
The promise, the tacit pact, the Herculean task –  
his dead infant's end wish the heaviest load.  
Yet he must.  
Gently their hands unfurl.  
His love has burst.  
He lets her go.

Elettra Ardissimo

## The Museum of Archeology

On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009 **Year 3** went on a school trip to the Museum of Archeology to look at Ancient Roman artefacts. There was lots of exciting things to do. We liked it when we talked about ancient Milan and then we looked in amazement at the Trivulzio cup. The cup is a shiny, beautiful and precious cup made of glass. We also liked the mosaic. The mosaic was of a panther. Outside the museum there are the remains of an ancient tower where we saw murals of Saints. On the way back to school we saw a piece of the ancient wall of Milan and we drove past the enormous Christmas tree in Piazza Duomo!

Divya, Greta, Luca and Rocio (3R)



# Year 12's Core of the Hexagon Week

The start to the 'Core of the Hexagon Week' saw all students giving a short presentation on the CAS activities that we have carried out in the last term. It was very emotional, as many of us had carried out service ventures that have touched the hearts of others and helped to ease their suffering. This gave us the opportunity to express the enjoyment and valuable lessons that we gained through our projects. The next day, **Mr Plommer** gave the year group a great deal of information on choosing an interesting and innovative Extended Essay topic and on producing the most successful essay. A useful introduction was also given to the TOK Presentation and Essays; details that will prove indispensable in achieving our 3 core points for the IB Diploma. A start was made to the



Personal Statements, when we tried to answer the question: "what makes you stand out from other applicants?" **Mrs Watson** from **ISCO** and **Mr Scott** provided help in choosing a course at university and carrying out the application process. The week was concluded with a visit from **Andrew Maclehorse**, who is a pioneer in the development of TOK and leading figure in international education.

He gave us an interesting and entertaining insight into the Theory of Knowledge behind Science, which involved experiments, discussion and workshops. Thank you to **Mr. Plommer**, who organised the week and provided us with a great deal of food for thought!!

Lavinia Woodward 12D



## The Venice Trip

Not content with producing a 30 min version of Shakespeare's 'The Merchant Of Venice' the ever adventurous **Drama Department** decided to take to the streets of Venice, and so the fun and games began! This was no easy feat as we very quickly realized. Added to that was the decision to film it instead of a live performance. We are very grateful to **Mrs Sandra Blei** who put us in contact with **Countess Bianca Arrivabene** who very kindly offered her home Palazzo Papadopoli as a venue for our filming. As with all great film productions we have encountered many problems but we are working them out and the film will hopefully be shown very soon at a black tie event. Watch this space!

Claire Fenton

## School Christmas Assemblies

The autumn term ended with the traditional 'End of Term Assemblies' in Upper and Lower School. They are two very different events. In the **Lower School**, the children wait eagerly for the moment when their teachers dress up and perform for them. The festivities leading up to the assembly begin about a week before when **Ms Dean** suddenly appears with reindeer horns on her hair band or a piece of tinsel around her neck. By the morning of the assembly, she is decked out in her full Christmas regalia which is quite a sight to behold. The atmosphere in the gym was 'electric' this year as the staff danced to the theme tune from Michael Jackson's film 'Thriller'. The traditional 'three cheers for the holidays' resounded around the school and some very excited students went out to play. Meanwhile, the **Upper School** Assembly was underway in the dining room, a very different affair altogether. The programme was filled with student presentations and performances and, the success of many of them was celebrated publically through Commendation Awards and the House Point Totals. **Mr Orford** held the room in suspense as he announced the winners of the annual **Poetry Competition**. Heads turned to see the 'student behind the synonym' stand up and walk to the front of the assembly to receive their prize and read their poem to the school. A similar cheer to the one in the gym could be



heard coming from the dining room, not for the holidays this time but for the 'Top House of the Autumn Term' – all good fun and healthy competition!

## Coming Up

Dec 09 The Jazz Festival / 28<sup>th</sup> Feb Blackbird Day / 5<sup>th</sup> Feb U14 Girls Football Trip to Britschool in Paris / 7-10 Feb Y12 Geography Field Trip / 9 - 11 Feb Upper School Swimming Gala / 24 - 25<sup>th</sup> Feb Lower School Swimming Gala / 24 - 27 Feb Y9 Trip to Rome

## Duke of Edinburgh Trip to San Bernardino

We left on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January, just an hour before school ended and caught the train from Stazione Centrale, and subsequently the bus from Bellinzona for San Bernardino, 1600 metres up in the Swiss Alps. The panorama was amazing: the brilliant white snow was almost a meter tall on the roofs, pushed up even higher on the sides of the roads. There were enormous icicles, hanging down from every building in the city. And, of course, the freezing cold! When we finally reached the Capanna Genziana, it was dark and we didn't realize where we were going and what our surroundings were like. All we thought about was getting there and our main goal was to be warm...a very good motivator! Our rooms were quite cozy, I have to admit, and we played cards until 12 o'clock; it got pretty competitive as Rashid is a very good bluffer. The next day, we went snowshoeing. The climb was awesome and very steep at times, even though **Mr. Gorst** kept reassuring us that it would become less steep...it never did, until we went downhill! Before getting back to our abundant four course meal, we had a huge snowball fight in which the absolute winner was no other than George. Gemma and I kept trying to get him back, as all the others did, including Valeria! Saturday night we went dancing and slept very well, knowing that the next morning the thermal baths at Andeer were awaiting! They were one of the highlights of the weekend, along with many others, and we were literally forced back to Milan on the train. Many, many thanks to **Mr. Gorst** for having taken us there! We arrived at the station in a very relaxed state, almost hypnotised by the warm stream and bubbles in Andeer, almost ready for a full day of school on Monday.



by Ana Ionescu