

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

February 2014



Special points of interest:

Important Dates.

W/B 3rd March - S3 Exams
 2nd April - ASN Parents Evening
 4th April - School Closes
 22nd April—School reopens 8.45am
 28th April - SQA Exams begin
 1st May - S3 Parents Evening
 5th May - Holiday
 23rd May - Holiday
 26th May - Holiday
 27th May - Inservice day
 3rd & 4th June - P7 Induction
 5th June - Sports Awards Eve.
 10th June - Prizegiving
 12th June - S6 Graduation
 25th June - School Closes @ 1pm

Inside this issue:

Honoured Visitor	1
Shining Brightly	2
Eastwood - The Movie	2
Junior Dux Winners	3
Big Big Sing Day	3
Saltire Award Winners	3
Valentine's Disco	4
Sports News	4

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Dear Parent

February has seen the completion of the S5/6 Prelim Exams and the focus is now very much on the drive towards the SQA Exams in May. This year the SQA Exams start particularly early and it is worth pointing out to parents and pupils alike that S4—S6 pupils will have only four school days in class after the Easter holidays before the SQA exams begin - That is less than 5 full school weeks away. It is vitally important therefore that pupils use the month of March to fully prepare. To assist pupils with this preparation and to achieve their full potential in the SQA exams the school has a number of initiatives running. Firstly a full programme of after school Supported Study classes will be running through March and April, details of the schedule for these classes is available on the school website. Secondly each individual S4 and S5 pupil has been issued with target grades for the final exams. These target grades are not predicted grades but are based on prelim and NAB results, and are something that with hard work and study can be achieved. Finally Easter School will again run during the Easter holidays. In line with other East Renfrewshire schools there is a small charge levied for Easter School classes. This charge remains at the same level as last year (£4.50 per day or £2.50 for a morning or afternoon session). Easter School is free to any pupil in receipt of a free school meal. An information leaflet will be issued in mid march giving details of the Easter school programme.

S Maxwell

Honoured Visitor

Eastwood High School was honoured to be visited by retired Chief Superintendent John Carnochan a national figure in policing and sociology. DCS Carnochan OBE and recipient of the Queen's Police medal, was invited to the school by our own campus Police Officer Alastair Lindsay to talk to S4 about his work in violence reduction. John Carnochan set up the Strathclyde Police violence reduction unit in 2004 ostensibly to reduce knife crime in the Greater Glasgow area but the initiative was so successful that it was introduced nationwide a couple of years later. In his talk he focussed on the sociology and mental health issues contributing to violence, making good personal decisions to avoid risk, and keeping safe in the city.



Literacy Flash Mob

The Atrium was treated to a "Literacy Flash Mob" event involving both staff and pupils on the 3rd of February. The event included a short film specially made to promote the importance of literacy throughout the school. This will be added to our school website. The event attracted a large crowd and certainly achieved its aim of raising awareness of literacy skills across the curriculum and in life.



Shining Brightly

You will remember from the December newsletter that a group of S2 pupils had been working on an installation to be included in the East Renfrewshire "Electric Glen" light festival held in February in Rouken Glen Park. The event was a huge success with the Eastwood installation being the very first on display at the entrance. Zoe Sturgeon of S2 was the Eastwood winner of the competition and was invited to a photo shoot at the event. Zoe is pictured below with Council Leader Jim Fletcher and Councillor Tony Buchanan.



Ewan Lands Star Role

Ewan Walker S2 has landed a lead role in PMOS's production of "The King and I" at the Kings Theatre in Glasgow. Ewan will play the principal role of Prince Chulalongkorn in the show.

This is the first time that Ewan has appeared at the Kings Theatre but he has performed at Eastwood Park Theatre and in various school productions.



Golden Bin Winner

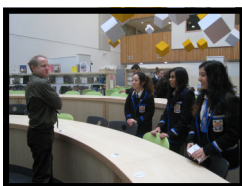
Ailsa Roy of S1 is the latest winner of the ECO Committee's Golden Bin initiative. On a random day a bin somewhere in the school is selected, a random number "n" is then picked and the nth person to put litter in that bin wins £15 of iTunes vouchers. The picture shows a delighted Ailsa collecting her prize from the S5 ECO committee members who organised the competition.



Zombie Science Roadshow

On 20th February Eastwood Science Department hosted four fun Science sessions with a difference. Dr Lowe organised the visit by Zombie Science in partnership with Glasgow University and the Welcome Trust. The lectures focussed on

- A) How the brain works
- B) How disease alters the brain
- C) How to manage the brain when altered by disease.



Eastwood - The Movie

During the February holiday weekend Miss Workman and a keen bunch of volunteer Eastwood film actors and directors got together with film director David Hunter to make a short film about our new school. The film was shot over two days and allowed the pupils to gain invaluable experience in front of, and behind, the camera. Lewis James and Amirah Bouzgarrou played the main roles taking the audience on an entertaining tour of our excellent new facilities.



Eastwood Junior Dux Winners 2014

Congratulations to Amirah Bouzgarrou and Harris Ali who have become Junior Duxes of the school. The Junior Dux award is based on overall performance in the S4 Prelims held in December. Amirah and Harris will be presented with their award at Prizegiving in June and their names, along with last year's winners, will be added to a new Junior Dux board to be located in the Atrium. Well done to both Amirah and Harris, a magnificent effort.



Saltire Award Winners

A group of senior pupils have been presented with their Saltire Awards for undertaking voluntary work. The group of pupils achieved their Saltire Awards on the weekend of 7th and 8th September through acting as guides and hosts for members of the local community visiting the new building as part of the East Renfrewshire Council Open Doors event.



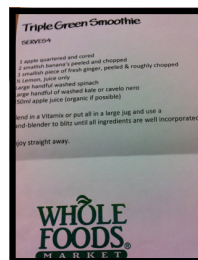
Dramatic Achievers

Congratulations go to Abby McCann S3 and Robbie Noble of S6 for gaining a Drama performance module at university level 7 carrying 10 university credit points. The Verona Cup module run via PACE Theatre and the University of the West of Scotland involved Abby and Robbie in writing, composing a score, directing, and performing a new work in a style reminiscent of classical Greek Tragedy.



Cooking up a Storm

On Wednesday 20th of February the Higher HFT class was visited by chefs from Wholefoods Market in Giffnock. It was time to harvest the winter crop planted in the school garden in September and then show the pupils how to prepare and utilise the winter vegetables. The Pak Choi and Curly Kale were used to make a most excellent Triple Green Smoothie, baked kale chips and a stir fry with onion, garlic and sesame seeds.



Big Big Sing Day

Miss Hill and the Eastwood High School choir performed at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow on the 9th of February as part of a choir of 850 people gathered from all over Scotland. The Big Big Sing Day involved the choir performing songs associated with the upcoming Commonwealth Games. In addition The S3 National Music class as part of their course attended a young composers workshop held at Glasgow City Halls on the 3rd of February. The workshop allowed the pupils to enhance their composition skills and knowledge of creating music, working with two of Scotland's leading composers Fraser Trainer and Stuart MacRae along with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.



Duke of Edinburgh Community Work

A big thank you to a group of senior boys undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Award with the school this year. As part of their community volunteering unit the boys undertook a litter pick to improve the environment in the woodland areas around the school.



Charities Valentine Disco

Well done to Robbie Noble, Jordyn Yip, Gillian Sterkenberg, Laura Cheng, Murray Marrant, Mark Kyle and Iman Aktar of the Charities Committee for raising £350 for Scottish Autism by organising an S5/6 Valentine's disco.



Ardentinny Study Weekend

During February a group of Higher Physics pupils attended the Lochgoilhead study weekend. Braving heavy snow and closed roads the group found the lectures and workshops invaluable preparation for the exams.



Former Pupils Reunion

Former Head Girl Gillian Robson (nee Drennan) is organising a reunion for pupils who started Eastwood HS in 1977, 78 & 79. The event is on Sunday 4th May in the Redhurst Hotel and details can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/493027270810375> Or <http://www.eastwoodclass78-84.org>.

Sports News

February has been a most successful month for Eastwood High School's athletes. In the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Championships Catherine Palmer S5 won a silver medal in the senior high jump with a leap of 1.65m. and Erin Wallace added the Scottish Schools indoor U16 1500m gold medal to her National U15 800m title won the previous week. Erin also won the Scottish U15 National Cross Country Championship on Saturday the 22nd of February. On the 2nd of February Ross Lipp of S2 was part of the U16 relay team that won the Scottish Indoor Championships at the Emirates Arena.



At the East Renfrewshire Cross Country Championships held on 24th February Erin Wallace won gold in the S2 girls and Jamie Sturrock won bronze in the S3 boys. In the team competitions the S2 girls won gold, S2 boys won silver, S3 girls won bronze, S3 boys won silver and the senior boys won silver. Well done to all.



In Karate Megan McNair won the U15 girls gold medal at the Wishaw Grand Prix held on the 15th of February. Megan is a black belt and has been competing since she was 4!

In football well done to Ryan Lockie of S4 who was again selected for the Scotland U16 Squad. Well done also to the U16s football team who have won through to the semi finals of the St Mirren Cup defeating Mearns Castle HS 3-1 away in the $\frac{1}{4}$ final. Unfortunately our U14s were knocked out of their St Mirren Cup competition by Gryffe HS but did beat Mearns Castle HS 4-3 in the league during February with a late winner from Jason Stewart. The U15s completed their league campaign with a 2-0 win over Mearns Castle HS giving them a 3rd place finish.

The Eastwood teams have been selected for this year's British Schools Karting Competition. Following qualifying at Scotkart Cambuslang Mrs Ross selected Alan Regan, Iain McIntosh and Harris Ali for Eastwood A, whilst Hassan Bashir, Stuart King and Kevin King were selected for Eastwood B.

Mr Wood's S2/3 basketball team managed a last gasp win over Renfrew High 26-25 to clinch a place in the Renfrewshire Cup semi final. Luke Sinclair scored the crucial points with a free throw in the final seconds. Finally in rugby the U15 rugby team drew 10-10 away to Duncanrig HS.