

## LETTER FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

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### How to contact us



0141 577 2300  
08:20am - 4:30pm  
(3.15pm Fridays)



0141 577 2314



Dear Parents/Carers

I can hardly believe that I am nearing the end of my first session as Head Teacher at Mearns Castle. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the pupils, staff and parents for a wonderful first year in the school.

As you can see from the Newsletter this term has continued in the same vein as the rest of the session with a range of interesting and exciting activities for our pupils and yet more excellent achievements in a wide range of different fields.

As we near the end of term I would welcome your contribution to two important consultations. As you can see on pages 2 and 3 we are currently finalising our School Improvement Plan for next session. The draft plan is available to view on our website and I would welcome any comments you have to make on it. In addition the Local Authority are currently consulting on our 33 period timetable. You may already have received information on this but if not please feel free to complete the survey on pages 5 and 6 and submit it to the school office by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June. As always I am also delighted to hear any feedback you have on the Parents' Newsletter and this can be done via the return slip on page 14.

We recently said farewell to our S6 pupils at an excellent Prom and we are now looking forward to next session. The timetable has now changed for the new S2 to S6 pupils and we are very much looking forward to seeing our new S1 pupils in August.

As you would expect pupil changes affect the composition of our Parent Council and PTA and some members, like their children, have now left. We thank them very much indeed for their excellent contribution to the school over, in some instances, many years. We are now however looking for new members. If you are interested in joining either of these important parent groups please either contact the school or turn up at the Parent Council AGM on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm, or, even better do both.

Finally as our thoughts turn to the new session can I draw your attention to my comments on school uniform on page 4. It is my ambition that our school is excellent in every dimension and school uniform has a part to play in this. We cannot achieve excellent school uniform without your help and support. It would be much appreciated therefore, if you could ensure that when your child returns to school in August they are wearing appropriate school uniform and that they continue to wear it throughout the session.

Finally school closes for the Summer holidays at 1.30pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June. We re-open for pupils at 8.45am on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August. I hope you and your family have an enjoyable summer holiday.

### End of Term Arrangements

The arrangements for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June, the last day of term, will be as follows:

The school dining hall will only provide cold lunches on this day — Pupils having lunch in school should buy their lunch at the morning interval from the dining hall — Lunchtime will begin at 12.45pm at which point pupils will be able to eat their lunch in the dining — the school buses will be available at 12.45pm for pupils who travel home by bus — Lunchtime will run from 12.45 — 1.30pm — the school will close for the Summer holidays at 1.30pm.

Dean Smith Head Teacher

## School Improvement Planning 2008-2009

You will be aware from the Parents' Newsletter 2 published in December 2007 that the Local Authority Education Department's Standard and Quality Review Team visited the school during the week beginning Monday 3 December 2007. The review focused on three aspects of the work of the school: Learning and Teaching; Management, Leadership and Quality Assurance and Attainment. The team's report was published in February 2008. I have summarised the report's findings below.

### Learning and Teaching

#### Strengths

- In some instances the quality of learning and teaching is very good or excellent
- Almost all pupils demonstrate good behaviour and good relationships with their teachers
- Sound plans are in place to improve the quality of learning and teaching eg effective questioning, improved feedback
- Staff show their commitment to the school through their voluntary support of a wide range of activities
- Parents think that there is mutual respect between teachers and pupils in the school

#### Areas for Improvement

- We need to continue to improve the quality of pupils' learning experiences by developing further our use of Assessment is for Learning strategies
- We need to continue to develop our range of appropriately differentiated tasks to better meet pupils' needs
- We need to continue to make better use of ICT in learning and teaching

### Management Leadership and Quality Assurance

#### Strengths

- Leadership across the school is effective for the most part. Most principal teachers provide very effective leadership. They are highly committed and motivated to continuously improve the quality of pupils' learning experiences
- We are taking forward detailed analysis of examination results and school performance
- We have a good reputation in the local community

#### Areas for Improvement

- The SMT should continue to improve learning and teaching and raise attainment.
- We need to review the curriculum to better meet the needs of all pupils through the implementation of A Curriculum for Excellence
- We need to improve our approaches to quality assurance and self-evaluation in order to continue to develop a culture of continuous improvement
- We need to develop our arrangements for identifying and sharing the best practice in learning and teaching within and between departments

## School Improvement Planning 2008-2009(ctd)

### Attainment

#### Strengths

- We have very high standards of attainment in the senior school
- 79% of pupils go on to full time further an higher education
- Strategies are being developed to improve the levels of presentation in relation to Intermediate courses
- We have high levels of pupil participation in extra curricular activities and charity events providing opportunities for a wide range of pupil achievement
- Parents think we set high standards for pupil attainment

#### Areas for Improvement

- We need to continue to raise attainment through improved learning and teaching in the junior and middle school
- We need to continue to improve pupil performance in National Assessments and Standardised Tests
- We need to continue to improve S4 pupil performance in SQA Examinations

The areas for improvement recommended by the Local Authority Education Department's Standard and Quality Review Team have, along with other priorities, been incorporated into the School Improvement Plan 2008-2009. The key targets in the Improvement Plan for next session are outlined below.

- ◆ Develop our curriculum in line with A Curriculum for Excellence
- ◆ Improve the quality of Teaching and Learning
- ◆ Develop further our current strategies for recognising and celebrating attainment and achievement
- ◆ Develop further a climate of Equality and Fairness in the school
- ◆ Establish a culture of self-evaluation that is focused on improving Teaching and Learning
- ◆ Develop a suite of Policy Documents that direct the work of the school
- ◆ Develop further the capacity of all staff in the school as leaders of learning
- ◆ Develop our Information Management systems to improve outcomes for learners

The Parent Council and the Pupil Council have already been consulted on the draft School Improvement Plan 2008-2009. The draft Plan is also currently available on the school's website for consultation until Friday 20 June 2008. If you wish to make any observations on the draft Plan please follow the instructions on the website and we will be delighted to receive your comments.

I am confident that as a school we have the capacity for continued improvement. We have exceptional young people and high quality, committed and motivated staff throughout the school. In addition we benefit from committed, active and supportive parents, very good accommodation, facilities and resources. We are also challenged and supported by an excellent Local Authority Education Department.

At Mearns Castle High School we will continue to strive to ensure that the school succeeds in providing an excellent service in every dimension to its pupils, parents and the wider community.

# SCHOOL UNIFORM

By Mr D Smith Head Teacher

I am increasingly concerned about the declining standard of school uniform among our pupils.

I am sure you agree that it is vitally important that all of our pupils are dressed in a manner that reflects the high standards associated with our school. I am writing, therefore, to ask for your support in ensuring that as we prepare for the new school session your child attends school wearing appropriate school uniform at all times.

As you are aware Mearns Castle school uniform consists of the following:-

- ◇ Black blazer and badge
- ◇ School tie – appropriately tied
- ◇ Shirt or blouse – white
- ◇ Pullover – black, v-necked
- ◇ Trousers – black (not black denims or cargo pants) – belt, if worn, must be black
- ◇ Skirt – black (extremes of fashion should be avoided when purchasing either trousers or skirts)
- ◇ Shalwar Kameez – black
- ◇ Headscarf – black
- ◇ Shoes – black shoes should be worn (trainers are not permitted)
- ◇ Scarf – is available in school colours
- ◇ Jacket – must be black and should have no obvious logo or advertising. Outside jackets should be removed in the school building.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

## Certificate of Achievement

By Mrs J Herald

**A**t the end of our school session pupils in each year receive a certificate of achievement for subjects in which they have worked diligently, behaved appropriately and regularly completed homework on time. The information for these certificates is taken from the pupil's final annual report.

Last session the format of distributing certificates was changed to a social event where each pupil received their certificate from their Pupil Support Adviser and then enjoyed refreshments with the remainder of their year group along with teachers in the Open Area. This proved to be very successful and this year we will celebrate in the same way. Pupils will receive their certificates at the following times:

S2	P2	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June
S3	P5	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June
S4	P3	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June
S5	P7	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June

Once again, a large number of pupils will also receive an attendance certificate for achieving 98% attendance throughout the year.

## EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## SURVEY OF PARENTS' OPINION ON THE EFFECTS OF THE 33-PERIOD TIMETABLE

JUNE 2008

Please consider each of the following statements and tick the box which most closely matches your opinion.	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I like the new times for starting and ending the school day					
My child/children have no difficulty in getting to school on time in the morning					
Transport arrangements to and from school are working well					
The school informs me quickly if my child is absent					
I think the 50-minute period is good for learning in practical subjects					
I think the 50-minute period is good for learning in classroom subjects					
Having double periods in the afternoon helps children to learn better					
Pupils behave well in classes and have a positive attitude to learning and to achievement					
My child is making good progress in their class work					
It is a good thing that more time is being given to Physical Education					
The new timetable has led to a greater range of extra-curricular activities for pupils					
More pupils are now involved in extra-curricular activities					
Catering arrangements in our school at lunchtime are good					
There is enough time for my child to have their lunch					
Pupils behave well in the community at lunch time					
Finishing early two days each week has proved a good idea					
I was asked for my opinion before the change to a 33-period week was made.					
I have been asked my opinion on how well the new timetable is working.					
Overall, I am glad that our school moved to a 33-period week					

Thank you for answering these questions.

If you would like to make additional comments on the new timetabling system, please do so in the space provided on the other side of this page.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

SURVEY OF PARENTS' OPINION ON THE EFFECTS OF THE 33-PERIOD TIMETABLE

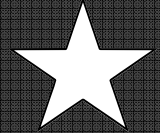
JUNE 2008

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Additional comments



# SCHOOL SHOW



## Oliver

This year the Performing Arts department are staging the musical Oliver. Around 40 pupils along with staff from Performing Arts have been rehearsing every week since September in preparation for the show in June. Based on the story by Charles Dickens, Lionel Bart's musical transports us back to the dark, black streets of Old London town with the popular classics: Food glorious food, Consider yourself, I'd Do anything and many more!

The show will run on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of June. Tickets are now on sale priced £3 and are available from Mrs Johnston in the Maths department.

We hope to see you there!



## Schools Fantasy League

By Miss A Thomson

The Schools Fantasy League has come to a close for another season. The trophies and medals were handed out at the awards ceremony in May.



Overall winner this year was Daniel Stern (S3). His team "Turkleton United" gained 450 points in total. Andrew Kirk (S2) took the silver medal with his team "Real So-So Bad". Andrew also took the medal for winning the FA Cup competition. In bronze medal position for the whole school was Qasmin Mohammed (S3). His team "Fake Madrid" gained 423 points across the season.

Medals were also given out for the top managers for each year group. Qasim Mohammed took the S1 medal, Andrew Kirk triumphed in S2, Daniel Stern was the top S3 manager and Craig Milligan won the S4 prize. The staff competition was very close towards the end but I emerged at the top (after some top tips from pupil managers!). Mr Calder took the booby prize as his team "Bayern Munchkins" remained glued to the bottom of the league for the whole season!

The league has been very competitive this season and hopefully there will be even more managers in 2008 - 09!

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver Practice Expedition Weekend

By Mrs K Ward & Mr A Hutchison



Max Soslove, Gregor Drysdale, Adam Rowatt,  
Keir Reid, Scott King & Greg Bow S4



Ross McKerral, David Bruce & Adam Bartley S5

A group of 40 pupils from S4, S5 and S6 spent an enjoyable weekend up near Loch Katrine. All pupils completed a 30 mile trek.

The weather was fantastic and we camped on the shores of Loch Chon with amazing views. Despite a few wrong turns, lots of blisters and more than a few red sunburnt faces, all pupils thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

They will be undertaking their Qualifying Venture June 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> up in the Loch Lomond area. We

are hoping for more sunshine and not too many midges!!!!!!!

Our second group of 50 pupils will undertake their expeditions after the summer break and we look forward to starting training with them soon.



Madeline Colmar & Christine Armour S5

## LIBRARY NEWS

By Miss K McEachern



### Carnegie Award Book Group

The Carnegie Medal is awarded every year to the best book written for Young People. This year seven books have been nominated and the winner will be announced on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Every year, the library takes part in the Carnegie Shadowing Scheme where pupils read and discuss the nominated books and decide on a winner before the judges do.

Thirteen pupils from S1-S3 are currently busy reading the Carnegie books and will take part in the Carnegie Book Day on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Mearns Castle Library will be hosting this event this year, when book groups from other East Renfrewshire schools will join us to discuss the books, take part in fun activities and vote on an overall winner.

Congratulations to Emily Morrison (new S4) who continues to collect impressive trophies for Highland Dancing. Emily recently won 2 championships for Highland Dancing, the first at Lanimer at the end of May and the 2nd at the beginning of June at Shotts. Well Done Emily

## Stairway to Success

By Mrs A Moore

Congratulations were given to the Castle Enterprise team at the Stairways to Success Awards Ceremony on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008. The awards of "Best Sales Plan" and "Best Presentation" went to Castle Enterprises. This group of pupils, from S1 and S2, worked very hard on a number of projects throughout 2007-2008.

They recycled waste paper, sold tuck, produced and sold crafts and held a raffle. The profits made from these projects will be spent on a trip to the Science Centre, pizza for the group and a sum of £20 will be donated to the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.

A successful and enjoyable year for all of the team!





## SPORTING NEWS FROM MEARNS CASTLE



**C**ongratulations to Aileen Stirling (S6) (below far right) on her achievements in the field of rowing and in particular the Gold medal she recently won in the Scottish Indoor Rowing Championships.



**C**ongratulations to Ian Monaghan (S3) who won two Bronze medals in the European Taw Kwon Do Championships. Ian travelled to Croatia in May with the Scotland 14— 17 team.

Congratulations and well done  
Ian

**B**oth Craig Young and Nick Black (S3) have gained places in the Strathclyde Schools XI Cricket Team.

Well done boys

We wish you success with all your matches.

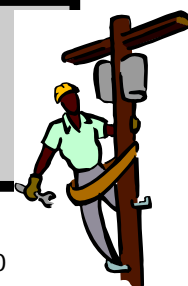
### SPORTS DAY

**A** selection of S1 and S2 pupils went to the John Wright Sports Centre to compete in the S1 and S2 Sports Day. A great day was had by all and it even stayed dry for the 2 days. Lots of medals were won and it was great to see all the pupils supporting and encouraging each other.



## S4 Work Experience 2008

By Mrs E Gordon



**P**reparations are already underway for the new S4's Work Experience from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Pupils should now be organising their own placement with an employer. They have been issued with orange placement forms which are to be completed by their employer and returned to the school by June 16<sup>th</sup> 2008. Yellow parental consent forms should also be returned by this date. Both forms are required in order that health and safety regulations are met. Spare forms are available from the school office.

Work Experience gives pupils a great opportunity to develop skills and learn knowledge from spending a week in a real workplace. Many pupils use work experience to see if they are suited to a particular job. For some careers and courses, pupils are expected to carry out appropriate work experience. Others choose a placement to help them to gain part time employment or because it is one of their hobbies e.g. a sport or music. (It is important that pupils do not return to their own primary school.)

Pupils should go about gaining a placement in the same way as someone would look for an actual job e.g. make telephone calls, write letters or make personal visits in order to secure a placement. Of course, family contacts can also be really useful. Pupils will be given assistance with any specialist safety clothing which they require. Plus they can be given travel expenses up to £15 for the week. It is possible for pupils to carry out work experience outwith the Glasgow / Newton Mearns area but they would need to make their own accommodation / travel arrangements.

Pupils will also have various tasks to carry out in PSE and will be required to return a report from their employer in order to gain the work experience qualification.

Thank you in anticipation of your support. For any queries or assistance please ask for  
Mrs E Gordon (PT Pupil Support)

## SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY

By Ms A Lewis



On the 10<sup>th</sup> June the achievements of senior pupils were recognised at an Awards Ceremony .

An award is given to the student who gained the highest mark at Higher level in the prelim exams in February:

Art & Design	Sam Green
Administration	Jacklyn McCulloch
Biology	Madeleine Colmar
Business Management	Gillian Cloney
Chemistry	Christine Amour
Computing Studies	Leon O'Rourke
Drama	Jenna Cowan
English	Madeleine Colmar
French	Christine Amour
Geography	Imaan Gangi
Graphic Communication	Zoe Kirkpatrick
History	Jennifer Young
Mathematics	Zoe Kirkpatrick
Media Studies	Ellis Martin
Modern Studies	Rachel Moore
Music	Amy Cutler & Euan Ferguson
Physical Education	Gordon Adams
Physics	Leon O'Rourke
RMPS	Martin Beeny
Spanish	Imaan Gangi

## Specialist Awards

Specialist awards have been awarded to pupils in S6

### Music Trophy

Fiona Fraser presented by A Borland

### McKenzie Award

Aileen Stirling presented by K Gibson

### Creative Writing Award

Laura Beattie presented by C Drew

### McVarish Award

Lisa Catterson presented by J Strathdee

### Mary Arthur Award

Caroline Adams presented by R Johnstone

### Enterprise Award

Daniel McKirdy and Anmol Gangi

presented by A Lewis

### Head Boy Award

Max Hutchison presented by A Lewis

### Head Girl Award

Pamela Barr presented by A Lewis

### Citizenship Award

Paul Livingston presented by J Herald

## P7's GOING INTO S1 Information

By Ms A Lewis

## Primary Induction Days

On 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May, Mearns Castle welcomed Primary 7 pupils who will join us in August as our new S1. The pupils enjoyed a range of lessons and had the opportunity to meet new classmates and Sixth Year pupils who will support them during their transition to secondary school.

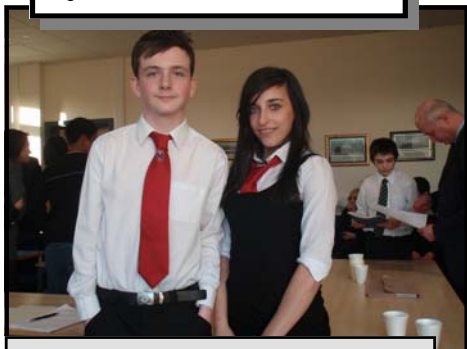
It was a really positive start to their time at Mearns Castle and I received many encouraging comments about the pupils throughout their two day visit. I look forward to welcoming our new intake on 18<sup>th</sup> August. Pupils are reminded that our day starts at 8 45am in the Main Theatre.

We will also be holding a uniform evening in Mearns Castle on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June from 6pm until 8 30pm in the Open Area, giving parents an opportunity to buy uniform items from Man's World at discounted prices.

I hope our Primary 7 pupils enjoy their last few weeks at Primary School followed by a great summer holiday before joining us in August, fresh and enthusiastic for their first session at high school!

## English Speaking Union Junior Debating Competition 2008

By Mr J McGowne



Peter McKeeve (S3) & Megan Daly (S3)

The Regional Final of the ESU Junior Debating competition took place in Mearns Castle back in May. Once again Mearns Castle were represented by Peter McKeeve and Megan Daly of S2. Both pupils debated well on the night in proposing the motion *"This house believes that footballers wages should be capped"*. Unfortunately the decision in the end went against Mearns Castle with St Joseph's College from Dumfries being the eventual winners.

Great credit is due however to both Peter and Megan for winning through to what was essentially the last 16 of the competition which covers schools in Scotland and the North of England. This is no mean feat as this year's competition attracted a record entry of 128 schools. Here's to next year.

Mrs Herald would like to thank Mr McGowne who coaches the debaters. His commitment and enthusiasm has inspired all of our participants.

## First Impressions CD 2008

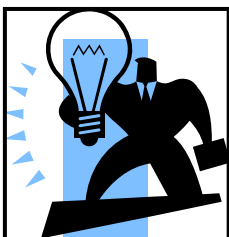
By Mr J McGowne

A

group of ten S1 pupils recently wrote and recorded a CD of their *'first impressions'* of Mearns Castle High School for the Primary 7 pupils. Every new pupil was presented with a copy from the team as part of their induction pack. All ten presenters gave an honest and entertaining account of their hopes, fears, favourite subjects, achievements and successes of their first year at the school. The standard of presentation was top class and the hard work and enthusiasm of all those involved made the project a great success.



Ryan Loughray, Callum Dron, Gordon Ralston, Emily Laird  
Scott McCaw, Michelle Latter, Laura McCracken  
Linda McBride, India Love, Amy Kirkpatrick



## Industrial Awareness Day

By Ms S Oram

Third year pupils have recently successfully participated in the annual Industrial Awareness Day. An event that always takes place in May. This event involved all S3 students working alongside each other in teams of ten. Through this activity, the pupils develop many different skills related to an industrial production line. The activity required each team to make a product prototype, negotiate a product price and quantity with a buyer, work together in a production line and finally sell their wares to their buyer. This year the buyers (a team led by Mr Cairney) emphasised to the groups that they were looking for quality as well as quantity. The groups had to work very hard to ensure that high standards were maintained in the production of their products. Several of the teams made a healthy profit through their efforts and most managed not to make a loss. The winning team earned themselves a day trip out of school in June.

It is a very worthwhile event and always inspires students to become very enterprising as well as competitive!

# PARENTS' CALENDAR 2008 — 2009

W/C	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
19-Jan-09					
26-Jan					
02-Feb		S4 R Issued		S4/5 OE	
09-Feb	S5/6 Prelim Examinations				
16-Feb	Holiday	Holiday	S5/6 Prelim Examinations		
23-Feb		S2 R Issued		S2 OE	
02-Mar				S2 P	
09-Mar					
16-Mar					
23-Mar					
30-Mar		S5/6 R Issued			School Closes 2.45pm
06-Apr	Spring Holiday				
13-Apr	Spring Holiday				
20-Apr	pupils return				
27-Apr					
04-May	Holiday		S1 R Issued		
11-May					
18-May	S1 P				Holiday
25-May	Holiday	IS 5		P7 PE	
01-Jun					
08-Jun			S3 R Issued		
15-Jun					
22-Jun					School Closes 1.30pm

P = Parents' Meeting / OE = Options Evening / PE = Parents' Evening  
 IR = Interim Report / R = Year Group Report

W/C	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
11-Aug-08				IS 1	IS 2
18-Aug	pupils return				
25-Aug					
01-Sep					
08-Sep					
15-Sep					
22-Sep		S1 Open Eve			Holiday
29-Sep	Holiday		Careers Fair		
06-Oct					IS 3
13-Oct	October Holiday				
20-Oct					
27-Oct				S4 P	
03-Nov					
10-Nov	S5/6 P				S1 IR Issued
17-Nov					
24-Nov		S3 P			
01-Dec					
08-Dec				S4 Prelim Examinations	
15-Dec	S4 Prelim Exams				School Closes 2.45pm
22-Dec	Winter Holiday				
29-Dec					
05-Jan-09	pupils return				
12-Jan					

IS = Inservice Day— staff only in school

# Maths Matters

By Mrs E Gibson



As we approach the end of another session, the department feels that it is appropriate to reflect on the many successes that our students have achieved.

The Junior Round of the UK Maths Challenge competition saw 74 of our S2 pupils achieving certificates as follows:

Gold	14
Silver	54
Bronze	85

This brings the grand total of certificates awarded this session to an amazing 161 – two more than last year! For the first time in Mearns Castle, three pupils have been invited to take part in the next round – Chris Russell, Andrew Paterson & Oliver Raine, (all S2). Very well done to all three boys and congratulations to all pupils who have entered the competition this session.

Mrs Gamble's Higher class have reached the top ten in the Mathematiques sans Frontieres competition. This year there were a total of 93 entries from 46 schools across Scotland, so already this is an excellent result. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on June 16<sup>th</sup> – we wish the team well.

Our annual Pi Day celebrations took place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Many thanks must go to all pupils, parents, friends and relatives who provided delicious home baking for this event. The sum raised this year was an astonishing £475! The money will be sent to "Stand Up for Africa, East Renfrewshire" and will be used to help provide a school for young people in Sierra Leone. Several pupils have been trying to learn the digits of Pi – no mean feat considering the number is infinite! Cameron J Bell in S1 managed 27 digits, while Ben Zinger, also S1, managed 71. Ten pupils in Mr O'Donnell's S2 class each managed 50!! This is going to be our big venture for next session – we'll keep you posted. Special mention must be made to two pupils – Michelle Latter in S1 and her sister Jasmine in S3. Both girls have presented the department with special Pi plaques. Michelle's will become the Pi Trophy and will be on display in the Trophy cabinet in the main foyer. This will be presented annually to the winner of the Pi Challenge. Jasmine's is going to become a Pi clock! Thanks are also due to the girls' father, Mr Latter, who helped with the production of the gifts.

This has been a year packed with extraordinary Maths activities. We wish all pupils a well-earned rest and look forward to many more exciting activities next year.

Adults from

industrial back-mentor the groups giving advice and support ensuring that each team manages their production, time and finances as best they can.

## Plea for Help

various grounds

In order to sustain the Industrial Awareness Day we require adult mentors to help with groups therefore I would welcome the help of parents who would be able to assist in this day (always scheduled for the Thursday before the long weekend at the end May).

Parents who would like to volunteer to take part should contact me at Mearns Castle before the end of term.

Our

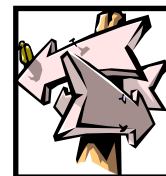
annual  
Careers

## Careers Fair

By Mr H Cairney

Fair will take place on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2008.

If any parent would like to contribute by setting up a stall and speaking to pupils about their career or profession please contact Mr Cairney.



# CITIZENSHIP MATTERS

By Mrs J Herald

## Charities' Fundraising

The Pupil Council and year group Form Captains have been busy deciding how to allocate the funds raised this session for charity. During our deliberations 16 members of our Pupil Council members visited the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice to see for themselves the work that is done there.

The following charities will benefit.

- £4,700 will go to the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. We are raising funds over 3 years to provide training facilities for the hospice, which has generously agreed to name one of their rooms the Mearns Castle Room.
- £600 to Teenage Cancer Trust
- £200 to Yorkhill Hospital
- £300 to Children in Africa
- £100 to the Burma cyclone fund
- £100 to Glasgow Centre for Refugees
- £470 for a Shelterbox provided by the Rotary



## Eco Schools

Last month the school was presented with a cheque for £158.50 from the Rag Bag scheme for donating unwanted clothing and textiles which are then recycled to Africa or Asia as part of the Eco schools recycling programme.

Many thanks to all families who donated unwanted clothes. We collected a total of 570 kg which was taken by Nathan's Waste in Denny to be sent to Africa and sold in markets as low cost clothing.

We hope to repeat this activity later in the year as it is an effective way of clearing out wardrobes and drawers of items which are no longer any use to you. Please do not get rid of any clothes in the meantime but wait until the autumn when we ask for your help once more.

## Eastwood Crime Prevention Panel Schools' Quiz

Rebecca Matthews, Lewis Wolfson, Alex Fletcher and Craig Young (all S3) participated in this quiz in May. All secondary schools in East Renfrewshire took part. Although we didn't win, the pupils answered enthusiastically and were a great credit to Mearns Castle. It's amazing what some people know about the game of darts!

✂

I have received a copy of the Parents' Newsletter

Pupil's Name:..... Class:.....

Parent's Signature:.....

Comments: