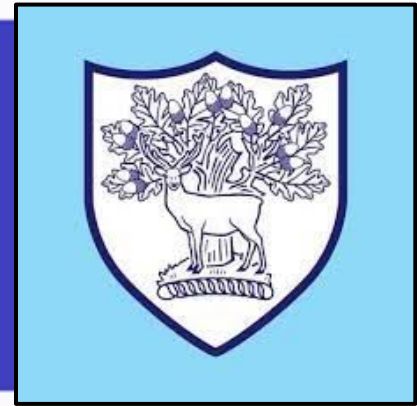


Park Life



5th Edition

It's not about you joggers who go round and round

Sporting Superstars!



Onto a winner: members of Albert house celebrate their second sports day win in a row.



Albert win for the seventh year in a row.

By Staff Reporter

Thunderous footsteps ushered in the latest fierce competition that was the Park House School Sports Day. Friendships were forgotten, family members ignored, and former loyalties overturned on Thursday 11th of July as the four houses knuckled down to participate in the notoriously competitive event. However, there could only be one winner and, despite enthusiastic efforts from all involved, Albert was once again crowned the winners.

The day started during period

one with the majority of Years 7 and 8 taking to the sports field to participate in a variety of field events including high jump, long jump, shot put and javelin. Griff J put in an impressive effort in the shot put, managing to score a new school record for year 7 with an incredible throw of 10.1m. His record was followed during periods 3 and 4 by Years 9 and 10 thanks to James S, who threw 12.23m and Georgina B who threw 9.52m. Other records broken on the day were Year 8 girls' triple jump, smashed by *(continued pg. 2)*

Sports Day

Emma L, who jumped 8.91m and boys' hurdles which Luke G completed in 13.03 seconds

The afternoon saw the start of the parades, in which each house took a turn to complete a lap of the running track preceded by a smoking torch displaying the colours of the house before taking a seat in a specified house area at the edge of the sports field, from where they could cheer on their house mates. Many students took the opportunity to don face paints and the colours of their house, with some opting to colour every inch of visible skin.

A student who witnessed the parades said the atmosphere had been incredible.

“You could see that everyone was really enjoying themselves, cheering and shouting during the races. Some people did take the face painting to a bit of an extreme and we did have a couple of people looking like smurfs or the incredible hulk, but it was all in good humour and just an expression of their dedication to their house.”



*Taking the high road:
A student sneaks
over the bar in the
popular field event.*



*It's coming
home:
Joseph
(complete
with snazzy
sunglasses)
storm home
in the relay.*

The final race of the day, the teachers and sixth formers relay, proved to be a particular highlight with Dr Yuan being dubbed ‘the rocket’ by students thanks to his speedy sprint along the track.

Event organiser and head of sports, Mr Tree, said that he had been very impressed by the effort everyone had put in.

“The efforts on show throughout the Sports Day this year were spectacular. We had five new school records, including breaking a record very nearly as old as me! Competition was fierce throughout the day but as usual, it came down to the house that managed to get the most students to participate therefore leaving no "gaps".

“The whole day was smooth, and students represented their houses with enthusiasm, respect and great sportsmanship both when competing and when spectating.”

House Events

Congratulations Croft!

Written by Rueben Jaggard

OVERALL HOUSE WINNERS - 2024	
FIRST PLACE	CROFT - 3626
SECOND PLACE	CHAFFEY - 3569
THIRD PLACE	JOSEPH - 3554
FOURTH PLACE	ALBERT - 3173

It has been a year of tough competition, each house has been battling to reach the top spot. Points are gained through following and displaying the school values and throughout the year, a flurry of house competitions have also been taking place.

Prior to Sports Day, **Croft** was in the lead with 2967 points, followed by **Joseph** with 2896 points, followed very closely by **Chaffey** with 2859 points, and **Albert** were bringing up the rear with 2432 points. However, this didn't worry the students of Albert, as they were convinced they would gain enough house points from winning Sports Day to push them to the top of the leaderboard.

However, this was not the case for the students of Albert this year!

Although Albert have been winners of Sports Day for seven years in a row, including this year, the house points gained unfortunately did not take them any higher on the house point leaderboard.

But for Croft, even though they didn't win Sports Day, the high number of participants they had gained them a substantial amount of house points. This put them in the lead, and overall, they won the house competitions.

When Croft was announced as the winner, everyone stood up, celebrating their house's victory.

So a massive congratulations to Croft, and let's see who the winner of the house competition is next year.



House Reward

Bouncy Castle Fun

Written by staff reporter



Croft students bounced into their celebration fun day with enthusiasm on Friday the 12th of July, after successfully fending off all challengers in the annual house competition.

After a year filled with treasure hunts, music displays and poetry writing, among others, the victorious side celebrated their success with free ice creams and time in the sports hall filled with riotous rubbery revelry. Highlights included a bouncy pirate ship slide, a helter skelter, inflatable darts and a gigantic unicorn.

Miss Knight, French teacher and Croft tutor said that it had been a fun event.

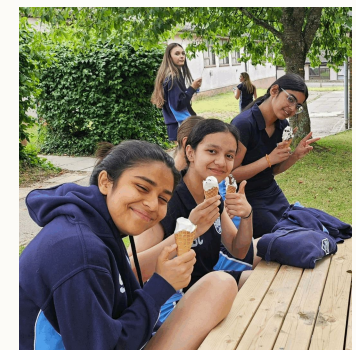
“It was lovely to see Croft students bouncing and celebrating their success on the bouncy castles! My personal favourite was the pink unicorn!”

A year 8 student said that they had particularly enjoyed the bouncy climbing wall.

“I had to try a few times to get to the top but Miss Peeters just stormed up there. I like the darts as well but I couldn’t seem to make them stick. Miss Knight was so funny, she kept on sliding around on the unicorn and laughing.”

Mr King said that the event had been a great success and promised even greater fun and frivolity for the winning house in 2025.

“It is a testament to the hard work Croft House put into their education during the last academic year and next year will be even more sensational!”



Dance Show Success

Written by Brooke Taylor



Dedicated dancers presented an evening of talent, passion and skill on Wednesday 3rd of July, at the Encompass VIII Dance Show: Park House School Festival of Dance.

Dancers from years 7-13 presented an eclectic mix of modern, contemporary and street dance at the Arlington Arts Centre at Snelsmore Common. Over the course of two hours, 26 dances were performed, featuring 87 dancers, some of whom had been preparing for the event since the previous September.

Throughout the evening, the audience were treated to a range of dances created in GCSE Dance or BTEC Performing Arts lessons. Dance Clubs from all year groups also performed along with examination choreography from the Year 11 students and a rendition of *Down and Out* from the school's production of *Bugsy Malone*. Particularly inspiring were the four works presented by the sixth form dancers, with the musical theatre piece *SIX* receiving

excited applause from the audience, just before the interval.

A fast and lively street dance piece was performed by dancers from Years 10 to 13 before an emotional and uplifting ending saw Year 7 dancer Eva Hounsome begin a solo. She was gradually joined on stage by the other dancers until all 87 performers completely filled the stage concluding the evening with a company bow to the emotional music of Ennio Morricone from the Film *The Mission*.

Imogen C, a dancer from year 8, said that it had been a such an enjoyable experience that even a near disaster hadn't spoilt the fun.

"One of my friends actually broke her toe just before we were due to go on but we'd put so much effort into preparing for the show that she just continued anyway and it wasn't until she got home that she realised how bad it was."

Show organisers Mrs Mawazini, Head of dance, supported by Mr Sutton, Head of Drama, prepared students throughout the year to enable such a huge spectacle to be created and with such a wide range of diverse and exciting choreography.

Mrs Mawazini was thrilled with the sheer hard work and commitment shown by all the performers and their determination to maintain such a high standard of presentation throughout the show.

"I am absolutely thrilled at the amazing standard achieved by our students at the recent Encompass dance show. I am immensely proud of the quality of the dances and how well-rehearsed and prepared the performers were throughout the evening. The whole event is a celebration of the joy and passion experienced by Park House students who take part regularly in dance lessons and clubs throughout the year. I love the fact that this event allows all year groups to come together to share their sheer enjoyment of the subject."

Pride Month Dictionary

Written by Freya Clark



A message of love and understanding played a key part in this year's celebration of Pride Month at the school. An assembly highlighted the difficulties faced by the LGBTQ+ community and explored the concept of the Pride movement in the UK and how students could support it.

The assembly was followed by discussions on the topic in the classroom, some of which were eye opening.

Ms Meyer, English teacher and year 7 tutor, said that her class had been very vocal on the subject.

"In this day and age I rather expected to hear that few of my students had experienced or witnessed anyone speaking in a homophobic manner but when we did a hands up survey it seemed that everyone had witnessed it. My students said that homophobic slurs are often used online when people are gaming and that it was a regular occurrence to witness it.

"It's very sad that even our youngest students are exposed to this sort of thing but I hope that the assemblies, PHSE lessons and celebrations in the library will help spread a message of understanding and acceptance."

A year 8 student, who identifies as part of the community, said that they were pleased the school made such an effort to make everyone feel included.

"Pride month isn't just about being part of the LGBTQ+ community but celebrating our differences as queer or ally. Everyone should get involved."

Elections

Voter ID Please!

Written by Rueben Jaggard



The 4th of July is not only the day the Americans celebrate their independence but also, this year, it was the UK General Election and the Park House General Election.

During the morning tutor time, an assembly was held where candidates for each political party went through their manifestos and why students should vote for them. The parties represented were Labour, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, The Green Party, and Reform UK.

Voting took place outside the canteen during both break and lunch. Students placed their voter cards in boxes to have their votes counted.

While official General Election votes must be anonymous and

free from peer influence, many votes at Park House may not have followed this rule, possibly leading to biased outcomes.

After counting all 554 votes, The Green Party emerged as the winner with 205 votes.

The breakdown of votes across the other parties was:

- Reform UK - 160
- Liberal Democrats - 107
- Labour - 47
- Conservatives - 27

This wasn't just a school election; it was a Greenshaw-wide election as well. All the votes from all Greenshaw schools were counted to give us the results for the Greenshaw-wide General Election.

The results were:

- Conservatives - 1 seat
- Reform UK - 6 seats
- Liberal Democrats - 10 seats
- The Green Party - 11 seats
- Labour - 24 seats

It is coincidental that the outcome of the Greenshaw-wide General Election almost matched the outcome of the official General Election.

Bronze Complete!

Written by Rueben Jaggard



From helping lost groups to getting lost ourselves, and sleeping in a tent surrounded by other groups, the DofE weekend was a lot of fun. Walking around 20 km over two days was quite an experience, especially for some who hadn't even walked half that distance before. We set off from Hurstbourne Tarrant on Saturday at around 11am, aiming to reach Oakley Farm Caravan Park in Wash Common. Not only did we have to walk that distance, but we also had to carry our tents, cooking equipment, sleeping bags, and clothes on our backs. The first day's walk was the longest, which was good since we needed to be out for six hours on both days.

It was a challenging walk as there were many hills to overcome, especially around the highest point in Hampshire, but then we

were walking down the other side in less than a kilometre.

Arriving at the campsite was a welcome sight. We were able to drop our bags, and work as a team to set up the tents and cook the day's dinner. As everyone had finished dinner, some people were playing football or other games with their friends, whilst others took the opportunity to relax before the second day of walking.

The second day was a much easier route, from the campsite to Kintbury Train Station, as for most of the walk we just followed the path of the river.

Overall, it was a great experience, which I highly recommend. Walking with your friends and overcoming challenges (especially when you are lost), are only a small part of the fun that can be had with DofE.



Clubs

Hard Hitters

Written by Ada Liang



A new addition to the club list is the new Boxing Club, run by P.E and cover supervisor, Ms Agne. This club has helped people learn some boxing skills, and let many students have a lot of fun. We spoke to Ms Ange and asked her a few questions about the group.

Why did you decide to start a boxing club?

I've been coaching boxing clubs for many years and starting at PHS meant that I had to say goodbye to my club I coached for 6 years at Arts University Bournemouth. It's only natural that I saw potential for a club at PHS to bring a new skill to the school life for pupils. There's been a great 'buzz' about it at school.

Why do you think people should try boxing?

In my experience, alongside learning a new skill, being part of a boxing club opened many opportunities for me to meet people and be able to walk into a boxing gym anywhere in the world without feeling unwelcome. And all the while keeping your body fit and your brain sharp.

What are your plans for the future of the club?

We are just at the start, however, I am confident it will grow and eventually, pupils will start to build a community that helps each other in their fitness goals. Maybe create a committee that does in-house events and challenges and fundraisers.

What do you enjoy about boxing?

I consider boxing to be the best fitness discipline because it challenges your brain power, keeps you cardio fit, trains your speed, power, and requires quick reactions to really master it.

You can learn at your own pace and there is no level to be a good boxer, you just need a willingness to learn.

What advice do you have for those who want to give it a try?

Stepping into a boxing club does not require you to have any particular level of fitness, I'd encourage anyone to join in and see that it's not the case. Being part of a club means you can train with your friends.

Boxing Club takes place every Wednesday from 3:15 to 4pm in the small gym.

Primary news

Primary Impressions

*Written by
Staff Writer*



The next generation of students got to experience life at Park House on Monday 1st of July, during the annual induction day.

Excited pupils from primaries across the area got to meet their tutor, experience lessons and find their way around the school before they start the next stage of their education in September.

Parents of the prospective students, who will graduate in 2031, had already heard exactly what to expect

during an information evening held on Wednesday 26th of June, where they were told about uniform and behaviour expectations and introduced to the tutor time reading programme by being presented with their very own copy of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*.

Clara, a student from Inkpen Primary, said that she had really enjoyed the day.

“Park House is a lot bigger than my school but we felt taken care of so it wasn’t overwhelming. We did PE, science and textiles which were all really fun and interesting. The best bit was meeting all the different people from other schools and making new friends.”

Mr Jones, teacher of DT and head of year - who had only recently said goodbye to year 11, his previous year group, - said that he was looking forward to guiding them through the next few years.

“The transition day went like clockwork. The students left us with smiles on their faces and all looking forward to the next chapter of the educational life.

“I was so pleased to meet my new year group or as I call them my new cadets.”

trips

Hampton Court

Written by staff reporter



Much like King Henry the Eighth divided heads from bodies, the year sevens were divided last Wednesday. Approximately seventy intrepid historians descended upon Hampton Court Palace. A sprawling residence “devoted to pleasure, celebration and ostentatious display”. Renowned for its stunning architecture and rich history, offering our students an unforgettable glimpse into the lives of British royalty.

After a quick snack-stop following a stifling coach journey - despite the efforts of the aircon - and then we were split further into groups of thirty-five, to take advantage of two different workshops. The first, delivered by a resurrected Robert Dudley, had our students dusting off their debating skills and deciding the fate of the country as poor queen ‘Lizzie’ the First lay dying in her death-bed. The debate was lively, with some exceptional exposition delivered with confidence.

Following a - ok probably too quick of a - lunch break (but to be honest the workshops running over was simply due to how fantastic the participation was!) and the groups swapped over. After a quick display of our students’ intellectual prowess, we went on a small tour of the building. Stopping in the haunted corridor, and into the king’s council chamber. Seeing the quality of ideas being shared amongst our students was truly outstanding. In fact, we were reliably informed by the workshop lead that no other school was able to name the Moroccan ambassador, but Park House students were. Way to brandish that knowledge folks!

After the obligatory gift shop visit, we trudged back to the coach, ensured we had not lost any students to King Henry's executioner, and begun our journey back home.

History teacher and trip organiser, Miss Stanley-Smith, said it had been a fantastic day: “Both workshops groups demonstrated excellent knowledge about the relationship between England and Morocco and were the only school to have this knowledge. Students also participated in a debate to argue who should succeed Elizabeth I and were able to articulate their points brilliantly in what became a very lively debate. Members of the public commented on the impeccable behaviour of the students and how smart they looked too”



Assemblies

Sensible Advice

Written by Staff Reporter



Electric scooters, graffiti and loutish behaviour came under the spotlight during a series of assemblies by Thames Valley Police during the penultimate week of term.

Sergeant McDowell and PCSO Dixon from the force hosted presentations for year 7 to 10 in the run up to the summer holiday which, according to the officers, was typically a time when the service received an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour within the community.

While the officer believed that some young people were blamed unfairly for simply hanging out in groups, she said that the fear of anti-social behaviour was very real.

“Sometimes you might just be hanging out with your friends in the park, playing football and probably speaking loudly to each other and you might notice people actively avoiding you,” Sgt McDowell said. “You might not be doing anything antisocial but the fear that you might can make people nervous.”

She asked students to be mindful of the way they conducted themselves in public and to remember that behaviour such as swearing could cause others around them to feel uncomfortable.

Students were also surprised to learn that e-scooters, a regular sight on the streets of Newbury, were actually illegal in the UK, both on the road and on pavements, and could be confiscated by the police. PCSO Dixon made it clear that without road tax and insurance, neither of which are currently available for scooters in the UK, there would be no chance of reclaiming the vehicles, which often cost hundreds of pounds.

A student who watched the assembly said it had made him think about how his actions could have unintended consequences.

“Spending time with my friends is one of the best things about the holidays but sometimes I guess we don't always think about how what we're doing might affect others. The two officers were really nice about how they presented it. What they said made a lot of sense.”

Summer safety assembly

Written by Staff Reporter



We've all seen the films: a swimmer splashes innocently through the ocean, the open water clear ahead of them, when suddenly, as if out of nowhere, something appears from below, ready to take a piece out of them. You might be thinking, 'SHARK!' but, according to a recent assembly, the more likely dangers are shopping trolleys and old bicycle frames.

The Water Safety Assembly, delivered by heads of year in the penultimate week of term, highlighted the particular dangers of swimming in different bodies of water and was aimed at keeping students safe during the summer. According to the National Water Safety Forum, around 400 people die by drowning each year in the UK, many of them young people, so assemblies such as the

one presented by the school are part of a national strategy to educate young people on the dangers and keep them safe at a time when cooling waters might seem especially appealing.

The assembly focused on canals, rivers, the coast and what to do if someone got into trouble in the water.

Mr Bouzida, English teacher and deputy head of year 9, said that many dangers may not be immediately obvious.

"Although the air might be warm, bodies of water don't heat up as quickly so you might find yourself suffering from cold water shock, which can seriously affect your breathing and movement which can result in drowning. As well as physical reactions, there can also be dangers below the surface such as unexpected currents and hidden debris which can result in injury".

The assembly highlighted a collection of metallic objects extracted from the River Thames under Caversham Bridge in Reading, which could have caused serious harm had anyone chosen to jump in.

Tombstoning was also identified as a potential threat. The practice of jumping off of high structures or rocks into the sea has resulted in 70 injuries and 20 deaths since 2004, with many of those injured suffering life changing paralysis as a result of damaging their spine by hitting the seabed.

"We're not saying that people shouldn't be enjoying themselves over the summer but we do encourage people to take responsibility for their safety," Mr Bouzida added. "We just want you all to have a happy and safe summer so we can all come back and enjoy what the school has to offer in the next academic year."

Short Story

The Squirrel Army

Written by staff reporter



We'd always had the place to ourselves: scampering through the trees, raiding the litter bins, dancing over the roofs. Yes, being a squirrel at Park House had been like living the dream. But then one day, he came and it all changed.

We hadn't spotted him as a threat at first. He seemed so tiny, just a curiosity. But then, as time passed, he got bigger and soon he was taking over the place, running all over the place, his blond hair blowing in the wind like some sort of shampoo ad. While we'd lived at the school largely ignored by the humans, he actively engaged with them, running in their midst, following them, even organising them. At first we'd just hoped he'd get bored and leave but after a sun and a snow of this we realised this four legger wasn't going anywhere. Buddy, the humans called him. Buddy, our rival.

It was the time of new leaves when the elders finally decided to do something about him.

"We must fight back," announced Grand Master Nut. "The place is crawling with humans."

The brightest among us announced their plans: pitfalls covered with twigs, doorways booby trapped with hundreds of rolling acorns, pencils collected and hidden. They were all good ideas but eventually we settled on a plan of outright terror and I was chosen to begin it.

Hiding just under the lip of the bin I kept my head down as the big human got closer. I could see her hand reaching out for the door, the handle just within grasp. Suddenly, I leapt from the bin, my claws scrabbling with a cacophonous clatter.

"For crying out loud!" the human screeched, leaping backwards.

I ran off, pride swelling in my chest. The fightback had begun.

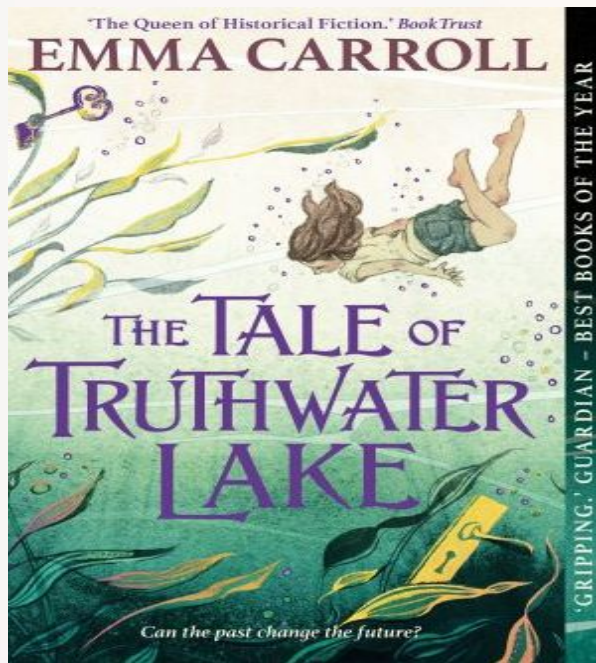
Over the next few weeks, we continued our campaign. My fellow greys and I would sit in the trees, staring silently, bobbing in the breeze, our eyes unblinking. Other times, we would screech, our cries causing the humans to cover their ears. We pulled litter from the bins, spreading it all over the grass, inviting the seagulls to come and spread the chaos even further.

But, alas, after months, it was obvious our campaign had not worked. The humans stayed under the watchful eye of their hairy overlord. So now, we're ramping up the attack. Over the time of sun we're planning something they'll never expect. When they come back to school we'll be ready for them and, finally, Park House will be ours!

Book Review

The Tale of Truthwater Lake

by Miss Rhodes



It's the year 2032 and Polly and her brother Joel are in the English countryside for the summer. Climate change has led to a scorching 40-degree summer and food shortages but the world is going to change even further for the main character when, through an unlikely twist of fate, she finds herself sent back in time to 1952.

I am a big fan of Emma Carroll, a skilled storyteller, who weaves a hint of something otherworldly throughout the tale. This book is very timely with the dramatic heat waves we have experienced over the past couple of years (even though it might feel like the rain never ends!), which makes the scenario in this story much truer to life.

I really enjoy the historical aspect as well, in which one of the characters attempts to become the first child to swim the channel while dealing with the worry of her village being destroyed in the creation of a new reservoir.

The ending seems very neat and everything turns out well which, despite the predictions of serious climactic issues, leaves you with a positive feeling when you finally turn over that last page.

This book is a modern-day masterpiece, from a well-established children's author and is a recommended read in the library. So far, all of our readers agreed that it was something they'd recommend to a friend.

If you're interested in joining, Books and Snacks takes place in the library every Thursday lunchtime.

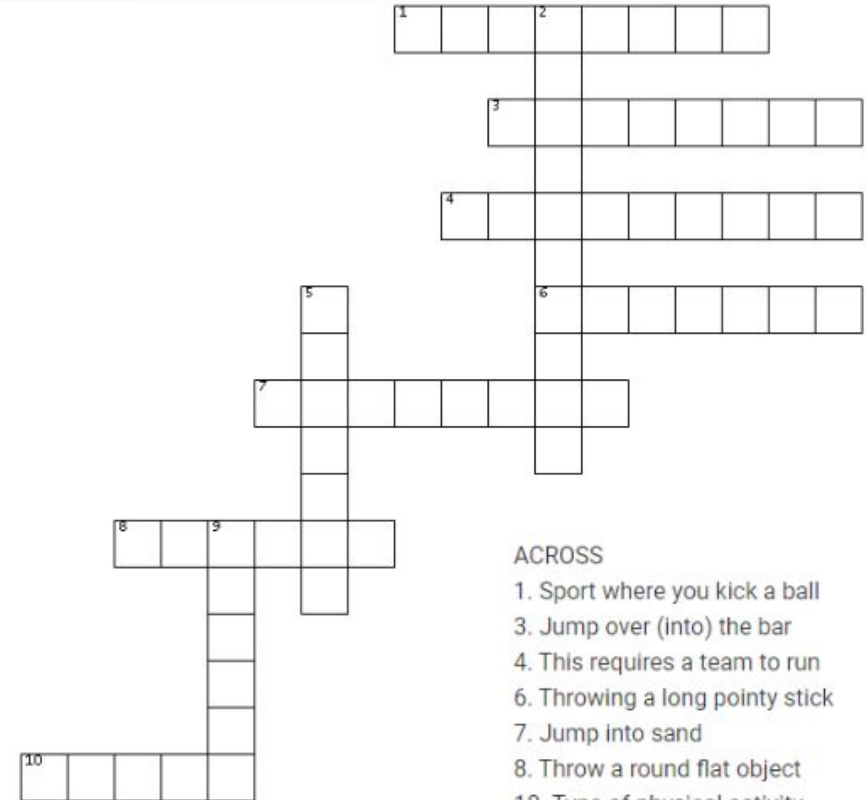
Pictures and puzzles

Sudoku

			4		1		9
4				9	8		
5		8					2
8		6			2		
7	4	2			9		3
			8				4
		3		7			
3		4				9	
4					8		

WARNING! answers on the next page!

Crossword



Word Search *Ten words to find. All sport themed.*

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

Words:

discus
 javalin
 shotput
 triplejump
 football
 longjump
 Sport
 highjump
 relayrace
 sprint

ACROSS

1. Sport where you kick a ball
3. Jump over (into) the bar
4. This requires a team to run
6. Throwing a long pointy stick
7. Jump into sand
8. Throw a round flat object
10. Type of physical activity

DOWN

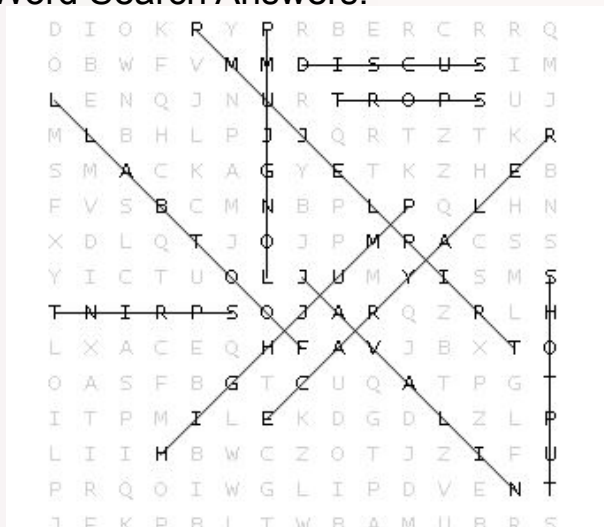
2. Three jumps
5. Throw a ball
9. Run fast

Pictures and puzzles

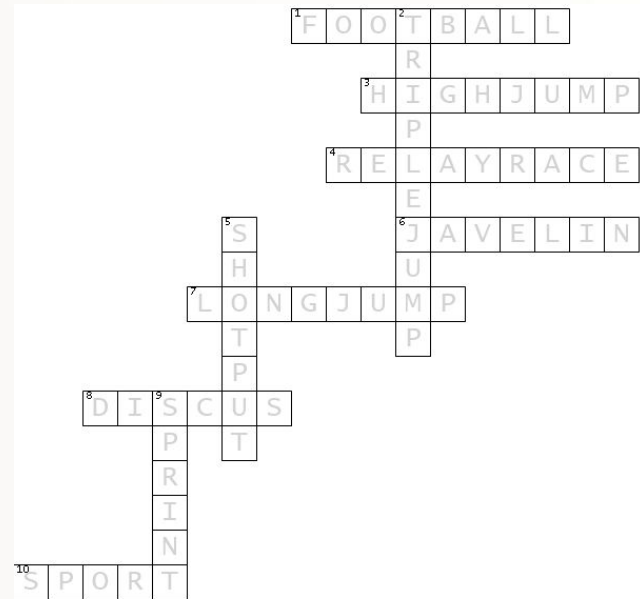
Sudoku answers

8	3	6	7	4	2	1	5	9
7	4	2	1	5	9	8	3	6
1	5	9	8	3	6	7	4	2
9	8	3	6	7	4	2	1	5
6	7	4	2	1	5	9	8	3
2	1	5	9	8	3	6	7	4
5	9	8	3	6	7	4	2	1
3	6	7	4	2	1	5	9	8
4	2	1	5	9	8	3	6	7

Word Search Answers.



Crossword answers.



Credits:

Zach Cruickshank
 Alex Cruickshank
 Rueben Jaggard
 Amelie Jaggard
 Phoebe Gittins
 Ada Liang
 Freya Clarke
 Adam Markiewicz

Eleanor Moutrie
 Addison Head
 Alex Nemerovets
 Brooke Taylor