

# EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

## Parents Newsletter

January 2013

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*Special points of interest:*

### Important Dates

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  
22nd April S3 Reports Issued  
25th April S3 Parents' Evening (4.30pm)  
29th April Uniform Evening (P7/S1)  
30th April Uniform Evening (S2/S3)  
6th May Holiday  
7th May SQA Study leave begins  
23rd May S1 Reports issued

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### Excellence Award

One of our S6 pupils, Heather McLaren received an award from East Renfrewshire for **Excellence in Response to an Emergency**. On Monday 17th of December 2012 Heather was walking to school along Fruin Avenue Newton Mearns at around 10am. She was coming into school late as she had been attending a doctor's appointment. An elderly lady was walking the same route some 20 metres ahead of Heather. As they passed St Cadoc's Church Heather watched as the lady staggered, stumbled and then fell to the ground. Heather rushed forward to pick her up assuming that she had merely fallen. However on reaching the lady Heather noticed that she was not responsive and that in fact she was having a heart attack. Heather telephoned 999 and waited alone with the woman performing CPR on her until the ambulance car arrived 4 to 5 minutes later. The doctor in the ambulance car took Heather's details before rushing the elderly lady to hospital. Heather then proceeded onto school. During the afternoon the doctor contacted Heather to say that the lady was going to recover. She had had a heart attack but was now stable and in the high dependency unit. She would shortly be moved to a normal ward. Heather's life-saving actions were recognised with the Excellence award she received from Councillor Green, the Education Convener and Councillor O'Kane the vice-chair of the Education Committee.



### Opening Day of the Salmon Fishing Season

On the 15th January the **AFYD Group** (Suliman Rehman, Daniel Middleton, James McKelvie, Jamie Duff, Daniel Harkins, Scott Fraser, Jason Stewart) had a fantastic day at the **opening ceremony for this year's salmon fishing season at Kenmore on the banks of the river Tay**. It was an early start with everyone leaving the school at 7a.m. and as we travelled north there was more and more snow. However by the time we arrived the sun was shining and the boys had a great time fishing for salmon. Everyone had an excellent day and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The feedback has been so positive that we will look into doing the same trip next year.



### Glee Choir Christmas Singing Success

The Glee Choir performed in The Avenue Shopping Centre on Wednesday 12th December and raised a fantastic £363.56 for East Renfrewshire Good Causes and Cash for Kids. They also performed in Asda on the 17th December and raised £82.54 for ITV's Text Santa Appeal. Massive well done to the choir who sung their hearts out and thank you to parents, friends and other family members who came along to support and donate!



### Author Visits with a Twist

On the 17th December, Miss De'Ath (Librarian) hosted 2 author visits. The first was by author John Fardell. He hosted a workshop with Mr McIntosh's S1 class and various P7 boys from Crookfur and Mearns Primaries. John talked about



"Manfred the Baddie" and had pupils drawing and making up a collective story. In the afternoon the author Maggi Gibson spoke to a selection of girls from S2 and Primary 7 (Crookfur and Mearns Primaries). She talked about writing for girls and her character Seriously Sassi. The group heard her read from her books. In both sessions pupils asked questions and were able to buy discounted books and

get them signed. Then on the 23rd January Miss De'Ath along with Mr Andrews and Miss McDowall took 31 very excited pupils to see the horror author writer, Darren Shan at Mearns Castle High. His books have long been popular at Eastwood. It was a very busy event, with over 300 pupils in attendance. Darren's talk was very popular and afterwards there was an opportunity to buy his books and get them signed. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the event.

### PTA Blazer Recycling

The PTA are organising a Blazer Recycling Night on Thursday 25th April (S3 Parents Night) from 4:30pm to 7pm. If you have any blazers that you wish to donate to the school please hand them into the office during February and March and we will recycle them for our exchange event.

### Sports' News

◆Craig Smith, S4, has qualified for the National Finals in the Schools **Table Tennis** competition. Well done to Craig and good luck ◆Congratulations to Erin Wallace, S1, who has won the **U13 Scottish Inter-District Cross Country championship** at Holyrood Park Edinburgh in early January ◆Last week James Carswell (S6) and his Curling team travelled to a snowbound Aberdeen to contest the **Scottish Junior Curling Championships**. Eight teams from across Scotland had qualified, and after 4 days of competition, James' team qualified for the semi finals. They finished in an outstanding 3rd place, being beaten by the eventual Champions. This was the first time James team had qualified for the Championships, and they are delighted with this result. James' team won the Greenacres Masters and the Inverness Junior Invitational earlier this season and finished a highly creditable 3rd in the Forfar Men's Open ◆Two S2 pupils Calvin McGrory and Scott Johnston were competing at the **Renfrewshire area schools Badminton Championship** on Saturday 26 January at The Lagoon Paisley. Calvin won the U14 Singles Championship and Calvin and Scott won the U14 Doubles Championship. They now go on to represent Renfrewshire in the Scottish Schools National Badminton Event on 9th March in Perth. Good luck boys!



### Eastwood's Creative Writing Club's Christmas Competition

Eastwood's Creative Writing Club created and ran their own Creative Writing Competition in the lead up to Christmas, welcoming entries from all East Renfrewshire schools.

The quality of writing in the entries was incredibly high and made life very difficult for our judging team - Kyle McKinley (S2), Hugh Carslaw (S2), Adam Yaqub (S1) and Jamie Duff (S1). Well done to all those who entered the competition. The "Creepy Christmas" themed competition was won by Eastwood pupil Abigail Catterson (S2) who wrote a spectacularly spooky short story and secured herself the £20 book token. Congratulations Abigail!



### Oh No They Didn't!

The Drama Club, with the support of staff and senior pupils, staged and delivered outstanding performances of their original pantomime, 'Ella Rocks Eastwood'. Parents, pupils and the pupils of Isobel Mair watched the Cinderella inspired production and helped raise an impressive £400 for Yorkhill Hospital. The cast showcased their array of acting, singing, dancing - not to mention comedic - talents as they took to the stage and put everyone in the Christmas spirit. The Drama Club are now taking a much needed hiatus in preparation for the next school production, 'We Will Rock You!'



### Holocaust Memorial Day

Pupils from Eastwood High school performed in a short film for Holocaust Memorial Day earlier this month. Working with Mr Gillespie of the Drama Department on the film Weekend Away, the pupils, played a number of characters, including a group preparing for a short break in Poland. They became aware of the country's vibrancy but also its painful past as the location for the most brutal Nazi death camps. The film was broadcast on a special programme on Glow TV which involved arts responses to the theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day—Building Bridges. The pupils, Rowan Sweeney (S6), Fiona Scott (S6), Rebekah Neilson (S6), Craig Smith (S4), Catriona Connelly (S4), Graeme Milloy (S4), and Neil Collingham (S3) also attended a large scale youth event for Holocaust Memorial Day at the City Chambers in Glasgow. They saw a number of other performances from Scottish schools, involving drama, and music. Speakers included Jean Paul Samputu, an internationally acclaimed singer and survivor of the genocide in Rwanda. This was an informative and rewarding experience for everyone involved.

