

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

January 2015



Special points of interest:

Important Dates.

2nd February S5/6 Prelims begin
 5th & 6th Feb. Inservice days
 9th & 10th Feb. Holidays
 1st April - ASN Parents Evening
 2nd April - School Closes
 20th April - School Re-opens
 27th April - SQA Exams Begin
 30th April - S3 Parents Evening
 3rd May - Holiday
 22nd & 25th May - Holidays
 26th May—Inservice Day
 28th & 29th May - P7 Induction
 4th June - Sports Awards
 8th June - Timetable Change
 9th June - Prizegiving
 10th June - BGE Graduation
 11th June - S6 Graduation

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Dear Parent

This is a crucial time for pupils in S5/6 as we approach the Prelim exams that start on the 2nd of February. Along with Mrs Foster I have already spoken to senior pupils at assemblies about the importance of these exams. By now everyone should be well into a home revision timetable in preparation. I would also like to remind pupils and parents of the supported study programme that is running in most subject areas and the positive impact that participation in this programme can have on results. The Prelim exam timetable and the supported study timetable are both on the school website. I know that I can count on parental support to ensure that all pupils in S5/6 achieve their full potential in these exams.

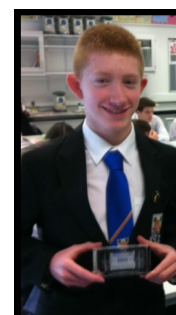
In a similar way our S4 pupils are about to enter the most crucial phase of their education so far. During February and March many subjects at National 5 and National 4 will be working on the completion of value added units and projects that form a key part of courses. On one hand pupils will fail their courses if they do not complete these pieces of work to a high standard and secondly there is the potential for underachievement if pupils do not put in the required work to achieve their best. These projects and value added units should be seen as an opportunity to produce high quality work that adds value to the overall grade when combined with exam performance in May - It is effort and hard work that will make the positive difference. To this end all S4 pupils will be issued with targets to aim for in their national 4 and 5 courses based on their prelim performance and teachers' best judgement based on internal assessments. These targets are what the S4 pupils could achieve but they will require hard work and study; they will not be achieved for simply turning up. For 4th year the final run in to their May exams, a mere 41 school days away, starts now.

S Maxwell

Diana Award Winners



Huge congratulations go to Alice Chisholm (S5) and Kerr Miller (S4) on achieving Diana Awards. These prestigious national awards (these are only the 5th and 6th ever to be awarded to Eastwood pupils) have been awarded to Alice for her volunteer work and Kerr for his community service.



Eastwood HS Building Wins Another Award

The Eastwood High School building has won another prestigious award. It won "Best Designed Place" in the BDP Building of the Year Awards 2014. The award follows a visit to the school by the panel of judges in December 2014 and the school saw off competition from six other nominated buildings to win.



Visit by East Renfrewshire Provost

On Tuesday the 13th of January the school was visited by Alastair Carmichael the Provost of East Renfrewshire Council. Mr Carmichael was on a visit to see the school in operation and work with Miss de'Ath the school librarian. He was able to chat with some of the S2 English classes and on leaving Mr Carmichael commented on how impressed he had been with the school and most of all the pupils.



Musical Success

There have been a number of notable music successes for Eastwood High pupils during the month of January. Firstly congratulations to Lauren MacDonald of S6 who was successful in gaining a place at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire for Music to study jazz percussion securing a scholarship in the process. This was a notable achievement as Lauren is the first female to be accepted to study jazz percussion in the Conservatoire's long history. Consequently she has featured in both the Sunday Post and Daily Record in recognition of this achievement.



Rebecca Tait (S5) recently auditioned for "Opera Connect" and was successful in gaining a place to sing with Scottish Opera - an excellent achievement. Rebecca also represented Eastwood in the recent East Renfrewshire "Young Musician and Singer of the Year" Competition held on 23rd of January.



Aisling Young (S4) has been selected to join the West of Scotland Concert Band after audition. This means that Aisling will participate in a week long residential rehearsal in June before joining the band for their summer concert programme.



International Year of Light Invitation

Kerr Miller of S4 (pictured on page 1) undertook his work experience placement at the physics labs in University of Glasgow. Whilst there he got to work with a laser harp and as Kerr is also a talented musician he was able to compose some music to be played on the laser harp. As a result he has now been invited to the launch of International Year of Light at the Royal Society in Edinburgh on 23rd February to demonstrate the laser harp.

Hunterston Visit

Just before the Christmas holidays S3 Physics pupils visited Hunterston Nuclear Power Station to learn more about the generation of nuclear energy and the application of physics in the real world. This was part of their BGE/ National 5 course.



Pupil Support Assistants

This month two of Eastwood High's Pupil Support Assistants, Mrs Campbell and Mrs Brydon, were invited to address a national conference in Edinburgh to describe some of the excellent work done by the PSAs in Eastwood to support Pupils.



Saltire Awards

On 27th January over 100 S3 and S4 pupils received their Saltire Awards from Mr Maxwell. The nationally recognised and accredited awards were achieved in recognition of the pupils volunteering to be Buddies for S1 pupils and/or being involved in paired reading activities to support younger pupils.



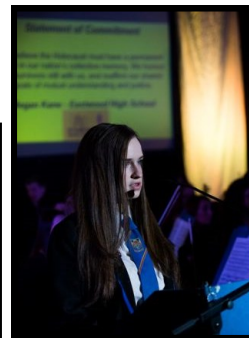
Tam's New Friend "Bouncy"

Tam the Janitor has a new blue friend "Bouncy". "Bouncy" was found rolling around the Eastwood campus during one of the recent storms. Much as he has become a valued member of the janitorial staff if anyone knows of a local child missing a blue space hopper from their garden could they please alert Tam.



Holocaust Memorial

Megan Kane (S6) and Calum Ross (S6) represented Eastwood High at the recent East Renfrewshire Holocaust Memorial event where Megan read out one of the seven Holocaust Commitments. Having visited Auschwitz in 2014 Megan and Calum have also delivered assemblies to junior pupils in the school via assemblies. Emma Gatheral (S5), Scott Kennedy (S5) and Lewis Shoveller (S4) all performed as part of the East Renfrewshire String Orchestra at the Holocaust Memorial



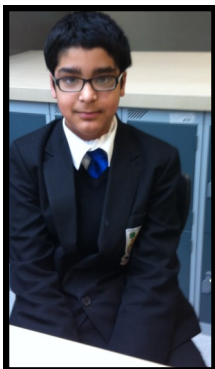
Guiding Award for Amirah, Bhavna & Rebecca

Well done to Amirah Bouzgarrou (S5), Bhavna Mehta (S5), and Rebecca Kay (S4) who have recently achieved the highest accolade in Girl Guiding—The Baden Powell Award.



Published Author

Members of Miss Baillie's creative writing club recently entered a competition called "Mini Monologues" run by "Young Writers" a national organization aiming to encourage young people to engage in creative writing. The great news is that Ibrahim Hassan (S1) has been successful in having his mini monologue selected to be published in the mini monologues book to be released on the 30th of April.



Higher English Literary Walk

50 Pupils from Mr McIntosh's and Mrs Smith's Higher English classes visited Edinburgh on the 8th January for a literary tour. The purpose of the trip was to find out about the locations that inspired one of the authors that the classes are studying - Robert Louis Stevenson. A particular highlight was the visit to Blair Street Vaults where the group learned of super natural events which inspired Stevenson.

Japanese Club

This month Mrs Cameron has started a Japanese language and culture club for pupils and staff. Mrs Cameron has family connections in Japan and has started the club to promote awareness and cultural respect. The club is running Thursday lunchtimes.

Dramatic Stuff

Between the 9th and 11th January over 50 pupils accompanied by Mrs Sinclair, Miss Boyle, Drama staff and Music staff attended a residential rehearsal weekend at Belmont Outdoor Centre in Blairgowrie to begin preparations for this year's school show—High School Musical. The weekend involved a lot of hard work but was also great fun for all the cast and staff. It was a particular pleasure for Mr Maxwell to receive a letter from Belmont Centre following the weekend that included the following sentence

"On behalf of the staff team here, I would like to convey that it was a pleasure to host you at Belmont Centre. The pupils were fantastic; always polite, friendly and a great help - a credit to your school"



Neil Plays Celtic Connections

On 24th January Neil Wood (S5), Eastwood's Young Musician of the Year, played a half hour gig at Adelaide's Hall in Glasgow as part of the Celtic Connections Festival. Neil, an accomplished clarsach player and winner at the National Mod, performed as part of the Danny Kyle Open Stage event.



Sports News

With the snowy and icy weather the sporting focus during January has moved indoors. In Basketball the senior boys team have had a most successful month beating Castlehead HS 53- 16 in the league and St Lukes HS 33- 30 in the cup to progress to the $\frac{1}{4}$ finals. There was also the annual charity staff v senior pupils (male and female) basketball match held on 23rd January. This match raised over £208 for the Dambo school in Malawi and after a close fought match the staff ran out 9-7 winners. In addition the annual S1 Maths/Basketball Interdisciplinary challenge took place at the very end of December. This event was run by Eastwood's own young sports ambassadors, Justine Ling (S4) and Harris Ali (S4). With the help of the senior House sports captains as referees, scorers and all round motivators, the S1 boys and girls competed for precious House points. The winners of both the boys and girls basketball event were Auldhouse, with Balgray and Duncarnock second respectively.



Congratulations go to Findlay Marrant (S4) who recently won "Top Boy Swimmer" at the recent Ren96 awards. To win the award Findlay won a clean sweep of all the races in his age group. Findlay, along with a number members of the Eastwood High swim team, will be representing the school at the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships in Aberdeen at the start of February. Good luck to them all and we will hear how they get on in the February Newsletter.



Finally congratulations to Erin Wallace (S3) who won the Scottish U17 indoor athletics 3km title at the Emirates Arena on the 3rd of January (She is 14!!!!). Erin then represented Scotland at the Celtic Nations cross country championships in Dublin in the U17 category. After a close run race against much older girls Erin finished a very close second. In between these two events Erin found the time to win the U15 Scottish inter-district cross country whilst representing Scotland West. Erin along with a number Eastwood HS athletes will be representing the school at the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Championships in early February.

