



Menziesshill High School

Newsletter

December 2011

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Movember fever hits Menziesshill

What is Movember I hear you say? Well that was the question that many a male member of staff of Menziesshill High School asked in the weeks running up to November this year as mysterious posters proclaiming the arrival of the event appeared throughout the school.

Movember was conceived to provide support to men's health through raising money for The Prostate Cancer Charity and the Institute of Cancer Research. During the month of November men are asked to start on the 1st of November with a clean-shaven face and then for the rest of the month, these selfless and generous men, known as Mo Bros, groom, trim and wax their way into the annals of fine moustachery while raising sponsorship money for the cause. Mo Bros effectively become walking, talking billboards for the 30 days of November and through their actions and words raise awareness by prompting private and public conversation around the often ignored issue of men's health.

So a fine upstanding group of Menziesshill's finest teachers took up the challenge and began growing their moustaches. After much grooming, cultivating and nurturing eight teachers along with the support of the staff and the pupils of Menziesshill High School managed to raise £300 in sponsorship for Prostate Cancer Awareness, and just to prove that Menziesshill go that little bit further than any other school the team decided to dye their "Mo's" for the last day of the event. Well done gents, Menziesshill salutes you.





It has been a very busy start to the session. The list of achievements so far this term alone is so long and I am sure you will read about them in more detail throughout this newsletter.

On return in August we were met with continued improving results particularly in senior school. This is extremely encouraging and illustrates the tremendous work done by the staff and the increased ambitions of our young people.

Last month this was further highlighted when an Inspector visited the school. He was specifically looking at the provision for Post 16 pupils in Dundee and we were chosen as a focus school. He commented on the positive ethos within the school, and in the focus groups of pupils, parents and partners it was stated:

Pupils felt well known and cared for.

Partners & Parents felt staff were relentless in their efforts to support pupils.

The development of Leadership in our prefects and their specific roles as Sports, Health, Learning & Teaching, Charities and Eco Prefects is becoming more identifiable. The Sports Prefects have helped organise Inter-house competitions, Learning & Teaching Prefects support study opportunities, The Eco Prefects are working with the Eco Group towards an Echo Award for the school and the Charities prefects have been active in promoting Remembrance Day and fund raising through the organisation.

Curricular development continues in S1 with the introduction of an Enterprise course, a Literacy across the Curriculum course and further up the school with Early Education and Childcare. All courses have been well received and the work being done is of the highest standard, developing entrepreneurial skills in young people, an awareness of the world of business, the need for literacy across all things in life and the connection to learning across the curriculum.

The Early Education and Child Care courses have full classes indicating the need to develop vocational options in schools and pupils are responding well in S3 and senior school. This course offers opportunities for pupils to go on into a career in care and the staff creativity has been in abundance as the courses evolve.

Internet Safety - CEOPS/Anti Bullying Message

We are constantly reading about horrific stories where young people are put at risk by predators who use the Internet to contact them and sometimes meet them. This is an unpleasant issue to discuss but one that cannot be ignored. This term, we held assemblies for pupils and training for staff. This was to show pupils the dangers of trusting people that you do not know on social networking sites. This has been followed up in Social Education and we have a trained school CEOPS Ambassador in Ms Elspeth Scott (School Librarian). As a result of serious concerns raised by Police and other agencies, I urge you to visit www.thinkyouknow.co.uk and enter the purely for parents section. You can also view the parent's guidance sheets which gives tips and suggestions of how best to look after your child's life online.

In addition we have highlighted to pupils the Anti-Bullying message and the fact that the majority of issues arise out with school and increasingly online.

I would ask that you think carefully about whether you allow unsupervised use by your child of social networking sites, such as Facebook. You may be confident in your child but it is difficult for them to distinguish if a contact is another youngster or not, and they may also feel pressure to join in derogatory comments about others. If you are monitoring this and talking to them about the dangers it may be all the support they need.

Parent Council

The Parent Council started the session by actively taking part in the successful Menzieshill Festival, providing stalls, cake & candy. Over this term the Parent Council have met regularly and the membership has increased. They continue to be very supportive of the school and in particular are focusing on raising funds in order that we can continue to offer Easter School.

We plan to run a Bingo night on Thursday February 2nd, the venue will be confirmed and we hope you will support us by donating any unwanted Christmas gifts as prizes and attend the event. More information from the parent council in January.

Meetings for the remainder of the session are set and we would welcome any additional new members. The dates are as follows:

Jan 11th	6:30 pm	Meeting Room, Menzieshill
Feb 15th	6:30 pm	Meeting Room, Menzieshill
March 28th	6:30 pm	Meeting Room, Menzieshill
May 30th	6:30 pm	Meeting Room, Menzieshill - AGM

It has given me great pleasure to report back to you. I am sure you will get a flavour of what exemplary work goes on within the school and with our partners as you read on.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all in 2012 and I wish you all a restful, peaceful and Happy Christmas.





Menziesshill High School

Business Studies Department



Apprentice Question & Answer Session

A group of Intermediate 2 and Higher Business Management pupils attended a question and answer session at the Apex Hotel with Jim Eastwood, a former contestant and runner up of the Apprentice. Pupils were given the opportunity to ask questions about the show and also heard an inspirational speech from Jim. All pupils enjoyed the trip and the free lunch!

Stock Market Challenge

On Tuesday 15th of November a group of 5 pupils (Holly Sangster, Chloe Grant, Cameron Black, Kieran Neave and Rachel Cairnie) represented Menziesshill High School in a competition which involved them buying and selling shares on a simulated stock market floor. The pupils learned valuable skills such as team working, problem solving and the enterprising skill of risk taking. All 5 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and gained an excellent insight into the world of work and the daily pressures of this industry.



ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence)

Well done to Jack Christie, Neil Shannon, Sandi Getti, Koreen Low, Rachel Barr, Louise Cairnie, Catherine Brown, Shannan Wilkie, Paige Brady, Nairn Brunton, Abigail Burns, Kelly Cunningham, Sarah Dempster, Bethany Digan, Blair McDonald, Rebecca Manzie, Evan Carrol, Koreen Low, Marc Griffiths, Craig McCartney, Nicole Neave, Nicole Sweeney and Iona Young who have successfully completed ECDL this year!



Menziesshill High School

Computing Studies Department

Dare Schools' Challenge

In June a team representing Menziesshill High School won the Dare Schools' Challenge, a computer games programming competition open to all 'Computing Studies' and 'Art & Design' pupils from secondary schools in Dundee. The winning team comprising Kieran Banks, Andrew Rae, Callum Fowlie and Steven Ross swept the boards with their peers from throughout the city. Organised by Dundee City Council's Economic Development Department in conjunction with the University of Abertay, the games are judged by a team of academics and computer games programmers. Menziesshill High has taken part in this competition for the last 6 years and the university have acknowledged this, awarding a prize for Computer Software Development at the school's annual prizegiving.



Arnold Clark Challenge

A big "well done" to the two teams of pupils studying Computing from Menziesshill High School, they have been short-listed as top 10 finalists in the Arnold Clark Schools' Challenge. The pupils involved were Michael Doig, James Mann, Daniel Neave, Keiran Banks, Andrew Rae, Curtis Menmuir and Nicholas Leitch.

The teams from Menziesshill High School were two of over seven hundred entries that were selected by Sir Arnold Clark's judging panel and Chunk Games, who spent days whittling the entries down to just 10 final games.



Sir Arnold Clark, chairman and chief executive of Arnold Clark Automobiles Limited, commented, "We have been absolutely delighted with the overwhelming response to this year's Challenge. With over 700 entries from schools across the length and breadth of Scotland, this year's task to create an idea for a game app was difficult. However the judging team has been surprised by the well thought-out, original ideas created by students at Menziesshill High School. What's more, two entries from this school made it into the top ten!"

This is the 2nd year in a row that Menziesshill High School pupils studying Computing have reached the final.



Our Trip to Iceland



During the first week of the summer holidays the Geography department from MHS ran a trip to Iceland with 5 members of staff and 28 pupils taking part. The trip was two years in the planning and pupils worked very hard organising a bingo night to raise money for the trip. The group had an amazing experience in Iceland taking part in activities such as: swimming in the Blue lagoon, walking up a volcano, whale watching, watching Geyser's erupt... all the while admiring the magnificent landscape!

The five days spent in Iceland were action packed and the group were lucky enough to stay only a couple of miles from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano that erupted in 2010, causing chaos across Europe! Thankfully all was well when we were there, although one of Iceland's active volcanoes erupted 15 hours after we left so we had a lucky escape! All pupils on the trip behaved exceptionally well and altogether it was an amazing experience for both staff and pupils involved.

Fair Trade and Eco-Schools

The Fair Trade group at Menziesshill High School meet weekly on a Thursday in the LRC. As well as continuing to work towards the school achieving the 'Fair Trade Schools' award the group are now also focusing on Eco-Schools and are keen to work towards the eco-Schools 'Green Flag' award. The group have recently carried out an Environmental audit in the school and will use this information to create an environmental action plan.

The group also continue to promote Fair Trade in and around the school by running a weekly Fair Trade stall during interval on a Friday and sourcing Fair Trade tea and coffee for the staff room. The group also like to raise awareness of Fair Trade in the wider school community by regularly hosting a stall at parent's nights and whole school events such as the Menziesshill Festival and the forthcoming Christmas concert.





Pupils Rise to the Challenge

7 future chefs took up the gauntlet thrown down by the Dundee Rotary Club in their search to find their young Chef of the Year and produced some mouth-watering results.

Their challenge was to produce a 2 course meal in 1½ hours for 2 people to restaurant standards for under £10.

Three Rotarians came along to watch our young people in action who treated them to an array of delights from Spiced Coconut and Lentil soup blended together by Eryn Gaffney in S4 to a Trio of Desserts from our budding young chef in S1, Matthew Turnbull.

Megan Macleod in S3 wowed us with her Quails Eggs and Parma Ham Baskets, even finding the time to throw together a hand-made and rolled pasta. The Mixed Berry Tarts which would have given the Queen of Hearts a run for her money, were baked to perfection by Molly Porteous in S3.

With more than a hint of Scottish influence on her menu, Chelsea Duncan in S4 had the judges eager to sample her Balmoral Chicken and Creamy Chowder – in fact they were so impressed that they left with enough for their supper.

Pressure and time worked against the young Chefs who are not used to working under the glare of so many eyes and they experienced a hint of what the contestants on Master Chef must feel as the clock ticked away. The Rotarians commended the pupils for their inventiveness and flavours and struggled with the decision of the school heat winners. In the end and after re-tasting everyone's food in the call of duty (!) they eventually selected two pupils to qualify for the school heats in the next round in January.

Hannah Kleplang in S4 qualified with her Home Made Spring Rolls and Ginger Dipping Sauce as a starter to her main Singapore Style Pork Noodles which had more than a kick of spice to it. Mehnaz Asad in S3 also qualified, working calmly and with poise to produce home-made Vegetable Samosas followed by the most fragrant Lamb Biryani.

We wish both girls success as they go through to the next round where they will produce a 3 course meal to try and beat off the competition for the prize of attending a cookery school in Italy and the coveted Young Chef of the Year title.

If the sound of these dishes made your mouth water then keep your eyes peeled as after the next heat the school will be compiling a recipe book of all the amazing recipes our pupils have cooked up.





Menziesshill High School

English Department

Theatre Visits

The English Department organised a number of trips to the theatre. In term 1 Intermediate 1 pupils have been studying *Kes* and met during the October Holidays to enjoy a backstage tour of the Rep. This was followed by a production by award winning company Catherine Wheels.

Furthermore at least 80 pupils thoroughly enjoyed *Cinderella* on 13 December. The show was great and the pupils impressed staff with their impeccable behaviour.

Finally, as part of the Guidance Course the S2 cohort saw a performance of *Baby Baby* by Vivien French which took place here at Menziesshill.



Menziesshill High School

Learning Resource Centre

Author visits - Sue Reid Sexton

Following on from our successful visit from Melvin Burgess last session, this term we have had two visits from the author Sue Reid Sexton, whose first novel 'Mavis's shoe', about the Clydebank blitz, has been very well received. Sue worked with 2E1 and 2E2; in the first session she talked about the book and the research she had done and what actually happened that day in March 1941 and set the pupils a writing challenge.

The second session was a workshop, with pupils working in groups to create their own characters and imagine the consequences for them if bombs dropped on Dundee that night. There were some very imaginative scenarios devised! Sue also looked at the work which the pupils had produced for their writing challenge and two brave girls, Natasha Inglis and Emma Whitelaw, read their stories to their enthralled peers.



Coming soon...

Alex Scarrow, author of the *Time Riders* series of books will be coming in to school on 23rd January to do a session we are assured is fast, furious and great fun. In the summer term we are hoping to have a visit from Keith Gray who is always hugely popular when he comes to talk to our pupils.



Engineering Development Trust

Five students within S2 (Sam Barclay, Niamh Brunton, Michelle Burnage, Bradley Evans, Ewan Kelly) have worked on an Engineering Development Trust (EDT) programme over the last 10 weeks that has required them to research into the use of a Biomass Power Generator as a source of electricity and heat within Menziesshill High School and its local community. Harry Maliff from Albacom Ltd, an Engineering company within Dundee, has worked with these students and has given to them an excellent insight into life as an engineer within the city. The group has also been supported by Mr Squair within the Mathematics Department. The students will make a formal presentation of their findings to EDT in January 2012.

Maths in the Pipeline

Omar Asad, Craig Mays, Fiona McArtney, Martyn McCabe and Graeme Nicoll represented the Mathematics Department at the Bonar Hall, on Friday 30th September, when S5/6 Higher students from across Dundee and the Angus region met to participate and then compete in an event entitled 'Maths in the Pipeline'. Our students were placed into teams of 4 students that worked together on problems that contextualised Mathematics within the modern oil industry. Each team was then given an Oil-Business Challenge in the afternoon and had to report their findings back to a team of experts at the end of the day. Mr Harkins attended the event and witnessed each of our students make a valuable contribution to their own team's success. This was particularly true for Craig, whose team won the event as a consequence of his excellent and confident delivery to his audience at the end of the event.

Mathematics and the Police

Ms Jelly invited Jen Keenan from the Dundee Police Department to the school on 15th December to enable Ms Keenan to speak to her S3 class on the use of Mathematics within the Police Force. Ms Jelly will, in a similar way, invite a wide range of employers to the school from around Dundee to enable our students within S2 and S3 to experience the wonders of Mathematics within the workplace.





As 2011 closes, the Modern Studies Department takes a quick look back over some of the many highlights from 2011.

S1/S2

Congratulations to national award winner Luke Heppenstall winner of the S1/2 Modern Studies human rights newspaper front page competition. Luke's entry was judged as "well researched, imaginatively written and colourfully presented". Luke is pictured receiving a certificate and a cheque for £20 from Ms Gray (Headteacher).



Congratulations also to Sophie McPhee and Lydia McKessock who won the Modern Studies Health and Wellbeing poster competition in May. Both girls received a certificate and a cheque for £10. The girls are pictured below with Mrs Carlin who presented the certificates.

Hard luck to the MHS Modern Studies teams in the annual S1/2 Dundee Modern Studies Quiz. Both teams of four finished just outside the top three places but Emma Coupar, Megan McIntosh, Calum Ewan, Cameron Black, Nicole Wolfe, Kirsty Menzies, Carrie Jeffrey and Molly Fowlie gave it 100%.



S3 pupils had the chance to visit the Scottish Parliament in March this year. At the Scottish Parliament, the group was given a tour before meeting local MSP Joe Fitzpatrick. The department thanks Joe for his continued cooperation.

Menzieshill was also represented in the annual S4 PowerPoint competition at the Claverhouse House Group offices in Staffa Place. Thanks to Fiona McArtney, Andrew Slammon and Kirsty Smith for all their efforts.

In May, Standard Grade Modern Studies pupils participated in a whole-school mock Scottish Parliament. The candidates and their campaign assistants are photographed before the ballot. Congratulations to overall winner Josh Meldrum for running a winning campaign.



In S4, pupils visited a local sheltered housing complex to find out the ways in which sheltered housing meets the needs of the elderly. Thanks to warden Lesley Heenan for her continued support.

In November, S3 pupils had the chance to visit Jobcentreplus in Gellatly Street as part of their studies on ways government helps unemployed people into work. Carrie Jeffrey and Georgia Brown are pictured 'job hunting'.



Finally, and he'll not thank us for saying this, Modern Studies pupil of the year was Ross Irvine. Congratulations to Ross in winning the national S3/4 PowerPoint Competition (certificate and £20 cheque) and for becoming the first MHS winner of the citywide investigation competition, the Harry McLevy Memorial Award. For a tremendous effort, Ross received a certificate and cheque for £70. Excellence indeed.

S5/6

The biggest highlight of the year (for pupils anyway!) is the annual Modern Studies trip to London. With the support of Jim McGovern, who be again visiting the department in January, pupils were given the chance to tour the Houses of Parliament. The department thanks Jim for setting up the visit. The trip was not all work and no play as the group of 19 plus Miss Raeburn, also had the chance to shop on Oxford Street, take a trip on the London Eye, visit Trafalgar Square and take in a musical show (Wicked - all girls) or football match (Crystal Palace v. Middlesbrough - all boys!)



Finally, Modern Studies Higher pupils will have the chance to participate in the annual Higher Revision Conference which is planned for next April.



Menziesshill High School

Music Department

Christmas Concert

On Tuesday 13th December 80 pupils took part in the annual Christmas Concert. It was preceded by the Christmas Market, organised by the parent council. There were a variety of stalls which included a raffle, cake & candy and Fair Trade. Then followed a fantastic evening of entertainment during which all pupils produced performances of a very high standard. Included were contributions from all year and extra-curricular groups and they were well supported by parents and members of the local community, including Lord Provost John Letford. This was the perfect opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

Percussion Ensemble

Menziesshill High School's percussion ensemble has been very busy performing out in the community in the last month. Ian Christie, Craig Archibald, Philip McLaren, Sam Walker, Callum Ewan, Murray McCartney and Kirsten Ferrier have received some excellent feedback from audiences on their polished and professional performances. They have been supported and encouraged by our committed and enthusiastic percussion instructor Kenny Carlyle. To the right is a picture of some of the percussion ensemble performing at Roseangle Café Arts.



Here is a review of the percussion ensemble's performance at Dundee University Chaplaincy: Dundee schools nowadays seem to be able to produce a fascinating range of musical groups. For this Friday's lunchtime concert at the University Chaplaincy, it was the turn of Menziesshill High School to let us hear the half dozen members of its Percussion Ensemble at work.

I don't know about you, but in my ignorance I rather feared this might consist of a horde of enthusiastic but undisciplined youngsters banging away at anything that came in sight or reach. Not a bit of it though. These were thoroughly mature students, mainly in third and fourth years.

The instruments they had before them were an array of marimbas and xylophones. If you think the percussion section of an orchestra is rightly described as the kitchen department, then this was going to be cuisine of a sophisticated kind.

The programme ranged from original compositions of a modern stamp (not literally, of course) to generally sensitive arrangements of classics from the eighteenth century, by Clementi and Bach. The programme had plenty of variety, mixing solos with group items. It was also good to see that director Kenny Carlyle, as well as schooling the players, provided them with some music, both an original composition and a transcription. The big solo on marimba, Mitchell Peters's *Yellow after the Rain*, revealed the range of subtlety of which Ian Christie is now capable. An earlier solo, *Cossack Capers*, showed varied and witty use of the xylophone by a younger player. As well as their group pieces, the players showed their rhythmic control with just their hands, and to stirring effect, in Steve Reich's *Clapping Music*.



Menziesshill High School

Physical Education Department

Sports Ambassadors

During the October holidays, the vast majority of our sports ambassadors participated in the Active Schools October Coaching week. Six of our students (Ian Christie, Louise Fox, Rachel Beattie, Amy Neave, Beth Fyffe and Caitlin Fowlie) all successfully completed the SL1 Sports Leaders course. Additionally (Ian Christie, Craig Archibald, Amanda Leitch, Katherine Leitch and Rachel Jackson) completed the Basketball 'Getting Started' course and (Elliot Shaw & Darren McCrae) completed the SFA Level 1 coaching course. These are all excellent qualifications and have given our senior pupils a lot of confidence when delivering extra-curricular clubs.

One of our Senior Sports Ambassadors, Louise Fox, represented Dundee at a National Sports Ambassadors conference. It seems the sky is the limit for Louise who has also been nominated for a number of awards from both Active Schools and Sports Development.



This year's MHS Sports Ambassadors are listed below:

Amy Neave, Rachel Jackson, Rachel Beattie, Ian Christie, Amanda Leitch, Kathryn Leitch, Craig Archibald, Beth Fyffe, Jamie Bell, Callum Barr, Darren McCrae, Graeme Nicoll, Jess Alexander, Jack Dempster, Elliot Shaw, Craig Lafferty, Beth Fyffe, Caitlin Fowlie, Louise Fox, Craig Lafferty, Rory Leigh, Ross Irvine, Caitlin Fowlie.

Swimming

On November the 8th and 10th Menziesshill High School competed in the Tayside Schools Swimming Championships. All boys and girls swam fantastically and were an asset to the school, there were many personal bests achieved and Kirsty & Jamie Bell both winning bronze Medals. Pupils who competed in Tayside Schools Championships included Hannah Edwards, Kirsty Bell, Robyn McNally, Amy Scott, Jamie Bell and Braden Henderson.

Two Lunchtime clubs were started up in August, Learn to swim & 50m Swimming Club. These clubs are well attended and will continue in the New Year. We hope to see new and familiar faces in January.

S1/2 Girls Football Club

The Girls football club now has 16 players attending training every week. This is a very even mix of S1 and S2 girls who have been extremely enthusiastic and a joy to work with. There is also a fair bit of talent within the squad, with quite a few being club players at Celtic Girls Tayside. Some of the players attending are girls who had previously played in primary school but had given up the game and are now getting back into the sport, which is a huge success story in itself. This group are first class when it comes to attending school clubs and festivals. The next festival is scheduled for Monday 30th January.

Boy's Football Clubs

The school football team has a team playing in all age groups for U/13 to senior level. All the teams are making steady progress, with the exception of the U/16 team, as it is hard to arrange games for them at this time of year due to prelims and work experience. The other four teams are performing well in their respective leagues and are awaiting the start of the cup competition in the spring term. As always, in typical Menzieshill High School tradition, the boys are encouraged to play football the way it should be played.

Basketball

The S1/2 Basketball club has been running very well, with Ian Christie, Rachel Jackson, Rachel Beattie and Amy Neave all leading the delivery of sessions and doing a great job in the process.

At the recent S1/2 basketball festival, our young S1 team were defeated by two very strong and predominantly S2 teams from Grove and Baldragon but gave a very good account of themselves on the day.

This experience will definitely stand them in good stead for the future.

Our S3/4 Basketball team earned a Bronze medal at the recent festival at Harris Academy and played with a lot of style. Craig Archibald was an outstanding performer on the day, playing point guard but all 11 of our players played some excellent basketball and it was again pleasing to see that Menzieshill had enough players for a Girls Only team, it's just unfortunate that no other schools in the city have enough girls playing to give ours a game!!

The recent S5/6 Basketball event at St. Pauls Academy was a success, even although we didn't win a medal.

We had 14 players at the festival but as only 5 can play at a time, we had to make constant changes and this disrupted our play a bit. It was great to see so many involved from our school though compared to other schools who apparently struggled to get squads of more than 7 players. Steven Ross was our outstanding player on the day.

Menzieshill Dance Group

In November extra-curricular dance group was started. Presently there are 20 girls participating and working towards the school Christmas Concert. The pupils have been working extremely hard and are very enthusiastic while preparing for the Christmas Concert. After Christmas the Menzieshill Dance Academy will be introduced. This will include senior pupils training as Dance leaders and choreographing pieces for the younger pupils in the school.

Badminton

The Club runs Tuesday lunchtimes, and every court has been full for most of the year. More than 25 pupils have tried Badminton this year, many of these pupils have returned regularly. What would you see if you looked in the door? Noise - competition and fun, movement and healthy exercise. An enthusiastic welcome will greet anyone in the School who wants to turn up and have a go.

The School has a Junior and Senior team taking part in a competitive league which has been held at the DISC. The Junior team players are up against some strong teams achieving some wins and some losses. But all members have had fun and have learned a lot about the game. The Senior team have a good team spirit and are winning many of their games.



Hockey

On the 7th October the PE department organised and managed a hockey festival for S1 boys and S1 girls. It was an Inter House competition with school houses Weem, Fortinghall, Culdres and Aberfeldy putting forward strong teams. Senior pupils also assisted in this festival by refereeing, score keeping and coaching S1 pupils. The festival was extremely successful and Weem was the winning team. WELL DONE WEEM!!!

Our S1 – S3 hockey team are continuing to be trained by Mr Gavin Byers and are competing in the Active Schools Dundee Secondary Schools Hockey League. They have made a great start to the league and will continue to play matches indoors over the winter period.



Rugby

Over the past 6 weeks Kenny Christie and his Rugby development staff from the Dundee Eagles have been introducing Rugby to the S1/2 boys. These sessions went tremendous and highlighted the talent of our pupils. The boys enjoyed these sessions so much that they participated in the Active Schools Indoor Touch Rugby Tournament at DISC, playing against all schools in the city. The boys worked hard and were a credit to the school.

Netball



At the start of term Mrs Booth visited Gowriehill and Hillside Primary school to provide a taster Netball session to the Primary 6/7 pupils. This session was very successful and led to a Primary 6/7 Netball team being set up. These girls are coming along fantastically and hope to continue this team when they attend Menzieshill in the future.

Currently we have an S1/2 team training every week. These pupils are very talented and enthusiastic about learning new drills to improve their performance in Netball. After Christmas the Netball team will be competing in S1/2 Active Schools Netball League.

At the start of November, S3 girls competed in Dundee Schools Netball Tournament. The pupils worked very well together and played amazingly despite being a newly formed team.

Table Tennis

Ma Long's future at the top of the International Table Tennis pile may not be about to change in the near future but the Menzieshill lunchtime Table Tennis Club is doing its bit for Scotland's Ping-Pong future. Yes, pupils have turned up in great numbers, keen to exchange snacks for bats and try their hand at the ancient art of 'Whiff-Whaff' on a Wednesday lunchtime. Spirits have been high and the tension at times unbearable as pupils and staff lock horns to serve up memorable feasts of sporting excellence on the 9ft by 5ft arenas of wood. Long may this continue! ACE!!!



Menzieshill High School

Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Championships

On 22 November Menzieshill Debating Club entered two teams: Chris Vannart/Ross Starke and Ross Irvine/Andrew Fry. They received excellent feedback and were highly commended by judges on their first outing. Pupil supporters, parents and staff were extremely proud and impressed by the high standards of debate. Entries will now be put forward for future University tournaments.

The Debating Club takes place on Tuesday lunchtimes in MB09 and all pupils are welcome. Please see Mr Gibson (Modern Studies) and Mrs Brining (English).



Menziesshill High School

CFE (Curriculum for Excellence)

Geography

In other news, S1 pupils have been experiencing a new way of learning Social Subjects. They now have Geography, History and Modern Studies periods 1-3 on a Thursday morning rather than on different days of the week. This is a new way of teaching for both pupils and staff and it is going well so far. In Geography S1 pupils have been learning all about Dundee and Development and have been practising being cocoa farmers and learning about the benefits that Fair Trade brings.

S2 pupils have been busy working through the new CFE Geography course, developing their map skills. Recently they have been using all of their map skills trying to solve a very important map mystery.....

Literacy Across Learning

S1 have been continuing to develop literacy skills and applying them to a number of subject areas. This term there has been a focus on reciprocal reading which provides pupils with strategies to improve reading skills.

The pupils enjoyed engaging with this activity with texts from History and Science as well as magic stories in the LRC. The theme for this term was TRANSFORMATION and on completion of the term projects S1 are all going to Dundee Rep to see Cinderella – magic!

Check out the pupil Literacy Across Learning blog: <http://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dd/LAL>.



Menziesshill High School

Eggheads

Menziesshill Eggheads success

A team of Menziesshill High School seniors beat off stiff competition in the Dundee heat of the Tayside Eggheads competition, based on the TV show Eggheads, on Friday 16th September. The Menziesshill team, Callum Fowlie, Kieran Cartmill, Graeme Nicoll, Craig Mays and Omar Asad showed a broad range of knowledge in both the specialist and general rounds.

They went forward to the final where they represented Dundee against 5 professors from Abertay and Dundee Universities and the John Hutton Institute. The competition took the same format as the television competition and was part of the Dundee Science Festival. The team were excellent representatives for Dundee and although they did not win they did get a £25 iTunes voucher each.



Photograph shows the team with Professor John Palfreyman, Head of the School of Contemporary Sciences at Abertay



Menziesshill High School

Cyclathon

Cycling for Africa

A team of 14 pupils and 5 staff from Menziesshill High School took part in the Cleverhouse Rotary Club Dundee Cyclathon on Sunday 11th September to raise funds for an irrigation project in Kenya. In October 2010 a team from the school were working at an orphanage in Uganda building a new dock and were helped by a pastor from Kenya .Pastor Tom works with some very poor communities in Kenya and the school is raising funds at the Cyclathon this year. One of the main problems for the community is the poor food supply and they want to make a paddy to grow rice to feed themselves. The community is on the shores of Lake Victoria and there is water – but it is in the wrong places and they need a pump to move it to the right places.



The team raised an amazing £960 for this project which meant that we were again successful in gaining the cup for the school team raising the greatest amount of money for charity, the fourth time we have won it. The cup was presented at Menziesshill High School at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 13th December, just before the school Christmas Concert and Market.

This year's Cyclathon team consisted of 6 seniors: Jack Christie, Sarah Dempster, Koreen Low, Blair MacDonald, Reece McCabe, Andrew Sproull.

8 Juniors: Raegan Butchart, Lewis Dailly, Stephanie Dunsmuir, Bethany Forbes, Molly Fowlie, Braden Henderson, Kirsty Menzies, Vicky Mitchell.

Teachers: Mrs Duncan, Mr Ghafoor, Mrs Hynie, Dr Oldershaw, Miss Scott



Menziesshill High School

Rotary Award

During the summer Mary Livingstone, a prefect at Menziesshill High School, was sponsored by Claverhouse Rotary Club to attend a Rotary Club Youth Leadership Award course. This course develops leadership through discussion, inspirational speakers and outdoor activities. Mary says “Everyone in the group at one point of the week was in charge. They were also responsible for the equipment needed for that day’s activity and tried to make sure that everyone was involved and taking part. It was a great experience and I feel more confident in myself to be able to lead a group and to voice my opinions”. Mary feels she will be able to put her new skills to good use in her work as a prefect at Menziesshill.





Menziesshill High School

EMA – EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

We wish to inform you that some changes have been made to the EMA Payment schedule for the coming year. Please see that attached document and note that changes have been made on the following dates:

25 November 2011 - 1 week payment only

20 January 2012 - 1 week payment only

13 April 2012 - 1 week payment only

27 April 2012 - 1 week payment only

You can also visit the EMA website at www.dundee.gov.uk/education/ema and download an amended sheet to keep for future reference.



Menziesshill High School

Dundee School Holidays 2011-12

Spring Term 2012 - Monday 2 April 2011 to Friday 13 April 2012

Summer Term 2012- Friday 29 June 2012 to Monday 13 August 2012

Autumn Term 2012 - Monday 8 October 2012 to Friday 19 October 2012

Additional school closure days ; In- service days - 9th February & 25th May 2012
Mid - term - 10th & 13th February 2012
May Day - 7th May 2012
Victoria Day - 4th June 2012 (note the change of date)
Queens Jubilee - 5th June 2012 (additional holiday)