MK SCHOOLS

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Make a creative splash at The Little Mermaid ballet workshop

By Georgina Butler
georgina.butler@jpress.co.uk
@mk_citizen

Young aspiring dancers are invited to immerse themselves in an underwater world during a special ballet workshop at Milton Keynes Theatre on Saturday.

Led by a Northern Ballet artist, the session includes a ballet warm up on the stage, followed by an exploration of themes and choreography from the company's production of The Little Mermaid.

Participants will then watch the company dancers' ballet class.

The workshop is suitable for children aged 11-16 years, runs from 9.30am until 12.45pm and costs £17.

Northern Ballet's beautiful new ballet based on the classic Hans Christian Andersen fairy-tale runs at the theatre until Saturday, April 21.

Visit http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/milton-keynes-theatre/

Sea story: Abigail Prudames and Joseph Taylor in The Little Mermaid. Picture: Guy Farrow.

Concert at The Grove

A lunchtime concert was given by pupils at The Grove Independent School in Milton Keynes. A host of children took part, performing 29 items, one of which included the Senior Choir which includes 23 members. The girls sang their favourite 'Jazz is Cool' with all the moves. The Chamber group, which numbers eight, played a little piece called' Daisy Chain Walk' very carefully, showing they are learning to listen to each other.

Other items included a beautiful little poem, 'New Day', by Emma Bird. Elise Craig played 'The Princess' with two hands on the piano. Barnaby Davison sang 'Where is Love?' from Oliver. Mariam Elakama chose to tell about her love for ballet for her 'Public Speaking' and Giovanna Opoku played her flute for the first time, her piece being 'The Nightingale'. The audience heard many wonderful poems and solos on violins and cellos.

National accolade for quality awarded to first school in city

By Georgina Butler
georgina.butler@jpress.co.uk
@mk_citizen

Awarded: staff and pupils celebrate at Wood End First School in Stantonbury.

Staff, pupils and parents at Wood End First School in Stantonbury are thrilled that their school has been awarded the Quality Lead Award from education charity Achievement for All (AfA).

This award acknowledges the work being done by the setting to improve the progress that all pupils make in reading, writing and maths.

Achievement for All offers support programmes to schools and educational settings to help them improve outcomes in the lowest achieving 20 per cent.

Wood End First School has been working in partnership with the charity since June 2013 and has seen an improvement in many areas.

These include engagement with parents, opportunities for children beyond the curriculum and progress and attainment for all children - particularly those in vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Headteacher Claire Wilson said: "I have been leading on Achievement for All since 2013 and I cannot speak highly enough of the programme. The changes we have seen in our school have been remarkable.

"Our parents speak highly of our school and many regard it as a family. Improvements have been made in all areas of the school and I am so proud of our staff and children for all we have achieved over the past five years.

"To be awarded Quality Lead status has given the recognition that I feel we deserve."

Nursery spreads the love

Children and staff at Kiddi Caru's Caldecotte day nursery in Milton Keynes are convinced that the ability to brighten someone's day is only a stone's throw away if you can harness your creativity. They have been painting and hiding rocks, all in the name of kindness.

Inspired by initiatives like Love on the Rocks, the children painted Kiddi Caru rocks and then hid them around Caldecotte Lake for people to find.

Nursery manager Lucy Clarke said: "The idea of hiding little works of art to brighten up people's days really captured the children's imaginations.

"They love the fact that something they made can make someone smile when they find it, and that they can either keep it or hide it somewhere else for another person to find.

"It's such a simple idea but is a lovely way of spreading kind words and positive messages."