



HEADLINES

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'Tis the Season to be grateful

On days like today, I wouldn't trade jobs with anyone. At 11 o'clock this morning, over 150 MYP students, teachers and parent volunteers set out on a three mile fundraising walk in support of **The Coalition for the Protection of Children's Breakfast for Every Child Program and Food Store House.**

Organized by **Melisa Judd**, the goal was to raise \$3,000—a target that was easily surpassed as our students got actively into the spirit of the season and solicited thousands of dollars in pledges from family and friends.

For me, I got the unmistakable pleasure of walking (and from time to time running) with a high energy group of M1s as they rambled along the Railway Trail, singing Christmas songs and generally enjoying each other's company for the last time before the break. It was a beautiful day and a wonderful way to cap off three weeks of great experiences with our students. To start the month off, I had the privilege of travelling to Philadelphia along with eight M4 and M5



6-11 Holiday Musical

students to attend the NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference. Although Somersfield's representatives were among the youngest there, our students received high praise from the organizers and other participants for their maturity and insight. For all of us adults in attendance it was a reminder of how amazing our students really are. Unfortunately, while I was offshore with the MYP, back here Somersfield I was missing what was, by all reports, a wonderful holiday concert under the direction of **Nicole Robinson** and lunch hosted by our 3-6s. While that same day, some of our senior students represented the school at City Hall for International Aids Awareness Day.

That is the problem when a

school is so action-packed, there is so often more than one thing going on at any given time! The following week our next group of Duke of Ed bronze and silver level students graduated on Sunday followed on Tuesday by **Summer Wood** and the M4s presenting their new calendar on behalf of Crimestoppers as part of the annual Partner Re Dollars for Hours campaign. Great thanks to Partner Re and its CEO, and Somersfield parent, **Costas Miranthis** for their generous support of schools and community charities island-wide.

Saturday morning saw the Somersfield Primary Football team win its first ever championship at the National Stadium under the direction of coach **Davon Wade** in a 1-0 nail biter over Paget Primary.

This week, parents and children were treated on Wednesday to a fabulous musical extravaganza put on by the 6-11s led by **Janice Pearman and Helen Thompson.** Choirs, recorders, the Somersfield Steel Pans, and a holiday musical all

contributed to a fantastic show!

Finally, topping off the week artistically, we celebrated along with art teachers **Carolyn Too-good and Summer Wood** as three students and one of our last year's grads were awarded prizes in a national student art competition at the National Gallery.

What a month!

We will be highlighting all of these students and their achievements in the next Somersfield Star, but I wanted to express my gratitude to their teachers and parent volunteers without whom none of these fantastic opportunities would take place.

From all of us at Somersfield, have a restful and joyous holiday season. Take time for family and to slow down and appreciate all of the wonderful things that we have in life. 'Tis truly the season to be grateful!

Jim