



# Newsletter

April 2014

Welcome to the April edition of our Prep newsletter! This month we are looking forward to 'Prep Eco Day' on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and to the many exciting Eco events which are planned. The Green Flag Award recommendation from last May was to create a shared garden area and all of our pupils and Action Groups will be working hard to support the Eco Action Group with the creation of a sensory garden in our school grounds. Any help, sponsorship or assistance which could be offered from friends and family would be much appreciated indeed. Thank you for your support.

**Dr Mitchell-Barrett**

## Parent Forum

The next Parent Forum meeting will take place  
on  
**Wednesday 21st May 2014 at 6pm.**

The top three priority issues per class should be selected and submitted (in writing) to Miss Wright by  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014.**



## Easter Break

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April**  
Non Uniform

School closes at 11.45am by request through Parent Forum



**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

School re-opens from 8am

## Summer Uniform Reminder

The school summer dress should be worn after the Easter Holidays



- Grey blazer (Prep only - optional for Pre-School) and regulation navy jacket
  - Regulation grey and blue striped dress
  - Regulation grey pullover (please note:- not a white cardigan)
  - Plain white knee or ankle socks
  - Plain black, flat, laced/velcro shoes or leather navy Clarks style sandals (not open-toed)
  - Regulation maroon baseball cap with school name should be purchased from the Preparatory Department (£4) or from Warnocks.
- This is compulsory for outdoor play during the summer months.*

## After Hours

Please note that in line with Social Services regulations, no under 18s are permitted to collect pupils from After Hours.

This includes pupils from Pre-Pre-School, Pre-School and Prep After Hours.

Thank you.

After Hours Mobile Number - 07876387986

## Health and Safety Update

Parents are reminded that pupils should not be playing in the school playground at pick up time. To ensure that classes are not interrupted by noisy play, only Prep pupils are permitted in the playground during playtime hours.



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## 'Flower Power' Eco Day – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014

The main objective for the Eco team this year is to plan, create and develop an Eco garden which is an enjoyable space for us to work, play and learn in but also for the birds, bees and bugs too!



The theme for the day is 'Flower Power' and the Eco team would like each pupil to come to school dressed up. You can dress up as a flower from head to toe or wear a flowery jumper or tights or simply a flower in your hair.

The Eco team have worked alongside School Council and CAG to plan a number of exciting activities to help us raise money to achieve our beautiful Eco garden. Below is a list of some of the activities that will occur throughout the school day so please send your daughter into school with a few coins in a named purse.

- Cupcakes for sale 50p
- Garden themed word searches (P3-P7) £1
- Flower design/ decoration (PPS-P2) £1
- Easter Egg Raffle £1



In class the girls will have the opportunity to make their suggestions on what they would like from the Eco garden. We will use all these ideas to help plan our garden area. It is at this time I would ask if any parents would like to:

- offer any assistance/skills in the planning, building, planting stages or
- make a money donation to the garden area
- make a resource donation for example, wood compost, bedding plants or a willow tree.

All help or support that could be offered would be greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Mr & Mrs Cheevers who have already kindly donated a bird table for the new garden.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Miss Spottiswoode





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## The Lion King



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

- The Lion King performances are open to all Prep families.
- Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis, with priority given to Prep 7 as they have the lead roles.
- A maximum of 4 tickets per family will be issued in the first instance.
- If your preferred date is fully booked, an alternative date will be offered (if there is availability).
- Up to 4 additional tickets per family may be requested and these will be allocated, if available, after the closing date.
- Please return all requests for tickets by **11<sup>th</sup> April 2014** in a named envelope.
- Requests made after the closing date will not be considered.
- Tickets are non-transferable and must be used on the day for which they have been purchased.
- Please make cheques payable to **Victoria College Belfast**.

### Request for up to 4 tickets per family:

I require \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ £3 each for the filmed Lion King Concessionary performance on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 10am.

I require \_\_\_\_\_ adult tickets @ £6 each and \_\_\_\_\_ child tickets @ £3 each for The Lion King on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.

I require \_\_\_\_\_ adult tickets @ £6 each and \_\_\_\_\_ child tickets @ £3 each for The Lion King on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.

Total enclosed £ \_\_\_\_\_

### Request for up to 4 additional tickets per family:

I require \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ £3 each for the filmed Lion King Concessionary performance on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 10am.

I require \_\_\_\_\_ adult tickets @ £6 each and \_\_\_\_\_ child tickets @ £3 each for The Lion King on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.

I require \_\_\_\_\_ adult tickets @ £6 each and \_\_\_\_\_ child tickets @ £3 each for The Lion King on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.

Total enclosed £ \_\_\_\_\_



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## Cross Country – Mrs Henderson

A team of Prep 6 and 7 girls – Charlotte Houston, Georgina Lobo, Anna Hill, Lauren Patterson, Ella Ross, Eva Wilson, Amber Young, Emily Darling and Victoria Cosgrove - competed in the South Antrim Cross Country Championships.

The team had great success winning the South Antrim Shield. Individually, Anna Hill was placed 1<sup>st</sup>, Lauren Patterson came 3<sup>rd</sup>, Charlotte Houston gained 5<sup>th</sup> place, and Georgina Lobo came 8<sup>th</sup>.

The team have qualified for the 'A' Northern Ireland final, to be held in Ormeau Park on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014. Well done to all of our fantastic runners!



We are delighted to announce that Anna Hill from Prep 7 has been selected to take part in the Athletics Northern Ireland Junior Cross Country Squad 2014. The Squad brings together a training group of Northern Ireland's top junior athletes. Squad members are invited to attend four training sessions between April and December 2014 and to take part in a special 1000 metre track race this summer. In addition to this great achievement, Anna was the fastest of all of those chosen for the Squad, with an impressive time of 5 minutes 41 seconds, 10 seconds ahead of the next fastest runner. Congratulations, Anna!

## Hockey – Mrs Bell

Congratulations to the Prep 6 and 7 girls who competed in the Belfast Hockey Tournament. Both our 'A' and 'B' teams had some excellent matches in their sections. Our 'A' team were undefeated in all preliminary matches and went through to play Penrhyn in the final, where we won 4:0. Goal-scorers in the final were Georgina Lobo, Zahra Lowry, Lois Lyttle and Lauren Patterson, with some excellent goal-keeping by Ellie Ruddell.

The 'A' team of Anna Hill, Zahra Lowry, Eva Spollen, Ellie Ruddell, Georgina Lobo, Charlotte Houston, Lauren Patterson, Lois Lyttle, Erin Cameron and Katie Pallin will go through to represent VCB Prep at the Northern Ireland finals, to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014.





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## Swimming Gala Results

### Prep 3 Prizes

20m Backstroke:

1<sup>st</sup> Ribbon – Jenna Houston

2<sup>nd</sup> Ribbon – Aimee Hilman

10m Backstroke 'A':

1<sup>st</sup> Ribbon – Lola Armstrong and Annie Irvine

2<sup>nd</sup> Ribbon – Sarah Armstrong

10m Backstroke 'B':

1<sup>st</sup> Ribbon – Sybil Corscaden

2<sup>nd</sup> Ribbon – Jessica Byrne

20m Freestyle:

1<sup>st</sup> Ribbon – Aimee Hilman

2<sup>nd</sup> Ribbon – Ellie Fogarty

10m Freestyle:

1<sup>st</sup> Ribbon – Annie Irvine and Maya Mullen

2<sup>nd</sup> Ribbon – Anna McCaldin

Most points in Prep 3 Cup – Aimee Hilman

'Special Award' Ribbon for each girl in P3 for participation in first gala

### Prep 4 Prizes

10m Breaststroke Special Award for Endeavour:  
Grace Murphy

25m Backstroke:

Cup/Medal – Beatrice Toogood

Silver Medal – Maddie Crawford-McCann

20m Backstroke:

1<sup>st</sup> Ribbon – Katherine Irvine

2<sup>nd</sup> Ribbon – Libby Nesbitt

25m Breaststroke:

1<sup>st</sup> Shield/Gold medal – Rachel Cheevers

2<sup>nd</sup> Silver Medal – Katherine Donnelly

20m Breaststroke:

1<sup>st</sup> Ribbon – Sophia Colgan

2<sup>nd</sup> Ribbon – Libby Nesbitt and Emma Brow

10m Breaststroke:

1<sup>st</sup> Ribbon – Lucia Anderson and Olivia Shaw

2<sup>nd</sup> Ribbon – Bridget Kennedy

### Prep 4 Prizes Continued

25m Freestyle 'A' Final:

Osbourne Cup/Gold Medal – Katherine Donnelly

Silver Medal – Clara Wilson

25m Freestyle 'B' Final:

Gold Medal – Olivia Little

Silver Medal – Caroline McMichael

20m Freestyle:

1<sup>st</sup> ribbon – Charlotte Roberts

2<sup>nd</sup> Ribbon – Lucia Anderson

Most points in Prep 4 – Katherine Donnelly

### Prep 5 Prizes

25m Backstroke:

Cup/Gold Medal – Lily McGuire

Silver Medal – Amelia McGuigan

25m Breaststroke:

Cup/Gold Medal – Amy Fogarty

Silver Medal – Isabella O'Brien

20m Breaststroke:

1<sup>st</sup> Ribbon – Olivia Byrne

2<sup>nd</sup> Ribbon – Amy McMurrough

10m Breaststroke:

1<sup>st</sup> Ribbon – Mary-Kate Kennedy

25m Freestyle Final 'A':

Cup/Gold Medal – Evie McGale

Silver – Lily McGuire

25m Freestyle Final 'B':

Gold Medal – Amelia McGuigan

Silver Medal – Amy McMurrough

25m Freestyle Final 'C':

Gold Medal – Olivia Byrne

Silver Medal – Sarah Frazer

20m Freestyle: Mary-Kate Kennedy

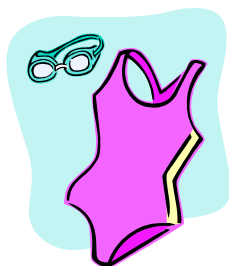
25m Butterfly:

Gold Medal – Lily McGuire

Silver Medal – Amy Fogarty

Most Points in Prep 5 – Lily McGuire

P4/5 Form Relay: Gold Medal – P5





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## Swimming Gala Results Continued

### Prep 6 Prizes

#### 25m Backstroke:

Clare Kirkpatrick Cup/Gold Medal – Ella Ross  
Silver – Molly McGuire

#### 20m Backstroke:

Gold Medal – Claudia Murphy  
Silver Medal – Grace Corscadden and Samantha McAlister

#### 25m Breaststroke:

Gold Medal – Maia Butcher  
Silver Medal – Emilia Azuara-Lois

#### 20m Breaststroke:

Gold Medal – Natalie Medhurst  
Silver Medal – Honor McCullough and Eliza Neville-Forrest

#### 25m Freestyle 'A' Final:

Gold Medal – Ella Ross  
Silver Medal – Molly McGuire

#### 25m Freestyle 'B' Final:

Gold Medal – Holly Campbell  
Silver Medal – Anna McCoy

#### 25m Freestyle 'C' Final:

Gold Medal – Lucy McQuoid  
Silver Medal – India Meyer and Beth Roberts

#### 25m Freestyle 'D' Final:

Gold Medal – Samantha McAlister  
Silver Medal – Honor McCullough and Natalie Medhurst

#### 25m Butterfly:

Louise McGuigan Cup/Gold Medal – Ella Ross  
Silver Medal – Molly McGuire

#### Most Points in Prep 6:

Clare Kirkpatrick Cup – Ella Ross

### Prep 7 Prize

#### 25m Backstroke:

Clare Kirkpatrick Cup/Gold Medal – Lois Lyttle  
Silver Medal – Molly MacAllister

#### 25m Breaststroke:

Laura Wilson Cup/Gold Medal – Anna Hill  
Silver Medal – Rosie Fogarty

#### 25m Freestyle 'A' Final:

Lindsay Spence Cup/Gold Medal – Lois Lyttle  
Silver Medal – Anna Hill

#### 25m Freestyle 'B' Final:

Gold Medal – Georgina Lobo  
Silver Medal – Sarah Cosgrove

#### 25m Freestyle 'C' Final:

Gold Medal - Katie Dick  
Silver Medal – Isabel Toogood

#### 25m Freestyle 'D' Final:

Gold Medal – Rachel Donnelly  
Silver Medal – Anna Shearer

#### 20m Freestyle:

Gold Medal – Zahra Lowry

#### 25m Butterfly:

Louise Gilmer Cup/Gold Medal - Lois Lyttle  
Silver Medal – Anna Hill

#### P6/7 Form Relay:

Box of Chocolates – Prep 7 (just!)

#### Prep 7 Inter-House Relay:

Gold Medal – Wellington

#### Most Points in Prep 7: Rachel Smyth Cup –

Lois Lyttle

#### Most Improved Swimmer: Zahra Lowry and

Erin Cameron



Supporting our Galas last month! Thanks also to Mrs Henderson for all of her organisation.

Congratulations to everyone who took part, you were wonderful!  
Well done to all of our winners!



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## Camogie

Prep 7 Camogie stars, Zahra Lowry and Katie Pallin, attended a mayoral reception at Belfast City Hall on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate the launch of the Camogie Championship. The Victoria College team are already the Belfast Region Indoor Champions and look forward to competing in the outdoor season in the forthcoming months.



The girls thoroughly enjoyed meeting Mayor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, who was impressed at their recent achievements. Many thanks to Mr O'Brian for his support and encouragement with the whole Prep team to date.

## Child Protection Update

You may be aware of the NSPCC's latest campaign, 'The Underwear Rule', and this might be a topic that you may wish to discuss with your child at home.

For more information about this initiative, please see the NSPCC website: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)



## Sport/Comic Relief

Thank you to the girls who wore their uniform backwards for the day! It was very funny and we are so glad the girls enjoyed taking part!

Prep raised over £145 for Sport/Comic Relief with this event, and would like to say thank you so much to everyone who contributed!

## Self-Review

As part of our annual school self-review, we will be consulting with pupils, parents and staff to inform our school improvement work for 2014-2015 and we would welcome your views and opinions about our school. If you would like to take part in our online survey for Prep parents (Prep 1-7), please access the website link: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/HYSN8N7](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HYSN8N7)

This short questionnaire should take around fifteen minutes to complete and the link to the questionnaire will remain live until 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Should you require any further information about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Prep office.

All questionnaire responses are anonymous but should you wish to discuss any of the issues raised, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with Dr Mitchell-Barrett.



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## Assisi Visit – Prep 5

Prep 5 girls were delighted to welcome Jen Rainey from Assisi to the Prep 5 classroom on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Jen gave a very interesting presentation about the work of the charity and shared important information about the care and welfare of animals.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed the visit and were complimented on their great listening skills and sensible questions!



## Library Visit – Prep 5



On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March, Prep 5 girls were delighted to walk in the sunshine to the Lisburn Road library for an informative talk about the organisation of books and the Dewey system. They all had the opportunity to join the library and with membership cards at the ready, borrowed books to use for research purposes for their P5 pet project.

The girls were delighted to hear that they are able to have nine books on loan at a time and have plans to return to the library in the near future for some more browsing with their parents!

## Mathletics

Prep have organised a two week 'Mathletics Trial' starting from 24<sup>th</sup> March until 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Mathletics is an award-winning website aimed at helping pupils enjoy mathematics and improve their results.

Many pupils received their Bronze Certificate at Celebrate Assembly on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March and hopefully more certificates will be awarded next Friday at the end of our trial. In each year group the girl with the most credits received a special certificate.

Miss Wright received a special certificate as her class were 18<sup>th</sup> in the top 50 schools in the UK, whilst Mrs Boyd's Prep 6 class were 35<sup>th</sup>. These results change continually so we will have to keep on having fun and gaining credits whilst improving our numeracy skills!

Mrs Boyd  
(Numeracy Co-ordinator)

[www.mathletics.co.uk](http://www.mathletics.co.uk)





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## News from Victoria College

### Girls sing live with Gary Barlow in concert

A group of 12 Victoria College girls and 6 boys from RBAI sang on stage with Gary Barlow on Saturday 29th March. The song they sang was called 'Sing' which Gary wrote for the Jubilee celebrations. Alex Dick, a former Prep pupil, sang the solo and led the choir. It was a very exciting opportunity. The girls had the chance to meet Eliza Doolittle, supporting act, and Gary before the concert. Girls involved included Frankie Eldred, Emma Connolly (former Prep pupil), Katie Lynn, Erin Devlin, Sarah Rogers, Francesca Drum, Caitlin McCormack (former Prep pupil), Hannah Beattie (former Prep pupil), Sarah Montgomery, Karen Bell, Molly McCartney, Kate McAlester and Sophie Lyster (former Prep pupil).



### Inspire conference 2014 at Titanic Quarter Belfast



In March, seven Year 10 pupils from the College were given the opportunity to attend a conference for International Women's Day on the theme *Inspiring Change*. Speakers encouraged advocacy for women's advancement everywhere, and in every way. They challenged women's equality and celebrated the difference that women have made to the world in the past and encouraged young women to be the catalysts for change that we need today. A number of pupils from the College entered art work based on the theme 'My Heroine'. Pupils were asked to create a piece of artwork based on a lady who inspired them. A Year 10 class portrait of Margaret Byers, founder of Victoria College was selected along with two other pupils Kirsten Culbert and Teri Johnson. The work is currently on display in the Andrews gallery at Titanic Quarter.



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## VCB pupils celebrate National Science and Engineering Week

On Tuesday 11th March, three GCSE and AS students attended a unique event at Queen's University Belfast entitled 'Engineering Imagination'. This event further engaged and motivated pupils interested in careers in the field of STEM. Pupils engaged in group work activities during the morning which included working to solve engineering problems. An opportunity to visit the 'Traces of Peter Rice' exhibition was enjoyed which highlighted the impressive engineering accomplishments of Queen's graduate Peter Rice. In the afternoon, the participants visited Harland and Wolff shipyard where they enjoyed a talk from the Head of the Engineering Department and had a chance to see, first hand, the huge oil rig currently under operation. The day concluded with a visit to the graving dock that held the Titanic and a trip to the Mac Theatre in the Cathedral Quarter. Following this event the participants are further enthused in pursuing study and careers in the STEM field.

## Run-a-muck

Run-a-muck is Ireland's original off-road fun and run challenge for joggers and runners of all abilities. On Saturday 1 March a gallant band of eight staff and fourteen Year 12, 13 and 14 girls left Belfast at 6.45 am to travel to Clonkeeran House near Johnstown Bridge in County Kildare. The race is a 5km cross country event over a course best described as "wet and mucky" with many man-made and natural obstacles like bale jumps, net scrambles, super slides, Tarzan swings, bridges, ditches, streams, tyres and tunnels. Some of the participants were seasoned cross-country runners and some had never attempted such a thing, but everyone finished the course, with several crossing the line side by side with the buddy who had spurred them on over the gruelling course. The day was an outstanding opportunity for fun, friendship and personal challenge. Very importantly, it also raised sponsorship for our school charities the Simon Community, the Alzheimer's Society and UNICEF. Congratulations to Mr Kavanagh whose vision this was. You can find out much more – including the athletes' finishing times! – at <http://www.runamuckchallenge.com>.



## New sports facilities for Victoria College

Victoria College has been included in the list of projects to be funded through the School Enhancement Programme.

The College is delighted with the news that the project, which will provide a new sports hall, gymnasium, fitness suite and 3G synthetic pitches along with additional Science and Art accommodation, will now progress to design stage.