

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

March 2013

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Special points of interest:

Important Dates

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
23rd May School Closes
24th May Holiday
27th May Holiday
28th May In Service Day
29th May CfE In Service Day
30th May School Re-opens

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Sporting Success

Congratulations to Erin Wallace (S1) who came first in the U14 race at the **Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships**. Her performance has also led to Erin being selected for the schools international cross country championships to be held in Wales on 23rd March in the U15 age group. She was also invited to the Scottish Athletics coaching day in Fife on 17th March for middle distance coaching. In addition Erin has also won the **National Indoor U14 800m title** and has achieved a "hat trick" of Scottish titles by winning the **U13 Scottish road race in Edinburgh**. These are superb achievements and all the best to Erin in her future races!



Uniform Update

The new school tie is now being manufactured and all pupils returning to school in August will be presented with their tie, free of charge, before the summer holidays. A reminder also that there are various opportunities to purchase/order blazers and other uniform items from Man's World before the start of the new session at the following Uniform Evenings—P7 & S1: Monday 29th April 3.35pm to 6.30pm; S2 & S3: Tuesday 30th April, 3.35pm to 6.30pm. In addition S4 & S5 pupils will have an opportunity to order blazers during the school day on Thursday June 13th 9.00am to 10.25am. We are looking forward to seeing the wearing of compulsory full school uniform including blazers with the new tie in place for the start of the new session in the new school building.



Sponsor Sweet Music

Over the years Eastwood has raised money for the CLIC Sargent charity in various ways including Readathons. Now the world famous violinist, Nicola Benedetti, who is a Patron of the charity which tries to help children suffering from Cancer, has recently suggested encouraging a local pupil to take part in a Masterclass with her. This is due to take place on the 29th of March at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow at 7.30pm. Eastwood's own S3 pupil Neil Wood, a very talented violinist has been awarded this opportunity to play with Nicola. CLIC Sargent have asked the school to sponsor Neil and raise £1000. Though it will be possible to donate to CLIC Sargent during the concert, you can also send money in advance to the School Office (cheques payable to CLIC Sargent).

S6 ASDAN Sport and Fitness group

On Tuesday 12th March the S6 ASDAN Sport and Fitness group were again in action supporting **the local sports festivals**. This time it was based at the new **Isobel Mair school** where the group (David Bannerman, Jonathan Bradley, Aaron Garrott, Alistair Hughes, Andrew Lawn, James McGowan, Ross McGowan, Callum McMichael, Lewis Smith) were supporting the delivery of the festival alongside our own Active School coordinator Mr Alan Martin and other primary staff and pupils from the Eastwood cluster.

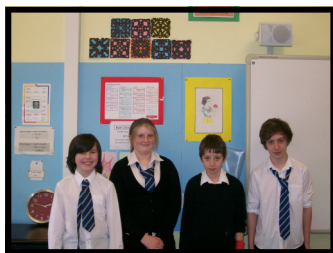


The senior pupils were involved with a variety of events including boc-cia, badminton, table cricket, movement to

music, football skills and mini highland events such as toss the caber. The day was a great success with both the senior pupils and participants thoroughly enjoying the event.

UK Maths trust team challenge

The regional final of the **UKMT Team Challenge** took place on Friday 15th March at University of West of Scotland in Paisley. The Eastwood team of Craig Otley, David Veitch, Emily Wilkinson and Euan Gray came 8th out of 26 schools... an excellent result in a challenging competition. The competition involved 4 rounds of problem solving with the pupils working as a group or in pairs and ended with a relay! Well done to the team!



Parking Changes

As of 2 April 2013, parking regulation will transfer from the local police to the council's community safety team. More information can be found online at: <http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4035>. Information leaflets will be given to the pupils before the Easter Holidays so that parents are informed of the changes.

Joint Reading Festival between Eastwood and Crookfur

On the 6th March, 36 S1 Eastwood pupils along with Miss De'Ath, Miss McDowall and Miss Tracey participated in a **Reading Festival** with pupils from Crookfur Primary. The event involved the pupils participating in various workshops with authors, illustrators and storytellers, getting the pupils, for example, to develop their own ideas and stories

Joan Lennon encouraged the pupils to develop words in a group to help them write their own story and Ron Fairweather grasped the imagination by telling and acting out some incredible stories, along with getting pupils to participate. A big thank you must go to Crookfur for hosting the event.



Young Drivers from Eastwood Taste Success in National Karting Championship

Three students from Eastwood have shown tremendous skill on the race track and made it through to the Scottish regional final of the coveted **British**

Schools Karting Championship (BSKC) 2013. Stuart King, Iain McIntosh and Alan Regan (all S4) formed the Eastwood 'A' team and captured their place in the BSKC Regional Final by beating local teams at Scotkart,



Cambuslang on 18th February. The 'B' team of Hasan Bashir, Rehaan Aatif and Akbar Malik also drove well but narrowly missed out on a place in the final. The BSKC is a nationwide team-based karting championship, supported by the Motor Sports Association, open to any school or college with students aged 13 to 18. Karting is a great way for young people to gain confidence and learn many of the skills that will help them both in school and in other areas of their life. We wish the 'A' team the best of luck as they prepare for the **Regional Finals at Knockhill Karting Centre** on 16th April.

Karate Grading Success

The **Eastwood High School Karate Club** has yet again been successful in their grading. Six pupils graded this month and all were triumphant. Daniel Harkins achieved a double grading after missing the last one and David Veitch got his first belt with an outstanding performance. Iain Wroughton, Bhavna Mehta, Caitlin Roberts, Caitlin McBride and Robbie Raeside did very well and were commented on by senior grades from other clubs as having potential. Hopefully this will show in the competition scheduled for June.



Pi day

March the 14th was the **International Day of Pi**. Pi Day was initially celebrated in 1988 and has become a



regular feature in the international mathematics calendar; it is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant Pi (π). It is celebrated on March 14th, or 3/14 in international month/day format because 3.14 is the approximation of Pi to 2 decimal places. To celebrate Pi day many Maths classes were involved in activities to celebrate this mathematical constant.

Miss Boyle's S2 Maths class baked and decorated cakes or brought Pies with them to school and enjoyed a feast of sweet things whilst singing the Pi song to the tune of the famous Don McLean song "American Pie". Well done to Emma Wilkinson whose strawberry flan was voted best personal effort. In addition pupils had the opportunity to enter a **Pi day puzzle competition**.



There were over 100 entries and the winners were: S1—Andrew McIntosh (winner); Runners up—Hannah Carslaw, Calum McEwan, Usamah Mahmood, Gillian Ross, Emma Savage. S2—Calum James (winner); Runners up—Ronan Cassidy, Michael Cuthbertson, Abbie Hamilton, Cerys McLuskie,



Jennifer Palmer. Well done to all those who made the effort to celebrate Pi Day.

Modern Studies News

It has been a busy time for the **Higher Modern Studies class** and the **S3 Politics Club**. On Thursday 14th March, Neil Mackay, Head of News at the Herald newspaper visited the pupils to talk about newspapers and their role within a democracy. Mr Mackay also provided a fascinating account of his career so far and all of the news stories he has covered. The next day, on Friday 15th March, **Shadow Secretary of Defence, Jim Murphy** came to speak to the same pupils about his job as an MP and why he chose a career in politics. Pupils had some excellent questions to ask and Mr Murphy mentioned at the end that he really had to think hard in order to answer some of them. On Sunday 17th March, a selection of pupils also voiced their opinion on the forthcoming independence referendum in the **Sunday Herald**. Pupils contributed to a three page article on independence and if they think 16 and 17 year olds should be able to vote. The final piece was outstanding and pupils should be commended for their informed and well balanced views. Well done to everyone involved!



Paris Visit



A group of 23 S5/6 Higher French pupils, accompanied by Mr Hamilton, Mrs Rutherford and Mrs Bremner, Flew to Paris on Fri 8 March for a busy weekend of sight-seeing and culture. We visited many of the famous tourist attractions, including the Eiffel Tower, the Sacré Coeur, the Louvre Museum and the Arc de Triomphe and enjoyed seeing Paris

by night on an evening cruise on the River Seine. The pupils had lots of opportunities to practise their French when purchasing food and buying souvenirs and all agreed the visit was a memorable experience.

East Renfrewshire Schools' Concert

Several pupils from Eastwood High took part in the **East Renfrewshire Schools' Concert** at Williamwood High School on Tuesday 19th March. Joanna Dougall performed in the Guitar Ensemble with Sarah Falconer performing in the Brass Ensemble and Brass Quintet. Hannah Kay, Mohsi Maqsood, Bhavna Mehta, Beth Robertson, Lewis Shoveller and Emma Wilson all played in the Junior Symphony Orchestra with Christopher Keenan and Lauren McDonald in the Percussion Ensemble. Well done to all the pupils who contributed to a successful and entertaining evening of music.

Visit to Scottish Children's Book Awards in Dundee

On the 7th March Miss De'Ath took 4 pupils from the School Book Club to the **Scottish Children's Book Awards in the Caird Hall, Dundee**. The pupils had read a number of the shortlisted books, discussed them during the weekly meetings, sent in online reviews and researched the authors. We joined some other ER secondary schools for this event. The pupils vote online for their favourite book from 3 categories. These votes determine the winners of each category. The pupils were able to meet all the shortlisted authors. They also bought books and got them signed. It was an exciting event with nearly 900 pupils involved from schools all over Scotland.



Eastwood Regains Gibson Cup

In their recent game against Mearns Castle our under 18s football team regained the **Gibson Cup** with an excellent 6-1 away victory. This was a great effort and a fantastic result considering a 9-1 defeat in the same fixture earlier in the year. The Under 18s followed this with a 6-3 win against Belmont House before going out of the St Mirren Cup to a strong Castlehead team. A mixed season for the team this year but with a few fixtures remaining hopefully the group can manage another couple of wins before the season is over.



Sports' News

- ◆ **Cross Country:** At the recent **East Renfrewshire Cross Country championships** Erin Wallace (S1) was 1st. Alice Crombie (S2) was 5th and Paul Hutchison (S2) was 2nd in their respective races. The S2 boys won the overall silver with the Senior Boys winning the overall bronze. Well done to all our runners!
- ◆ **Shoto K'ai:** Congratulations also to Megan McNair (S2) who came 4th in a **Shoto K'ai international competition** in Poland.
- ◆ **Boxing:** Congratulations to Sohaib Mohammed who won the **Western District 46kg title** at the 2013 ABS Intermediate Championships in Motherwell.