

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

December 2013



Special points of interest:

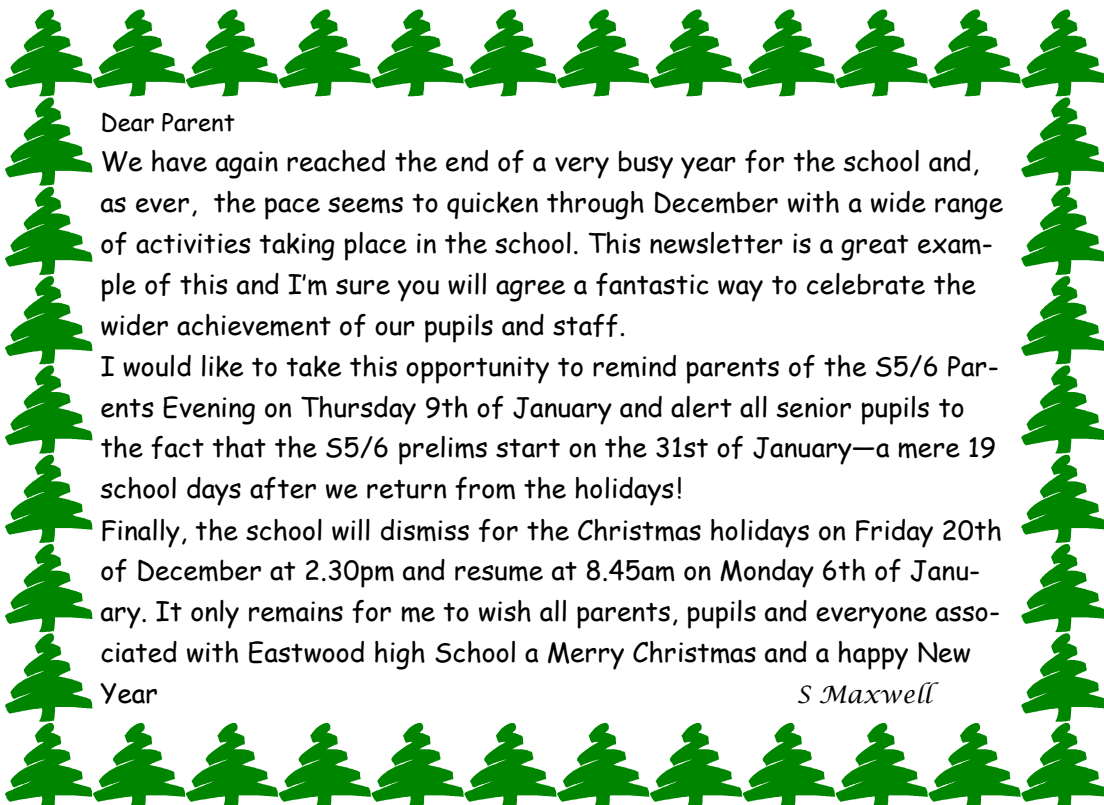
Important Dates

2nd December S4 Prelims begin
 12th December Junior Dance
 16th December Christmas Concert
 18th December Senior Dance
 20th December School Closes
 6th January School Re-opens
 9th January - S5/6 Parents Eve.
 14th January - S3 Industry Day
 15th January - S2 Parents Eve.
 29th January - S4 Parents Eve.
 31st January— S5/6 Prelims begin
 7th February - Inservice Day
 10th & 11th February Holidays
 W/B 3rd March - S3 Exams
 2nd April - ASN Parents Evening
 4th April - School Closes

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Dear Parent

We have again reached the end of a very busy year for the school and, as ever, the pace seems to quicken through December with a wide range of activities taking place in the school. This newsletter is a great example of this and I'm sure you will agree a fantastic way to celebrate the wider achievement of our pupils and staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the S5/6 Parents Evening on Thursday 9th of January and alert all senior pupils to the fact that the S5/6 prelims start on the 31st of January—a mere 19 school days after we return from the holidays!

Finally, the school will dismiss for the Christmas holidays on Friday 20th of December at 2.30pm and resume at 8.45am on Monday 6th of January. It only remains for me to wish all parents, pupils and everyone associated with Eastwood high School a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

S Maxwell

Scottish Government Education Secretary Visits Eastwood

Over the last few months Eastwood High School has had a number of very important visitors, but probably none more so than Michael Russell MSP, the Scottish Government Education Secretary. Mr Russell visited the school on Wednesday 11th December. He was given a tour of the new building and met some of our pupils. Mhairi Cormack, Jessie Ling and Hazel Currie even managed to be photographed with Mr Russell in the Scotsman newspaper. It was very pleasing to hear the man in charge of Scottish education say how impressed he was, not only with the building, but with our pupils.



Christmas Cheer

The first winner of the PTA 100 squares (No.43) was Mr John Robb from Neilston. Congratulations on his £25 win.

Senior Citizens Party

On 17th December Eastwood High played host to over 100 senior citizens from the local area. They were visiting the school to attend the annual senior citizens Christmas party organised by the S6. Our visitors had a most enjoyable afternoon being entertained by various musical and dramatic acts



Intergenerational Quiz

In early December a number of Eastwood's senior pupils participated in, and helped organise, an intergenerational quiz in Barrhead. The quiz brought together senior citizens with primary school children living in their local area as quiz teams. The event was a huge success.



Blood Brothers & Sisters

After a visit from Scot Blood on 2nd December twenty S6 pupils made their way to Nelson Mandela Place to donate blood. This was organised by Mrs Sinclair assisted by Rebecca Torrance and Ross McMaster. The picture shows Niamh Mackay.



The Long Walk to Freedom

Gillian Sterkenberg and Nicole Dempster appeared on STV news, with reporter Susan Ripoli, to give their reflections on the life of Nelson Mandela. Fraser Brash, Euan MacGeehan and Matthew Fisher were also involved but failed to make the final edit.



Christmas Dances

As ever the end of term sees the senior and junior Christmas Dances - always the social events of the year. Pictured below are some pupils enjoying the S1— S3 event held on Thursday 12th December.



Christmas Concert

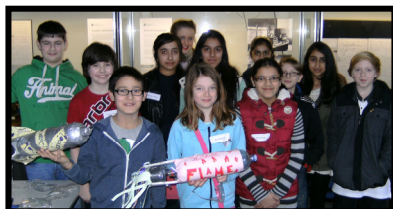
Monday 16th of December saw the first Eastwood High Christmas Concert to be held in the atrium. It was a fantastic night with soloists, ensembles and

choirs providing a wonderful night of festive entertainment.



Science Masterclass

A number of Eastwood S1 & S2 pupils recently participated in the Royal Society of Edinburgh Science and Technology Masterclass at Glasgow University. The event was aimed at young people interested in engineering and science who wanted to broaden their knowledge and experience. The classes run on four Saturdays and on week 3 there was a special lecturer teaching about aeroplane design—Dr Peter Watson a former pupil of Eastwood High.



Cyber Safety

On 16th of December thirty two S3 Computing Science students attended the Glasgow University Schools Christmas lecture—this year on the topic of cyber security.

Nuclear Powered

On Thursday 19th of December fifty S3 Physics students will be visiting Hunterston Nuclear Power Station. This trip will build on current class work being undertaken as part of the Broad General Education in Physics on the subject of Radioactivity.

Ardentinny Trip

Mr Law and Miss Patrick recently accompanied thirteen S3 Eastwood pupils to Ardentinny Outdoor Centre. The trip gives pupils an outdoor learning experience giving them the opportunity to participate in activities such as gorge walking, hill walking, abseiling and canoeing. All the pupils had a great time and the outdoor centre commented very favourably on the pupils' conduct throughout the week.



Honouring Neilston

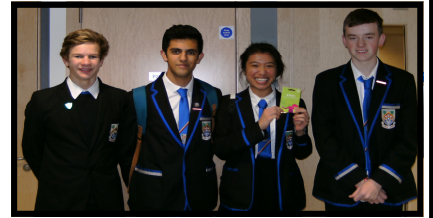
Erin Catterson S4 was runner up in the competition to design a permanent war memorial for Neilston. Erin was presented with her award by Councillor Paul O'Kane



Anti Litter Campaign

Pupils from Miss Barr's and Mrs McLearn's Science Classes have been engaging in positive citizenship by taking part in litter picks in the local area. Littering is something that is unacceptable and this project helps us be good neighbours.

Within the school the ECO Committee are running a "Golden Bin" competition where every week the "nth" person using a selected bin wins a prize. The first winner of £15 of iTunes vouchers was a delighted Joyce Ling S5.



Mini Trials

On Saturday November 30th ten senior pupils participated in the East Renfrewshire mini trials at Paisley Sheriff Court. The pupils were ably coached by Mr McDairmid, Miss Riggans and David Nicolson the designated solicitor for the school. The Eastwood legal eagles won both their cases winning high praise from the judge. Louise Wilson and Jack Murray aided by Mohsi Maqsood and Ramandeep Singh Gill successfully defended their assault case whilst Sharoze Khan, Akbar Malik and Craig Smith aided by Laura Cheng and Jenna Taylor successfully pursued the famous Paisley "slug in a bottle" case. In addition Raabiah Siddique successfully fulfilled the role of "Clerk of the Court" in both cases.



Debating

On 2nd December Kyle McKinlay and Leo Kumagai were invited by the English Speaking Union to represent Eastwood HS in the St Andrews day debate.



Robert Louis Stevenson Tour

On 3rd Dec. Higher English students undertook the Robert Louis Stevenson literary tour in Edinburgh as part of their study of the "Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde"



Art Attack

Thirty S1–S3 Eastwood High art pupils were selected to attend and participate in the annual Kelvingrove Art Competition. This year Zoe Sturgeon S2 received a highly commended certificate and Abby McCann S3 was awarded a commendation for her entry.

In another project twenty S2 pupils worked alongside artists from Eastwood Theatre in the 3d studio to produce Eastwood's entry for this year's Rouken (Electric) Glen Light Festival.



Eastwood in Lego Elite Engineering Programme

A big thank you to all who supported Eastwood's successful bid to become a Lego Elite Engineering School. The competition was judged on the strength of the school's campaign to secure support. Our club secured 2123 votes (making it 9th out of 150 in the UK) and attracted attention via Twitter from Ken McIntosh MSP, Glasgow University, The Daily Mail, East Renfrewshire Council and Mark Miodownik at the BBC. This is a fantastic achievement for Miss Hamilton and the club being one of only 3 Scottish schools selected for the programme.

The Lego club have also been working on an interdisciplinary project linking Science, Geography & Technology by creating a robotic response to a volcanic disaster



New Teddy Eastwood School Mascot

With the move to the new school the original "Teddy Eastwood", our school mascot, has retired. He has been replaced by a new updated "Teddy Eastwood" wearing the new tie and resplendent school blazer. The photo shows old "Teddy Eastwood" wishing his younger counterpart well in his duties.



Saxy Achievement

Congratulations go to Morven Con-sidine S2 for achieving her Grade 5 In playing the alto saxophone—with merit (125)



Sports News

In football the S3 team have been involved in three entertaining games this month. Despite being knocked out of the Scottish Cup by Notre Dame HS at the start of the month the team managed to draw 0-0 with Williamwood HS and 3-3 with Gleniffer HS. In their last game before the holidays the U14 team won their St Mirren Cup tie against St Ninians HS.

The game finished 1-1 in normal time with Jason Stewart scoring the Eastwood goal. The match went to penalties with Ross Stoddart saving a St Ninians penalty to win the tie.

In athletics Hannah Shields, Martin McGuinness and Miss Hamilton completed the 5K Santa Dash on Sunday 8th of December. Martin used the Dash to raise £63 for the schools autism charity fund.

The senior Cricket team beat Williamwood by 5 runs in an indoor match held on 10th December. Eastwood bowled Williamwood out for 49 with Umair Amin taking 3 for 3. Eastwood then cruised to victory with Ross Bain hitting a 6 to win the match and Lewis James remaining 10 not out at the end.

Scott Fraser, Daniel Harkins, Shaun Nicol, Ben Monaghan and Scott Young recently completed a six week block of golf tuition through the Fields and Trust Scotland initiative. On completion of the course they all received a certificate and a gift of a golf glove and some golf balls.

The Eastwood Karate team has again been winning recognition this month at the SASF competition in Motherwell. In the 13—15 age category Caitlin Roberts took 1st place with Kayleigh Harkins a close 2nd. For the boys in the same age category David Veitch came 2nd with Robbie Raeside 3rd. In grading Joanna McDermott and Zack Griffin achieved Orange belts; Robbie Raeside, David Veitch, Caitlin Roberts & Caitlin McBride achieved yellow belts and best of all Bhavna Mehta became the school club's first Brown belt.

Over 130 pupils (boys and girls) took part in the Interhouse Dodgeball competition held during November and December. The overall winners were Duncarnock and they also lead the overall Interhouse Sports Championship by 2 points with Basketball and Badminton coming up next.

