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Schools Curriculum Award
1990

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

John Ogilvie High School

Issue No. 1 - September
Session 2009/2010

Why not visit our web-site at www.johnogilvie.s-lanark.sch.uk

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Senior Award Ceremony

The school celebrated the achievements and attainment of our Senior Students last Wednesday evening (2 September). We were delighted that so many parents and dignitaries attended the evening. We were particularly privileged to have as our Guest speaker Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning who is particularly interested in the special links we have with Vila-Real and with the Catalonian Government in northern Spain. Pictured with their Joint Dux medals and Plaque are Daniel McCourt and Thomas Kerr from S5 along with myself, Councillor Mary Smith, Chair of the Education Committee, Fiona Hyslop MSP and Russell Clearie Provost of Hamilton.

School Holiday/Closure Arrangements

Session 2009/10

Thursday 24 September 2009	School Closes-September Weekend
Tuesday 29 September 2009	School Closed – In Service Day
Wednesday 30 September 2009	School Re-opens
Friday 9 October 2009	School Closes-October Break
Monday 19 October 2009	School Re-opens
Monday 16 November 2009	School Closed – In-Service Day
Tuesday 17 November 2009	School Re-opens
Tuesday 22 December 2009	School Closes - Christmas Holiday
Tuesday 5 January 2010	School Re-opens
Friday 12 February 2010	School Closed –In-Service Day
Monday 15 February 2010	School Closed – February Break
Tuesday 16 February 2010	School Closed – February Break
Wednesday 17 February 2010	School Re-opens
Thursday 1 April 2010	School Closes - Easter Break
Monday 19 April 2010	School Re-opens
Monday 3 May 2010	School Closed - Public Holiday
Tuesday 4 May 2010	School Closed – In-Service Day
Wednesday 5 May 2010	School Re-opens
Thursday 27 May 2010	School Closes - Public Holiday
Tuesday 1 June 2010	School Re-opens
Friday 25 June 2010	School Closes - Summer Break

Important Dates for your Diary

- **Thursday 17 September** at 7.00pm we are again holding our S1 Welcome Mass for the pupils, parents and families of our new S1 intake. This is a very popular event in our school calendar and we look forward to meeting as many of our 'new' families as possible. The mass will be followed by some light refreshments when parents and carers will have a chance to chat with staff about the school.
- **Tuesday 29 September** - School closed for additional staff in-service day
- **Wednesday 30 September** at 7.00pm - P.T.A. Annual General Meeting. **All parents and carers are cordially invited to attend.**

Important Notice to Parents

- **EMAs/Clothing Grant/Free Meals**

Application forms for pupils who qualify for an EMA/Footwear & Clothing Grant/Free Meals, are available from the school office. Your attention is drawn to the fact that:

- 1) Pupils who qualify for an entitlement meal are not distinguishable from all other pupils. All pupils using the school's dining facilities pay for their purchases by using their swipe cards and therefore the cost of the entitlement meal is automatically debited to their swipe card daily.
- 2) Each term, 90% or more attendance is required for students in receipt of EMAs.

- **Swipe Cards**

Swipe Cards are used for purchasing food from the Cashless Cafeteria.

- **Family Holidays during Term Time**

A consistent pattern of attendance is essential to ensure examination success. While we fully appreciate the constraint placed upon parents in organising family holidays, with very few exceptions, periods of absence incurred by family holidays during term time must be classified as **'Unauthorised Absence. Pupils who fail to sit either Prelim or SQA Exams because of holiday commitments have no right of appeal and therefore are heavily penalising themselves.'**

School Uniform

- Green Blazer and Badge
- Black school-length Skirt
- Black Trousers (not denims or combat trousers or leggings)
- School Tie
- White Shirt or Blouse
- Green or Black v-necked sweatshirt/knitted jumper (optional)
- Summer Dress (optional)
- I would also ask that pupils refrain from wearing excessive jewellery, large earrings, chunky bracelets or rings which straddle more than one finger, as these can accidentally compromise health and safety of other pupils.
- Pupils are asked to refrain from wearing make-up.
- In addition, pupils should not wear any item which advertises a particular brand name or which conceals the school tie. In particular, the brands of Playboy and FCUK should not be worn at any time within the school as these are not considered compatible with the ethos of our Faith Community.

Communication

- To ensure parents are kept fully informed and to encourage and foster parental partnership, each month a newsletter will be published and sent home via pupil post. Copies of the newsletter are also sent to our Associated Primaries and Parishes.
- The PTA and Parent Council meet respectively on the last Wednesday and first Wednesday of each month. Meetings take place in the Conference Room at 6pm.



School Contacts

Year Group

S1/6*
S2/6*
S3/6*
S4/6*
S5/6

Year Master

Mrs. F. Mullen, DHT
Mrs. F. Mullen, DHT
Mr. P. Galloway, DHT
Mr. P. Galloway, DHT
Mr. D. Reilly, DHT

Pupil Support

Mrs. J. Celino, PT
Ms. I. Mooney, PT
Mr. J. Hodge, PT
Ms. J. Simmons, PT
Mr. T. McLaughlin, PT

***All Guidance Staff have an allocation of S6 students. Your S6 child will tell you who is responsible for them.**

Raising Achievement

• Numeracy Evening for Parents

A numeracy evening for S1 parents was held on the 8th September to inform parents of the up and coming changes in the new curriculum and to launch the John Ogilvie High School Numeracy File. Parents were taken through a presentation detailing the links in numeracy across all curricular areas and were given the opportunity to try some numerical examples using the file. All parents felt this evening was extremely worthwhile and that by using the Numeracy File they will now be more confident in helping their child with homework involving numbers.

The file is available on-line in the Parents Zone of the JOHS website :

<http://www.johnogilvie.s-lanark.s-lanark.sch.uk>

Thank you to all parents for attending,

C McAninch, F Stewart, E Smith and B Laneres

• S5/6 Assessment Planning Calendar

All S5/6 students will shortly be issued with an Assessment Planning Calendar to alert them as to when Assessments, Folio deadlines and Prelim Exams are due.

This calendar is not just for students, it is also for the information of parents in order that you can help your child plan and study effectively for their assessments and examinations.



Graduation of Former Pupils

Congratulations to the undernoted pupils who recently graduated from the University of Glasgow:



Katherine Doonin	-	LL.B., second class div one
Nichola Gallacher	-	M.A., second class div one
Colin Kane	-	B.D.S.
Jill McCluskey	-	B.N.
Stephen McSorley	-	B.Ed., second class div one
Laura Ann Teece	-	LL.B., second class div one
Gillian Todd	-	B.Ed., second class div one

Extra-Curricular Activities

✓ Golf

- 1) The staff v pupils golf match at St. Andrew's New Course in June was won by the pupils, Martn Scott and James Steven, winning 3&2.
- 2) Twenty S1 and S2 pupils accompanied Mr. Burns, Mr. Blake and Mr. Brown, enjoyed the school golf trip to Torrance House Golf Club in East Kilbride during the last week in June.
- 3) Martin Scott represented South Lanarkshire Schools in the 3 man team Scottish Championships at Carnoustie.

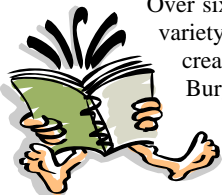


✓ Rugby

Rugby coaching resumed on Monday 24 August for S1-S4 and will take place every Monday from 3.30-4.45pm on the school sports field. It is intended that two teams will run this season - S1/2 and S3/4. The S1/2 team will play in the Lanarkshire Schools League and the S3/4 will play in the Scottish Schools Cup Competition. S1/2 kick off on Wednesday 2nd September in the Lanarkshire Schools Festival of Rugby at Dalziel Park, Motherwell. The S3/4 team has been drawn against Biggar High School in the first round of the Scottish Cup and will play this game at Hamilton Palace Sports Ground on 2nd September.

Educational Excursions

• English Department



Over sixty pupils from our S2, S3 and S4 recently visited the Edinburgh Book Festival. Pupils attended talks from a variety of published authors. The sessions were engaging and informative furnishing pupils with an insight into the creative writing process and the world of publishing. Prize-winning authors such as Jonathan Stroud, Melvin Burgess, Nicola Morgan, Elizabeth Laird and Glasgow's Poet Laureate, Liz Lochhead, proved very popular with our pupils. All present enjoyed an excellent educational experience, which will hopefully serve to inspire them in their own creative writing and guide them in their own career ambitions. One of our S4 pupils, Glen Farris of 4E1, was forthcoming in his praise of the experience:

'On 27th August some third and fourth years went on a fantastic day out to the Edinburgh Book Festival, located in historic Charlotte Square Gardens. The first author to speak to us was Elizabeth Laird who provided an enriching and memorable talk on what has influenced her writing. Her exciting and unusual life experiences were described and then she read some extracts from her new book, 'The Witching Hour' which is set on the Isle of Bute.

The second talk, from Nicola Morgan, described her macabre book, 'Deathwatch', which was followed by an insightful question and answer session. After a short break which was spent exploring the various tents at the festival we had a talk 'Addressing the Bard' from three contemporary poets including Liz Lochhead.

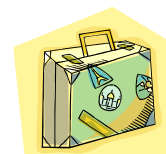
I felt that the visit has inspired us to attempt to write poetry and helped understand the development of writing skills. A big thank you to everyone who made it possible.'

The English Department's next trip is to the Citizens Company's production of Shakespeare's tragedy 'Othello' at Citizens Theatre in Glasgow on Wednesday 4th November. Tickets, priced £9 including bus travel, are allocated on a first come first served basis to S4-S6 pupils and are available from Mrs E. Rose (PT English).

• Modern Languages Department

S1 Spanish Trip to Salou – June 2009

All of the pupils were a credit to the school and to their families. A questionnaire was completed by the pupils and indicated that the trip was hugely successful, with some pupils describing the trip as the best holiday ever!!



Exchange Visit : 15-26 September 2009

Twenty-five pupils and 2 staff will be joining us from the Francisco Tarrega High School in Vila-Real. They will attend classes and take part in several excursions during their stay.

We will also be joined by a group of 8 students and 1 member of staff from Amposta near Tarragona, to take part in a new initiative to provide work placements for the Spanish students within South Lanarkshire Council.

Mr. McLaughlin will be in Vila-Real/Amposta this weekend and will finalise arrangements for the exchange. He will also hand over a donation of 150 Euros to Aspanion Children's Cancer Charity. Thanks to all who contributed their 'loose change' over the last few weeks.

During the excursion to Edinburgh organised during their stay, we will visit the Scottish parliament and meet with Fiona Hyslop MSP and Cabinet Secretary for Education.

The Spanish initiatives were the feature of an article in the Times Educational Supplement Scotland on Friday 4 September.

Race Night – Friday 30 October 2009 – Docherty's Bar, Castle Street, Hamilton

There will be a Race Night in the above venue to raise (much needed) funds to cover the costs of the exchange trip. Any donations/prizes are most welcome. Tickets will go on sale shortly. Further details can be obtained from Mr. McLaughlin in the Modern Languages Department. Your attendance would be greatly appreciated.

South Lanarkshire International Education Silver Award

The school gained this award recently. A major contribution was the various initiatives and efforts of the Modern Languages Department.



Bay of Naples Seismic Trip

Summer 2010 (14th – 18th June 2010)

The Physics and Geography departments are running a 5 day inclusive trip to the Bay of Naples next June for S1-S6 pupils. The trip will include visits to Mount Vesuvius, Pompeii, the island of Capri, the Phelgraeen fields; Solfatara and Monte Nuovo.

We will travel by air from Glasgow to Naples and stay at a three star hotel with its own swimming pool; all meals are included in the price.

If you are interested and want an information pack/permission form, please come and see Mr McAllister (Physics) or Mrs McDaid (Geography).

Physical Education Department

❖ Active Schools Co-ordinator

Alison Corrigan our active schools co-ordinator will be setting up various coaching courses for our senior pupils, allowing them to gain valuable qualifications. This will give them the opportunity to coach younger pupils within the local community.

❖ Extra curricular clubs

Monday	Lunch time	Basketball S1-S6	Mrs Whyte
			Miss Rossi
		Trampoline S1-S6	Mrs Maxwell
Tuesday	After school	Rugby S1-S6	Mr Clark
	After school	Badminton S1-S6 and staff	Mrs McGeachie
	After school	Boys Football S3	Mr Marr
			Mr Laneres
Wednesday	After school	Boys Football S1	Miss Rossi
Friday	After school	Girls Football	Miss Stewart

Fundraising

❖ **S1/2 SPONSORED WALK**

On the afternoon of Thursday 10 September, the annual sponsored walk took place. All S1 and S2 pupils participated and will hopefully raise lots of money for school funds. This will allow trips and events throughout the year to be subsidised. Please encourage your child, family and friends to contribute.

❖ **ST. ANDREW'S HOSPICE 6K ROAD RACE**

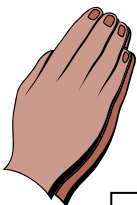
The school is once again taking part in the St. Andrew's 6k Road Race at Strathclyde Park on Sunday 20 September 2009. We had a fantastic response last year from senior pupils and staff. Already over 100 students and staff have entered. Please encourage your child to take part in this worthwhile event.

S1 RETREATS

Monday 14 September is the beginning of the first year pupil retreats.

S1/S3 PHOTOGRAPHS

S1 and S3 pupils will have their photographs taken on Monday 21 September and thereafter parents will have the opportunity to purchase their child's photograph.



PARENT COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

SESSION 2009-2010

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:

ANTHONY MEECHAN

170 GLENELUN ROAD

A reminder to all parents and carers to come along to the P.T.A. Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 30 September at 7.00pm. The work of the P.T.A. benefits your child.

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Please provide below any issues, concerns or even positive remarks you wish to make about the newsletter contents or about any issue related to the running of the school. Your opinion matters to us. Return this tear-off slip to the school office. Thank you.

E. Morrison
Head Teacher
September 2009



Interested in singing? Looking for a new challenge?

**Why not come along on a Tuesday evening
(7 - 8.30pm)**

**John Ogilvie High School
and join Hamilton Harmonics choir**
(Hamilton Harmonics are part of Ogilvie Community Choir)

No experience necessary and no audition.
Have fun, learn a new skill and meet new people.

Under the leadership of Lisa Bradie the new session
starts

Tuesday 8th September

costs £3.00 per session (to cover room hire and music).
Please come along and try it out!

For further information call Laura Gaddis on 01698 828302

