

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

May 2014



Special points of interest:

Important Dates

3rd & 4th June - P7 Induction
 5th June - Sports Awards Eve.
 10th June - Prizegiving
 12th June - S6 Graduation
 19th June—School Concert
 25th June - School Closes @ 1pm
 11th & 12th Aug. - Inservice days
 13th Aug. Pupils return @ 8.45

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Dear Parent

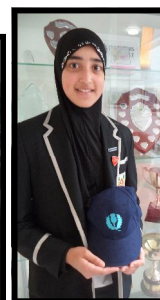
Following a Performance Review focusing on the learning and teaching of English and Literacy within Eastwood High School, undertaken by Quality Improvement Officers from East Renfrewshire Council, I am pleased to report that feedback from the inspection team was very positive. The inspectors reported that both teaching in English and the delivery of literacy across the school was very good and that there would be no action points arising from the inspection.

On another front I would like to take this opportunity to seek parental support looking ahead to next term. I'm sure that you will agree that is important that Eastwood HS and its pupils receive their full allocation of resources. Many parents entitled to receive a free school meal for their children do not apply, **OR RE-APPLY**, for one each summer. Some aspects of the school's funding is based on free meal entitlement and increasingly, with local authority cuts, the Council is now charging for additional services such as Easter Revision School- free to those registered for a free meal. The cashless catering system in the school means that no one knows who is in receipt of a free meal. It is therefore vitally important that everyone entitled, applies or re-applies for next session. Application forms with the qualification criteria are available from the school office or the East Renfrewshire Council website or Customer First. If you feel that you might be entitled to apply for a free meal for your child, please do so, and help the school and your child(ren) receive their fair share of resources- Over a session it is worth £389.50 to recipients as well as exempting them from Easter School payment etc.

Thank you. *S Maxwell*

If the Cap Fits

Congratulations go to Abtaha Maqsood of S3 who made her full Scotland cricket debut at the start of May. Abtaha of course received a full Scotland cap when she started for the "Scottish Wildcats" against firstly Northamptonshire Ladies and then Hampshire Ladies away in England. The particular highlight for Abtaha, a spin bowler, was the victory over Hampshire where she finished with figures of 10 overs, 2 maidens, 1 for 20. Abtaha also stars for the successful Eastwood cricket team.



French Watersports Trip

This May 41 S2 pupils journeyed again to the south of France to paddle down the Ardeche Gorge and attempt a variety of water sports in the Mediterranean. The group arrived to sun kissed blue skies in France, and despite the 28 hour bus journey were straight onto the boats and began the descent down the river. There were some exhilarating rapids and incredible stunning views. The pupils also had the chance to visit the historic city of Avignon where they were able to practice their French language skills. For the last few days the group then moved on to Mimosa, a beach resort on the Mediterranean for more watersports. The pupils all behaved in an exemplary fashion even those picky eaters who turned down les escargots!

Any S1s who may be interested in next year's trip should keep their eyes peeled for information regarding this.



Music Awards

Three of Mrs Considine's woodwind pupils performed successfully in the recent Associated Music Board exams. Eve Marriot (S2) passed with merit for grade 3 clarinet; Rachel Tait (S1) passed with distinction for grade 2 alto saxophone; and Michael Coyne (S1) passed with distinction for grade 2 alto saxophone.



Oliver Twist

Mrs Sinclair and Emma Kelly of S2 shared the Eastwood Theatre stage this month in an EROS production of Oliver. Mrs Sinclair played Mrs Bedwin and Emma was one of Fagan's gang. Emma and Mrs Sinclair were joined on stage by former pupils Lindsey Kyle and Nichola Young.



An Audience with Malorie Blackman

A number of S2 pupils, accompanied by Mr McIntosh from the English department and Miss de'Ath our school librarian, went to the Mitchell Theatre for an audience with Children's Laureate Malory Blackman. Malorie explained how and why fiction writing had become her life and gave insights into her award winning novels. The photos show Callum McEwan and Callum Neilson meeting Malorie Blackman.



Lewis wins the West College Prize

Well done to Lewis Chalmers who has won the best overall student on the West College Auto Skills course. Lewis beat off all the competition at West College to win this award for best school pupil following the auto skills vocational option.

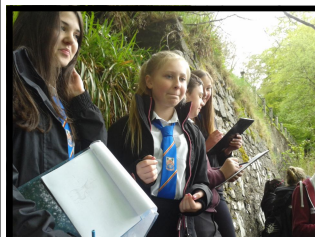
Change for Malawi

Well done to the S1, S2 and S3 prefects who have been collecting loose change for Malawi this month. The money will go to support the Betty Cunningham Trust and its work with the Dambo School project.



New Lanark Trip

S2 pupils were involved in a series of visits to New Lanark during May. These visits combined English, History and Geography in an interdisciplinary learning experience as part of the pupils' Broad General Education. The trips were organised by Miss Patrick in the Social Subjects department and will be followed up with related classwork in each subject.



Youth Achievement Award Residential

The Bronze Youth Achievement Award class visited Auchengillen Outdoor Centre on the 12th and 13th of May as part of their Recreation and Leisure Challenge. The group, led by Mr Law and Community education link worker Suzie Smith participated in activities as diverse as raft building, mountain biking and para-dropping. The group learned about team work, communication and listening skills.



"We'll Tak' the High Road"

On the 30th of May twenty seven S3 pupils spent the day at Loch Lomond undertaking fieldwork for their National 5 Geography course. The group visited the Loch Sloy Hydro Electric Power Station and also undertook questionnaire surveys at Lomond shores.



Science Careers Event

The Science department recently organised a very successful speed networking careers event for S2 pupils. All 160 pupils had the opportunity for a 10 minute discussion with STEM ambassadors who spoke about their job and how they got into a Science/Technology/Engineering career path. STEM ambassadors are volunteers from industry, academia and public organisations and this STEM event was organised in partnership with the University of Glasgow.



Pictures at an Exhibition

Ross MacDonald of S6 has been given his own photography exhibition and the Scottish National Football Museum Hampden. Ross won a national photography competition on "Grassroots Football" and his photos were featured for a while at Kelvingrove Museum. Ross' exhibition runs at Hampden from April—October and is open to the public.



Library Malarkey

Keith Gray author of the Children's book "Malarkey" studied in English, visited Eastwood this month to talk to Mrs Foster's and Mr Andrews' classes about the story. Keith was kind enough to answer questions from pupils, including one about how many drafts (3) he completed before even beginning to word process his story. A very good lesson indeed.



Tea Time

The S3 professional development class recently held a Strawberry Tea for staff in Eastwood HS. As part of their course, the pupils had to plan, organise and carry out a community event. There were lots of Strawberry treats on offer and the class excelled in their presentation of the event.



Champions in Schools

The final "Champions in schools" session took place in May. Champion Equestrian sportswoman, Hannah Eccles, delivered a presentation to a group of S2 girls on "Winning Attitudes" and also undertook a practical lesson on promoting healthy lifestyles.



More Commonwealth Games News

Further to last month's Newsletter Eastwood's contribution to the Commonwealth Games is growing by the minute. The school now has a total of six baton bearers in the baton relay. Abtaha Maqsood and Morven Considine were omitted from last month's Newsletter as formal notice had not yet been received of their participation however they are now included. Callum Ross from S5 has also been told that he will be participating in the opening ceremony for the Games.



Physics Visit to Strathclyde University

On the 19th of May twenty S3 Physics pupils attended a lecture at the Strathclyde University Research facility at Inchinnan. The pupils were invited by Dr Andrew McLaren, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, to give them an insight into cutting edge research in Mechanical and Aerospace engineering.

Fashion Retail Awards

Congratulations to Rae Cowie, Nicole Bryson, Lauren Pillans and Carly Young all of S6 for successfully completing their Fashion Brand Retailing university level course at Glasgow Caledonian University with distinction.



Sports News

The Eastwood High U14s football team sadly lost 4-3 on penalties to Montrose Academy after a thrilling 2-2 draw at Spartans FC in Edinburgh in the semi final of the Scottish Plate. The boys played the better football throughout but just couldn't break through a resolute Montrose team.

In netball our girls participated in the annual St. Ninians HS tournament. Despite being a little under strength the team played well finishing 4th of the eight teams involved.

On the 4th of May Eastwood High's Equestrian Team had a successful day in the Scottish Schools Championships at Ingliston Equestrian Centre near Bishopton.

Jenna Taylor, Jessica Provan and Ailsa Maycock all rode well to secure an overall 4th place. Jessica also achieved 3rd place in her individual event against 40 other competitors. Megan McNair participated in individual show classes and achieved 2nd in the tack and 4th in the turnout. The photos show Jenna riding Sox, Ailsa riding Eclipse, Jessica riding Mr Hankey and Megan riding Fizzy.



At the East Renfrewshire Cyclo-cross Championships held recently in Barrhead Eastwood High entered teams in all the S1-S3 categories. Congratulations go to Erin Wallace who won the S2 girls race by a significant margin.



In their opening match of the season the Eastwood High Junior cricket team played High School of Glasgow and lost narrowly in the Scottish Cup. It was a very close match with Eastwood losing by 2 runs against a team with a professional cricket coach. Calum James was top run scorer with 43 no (not out) and Ahad Sabir was the pick of the bowlers. This sets the team up nicely for the league season.