

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

November 2012

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Special points of interest:

Important Dates

3rd December S4 Prelims begin
21st December School Closes
7th January School Re-opens
9th January S2 Reports
15th January S3 Industry Awareness Day
16th January S2 Options Hour & Parents' Evening
18th January S4 Reports
30th January S4 Options Hour & Parents' Evening
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

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Eco Schools Green Flag Award

On Friday 9th November Eastwood High was awarded a **Green Flag** by Eco Schools Scotland. This recognises the environmental activities of the school and its ongoing work into making Eastwood High more environmentally friendly. These activities have been carried out by a wide range of staff and pupils, both past and present. Activities included the building of wildlife habitats, litter picks, improving recycling activities within the school and a range of charity activities. Special thanks go to the staff and pupils of the current Eco Committee who gave a lot of their time to help prepare for the visit from Eco Schools Scotland. Also thanks to the many pupils and staff outwith the committee who helped out on the day.



Enterprising First Year

The **S1 Enterprise Event** was held on Tuesday 30 October. The day's activities involved teams working on a variety of different challenges showing their skills of communication, creativity and innovation. Well done to all the first years and congratulations to the winning teams shown in the pictures!



Majestic Maths Study week

On the week beginning the 19th November the school Dining Hall was busier than usual after school as Mr Carr and the Mathematics Department organised an intensive **Supported Study week** for all S4 Intermediate 2 pupils just two weeks before their Prelim. Each night after school pupils worked in study groups and attempted past paper questions with staff and senior pupils on hand to help out. Two specific topics were focused on each night which allowed pupils to target areas of the course which they found most challenging. The successful event was aimed to give pupils the best opportunity to achieve their full potential in the upcoming prelim. The Mathematics Department would like to say well done to all S4 pupils who attended each night and would like to wish them every success in the Prelim.



ASDA Bag Pack

Thank you to all members of staff and the many pupils who came along to ASDA on Saturday to pack bags and raise money for our final celebrations show in June 2013. We raised £642.02 in total. Well done to all and thanks to Mrs Sinclair and Miss Workman for organising the pupils.

Let's Grow Vouchers

Many thanks to everyone who collected and sent in Morrison's **Let's Grow Vouchers**. A total of 1701 vouchers were collected and as a result we were able to order two raised beds, a watering can and lots of bags of compost!



Swimming Successes

Eastwood High swimmers had a successful **Renfrewshire Area Swimming Championships** held on 27



October. Katie James won Gold in the 100 and 200 Backstroke for 17 & over; Nicola Connor won Gold in the 200 Butterfly and the 100 Free-style for the 17 & over;

Murray Marrant won Gold in the 100 Backstroke for 17 & over; and Erin Wallace won Silver and Fiona Marshall won Bronze in the 200 Backstroke for 13-14. Congratulations to all our winners!

Golden Bin

Many thanks to the **Eastwood Crime Prevention Panel** who have agreed to donate £100 to sponsor a bin in the **Golden Bin** initiative.



The school has also agreed to match this donation! Keep using the bins to give yourself a chance of winning a prize. Best of luck!

Glasgow Sport Young Leader

Congratulations to **Diane Barbour** (55) who has successfully interviewed and achieved a place on the **Glasgow Sport Young Leaders' Programme** this year. She will begin her training with Disability Awareness training and Wheelchair Tennis and continue in December with Positive Coaching Scotland Course and Leadership Skills Workshops. The course will continue with approx 1 session a month until next June.

S4 Geography Trip

On 13 November Mrs Williamson's S4 Geography class went on a **field trip to Loch Lomond National Park** to revise our Tourism and Glaciation topics. We visited **Dumbarton Castle**, **Sloy Hydro-Electric Power Station** and **Luss** where we carried out a **Traffic Count**, enjoyed discussions about Tourism, land use and the beautiful scenery! Despite the rain a good day was had by all and we revised a lot of our work that will benefit us in our approaching exams. **Catriona Connelly**.



Books for Oxfam

The senior pupils' **Human Rights Group** learned that charity shops are suffering as a result of the recession, with fewer donations being made. Following an appeal from **OXFAM** for books to sell in its shops, the Human Rights group organised a collection from other senior pupils and teachers. There was a great response and a large number of books are now being donated to local Oxfam shops.



National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day 2012 was star-themed this year and to celebrate it S1 classes took part in a literacy project to promote poetry and reading within Primary schools, as well as competing in a poetry quiz in the Library. Pupils re-wrote the popular nursery rhyme **Twinkle Twinkle Little Star** and sent their versions to cluster Primary schools on star decorated postcards. The poetry competition entries have been scored and we would like to congratulate our winner - **Cameron Thompson**. Cameron will be presented with a book token for his efforts.

Mini Trials

On 24 November, 9 senior pupils took part in the **East Renfrewshire Mini Trials** at Paisley Sheriff Court. This gave the pupils a first hand taste of the Scottish legal system. The pupils competed successfully against other authority schools and received high praise from the sheriffs judging the cases. The pupils put in a huge amount of effort preparing for the exercise and impressed the designated lawyer for the school with their skills and enthusiasm, winning their defence case. The pupils involved were Fraser Collingham, Andrew Jack, Ben Donaghue, Nicole Dempster, Aminah Zavid, Junaid Malik, Karl Bewick, Sokari Erekosima and Lauren Campbell.



D-Day 2012



On 10th October a group of S2 pupils took part in **D-day 2012**, a national event linking schools with the **UK Digital Industry**, with the chance to meet digital professionals. Eastwood was partnered with Glasgow digital agency Equator for the day. Two of their staff, Laurent and Paciencia, visited the school and talked enthusiastically about their own jobs as designer and web developer, and the work they do for their clients. They also helped

pupils with the D-day competition challenges, designing a mobile app and creating a social media marketing campaign for a café.

Both Laurent and Paciencia were very impressed with the knowledge, enthusiasm and creative ideas which the pupils displayed during the day, as well as their reflection on what they had learned. Comments from the pupils included:

"I really enjoyed the D-Day event because we designed our own campaign to advertise a new cafe. It was interesting learning about multi-media and I would definitely think about it as a career choice." Zahra Bashir



"I really enjoyed D-day because I found designing a Facebook page really interesting and I liked writing the Twitter feeds too." Abigail Catterson

"It was awesome. I liked meeting the guys from the Digital business and getting a chance to build my own apps." Ted Hunter

The challenges the pupils carried out link closely with Curriculum for Excellence outcomes and experiences in both Computing Science and Business.



S2 Readathon



As part of the **Read to Succeed** programme for all S2 pupils, Miss De'Ath organised a **Readathon**, along with the English department. This followed on from the visits to the Edinburgh Book Festival in August. During October and November all pupils were encouraged to read as much as possible. They met Mr Richard Donald, a representative from the charity CLIC Sargent. This

charity will benefit from the money raised. Over £500 was raised for terminally sick children based in Scotland, by pupils getting sponsorship for their reading during this time. The following pupils made significant contributions: **Sanju Kaur, Duncan Brash, Cerys Goodwin and Lauryn Hamilton** (pictured above left)—so a big "thank you" must go to them, along with all the English Department. Mrs McLaughlin's class (pictured above right) raised nearly £200, a fantastic effort.



Modern Studies News

On Monday 5th November, five Higher Modern Studies pupils—**Rachael Gibson, Harry Staniforth, Lauren Campbell, Megan Moodie, and Laura McBride**—visited **Motherwell Concert Hall** to be part of the audience for a **televised BBC 1 debate on Scottish independence**. Pupils had the opportunity to pose questions to the panel, which included the Minister for Youth Employment, Angela Constance and Historian Tom Devine. The pupils also got the opportunity to chat to Deputy Leader of the Scottish Labour Party, Anas Sarwar.



Scintillating Speakers

This month, the **Senior Public Speaking team** competed in the **Barrhead Rotary Club Public Speaking competition** at St. Luke's High School. **Calum Philp, Nicole Dempster, and Rachel Lowther** (all S5) produced a stunning performance as they discussed "The Trouble With Private Schools" in front of a captivated audience, including MP for East Renfrewshire Jim Murphy (pictured). While they were pipped at the post by an equally impressive St Luke's team, they certainly came away with their heads held high and their voices well and truly heard!



Santa's Little Helpers

Congratulations to the **SALT group** who ran a successful **Christmas Shoe Box** appeal for those living in poverty across Europe. The photograph shows **Nicole Dempster** and **Hazel Currie** with some of the Shoe Boxes that were collected and taken to the Blythswood Care Depot. Many thanks to all who contributed.



Human Rights Group at the Citz

Members of the **Human Rights group** along with Mrs Bremner, Mrs McVey, Mrs Cameron and Mr French, enjoyed a performance of the musical '**Glasgow Girls**' at the **Citizen's Theatre** on Tuesday 13 November. The musical tells the story of Asylum Seekers who were pupils at Drumchapel High School, and of the campaign that their school friends and members of the local community started to allow them to stay in Scotland.



Dress As You Please Day

As a result of the recent "Non Uniform Day" in October, **£200 was donated to the East Renfrewshire Good Causes Fundraising Charity**. The money donated is used within our own catchment area to help our own neighbours and community. Well done to all the pupils!

A Reminder

When parents: are **collecting an unwell child** from the school, can they please make sure that they sign them out at the school office. Thanks



Sports News

U14 Football: We are now halfway through the season and sitting mid table after beating Gleniffer and drawing with Williamwood. The team is playing well and scoring lots of goals and got close to beating St Ninian's as well with their best performance of the season so far. Also we beat Jordanhill 5-1 in the 2nd round of the Scottish Cup only to be beaten by a very big St Benedict's team in the 3rd round.

Rugby Club (S1-4 Boys): The rugby club is continuing to grow and as well as current club players a number of beginners have come on board. We are developing our links with Whitecraigs and anyone wanting to come along and join the school club is welcome. We are aiming to put out teams at S1/2 level and S3/4 level in festivals in 2013. The Rugby club will be taking a winter break through December owing to prelims but will be back after the Christmas holidays. Anyone interested in joining speak to Mr Reid.

Scottish Trampolining Champion: Congratulations to **Holly McMahon** (S4 pictured right) who won **First Place** in the Scottish National Trampolining Competition to become **Scottish Champion** in her division.

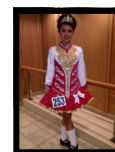


Eastwood Karate Success: Two pupils from our school karate club entered their first karate competition, the **ISKU Scottish Karate Championships** on Saturday 25th No-



vember at Bellahouston Sports Centre. The event was attended by karateka from all over central Scotland, England and Belgium. **Iain Wroughton** (S5 pictured left) won 3rd place in the kata event even though he was the youngest competitor! He was beaten only by two experienced 18 year olds. **Bhavna Mehta** achieved 4th place out of 26 and was beaten narrowly by 0.1 of a point for 3rd place. **Miss McGavigan** made it a clean sweep winning both female black belt events and medalling in both team kata and team kumite. The club including six beginners hope to compete in another competition in June. All eight of the karateka will be grading at the start of December so watch this space for more exciting news. New members always welcome: Wednesday after school in Assembly Hall.

Dancing Success: Congratulations to **Lisa McGowan** (S4 pictured right), who has qualified for the **Irish Dancing World Championships** in Boston in 2013. Well done, Lisa!



Scotland U15 Football: **Ryan Lockie** (S3 pictured left) has been selected for the **Scotland U15's training squad** and has recently attended a training camp. We are looking forward to tracking Ryan's progress - perhaps he can help keep the Scotland net safe for us one day.

