

NEWS

Campaign Blossoms!

Spring came early at the Primrose House campaign information day. Local parents and businesses came out in force to support the team working to set up a new primary school in Lewisham. The launch of our brand new website made the day extra special. Thanks to our many visitors who shared their experiences and told us about their hopes for their children's education. The Primrose House campaign team is inspired to work even harder to get a Montessori free school for our borough.

Information Day on January 21st at St. George's Church Vancouver Road, Forest Hill accomplished so much. The team spent twelve hours meeting parents from all over Lewisham who found out about our plans from local news reports, in online forums and by word of mouth through friends. So many of our visitors promised to return completed petition forms and offered to volunteer with fundraising and spreading the word. It is crucial that news of our campaign reaches far and wide across Lewisham.

The day held some surprises. Visitors with no obvious reason to make the effort came to sign the petition – a man in his eighties travelled from Sydenham to express his enthusiasm for parent power. A family whose baby will undoubtedly have special educational needs came to register their interest and express their

joy that the choice of a Montessori school may be available to their son when he is five. What greater motivation could there be to forge ahead with the hard work needed to make our campaign a success?

If you haven't yet signed our petition, please do. Ask yourself whether you support a campaign that wants to help reduce the shortage of primary school places in Lewisham while offering greater diversity of choice to local parents and children. In short, that's what Primrose House is all about.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Our campaign needs your help

Campaign secretary

- Take minutes at a two-hour meeting of the temporary governors every two weeks in Forest Hill
- Distribute minutes and keep records of these
- Manage a list of contacts and information
- Distribute newsletter by email once a month
- Help draft occasional replies to enquiries about the school

Head of Friends Group

- Bring together a group of people who have already volunteered to help our campaign
- Work with the campaign manager to plan a list of tasks for volunteers
- Allocate tasks to the volunteers. These include spreading the word, fundraising and distribution of marketing materials
- Appoint and help manage a lead fundraiser

If you would like to be considered for either of these roles Please email us with the subject title 'job ad'
freeschoolcampaign@gmail.com.



We are now LIVE!!!

Our amazing website launched January 17th and is already proving a popular destination for local people wanting to know more about our campaign. Visit our dedicated news page. What are you waiting for? It's all there. **www.primroseprimary.com**

If you haven't done so already..

PLEASE PLEASE SIGN OUR PETITION TODAY at **<http://www.gopetition.com/petition/40913.html>**
and follow us on facebook **<http://tinyurl.com/lmp-school>**

**SIGN OUR
PETITION
TODAY!!**

A HUGE! THANKYOU

A whole host of local businesses really pushed the boat out to show their support for our growing campaign. We want to thank them all. They really made our information day go with a swing.

Refreshments

Blue mountain cafe Sydenham, thank you for sandwich platters and a wonderful chocolate cake www.bluemoo.co.uk

HopScotch Honor Oak, thank you for the lovely treats (cookies, muffins etc) www.hopscotch-cafebar.com

The Lemongrove SE23, thank you for the flapjacks

The Tea pot for the large box of Amaretti Biscuits as a prize for our raffle.

The Blue Printing Company, Our printed materials looked amazing www.theblueprintingcompany.com

The Raffle prizes..

Little Bubbles - thank you Claire for your very generous offer of six weeks for free classes www.littlebubbles.com

Jumping Bean Honor Oak a fabulous didgeridoo.

Energie Fitness Clubs Forest Hill
Thanks to Andrew Grossett owner of Energie clubs who has kindly made a very generous offer of a free six week membership to the gym www.energiefitnessclubs.com/foresthill

Laurel's Florist in Forest Hill for the beautiful plant.

The raffle will be drawn on February 4th 2011.

If you would like to know more about how your business can sponsor Primrose House or advertise on our newsletter, which reaches hundreds of local people, please email freeschoolcampaign@gmail.com

Our story

Each month we will feature the story of a campaigner, starting with Primrose House Campaign Manager.

Sarah Cottle, a forty year old journalist writes: My interest in Montessori education is recent and started by accident. I have two children; a daughter Charlotte, who is three and a son Daniel, who is one. Before they came along I was puzzled by parents' obsession with the quality of the teaching their children received. When Charlotte approached school age I realised that I too have some very clear ideas of what I want for her and her brother in what we often call 'the best years of their lives.'

In short, I expect a calm and respectful environment where they can learn at their own pace, excel at the things they love best and develop as well-rounded confident and happy individuals. I have seen this in action in a Montessori pre-school classroom and that experience was my inspiration to launch the campaign for Primrose House.

Many schools promise this approach and many actually deliver. But the challenges of doing so with existing resources are becoming too great. Portacabins that take up precious play space, teachers whose workload becomes unmanageable and heads who are struggling to balance budgets are not a recipe for success.

So, rather than join the parents who just talk about the quality of local schools, join us and do something to help make a difference. Parents have the right to decide that they want more for their children and the free school initiative puts that power squarely in our hands. I don't want that opportunity wasted. Do you?



Read our article in this issue of Families magazine.



YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL!

If you missed Information Day, fear not! There's still plenty of time to show your support. You can help by signing the petition and following us on Facebook. If you have a little time to spare, get in touch. Friends of Primrose House need help with distributing information and raising funds. Your support could make all the difference.

freeschoolcampaign@gmail.com

DON'T FORGET

We'll need the signed petition forms back by Friday February 4th. Please put them in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Winners of yummy prizes from our Christmas party draw were announced. Thanks to Selena Mitchell of The Couture Cookie Shop for her delicious prizes. www.thecouturecookieshop.com

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