

The Daily Prophet

The Wizarding World's Beguiling Broadsheet of Choice

SPECIAL HOGWARTS EDITION, FUUCA, July 2009

Hogwarts Camp Closes with Bang!



Sorting: some surprises!

It was a hectic scene this year as new and returning students piled onto Platform 9 ¾ to enter Hogwarts and begin this year's summer session. As soon as everyone arrived and was accounted for, it was off to Diagon Alley to pick up school supplies. First things first, and despite loud protests from the goblins, Gringotts stayed open late to allow students to collect money from the vaults.

Then, despite Madam Malkin's eccentric behavior, everyone was able to obtain a new cloak in the color of their choice (ruby red cloaks were in particular demand this year) and a fashionable new hat. Flourish and Blotts provided the opportunity to collect the necessary books and other supplies. Finally, students headed to Ollivander's and were chosen by a variety of wands without any major mishaps.

Class Reviews

In one of the more memorable classes, students of **Transfiguration** learned spells to create a pensieve into which they put some important memories, transfigured plain cream into a tasty treat, and shattered muggle coins.

In **Astronomy** the students viewed constellations and learned the origins of their names. Daylight viewing was simplified by both the classroom and the Great Hall's ceiling being transfigured into a planetarium. **Potions** class got a bit rambunctious when a lesson on invisible ink turned into a lesson on the vital spell "aguamenti!" Students also determined whether Whomping Willow juice was to their liking (it wasn't). "Definitely an acquired taste," said professor Cagle, "but it will certainly give you an energy boost when you need it most!"



Transfiguring a treat is always popular

In **Care of Magical Creatures**, students heard the history of the Dragon of Cracow and reviewed the legend of the Firebird before creating a firebird pin. Although we were unable to find a **Defence Against the Dark Arts** professor this year due to He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named, we were able to entice Professor Avnia Xander to return to fill the **Divination** position. In **Herbology** students learned the properties of a variety of herbs in order to create combinations to suit their own personalities and a group

of students braved the rare torrential downpour to investigate the gardens with our groundskeeper. Students also studied tarot cards and runes and Professor Denny delighted the students with magical tales at lunch and embarked upon a new journey by entering the world of the Wizard of Earthsea. **Magical Musicology**, ably conducted by Danielle Solan, was a great success and we look forward to the performance of: A Magical Medley (Music by John Williams), The River Nimbus (text adapted from Lewis Carroll) and Hedwig's Promise (Words by Shelley Jackson Denham).

Sports Popular with Students

A Wizarding World of sports was available this year to the young wizards and witches, which greatly enhanced this year's Hogwarts experience. In Wizard Chess, students discovered the challenges of correctly moving their pieces and the wet excitement of having a piece taken. Quiddich was, as always, a popular choice with the students and our Quiddich masters were greatly pleased with the quality of this year's acquisition of brooms. Wizard Dueling proved to be most practical, with classes this year led by Mad-Hair Maximillian, the cousin of Mad-Eye Moody.



A young wizard and witch playing Quiddich

Service Project Opportunities

Hogwarts students are a generous bunch who enjoy opportunities to learn about a variety of needs and how they may help. During this year's Hogwarts sessions, students found out about what it is like to attend the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and had the opportunity to assist in cleaning the sports equipment used by these students. Students also learned about Operation School Bell, a project to provide new clothing, shoes, and personal grooming products to children from families with extreme need. Hogwarts students helped by filling hygiene bags and adding bar codes to piles of t-shirts. A clear highlight of the week was a visit from Greyhound Pets of America and the chance to create blankets to donate to Animal Trustees of Austin and Emancipets.



A visit from dog wizard Oscar

Year and House Cups

As classes continued through the week, groups earned jewels for their groups and their houses by showing good behavior, concentration, and helpfulness. The outcome of the hotly-contested House Cup and the fiercely desired Group Cup are still to be determined, as Goblins from Gringotts have been brought in to provide an accurate and uncontestable tally of the results.

Efforts

Since Professor Dumbledore is traveling and Minerva McGonagall was called away on business for the Order of the Phonenix, we were lucky to have the assistance of Minerva's cousin, Esmirelda McGonagall, as our new headmistress this year. Esmirelda stepped



in and threw her heart and soul into the running of Hogwarts. As the whirlwind of activity swirled through the castle, Headmistress McGonagall was forced to resort to muggle technology to accomplish her numerous tasks. Professor Minerva

McGonagall did make an unexpected arrival and greatly facilitated the afternoon activities. She assisted students (who are not yet permitted to apparate) to travel to such muggle locations as the pool, the bowling alley, and the museum.