

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter



Special points of interest:

Important Dates

21st December School Closes
7th January School Re-opens
9th January S2 Reports
15th January S3 Industry Awareness Day
16th January S2 Options Hour & Parents' Evening
18th January S4 Reports
30th January S4 Options Hour & Parents' Evening
1st February S5/6 Prelims begin
6th February School Closes
7th February CfE InService Day
8th February InService Day
11th & 12th February Holidays
13th February School Re-opens
1st March S5/6 Reports
28th March School Closes
15th April School Re-opens

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December 2012

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£10000 for 10000 Meals

Senior pupils from the **Charities Committee** and the **SALT Group** visited the **Glasgow City Mission** with pupils from Crookfur Primary and Mearns Primary. The 3 schools are working together to raise funds for the Glasgow City Missions £10000 for 10000 Meals. Several events are taking place in the school to raise funds for this worthy cause including a Raffle and a Dress As You Please Day. The senior pupils and Mr Carr were taken on a tour of the building looking at the various facilities within the City Mission Building. The latest news is that the school will be donating £1000 as a result of the fundraising that has taken place! This is a fantastic result and well done to all concerned for raising money for this cause.



School Dances

The final **Junior and Senior Dances** in the current school building were held over the last two weeks of this term. The Junior Dance took place on 13 December with the Senior Dance on 19 December. A great time was had by all! Special thanks to our band players of many years, Iain Armstrong (drummer) and Stuart McKeown (accordion). Everyone is now looking forward to this time next year when the first Dances will be held in the new building!



Advanced Higher English Trip to Ireland

From the 24th - 26th October the Advanced Higher English class, along with teachers Ms McLaughlin and Mr McIntosh, travelled to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland on a trip designed to extend their knowledge of Irish Poetry and Literature (namely Nobel prize winning poet Seamus Heaney and renowned playwright Brian Friel) and place it in a cultural and political context.

We flew from Glasgow Airport in the very early hours of the morning and arrived in Belfast Airport as the dawn was rising (well, a bit of poetic licence allowed here but it felt like it anyway!). We then drove to Magherafelt for what we anticipated would be a short tour of 'Heaney country' by the infamous Eugene (Seamus Heaney expert). This ended up, however, being very extensive...and including a delicious lunch provided by his wife Geraldine, lasting eight hours! No stone was left unturned and we were given a deep insight into Heaney, his beginnings and what shaped him as a poet. It felt as if we visited every graveyard in South Londonderry / Derry, till, tired and weary, but infinitely more knowledgeable, we finally travelled to the city of Londonderry / Derry.

The next day we immersed ourselves in the fascinating culture and history of the city of Londonderry / Derry by taking an informative and at times moving tour round the walls followed by a visit to the infamous Bogside. The reconciliation process in Ireland and the willingness of people to talk about their experiences gave us an invaluable insight into the emotions and politics inherent in the work of the writers.



Later that day we took a driving tour to the wild, windswept and outstandingly beautiful Inishowen peninsula in Donegal, setting of Friel's work. The remoteness, beauty and barren nature of the place allowed us to get a feel for his writing. We braved the wind to stand in the most northerly point of Ireland - Malin Head, seeing the Isle of Jura in the distance. The journey took an eventful turn on the narrow, one track roads when we were ambushed by a herd of very territorial cows! Luckily Mr McIntosh was there to save the day - he climbed out of the car and leapt over fences into the fields to send them on their way. Very impressive!

We returned to Londonderry / Derry that evening to see a hard -hitting, overtly tense and emotional play called 'Release' (there were even counsellors in the audience) in which six men who had been in what could be called 'the front line' shared their experiences of The Troubles in Northern Ireland. These were not actors but the actual men who had witnessed atrocities and were left with lasting legacies. It was the opening night of the play and the Nobel Peace Prize winner John Hume was sitting beside us. We felt privileged to part of it and had a real sense of this being 'living history'.

Later that evening, still reeling (no pun intended!) from the impact of the play we heard some uplifting Traditional Irish music, featuring the current all Ireland fiddle Champion.



On the final day of the trip, we visited the Free Londonderry / Derry Museum in Londonderry / Derry's Bogside which focuses on the events of "Bloody Sunday". This is a place where emotions very visibly remain raw. We met relatives of those who had been killed and whose lives had been shaped by a fight for the 'truth' of what happened on that day. Our final visit was a return to Northern Ireland's capital city, Belfast, where we took a tour of the city. Despite our exhaustion, the tour guide kept us amused with an eccentric mix of "landmarks".

On the way home, two members of the class were very nearly left behind when they misplaced their boarding passes... but ,with skilful negotiation on the part of the teachers, were luckily allowed on the plane!

Overall, the trip was revelatory, indeed was described by some of the pupils as 'life changing' and 'surreal'. Since our return it has been fascinating to see how the insights gained on the trip are now informing our discussion of and understanding of the texts. It would be hard to see how such a valuable experience could fail to have anything other than a positive effect on their performance in the final exams, especially given the trip earlier in the session to hear Seamus Heaney 'in conversation' at the University of Stirling. Rare opportunities indeed.

AH English Students

Dancing Pupils

Congratulations to Zoe McKinna (S1), Chloe Dunn (S1) and Ellie Dixon (S3) who competed in the "Disco Kid" freestyle Dancing competition representing Scotland at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom over the weekend 30 November to 3 December. This is the biggest competition of the year and the pupils all gave an excellent performance. Well done!!

New School Tie

Six ties have now been selected from the pupil entries to the new school tie competition and are being made into sample ties. These will be ready by late January and voting will be held in early February. More details will follow in the New Year!



Celebrating Parliament Week

To celebrate Parliament Week, which took place at the end of November, the **Higher Modern Studies pupils** had their first class debate. This year, the topic was Scottish Independence. Arguments were given from three points of view: for Scottish independence, for keeping the status quo with the rest of the UK and Devolution Max. Four pupils acted as independent judges and at the end decided that the best arguments put forward were from the group supporting Scottish independence. All pupils participated well and in particular there were some excellent arguments made by Fraser Stewart, Ross Forbes, Shahroze Khan and Rachael Gibson. On the last day of Parliament Week, some members of the Higher Modern Studies class met with the fearsome **S3 Politics 'Society'** to debate the issue

'should politicians be treated like celebrities?' There was an independent judging panel consisting of Mr French, Miss McGavigan and Miss Porchetta who faced the difficult task of deciding which group had the best arguments. In the end, it was decided that the S3 pupils had won, with their view that politicians should not be treated the same as celebrities. A huge thanks must be given to the pupils themselves, for their commitment, to the many staff and pupils who came along to be part of the audience and the four S6 pupils who help Miss Riggans with the running of the Politics club: Rowan Sweeney, Junaid Malik, Andrew Jack and Fraser Collingham.



Maths Masterclasses Success

Two pupils from Mr Carr's S3 Maths class Nadeen Ismahel and Emma McKelvie successfully completed **Glasgow University's Mathematics Masterclasses**. Both Emma and



Nadeen attended lectures and tutorials for five consecutive Saturday mornings. On the final Saturday morning both girls were presented with a certificate for completing the course. Mr Carr and the Mathematics Department would like to say well done to the girls who gained a lot from working with some of Britain's best mathematicians.

Oh Yes they Did!!

122 S1 Pupils enjoyed an afternoon at the King's Theatre Pantomime, **Cinderella**, on 13 December. Many thanks to the Staff who supervised the trip. All commented on the fact that the pupils were a credit to the school and enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Christmas Holidays

School finishes for the Christmas Holiday on Friday 21 December at 2.30pm and re-opens on Monday 7 January at 8.45. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

"Short N Sweet" Celebrates Recent Success

Short N Sweet is a Company set up by a group of 6th year pupils taking part in the **Young Enterprise Company Program**. We have been working since September setting up our registered company and producing our product, the iBox. The iBox is a chocolate selection box with an added technological twist aimed at children. The box includes a selection of chocolate and games as well as a mobile app and a digital Christmas card which could be customised to meet the needs of the customer. On Wednesday 5th December, our company attended the **Young Enterprise Trade Fair at Xscape**. The photo bottom left shows our Sales Team at the Fair. We had 2 hours to sell our products to the general public. Our biggest achievement was that our Managing Director, Aminah Zahid, won the **Patter Merchant Award** (photo below right)! From Monday 17th December our products will be on sale to pupils. Our customers have told us that our iBoxes have been perfect for Stocking Fillers. In February 2013 the group will sit a Young Enterprise Exam run by Strathclyde University. It is hoped that everyone will pass this with success. Short N Sweet Members



are: Jonathan Baird, Aminah Zahid, Calum Rae, Laura Kennedy, Harry Staniforth, Lauren Campbell, James Carswell, Paul Crichton, Tariq Goundal, Rabinder Kooner, Junaid Malik, Danielle Moran, Fraser Stewart, David Stuart.



Creative Writing Workshops

On the 6th December pupils sitting English Higher and Advanced Higher enjoyed an afternoon of Creative writing workshops led by some of Scotland's most prominent writers.



Pupils chose to attend two workshops in which the writers took them through some of the mechanics involved in the creative process. Everyone involved agreed it was an excellent experience and



the authors all commented on the enthusiasm of the pupils and what a great day they had!!

Senior pupils help deliver Eastwood Cluster Primary Hockey Festival

At the end of November Eastwood's Senior Sports and Fitness group (David Bannerman, Jonathan Bradley, Aaron Garrott, Alistair Hughes, Andrew Lawn, James McGowan, Ross McGowan, Callum McMichael, Lewis Smith) and our 2 Young Ambassadors in S4 (Catherine Palmer and Max Yuill) helped run the Eastwood Cluster Primary Hockey tournament. P5 Pupils from Crookfur, Mearns, Neilston and Uplawmoor all attended the event where they were given the opportunity to practice their hockey skills and compete in a variety of small sided games. The day went really well with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves and our senior pupils receiving great praise from Teachers as well as Active School Coordinators that were in attendance. Well done!



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Eastwood Karate Club Successes

On Tuesday night 11 December, 6 karateka graded for their new belts. The most experienced students Bhavna Mehta and Iain Wroughton are now purple white belts. Robbie Raeside, Craig Otley, Caitlin Roberts and Caitlin McBride are all orange belts after an outstanding performance at their very first grading. Kayleigh and Daniel Harkins couldn't make the grading but hope to double grade in March for their red belts. Keep up the great work everyone; you made your Sensei very proud! David Veitch has just started this week and is already working on advanced techniques!



Cross Country Success

On Sat 8th December Erin Wallace won the U13 West District Cross Country Championships which were held at Greenock. This now qualifies Erin for the Scottish Inter-district championships which are due to be held on the 7th January 2013 at Holyrood Park, Edinburgh. Good luck Erin and well done!



S3 Outdoor Experience

24 S3 pupils had a chilly but fantastic time at Castle Toward outdoor centre at the beginning of November. Despite the cold weather the sun shone throughout the week, allowing everyone to enjoy the gorge walking, canoeing, orienteering and many more activities on offer. Despite the chill it was not cold enough for Mr Williams our PE teacher, who decided he would go for a swim whilst canoeing!

