

School kids rise to Rock Challenge



Above and below: Woodcroft Primary School and right: Hillingdon Primary School



TWO Middlesex schools competed in the Be Your Best J Rock™ at Stevenage Leisure Centre on Tuesday (February 23).

In second place were Woodcroft Primary School in Edgware who performed *The Mystery of Queen Nefertiti Revealed* (pictured).

Set to an impressive backdrop of sparkling pyramids, Woodcroft captivated the audience with their intricate Egyptian costumes and well integrated set. This dramatic tale showcased a high standard of performance skill and well executed choreography which led to them receiving an array of awards as well as second place.

Third place was presented to Hillingdon Primary School for their piece *Too Little Too Late*. Mesmerising throughout, Hillingdon's simple yet effective costumes complimented this serious theme as their performance

utilised impressive drama skills to create suspense. The combination of use of clever props and an epic building soundtrack tied together to create a piece with great depth.

The event, held at Stevenage Leisure Centre, attracted a sell-out audience and was supported by PQA, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Stevenage Community Trust and Zeamu Music.

Jeanette Thomas from Stevenage Community Trust attended the event, presenting first place, and said: "I feel all the schools performed brilliantly. You forget some of them are junior schools. It was phenomenal."

Senior event manager Samantha Eastwood thoroughly enjoyed the event stating "This is the first year that we have had a standalone junior competition in Stevenage and the atmosphere has been amazing! All the schools have worked incredibly hard and should be incredibly proud of what

they have achieved."

Whilst the primary goal of these events remains to encourage young people to make positive life choices and be their best without the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs, regularly conducted evaluations show proven and evidenced benefits above and beyond these original objectives.

The NSPCC highlighted low self-esteem, unhappiness and bullying as the most common issues recorded in nearly 300,000 counselling sessions carried out in 2014-15.

Rock Challenge events target these areas of concern and are seen as a key part of a young person's development in resilience, confidence building and self-esteem. The events are inclusive with secondary schools, colleges, academies, schools catering for students with special needs and independent schools taking part. Details: www.rockchallenge.co.uk

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