

# Kirkstyle's Newsletter

## February – March 2012



Have you been watching us yet?  
*Google search - Kirkstyle Blog and hit the link!*

Pr.3 and Pr.3/4 raised enough money from their Bake Sale that they donated a large amount to the Buchanan Centre. They had enough funds left to start the Living Eggs life cycle project. The pupils have been watching 10 eggs crack, split, hatch and grow over the last two weeks. Catch up with the chicks progress at the Spring Fayre on Friday or on the blog – regular updates available including a space for your comments back.

### Golden Spoon Awards

Four overall winners were crowned in the whole school Enterprise challenge. Jessica Thomson, Olivia Brydon, Jack Bolland and Ryan Lindsay all received a bumper bag of prizes. The prizes were donated by our own J.R.S.O.s, East Ayrshire's Enterprise team and the local Wilkinson's store in Kilmarnock.

### Quiz Team

This year's attendance at the Rotary Quiz left Kirkstyle sitting proud with a third place reward. A big thanks goes to the pupils who gave up their time to swot up on their general knowledge in preparation for the evening against the local East Ayrshire schools.



### Games Legacy for the Future

As part of this year's preparation for the Olympics 2012; Kirkstyle has been competing under the banner of Japan in Learning Community and Authority events. This week was no exception with Primary 7 pupils facing Hillhead and St Andrews in a series of games in a mini tournament. Japan gained points for our participation and second place result.

We are delighted to announce some exciting news for the pupils – a once in a lifetime opportunity – the chance to see the Olympic Flame! We cannot reveal the full details of the coming event as part of the torch relay but we can give you a snippet of insider info. Kirkstyle's getting up close and personal with the Olympic torch procession.

The Olympic theme will continue with events and sports taking place over the coming months as part of the build up to 2012. Kirkstyle intends to:

- promote the values
- harness the inspiration
- explore the cultural diversity
- celebrate diversity, be creative
- think critically, understand Scotland and G.B.
- improve health & well being
- and importantly foster a commitment to sustainability.

### Games legacy – Olympics 2012

Therefore in term 4 we will research and compare countries from around the globe; starting with GB and Japan. In conjunction with the Queen's Jubilee we will celebrate our own country and compare aspects of interest with their counterpart in our Olympic country of Japan. After brainstorming ideas the following list was decided-

1. Primary 1 – Weather
2. Primary 2- Famous people – monarchy, pop stars etc.
3. Primary 3 – Landmarks
4. Primary 4 & 3/4 – Food
5. Primary 5 – Sports
6. Primary 5/6 – Myths & legends
7. Primary 6 – Religion
8. Primary 7 – Structure of the Earth including disasters; volcanoes & earthquakes

The garden will also play a part in our reminder of the next two sporting years with a feature for the Olympic Rings, a Royal Oak planted in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, a Commonwealth Tree planted to signify our hope and dreams for 2014 and our new Primary 1 intake planting for the future of Kirkstyle on their transition visits.

### Garden developments

You might have noticed some groundworks that have gone underway during the February holiday. A large section of the under window shrubs have been removed to allow our Commemorative garden to start to take shape. As previously stated some planting for the future has taken place, our arbour and benches have been erected inside prior to them being put outside. These were purchased in memory of our dearly departed janitor Mr. Roy Stewart, they will be placed in pride of place alongside his memorial tree after a suitable area of slabbing is completed.

The purple crocuses, planted as part of the Rotary Club's charity work to raise awareness of polio, have all started to show their heads above ground and will give a welcomed show of colour.

Similarly our white spring bulbs; to signify saying no to violence, in memory of a sadly missed ex pupil who lost his life in tragic circumstances have also started to spring into new life.

Just a reminder : Spring Fayre 1.30 – 2.50pm Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Primary 1 singing from 1.30 - 1.45

Primary 2 performing at 1.45- 2.00

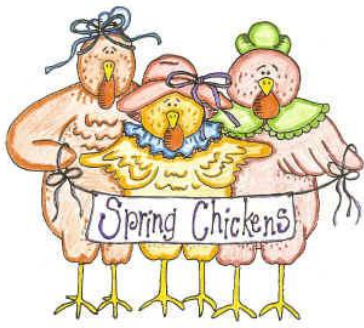
Primary 3, Pr.3/4 & Pr. 4 on at 2.00- 2.15

Primary 5, Pr.5/6 & Pr.6 taking the last singing slot at 2.15 - 2.30.

The **Parent Council** will be based in the **Hall** if you should wish to try your luck at the **bottle** or **raffle** stall, bounce on the **castle** or buy a hand decorated **balloon**, or maybe just sit back and enjoy some **refreshments**.

A group of **Primary 1's** will be selling **Spring biscuits** and **chocolate crispie nest** in **Room 7** and **Primary 5/6** will be selling **homemade soup** and recipes, joining them will be **Primary 6** with some **home baking** in our donated baking stall.

In the **corridor** you can take the opportunity to add to **Pr.5/6s** business venture adding your own recipes to the **Kirkstyle Cook Book**. You will be able to pre order the cookbook from the managers of the enterprising company. We hope that you will take the chance to buy one of the **Pupil Council tea-towels** or a **bird house** and bird cake complete with recipe from **Pr.4**.



Primary 3 & Pr.3/4 have a whole load of clucking going on with **Chicken Land!** - Come and meet the new arrivals, have your photo taken, draw a lucky straw or name our new hatchlings, they will be ready and waiting for you in Room 1.

Primary 2 are in **Room 4** selling beautifully hand decorated **wind-chimes**; ideal for any relaxing room in and out doors. Joining them will be members of the **Eco Committee** selling **keyrings** with Eco Warrior messages. A group of **Pr.1's** will also be selling **tealights** in **Room 4**.

Continue along the corridor to **Room 8** to take part in a variety of fairground **stall games** or buy some pocket money items from the pupils in **Pr.5**.



A group of **Primary 7's** would be happy to add a temporary **tattoo**, some **nail polish** or even a design using **face paint** to any adult or child (with parental permission).

Groups of **Pr.7** would like to make your car gleam as well with the cost of a full **car wash** only being £3.00 in the front playground - this would also allow you to park in the school grounds for the time of the Fayre.

The rest of **Pr.7** will be runners helping the school run this event smoothly, this means you will be allowed to collect your own child to visit the Fayre but still keeping everyone safe.

Pupils can be collected from set places to walk round the Fayre with you but try to avoid singing times if possible.

Primary 1 can be collected from Room 1

Primary 2 pupils from Room 3

Primary 3, Pr.3/4 & Pr.4 pupils from the Pr.7 helpers at the foot of the stairs

Primary 5, 5/6 and 6 pupils from the Pr.7 helpers at the foot of the stairs

Your child must be signed out when visiting the Fayre with you and returned to their rooms before 2.55pm for the home time bell to allow the class teacher to mark them on the register.

### Attendance

Last year at this time we let all of our parents and carers know that Kirkstyle had been asked by the local authority to pilot a new attendance strategy to help identify ways to tackle non attendance, truancy and late arrivals. This pilot has been successful in some aspects and is being rolled out across East Ayrshire. Therefore you might not yet be aware or have been involved in the procedures being tried in the school relating to this.

East Ayrshire aims to get every child to school for more than 90% of the school year, this would take account of acceptable levels of absence due to illness. In tackling this we will be monitoring levels of attendance each week looking at the previous 6 week block, identifying pupils below the 90% level (6 openings in 6 weeks). If your child's attendance falls into a category that causes concern, you will receive a letter to alert you of this. We have based our letter on Kilmarnock Academy's letter to ensure that, families with siblings and our Primary 7 parents and carers are all receiving the same information in both establishments.

Our first batch of letters have gone out and I would like to thank parents for their support with this; some have contacted the school and are in favour of high levels of attendance and understand the importance of regular monitoring and information sharing. We hope that we can rely on this continued support to ensure our pupils receive the maximum benefit from their days at school.

### Burns/Scots Poetry Winners

At a recent Assembly our winners; judged by our Pupil Council, were presented with their certificates. A special well done must go to Kyle Wallis, Pr.3 who received the highest score achieved narrowly missing full marks issued by all nine judges.

#### FIRST

Ami Love Pr.1

Kevin Anderson Pr.2  
Sophie Lindsay Pr.2

Blair Graham Pr.2  
Ellie Clark Pr.2

James McCammon Pr.2

James McCammon Pr.2

Kyle Wallis Pr.3

David Gordon Pr.3

Emma Kavannagh Pr.4

Daniel Woods Pr.5

Rachel Britten Pr.5/6

Megan Donnelly Pr.6

Caitlyn McCall Pr.7

Sara Irvine Pr.7  
Jack Park Pr.7

#### SECOND

Haili Martin Holmes Pr.1

Chloe Morfitt Pr.2

Caitlin Paton Pr.2

Jamie Findlay Pr.2

Cameron Maxwell Pr.2  
Mia Sloan Pr.2

Brooke McClinton Pr.3

Molly Simoes Pr.3

Bailey Douglas Pr.4

Lauren Packard Pr.5  
Rachel Steel Pr.5

Morgan McCreddie Pr.5/6

Sean McConnell Pr.6  
Ross Tait Pr.6

Leah Irving Pr.7

Laurie Graham Pr.7

#### THIRD

Gemma Higgins Pr.1

Cole Tyrie Pr.2

Rhys Hanlonbole Pr.2

Eva McCartney Pr.2

Jamie Findlay Pr.2

Aimee Stodden Pr.3

Katie Steel Pr.3

Kerry Gibson Pr.4  
Mia Hay Pr.4

Erin Arthur Pr.5

Jamie Manus Pr.5/6

Shannon Christite Pr.6

Bobbi Todd Pr.7  
Reece Williamson Pr.7

Keir Duncan Pr.7  
Alannah Sharpe Pr.7

### After school clubs

This terms clubs have begun with Pr.4/5 football being delivered by Kilmarnock College students under our Active Schools coordinator's supervision, a Lunchtime Dance club delivered by Miss. J. Taylor a B.Ed. final year student and a Pr.6 Cycling Proficiency club being taken by Mrs V. Ross and Mrs. B. Sneddon. Letters for each club are issued through the class teacher and all dates are enclosed in the letter.

### Celtic Clan visit

As part of our exploring Scotland's heritage and culture Primary 3 have been studying the Celts and Primary 3 / 4 The Romans; and their place in history. To bring this topic to life for the children we invited History Alive into school along with a wealth of archaeological evidence and props.; including costumes and weaponry.



### Reports

We will continue with the new format of reports issued last year with Curriculum for Excellence levels indicated, detailed comments on progress and next steps identified. The report does contain an overview of the levels across the school stages but feel free to ask the staff about these at Parents Evening.

- 01.03.12 – World Book Day
- 02.03.12 – Spring Fayre
- 08.03.12 – Pr.5, Pr.5/6 & Pr.6 visiting the Science Centre for Eco Show
- 12.03.12 – WWII talk for Pr.7 – History Alive
- 13.03.12 – Pr.1 & Pr.7 Dental Checks
- 16.03.12 – Pr.7 Puberty talks
- 23.03.12 – Pupil reports issued
- 23.03.12 – Centre Stage Roadshows for Tree rewards.
- 27.03.12 – Parents Afternoon & Evening
- 30.03.12 – School Closes for Easter 2.30pm
- 31.03.12 – 16.04.12 EASTER HOLIDAYS
- 17.04.12 – Pupils return