

14 June 2010

Dear Parent

**“The Hampstead Hug”-A Special Walk for Marie Curie Cancer Care
(Hampstead Hospice)****Sunday 4th July 2010**

I am writing to you to inform you about a special walk for Marie Curie Cancer which is due to take place on July 4th 2010 on Hampstead Heath. This year, the exciting new format is called *The Hampstead Hug*, and its name symbolises Marie Curie's vital role in supporting terminally ill patients and their families. As a local school, we are keen to promote and support this event and encourage members of our community to take part.

The event is being organised by Nicholas Graham Smith, whose wife, Liz, sadly died at the Hampstead Hospice last year. His family experienced the wonderful care, attention and kindness of the Marie Curie staff and so he is keen to enlist the support of local people to raise some much needed funds for the Hampstead Hospice. One of our Highgate parents, Gareth Wyn Jones, whose children are currently in the Junior School and Pre-Preparatory School, also spent his last days there earlier this year. His loss has been keenly felt and we would like to be able to extend our support to his wife, Sarah, his family and friends by encouraging Highgate families to join the Hug.

For those interested in taking part in the walk, there are two options to choose from:

- 1) **6 mile Hug**
- 2) **2.5 mile Hug**

The walks have been designed so that the last 2.5 miles of the 6 mile Hug follow the same route as the 2.5 mile Hug; therefore, a group or family can split into two teams and complete the Hugs together!

6 mile Hug Starts and finishes at the Parliament Hill Bandstand.
Walk starts at 10.00am Expected finish time 12.00-1.00pm

2.5 mile Hug. Starts near Whitestone Pond and finishes at the Bandstand.
Walkers either start at 11.00am or join the 6 mile walkers as they pass by.

Entry Fee: **£10 for adults and £5 for Under 16s.**
(Same price for either the 6 or the 2.5 mile Hug)

The entry fee provides each walker with a bottle of water and a limited edition designer Hug T-shirt (sizes: Medium/Large/X large). The T-shirts have space to write the name of the person whom you are walking for, or thinking about. The T-shirts can either be collected from The Hampstead Hospice or at the start.

A new addition this year will be a special list of items of interest on the Heath, focusing on the flora, fauna and history. The acclaimed author Deborah Wolton, who, together with David McDowall wrote, "The Walkers Guide to Hampstead Heath", has prepared a list of fascinating facts and one particularly gory one! Deborah has also written another sheet for younger walkers containing other features.

Tim Pigott-Smith and Glenda Jackson will start the walk and the organisers are asking every walker to collect sponsorship or donate a minimum of £25. The target is to raise £20,000 to support the Hampstead Hospice. The impact of this is significant: £15 will provide one hour of nursing care or £162 will fund one patient's stay in the Hospice for 24 hours.

This is the link to the Marie Curie website with more details:
http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/inyourarea/southeast/events/hampstead_hug_2010.htm

Every year Marie Curie provides care to around 30,000 terminally ill patients and their families - entirely free of charge. We hope that some of our Highgate School families will be keen to support this event.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Adam Pettitt
Head Master