

27 January 2011

Dear Parents

Year 8 Myths & Legends Day – Wednesday 16 February 2011

As part of our Creative Myths challenge, all Year 8 pupils will be involved in Myths and Legends Day on Wednesday 16 February.

In preparation for this event, pupils are currently working on a myths project in English lessons and are creating their own myths based on the founding of the City of Portsmouth, the best of which will be selected for the challenge. The selected pupils will present their idea to a panel of judges consisting of the children's author Geraldine McCaughrean, Portsmouth News education correspondent Aline Nasif, and a mystery guest. The judges will then decide on the very best myth and this may be published in the Portsmouth News. Winners will also receive a book token and a signed copy of Geraldine's new book *Pull Out All the Stops*.

Geraldine McCaughrean will be running a workshop in the morning and will talk about myths and legends. She will also talk about her novels and pupils will have the opportunity to ask her questions. At the end of the sessions, there will be a book signing and pupils will have the opportunity to purchase books from her range, all of which are suitable for this age range. I have attached a list of the books that will be available on the day for your perusal.

As with all English book events that are supported by Hayling Island Bookshop, pupils can charge their school accounts when they purchase a book to avoid them having to carry large sums of money with them on the day. It is important that pupils ask for parental consent before the day. If you do not want your child to purchase a book on the day, please email me at s.brunner@pgs.org.uk and I will ensure that we have a note of your child's name at the paying desk.

This will certainly be an exciting event and we look forward to hearing some very inventive and original myths.

Kind regards

Ms S Brunner
English Department

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Books on Sale

Geraldine McCaughrean (These books will be personally signed and dedicated)

Pull Out All the Stops (New Hardback Only 12.99) – (sequel to Stop the Train)

The ramshackle crew on board the riverboat Sunshine Queen sail along the 'shoals and shimmer of the Numchuck River,' performing plays for the towns scattered along the shore. Cissy and her friends have a whole host of adventures beating hustlers at their own game, catching criminals, and embarking on a daring rescue mission.

Stop the Train (£5.99)

It's 1893 and for Cissy and her family, a new life beckons on the prairies of Oklahoma and they and their fellow settlers prepare for steady business alongside the Red Rock Railroad track. But when they refuse to sell their land to the railroad company, the boss swears that his trains will never stop in Florence again. How will they ever make a living now? Cissy and her friends, family and neighbours vow that they will make the train stop - by whatever means are necessary, no matter how dangerous that may prove to be ...

Death Defying Pepper Roux (£6.99)

When Pepper Roux was born, his aunt foretold that he would not live past 14 years of age. So when he wakes up on his 14th birthday, he knows that this will be the day he dies. But as the day wears on, and he finds himself still alive he decides to set to sea in an attempt to avoid death for as long as possible, adopting a variety of roles and personas and becoming embroiled in countless outrageous adventures.

White Darkness (£5.99)

A fast-moving and accessible novel about a teenage girl, obsessed with the Antarctic, and Titus Oates, the doomed hero of Scott's expedition. When her uncle takes her on a mystery journey, she feels as though all her dreams are coming true - but she soon finds herself in deadly peril, and needing to draw on the courage and strength of Titus for her very survival.

Peter Pan In Scarlet (£6.99)

In August 2004, the Special Trustees of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital launched the search for a sequel to JM Barrie's timeless masterpiece, "Peter Pan". The official sequel to JM Barrie's Peter Pan supported by Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, it was published to mark the centenary. It captures the style and spirit of the original Peter Pan within the framework of a new and completely satisfying story.

The Kite Rider (£6.99)

The Great Miao, master of the Jade Circus, offers Haoyou the amazing chance to escape his family's poverty — by becoming a kite rider. Strapped onto a beautiful scarlet-and-gold kite, Haoyou is sent into the sky, earning money, freedom, and unexpected fame. Miao even plans for Haoyou to perform before Kublai Khan himself. A dazzling story of adventure, betrayal, family, and sacrifice set in the dramatic world of thirteenth-century China.

A selection of art books will also be on sale:

Mythical Creatures (£5.99)

"Mythical Creatures" features some of the most amazing beings ever to haunt the dreams and imaginations of mankind. Each spread features a different category of beasts, from giants and trolls to sea monsters, minotaurs, dragons and the legendary phoenix rising from the ashes. "Mythical Creatures" will stir young imaginations, fascinate, educate...and bring a shiver to the spine.

How To Draw Magical Creatures and Mythical Beasts (£4.99)

This title helps you learn how to draw assorted creatures from stories and fables. In it, each subject includes background information relating to the mythology surrounding it. It features ten step-by-step instructions for each art project. Duotone line illustrations make each step easy. The title includes background information on the subject being drawn.