

**St Gerard's Primary School
Parent Newsletter
December 2012**



Christmas Fayre
Our 2012 Christmas Fayre starts after 11am Mass on Sunday 2nd December. Please arrive around 11.45am and start your Christmas shopping early. We will have Santa arriving at the school to help us celebrate this great day. There will be lots of stalls, tea and coffee as well as fantastic cakes and biscuits. And we have the return of the Reindeer Rodeo so come along and have a lovely day. Donations for the Christmas Fayre can still be sent in and will be gratefully received. We are looking for bottles, tins, toys, books and other items that would help make the Fayre a success.

Christmas Party dates
The Christmas Party dates are as follows

P4 & 5 Thursday 13th December
P6 & 7 Friday 14th December
P1, 2 & 3 Wednesday 19th December

Children can bring in their party clothes to get changed at lunchtime or they can have a home lunch. Lunch times will be as normal and children in P1, P2 & P3 can be collected from the usual entrance in the infant playground. Please return them to the school main entrance. Any pupil in P4-P7 going home can be collected and returned to the main entrance.



School Show
Christmas Season is well underway at school. We are preparing for our infant nativity and our upper school show, "Papa Panov." Tickets are still available at the school office priced at £3. The Show will go ahead on Tuesday 4th December at 1pm, Wednesday 5th December at 1pm and Thursday 6th December at 7pm. Tuesday is our Dress Rehearsal and is free to pensioners. On Tuesday and Wednesday the show will start at 1pm and not 1.30pm as stated on the ticket. If your child has been given a list of items required for the school show please send them in before Friday's dress rehearsal in a bag clearly marked with your child's name on it. We will be having an early lunch and it would be helpful if all children remained at school that day to help with the preparation. At the school show we will be selling items ongoing from the Fayre as well as the usual raffles.

Christmas Dinner
Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday 12th



December. Please fill out the menu request and return to the school as soon as possible. Once again we will be looking for helpers to make the occasion a memorable one for the children. If you can give an hour or two of your time please let the office staff know.

Carol Singing at Tesco

Our Primary 7 will be going with Miss Manley to sing carols at Tesco on Tuesday 18th December at 1.30pm. Again, parent helpers will be greatly appreciated. Please come along and support our children as you do your Christmas Shopping.



Hattonlea Nursing Home Visit

Our Primary 7 pupils will be visiting the Hattonlea Nursing Home to sing Carols on Wednesday 19th December at 11am. This is something the school has taken part in for some years and I know the staff and residents at Hattonlea value it. Miss Manley will be organizing the visit and would be grateful for any parent helpers on the day. If you can help please let the office staff know as soon as possible.

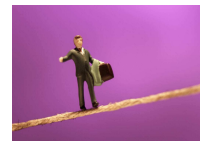


Parents as Partners

Our Partners in Learning day is on 13th December 2012. Your child's jotters will come home on this date and should be returned the following day Friday 14th December. Please have a look at your child's strengths progress and achievements and fill out the sheet inside their Mathematics and Story Writing jotters. This should be an opportunity for discussion so allow your child to explain what they have achieved and celebrate this with them. Remember to challenge them when creating targets and next steps in their learning.

Kilbowie feedback

What a week we had in Oban at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre. Our primary 7 pupils were a credit to the whole school community. We took part in all the activities and we even walked into Oban for a late night bag of chips. A huge thank you to Miss Manley, Mrs. Brownlie and Mrs. Armstrong for all their help in making the trip a great success.



George Bowie & Radio Clyde!

Massive congratulations to Abby Traynor in P5. Abby contacted George Bowie at radio Clyde to take part in the "Cool Ride to School" event. And she won! Many of you will have heard the radio Clyde show on the morning of Friday 16th November. Abby and her friends were chauffeur driven to school and George and the team came to visit the school for a very special assembly at 11 o'clock. The only sad part was that Mr. Conaghan, Miss Manley, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Brownlie and the P7 pupils were at Kilbowie. Such is life! Well done Abby, and we hope you had a great day as a St. Gerard's celebrity.



School Uniform

The 40th anniversary uniform is selling well and we hope to have all our children in shirt and anniversary tie for the new year. The anniversary clothing is also available as a v-neck purple top which would show off our tie. All uniform can be purchased from La Mirage in Motherwell and Bambinos in Bellshill.



Possible Closure & Glow

We are entering that period of the year from now to possibly the end of February where inclement weather could cause the closure of the school. It may also be the case that the school may have to close early due to adverse conditions. Can you ensure that the school has the most up to date mobile numbers in case we need to inform you of such closure? Can you also check the North Lanarkshire website for information or look at the school website at <http://www.st-gerards.n-lanark.sch.uk> if a closure seems probable.



Our school has started a blog called "Brilliant Bloggers" This can be found at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/StGerardsBlog/>

We will also use the blog to inform you about closures.

If the school is closed your child can carry out school tasks by logging on to Glow and carrying out the work set. A paper copy of the work accompanies this newsletter, please keep safe if you do not have access to Glow.

When children are logging onto Glow at home please do not change the password, instead please make a note of need to change or any other difficulty in the Learning Diary for the teacher to fix.

Helpers & After School Clubs

We are always looking for parents and grand parents to help us out with school trips. This is very important, as we must have an appropriate adult to child ratio. If you are available during the school day and would be happy to help out please pass your contact details to the office staff, it will be greatly appreciated.



We are always looking to put on after school clubs for our children and I am sure we have excellent footballers, athletes, artists and musicians among our parent body who would be happy to take an after school club for children or indeed the staff. This could be for a 6-8 week block during the year or could be on a regular basis. If you are able and keen to do this our children would be delighted and the school would be happy to purchase any equipment necessary. Please give this serious consideration, as learning, fun and enjoyment don't finish when the 3 o'clock bell goes. Please get in touch and let us know if this is something you would be happy to get involved in. If you have a few friends you could get together and offer the children a super experience; please give it serious thought.

Packed Lunch Service

Please remember the kitchen are offering a packed lunch service and menus can be filled in at breakfast club or straight after school. Cost is £1.75



Athletics Club

Our St. Gerard's Athletes recently took part in Cross Country competition at Wishaw Sports Centre on the 15th

November. As usual our athletes performed well with Charley Russell & Louise



Teevan coming 1st and 2nd respectively from the girls' P6 race and our P6 Boys were third and will compete in the finals in the new year. Congratulations to the whole team with a huge thank you to Mrs. McCluskey and Mrs. Lynch our Olympian coaches.

Anniversary 40th

The Bishop has been in contact and has kindly agreed to our invitation to celebrate, in thanksgiving, our 40th Anniversary.

The mass will take place at St. Gerard's Church on Friday 11th October 2013 at 2pm followed by



tea/coffee & cakes at the school.

Please, if you can mark this date in your diary and come along and help us celebrate this important milestone in our school's and indeed Bellshill's history.

Christmas Holiday d d d d d

The school will close on Friday 21st December 2012 at 2.30pm and will re-open on at 8.55am on Monday 7th January 2013

Ian Conaghan

