

# Kirkintilloch High School



*wishes you a very merry christmas*



Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the last week of this winter term, we are providing you with a bumper Christmas edition of our newsletter. Why? Simply because there is so much to report—in fact editing the newsletter is becoming

more and more challenging as one news item competes very strongly with another!

We were saddened and shocked by the untimely death in early November of our ICT technician, Andrew Hardie. A former pupil of the school, Andrew was a popular member of staff whose genuineness, friendliness and loyalty will be sorely missed. Our thoughts remain with his fiancée and his family as we approach the Christmas period.

This term has seen our reputation as a caring school grow through great fundraising efforts for charity. Jeans for Genes Day in October and our fundraising for Children in Need raised in excess of £1300.

Continuing the theme of the caring school, we are delighted to report that around fourteen senior pupils have undertaken training with ENABLE, the mental health charity and have just established a befriending programme with pupils of similar ages at Merkland School. A bowling evening has already been hailed a success and further events are planned in the coming weeks. It is commendable that our young people are demonstrating such a strong sense of community spirit

In mid-November, Ms McCloy and Ms McLaughlin spent three days in Amsterdam, visiting the Anne Frank Museum and Westerbork Concentration Camp as part of a study tour organised by LTSotland. Their research and experiences will be put to good use in our annual Holocaust Memorial

Day Assembly in late January.

On Monday 15 December we will welcome Ms McKellar to the Home Economics Department. We wish Ms McKellar well in her new post and look forward to working with her.

Finally, on behalf of the staff and pupils, I would like to wish you and your family a healthy and restful Christmas break.

Regards

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*Winter 2008*

## *Christmas Concert*



Please try to join us and support the pupils in our last Christmas Concert in the present school!

It will take place on Tuesday 16 December at 7.30 and will provide an opportunity for our young people to demonstrate their not inconsiderable talents! Featuring will be the school orchestra, the jazz band, the samba band, the vocal group and a host more.

Tickets are available from the school office, priced £3.00 and £2.00 (concession).

## Links with Moonekera School in Malawi

Letters arrived this week from our link school. The new headteacher, Mrs. Violet Lumbe is very keen to work in partnership with the school and has provided us with a lot of information about

her school. We sent out two cameras and we look forward to getting the photographs developed and put on display in the school. A number of pupils across the year groups in our school

have written to pupils in Malawi and the children in Malawi have written back. We hope to do some joint project work with them in the future. The children have talked about local food in their

letters and we would like to tell them about our traditional foods too.

## Scottish Opera Masterclass



This term some of our senior vocal pupils have had the opportunity to take part in the first of two vocal masterclasses directed by Scottish Opera.

These master-classes are designed to assist pupils with their exam preparation as well as developing their overall vocal technique.

The initial master-class focused on the interpretation of the song and techniques to develop the tone quality of the voice. The second master-class will further develop these areas with the main area of focus being performance techniques.

## EDC Gala Concert

Congratulations to Ruth Patterson, Heather McCallum and Gavin Paterson for securing their places to perform as part of the orchestra at the prestigious Gala Concert, held last week at the Royal Concert Hall.

## Fair Trade

The group provided a stall at the Primary 7 Open Evening and organised a staff coffee morning for Children in Need. £100 was raised as a result of the coffee morning and a fair trade hamper raised £40 for the Link School in Malawi. The hamper was won by Mr Kay in the Technical Department and he enjoyed winning the various fair trade items. The group intends to have a stall at each parents' evening in the school and they hope to organise more coffee mornings for staff to raise more money for the link school in Malawi.

## Back Pack Appeal

The RMPS Department would like to thank all the staff and parents who handed in back packs for Malawi. This is part of the Mary's Meals Campaign, which is an initiative of Scottish International Relief. The back packs have been uplifted from the school and will now be on their way to help poor families in Malawi who will make good use of the items in the back packs. Very often these families cannot afford to provide even basic items for the children's education, which is the best way that a poor child can escape from poverty in later life.



erty. Leaflets can be obtained

from the RMPS department and the boxes can be handed in there to be taken to the local warehouse for dispatch. The boxes should be handed in preferably before the end of term although consignments will be sent out later.

## Operation Christmas Child

We are collecting shoeboxes again this year and if you would like to participate then you can obtain a leaflet from the RMPS department. The boxes go to a number of different countries where children are disadvantaged. A simple act of generosity gives hope to children who are caught in the midst of war, natural disasters and extreme pov-

## Dragon's Den

A team of S3 entrepreneurs from the Home Economics and Design and Technology departments have formed a Design and Catering Company to design and re-brand the dining experience in East Dunbartonshire's eight secondary schools.

They will compete against other secondary schools within East Dunbartonshire and present their bid to the Council's Dragons' Den – a panel comprising of the Council Leadership and Facilities Management.

The school's company known as 'Pod' is working to create a new logo which will represent school dining. They will also consider product ranges, weekly menus, pricing, presentation of food and packaging as part of their proposal, which they will present to the Dragons' Den in January. The winning entry will be used by the council to create new branding in East Dunbartonshire secondary schools and improve the whole dining experience for staff and pupils – Watch this space!



## Modern Languages

Classe 1K1 had a braw, bricht day when they celebrated Saint Andrew's Day in French in the true spirit of the Auld Alliance. Pupils spoke, sang and danced traditional Scots material en français, swirling saltires and shaking percussion instruments along the way. Among other things, they sang 'La Fleur d'Écosse' (Flower of Scotland), 'Loch Lomond', 'Charlie est mon chéri' (Charlie is my darling), 'La Fuite vers Skye' (The Skye Boat



Song), and 'Ce n'est qu'un au revoir, mes frères' (Auld Lang Syne).

Readings of customs and poetry were done by Madame Glencross, classroom assistant, Marine Gelard, French assistant, and Madame Fitzgerald, class teacher. Reference was made to our partner school in Malawi, and an account of the event was forwarded to the school there. Pupils supped 'l'autre boisson nationale' (the other national drink), and sampled 'du sablé' (shortbread).

Work is underway on a French GLOW group in the Kirkintilloch High School Cluster. Mrs Elaine Hepburn of Twechar Primary, who is spearheading the initiative,

has designed a web page, so we are ready to light up Kirkintilloch with messages and talk, from primary to secondary, and from primary to primary!

Senior pupils visited the Glasgow Film Theatre to see Joyeux Noël, a film that told the story of a cease fire for Christmas between French, German and Scottish soldiers during the war. The film was fantastic and thoroughly enjoyable.

They also had an opportunity to visit the Alliance Française. Here are some of the pupils' comments:

*'The visit to the Alliance was a new discovery for me. However, I was delighted to find the French resources available to me in the library and I didn't hesitate to become a member'*

*'A worthwhile experience and a good day out with my classmates!'*

*'Good to return to the GFT. It's a great place to watch different films and to hear them in different languages'*

## ICT : Business Education

The ICT Department will soon welcome Nicky Hannaway, a Glasgow University PhD Computing Science student who is going to spend some time with our Higher, Intermediate 2 and Standard Grade computing students.

Nicky will be leading a few workshops with the pupils to try to add another dimension to the Systems Unit. These workshops will be stimulating, fun and will demonstrate how computing systems work in an active learning environment. Nicky will be able to share his experiences as a Computing Science student with our pupils and give an insight into university life.



## P7 Open Evening



Parents and P7 pupils from our associated primary schools had an enjoyable evening recently as part of our primary: secondary transition programme. This evening represents the official start to a comprehensive programme of activities to support the young people as they prepare to make the move to the 'big school.'

Following an initial introduction to Kirkintilloch High School, the pupils and their parents were escorted by

## Talking for Kirkie

Some lucky people are blessed with the gift of the gab, the ability to captivate others with words and it now seems that our own silver-tongued Douglas Loan of S3 can be included in that category!

Douglas finished a very close second in the junior section of the Kirkintilloch Speakers' Annual Speech Contest, beating off competitors from Lenzie Academy, St Ninian's High School, Turnbull High School and Kilsyth Academy in the process. Michael Low from Bishopbriggs Academy was the eventual winner.

Douglas' speech 'Two in a Million' concentrated on his relationship with his grandparents, both of whom sat proudly in the audience.

This is only the second attempt in recent years at taking part in this illustrious competition and to attain second place at this stage is very creditable. Well done, Douglas!

our senior pupils on a tour of a number of departments where they saw some of our current pupils at work. Parents saw some of the methodologies used in 21st century education and were even tested on their knowledge and ability to tackle some mathematical problems!

All of the P7 pupils left

with a bag containing some crocus bulbs and a set of instructions! The purpose of the little project is to demonstrate how the skills pupils use across almost all curricular areas can be applied to a simple activity like planting and growing crocus bulbs! A Curriculum for Excellence in action!

Winter 2008





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Gregg Wylde

## Where is he now...?

If you buy the Evening Times, you may have read a recent article about Gregg Wylde, one of our more recent former pupils who is carving out a successful career in the world of professional football, being tipped already as a 17 year old to make a big impact on the Scottish game.

It is well documented that Rangers has struggled to find quality natural left-sided players in recent

years but it looks as if they won't have to wait much longer. The winner of the Clydesdale Bank Rising Star for October Award, Gregg finds himself on the verge of realising his childhood ambitions. He was signed three years ago from Celtic after being with them since he was seven but Rangers is the only place he has ever wanted to be.

Gregg says, "Coming into Murray Park every

morning is fantastic. It is a bit of a dream as you are working with guys like the captain Barry Ferguson and big Davie Weir and they have been your heroes since you were a kid. But the main thing is that when you work with the first team you concentrate on soaking up every minute and learning as much as you can from it"

Surely a good piece of advice for all our young people.

## Macbeth



In the last newsletter, we told you about our impending appearance at the Schools' Shakespeare Festival where our pupils were performing Macbeth.

Well, we are now able to report a major success at the festival which was held in October at the Mitchell Theatre.

Competing against the Falkirk Youth Theatre and St Thomas Aquinas School, our pupils excelled in every aspect of their performance. It was wonder-

ful to be in the audience to witness the strength and depth of the performance—a comment echoed by the festival director in his summing up at the end.

Our pupils and your children did us proud, not just on the festival evening but also in their school performance two days before.

The image on the left shows a compilation together with a cast list.

We look forward to the next performance!

## Poetry Competition

Caitlin Barnwell and Emma Sinclair from 1b2 have put forward entries for the **Big Green Poetry Machine** poetry competition! This is a national competition and poems have to be on an ecological or humanitarian theme.

As this is a major national competition, we know that the standard will be very high and we wish our pupils luck!

## Hallowe'en Disco



Thanks to the efforts of staff and senior pupils, our S1 and S2 pupils had a great evening held at the end of October to celebrate Hallowe'en.

With little persuasion and for many no persuasion at all, almost everyone dressed up in a fine array of outfits and danced the night away to Clockwork Orange—a local disco.

Our PTA, in their first major pupil focused event, provided the refreshments.

Here we see the prizewinners whose inventiveness knew no bounds! Also getting in on the act is Mr Derrick—he is **NOT** the skeleton!

## Dates for Your Diary

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 15 December           | S4 pupils return after prelim exams          |
| 16 December           | Christmas Concert                            |
| 17 December           | S1/2 Christmas Dance                         |
| 18 December           | Christmas Service                            |
| 19 December @ 2.30    | School closes for Christmas                  |
| 5 January 2009 @ 8.55 | School re-opens                              |
| 12 January            | S5/6 prelim exams start                      |
| 19 January            | Guidance interviews start for S4 pupils      |
| 20 January            | Careers talks start for S4 pupils            |
| 21 January            | S4 reports issued to parents                 |
| 28 January @ 3.15     | S4 Parents' Consultation Meeting             |
| 4 February @ 7.00     | S5/6 Parents' Consultation Meeting           |
| 5 February            | Careers talks start for S2 pupils            |
| 11 February           | Info Evening for Parents of S4/5 pupils      |
| 19 February           | S2 reports issued to parents                 |
| 24 February @ 7.00    | S2 Parents' Consultation Meeting             |
| 3 March               | Information Evening for Parents of S2 pupils |
| 5 March               | S5/6 reports issued to parents               |

## The New School

Many of you have commented on the unusual and quite spectacular angular façade on the Oxbang PS side of the school which leads to a curved section of wall housing the drama and music departments. This angular section houses a conference room in which we hope to have stained glass panels inserted into some of the existing windows.

Morgan Ashurst, the builders, have presented us with a framed aerial photograph of the new school, showing the

progress of the construction.

We hope to learn just after Christmas whether we are on schedule for the original entry date of end March/beginning of April.



## Work Experience

S4 pupils completed their work experience week in September. Glowing reports received from many of the employers described the interest, enthusiasm and capabilities demonstrated by our pupils. It has proved to be a very successful part of the S4 curriculum and for many it is the first opportunity to experience the world of work. The overall

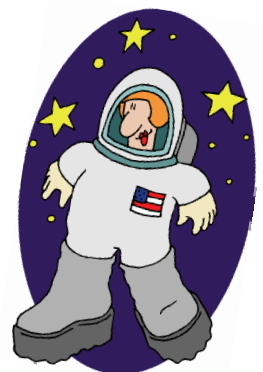
aim is to develop pupils' employability skills and provide opportunities for them to appreciate the disciplines of the workplace.

Most of our pupils chose their placement from the opportunities offered on the EDC database while a few opted for self-found placements with relatives or friends.

It is our intention (and hope) to increase the range of opportunities available to our pupils for 2009 and **this is where you can help!**

East Dunbartonshire Council is continually looking for placements throughout the year and would be only too happy to visit any workplace to discuss the possibility of placements being offered. Would your place of work be willing to offer

a placement? If you are able to help or would like to discuss this further, please contact Maureen Hayworth, acting PT Guidance, for more information.



## Glow1

Our S6 Art & Design students have been at the cutting edge of Glow developments, participating in a project involving Willie Rodger, a prestigious local artist. Through the use of technology, Willie ran a techniques workshop before pupils embarked on their own work which they in turn uploaded onto the Glow website. Willie then held a Glow Meet in which he worked directly with the pupils, offering advice and support. The project will culminate in the official opening of an exhibition of all the participating schools' work on 12 December!

## Credit Crunch and Crash

Just last week, senior students from both Business Studies and Modern Studies were invited to attend the prestigious event 'Credit Crunch and Crash' - an explanation of the current economic crisis by senior economists at Heriot Watt University.

The event attracted 300 students from schools around Scotland - including incidentally Tony Blair's old school Fettes.

There were four guests on the panel who were all chief economists either from the

## Glow2

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A new internet safety leaflet, entitled, Keeping Up with Children on the Internet, approved by the GLOW Project Board and aimed at parents, carers and teachers is available on the school website as well as the East Dunbartonshire Council website.

world of banking, academia or government. Each gave a short address on their take on the crisis before opening up to questions from the floor.

Our very own Mark Nugent was the first to ask a question. He asked the panel whether they thought we were seeing a return to Keynesian economics, before Stewart McCahill started an exchange, the like of which Jeremy Paxman would have been proud!

Stewart opened by asking the panel whether they could justify 300 billion dollars being handed out to banks when the developing world owed less than half of that amount. He followed up by reminding the panel that the bad decisions they - as the people at the top - have made is having a very real impact on people's lives and is not just an abstract academic exercise.

Kirkintilloch High Students stole the show and it may well be us who produce the next Prime Minister!



## Inter-house

The third annual Inter-house championship is well under-way. The levels of participation and play this year during football and basketball were higher than ever before. The football competition was played out in surprisingly bright weather conditions during October. The league table was extremely tight following the football with every House winning at least one of the year groups. Kelvin secured the girls' competition after a dramatic penalty shoot out with Wallace. In the boys' competition, Bruce claimed top spot in S1 and S2. However, the S3 and S4-6 Wallace boys secured much needed points after well deserved wins.

The league table didn't remain tight for long after Kelvin won all the boys' basketball competitions. Bruce and Wallace boys can thank the girls for keeping them in with a shout of the championship this year. Wallace girls won the S1 and S2 competitions whilst Bruce House Captain, Lucy Currie, led her S3-6 team to victory with two outstanding displays.

Interhouse League Table:

Kelvin – 280

Bruce – 230

## Active Schools

The school has been as busy as ever offering pupils a wide range of activities before, during and after the school day to keep them fit and healthy. Along with recreational clubs, the school attempts to enter teams into regional and national competitions whenever possible.

The **U16 basketball** team has had a promising start to the Glasgow League. After being comprehensively beaten by

Lourdes Secondary, they lost narrowly by 3 points against St Rochs after a good team display. However, victory eventually came in the most unlikely of circumstances. With a threadbare team travelling to Hermitage Academy it looked like a 3<sup>rd</sup> straight defeat was on the cards. Against all the odds the boys put in a fantastic performance winning 38-18. A special mention must go to Scott McMaster who scored 18 points and weighed in with countless assists. The boys continue their league campaign after Christmas.

After two successful years at S1/2 level, the **netball** team entered an S3/4 team into the EDC league. Both teams managed victories over Douglas and suffered defeat at the hands of Bishopbriggs. There are a number of games scheduled for the girls in the coming weeks.

In **football**, the U13 boys have had some success at the Soccer One festivals held at the new Celtic FC training facility in Lennoxtown. New coach Mr Luisi singled out Jordan Whiteman, Jack McGavin and Patrick Hopkins for special praise after some terrific performances and cracking goals. They were knocked out of the Scottish Cup by Larbert HS.

The U14 boys are still participating in the Scottish Cup after a 3-1 victory over Coltness HS in Round 2.

A dramatic penalty shoot out victory over St Mungo's has been the highlight of the U15 boys' season so far after finishing the league campaign winless. The boys face Greenfaulds HS in Round 3.

The U16s are undefeated in the league so far after registering wins against St Ninian's and Douglas.

Lenzie held their annual **gym-**

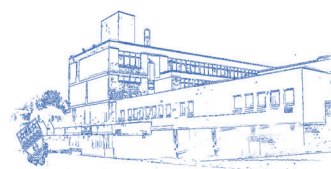
**nastics** festival in November. Eight S1-3 pupils represented the school. Although the competition was fierce the girls performed excellently against more experienced competition.

Mr Greer has been delighted to see a number of new faces join the regulars from last year as he continues to run a thriving **table tennis** club on Wednesday lunchtimes.

Mr Abubakr and Miss Eadie must be thanked for coming to the rescue of the **Parkour** club. Unfortunately the club was cancelled for a couple of weeks at the start of the year because nobody could be found to supervise it. However, after receiving Mr Abubakr and Miss Eadie's support the club has been on regularly after school.

Pupils were offered a 5 week block of **'Bollywood' dancing** free of charge which some girls in S3 thoroughly enjoyed. The next taster sessions will be running shortly after Christmas. There will be a 5 week block of **cheerleading** available to all pupils on a Thursday afternoon beginning on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The school has also been working hard to forge a partnership with **Kirkintilloch Golf Club**. It is hoped that pupils of all abilities will be offered the opportunity to hone their talents in the sport come 2009.

### Contact us ...



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