

Carluke High School



Newsletter – December 2008 2008

As we move towards the Christmas holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout what has been a very busy term. As the events scheduled for these final weeks indicate: the S4 prelims having just finished; almost 220 S4 pupils out on work experience this week; our Christmas dances and Concert still to come. However, it has undoubtedly been a very successful term and we are very grateful for all

your co-operation and help in making this happen.

On behalf of all involved in the work experience we would like to thank all the businesses, companies and organisations who have offered placements to our S4 pupils. As ever, this has been greatly appreciated by pupils, parents and staff. We are very grateful for the huge amount of support we receive that allows this to work as well as it does.

Finally on behalf of all the pupils and staff we would like to offer our very best wishes to you and your family for Christmas and the New Year.

James Yuille

Head Teacher

Be Green

The eco-group are now recycling old mobile phones and printer cartridges (with the exception of Epson cartridges,) in the Recycloop scheme. Please send old mobile phones and printer cartridges to Mr Jamil in the science department

Clyde Valley & Dalziel on our home pitch. For those who remember playing on the old ash pitch you will understand how amazing this has been.

The new S1 team have been especially successful, winning all of the games they have played at their first tournament.

*Carluk High School
S1 Hockey Team*

Hockey Team Success

There has been an exciting start to the season for the Carluk High School Hockey Club as the new school pitch has been well and truly inaugurated.

Every week, three school teams train on the Astroturf pitch and have so far played matches against Coltness,

pupils have been given information on where and when to buy these. We would like to remind parents that pupils will not be allowed to attend a dance in the evening if they have been absent from school during the day. The only exceptions to this is where we have advance written notification from parents that their son / daughter is going to be absent, for example due to a hospital appointment. Please address any such letters to the respective Year Head listed below:

S1 - Mr Farquharson
S2 - Mr Roberts
S3 - Mr Robertson
S4 - Miss Ashwood
S5/6 - Mr Kerr

Christmas Dances

Tickets for the various dances are now on sale and

Maths Department Awards

Carluke High School is proud to announce the awards following the November 2008 Senior Mathematical Challenge. Gary Fairbairn won the best in school award and a silver certificate. Steven Chalmers was also awarded a silver certificate, whilst bronze certificates went to Jane Hamilton, Kieran Brooks and Katriona Sharkey.

Book Amnesty

The English department would again like to remind parents and pupils of the ongoing book amnesty. As an incentive to pupils who

have forgotten to return school books over the past few years, Carluke High School will be operating a Book Amnesty during November and December. If you do have any books at home, please bring them to the English department, who will distribute them to their rightful owners to save much needed resources.

Bah Humbug!

The spirit of Ebenezer Scrooge certainly seems to be an aspect of Christmas' past. S2 pupils in Miss Browning's English class have been creating Christmas parcels to send

with letters to soldiers in Afghanistan as a token of appreciation for their efforts. These parcels include basic necessities that many of us take for granted such as socks, deodorant, soap and food.

Pupils were learning about a number of different aspects of war as they were studying the contemporary novel 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas'.

Scott Callaghan (S2) said "I used my birthday money to buy things for the parcel to send. I realised how much I take for granted."

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 11 December

S1 & S2 Christmas Dance.

Monday 15 December

Christmas Concert.

Tuesday 16 December

S3 & S4 Christmas Dance.

Wednesday 17 December

S5 & S6 Christmas Dance.

Thursday 18 December

Lunchtime will be extended from 12.00 until 13.30.

Friday 19 December

S1/2 Carbon Challenge Roadshow held during the morning. School closes at 14.30.

Monday 5 January

School reopens at 08.50. S4 full report issued to parents

13, 14 & 15 January

Charities Shows

Tuesday 3 February

Monitoring & Tracking report issued to parents for pupils in all years except S2

Wednesday 4 February

S3 Parents' Evening 4.30 until 6.30 pm

New Year Resolutions

What do you want to achieve in 2009? Win the lottery? Win the X-Factor? Get signed by Rangers or Celtic?

Reality check! It's good to have a goal – something to aim for – but what's the point in having entirely unrealistic goals?

On the other hand, think about Alexandra Burke who was a finalist in this year's 'X-Factor'. Alexandria first entered the show in 2005 and Louis Walsh, one of the judges, felt that she was not strong enough to compete in the live show. What were you thinking Louis?

This year she has wowed over ten million viewers with her spine tingling renditions of classic hits, not to mention her energetic and vivacious dance moves, as bookies have

targeted her as the favourite to win. The winner will receive a one million pound record contract, release a single which is certain to reach the most sought after Christmas number one spot, embark upon a UK Tour and enjoy all of the associated fame and success.

This made us think...What if she had given up in 2005? Where would Alexandria be now? Living an unsatisfied life wondering what life would be like "*if only she had been the lucky one...*" The fact is that luck has nothing to do with it. Determination, practise, effort, sacrifice – oh and talent – have all made this possible.

Think about Alexandria Burke and we will ask you the question again. What do you want to achieve this year? It's up to you whether you achieve it or not.

Trip To Dynamic Earth

Forty S2 made another successful trip to Dynamic Earth earlier this month. Pupils followed a trail around the exhibition where they found out about the origins of the earth and what it is like to experience a volcanic eruption and an earthquake. They even had the chance to fly over a glacier. Pupils were also given information about the earth's prehistoric past and about present day

environments such as oceans, polar and tropical areas.

Later, staff from Dynamic Earth let pupils see more in depth information about various volcanoes and earthquakes including predications on the situation at Yellowstone National Park.

Annual Charity Show

Once again, everyone at Carluke High School has been plotting and planning different ways to allow you to demonstrate your charitable nature. Following last year's success, when over £19,250 was generously donated, we

hope that we can rely on your continued support.

Last week, members of our team visited Victoria Park Primary School which was a huge success. This year the fun included face painting and a chocolate fountain, both of which were favourites with staff and children.

Our show this year will take place on Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th of January 2009. Tickets are priced £7.50 for Tuesday and Wednesday and £8 for the ever popular Thursday night and will soon be available to pupils. Additionally, a variety of 'pZazz' merchandise is available and this year includes Christmas Cards, whilst our traditional range of soft toys has been expanded to include dragons and ducks.

Fair Trade

2008 has been an incredibly busy year for the Fairtrade group, who have been taking part in sponsored events, including a sponsored fast, whilst selling Fairtrade products at all parents evenings and at the open evening. This has helped us to promote Fairtrade, not only within the school, but also in the wider community.

Carluk High School is now also working towards becoming a Fairtrade School and with your help we should be able to make this happen in 2009.

Basketball

Our S1 Girls' Basketball team are scheduled to play either Bo'ness Academy or Boroughmuir High School in the quarter final of The Plate. This is the equivalent of the UEFA Cup for those of you that were wondering!

Our S2 Girls' Basketball team defeated Kinross High School before triumphantly defeating last year's semi-finalist, Earlston High School, 48-28, in an exciting game. They will now embark on the quarter final. This will be a tough match, but we have confidence in our young "ladies."

The Senior Boys demonstrated a strong sense of team spirit but were out-matched against Portobello in the 1st round of the Open Cup

and now play Stewart's Melville College in the 1st round of the Plate. In a recent friendly the boys defeated Hamilton College 37-33 with full participation from all players. It is hoped that we will host a Senior Boys' Tournament for schools in the Clydesdale area during January.