

## PUMAS – 2018-19 AGM REPORT

Current Leaders; John, Jordan & Dave – Ryan Young Helper

A summary of the Year taken from our weekly email to parents

- **Potato Filler**

Thanks to boundless enthusiasm and ingenuity from the Pumas, it can now be confirmed that it *is* indeed possible to fill 90 minutes of activity based around the humble potato.

We discovered the critical load bearing height for a potato-cocktail stick construction and learnt that if your child produces a personalised potato figure with ample hairy armpits, but based on someone who they know, then don't ask who they had in mind!



- **Picture This?**

,... Well tbh nor can we *just* yet, but we can assure you planning is well-underway, for in the next two weeks, the Cubs WILL master the art of picture framing ... complete with producing prime specimens of all the various knots learnt from last week. What could possibly go wrong?!

- **Band Aid**

Last week on our First Aid themed evening we were very fortunate to witness the first steps of our next generation of; nurses, doctors, ambulance service, mountain rescuers and brain surgeons!

Ok, maybe on Tuesday's evidence medicine won't be the most suited career path for *every single* Cub, but fear not, judging by the array of gory and gruesome 999 scenarios offered up, there'll be no shortage of future horror writers!

- **Doggie Do Do's (and don'ts!)**

Next week we look forward to welcoming Wildcats Akela Richard Best. Rumour has it Richard knows a thing or three about man's best friend... no he's not discussing our favoured amber nectar... but instead, '*how to handle troublesome canines?*'. No doubt the Puma Leaders will be hanging on his every word for potential wider applications for forthcoming Tuesday nights!

To start the evening, we'll be attempting some dog origami, although there's a sneaky suspicion most creations will mysteriously end up as supersonic fighter jets!

- ***'A Can of Worms?'***

We're fast approaching that date in our diaries which we've all been keenly waiting for... no, not the end of term, ... but Mother's Day! Mums, this year you could be in for a bit of an early treat as the Cubs will be preparing a double surprise for you. As always the clue is in the title – so perhaps don't get too excited just yet!!

- ***'Bitten by the Bug?!'***

An activity that's all bug related. OK, admittedly grappling with grubs isn't every adult's dream way to spend a Tuesday evening but hey, this is the joy of being an 8-10-year old – and also adult Leaders who like acting like 8-10 year olds! Who knows, we may even discover that these little, often overlooked creatures play an important role in our rich and colourful tapestry of environmental interdependence and we'll never look dismissively at them again? Or then again, the bugs might be the ones changing *their* view on the animal kingdom intellectual hierarchy!

- ***Knot by a long shot!***

With the Pumas showing such aplomb on Week 1, next time we've decided to throw them straight into Scouting black-belt territory of knot making.

On first read of the evening's itinerary... *'a Bowline'* ... followed by ... *'a Round Turn and two Half Hitches'* ... closed off by, *'a Figure of Eight'* ... one could easily think there's been a mix-up with an audacious attempt at *Cub Strictly Come Dancing!*

- ***Last Week – Sweet Charity***

Last week we welcomed Sophie Adele Stokes, a Fundraising Team Leader from Launchpad, a local charity that seeks to address homelessness in Reading. Her first task was to judge 4 sturdy(ish!), Cub constructed shelters built from just chairs, duck-tape and 20 copies of Waitrose's free weekend newspaper supplement. Apologies if your local store had un-expectantly run out of copies!

Sophie then gave a highly engaging and interactive talk, with great use of props to help us imagine some wider implications of being homeless - although perhaps her holding up a supposedly symbolic toilet roll didn't actually leave too much to the imagination!

Here's some kind words sent to us afterwards by Sophie, *'The Cubs were great fun and I really enjoyed speaking to them. The pleasure was all mine!'*

- ***Next Week, 'Love Thy Neighbour'***

Have you ever felt a bit lonely having moved into a new house but then been overjoyed when the odd neighbour or two drops by to offer their welcome? Well you can just imagine how chuffed to bits the new landlord of The Horns at Crazies Hill will be when 16 Cubs rock-up next Tuesday! ... won't he?!! Yes, the plan is to meet in the pub car park before heading off for a night-hike exploring The Horns' hinterland.

- **Sausage Sizzle**

Anyone who's ever done anything campfire related will testify that there's always a lot to co-ordinate. Therefore, you can well imagine our evening organiser's 'moment of satisfaction' when after: ... all the planning was done; ... check-lists written; ... supermarket visited; ... checklist items checked-off; ... everything packed up into a car and checked off again; ... laid out and checked off yet again; ... campfire lit; ... and finally Cub cooking enthusiasts neatly encircled.

... BUT THEN WAIT, in an instant his glee was threatened with being gazumped as he received notice that from afar, an eagle-eyed concerned onlooker has spotted our simmering embers.

Whilst not much bigger than a packet of burning Swan Vestas the Fire Brigade had apparently been alerted to this obvious, reckless act of arson. Thankfully reason prevailed (or the fire engine simply failed to navigate the Wargrave roadworks!) and our cooking and feasting continued uninterrupted.

- **Local Heroes**

A few of our poppy creations and Remembrance posters made in Cubs last week looked a little shell-shocked – but nonetheless, the activity gave us all valuable time to reflect on the sombre significance of Remembrance. Well done to our local schools, as impressively the Cubs seemed amazingly well versed on the poppy – it's origin, its symbolism, and the fact it's the one time of year grown-ups can't say no to, *'Can you buy me one please?'*!

We were also very fortunate to have the company of Tony Elliot from the British Legion who shared some of his wartime experiences. After hearing some incredible anecdotes, ranging from: dodging Doodle Bugs; to taking turns having dinner in an over-crowded evacuee house, with not enough plates to go around - one was reminded of the famous Monty Python *Four Yorkshiremen* sketch with its punchline, *'...And you try and tell the young people of today that ... and they won't believe you!'* Poignantly, Tony's story was clearly, *very much* the real deal.

- **Humanly Possible?**

A change of tack next week from crafts to draughts, when we'll be having a crack at playing traditional board games – but with an unconventional, tantalising twist! To help ensure these don't become *'bored games'* we'll be attempting 'life-sized' versions as the Cubs will take on parts of the actual playing pieces. With our usual high hopes, we're sure there'll be no problem at all in getting the Cubs to stay put on their squares. ... Well, that just leaves the remaining 85 minutes of the evening's activities to contingency plan then!

- **Last Week – Bake-Off / Take-Off?**

Every once in a while, we like to promote some virtuous values and this festive season seemed like a particularly opportune time. Sure, we introduced a bit of competitive fun to our mince pie baking but the key intended take-away was for each Cub to relish sharing their allotted 3 mince pies with their family, - which we hope you all enjoyed? ... Hang on a minute? ... What's that? ... Did I hear you say that you *didn't actually* get to taste any of your Cub's culinary handiwork?!!!

... PS, I think 'forgiveness' is also in one of those festive values too!





(NB... Conkers!)

