



St. Mark's Primary School

November 2013

Newsletter No. 4



Dears Parent & Carers

Adverse Weather



In the past, we have had severe disruptions as a result of bad weather around this time last year. In the event of a similar situation arising this winter we have put a few strategies in place. East Renfrewshire schools will only be closed in extreme circumstance.

- If the school is closed during the course of a school day you will be contacted, in the first instance, by text message. **Please ensure we have a current mobile phone number on our records for this purpose.**
- The text will ask you to make arrangements to collect your child as soon as possible. You cannot reply to this message.
- Please don't telephone the school unless absolutely necessary as we have a limited number of external lines.
- Your child will be kept here until someone comes for him/her.
- Once the school has been officially closed, regular updates will be posted on the East Renfrewshire and school website and updates posted on Twitter.

In the event of heavy snow as first priority our janitor will clear a path to the breakfast club door from, the stairs. Look out for signs directing you as sometimes we have to make any changes to the usual routine.

Vive La France!

Mrs Hallan has returned safely from France. Yes, it is true; she was not allowed to speak a word of English the whole time she was there. Mrs Hallan and Mrs O'Donnell from St. John's were the only people from Scotland, who were fortunate enough to be accepted on the immersion course, the other members were from all over Europe.

They have learned lots of new skills, improved their fluency in French and brought back new and exciting ideas to develop the French programme in the St. Luke's Cluster. It was indeed *une expérience fantastique*.



Our new House Captains have been elected

Mackintosh

House Captain - Aimee Higgins

Vice Captain - Charlie Gardiner

Wallace

House Captain - Allana Ryan

Vice Captain - Leo I to

Bell

House Captain - Abbie Duncan

Vice Captain - Samantha Goudie

Ogilvie

House Captain - Aidan Gilhooley

Vice Captain - Olivia Coutts



Art News

St Mark's Artists have been hard at work again this term! With Chloe Millar's fabulous painting of Our Lady safely posted to Pope Francis, the Art Group have been drawing, painting and collaging their way into the festive season, deciding which special people to send their creations to, from the lollypop lady to Barack Obama. Look out in the school and St John's Church for our newly framed images of Mary, painted by Emily Wilson and Julia Piegal. Well done to Abbie Davidson and Daniel Gusarov as their Christmas card designs have been chosen to represent the school this year. In the true spirit of the season, all classes are getting messy with glitter and paint this term so special requests for Art shirts please! A lot of the children have recently been learning about the inspirational Andy Warhol, so in the words of the great man himself...

"Don't think about making art, just get it done. Let everyone else decide if it's good or bad, whether they love it or hate it. While they are deciding, make even more art." **Andy Warhol**



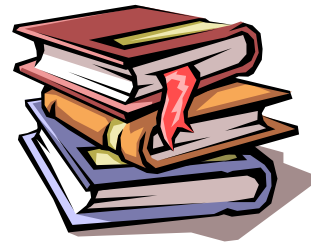


P7 Ardentiny 2nd - 6th December 2013

P7 are looking forward to their adventure week at Ardentiny starting on Monday 2nd December where they will take part in activities such as Abseiling, Archery, Climbing, High ropes, Hill walking, Orienteering, Team challenges and Gorge walking. They may need to cross stepping stones, jump across gaps and climb up rocky steps, over trees and up waterfalls. Their welly boots might fill with water as they tackle each obstacle, but the smiles and looks on their friends' faces will help them forget that squelchy feeling! They can look forward to the teamwork, appreciate the new skills they will develop and try lots of things they have never done before in beautiful surroundings. They can't wait!!! Pupils will return on Friday 6th December around approximately 2pm and can be picked up from school or at 3pm as normal. Can we ask that if you have not already done so that the final payments are made and all forms returned to the school. Remember to sign up to our Twitter Page to get up to the minute reports on all of the fun going on at Castle Toward!

Scottish Book Week 25th - 29th November

St Mark's are all set for a Reading Revolution during Scottish Book Week. We are launching our new library, expecting special visitors (including a mystical mutt), and organising a whole host of spectacular classroom events which place reading, where it truly belongs, at the heart of the school curriculum. Primary 1 parents are invited along on 27th November at 2pm for our Mad Hatters Tea Party. Once again pupils will receive the Bookbug Family Pack courtesy of Scottish Book Trust, the 3 brilliant books are all shortlisted for the Scottish Book Awards-which will get your vote? So, come on, switch off that TV, unplug that X-box and pick up the best hand-held device ever- a book.



Religious News



To mark the end of 'The Year of Faith' we are having a special Mass on Friday 29th November here in the school - a text will be sent out later in the week to confirm the time. Father Paul thought it would be a nice idea if the children were able to say the Year of Faith prayer and sing the Year of Faith hymn during the Mass.

The Mass of Enrolment for pupils in primary 3 who will receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in 2015 will take place in St. John's Church on Sunday 1st December at 10.00am. Children and parents/guardians should attend this Mass. Pupils should wear own clothes. Pupils in primary 5 will take part in First Friday Mass on Friday 6th December at 10.00am in St. John's Parish Church. Parents are welcome to come along and join us, (please note this may be subject to change due to church schedule. Pupils in primary 7 will make the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 8th May in St. Mirin's Cathedral.

P1 - P3 Christmas Nativity

I am sure you will all be looking forward to this year's Christmas Nativity 'The Stable Story' which is taking place on Wednesday 11th December at 1:30pm & Thursday 12th December at 7pm in the school hall. Initially, each family will be able to purchase a maximum of 2 tickets and priority for tickets will be given to parents/ carers of P1-3 pupils. Tickets are available to purchase with the order slip attached to the letter previously given out by your child's class teacher.



St Andrews Night 29th November 7pm-9.45pm

A fun evening for all the family with entertainment provided by Fusion has been organised by our Parent Council. Tickets priced £3 (£2 for children) can be purchased from the school office or from a member of the Parent Council. This event will be held in the School Hall and is a "bring your own bottle event".

Financial Education Week

11th -15th November



We had a very successful financial education week last week with a jam packed timetable. The Primary 6 pupils took part in a Glow meet with Mr McLean from St Luke's and pupils from St John's and St Thomas'.

Some very talented 5th and 6th year pupils from St Luke's kindly visited us and taught our Primary 3 pupils. Our very own Primary 7 pupils Eva Miller, Leo I to and Aidan Gilhooley delivered lesson to all classes sharing all the information they had learned during their visit to Museum on the Mound. They were absolutely fabulous and to quote them "teaching isn't as easy as we thought we're exhausted!" I would like to say a massive thank you to parents Mr Skinner, Mrs McClune and Miss Gribbon who gave up their own time and kindly shared their expertise with many of our pupils.

Last week also saw the launch of St Mark's own credit union which is open to pupils, parents and staff. To top off the week we had an auction with St Mark's answer to David Dickinson (our very own Mrs Hallan) which was enjoyed by both pupils and staff alike. As well as being an enjoyable week the pupils learned some very important messages about financial awareness. To date 68 people have joined our Credit Union.

Sponsored Skipathon



On Monday 4th November children in St Mark's took part in a special skipping event. This was to raise money for play equipment for an outdoor play and learning area that is being created beside our new extension. We are delighted to inform that the amount raised is a terrific £800. Thank you to all children, parents & carers for their tremendous effort and generosity.

Primary Proms

On Tuesday 19th November, the School Choir performed along with the Barrhead Cluster Schools at the St Andrew's Church. It truly was a musical extravaganza and the pupils should be exceptionally proud of their performance. They sang 3 songs on the evening and despite the daunting task of being first to perform, they did so with great gusto and confidence.

This is only the beginning of the choir performances as they will be performing again at Silverburn and the school Nativity during the month of December.

Watch this space for more information.

A big thank you to the families who came along to support the children at the performance.

Parents Evening

We are delighted to report that we had a 97.6% turnout for parents/carers for our parents evening on 7th November. The book fare was once again very well supported. All commission made, from the sale of books, will be used to purchase new books for our school.

Halloween Parade and Class Parties

Fun was had by all - Here are some pictures from our day!



Extension Update

I'm delighted to inform you that the roof is now on our new extension! Over the past few months the builders have been working extremely hard – they hope to have the extension water tight by the end of the year!

The pupil council met with an architect from East Renfrewshire Council last week to look at the internal specifications of each of the classrooms. The children have selected the colours of the doors, carpet tiles, vinyl flooring and have been involved in selecting materials for other areas in the classroom – I won't give away any of their choices but I'm sure the parents/carers will love them just as much as the children!

Our children have also been consulted about the new outdoor learning area which is planned to be completed in the last term.....more information to follow!!

I have taken a few pictures of the extension over the past few months – the progress to date has been amazing!. I'm sure you will see a huge transformation in our school!!



Christmas Lunch

9th – 13th December will be Turkey and Tinsel week in the school kitchen where festive treats will be on offer. Thursday 12th will be the festive lunch with turkey, etc being served. The menu will be distributed to the classes nearer the time



Christmas Fair Update



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent Council for all their hard work in preparation for our Christmas Fair. Once again it was a huge success – the kids really enjoyed their day. The primary 1's along with every other year group enjoyed their visit to see Santa! The Parent Council has informed me that they have raised over £1000 in clear profit! Thank you to everyone for their continued support.

Dates for your Diary

25 th November	Scottish Book Week
27 th November	P1 Mad Hatter Tea Party (and book gifting)
29 th November	Year of Faith Mass in school hall
29 th November	St Andrew's Family Night 7pm
1st December	The Mass of Enrolment for pupils in primary 3
2 nd – 6 th December	P7 Ardentiny Trip
4 th December	Parent Council meeting St Luke's High School
6 th December	P5 First Friday Mass St John's Church all welcome
10 th December	ACE pupil Trip
11 December	P1-P3 Nativity afternoon performance 1.30pm
12 th December	P1-P3 Nativity evening performance 7pm
20 th December	Final Advent Mass in School Hall All Welcome

Gerard J. McLaughlin

Gerard J. McLaughlin
Head Teacher

Anyone still wishing to sign up for e-mail communication please complete slip below

E Mail Account

Yes I would like to receive correspondence by E-Mail

Childs Name/ Class _____

Parents E-Mail Address (please print) _____

Signed _____ Dated _____

I have received and read the September '13 newsletter. (Please tear off and return to the school).

Name of child..... Room.....

Signature of Parent/Carer

We value your comments and/or suggestions

