



**November 2013**

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the November edition of our newsletter. Once again it has been another very busy month in Abercorn.

On Wednesday, 27 November we held our annual Celebration of Success event. Once again the talents of our young people were showcased, and I would like to congratulate all of our pupils for their hardwork. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents/carers who attended this event – I am sure you were all “entertained”.

Earlier this month we had an excellent turnout (56%) at our recent parents’ evening. Another has been scheduled for March 2014.

As many of you have been aware the school has been experiencing a few difficulties with transport over the last few months. Last month I incorrectly informed you that a taxi would only wait 2 minutes at each address, however I have now received clarification that wait time is in fact 5 minutes. I am very grateful to you all that are keeping me informed of ongoing transport issues. I have arranged a meeting with Transport Co-ordination to discuss our concerns and am in the process of finalising another meeting the Education and TOA. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any points that you would like me to discuss on your behalf.

Finally, I am pleased to announce Kay, Hunter, Depute Head Teacher will take up her new post next week (Thursday, 5 December), I am confident that you will all welcome her to our school community.

*Patriola McGowan*

## **Dates for your Diary (December 2013)**

**S5 Reviews will take place during December. Parents will be advised of individual appointments**

<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	S4 National 2 Spanish trip to Edinburgh Castle
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	S3 Drama to Arches Christmas Show
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	S5/6 Ice Skating George Square
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Abercorn Christmas Fair
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	S5/6 Drama to Citizens Theatre School Band performing at FSA Luncheon, Grand Central Hotel
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	S1/2 Christmas Party
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Wellbeing Award organizing Wellbeing Activities for S3
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	S4 to China Buffet King
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Abercorn Christmas Carol Service
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Christmas Lunch
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Mr Devlin and choir to Cumbrae House Carol Service
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	School Closes at 2.30pm

## Thank You

We would like to extend a very big thank you for some recent fundraising efforts. Ms Sinclair (mum of Stuart De Sylva in S2) Ms Sinclair participated in a sponsored "Tough Mudder". This is a 10-12 mile assault course designed by special forces. She raised £320 and very kindly donated this to the Abercorn School fund. This money can be used to help pay for residential trips and outings.

Our second thank you is to the Parent Council who organized a very successful Social Evening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November in the Goodyear Club in Drumchapel. The night was very well attended and greatly enjoyed by everyone. The fantastic sum of £1700 was raised and the possibility of this being matched by the employer of Francis Conlon is being investigated. Thank you to both the parent council and all who attended and supported the event.

## Christmas Fair

The S3 Personal Achievement Award group are busy organizing the annual Christmas Fair. They have chosen to hold the fair on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 10am till 12 noon. There will be a selection of stalls including toys; books/DVD's; home baking; café and our ever popular Christmas Gift stall. The pupils have been busy deciding on Christmas Gifts to make and sell and are hopeful you will like what they produce. All parents, carers, family and friends are welcome to come along to the fair. All donations for the home-baking stall and our Tombola would be gratefully received.

## Pro Judo Taster Morning

S1-S4 pupils had the privilege of attending a judo taster morning run by Pro Judo on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November. All pupils participated and greatly enjoyed the event. We would like to extend our thanks to Pro Judo for offering us this opportunity.



## Diwali Doolally

Once again S2 celebrated the Hindu festival of Diwali at Abercorn in fine style. First up was the quiz which went right down to the wire. Jamie Henderson had to deal with the incredibly stressful task of answering the last question in order to win the title. Half of his team mates were advising him one way and the other half another, but he kept a cool head and played a blinder, guiding his team to victory! After that we celebrated with vegetable and chicken pakora and a selection of Indian snacks all washed down with cool refreshing mango juice - after the spicy food some of us needed it! For desert we sampled a selection of Indian honey cakes which tasted even more heavenly than they looked. All in all it was an excellent Diwali and I for one can't wait until next year. Thanks again to Mr Anderson for organizing this splendid celebration.

## Drumming and Diversity

On Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November S1,2 & 3 had the opportunity to take part in the 'Drumming and Diversity' workshop to celebrate Scottish Interfaith Week. Dr Jane Bently spent an hour with each year group exploring 'the rhythm of life' with her incredible collection of drums and percussion instruments from around the world with the aim of highlighting similarities and differences between different cultures. We all had a fantastic time, I'm not too sure about the neighbours though...



## Morrisons Let's Grow Vouchers

Abercorn managed to collect 451 tokens and we have traded these in for 2 bug houses to attract insects and bees into the school gardens. We have also ordered some magnifying lenses to look more closely at the creatures. These should be delivered to the school in time for Spring. Thank you for sending in your tokens.

## Breakfast Club

The Duke Of Edinburgh Group are currently establishing a breakfast club within the school. They have been conducting some market research into the breakfast habits of pupils to see if there is a demand for their service. More details to follow when they have their service up and running.

## Ski-ing

On Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November six senior pupils attended the first Disability Snowsport UK, ski race at Snowfactor in Breachhead. The 'access for all' race was a downhill slalom and after a short time allowed for practice the boys were timed over two time trials to see who had the quickest time.



Out of a total of 11 competitors they all did very well and should be proud of their efforts, particularly as they had never competed in this type of event. Kyle Hannin won Gold and Andrew Larter finished with Bronze, so well done to them and to all the competitors from Abercorn!

The full results are below..

Disability Snowsports UK (DSUK) Access for All Race League  
Snowfactor – Glasgow

Total time is over two time trials..... In Slalom

1. Kyle Hannin – 39.96
2. Claire Jeffreys – 41.93
3. Andrew Larter – 45.37
4. Lewis Collins – 46.37
5. Garry Hamilton – 47.01
6. Alistair Robertson - 50.56
7. Ryan Cuzen – 51.08
8. Thomas Rankin – 55.73
9. Emily Clarke – 62.68
10. Blair Henderson - 67.50
11. Murray Shields – 67.54

## S1/2 Christmas Party

Abercorn Secondary School, 195 Garscube Road, Glasgow, G4 9QH. Tel: 0141 332 6212. Web: [www.aberncorn-sec.glasgow.sch.uk](http://www.aberncorn-sec.glasgow.sch.uk)

The Abercorn's Crazy Entertainers Dynamic Youth group are busy organizing a Christmas Party for S1/2. The party will take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon. Pupils will be provided with some Christmas treats while they take part in some festive party games. Pupils may bring in party clothes and change at lunch time.



## Drama/Media Trips

S3 Drama/Media will be visiting the Arches



Theatre to see their Christmas show *The Night Before Christmas*. In addition, the S5/6 Drama/Media class will be visiting the Citizens Theatre to see their Jungle Book production. Both classes will then use their

knowledge gained in class to analyse and evaluate the performances they have seen.

## Pupil Valuables

This school session we have noticed an increase in the number of pupils having very valuable items in their possession. These items include: mobile phones, i-pods, ipads/tablets, headphones etc. In some instances these can cost up to £500. We would like to remind you that the school is not able to accept responsibility for these items if they should go "missing". We would encourage you not to allow your son/daughter to bring these items to school. If your son/daughter has any valuables on them it is essential that they hand these to a member of staff during all PE lessons. Please contact the school if you require any further information.

## Art & Design News

### Children In Need

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising for 'Children in Need'. The Duke of Edinburgh Group helped organise and run the 'Guess Where Pudsey has left bits of his PE kit' during the morning interval for a week raising £47.70. Our non-uniform day raised £113.50 – making a grand total of £161.20 for Children in Need. Well Done everyone!



The prize winners were Anthony McGroarty (1B), Emrah Tugcu (1C), Nikita Forbes (1A), and Alex Reid (2A).

### School Christmas Card Competition

There have been fabulous entries for the school Christmas Card competition this year. The winning image which will be used by the school is by Rachel Wilson 3A.



### School Captains

Abercorn have for the first time elected School captains. The pupils had the opportunity to nominate themselves for these positions of responsibility and following a selection process during which the whole school community had the opportunity to vote we are proud to announce that for session 2013-2014 our Head Boy is Michael Dougan and our Head Girl is Farheen Akhtar. They will be ably assisted by vice captains Kyle Hannin and Max Miller. In addition a number of seniors have taken on the responsibility of Lunch Time Monitors. Congratulations to all.

## Rights Respecting Schools Award

Mr Anderson in the RE department has spent a great deal of time recently researching the Rights Respecting Schools Award and as a school we have decided to begin the journey towards being accredited for this Award by UNICEF. Abercorn has always tried to ensure children's rights are respected and upheld and therefore we feel it is an appropriate award for us to work towards. The process spans a couple of years and therefore it will be some of the younger children who are most involved in the planning, preparation and accreditation but it is intended to be a whole school project and as such there will be opportunities for all pupils to become involved as well as parents, staff and friends of the school.



Our first step is to register our intention to participate. More details will follow when the project is up and running.

### Celebration of Success

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November we held our annual Celebration of Success. The event, once again, went very well and allowed us to celebrate the many and varied successes of our pupils both in class and in an extra-curricular capacity. It also allowed us the opportunity to say farewell and thank you to Roy Henderson who has been our school chaplain for over 20 years. We are very grateful for all the time Roy has spent with us here in Abercorn over the years and wish him well as he moves to take up a new post in the South of the City.

Our next event will be the Christmas Carol Service which will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December in the morning and, again, all parents, carers and friends will be made warmly welcome. To allow for appropriate seating to be made available you will shortly receive an invitation, please return this to us indicating how many people will be attending.

**S3 PAA**  
**Abercorn Secondary School**



**WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
**DECEMBER**  
**10 AM- 12 NOON**



# **CHRISTMAS FAIR**



## **CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

**TOMBOLA**



**HOME BAKING**



**BOOKS**



**DVD'S**



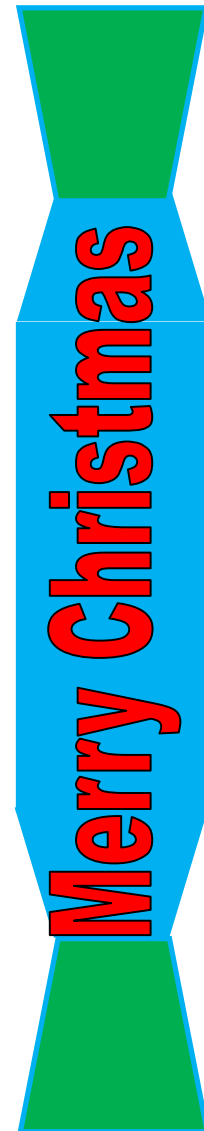
**CAFÉ**



**RAFFLE**



**TOYS**



All donations of home baking, raffle, tombola items very gratefully received