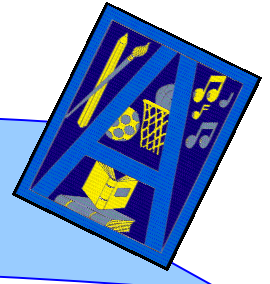


Abercorn News

December 2015



Dear Parent/Carer

As you will see from this newsletter it has been another busy month here in Abercorn. The pupils have enjoyed a number of Christmas activities including a pantomime or two, the Variety Club Party and our end of term Ceilidh that was featured on BBC Alba.

Our Christmas Carol Service was a great success. I would like to thank those parents/carers who were able to attend. The school band and choir were a great success earlier this month when they performed at the Financial Services Association Christmas Lunch in The Grand Central Hotel. It really is lovely to see our former pupils mixing with the new up and coming musicians and continuing to entertain people in the festive season.

It is with regret that I must also inform you, that Mr McKenzie will be leaving the school at the end of this term. He has worked extremely hard this term covering for Miss Jaffrey.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2015.

Patricia McGowan

Merry
Christmas

Christmas Holiday Information:

School will close at 2.30pm on Tuesday 22nd December and re-open at 8.55 am on **Wednesday 6th January 2016.**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year

IT Difficulties

I can only apologise for the delay in sending out this newsletter and your patience prior to the Christmas holidays due to GCC IT system difficulties.

Pantomime

On Tuesday 8th December 120 pupils and staff spent a very enjoyable morning at the "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" Pantomime in the Pavillion. We have been very fortunate for a number of years now to be the grateful recipients of tickets donated to the school by Mr Alan Rennie and he once again provided these tickets.

Christmas Lunch



On Friday 18th December our pupils came together to have their Christmas Lunch. Everyone seemed to enjoy the 3 course feast and staff commented on the

good behaviour of the children and the lovely festive atmosphere throughout.

Christmas Carol Concert

On Friday 18th December we held our annual Christmas Carol Concert.

This was enjoyed by all who attended and the pupils who participated were, as always, excellent.



School Band Gig

On Thursday 10th December the school band played a gig at the Grand Central Hotel during the Financial Services Association Christmas lunch. It is a very prestigious event during which we were happy to provide the entertainment and the organisation have kindly offered to donate the proceeds of their raffle to the school. A big thank you to those who took part and again well done to the S1 pupils participating in their first outside performance.



Christmas Fair

On Wednesday 9th December we held a very successful Christmas Fair. We had a number of stalls selling different things including home baking, Christmas gifts, toys, DVD's and books as well as our usual tombola, raffle and café. It was a fabulous morning and we are delighted to say we raised over £700 from the event. We are very grateful to all who supported us. Thank you to everyone who donated things for us to sell. In particular, we must say a special thank you Mrs McKenzie grandmother of David Mott in S5 for her donations of home baking. Thanks also to Mrs McKillop mother of Samantha in S6 who donated a knitted Christmas couple which was raffled.

S1/2 Christmas Party

On Friday 11th December S1 and S2 pupils were invited to a Christmas Party which was organized by the Crazy Entertainers Dynamic Youth group. Pupils were very excited about

going along and there were a number of activities and treats planned for them. Thank you very much to Gareth Gillies who came along as Braedolph to entertain everyone.



Alternative Transport Contact Number

The transport co-ordination centre have provided an alternative number which is more suitable to call from a mobile. If you use a mobile phone and need to contact the transport co-ordination centre to query your child's transport you can call **0141 287 1056**.



Uniform

As you know the Abercorn School Uniform consists of:

- White Shirt, buttoned
- School tie
- Black cardigan
- Black trousers (boy)
- Black Skirt or trousers (girl)
- Black shoes or trainers
- Black Blazer



We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers as they prepare for their child to return to school in January that pupils are not permitted to wear football colours, hooded jumpers, leggings or white trainers.

St Aloysius' College voluntary service programme

We have been very fortunate this term to have had 3 pupils from St Aloysius College with us one afternoon per week as part of The Arrupe Programme which is a voluntary service programme. The programme provides St Aloysius students with an opportunity to use their own gifts and talents for the benefit of others; and to reflect and learn from that experience. The pupils will undertake two different placements throughout their senior year and the group we had recently completed their first ten-week placements in Abercorn. Each placement has a different focus and aims to teach the student different things about themselves and the world. At the end of each week students went back to school and completed a journal, detailing their experiences. The group of pupils we had were excellent, they were very willing to get involved in everything that was asked of them and they were very supportive of the pupils they worked with. We are delighted that all three of them have chosen to come back to us after Christmas for their second 10 week placement.



Variety Club Christmas Party

65 of our pupils enjoyed a festive party courtesy of the Variety Club on Wednesday 9th December.

They travelled by coach to

Hampden Park where they enjoyed a fabulous Christmas party with music, dancing, entertainers and lovely gifts. Once again, we extend our gratitude to the Variety Club organisation for inviting our pupils to take part.



the children's charity

improving young lives every day

Internet Safety

We have recently been made aware of the introduction of a new app which aims to reduce the risk to pupils when using camera phones and ipads. **Selfie Cop** aims to remind young people that any photos or videos taken buy them may be used by everyone whilst also allowing parents to monitor their child's images and help safeguard their behaviour. Parents would install their Parent App on their own phone and the child app on their child's phone and these would be linked using a secure encryption code. When linked the parent can view the child's photos and videos before they are published to social media sites. This very worthwhile safety device is free to download till January please see the attached leaflet for more details.



Ashley Collins Concert

We were delighted to welcome Ashley Collins back to the school to sing to our young people on Monday 21st December, again everyone thoroughly enjoyed the songs.

Abercorn School Football Team

At the half way stage in the year the football team appear to be unstoppable. Below is the current league table. Ell doe to all team members and keep up the good work!



Placing	Team	Games Played	Won	Draw	Lost	Points
1	Abercorn	11	11	0	0	33
2	Cardinal Winning	12	8	2	1	30
3	Hollybrook	13	5	5	3	28
4	Mary Russell	12	5	2	5	24
5	St Oswalds	11	4	2	5	21
6	Parkhill	12	3	0	9	18
7	Craigmarloch	13	0	1	12	14

Dates for your Diary

13 January 2016 – P7 Transition begins

26 January 2016 – S1 trip to Coca Cola Factory

28 January 2016 – West of Scotland, Cross Country Series 2

February

8 February 2016 – Work Experience/Work Awareness Week (S4)

15 – 16 February 2016 – Mid Term Holiday

17 February 2016 – Inset Day 4

Easter/Spring Break Holiday dates

25 March and 28 March – Easter Weekend Holiday

4 April – 15 April – Spring break (inclusive days)