



Menzieshill High School

Newsletter

December 2012

Head Teacher Helen Gray

Yarrow Terrace, Dundee, Angus DD2 4DW

Tel: 01382 435677 Fax: 01382 435664

e-mail: menzieshill@dundeecity.gov.uk

Our Winter Award Winners

The recent Local Authority Extended Review Inspection highlighted behaviour was consistently of a high standard throughout the school and there were positive relationships between pupils and staff. In addition the behaviour of our pupils has also been commended by visitors to the school and supply teachers. The school's Behaviour for Learning (BFL) working group continues to promote positive behaviour within the school. Analysis carried out by the group indicates a strong, consistent trend in the reduction of tasks issued to pupils and the group has presented proposals to Senior Management to further strengthen the effectiveness of our system. One result of this has been the development of our merit system. Prior to the Christmas break, Celebration of Success assemblies were held for each House to recognise the excellent behaviour and achievements of pupils. Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates were issued to pupils at these assemblies. Last term over 75,000 merits were issued to pupils by class teachers. The merits system has also been incorporated into the Inter-house competition. Currently Fortingall House leads this with 20,109 house points. As well as points for participation in inter-house competitions, House points will also be awarded to pupils after the Christmas break for full school uniform and being prepared for school.

Pictured are our Christmas Term Gold Award winners.



Aberfeldy



Culdares



Fortingall



Weem



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter and a special welcome to the parents of our first year pupils. Staff have been impressed by their hard work and enthusiasm.

In August we received some of our best SQA results, particularly in fourth year, with an increase of over 10% in pupils gaining 5 or more credit awards. Our focus remains within the School Improvement Plan to maintain this trend.

In general we have had a very busy first term, full of continued developments in our Curriculum for Excellence, and an extended review of the school by Dundee City Council Education colleagues. The latter in September took the form of a full inspection consisting of approximately 50 lesson observations, 10 focus groups including pupils from all year groups, teaching and non-teaching staff, promoted staff, parents and partner agencies working with the school.

The feedback highlighted the consistent high standards of behaviour, and positive relationships between staff and pupils. Learning and teaching was rated as good and our process for constantly seeking ways to improve the school praised. Strong leadership at all levels and a clear vision for the school was shared, a positive platform from which we can continue to build.

Leadership in particular with our prefects has been greatly developed through opportunities to lead assemblies, organise House events and offer study support. Uniform is excellent with all 5th & 6th years in blazers and many first years. I would hope to continue to extend this throughout the school with your support. In addition P.E. 't' shirts are being manufactured in school as an enterprise project.

Internet Safety/ Anti bullying message

I highlighted to you last session the great effect our anti bullying message is having. Pupils after consultation have said they know who to tell and feel supported and know a structure is in place.

Unfortunately the majority of these incidents are caused by life outside school mainly through today's technology, texts, Facebook, Twitter, BBM etc.

I would ask once again that you think carefully about whether you allow unsupervised use of social networking sites. If you are monitoring and talking to them about the dangers it may be all the support they need.

Parent Council

Another successful term with the Menziesshill 40th Anniversary Festival. The Parent Council meet regularly and membership is healthy and active. We have met together to form an action plan with our cluster parent councils and have hosted a Parent Forum in November on "Communication with your Teenager". This was an extremely informative and interactive evening presented by our partners the Educational Psychology Team. A second evening is planned for Wednesday 16th Jan at 7pm, all are welcome.

A Bingo night is planned for the 6th February, to raise funds for the Easter school as last year was such a huge success. We hope you will support this as your sons/daughters benefit greatly from the staff input and lessons at such a crucial time just before the SQA exams. Any unwanted Christmas gifts as prizes would be most welcome.

Meetings for the remainder of the session are as follows and we would welcome any additional parents.

The dates are:

16th January - Open evening discussion and presentation 6:30pm.

06th February - Bingo Night for Easter School.

20th March - Parent Council – 6:30pm

22nd May - Parent Council - 6:30pm

Curriculum for Excellence

An open evening for all parents but especially those of our third year pupils has been arranged for Monday 14th January. We will be joined by an SQA representative to inform you about the new Scottish Qualification starting next year; I would encourage you to come to the event.

Finally I am extremely proud of the staff, pupils and parents, and what we have achieved.

I look forward to an exciting 2013, I wish one and all a Happy Christmas full of enchantment & cheer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Helen Gray



Creativity in the Community

Two senior pupils, Joanne Short and Courtney Inglis, recently took part in an exhibition at the McManus Galleries. Both girls have been working as part of the Youth Action Group working out of the learning centre at the gallery. They have contributed to many projects working with the museum education team, and are highly regarded for their contribution to the energy and creativity of the group now re-named 'Marmalade'. The recent exhibition was the culmination of a constructed fashion project. Both were able to work on a scale not experienced at school, while learning to handle new media and present a final product in a professional setting.

The way the pupils were able to discuss these fine examples of personal learning with the public and with their art teacher in an enthusiastic way is a credit to the individuals. The school would like to thank the tutors at the gallery for the opportunity and enthusiasm shown in working with the pupils.



S3 Pupils Go Latin

Third year art and design pupils had their work translated into a film by the Creative Learning team, which was used as the moving backdrop to a Samba band performance and choreography at the Caird Hall. This combined class work on stage design produced in class at Menziesshill which included a site visit to Dundee Rep theatre to see real examples of set design, with the performance of the Grove Academy samba band.

McIntosh Patrick Award

Callum Fowlie represented the school at this sixth year only exhibition at the McManus Gallery, achieving a high level of praise from the judging panel, which annually awards prizes in commemoration of local artist James McIntosh Patrick.





Menziesshill High School Poetry Winners

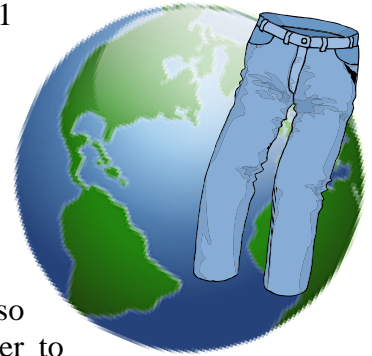
Last session, the English department encouraged pupils to write a poem using the phrase 'express yourself' as their inspiration. Poems were then entered into the Express Yourself competition run by Young Writers. The competition received entries from secondary schools all over Scotland and Northern Ireland. The best poems were then selected for publication in the Young Writers Express Yourself anthology. Two of our imaginative S3 pupils, Luke Heppenstall and Natasha Inglis, impressed the judges with their entries, 'The Two Lovers' and 'My Polly Dolly' and had their poems selected for publication. Both pupils were surprised to learn their poems had made it into the anthology and last week they received their own copies of the anthology to celebrate their success. Pupils can read Luke and Natasha's poems in the school's copies of the anthology in the Learning Resources Centre.

The photograph shows Luke and Natasha receiving their copies of the anthology from Miss Gray, Headteacher.





S1 – S3 classes in the Geography department have been working through the newly developed courses for CfE covering topics from Mapwork to Global Fashion! S1 pupils in the department have been settling in well and are enjoying learning all about Fair Trade and the benefits it brings to poor communities in LEDCs. Through group work activities pupils have learned what it's like to be a Cocoa Farmer, the process cocoa goes through to become a chocolate bar and there has even been the opportunity to carry out a Geography investigation to find out the difference between Fair Trade and non-Fair Trade chocolate.



S2 pupils have been learning all about earthquakes and volcanoes and have also been carrying out a number of group work activities. Pupils worked together to create an evacuation plan for an island that was experiencing a volcanic eruption and only after pupils had completed the evacuation plan they found out this eruption really did take place on the island of Heimaey, near Iceland in 1973!!

S3 pupils started off the session looking at rivers followed by flooding in Scotland, a topic which is very relevant considering all the heavy rain we have experienced this year! Related to this topic, S3 pupils have carried out a number of co-operative learning activities comparing flooding in the UK and Bangladesh.

In other news, the Geography department contributed to the P.6&7 parents' open evening by providing a co-operative learning lesson for parents to observe. The lesson was based on Tourism in Scotland and a number of S2 pupils contributed and helped on the evening. We even managed to get some parents involved to experience what it is like to learn at Menziesshill High School!

Further up the school the Geography department has been delivering Advanced Higher Geography for the city campus. Pupils from schools across the city have been attending Menziesshill High School on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and in October the Advanced Higher group attended Kindrogan Field studies Centre as part of the course. The trip was a success and thankfully nobody lost a welly boot in the river during the river study.





Menziesshill High School

Home Economics Department

Pupils are enjoying doing more practical lessons and their cookery skills are greatly improving. There was an entry in the Food and Flower Festival in August.

Halloween

Pupils enjoyed baking and decorating cakes at Halloween - some pupils from S3 dressed up for the occasion with Ms. Gray joining in while judging.



Christmas

Pupils are busy preparing small food gifts to sell at the Christmas Concert.





DISC Quiz

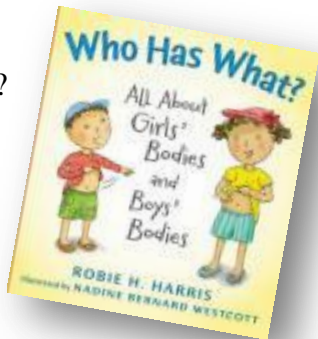
Second year pupils Jamie Savage, Lucy Stewart, Niamh Fry, Matthew Turnbull and Rory Starke represented Menziesshill High School at the annual DISC (Dundee Inter-School Competition) literary quiz at Discovery Point on 29th November. The teams answered questions on books, authors and films and solved some tough puzzles as they battled against the other secondary schools in Dundee. Although the team did not win they acquitted themselves very well and they were a credit to the school.



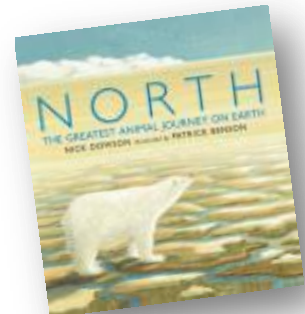
Information Book Award Shadowing

This year the S2 pupils built on some of the literacy skills they developed last session by participating in shadowing the School Library Association Information Book Award. 12 books had been shortlisted in three age categories and pupils discussed each set of books, evaluating them against criteria such as suitability, interest, illustrations and amount of information before voting for the ones they thought should win the award. The Menziesshill winners were

Under 7:
Who has what?



7-12:
North



12-16:
Star



In the end, the book which won the Judges award was 'Can we save the tiger?' – our pupils loved the illustrations in this but judged it to be rather short of information. This gave rise to interesting discussions about what different people look for in a book.

Red House Children's Book Award

Menziesshill High School pupils have also been taking part in the Red House Children's Book Award – the only Book Award voted for entirely by children - reading new books as they are published and rating them from outstanding to bury it in the garden. We are currently reading the shortlisted titles and will be voting soon for our winners. More information about the award is available here

<http://www.redhousechildrensbookaward.co.uk/>



Menziesshill High School

Learning and Teaching

The Learning and Teaching Working Group carried out a consultation with Pupils, Parents and Staff on Homework this term. Over 70 submissions by parents were considered as well as views from pupils in all year groups and staff in all departments in the school. The feedback from the consultation exercise is being used by the working group to inform the development of a new Homework policy. Research has indicated that regular homework develops essential skills for lifelong learning as well as boosting pupil attainment. The group is currently considering how we can take advantage of ICT to provide information to parents and engage pupils more effectively. The working group aims to have a new policy in place for the start of the new academic year and information will be supplied to parents accordingly.

Pupils have also been consulted over the possible use of handheld devices in school. This follows a pilot in another Dundee secondary school and the alteration of the Local Authority policy on the use of handheld devices in schools. The Learning and Teaching Group along with the Learning and Teaching Prefects are considering a pilot involving senior pupils to be carried out and evaluated next term. The Learning and Teaching Prefects have also held pupil focus groups to seek their views on improving learning at Menziesshill High School.



Menziesshill High School

Modern Language Department

The Modern Language Department has had a busy term with competitions, visits, and events for individual pupils and for groups and classes.

Spelling Bee

Pupils from S1 to S3 are taking part in the annual St Andrews University competition. Class competitions are held in December and winners will then go forward to the school competition in March. Good luck to all our participants! The winners will then take part in the national competition in St Andrews in June.



European Day of Languages

On 26 September a group of intrepid pupils in S2 ran our first Linguacafe to celebrate this annual event. Matthew Turnbull and Mrs Seulin made piles of fresh French crepes, which the group of S2 pupils sold to staff and S6 pupils at the café where only French was spoken! Congratulations to the team, who did a great job!

Köln Christmas Market

Unfortunately the S5 Higher visit to Köln was cancelled. However we hope to have an S4 visit to a French Christmas Market in December next year. Watch for details!



Music Concert

With Home Economics the S2 pupils made Buche de Noel (French Christmas cake) to sell at the Christmas concert, complete with French recipe (translated by the pupils).

Primary Peer Visits

Several S2 pupils will be taking off to work with two of our cluster primary schools after Christmas as Language Buddies. Each pupil will work with four P7 pupils to help with basic conversation. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to develop their communication and leadership skills.

Trip to France

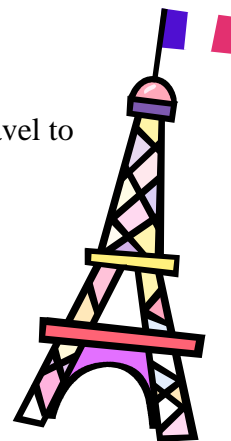
Plans are well under way now for our annual visit to France in June. 40 pupils in S2 will travel to France for 5 days to visit Boulogne and Paris. The dates are 13 – 18 June.

Awards

The Modern Languages Christmas award winners are as follows:

- S6 Kirsty Smith
- S5 Chris Vannart
- S4 Andrew Fry
- S3 Bradley Evans
- S2 Matthew Turnbull
- S1 Kianne Newton

Pupils receive a certificate and a book. Congratulations to these pupils and also to all our pupils who have achieved Christmas certificates in Modern Languages.





S1/S2

Congratulations to Emma Young from 2C who was one of only four Modern Studies national competition winners. Challenged to produce a newspaper front page highlighting an issue where human rights were not fully recognised, Emma's entry was described by the competition judges as "accurate, informative and well presented". Emma collected a certificate and a cheque for £20 from Head Teacher, Miss Gray earlier in the term.



S3

Pupils from all four Modern Studies S3 sections had the opportunity to visit the Wellgate Jobcentre or Claverhouse Training offices to witness for themselves the ways in which support is given to unemployed people to help them into work. Thanks to Susan Hart (Jobcentre) and Tony Ward (Claverhouse) for arranging the visit. Next term (mid-March) all S3 Modern Studies pupils who continue to meet the correct standards of behaviour and expectations on homework, will have the chance to visit the Scottish Parliament and to meet with local MSP Joe Fitzpatrick.

S4

Thanks to Lesley Heenan and the other staff of Servite sheltered housing in Dickson Avenue for allowing two groups of S4 pupils to visit. Looking at the ways in which sheltered housing is built to meet the needs of elderly people, the pupils were given the chance to tour the facility before meeting and speaking with some of the residents.

Representatives from the STUC visited the department in December. Both S4 classes had the chance to take part in a number of activities designed to increase their understanding of trade unions and the ways they can support their members in the workplace. Thanks to Pauline Walker from the STUC.



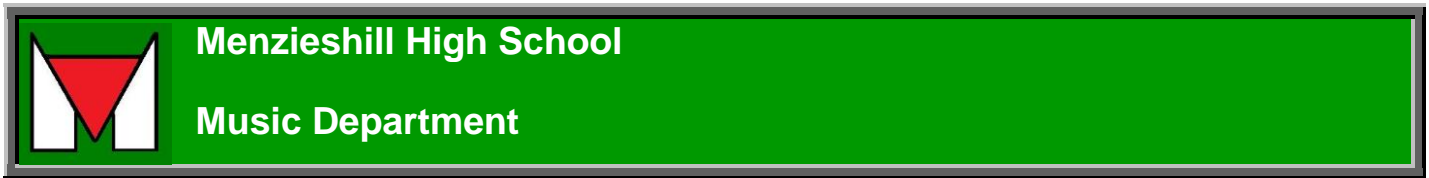
S5/6

The highlight of the S5/6 Modern Studies year is the annual visit to London and the Houses of Parliament. 19 pupils and two staff accompanied the group where after a tour of the Parliament building, the pupils met and chatted with local MP Jim McGovern*. As well as experiencing the Parliament, pupils also had the chance to shop on Oxford Street, visit the theatre (Billy Elliot) and take a 'flight' on the London Eye.

Not a bad couple of days.

*Jim will visit the department in January as part of the follow-up to the Houses of Parliament visit.

The annual Abertay Higher Modern Studies Social Issue debate went ahead in December. Supported by DCC and organised by Dundee MSA in conjunction with Abertay, the debate gives senior pupils the chance to hear and question experienced lecturers from the university's Sociological Studies Department. This year's debate was based around the theme of how far the Welfare State should support the individual.



It has been a busy term so far in the Music department.

Competition Success

6th Year pupils Kyle Dewar and Callum Wolfe recently competed in the World Under 18 Tenor Drumming Solos. Both boys performed extremely well with Kyle being awarded a medal for 4th place and Callum a medal for 6th place. This is a fantastic achievement and the music department is very proud of them!

London 2012



The music department ran a very successful trip to London during the last week of the autumn term. 40 pupils and 5 members of staff travelled by coach for a 2 night stay in the city. The party enjoyed two musicals, a matinee performance of Shrek and an evening performance of Wicked (which was a real hit!). Staff and pupils also got the opportunity to have a trip on the London Eye and, even though the weather conditions were not ideal, this was still a great experience. The highlight of this day was meeting Dick and Dom (of Children's TV fame!) who were filming nearby and stopped for a photo shoot with our pupils. Also included in the itinerary was a guided tour around the national theatre which was a very interesting and informative activity. Staff and tour guides from the theatre commented very positively on the behaviour and respect which they were shown by the Menziesshill pupils! We even managed a little trip to the residence of HM the Queen (aka Buckingham Palace!). Unfortunately, she was rather busy that day and didn't have time for a chat! This was for many pupils the first opportunity to visit London and it proved to be a very exciting experience.

Scottish Ensemble

During the last weekend of the October holiday 27 pupils from Dundee Schools' Symphony Orchestra took part in a residency project with members of The Scottish Ensemble. The Scottish Ensemble is Scotland's leading professional string ensemble and was in Dundee delivering workshops and concerts in venues across the city. Andrew Battes, Rachel Beattie and Iain Christie (all S5) took part in a coaching session on Saturday morning. These three pupils are no strangers to playing in the Music Centre early on Saturdays, all three of them work helping the young pupils in Dundee Schools' Junior String Orchestra on a weekly basis. On

Sunday afternoon pupils and Scottish Ensemble members took part in a flash mob in the Overgate Centre, it was a huge success and a real treat for the Sunday shoppers. On Monday evening the pupils had the opportunity to perform in the Caird Hall as part of the Scottish Ensemble concert.

The whole project was a great success and the pupils continue to represent their school well in the city.

RSNO

Naked Classics – Higher pupils worked with members of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra on their compositions. As part of the project pupils and family members got free tickets to an RSNO Naked Classics performance of Hector Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique. Twenty music pupils are also involved in the RSNO Music Maestro project.

The photo shows Miss O'Neill with some of the pupils involved and RSNO Naked Classics presenter Paul Rissman.



O'Neill and Mrs Coull and all the music instructors who made sure our pupils performed so well.

Christmas Concert 2012

The school's Christmas Concert on Tuesday 11th December was a great success. Pupils from all year groups showed off their musical skills with a range of groups performing. These included the string group, a brass band, a woodwind group and even a ceilidh band as well as the S1-S3 and S4 – S6 ensembles and the choir who, as well as singing themselves, insisted on audience participation. Hearty thanks must go to Miss O'Neill and Mrs Coull and all the music instructors who made sure our pupils performed so well.

The concert was preceded by a Christmas Market with a range of stalls selling Christmas goods, crafts and cake and candy.

Christmas Events Outside School

As well as the Christmas concert in school, music department pupils are very busy representing the school in the community. Members of Dundee Schools' Bands and Orchestras had a busy weekend performing in the central Christmas concerts at the music centre. The percussion ensemble are performing at one of the Lord Provost's Christmas Lunches and the choir will also be carol singing in Tesco again.



The PE department are extremely busy with the number of extra - curricular clubs that are available for pupils to attend free of charge. In conjunction with Active Schools there are one or two school clubs each lunch time at the PE department and some after school. There are Sports Ambassadors who are senior pupils involved in the development of the clubs. Recently the Sports Ambassadors prepared and presented at whole school assemblies encouraging new pupils to join clubs and promoting Health and Wellbeing. Well done Sports Ambassadors, great job!



MENZIESHILL SPORTS CLUBS

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Table Tennis	Swimming	Zumba	Basketball	Rollerama
Netball	Badminton	Girls Football	Rugby	Interhouse Comps
		Hockey	Water Polo	



It takes huge commitment from staff, sports ambassadors and volunteers to make these clubs successful. Thank you to all concerned!

PE staff have taken teams of pupils to over 23 Sports festival over the last two terms. Festivals are the Dundee Secondary Schools Competitions which are organised by Active Schools and occur after school between 3.30pm – 5.30pm. It is a fabulous opportunity for the pupils to experience competition and meet pupils from other secondary schools in Dundee.



Basketball Club

The basketball club meets on Thursday lunchtime and is fortunate to have the support of 2 coaches from Dundee City Council; the club is open to all years.

The basketball teams are currently involved in two citywide tournaments, one at S3/4 age group and another at the S5/6 age group. We have had some success in both tournaments and are eagerly awaiting the next round of competition.

The PE Department have also used the senior interhouse basketball challenge as a vehicle to encourage the sports prefects to take a more active part in their role. This has been very successful and the interhouse championships have been very well attended and a thoroughly enjoyable event for all.

S1-S3 Hockey Club

For the second year in succession, we have a team representing Menzieshill in the S1 – S3 Active Schools Hockey League. Unlike the other schools, our team consists predominantly of first year pupils and they are going from strength to strength with every passing week. The pupils are all very dedicated to developing and attend weekly training sessions with our Hockey Development Officer, Andrew Gillespie from Grove and Menzieshill hockey club. As a result, the pupils are turning in strong, competitive performances through improved understanding and enhanced skills. The team is always looking for new players, so if you are interested, please come and try out.



Tayside Schools Swimming Championships

On 6th November 6th and 8th November Menzieshill High School competed in the Tayside Schools Swimming Championships. All boys and girls performed fantastically and were an asset to the school. Medal Winners were as follows:

SILVER MEDAL WINNERS:

GIRLS 15/16 YEARS RELAY TEAM
(Kirsty Bell, Hannah Edwards, Megan Henderson and Kiera Robertson)
Kirsty Bell
Jamie Bell



BRONZE MEDAL WINNER:

Hannah Edwards

Learn to Swim/Advanced Swim Club

This club meets on Tuesday lunchtimes and is accessible to all pupils from S1-S6. The club has been a huge success with many pupils gaining confidence and their ability is improving as the week's progress. Well done to all pupils that attended and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Water Polo Club

Water polo club is on Thursday lunchtimes and is available to all pupils. S1/2 and S3/4 Water polo teams are currently competing in the Dundee Schools League and are doing very well. The club has become low in numbers coming into the winter term but hopes to increase numbers again in the New Year.

Netball

S1-S6 Netball Club meets at Monday lunchtimes. S1/2 girls have been participating in the Dundee Schools League. The girls have been well behaved, enthusiastic and are improving every week. We hope to continue to see current players and encourage new players to come along in the New Year.



Rugby

The school's rugby club is beginning to take off with help from the sports ambassadors, Mr Clarke, Mr Walker and Mrs Venter. Training takes place every Thursday lunch time for all age groups. Last week a combined S1 and S2 attended the indoor touch rugby festival at

DISC and were very successful, managing to draw with Morgan Academy. Let's get as many pupils along to rugby as we can and make Menzieshill a school with a competitive rugby club!

Rock Challenge

This year for the first time Dundee City are taking part in Rock Challenge and Menzieshill are going to take part in this exciting event. Pupils are meeting at the moment Tuesday and Thursday evenings for rehearsals and are choreographing some great pieces. Pupils have a lot of work to do and need to continue attending rehearsals. The actual event is Feb 13th 2012 at the Caird Hall Dundee. Parents please check your diaries and let us know if you need tickets.



Dance Research Project

Natalie Williamson is an undergraduate researcher from the psychology department at the University of Dundee. Over the last five weeks she has been taking four classes of girls from S1-S4 as part of her dance research project. Her project is investigating how dance influences mental and physical well-being. The project involves the girls learning street dance routines and how to improvise while taking different tests every few weeks. So far it has been going really well with a lot of fun and energetic classes. The pupils put in a lot of effort and Natalie said it was fantastic to see them challenging themselves and thinking outside of the box. She went on to say the P.E. department has been really supportive and enthusiastic about the project with teachers joining in and learning the dance routines as well as the girls! The project is over half-way through and she added that her last classes will be sad occasions. She is very grateful for the co-operation of the P.E. department and Menzieshill High School and looks forward to continuing to work with them.



MHS Pupils Coach Hillside's P7

Hillside's P7 class have been having fun basketball sessions with seniors on a Friday morning. They have been teaching us shooting skills, dribbling skills, passing skills and we have played a tournament.

Our coaches have been learning coaching skills whilst we've been improving our basketball. We have been learning from each other and using peer assessment so we can all improve.

We think the seniors have been very good and encouraging; they have listened to our feedback and improved each week. We look forward to our sessions every week because they are fun and exciting.

Sport and Recreation Experience

Coaching primary 7 from Hillside Primary has been a great experience. It has helped to increase our confidence to deliver coaching skills to youngsters. We hope this experience improves our prospects for future jobs in the Sport and Recreation industry. It has definitely been a fun experience and we would definitely like to do this again when given the opportunity. This gives us the chance to help improve the primary 7s in developing their skills in basketball with shooting, dribbling and passing as well as our overall skills that we may require in our future of work.



Physics

Curriculum for Excellence in Science

As our learners continue to progress through the experiences of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence, we have continued to develop the new S3 curriculum to be much more hands on. The new S3 physics classes were given opportunities recently to see how physics applies to real life situations; they experienced two extremes almost. In September they had a visit to the University of St Andrews to attend a lecture and exhibition on the Higgs Boson and the large hadron collider. The exhibition tried to show how much we still don't know in Science and Physics in the realms of matter and particle physics. There were practical demonstrations of how we detect the invisible particles that evidence some of the emerging theories of matter. This definitely left most of our learners aware of how much we don't yet know. For a far more practical and hands on experience, the Physics and some of the Technologies pupils also attended the "Engineering for Life" exhibition and workshop at SPACE at Dundee College in November. This allowed



Of course science is always this amazing!

our learners an insight into the growing engineering disciplines that are developing from new technologies and materials; such as harnessing renewable energy sources, larger, higher, stronger construction projects, (giant Jenga), and software techniques for building construction and design. Following



on from this we are looking to participate in the "Saltire's engineering challenge" and several of our learners have signed up to take part an extra-curricular activity in designing, building and testing a wave machine for generating electricity. More news on this to follow...

Chemistry

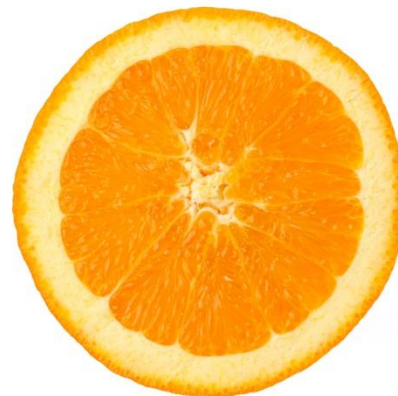
Chemistry Christmas lecture



Advanced Higher, Higher and Int2 Chemistry pupils attended the annual Chemistry Christmas lecture on the 13th December 2012 staged at the University of Dundee. The lecture was entitled "The Magic of Oxygen" and was given by Dr. Mike Batham and Dr. Rob Janes from the Chemistry Department at the Open University in Milton Keynes. The lecture allowed pupils to see some whiz bang reactions involving oxygen (the most important element for life) that we are unable to carry out in school.

Crest Awards

Two S4 pupils are currently undertaking Silver Crest Awards within the department in their own time. Mehnaz Asad and Andrew Fry are both investigating different factors affecting the levels of Vitamin C in oranges. Mehnaz is investigating the effect of time on levels of Vitamin C and Andrew is looking at organic versus non-organic to see if there is any effect on Vitamin C levels. Both Andrew and Mehnaz are using techniques currently used at Higher Chemistry level increasing their technical chemistry skills beyond their current level of standard grade. Once completed Mehnaz and Andrew will both present their projects next year at the University of Dundee.



Chembus

The chemistry department is hoping to have a visit from the Chembus from St Andrews university in late January/early February to allow pupils to experience chemistry experiments not usually able to be carried out in schools. This will hopefully not only show pupils the wonder of chemistry but allow them to talk to staff from the University as to where a qualification in chemistry could take them in the future.



Omar Asad carried out a project at the University of Dundee during his summer vacation as part of the Nuffield School Bursary Scheme for Schools and Colleges. He worked on a piece of research with one of the world's leading experts on embalming as he aspires to have a career in Medicine. This was an amazing opportunity to be at the cutting edge of today's research, and experience the world of work. Talking with Omar he obviously gained a wealth of knowledge, and loved the experience.





Festival



Menziesshill High School Annual Festival was another success this year. The event took place on Saturday 22nd September in the school after the cluster primary school football tournament. The main focus of the festival was to bring the local community together and have fun as a forum for forming links with the community and giving information and promoting awareness of set issues and projects. There were a total of 22 stalls selling a range of arts and crafts, jewellery and cake and candy alongside other interactive activities including Bridge FM, Youth Shock Gym, Guide Dog demonstrations, Zumba demonstrations, face painting, fire brigade and a bouncy castle to keep all the family entertained.



October Holiday Programme – Plastering About!

On Monday 15th October 6 pupils took part in our holiday activity where they learnt how to create artwork from plaster. They all made lovely hand prints and took part in fun team-building activities...here are a few of the artworks they made on the day.

Due to the positive response we hope to run more holiday workshops very soon- look out for posters round the school!



Art Group

A new Targeted Art group has started on Thursday lunch times, and although we are only in week 3, it seems to be a runaway success with approximately 10 young people attending. We will be doing lots of different types of art – from model making and painting to clay and more with the group having lots of input into what we do.

Santa's Grotto

This Term S2 SPLAT group (Supporting Pupils Learning and Transition) worked hard to make a Santa Grotto for the children from the Young Mums Unit and Menzieshill Nursery to come along to meet Santa, receive a gift and take part in a storytelling session working in partnership with Jill Reid Children's Librarian.

The pupils have worked hard to make this a festive experience by designing invitations, buying presents, building and designing the Grotto and designing and making costumes for the day.



Menzieshill High School

Peer Led Volunteers



Peer Education and Health Buddies in Schools programmes are again working in Menzieshill High School this academic year. Both programmes are based on the peer led model of young people sharing their learning with other young people and are delivered through The Corner, Health, Information and Peer Led Services for Young People in partnership with School Pupil Support Workers.

Peer Education work with S2 pupils focusing on drugs, alcohol and smoking education. Training throughout December and January, the Peer Educators will then work with P6 pupils of the Menzieshill High cluster to share their knowledge in the spring.

Health Buddies are S3 pupils who work with a puberty, relationships and personal qualities focus. Having trained since September, Health Buddies will work with S1 pupils throughout January and February in their weekly Social Education class.

The staff of both programmes are delighted to have so many young people give up their free time, effort and commitment to help others learn such life lessons. Not only will they learn the topics involved but also will develop leadership, communication and teambuilding skills which will help them in their future life choices.

For further information please contact Fiona Mack (Peer Education) and Celeste Robinson (Health Buddies) at The Corner on 206060.



McManus Award for Citizenship

Jack Christie was Head Boy at Menziesshill High last session and was an excellent ambassador for the school. He was nominated for the Dundee McManus Award for Citizenship and is pictured at the final hosted by the Lord Provost with other finalists, his family and Helen Gray, Headteacher.

Jack is a keen golfer playing for Alyth and Downfield. He is currently Junior Captain and Club champion at Alyth playing off a handicap of 8. However Jack's main

interest lies in Music. He gave up time in school to support younger pupils and has always been actively involved in school concerts and leads the Dundee Schools Symphony Orchestra. He is the student tutor for the Junior Stings Orchestra on Saturday mornings and he plays in the Dundee Guitar Ensemble. Jack has also won young musician of the year. Jack hopes to become a Music teacher and he began his studies in Music at Aberdeen University in September. He willingly took on leadership roles, representing the school on the prize giving improvement group, supported staff and the head teacher.

Jack was an outstanding choice for Menziesshill High's first Head boy.





Go Africa



MHS Festival - £150

Cyclathon - £946 (no cup this year)

Season's Greetings

As Christmas approaches, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a relaxing holiday. In December, we had a table or 2 at the Christmas Concert on the 11th December. Some of our group were busy making Holly Wreaths to sell and we are still looking for craft ideas for future stalls. In 2013 we have not committed to events in early January, with prelims and post-Christmas blues, (skintness), but are looking for a really good turnout at our Burns night on the 26th January. Piper and Ceilidh band are in place and we at least had a run through with the pies and stovies already, so the haggis and neeps shouldn't pose a problem. Our Zumbathon is just waiting on a confirmed date but is expected in February. Mr MacDonald is taking part in the "Deer stalker" night challenge in March, and planning for other events is on-going.

There have been events lately, that potentially could have raised thousands of pounds, but through lack of support have disappointingly only netted a few hundred, and for the same effort. Both the Bingo and St Andrews night "bash" still required the canvassing for prizes and raffles and all outlays, but for only a few bodies was very disheartening. Please get behind our young people and give them your support. The quiz on the other hand was brilliant—a full house that raised £433.50. Watch out for the next one on the 26th Feb (again in the Fort Bar). Bag packing is proving to be a difficult pursuit, with (very polite), refusals from Sainsburys, Asda Milton and Tesco's. We are still waiting to hear from Morrisons and Asda Kirkton. We have an offer to paint an industrial unit, and an offer to show us how to do it, from some parents, and our successful baked potato lunches will hopefully continue in the in-service days in Feb. and May. We are also having success with our change for change campaign, in school and out, and the local Co-op shop has volunteered to have a bucket at their till for us. Again, any suggestions you can give are gratefully received.

All of the young people who took on this challenge, after the initial shock, are progressing at different stages in the planning of their individual projects, and I am delighted to pass on the success of Caitlin and Danielle's Race Night, which raised £800+ for the girls and almost covers their personal commitments. Well done!

On behalf of the Go Africa Team, have a lovely holiday and a Happy New Year.
Mrs Duncan

Bingo - £201

Quiz - £433

October coffee morning - £104

Baked Potato Lunches - £150 + £163

November coffee morning - £104

September coffee morning - £108

S1 Parents - £63

Tartan bash ---£242



Winter Term 2012

Monday 22 October 2012 to Friday 21 December 2012

Spring Term 2013

Monday 7 January 2013 to Thursday 28 March 2013

7 th February 2013	In-service day
8 th & 11 th February 2013	Mid Term Holiday
18 th February 2013	S3 Parents Consultation 4.30 – 7pm
18 th March 2013	S4 Parents Consultation 4.30 – 7pm
25 th March 2013	S5/6 Parents Consultation 4.30 – 7pm
29 th March 2013	Good Friday Holiday

1st April – 14th April 2013 Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2013

Monday 15 April 2013 to Friday 28 June 2013

26 th April – 7 th June 2013	SQA exams
6 th May 2013	May Day Holiday
13 th May 2013	S2 Parents Information Evening 7 – 8pm
20 th May 2013	S1 Parents Information Evening 7 – 8pm
24 th May 2013	In-service day
27 th May 2013	Victoria Day Holiday

Further information on schools is available from – <http://www.dundecity.gov.uk>

We are pleased to announce that our new website is now up and running and can be found under the following address: <http://menziesshill.ea.dundecity.sch.uk>.

This website will be updated in the coming months with homework, the school handbook, the standards and quality report, information from departments and much more. We would encourage you to visit our website and give us some feedback on how we can improve it as your comments are important to us.