

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

November 2013



Special points of interest:

Important Dates

2nd December S4 Prelims begin
12th December Junior Dance
16th December Christmas Concert
18th December Senior Dance
20th December School Closes
6th January School Re-opens
9th January - S5/6 Parents Eve.
14th January - S3 Industry Day
15th January - S2 Parents Eve.
29th January - S4 Parents Eve.
31st January- S5/6 Prelims begin
7th February - Inservice Day
10th & 11th February Holidays
W/B 3rd March - S3 Exams
2nd April - ASN Parents Evening
4th April - School Closes

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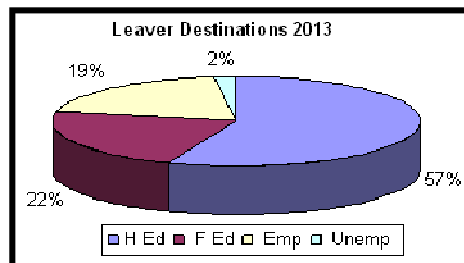
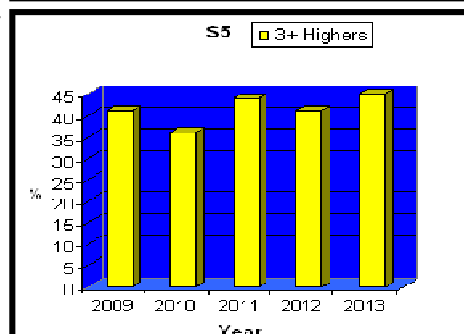
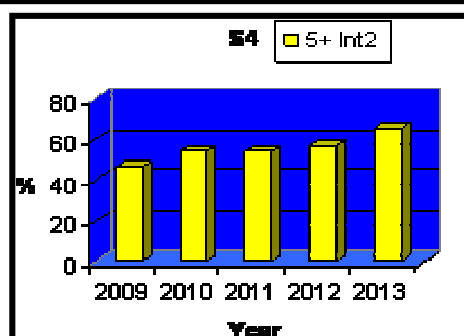
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Dear Parent

It is a good time of year to reflect on the year past and take the opportunity to share a good news story with Eastwood High School parents. Not only did we move into our new school, and wear our new uniform with pride; more than that we made 2013 the most successful year ever for the school and its pupils. The graphs to the side show how our pupils' attainment in key measures of SQA performance has been improving steadily over the last 5 years. This is testament to the hard work put in by pupils and staff alike to ensure that no one underachieves. Also included is a pie chart showing the post school destinations of pupils. Only 2.5% of Eastwood High School leavers in 2013 failed to find a positive destination in Higher Education, Further Education, training or employment. *We are a new school with new standards and new expectations - Let's continue to live up to them.*

S Maxwell



Royal Approval

Eastwood High School was named as Badminton Scotland's School of the Month for November. The presentation was made to the school by HRH Prince Edward at the Scottish International Badminton Grand Prix at the Emirates Arena on Sunday 24th of November. Mr Maxwell, Mr Martin (School Sports Coordinator) and 12 pupils from the Badminton Club received the award on behalf of the school. A group of National 4 & 5 PE students also visited the Grand Prix as part of their course on Thursday 21st November.



November Charities Month Activities

Philippines Typhoon Haiyan Appeal

Head Girl Bianca Deladia and her S5 sister Vanessa raised £500 for the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal following the disaster created in the Philippines in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. Both Bianca and Vanessa were born in the Philippines and still have family living in the area affected by the Typhoon. The girls launched their appeal immediately and used the Dress as you Please Day on 15th of November to raise money. Both Bianca and Vanessa would like to thank everyone for their generosity and ask that everyone gives as much as they can afford to this cause over the coming weeks.



Children in Need

The week leading up to Friday 15th of November saw a frenzy of fundraising activities organised by Ms Lyons and the School Pupil Charities Committee to raise money for Children in Need. From coffee mornings, to giant teddy bear raffles and even teachers' leg waxing, the week was an outstanding success. All the events combined raised over £1100 for the charity.



Kenya Hoodie Appeal

The pupil Human Rights Group are collecting teenage and adult size "hoodies" to send to Kenya. This is in support of the Johari Foundation Miale Social Programme. Hoodies can be new or good quality second hand and should be handed into Room 309 (Mr Hamilton) or any Modern Languages teacher by Christmas.

SSPCA Appeals

On Halloween an elephant, a cat, a tiger and a giraffe were spotted in the corridors of Eastwood. They were in fact four senior pupils (Hayley Steven, Megan Kane, Ewan Sanderson and Max Yuill) who visited classrooms to highlight two current appeals for the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

One appeal is the copper collection which runs all year. Pupils and staff can donate copper coins or spare change to the collection cans throughout the school. The funds are used to sponsor space at a local animal rescue centre. So far an impressive £55 has been raised.

In the run up to Christmas the ECO committee is also collecting unwanted pet toys and food, plus old towels and blankets to donate to the local animal rescue centre. All donations can be dropped into Dr Lowe's room (C216).



CLIC Sergeant Readathon

Miss De'Ath our School Librarian organises the S1 Readathon in aid of CLIC Sergeant annually with the English Dept.. This year was the most successful ever raising over £1530. One class raised £498 on its own whilst another raised £424. Keira McLean (£175), Jeevan Nahar (£140) and Nichelle Gill (£84) were the individuals who collected most money. A truly outstanding effort from every pupil in first year.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

The SALT (Christian) group within the school collected 30 Christmas Shoe Boxes this year from Staff and senior pupils in aid of the Blytheswood Care Appeal. The boxes are sent all over the world to help make a difference to peoples' lives at Christmas time.



Hollywood meets Eastwood 1

Screen and television actor Gary Lewis came to Eastwood to work with the Higher Drama class on Wednesday 20th November. His major film & TV credits include Billy Elliot, Super Volcano, Gangs of New York and TV series Merlin.



Winning Christmas Card Designs 2013

The winner of this year's Eastwood High School Christmas card design competition was Abby McCann. Runners up were Jenna Orr, Thomas Lamb and Robbie Raeside. Their cards will be sent out as this year's of-ficial Eastwood High School Christmas cards.



Literacy Links

On 26th of November Eastwood High School hosted a joint Reading Festival with Crookfur PS. The event involved forty four P7 pupils from Crookfur and thirty nine S1 pupils from Eastwood High. The Reading Festival welcomed three well known children's authors (John Fardell, Joan Lennon, and Ron Fairweather) to talk about their books and the importance of literacy skills. The event even got a mention on the Scottish Book Trust website. The first photo shows Tessa Lamb S1 with storyteller Ron Fairweather acting out a scene. The second shows author John Fardell undertaking a brainstorming session with pupils.



Come Dine with Me

The S4 ASDAN class arranged a Come Dine with Me event at the beginning of November. A number of teachers were invited to a lunch. The ASDAN challenge was to devise menus, produce invitations and prepare and serve a three course meal. The feedback received from the lunch guests was very positive and the whole event was a great success. Recently the class has been learning about the plight of child soldiers in various parts of the world. They decided that all the money collected from the entry fees would be donated to the charity "Warchild" that campaigns against the use of child soldiers across the world.



Young Achievers

On the 13th of November the S4 ASDAN class attended the East Renfrewshire Council Young Person's Services Awards at Carmichael Hall. These awards celebrate the achievements of young people across East Renfrewshire who have gained accreditation in a range of activities and settings. The S4 class were presented with their ASDAN bronze certificates on completion of their challenges. These challenges included participation in a residential outdoor learning experience, completion of the Heartstart first aid certificate, and the development of a peer mentoring project to support reading in younger pupils.



Hollywood Meets Eastwood 2

Eastwood High School's most famous former pupil, Hollywood actress Kelly Macdonald came back to visit the school on the 25th of November. Emmy Award winning Kelly, famous for her roles in "The Girl in the Café", "No Country for Old Men", "Boardwalk Empire" and as the voice of Princess Merida in "Brave", returned to the school to open the new Drama Studio and Theatre named after her. Kelly enjoyed a tour of the new building and was able to spend some time with pupils over tea and cakes. She then carried out the official opening ceremony for the Drama Studio and Theatre and stayed to work with senior pupils currently studying for Higher Drama. Amongst the pictures below are Kelly with her former Pupil Support teacher Mrs MacGregor who still works in the school. Thank you to Kelly for giving everyone a wonderful day.



Skills for Life and Work

S5 pupils took part in the "Mock Interviews" programme on 14th and 15th of November. This activity was organised by Mrs Sinclair and is designed to improve pupils' interview and employability skills as part of the school's programme to ensure positive destinations post school for all our pupils. Mrs Sinclair and I would like to thank all the employers who gave of their time to assist in this activity and gave such valuable feedback.

In addition to the above a group of 30 S5/6 pupils attended the Skills development Scotland Skills Conference at the SECC on Thursday 7th of November.



Choir Performance

On Saturday 22nd November members of the Eastwood HS choir performed brilliantly at the Charity Clarkston Bid Extravaganza. Miss Hill and Mr Fairlie would like to thank all choir members for a great show.

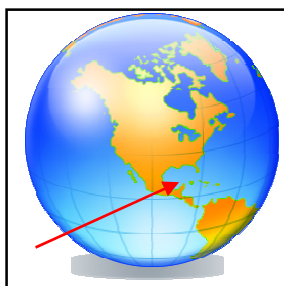


Shouting Loud

Tammy Reynolds of S5 has been busy raising awareness of young peoples' health as part of her involvement with ER Young Person Services "Big Shouter" project. On the 14th of November Tammy made a speech to the Chairman and Board of NHS Glasgow on the subject.

Human Rights Global Challenge

The school Human Rights Group has won through to the final of the Hutcheson's Grammar School Global Challenge. There are 6 finalists from all over Scotland competing for the prize that is £500 to donate to a Charity of their choice. The group won through to the final by making a film that juxtaposed the facilities for life and education in Haiti, the world's poorest country, with those in the new Eastwood High School. It was heart wrenching contrast. We wish them all the best in the final



Eastwood Building Wins Architecture Award

The new Eastwood High School building has won a national design award for BDP Architects. The building won "Best Education Design 2013" in the Glasgow Institute of Architects Awards.



Remembrance

Throughout early November a number of senior pupils were involved in collecting for the Poppy Scotland fund. In addition to this Matthew Fisher and Nicole Dempster represented the school at the Newton Mearns Remembrance commemoration and Carly Young and Murray Marrant represented the school at the equivalent Neilston event. Eastwood High School was also represented at the Garden of Remembrance service in Neilston by Nicole Taylor and Callum Forsyth.

Within the school itself an old tradition was re-instated whereby a wreath was placed under the school WW2 memorial by the Head Boy Mark Kyle following a short service attended by S6 Captains and Vice captains. The service was taken by Rev. Brian More.



ECO Committee News

The "Great Eastwood Bakers" Shaunie Swanson, Andrew Hinson, Gavin Thorn, Conall McLuskie, Sam Johnstone, Jamie Gavin, Abdul Malik and Kirsty Stewart baked 170 Halloween themed cupcakes to raise money for ECO Club funds. Andrew assisted by Conall and Gavin also baked a "Treasure Chest" cake where staff have to guess the location of the treasure to win the cake. Mrs McKenna was the lucky winner and the bake off raised more than £50 to support ECO projects within and around the school.

Bhavna Mehta has also been busy getting the ECO Committee's printer cartridge recycling scheme up and running in the new building. Collection boxes are now located in Dr Lowe's room and the school library where pupils are welcome to drop off any used cartridges from home for recycling.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who collected Morrison's Let's Grow vouchers for the school. 840 were collected and will be used to purchase gardening equipment for the Biology dept.



Commemorative Tree Planted

On 27th of November the Rowan Tree presented by the Scottish Government to commemorate the opening of the new Eastwood HS was planted in the grounds. Pupils from Biology and the ECO group watched as the tree from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh was planted.



Modern Studies Media Stars

Members of the Modern Studies Higher class and the Politics Club were broadcast on the Radio 5 Live Breakfast show. They were interviewed about their opinions on the Scottish Independence Referendum. Also on 26th November Max Yuill and Rabbiah Siddique, members of BBC's Generation 2014, appeared on Reporting Scotland and CBBC Newsround relating to the launch of the Independence Referendum white paper.

STV Referendum Schools Debate

On 12th November Sophie Shields, Max Yuill, Craig Smith and Megan Kane travelled to Alloway to debate against St Joseph's Academy. The team argued well for the motion that "Scotland should have an elected head of state" however just lost out. With their thorough preparation and strong performance the team were a credit to the school and themselves.

Charity Run

Euan Ford of S1 has been busy raising money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Euan took part in a sponsored cross country race at the Falkirk Wheel Country Park and not only did Euan raise £70 he came first beating over 200 competitors.

Sports News

At the Renfrewshire Swimming Championships held recently Eastwood High enjoyed success. Erin Wallace won Gold in the 13/14 years 100m and 200m Breaststroke and Jenni Palmer won Bronze in the same events in the 15/16 years age group. Erin has also won the U15 Scottish Short Course cross country running held on the 10th of November. Talking of internationalists Ryan Lockie of S4 was again selected for the Scotland U16 football squad. The picture shows Ryan playing at Airdrieonians stadium.

In climbing Caitlin Roberts S2 won the U14 Bouldering Competition at the Glasgow Climbing Centre.

At the recent Ayrshire International Open Karate Championships Caitlin McBride and David Veitch both won bronze medals in Kata whilst competing for the school Karate team. Bhavna Mehta, Robbie Raeside and Caitlin Roberts were also part of the team. This was their first international outing and David was only beaten by the Belgian International team. In further martial arts news Abtaha Maqsood of S3 won bronze for patterns and silver for sparring in Tae Kwon Do at the Chang Ung Cup in Edinburgh in mid November. She won her medals in the 14-17 age class and was therefore one of the youngest competitors

November has been a mixed month for Eastwood's football teams. The U18s lost narrowly to Woodfarm 3-2 with Marco Russo and Stephen Wallace the scorers. The U15 football team are through to the 4th round of the Scottish Cup and will play Greenock next month. They currently sit 3rd in the league following a 5-1 win against Belmont House School and a narrow defeat to St Ninians. The U14s have had a mixed month playing well in their league games but losing out in some close matches Castlehead 1-2 Eastwood, Williamwood 3-2 Eastwood, Eastwood 3-4 Mearns Castle and Eastwood 1-3 Johnstone HS.

The junior and senior Eastwood basketball teams have also been in action. The junior girls have made a strong start to the season beating Gleniffer HS 80-10 but losing 42-17 against a very strong Gryffe HS team. The senior girls also came up against Gryffe losing 50-10. The boys basketball teams have had a difficult start to the season losing to Park Mains, Barrhead and Williamwood, three very difficult opening games.

Our senior and S3 Netball teams were Scottish Cup action this month. Both teams had excellent wins away to Woodfarm HS. The senior team won 6-5 and the S3 team won 19-4 in the 1st round.

Eastwood High's athletes represented the school at the recent Giffnock North cross country race in Rouken Glen Park. Despite the difficult conditions their finishing times were Zoe Jamieson (7.45 mins), Martin McGuinness (7.06mins), Thomas McCarthy (7.00 mins), Adam Yaqub (8.49 mins) and Molly Ruff (8.08mins)

Eastwood High School Volleyball Club hosted its very first tournament this month against Belmont House, Woodfarm and Mearns Castle. For our first season the team came a very creditable third.

In cricket congratulations go to Lewis James of S4 who has been selected for the West District U18s.

In the senior indoor cricket interhouse cricket competition the final was won by just one run Capelrig beating Auldhouse.

