

Carluke High School

Newsletter – October 2009



We were delighted with the parental turnout at our Open Evening held before the October holiday and again at the S4 Parents' Evening last week. This first Parents' Evening of the session saw the highest turnout we have had for S4 in the last five years. This very welcome support from parents certainly serves as an encouragement for pupils and staff. Our next Parents' Evenings are S5/6 on the 5 November and S1 on 24 November.

The new Parent Council is up and running for this session, the office bearers are to be agreed at the next meeting on 18 November and a full list of members will be included in our next newsletter before Christmas.

Mrs Swan, PT Pupil Support for Kirkton, is going to be absent for the next few weeks. Ms Lindsay will assume responsibility for Kirkton from Monday 26 October.

James Yuille

Head Teacher

Royal Scottish Geographical Society

Our congratulations go to S3 pupils, Gillian Anderson and Gregor Duncan who have been awarded prizes in the 2009 John Bartholomew Essay Writing competition.

Both pupils have been invited with their families to attend a special prize-giving ceremony in Glasgow University on the 18th November where guest speaker, Vanessa Collingridge, is giving an illustrated talk on her recent television programme, "Scotland Revealed".

St. Andrew's Hospice

It has been a busy time for some pupils in the S5/6 Personal Development Class. They have been coordinating several fund raising events for St Andrew's Hospice. A whole school non uniform day was held on the 24th September when all pupils participating in this activity were asked to contribute £1 as a fee for coming to school in casual clothes. This fundraising brought in a total of £1033. This event was organised by Steven Andrew, Laura Brown, Luke Godden and Eilidh Kettles. This included advertising the event and providing each registration class with an instruction sheet, checklist and cash bag. The group also produced attractive stickers displaying the Hospice logo so that every pupil who made a donation to the

Hospice were able to show their support.

Several staff and pupils also recently took part in a fund raising race around Strathclyde Park to raise even more money for St Andrew's Hospice, whilst Mrs Craig and Mr Roberts raised funds by climbing Ben Nevis. This brought the final total from all these fund raising events to almost £1500. We were delighted to be able to send this cheque to St Andrew's Hospice.

Library

The school library is now open until 5pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings until Tuesday 24th November 2009. Pupils from all years are welcome to use the library to study and to complete homework.



Poppy Appeal

Given the casualties that are currently being suffered by our armed forces in Afghanistan, this year's poppy appeal will no doubt be especially important.

Poppies will be on sale in the school and we would like to encourage everyone to buy a poppy, not only for themselves, but also for their families. It continues to be important that we remember those who have died and those who continue to die in the wars in which our country is engaged.

Following a recent school visit to the Edinburgh International Book Festival, S2 pupil, Clara Robb, wrote about her experience of the event and of meeting famous authors.

On the 25th August the Library Reading Club went to the Edinburgh International Book Festival. We left the school at 8.30am in a minibus driven by Mr Shearer. When we arrived in Edinburgh we went straight into the Catherine MacPhail event.

It was very good, but we all agree she mentioned 'Greenock' far too much..... 'Greenock where I live, I'm from Greenock, Greenock where I'm from, In Greenock.....' perhaps as Mrs Martin says she is just proud of where she is from. Catherine was talking about

her new book "Grass". Grass is about a boy called Leo who witnesses one of the local drug dealers, 'Armour,' shoot and kill a man with a rifle. Leo is forced to become a hero and make the decision whether he will 'Grass' or not.

Once we had met Catherine MacPhail we took a short break as we waited on our next event. The next event was Malcolm Rose, an ex-chemistry teacher who writes thrillers and crime novels. Malcolm Rose's event was interesting and he really managed to get the audience involved. He told us about his latest series 'Traces'. Traces is about a 16-year-old detective and his forensic science robot. Traces is set in Britain but it is in an almost parallel universe.

Malcolm Rose was so sick of hearing southerners say "oh, it's grim up north" that he changed Britain so that Birmingham was the capital of England and everything above Birmingham was nice but anything below was a disgusting tip, a playground for rats, crooks and cockroaches. He also changed the education system so that when you came to high school you picked which career path you wanted to take and you would only do the subjects necessary then when you finished school you could be fast-tracked.

After Malcolm told us about the Traces Series he read us the first few pages of his book. It was very good and made me want to read more. Then he gave us a forensics exam and tested us to see if we would be able to prove he was at the Book Festival

and not tucked up in bed with swine flu. We managed to find several pieces of evidence.

When Malcolm Rose's event was over we had some lunch and then eventually we went back to school in the minibus. Overall the Book Festival was really fun and we had a great time, I would definitely go back next year.

Science Club

Carluke High School Science club is open to any S1 or S2 pupils who are interested in science. The Science Club takes place on Monday lunch times and pupils should see Miss Robb for further information.

Folk Music Trip

Pupils recently attended a concert by world-class Irish whistle and Uilleann pipe player Michael McGoldrick at Dunfermline's Carnegie Hall. Pupils enjoyed the band's fresh and energetic approach to traditional music, and although some participants are already members of the school Folk Band, for many it was an introduction to this style of music.

Fair trade

This is set to be yet another exciting year for the Carluke High School Fairtrade group. Many entertaining activities have been planned to involve the school and the wider community in Fairtrade.

As always, there will be a stall at each of the parent evenings this year, where we will be selling a variety of products including tea, coffee, sweets, juice, and of course our delicious and massively popular Fairtrade chocolate.

We are also continuing to endeavour to become a Fairtrade School. We have met most of the criteria and we are now awaiting feedback from the assessors. Hopefully we will have some good news for the next newsletter.

We are always thinking about new ways to promote Fairtrade in the school and with the help of some of our new members, we are considering a sponsored event. We will also be donating profits from the sale of "Dubble Bars" to McMillan Cancer Trust. The Fairtrade group are constantly looking for new members and fresh fundraising ideas, so if you are committed and interested in helping people through raising awareness of Fairtrade, and if you would like to join the group, then please contact Mrs McIntyre or Mrs Mitchell. Remember, all year groups are welcome.

Sporting Success

The U.K. school games are a prelude to the London Olympic Games in 2012 and are played in a variety of venues across Britain each year. The volleyball event was this year held in Cardiff where the venue acted as the perfect setting for what was a showpiece event. The competition is played in leagues with each country being split into regions.

Carluk High School were delighted to have senior pupils Andrew McGregor and Emma Clarkson both playing for and captaining their respective teams.

At the event, both players set an incredible level of performance and led their respective sides to their highest finish in the competition to date. Andrew captained the West side to the gold medal match, narrowly losing out to England Central in the final, whilst Emma captained Scotland East to fourth place, narrowly missing the bronze medal.

To further highlight Andrew and Emma's excellent contribution in the tournament, both were selected for the 'super six' which meant they were each regarded as one of the top six players in the tournament. This was a terrific achievement for both Andrew and Emma which reflects extremely well upon both themselves and Carluk High School.

Rugby

Our congratulations go to S4 pupils Robert Brown and Kris Stark who both play rugby for Hamilton Rugby Club and S3 pupil Ciaran Molloy, who were all selected earlier this year to play rugby for the district under 15 team, Lanarkshire Lions.

As a result of their performances all three boys were selected to go forward to the Glasgow under 15 development squad. This required them to attend a 2 day training camp during the October break, after which the squad will be reduced further and those selected will go on to further training sessions in February and in April.

The eventual aim is to pick a Glasgow North team to play Glasgow South with 15 boys from these 2 teams selected to attend the SRU training camp at Struan next summer. Everyone at Carluk High School would like to wish the boys good luck during these training sessions and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on their success so far.

Charities 2009

Welcome to the launch of this year's charities campaign which is this year entitled MasquerAID! Last year our intrepid team – with the support of parents, staff and local businesses - managed to raise an astonishing £21,600 and all profits were shared among local, national and international charities.

This year our senior pupils have had their heads down and brains engaged, coming up with new ideas and new ways of making this year's campaign exciting, fun and profitable for the many good causes who will benefit from their fund raising efforts.

Merchandise this year will include badges, keyrings, bears, bags and pens and will be available soon from senior pupils, and the Drama and RME Departments. Wednesday, 1st December is the date for our sponsored events day and a film studio will be running during lunchtime in the weeks leading up to the show itself.

The show this year will take place on, Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th December, whilst ticket prices this year will be, Tuesday: £7, Wednesday: £7.50 and the ever popular Thursday is £8

Auditions for the show are ongoing and the quality of this year's show promises to be exceptional. Watch out for further information.

Scholar

Heriot-Watt SCHOLAR is the world's largest e-learning education programme, with 100,000 registered users. Created by Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, SCHOLAR provides computer based learning materials to support teaching and learning in a wide range of subjects for S5 and S6 pupils.

Achieving potential

A recent survey showed that SCHOLAR had an 80% acceptance rating by teachers and that 95% of students would recommend the programme to a friend.

32% of the online study time is undertaken by students out of school hours.

Peak usage time is between 7pm and 9pm Monday to Thursday in direct competition with prime-time television.

A Password for Parents

In order to view the materials that SCHOLAR provides for your son or daughter, go to their website at <http://scholar.hw.ac.uk/> click on Scotland then "Try Scholar" on the left hand bar.

You will be presented with a preview of the available SCHOLAR courses. This is just a small sample of the entire course. If you would like to see more, contact info@scholar.hw.ac.uk for a password which will enable you to browse the content of the entire course.

Dates For Your Diary:

28 October –
S5/6 Halloween Dance

5 November –
S5/6 Parents' Evening

23 November –
Monitoring & Tracking Report (Except S4)

24 November –
S1 Parents' Evening

25 November -
S4 Prelims Begin

7/8/9 December –
Charities Shows

7 – 11 December -
S4 Work Experience

14 December –
Christmas Concert

15 December –
S1 Christmas Dance

16 December –
S2 Christmas Dance

17 December –
S3 & S4 Christmas Dance

21 December –
S5 & S6 Christmas Dance

22 December –
School closes at 14.30 for Christmas holidays

5 January –
School Reopens