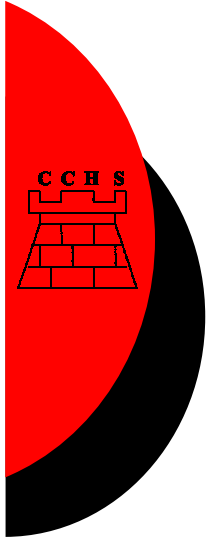


Castlebrae News

November 2010



**Headteacher
Graeme Thompson**

Welcome to the new re-vamped Castlebrae Community High School newsletter.

I hope the contents will give you a flavour of Castlebrae's values, aims and ethos.

This is part of our ongoing effort to involve you in the life of the school and also to keep you up to date and informed of what is happening at Castlebrae.

I am very impressed with the wide range of opportunities on offer at Castlebrae. We provide a positive learning environment and offer support to all students.

In addition to the traditional range of academic subjects, the school offers a wide range of enhanced vocational opportunities which include Skills for work (Automotive and Engineering), Cosmetology, Hair and Beauty, Early Years and Childcare and the Red Café, which is run by pupils in Home Economics.

All of these courses lead to qualifications which compliment our academic courses, giving our students access to a wide range of career opportunities and it is our intention to increase this provision next year with the introduction of a new course in Retailing offered in partnership with Fort Kinnaird.

At Castlebrae we strive to provide an educational experience that fully prepares our young people for employment, training or further education.

Congratulations! New Sports Leaders

This October saw ten pupils graduate in their Sports Leader Award. The Sports Leader Award is intended to encourage people to volunteer to become coaches and organisers of sport in their communities. The scheme is designed to help people of all ages to develop their sporting interests so that they are better qualified to offer their services as coaches and organisers. At the same time it makes it possible for participants to develop their own self confidence and leadership qualities, both of which can make all the difference to young people when it comes to finding a job. Castlebrae also trained Sports Leaders from Holyrood, Trinity and Drummond. The students who graduated are as follows Josh Lawrie, Kevin Finlay, Gerry Gellantes, Jamie Clunie, Kelly Lockhart, Ben Stobbart, Callum Kerr, Mark Petretti, Hassan Waheel and Ryan Mae pictured with Alan Reid and Glyn Jones. Our sports leaders will have the opportunity to take part in the 'Dreams and Teams' South African school link.



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'Bread and Roses'

On Thursday 23rd September, five of our senior students were invited by Scotland's Justice Minister, Mr Kenny MacAskill, to attend the Filmhouse Festival 'Take One Action'. Take One Action is the UK's first film festival dedicated to active global citizenship offering young people a variety of opportunities to explore Responsible Citizenship, a whole school component of Curriculum of Excellence.

The five students, Ashleigh Shephard, Stephanie MacDonald, Jamie Clunie, Jordan Bradford and Natasha Meechan were met at the Filmhouse by Mr MacAskill before the screening of 'Bread and Roses', a film which told the story of immigrant janitors in Los Angeles struggling to improve their working conditions by forming a union. The students were introduced to the film's famous screenwriter, Paul Laverty, who is a personal friend of Mr MacAskill. The evening concluded with a question and answer session with Paul and Elaine Carswell, a union activist.



The students were excellent ambassadors for the school and, although the timing of the question and answer session was too late in the evening for them to ask any questions, they were all impressed by the film and the talk Paul and Elaine gave at the end of the screening.

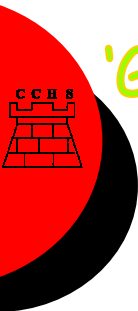
"The film has made us think about immigration and poverty. It gave us a view of what it was really like for immigrants in the USA and made us consider what it is like for immigrants here", Stephanie said.

Jamie added, "It also made us realize that it should be the right of everyone to have good working conditions".

Mr MacAskill received a photograph of the evening from the students to thank him for giving this opportunity to the school and has mentioned that he will keep in touch regarding any future events that might be of interest to our students' education citizenship.

GO4SET

'Go for Science, Engineering and Technology'



This year the GO4SET competition is based on designing a new school classroom. The students are expected to design a new classroom that takes in to account all the recycling, energy use and use of waste, as well as the architectural design of the space. The CDT department are working with 2C and hope to come up with some ideas that can be put in place within Castlebrae this year.



Cake Designer Demonstration

Eco Club News



Four of our Hospitality (Creative Cake Production) students went to see a demonstration by Paul Bradford of Truly Scrumptious Cakes and were fascinated by the way he put together his Witch Handbag for Halloween. They say it takes an expert to make the things look easy and that is certainly what he did!

Paul has been interested in cake decorating since he was at primary school and now has his own business. He lists amongst his customers members of the Royal Family and Celebrities and is regularly invited to Italy to demonstrate his skills.

The girls enjoyed their evening and are now hoping that we can get Paul into school to run a workshop for the class.

On the 7th of October, the Eco Club was very lucky to be visited by Abbey from Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust. Abbey organised for two rangers from Hunter Hall Park to talk to our pupils about shelter building and conservation within the park. Our pupils even made an excellent attempt at building their own shelter, indoors of course (due to our lovely Scottish weather!) and identifying leaves from a wide selection Abbey had collected from the park.

Castlebrae Eco Club is looking forward to being involved in more conservation activities and will hopefully be visiting Hunter Hall Park soon to get some hands on experience.

Get a Job Day 2010

Current S4 pupils had the opportunity to take part in the annual enterprise event 'Get a Job' day.

The event, co-ordinated by Guidance staff at Castlebrae and Community Connections, offers young people the opportunity to go through the process of applying and interviewing for employment before they leave school.

The pupils choose their favoured career with their Guidance teacher, Community Connections then try to match these professions with a local employer who visits the school, supports them in their application process and then offers students a mock interview at their place of work.

Many business partners continue to return year after year to support the event and pupils at Castlebrae as they enjoy their experiences at the school and working with the pupils.

This years local business partners included the Army, Castlerock Edinvar, Ford Motor Company, Bannatynes Gym, Medusa Hairdressing, Fort Kinnaird Shopping Centre, Harvey Nichols, Zen Lifestyle, North Edinburgh Childcare and Sodexo.



Student Council

The start of the new school year saw Castlebrae's Student Council re-convene with three new additions from S1 after voting took place in their class, the three winning candidates were Emma Rolland, Peter Brewser and Conor Archibald. They, along with the other members in S2—S6, meet every three weeks ensuring that the students at Castlebrae have a say in the decision making of the school.

The student council have learned about chairing meetings, drawing up an agenda and taking minutes as well as the correct etiquette for meetings. These sessions have given the members the tools and confidence to enable effective meetings to take place which will involve discussion and decision making on various issues involving the school and wider community.

The school has also used members to get involved in the teachers own working groups to allow the students to voice their opinion on various whole school matters. Last year, two members regularly attended the positive behaviour group and it is hoped that more teachers meetings will involve a contribution from the Student Council.

It has to be emphasized that the Student Council is not just about the sixteen members who attend the meetings. They are representing their own tutor group which means that everyone in the school has a right to voice their opinion on school matters. If any pupil has an issue which they want to raise, they should approach their representative who will then put it on the agenda as an item to be discussed at the next meeting. There is also a Student Council notice board in the school which will have the minutes of each meeting for all students to view.

Remember School improvement is far more likely to happen if Students are involved !

Future Chef 2011

Four of our S3/4 Hospitality students are taking part in FutureChef this year. They have chosen recipes and are working after school to practice and tweak them ready for the school heat which took place in October.

At this stage in the competition they have to produce a main course for two people on a budget of £4 and they have to prepare and serve it in an hour.

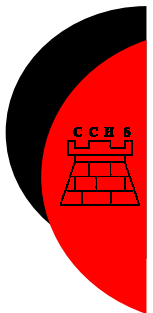
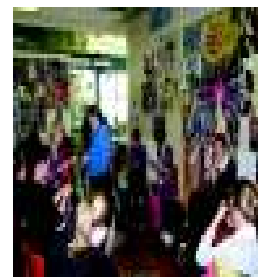
The recipes they are working on are as follows: Jackline Robertson-Mustardy Pork and Apples, Azza Hassan-Crispy Italian Chicken with Polenta, Steven Ross -Vegetable and Butter Bean Hotpot and Shaun Lindsay-Roast Rack of Lamb with Potato and Cauliflower Dauphinoise. The winner of the School heat will go forward to compete against other Edinburgh schools in the next round. We wish them all well.

Watch this Space

The S3 Art and Design student are embarking on an exciting new project that will see them design and produce a large scale mural for a courtyard area in the Castlegreen Care Home. The students will need to work collaboratively to create appropriate designs and then present them to their clients at the care home for feedback.

They will need to work as commercial designers measuring the space, presenting ideas, costing the project and carrying out risk assessments of the tasks they'll need to undertake.

Watch this space for news and photos of their progress.



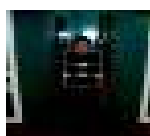
Skills for Work :Engineering



Well done to the S3 skills for work class. They have been working with The Rural and Urban Training Scheme for the last few weeks arranged through CDT. The class have enjoyed learning about motorbike maintenance and safety as well as developing the skills that will help them find enjoyable employment when they leave school.



Well Done BRUCE!



Bruce is a student in the Skills for Work Construction class. The class have just completed the first Plumbing Unit. In this unit the students get to work with modern plastic fittings and once completed they have to pressure test their work.

Edina Hibs Link

As part of the Active Schools Programme Castlebrae High School and Castleview Primary School have linked up with Edina Hibs Football Club.

The idea behind this partnership is to create a pathway for pupils to progress from school to club level football. Edina Hibs are an inclusive club and encourage parents to make contact with their lead coach at relevant youth age group. Pupils can then attend their weekly training sessions and take part in weekend matches.

Contact sheets can be obtained from Alan Reid, Active Schools Co-Ordinator.

Gymnastic Club

A new gymnastic club for primary 7 pupils from Castleview takes place on a Tuesday from 3:40—4:30. Miss Salter, PE teacher and assistant Emma Yuill, a former pupil, are encouraged by the "enthusiasm and talent at the new club" and aim to compete in this years BAA Youth games.

Sports Leaders Return

Term 1 2010 saw seven former Sports Leader award pupils return to Castlebrae as paid or volunteer sports coaches. This highlights the positive impact the Sports Leader Award programme has had on our former pupils. The former Sports Leaders are:-

Gary Hamilton, HND Sports Coaching @ Telford College

Scott MacDonald, HND Coaching @ Telford College

Leslie Hallet, HNC Sports Coaching @ Telford College

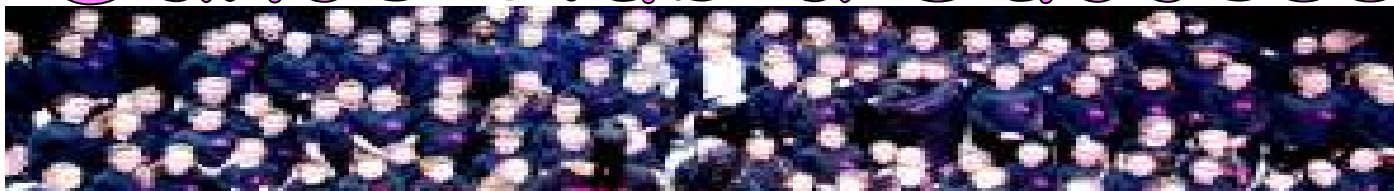
Dale McGovern, HNC Sports Coaching @ Telford College

Natalie McLoud, Sports and Recreation @ West Lothian College

Emma Yuill, Local Sports Coach, Edinburgh Leisure

Siobhan McDermitt, HND Dance @ Telford College

Dance Club a Success



Dance Fusion is offered in all four feeder primary schools, Niddrie Mill, St. Francis, Newcraighall, Castleview and also at Castlebrae Community High School at least one hour per week. Dance Fusion is on offer for two hours every Saturday morning and it has over a hundred members. There have also been two Dance Fusion concerts this year. One at Christmas and one in the summer term with over one hundred local pupils enjoying a dance programme.

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For details of our Adult Classes or enquiries for hiring the 3G Pitch, Games Hall or Gym Hall please contact Donna or Sandra on 0131 661 4049

Castlebrae has a free drop in play centre for children (0-3) and their parents living locally for further details contact Katie Inglis on 0131 661 1282