

Carl Luke High School

Newsletter – December 2009



We were delighted with how well our Official Opening ceremony went last week. There was nothing but praise from the guests who were very impressed with our pupils, especially the seniors involved in the ceremony.

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 ever, there is always much going on in the run up to the holidays. This includes: the S4 prelims having just finished; almost 240 S4 pupils out on work experience; the Charities shows on this week; our Christmas Concert and dances still to come. Once again we have had 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.

Similarly, we are indebted to parents and everyone in the local community for the support we receive for our Charities Programme.

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

Official School Opening

Carl Luke High School's Samba Band was in fine tune at the official opening ceremony last week. The colourful Brazilian sounds welcomed pupils, staff and invited guests.

Head Teacher, Jim Yuille after welcoming everyone to the ceremony said: "Pupils, parents and staff are delighted with our wonderful new school and we are pleased our guests have been able to join us on this special day in the school's history. There are many people in the audience who have made, and are making, a considerable contribution to the continuing success of Carl Luke High School."

The school captains – David Smith and Sarah Mundle then shared their thoughts on the old and new schools before Lisa Rattray sang a superb, specially worded, version of 'On My Own' from 'Les Miserables'.

Local Councillor Eileen Logan carried out the official duty of unveiling the plaque. She said: "I would like to acknowledge that the bedrock of success is laid

down by the staff and pupils who have helped to establish Carl Luke High as a school at the heart of the community.

"Carl Luke High School is undoubtedly a school where everyone is working together to ensure there is excellence in learning and teaching. It gives me great pleasure to officially open this fantastic new school. I am extremely proud of the way that pupils, staff and parents all pull together. The charity and fundraising events are legendary. More than £100,000 has been raised over the years and that must give everyone at Carl Luke High a huge sense of pride. This school can provide a great legacy to everyone who enters it."

Councillor Logan was presented with a beautiful print created by S6 pupil Amber Scott as a memento of the occasion. The opening ceremony was rounded off by a vote of thanks from the school captains and a fabulous version of 'Superstition' by the school's Jazz Band.



Early School Closure in the Event of Bad Weather

In the unfortunate event that the school requires to close due to adverse weather conditions, the following will apply:

- Bus pupils will be told to go to designated areas within the school building and will not be released until we know that their buses have arrived.

- Under no circumstances should bus pupils take it upon themselves to walk home. This is extremely dangerous at any time but particularly in difficult weather conditions.

- Members of the Senior Management Team (SMT) remain in school until all pupils are safely collected or appropriate arrangements made with parents. Pupils who know they will be unable to get into their own house or that of a friend, relative or emergency contact must report to SMT in the 'Street'.

- We would ask that you ensure that your son or daughter knows what they should do and where they should go in the event that the school is forced to close early due to bad weather. For bus pupils from outlying areas, this might include making arrangements to go home with a friend if the weather conditions prevent the bus driver being able to complete the normal route.

- It is not possible for the school to individually phone parents to advise of an early closure. However, a text message will be sent to all parents via our Groupcall system. We would be grateful if you would ensure we have an up to date mobile number for you otherwise a message will be sent to the home number.

- We understand that snow will always have its attractions to school pupils. Nevertheless, all pupils should be aware that deliberately throwing snowballs at staff, visitors to the school, cars, buses or any part of the building is unacceptable behaviour. Pupils involved will have their parents contacted and further sanctions may also be applied.

Christmas Dances

Tickets for the various dances are now on sale and pupils have been given information on where and when to buy these. Tickets will be available up until lunchtime on the day of each of the dances (apart from S5/6 which close on 11 December). It will not be possible to 'pay at the door'. 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

Santa Claus

S3 Business Management pupils have recently been busy undertaking a 'Letter from Santa' activity. Pupils have agreed to quality control measures and will prepare a set of accounts for the venture, whilst profits will be donated to charity.

Santa's Post Office is based in room D207, and there is still time to order your letter from Santa.

Renshaw Challenge

S1 pupils are busily making and decorating Xmas Cakes for our annual Renshaw Challenge, sponsored by Renshaw of Carluke. The final of the challenge takes place on 14th December. Good luck to all involved.

Christmas Concert

The Music Department are holding a Christmas Concert on Monday 14th December. Doors will open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets are priced at £4 or £3 for concessions. Please contact the Music Department for more details.

Parent Council

The Parent Council is up and running with a full complement of 15 parent members. The next meeting is on 13 January when thought will be given to organising a fundraiser. If you would like any information Margaret Wilson, the Parent Council Chairperson can be contacted through the school office.

National Entitlement Cards

All pupils should now have their NEC cards. These are used at the school canteen as part of the cashless school meals service and can be topped up at school. If they are lost they must be reported on 0845 7406080.

Christmas Can Appeal

It is once again time for our annual Christmas Can Appeal, and as such, we would like your child to bring in tins of food to school. On the final day of term, all of the tins we receive will be allocated and delivered to residents in local sheltered housing complexes and those who are housebound. Pupils are also asked to bring a tin of food with them to their Christmas dance. Thank you in advance for your donation.

Fairtrade School

The Fairtrade group would like to share the fantastic news that we are now officially a Fairtrade School!

We have been working very hard for the past 18 months to achieve this goal and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last few years by buying our delicious fairtrade products at parents' evenings, attending coffee mornings, sponsoring us or getting involved in our fairtrade lessons and competitions. We really appreciate it and couldn't have achieved this without you

Liz Lochhead Event.

Senior pupils have recently had the fantastic opportunity to work with the highly successful and acclaimed Scottish poet, Liz Lochhead. This poetry project has taken place over the course of 8 weeks, during which time Liz has set pupils tasks to develop their own poetic understanding and style.

This project was a virtual experience, using the Glow network, enabling Liz to 'enter' our classroom and to communicate directly with individual pupils. Pupils also had the opportunity to work with pupils from primary and secondary schools all over Scotland. Liz Lochhead even compared some of our pupil's work to that of famous poets, such as Norman McCaig and Seamus Heaney - so look out

for more of their work in the future.

Basketball Success

Having travelled down the day before from Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, The Nicolson Institute were in no mood to leave with anything less than a win.

The visitors rushed to an 8 point lead within the first few minutes of the game, but Carluke eventually found their rhythm coming back to win the 1st quarter 15-14. Coached by Mr Robertson and S6 pupil Emma Clarkson the aim was to tire out the bigger Nicolson team through tactical substitutions. The 2nd quarter ended with both teams on 28 points. Both teams upped their defence in the 3rd quarter, allowing very few scoring chances, so going into the last quarter the score was 36-34. Nicolson came out strong and soon had a 10 point lead, but a change of tactics by Carluke began to close the gap. With only 60 seconds remaining, Carluke drew level, tying the scores at 52-52. It was soon to be 54-52 with 50 seconds left. Despite a brave effort by Darion Nicol to stop the shot, the referee judged her to have fouled their best player sending her to the free throw line. She missed both free throws. Carluke took the rebound and after great team play Gillian Anderson sunk a beautiful basket to give a 4 point margin to the home team with 30 seconds left on the game clock. Nicolson then scored with only 12 seconds remaining, but with 4 seconds left, the ball was stolen and the visitors had a chance to level the match and take it into overtime. Carluke dug deep, played great defence and the shot never came. It was all over and for the second year in a row the girls reached the quarter finals.

Suffice to say there was a lot of celebrating, for this was an excellent win between two

evenly matched teams who played in a very sporting manner.

The Poppy Appeal

There was another magnificent response at Carluke High School to the annual appeal by **Poppy Scotland**. The collection, which was organised and administrated by sixth year pupils at Carluke High School, raised £1942.

Thanks are due to the many local shops and businesses which helped to sell the poppies. Special thanks also to Scott Melvin, Sarah Mundle and David Smith who so ably distributed and collected the poppies and collection cans. The impressive total is due to the generosity of the people and the pupils of Carluke. Thanks to all who contributed. We will be back again next year.

Mock Interviews

Mock interviews for 27 pupils took place in Carluke High School on 10th of November. The interviews were conducted by members of Clydesdale Rotary Club, who provide ongoing support to the school. The interviews were conducted on a one-to-one basis in the Pupil Support area and involved pupils each preparing a C.V in advance which indicated their future career options and their personal interests. The interviews lasted approximately 30 minutes and also included feedback on each pupil's performance. The questions asked were formal, thorough and detailed.

The pupils found the experience very realistic and helpful, and felt it was an effective simulation exercise that allowed them to experience a real life situation regarding work experience.

Carluke High School would like to thank The Clydesdale Rotary Club for putting so much time and effort into the evening. Yet again, they have proved to be a great source of help and encouragement to our school.

It's SHOWTIME!

It has been a busy week for the Charities team, culminating this week with our much anticipated show week. Last weekend we took over the checkouts for a bag packing weekend at Morrison's in Hamilton. Pupils lined up to pack bags looking very smart in their black and gold MasquerAID T-shirts. This money is being counted and will soon be added to the running total.

Last Tuesday saw the final of the talent competition take place. Pupils then had the opportunity to vote for their favourite act with the winners having a segment in the final show. Congratulations to the winners and well done to all who took part in the auditions. Wednesday of last week was our daft Wednesday when all of our sponsored events took place. The pupils took part in a Bounce to Belgium where they had four space hoppers in the Street and had to keep them bouncing all day. This was accompanied by many individual events – sponsored silences, wearing pyjamas to school and many more. The sponsorship money from these events is now starting to come in. Have we seen grown men cry? You bet we have when our regular Leg Waxing Shows took place on Wednesday and Thursday!

This year the team have been lucky enough to have been

invited to visit four of our associated primary schools to promote Charities. This has been done through a fun filled afternoon of games, workshops, and karaoke which was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. It should be recognised that our pupils were excellent ambassadors for the school receiving positive feedback from the primaries involved.

The 18th December is the date when the show goes on tour. As with previous years the show team will put on a special performance for the staff and pupils at Stanmore House. This is always a special date because of the warm reception we receive and the enthusiasm of the audience.

Finally, we have this week's event. The culmination of the past months of effort. The auditions, the rehearsals, and the sheer hard work, bring us to SHOWTIME. If you need reminding, the dates for the show are Tuesday 8th December, Wednesday 9th December and Thursday 10th December. Remember, all of the money raised goes to our nominated charities.

Please join us in making a difference.

The Steamie

A group of thirty S5 & S6 pupils were recently given the opportunity to watch a performance of "The Steamie", Tony Roper's tribute to the Glasgow community spirit of the 1950's, as part of their Higher Drama and Intermediate English courses. The welcome return of Roper's much-loved

comedy to Glasgow's Theatre Royal, as part of its Autumn tour, played to packed houses and starred Julie Austin as Magrit McGuire, Maureen Carr as Dolly Johnson, Kay Gallie as Mrs. Molly Culfeathers and Jacqueline Hughes as Doreen Hood.

Christmas Decorations for Sale

Our Personal Development class are making Christmas Decorations to sell. Large decorations cost £2, whilst small ones are £1.50.

If you would like to place an order please contact the Home Economics department.

Dates For Your Diary:
8/9/10 December – Charities Shows
Monday 14 December – Christmas Concert
Tuesday 15 December – S1 Christmas Dance
Wednesday 16 December – S2 Christmas Dance
Thursday 17 December – S3 & S4 Christmas Dance & S4 reports issued to parents
Friday 18 December Lunchtime will be extended from 12.00 until 13.30
Monday 21 December – S5 & S6 Christmas Dance
Tuesday 22 December – School closes at 14.30 for Christmas holidays
Tuesday 5 January – School Reopens