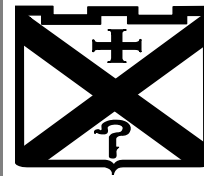


# MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

SERVITIUM

December 2009



Issue 2

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## LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parent/Carer

Yet again another term has flown by. As always it has been an action-packed few months in our school.

I will start by drawing your attention to the summary of our school's Standards and Quality Report for Session 2008-09. I think that it makes impressive reading and gives a real flavour of the progress we continue to make in the school. If you are interested in reading the full

report it is available on our website in the Policies section.

You will hopefully be aware that as a school community we have recently been involved in an extensive consultation to develop a shared Vision for our school. As a result of this consultation we have now agreed a statement of our shared Vision, Values and Aims for our school which is set out on page 2.

It is my intention to share our agreed Vision, Values and Aims with our pupils at the start of next term. Thereafter I will put in place arrangements to formally launch and further publicise this information around the school and in appropriate school documentation.

The next stage in the process will be for us to ensure that our shared Vision, Values and Aims are effectively directing the work of our school. I will publish more information on the next steps in embedding our Vision, Values and Aims in the life of the school in due course. Thank you very much for your contribution to this process.

As you can see from the Newsletter the school continues to be an exciting centre of learning with pupils, staff and parents demonstrating their considerable talents in a wide range of different activities; in particular our Concert Band and Debating Teams continue to excel.

I would again like to commend our whole school community for their contribution to our outstanding Charity fund-raising. A real team effort resulted in an impressive total of over £7,000 being raised for good causes. This is, yet again, a remarkable achievement and is a testimony to the care and compassion of the Mearns Castle community. The pupils, represented by the Pupil Council, will now decide on which charities will benefit from the money raised.

On the subject of fund-raising, on behalf of everyone in the school I would like to thank the PTA for their recent purchase of high quality sound equipment to enhance our social events. We really appreciate this important contribution to the school.

In the New Year we will be working in partnership with the Local Authority's Roads Department, our Active Schools Co-ordinator and our Campus Officer to develop a Travel Plan for the school. The purpose of the Plan is to encourage the whole school community to give some thought to the issue of travelling to and from school in the hope that we can encourage more of our pupils to walk or cycle to school. Perhaps one of your New Year resolutions could be to work with your child to find alternatives to bringing the car to school. Not only would it ease the congestion, it would help encourage your child in developing a health lifestyle. It would be great to see more of our pupils walking to school. Alternatively, you may have noticed that we have moved our bike shed to the front of the school. It would be wonderful to see it filled with bikes after the holiday.

Finally school closes for the holiday at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 22 December.

We re-open again at 8.45 am on Tuesday 5 January 2010. I hope you and your family have a wonderful festive season.

Dean Smith  
Head Teacher



## How to contact us



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



0141 577 2314



[schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

# Library News

By Miss K McEachern

The library recently played host to award-winning children's author Catherine MacPhail. She talked to Mrs Drew's S2 English class who had been reading and studying her novel, "Fighting Back". Pupils had sent letters to Catherine in advance saying how much they had enjoyed the book and asking her lots of questions. Much to the delight of the pupils, Catherine brought the letters with her and answered each and every question! She then enjoyed watching the pupils perform scenes from her book which they had scripted themselves. The session ended with autographs for all and lots of happy pupils!



Alishba Nazir, Kim Gregori, Eilidh Simpson, Bismah Pasha Kainat Hanif



Lior Brown, Scott MacFarlane, Tomas Burke



## Library Bookfair

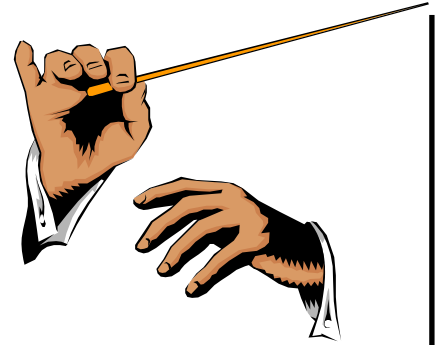
The annual bookfair took place in the Library at the beginning of December. There were over 300 new children's titles to choose from as well as posters and stationery. All S1 and S2 classes visited the bookfair during English and pupils from all years groups got the chance to browse before and after school, also at lunchtimes. Last year the bookfair made over £650 - this year we exceeded that amount making £771, giving the library £514 of free books!

## Performing Arts News

By Miss A Borland

### RSNO Schools Concert

S4 and S5 music pupils headed to the Concert Hall in September to hear the Royal Scottish National Orchestra perform a variety of orchestral works. All the pieces were chosen to directly relate to the music curriculum so pupils were able to learn as they enjoyed the performances. We were delighted that two of our S6 pupils; Gillian Horn - Bassoon and Seona Mackenzie - Flute were chosen to perform with the professional musicians - what an experience!



## Winter Concert

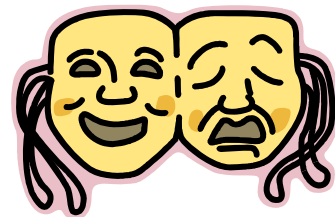
Over 130 pupils took part in the annual concert at the start of December. We played to a packed house and a great time was had by all.

The Concert gives pupils a platform for performance and this is such a vital part of their musical development.

Thank you to all the music staff who have worked really hard since the start of term to produce such high quality performances. Outstanding!

### Curse of the Demeter

The first week back after the October holidays S3 Drama pupils made their way to Eastwood Theatre and enjoyed a performance of Curse of the Demeter. Once again this tied in with our Drama Curriculum and also gave some pupils their first experience of live theatre.





# Sporting News

By Mr C Giles



## Andrew Mullen - S2

Andrew Mullen, currently in 2nd year at MCHS, is a talented, young and ambitious swimmer. He already holds a Scottish record for the 200 metre freestyle and a British record for the 100 metre back stroke.

In November 2009, at the British Senior Championships in Sheffield, Andrew returned with 6 medals and the new Scottish record for 200 metre freestyle, with a time of 3:29:43 seconds. The medals he won were:

- |          |   |                               |
|----------|---|-------------------------------|
| 3 gold   | - | 4 x 50 metre relay, freestyle |
|          | - | 4 x 50 metre relay, I.M.      |
|          | - | 100 metre I.M.                |
| 2 silver | - | 200 metre freestyle           |
|          | - | 50 metre back crawl           |
| 2 bronze | - | 50 metre freestyle            |
|          | - | 100 metre freestyle           |



Andrew started swimming at the age of 6 when he initially took lessons at a local pool. He then joined a disability club between the age of 9 and 10 and due to his talent was then encouraged to swim for a mainstream club at 9 years of age. Two years ago he joined Ren '96 and now swims with a variety of mainstream squads wherever his supportive coach, Chris Grabham, facilitates training.

Training takes up 12.5 hours of pool time between a variety of venues: Eastwood Recreational Centre, Johnstone, Elderslie and Neilston pools. A typical week's training programme includes waking at 4.30 am for his 3 early morning training sessions and he has a number of evening sessions.

During the summer holidays his pool time is increased to 14.5 hours training. In addition to the pool training, Andrew is self disciplined in completing 3 periods of fitness training within the school fitness suite, which consists of a cardiovascular and muscular conditioning programme put together by the PE Department.

Andrew hugely enjoys the competition and travel attached to his swimming, including annual events in Wales and Sheffield and three planned training camps in Manchester next year. He competes in the UK School Games each year amongst a number of junior and senior level competitions.

Andrew's longer term aim is to qualify for the 2012 Paralympics in London, if he is re-classified to an S4 category grouping, whereas if he remains within his current S5 category, he hopes to make the Rio de Janeiro games in 2016.

## School Show 2010

Our school show for June 2010 will be *The Sound of Music*. Auditions took place in October, rehearsals are already well underway and pupils are coping well with what is a very challenging production. The standard of pupils auditioning was very high and we would like to say well done to all pupils who came along. Dates for the show are 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010!

## Senior Concert Band

The Senior Concert Band, under the direction of Mrs Hamilton, was decorated with a PLATINUM AWARD at the Scottish Heat of the National Concert Band Festival in November. This is the first year that the organisers decided to use a Platinum award and it was put in place to recognise an outstanding performance of the chosen programme.

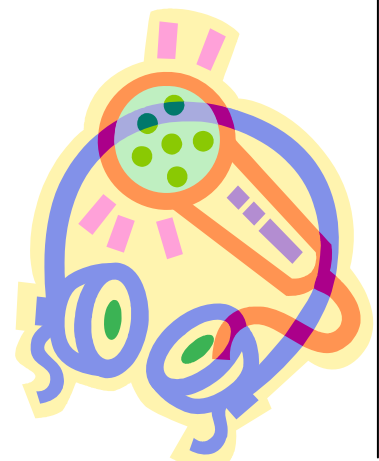
This truly is a remarkable achievement given that the band has a large proportion of young and relatively inexperienced players.

The Senior Concert Band is an amazing asset to the school and we are very proud of your achievements. Thanks again to all the staff, pupils and parents who continue to support the band.



## PULSE MC

Raymond Weir came to the school recently and interviewed the Pulse Team. This interview should be broadcast in the next few weeks. We are making final edits to our programme about the Senior Concert Band so look out on the school website for a broadcast date and time.





By Mr V O'Donnell  
Charities Week Convener



# CHARITIES WEEK

The school's main fundraising event of the year - Charities Week - was held during the last week of October. The now familiar mix of Lunchtime Talent Shows and the usual plethora of other events throughout the school combined to make a highly enjoyable week for both pupils and staff whilst raising over £7,000 for people who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Events this year were many and varied, as ever, and included a very successful 5-a-side Football Tournament, Sponge the Teacher, Henna Painting, the hair raising Van de Graph Generator Experience, Balloon Race, Book Sale, Golden Ticket Raffle, and, intriguingly, some rather esoteric sponsored activities in the Maths Department, including sponsored Quadratic Equation Solving (!!). Disappointingly, Mr Guidi's Pie Mafia were not able to make an appearance this year but we have already opened up negotiations with the Don and are hopeful for the return of his mobsters in time for next year's extravaganza.

On a more positive side, this year's S6 Slave Auction was a roaring success, with S6 boys and girls being snapped up for a day's service by pupils of all years, some clubbing their money together to maximise their bids.

The lunchtime talent shows were crammed with singers, dancers, comedians, gymnasts, pipers and performers of all descriptions and from all year groups. The acts played out in front of capacity audiences in the Main Theatre every day and were hugely enjoyable, both for participants and watchers. The standard was very high this year - one teacher, a veteran of many Mearns Castle Charities Weeks, was heard to say after one of the shows that it had been the best she had ever seen in the school!

"Look Back in Laughter", the two evening events which showcase the very best of the acts from the shows, took place a few weeks later and were also a notable success, with parents, aunts, uncles and grannies all coming along to enjoy the entertainment and contributing to the coffers.

The final instalment of the programme of events took place on a very windy day in November, when we set off 450 balloons to see where the elements would take them. Some only made it as far as Rutherglen, but others were made of sterner stuff and travelled northwards towards the islands on the west coast. The farthest reported balloon came to rest in the Isle of Skye and Craig McQuillan of S2 is now £50 better off as a result! Congratulations to him and to the person who found it and sent it back to us.

Actually, congratulations are due to everyone in the school community for their contribution to the success of this year's Charities Week. It would be wrong to mention individual names but special mention would have to be made of the seventy five S6 pupils who, together with other committed staff members, were responsible for staging the many activities during the week. Their quiet, understated and completely dependable contribution in many ways sums up what Charities Week is and always will be - an intense collaborative effort between all members of the school community to help others who have less than we have. The ripples from such an effort will spread far and wide this year and that is what makes the whole venture so worthwhile.

## Charity Begins at MCHS!

By Mrs Z Nicklin & Mr S Gooch

To coincide with Enterprise Month and Mearns Castle's famous Charities Week, it was decided to hold an interdisciplinary/cross curricular activity based on the theme of Charity. Departments looked at the theme of charity within their own subject areas, so that pupils were thinking about the theme of charity in different ways across the curriculum as well as taking part in the lunchtime shows and donating very generously to charity - another step towards the interdisciplinary aspects of A Curriculum for Excellence!

Here are some examples of what took place:

- ◆ In English - National Poetry Day theme of Heroes and Heroines: pupils developed their close reading skills and discussion skills by looking at passages about people who help others and change the world
- ◆ In French S2 pupils worked on cross curricular projects researching French speaking African areas and the involvement of UK and international charities in these areas
- ◆ In Drama mental health issues were explored through role play.
- ◆ In Music pupils explored the phenomenon that is charity records.
- ◆ In History S2 pupils looked at the reasons behind the annual poppy appeal in line with the current WW1 course.
- ◆ In Computing S1 pupils produced posters and presentations on recycling technologies.
- ◆ In Tutor Groups all pupils from S1-S4 reflected on existing charities and what inspired people to set these up.
- ◆ In PSE pupils from S4-S6 attended talks from various charities, such as Cancer Research UK and The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.

Pupils were also involved in the technical side of helping out with the Charities Week shows - lighting, sound, recording and podcasting, and there was a book display in the Library along with a sale of second hand books.

As well as raising an amazing amount of money for some very worthwhile charities, pupils are now more informed around the theme of charity.





## Homecoming Celebration Banners

By Mr S Gooch



Last session pupils from S1-S4 took part in a project that tied in with our Homecoming celebration. The challenge was to create a banner that reflected what Scotland means to them. Each group took a different approach wanting to develop ideas beyond the obvious clichés of tartan and shortbread! They were assisted by a local artist, Lesley Smith, who helped with the planning and designing.

Mhairi Strang, Eilidh Murray, Ilana Kaye, Kate Ng and Lauren Wilson doffed their hats to the people of Scotland and explored the multi-layered society we live in - the different races, cultures and charities we support.

Aidan O'Rourke, Melissa Craib, Lindsay Clark, Mhairi Mackay and Rebecca McCall chose to look at Scotland's environment - celebrating its beauty and also our forward thinking commitment to green issues.

Darren Martin, Liam Dick, Rebecca Catterson, Ailsa Thomson and Jacklyn Foulds considered the impact Scottish inventors and industry have had on the wider world.

The designs were also entered into the SQA's "Scotland and me" competition and all participants have received a certificate. So next time you are in school head up to the area above the main entrance - it links the maths corridor to the conference room and see the banners!

## 2009 Mini Trials

By Miss H Devon



Miss Devon in Drama and Mrs Hamilton in English took some senior pupils to Paisley Sheriff Court on Saturday 21 November. There they got the amazing opportunity to compete with other East Renfrewshire schools where they played lawyers, witnesses and even the accused! It was a fantastic experience and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed it. They were even shown the prison cells which were, to their surprise, "not very nice".....

Here's what Nefi Noufal from S5 had to say about it - "I had a great time and I would love to do it again. We even won our case!"

A great time was had by all and the pupils were a great credit to the school!



<b>Lunch Time Show Ticket Sales</b>	<b>£2,004.80</b>
<b>Non Uniform Day</b>	<b>£1,294.28</b>
<b>Look Back in Laughter</b>	<b>£1,237.74</b>
<b>Balloon Race</b>	<b>£453.10</b>
<b>Slave Auction</b>	<b>£438.90</b>
<b>High 5/Golden Ticket</b>	<b>£205.25</b>
<b>Henna Painting</b>	<b>£152.20</b>
<b>Football</b>	<b>£229.12</b>
<b>Misc</b>	<b>£51.38</b>
<b>Sponge the Teacher</b>	<b>£117.00</b>
<b>LBIL Programmes</b>	<b>£58.32</b>
<b>Cake Stall</b>	<b>£108.82</b>
<b>Library Book Sale</b>	<b>£35.40</b>
<b>Lunchtime Shows DVD Sales</b>	<b>£28.30</b>
<b>Miss Lynch Higher</b>	<b>£21.30</b>
<b>Mr Oliphant - Hair Raising</b>	<b>£15.60</b>
<b>LBIL Tea Donations</b>	<b>£71.34</b>
<b>Sweeties in a Jar</b>	<b>£12.50</b>
<b>Mr McFarlane Lunch Club</b>	<b>£6.08</b>
<b>Mr Cairney PSE Class</b>	<b>£3.50</b>
<b>S4 Maths Factorising</b>	<b>£374.01</b>
<b>Maths Sponsored Equations</b>	<b>£146.30</b>
<b>Mrs Johnston S3 Maths Tuckshop</b>	<b>£95.74</b>
<b>S2 Maths Sponsored Tables</b>	<b>£50.70</b>

**Grand Total**

**£7,211.68**

Congratulations to EVERY-ONE in the school community for a wonderful effort this year.

Well done!!!!



## Debating News.....Debating News.....Debating News

### MEARNS CASTLE PUPIL TAKES ON THE WORLD!



Back at the beginning of October, S6 Pupil Tahleel Lateef was chosen along with 4 other pupils from around the country to be part of the Scotland Debating team that will participate in the World Schools Debating Championship in Doha, Qatar. The tournament will be held from 8-19<sup>th</sup> February in the new year. Tahleel is the first Mearns Castle pupil to be chosen to debate at world schools level. This is a fantastic achievement not least as Tahleel only began debating in earnest at the beginning of S5. He also came through 4 rounds of debating before the Finals Day selection for the squad. This places Tahleel amongst the top 5 debaters in the country. Good Luck to Team Scotland in February.

### GLASGOW UNIVERSITY UNION DEBATING COMPETITION

Over 20 schools from around the country once again packed into the GUU on 4<sup>th</sup> November for the annual schools debating competition. Each school debates 4 times during the course of the day before the teams are chosen for the final. Pupils were given motions as diverse as: *Legalising all drugs*, *Banning prisoners from publishing their memoirs* and *Banning private education*. Mearns Castle had 3 teams of debaters this year each representing 3 different year groups – Tahleel Lateef and Imran Ahmed (S6), Catriona Lamont and Rebecca Tritschler (S5) and Stephanie Ross and Gabriel Ross (S4). All 3 teams debated extremely well throughout the day with Tahleel and Imran only narrowly missing out on making the final.



**Mearns Castle's GUU Debaters** (Left-Right)  
Tahleel Lateef, Catriona Lamont, Rebecca Tritschler, Gabriel Ross, Stephanie Ross and Imran Ahmed.

## MEARNS CASTLE AT THE BBC

A group of 10 intrepid Mearns Castle debaters were recently invited to the BBC HQ at Pacific Quay take part in ***Brian's Big Debate – Children in Need Special*** which was broadcast live on Radio Scotland. The programme was hosted by the BBC Political Editor, Brian Taylor and pupils from schools around Glasgow were invited to pose questions and make points during the floor debates to a panel of judges. The judges included football pundit Chick Young, Pop Idol winner Michelle McManus and James Mackenzie (star of Raven). The topics discussed included *cyber bullying*, *allowing 16 year olds to vote* and *the amount of PE given in schools*. Every Mearns Castle pupil made at least one point during the debate so everyone came home with their own miniature Pudsey Bear. A great afternoon had by all.



**Mearns Castle's BBC Debaters pictured with Michelle McManus** (Left-Right)

Lucy Devlin, Zara Mohammed, Lewis Woolfson, Jasmine Latter, Rebecca Tritschler, Catriona Lamont, Ian Monaghan, Alasdair Clarkson, Tahleel Lateef and Hayley Simons

## THE LAW SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND

### DONALD DEWAR MEMORIAL DEBATING TOURNAMENT

The first heat for the above tournament was held in the school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Mearns Castle had 2 teams competing on the same evening against teams from The High School of Glasgow and Abronhill High School from Cumbernauld. Both Mearns Castle teams proposed the motion *'This house believes that Britain would be better off out of the European Union.'*



Congratulations go to Megan Daly and Stephanie Ross who were successful along with the team from the High School and will now participate in the second round early in the new year. A special mention however should also go to Gabriel Ross and Rebecca Tritschler who narrowly missed out on the evening. The Judges commented that it was a very close decision and that the standard was extremely high for a first round of this competition. Thanks also to everyone who came along (Parents/Families/Friends/other Mearns Debaters) to watch and participate in the floor debate. A big thanks also to Mrs Herald for chairing the event.

## ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION - JUNIOR DEBATING COMPETITION

Two S2 Mearns Castle teams recently competed in the first round of the above tournament on two separate evenings. The motion for the first round was *'This house would allow 16 year olds the vote'*. Hayley Russell and Max Merrill successfully came through their heat held in Bearsden Academy. Not to be outdone, Hazel McArthur and Olivia Gray repeated this success by making it through their own heat 2 weeks later in Uddingston Grammar School. The second round will be held in the new year.



Olivia Gray, Hazel McArthur,  
Max Merrill and Hayley Russell

early

## THE ST ANDREW'S DAY DEBATE

Mearns Castle were this year invited for the first time to attend the annual St Andrew's Day debate in the Scottish Parliament. Around 20 schools from all over the country took part. School and University debaters are teamed together to compete throughout the day. Mearns Castle's debater on the day was Tahleel Lateef. The day was part of the culmination of the year-long Homecoming Scotland celebrations.

The motions on the day were therefore

focussed on Scottish issues and included debates on *whether countries should celebrate their national day* and *the relevance of the poetry of Robert Burns* and *the success of the Scottish Parliament*. Tahleel debated very well on the day and made it all the way to the final with his university partner where he only narrowly missed out on first prize. A special mention also goes to Olivia Gray, Hazel McArthur and Max Merrill of S2 who stepped in during the day when some debaters were unable to attend. A mention also to the S1-S3 pupils from the Junior Debating Club who took over the debating chamber for the night and made some excellent points during the floor debate.



Mearns Castle's Junior Debaters  
outside the Scottish Parliament.

And Finally...

### "The Hot Air Cup"

The inaugural Hot Air Cup competition took place in the school on 19<sup>th</sup> November. This was a busy and very enjoyable night of friendly debating that brought together over 30 debaters from Mearns Castle, Glasgow Academy and Douglas Academy, Milngavie. Pupils debated motions on *the positive discrimination of female parliamentary candidates* and *never trusting politicians*. The eventual winners were the Glasgow Academy A team. It's hoped that this will be an annual event with possibly more schools becoming involved in the years ahead.

# Citizenship Matters

By Mrs J Herald

## **Climate Champions meet David Milliband, Minister for Foreign Affairs**

Our Scottish Climate Champions Emily Wolfson and Rory Buchanan, both S4, were invited to attend a video conference at the British Council offices in Edinburgh on 17 November. Emily and Rory, who were the only school pupils present, joined a small group of students and young adults, for a video conference with their counterparts in Kyoto, Japan. Emily and Rory were able to put Mr Milliband on the spot and ask him searching questions about his government's plans for protecting our environment. The Japanese pupils and students were also able to ask questions.

Emily and Rory are excellent ambassadors for Mearns Castle and Scotland in their attempt to improve environmental conditions for their generation. We wish them every success in their future ventures!

## **Connecting Classrooms**

Mearns Castle, along with our cluster primary schools Calderwood Lodge, Eaglesham, Kirkhill and Mearns Primary, has submitted an application to the British Council to become partners with a group of schools in India as part of our global citizenship programme. We are hopeful that we will be accepted and so embark on what we believe to be an exciting project. We will find out the decision early next year. We will keep you posted!

## **Pupil Council**

This session our Pupil Council is tackling the issue of sustainable transport issues. They have already devised a questionnaire for parents and are at present compiling one for pupils. We hope to have results in January and then plan for the National Walk to School week in May. The Pupil Council would like to encourage more pupils to walk or cycle to school and ask parents who drive their children to school to drop them off further from the school gates, thus helping to reduce traffic congestion at the school in the mornings. You will hear more about this project in our next newsletter.

# Mearns Castle Alumni

By Mr S Sorley

If you are a former pupil of Mearns Castle High School, we are keen to start building up an Alumni page on our website. If you have been a former pupil and have been successful since leaving school, please get in touch with us and let us know what you have been getting up to.

## FORMER PUPIL RUNNING IN LONDON MARATHON FOR CHARITY

A successful former pupil of Mearns Castle High School, Andrea Young, formerly Cooper (and mother of Craig Young in S5 and Laura Young in S2) was in the first intake of first years when MCHS opened! After school she headed off to University in Dundee where she studied medicine. She graduated in 1988 and then did some further training in Dundee and Glasgow. She has been a GP in Renfrewshire since 1993.

Andrea and Vivian Miller (mother of Laura Miler) will be running in the London Marathon in 2010 on behalf of the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. They are very keen to raise funds for a project to help bereaved children and young people, as the services are very poor..... The Butterfly Project.

If you are keen to support Vivian and Andrea please go to the link below to donate to this incredibly worthwhile cause.

[www.justgiving.com/vivianandandrea](http://www.justgiving.com/vivianandandrea)

If you would like to contribute to this section of the website and newsletter, please get in touch via the school email address [schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk) with the subject of Alumni.

We look forward to hearing from more of you.



### S4 Prelims

Thank you to all staff, pupils, parents and invigilators for a successful diet of S4 prelim examinations. Twenty-one different exams took place over the eight days of the exam diet and pupils were exemplary in their conduct during each of the exams. To mark the end of the exam period, we hope that the pupils of S4 enjoy a well-deserved celebration at their Winter Dance.

# Mearns Castle High School

## Servitium

### Our Vision

The Mearns Castle High School community will work together to sustain a safe, inclusive and high quality learning environment that enables us to develop fully our capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society.

**Our Vision, based on our Values, will be realised through the achievement of Our Aims**

### Our Values

- Respect:** show self-respect and be considerate of the needs, wishes and feelings of others.
- Inclusion:** treat all people fairly and enable them to feel included.
- Integrity:** be honest and sincere.
- Responsibility:** be accountable for your actions and make a positive contribution to society.
- Ambition:** show a pride in your school and have high expectations of what you can achieve.
- Achievement:** be enthusiastic and show a determination to succeed in all you do.

### Our Aims

We will be motivated and enthusiastic in our learning and teaching and determined to reach the highest standards of attainment and achievement.

We will be confident and ambitious, build positive relationships and pursue a healthy and active lifestyle.

We will show initiative and be enterprising, creative and responsible citizens.

We will show respect for others, care for our environment and make a positive contribution to society.

## **Standards and Quality Report**

### **Session 2008- 09**

A summary of our school's Standards and Quality Report for Session 2008-2009 is outlined below. The full report is available on the school website.

### **The Standards and Quality Report – key purposes:**

to report on our progress in implementing priorities listed in the School Improvement Plan  
to indicate the progress made in meeting agreed targets in appropriate areas  
to provide an evaluative summary of the quality of the work across a range of areas in the school  
to highlight strengths and identify priorities for next year

### **Our Main Priorities for 2008-09**

- Continue to raise attainment for all pupils
- Develop our curriculum in line with A Curriculum for Excellence
- Continue to improve the quality of Teaching and Learning
- Develop further our arrangements for Recognising and Celebrating Attainment and Achievement
- Review our Values, Vision and Aims
- Improve our arrangements for evaluating the work of the school
- Review the remits of School Leaders
- Develop further our Information Management Systems

As will be demonstrated through the details of the Report we successfully achieved all of our Targets for Session 2008-2009

### **Raising Attainment**

As a result of the effective implementation of our 2008-2009 Improvement Plan, as can be seen from the data in the graphs below we continue to successfully raise the attainment of our pupils as measured by their improved performance in SQA examinations. Indeed the Local Authority's Education Department judged our performance in this area as 'Very Good' during the Cluster Transitions Review of April 2009.

Graph 1 illustrates our continued high level of performance in Intermediate 2 examinations. We are particularly pleased with our improved performance in 2009 as this was an area of priority identified on our Improvement Plan 2008 -2009.