

# St Gerard's Primary School Parent Newsletter February 2014



**D**ear Parents/Carers  
I am sure everyone will be pleased that the dark mornings and evenings seem to be approaching an end. I always look forward to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March and consider that Spring has sprung. While this is so, we have to remember that the weather is never kind so please make sure you wrap up your children for the months ahead. We look back on February as a very productive month for the school with a lot of achievements and developments. We also look forward to Lent and the coming weeks leading up to the Easter holidays.



**F**irst Communion  
We pray for our children in P4 as they continue to prepare for their First Communion in May of this year. As part of the celebration we are looking for volunteers to help with the traditional

breakfast for the children after the mass. This will be held at the school and should only take up a few hours on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> May. If you are able to help, please let me know as soon as possible.



The milk of human kindness is found all the time. A kind Bellshill individual contacted the school and has donated an unused First Communion dress. The dress is in immaculate condition and we are extremely grateful for the kindness shown to our school. If you think your daughter could use this dress, please contact me. All conversation would be in the strictest of confidence.

**A**sh Wednesday  
Ash Wednesday is on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. Mass and the distribution of ashes will take place at St. Gerard's Church at 11.15am. If you can, please come and join us at also the church. Mass will be at 7.30pm that evening.



**L**ent  
During lent we will be raising funds for Missio, SCIAF & HCPT. We will be encouraging children to consider parting with some pocket money and take part in activities to that end. During lent Fr. McGoldrick will be celebrating mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8.15am and 9.30am. Please encourage your child to attend the 8.15am mass. They can then attend the breakfast club before the start of the school day.

**F**irst Confession Dress  
Primary 3 celebrated their First Confession. Many thanks to Fr. McGoldrick

and with Cahill

this wish

best their faith journey.



Canon Mahoney along Mrs. Brown and Miss for their hard work in preparing the children for wonderful evening. We all the children and families our prayers and wishes as they continue on

**A**nniversary Open Days  
 Our anniversary open days were a great success. St. Gerard's was open for two days and many parents and former pupils joined us to reminisce through old photographs and report cards. Our children prepared their own memories and experiences of St. Gerard's and celebrated their work in our open areas throughout the day. Many thanks to all those who sent in photographs and other memorabilia for this occasion. I hope everyone liked the medals we had created to mark the anniversary that every child in the school received.



**K**ilbowie  
 Our P7 travel to Kilbowie for what will be a great week of outdoor activities. Miss Manley, Miss Lynch and Mrs Armstrong will be heading north to Oban with the children. We wish them well; they will return with many a story that they will recall many a year to come. Parents can follow our P7 children by logging on to school blog at



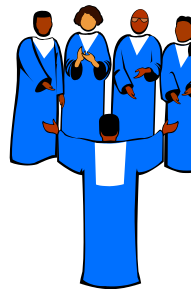
for the  
<http://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/StGerardsBlog>

**S**taff News  
 Many of you will be aware of the significant staff changes at St. Gerard's. We are delighted that Mr. Harkins has joined the staff and is making a big impact with our P4 class. Mrs McCallum will be returning to the school on the 12<sup>th</sup> March and I am sure you join with me in welcoming her back. While we are excited at her return she wishes to settle back without fuss and it would be greatly appreciated if this could be respected. She takes up the position of P7 teacher

**M**iss Manley as you know has been seconded to the Literacy Base working out of Noble Primary School. This is a fantastic opportunity and the school is very proud of her appointment. It is with mixed emotion that we wish her well in this new and challenging role of supporting literacy development across the authority. She takes up her position on the 12<sup>th</sup> March and we wish her every success.



**S**chool Choir  
 Our school choir will be competing at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on March. Our children have been working with Heather Ewart towards this event. It promises to be great occasion and I am certain our children will make St. Gerard's very proud.



**C**ross Country Team  
 We took a group of 48 P5 – P7 cross country runners to Wishaw Sports Centre. The weather was cold and wet, conditions were very muddy and our runners competed as if their life depended on it. They were fantastic! We await the full results next week and hopefully we have some of our team making it to the finals later in Spring. A huge thank you to Mrs. McCluskey, Mrs. Dooey & Mr. Maxwell for getting them into shape for this event and well done to all our parent helpers on the day which went very smoothly. Of course a congratulations to all our runners.



**A**nniversary Quiz Night  
 We will be holding an Anniversary Quiz Night at the school on the 30<sup>th</sup> May. The quiz will be a family night with disco after. Please bring your own refreshments.

**S**chool Show  
 We will be holding our school show at the end of this term on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. Ticket details will come out in due course.

