Christmas Festivities

What a busy few weeks building up to Christmas we had! We can not forget to give a big thank you and well done to each class and Mrs Fiscus for all their lovely Christmas Decorations. The staff had great fun putting the decorations around school and in the hall on Wednesday 4th December. Each face lit up as the season drew closer.

Thanks to all the families and friends who attended our school production, “A Shared Journey,” and the Fayre that followed on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th December. Mr Bridges was very pleased with all the effort each class put into their parts; it was a very successful show.

Ridgewood will hold their annual Christmas Dinner on Thursday 19th December. Year 11 will be serving the traditional Christmas dinner of turkey, cranberry sauce, mash, sprouts, stuffing and gravy, followed by a lovely Christmas pudding and white sauce. The dinner will be held in the hall; each class make beautiful table decorations to make it extra special. Thanks to all our special guests who join us in our festivities.

On the last day of term we will be having our traditional Christingle celebration. The Year 10s will make the Christingle oranges. The orange represents the world, the red ribbon symbolises the blood of Christ, the fruit is the fruit of the earth and the candle reminds us Jesus is the light of the world. The Salvation Army will be joining our celebrations with their brass band, we are looking forward to singing our favourite Christmas carols and celebrating together. What a lovely way to end the year 2013!

What happened in the Philippines??

Along with all the many fundraisers Ridgewood supports, we are doing our part to raise funds and foods for the recent Philippines disaster. Typhoon Haiyan left a trail of destruction across the Philippines. It forced over 4 million children, men and women from their homes. Typhoon Haiyan has left many families with nothing!

Despite the business of the Christmas season, each class has re-arranged their normal lessons to include an aid appeal for the Philippines.

All together, the pupils of Ridgewood raised over £ 700 !!!!

Children in Need

Ridgewood raised money for Children in Need to help disabled children and young people in the UK by having a non-uniform day. The theme this year was spots and polka dots. They brought donations of £2 on Friday the 15th November. They have raised a lot of money over the years.

This year Ridgewood raised nearly £ 270 !!!!

By: Nicholas W.

In the beginning of December, Mr Fishwick personally delivered our very last new mini bus. These mini buses are very important to the pupils at Ridgewood. The buses allow each and every pupil, regardless of their needs, to access all the adventures and educational experiences our local communities have to offer. David Fishwick and his dealer principal Mark Barlow put on their “David Fishwick” facebook page a write up and picture of themselves handing over the wheelchair accessible mini bus to our school. There features a picture of David and Mark and Ridgewood staff and students. Mr Fishwick and Mr Barlow mentioned how impressed they were with the staff and pupils they met and want to pass on a big thank you to all at Ridgewood. Ridgewood would, in turn, like to pass on a big thank you to Mr Fishwick!

Thank you, David Fishwick!!!

By: Nicholas W.
Mrs Sanderson as always is busy with the Christmas festivities; classes want to make different things for their stalls. This season, Mrs Sanderson and her various class support went one step further.

Firstly, with Year 11G they opened a popcorn stand raising money for the Philippines Disaster funds. They were open for three Tuesdays. Staff and students could buy a small bag for 20p or a big bag for 50p. The popcorn could be plain, sweet or salty. All together 11G raised around £20.

In these last few days pupils and staff in the KS4 Vocational Studies course have been making beautiful biscuit Christmas Trees. They took some home as tasters then decided that they were indeed perfect. They then made enough to sell during the Christmas Fayre after the Christmas Production on Monday and Tuesday. All proceeds made will go to our school funds to help support activities like Waterpark, Bendrigg, attending theatre or the cinema for media studies.

World News Nov-Dec

Remember! Remember! November 5 was the annual Bonfire night celebrations.

8 November 2013: A deadly storm has hit the Philippines. Recorded to be the biggest typhoon in the world Typhoon Hiyan hit the Philippines.

5 December 2013: Nelson Mandela died aged 95. Mr Mandela spent 27 years in jail before becoming South Africa’s first black president in 1994.

13 December 2013: The Hobbit: the Desolation of Smaug was released in cinemas. So far it has a box office hit of $209,045,197.

By: James H.

Activities in 10R

Class 10R are continuing their study of other faiths with the Journey Project. Recently the class visited a Hindu Temple. They really enjoyed this experience and learning about the different customs in the different religions.

As part of their ASDAN work, the pupils of 10R raffled off a hamper from Booths. They used their mini business skills by advertising, and organising the raffle.

Another project for 10R was to really push their media skills. They have been working on using Stop Motion. The final project was played for their part of the Christmas Programme. In the “show” they use lego men in three different sets portraying rich men. This took many days practice with a final four hour long push to finish the project. It was a big hit during the Christmas programme. The pupils would like to thank their staff and Mr Diggins for his expertise and guidance.

Mrs Sanderson as always is busy with the Christmas festivities; classes want to make different things for their stalls. This season, Mrs Sanderson and her various class support went one step further.

Firstly, with Year 11G they opened a popcorn stand raising money for the Philippines Disaster funds. They were open for three Tuesdays. Staff and students could buy a small bag for 20p or a big bag for 50p. The popcorn could be plain, sweet or salty. All together 11G raised around £20.

ASDAN is a big part of the 11G curriculum. Their current module is learning how to care for a pet. Now if you go into the 11G classroom you will hear a gurgling from the back corner. The class are caring for three fish called Fish, Chips, and Mushypeas kept right in their class. The pupils take turns cleaning the tank, feeding the fish and keeping general maintenance on the tank.

The “Groovy Gang” consisting of three pupils working closely with Miss Caradice for their ASDAN Transition Challenge have recently been using their creativity and teamwork to decorate the artful trees around school. They make different designs for the trees depending on the season or what is going on in the world. Many parents will have seen their newest design in the hall during the production. They created a “Wintertime” tree. First they painted it all white then added pine cones and paper links. First “hands of the world” and now Christmas paper chains, and pine cones.

Some students from Class 11G have been attending ceramics classes at Sir John Thursby, they have produced some excellent pieces including, masks, miniature houses and their favourites — dinosaurs.

11G

“WhyTry?” Choir

The “WhyTry?” Choir have been singing their hearts out all month long! Not only does Mr Bridges, Miss Tullett and the Choir sing at some of the assemblies but they have been working really hard for the Christmas production. The group really like the more current songs showing their enjoyment as they sing. For the production the Choir learned brand new song “A Thousand Miles” by Vanessa Colton.

Pictures of our School Decorations

11G
Ms Fiscus’ KS 3 carousel group have been studying French masquerades. The pupils have been experimenting with the different designs and colours of masks. After deciding on their colour palettes, the pupils made their own masquerade masks using paper mache then painting them according to their designs.

**The Ridgewood Word Search:**

The words have been placed horizontally, vertically or diagonally. They can be forwards or backwards. Do this with your parents. Good luck!!

V P H N M G B I M L G I F T A
V Y F S M T Y K Y P R O D U C T I O N C
A F V C V C H U R P Y B W D L H O P G
D H F H L W P A Z O H J G S N C J D I
W A N G O S H M P V G W Y V M R L X T U
V I N G O B S T A L L S S I K A I F B Z
J W S O M Z W E W U E T E M B F D X T
J Z E L V S L T C N R I X A F F A G P L
X N D A H K C Y C G Z L T P K L Y K S N
Q L O T F A Y R E F P W P X Y E C F B P
T Z Q E N B B U B Z A V P N E K V A K T
T T Z B E O K L M S Z T M A I B S H E Z
T V L N E P P C H R I S T W A S E E Z F
Z B P U G G L O B E C P W F L S H B U I
W G J O U R N E Y U Z D X U X M U K Y L
B G L I T T E R K R G U A W U F W A M V

Chocolate  Christmas  Holiday
Glitter  Fayre  Gift
Stalls  Raffle  Production

**Dancing—Yeah!**

Our KS3 and KS4 dancers have worked extra hard this half term to get ready for the Dance Festival. The Festival takes place at Preston Guild Hall. The boys and girls left school early and did not return back to Burnley until 10pm!! What a long night! It was well worth it as the pupils got to meet other dancers from other schools and were inspired by all the different dances.

Mrs Naylor and choreographer Miss Fisher were very pleased with the lunch time dance club. All the missed break times really paid off and their dance went off without a glitch! Ridgewood did a joint dance with Blessed Trinity, Burnley. The Blessed Trinity group went on first to set the scene, with Ridgewood merging on, then dancing all by themselves. They danced to songs by James Arthur, Taylor Swift, Swedish House Mafia, and One Direction and using different genres of dance. I particularly liked all the stomping!

As soon as the Festival was over the Dancers lost no time getting a NEW dance ready for the Christmas programme. They danced to artists Lilly Allen, One Direction, Avicii, and of course a Christmas song. Fitting in perfectly with the “Journey” theme. Overall, the lunch time club worked really hard and deserve a pat on the back for all their effort—and thanks to staff as well for all their time.

**After School Clubs**

If you happen to be at Ridgewood late on Tuesdays you will see many Ridgewood pupils having a good time, rain or shine. Every Tuesday staff stay after school holding a cycling club. During these more chilly days, these kids might decide to play football or table tennis in the SJT sports hall.

Thursdays are also very busy days. Thursday is joint club where the Youth Group kids get to hang out with the Rebound Therapy group. The two groups have so much fun together—it’s mayhem in a good way :)

![Ridgewood Dancers striking a pose!](image)
Football Tournament
On 26 November 2013, Ridgewood attended the 2nd of three football tournaments. Mr Ramsden took three teams: KS4 Boys’ team, KS3 Boys’ team, and a mixed KS 3 and 4 Girls’ team. It was a very busy day of football, opposing many different schools. Some teams had to play four games in a row!! Well done, all three teams on their excellent records and teamwork. Mr Ramsden was very proud of Ridgewood for their great sportsmanship, too. Also, thanks again to David Fishwick for providing Ridgewood with a brand NEW football kit. This includes, red and blue tops for boys and girls, shorts, socks and shin pads and keeper tops.

Christmas Pictures

Editors Note:  Again a BIG THANKS to my Ridgewood Crew. I don’t think this edition with all its new features would be possible without them. This half term we focused on playing with the set up and editing. Though there may not be many articles written by the Crew, they worked really hard, interviewing staff, going on trips as the photographer, and editing all my work. That was their favourite bit, finding my faults! Thanks, Boys!!

~~Mrs Hilgenfeld

The Ridgewood Crew: Nicholas W, James H, and Aiden P.