



**November 2014**

Dear Parent/Carer

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

On Wednesday, 26 November we held our annual Celebration of Success event. This gave the school community an opportunity to recognise a number of our recent achievements including being awarded our 4<sup>th</sup> Eco-Schools Green Flag and a GEPA Award for our excellent partnership working. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents/carers who attended this event.

Earlier this month we had an excellent turnout (65%) at our recent parents' evening. Another has been scheduled for March 2015.

As you will see from the "dates for your diary" section December is going to be a particularly busy month. I will strive to keep you informed of all outings/trips as these have an impact on our young people's timetables and I am very aware of the necessity to ensure that everyone is fully prepared for any changes within the school day. The school will be particularly busy during the Ski Trip as 27 pupils and 7 staff will be away in Italy that week.

*Patricia McGowan*

## **Dates for your Diary (December 2014)**

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Diana Award Inspire Event
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christmas Fair (10 am until noon)
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs Couper's English Class to the Citizens Theatre for A Christmas Carol
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Residential Ski Trip to Pila, Italy
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Trip to Pavillion Pantomime, Treasure Island (11 am performance)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Variety Club Christmas Party, Hampden
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	School Band to play at Financial Service Lunch, Grand Central Lunch
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	S1 and S2 Christmas Party organised by Crazy Entertainers
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Carol Service
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Ceilidh (afternoon)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Disco (afternoon – DJ Gavin Roberts (S4))
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	School Closes 2.30pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	School re-opens

## Pantomime

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 50 pupils will attend the Treasure Island pantomime in the Pavilion Theatre. We are grateful once again to Mr Alan Rennie who donated the tickets.

## Variety Club Christmas Party

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 65 pupils will attend the Variety Club Christmas Party at Hampden Park. Once again the Variety Club has offered each of the pupils the chance to choose a Christmas Present to receive at the event. We have been supported by the Variety Club for a long number of years now and appreciate the efforts they make to ensure our pupils enjoy the treats they offer.



## Christmas Fair

The S3 Personal Achievement Award group are busy organizing the annual Christmas Fair. They have chosen to hold the fair on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 10am till 12 noon. There will be a selection of stalls including toys; books/DVD's; home baking; raffle; tombola; 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. Donations for the home-baking stall and our Tombola would be gratefully received.

## Ski-ing

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December a group of 27 pupils, 7 former pupils and 7 staff will head off to Pila in Italy for a week's residential ski trip. We are sure they will have a fantastic time and can't wait to hear the stories when they get back.



## Celebration of Success

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November we held our annual Celebration of Success assembly. We were delighted to celebrate a number of recent successes within our school community, including our 4<sup>th</sup> Eco Flag; our Sponsored Swim; our Student Council; our Allotment and our Fire Reach pupils.

Our next event will be the Christmas Carol Service which will take place on Wednesday 17<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.

## FireReach Programme

10 pupils from S1 –S3 recently attended a week long Fire Reach course at Maryhill Fire Station. From learning skills about how to use the fire hose to climbing through tunnels and dark sewers all of the pupils had a fantastic time. The Firefighters were very impressed with the all of the pupils and were quoted as saying "This is one of the best FireReach groups we have ever had!". All pupils received certificates for their hard weeks work of learning and commitment. Well done to them all.

## Girls Football Team

The girl's football team had their first competitive fixture this month against a local team from Parkhill School on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November.



All the girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to play as a team for the first time. The final score was a very respectable 1-0 to Parkhill.

## Business Education Trips

S3 Business participated in a museum workshop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The workshop - The Age of New Enlightenment at Kelvingrove was excellent and pupils enjoyed the experience very much. Pupils were given handheld computers which they used to complete four challenges around the museum. Students not only learned about interesting facts about some of the exhibits but had to problem solve and navigate around the museum using the given clues. All the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and felt that they had a very positive learning experience.



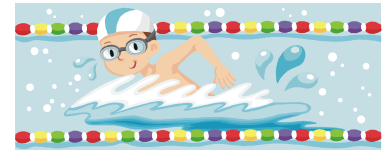
S3 Business visited the Coca Cola Factory on 24<sup>th</sup> November as they are taking part in the Real Business Challenge run by Coca-Cola Enterprises Ltd. They were looking at branding and marketing and were hoping that the tour and information gained would help them to complete their entry for this year's business challenge.

S4 Business visited the Lees of Scotland factory in Coatbridge on the 18<sup>th</sup> November as part of their National 3 Business course. The students have been using the company as the basis for case study and when they asked to visit Lees of Scotland were very enthusiastic. The Managing Director spoke the students about sustainability/recycling, source local ingredients, employment in the local community and competitors. Students also had a factory floor visit seeing how teacakes, snowballs and meringues are made, they were very impressed with the factory and the trip has given them a better understanding of production processes.

## Christmas Market Tour

4A and 4B along with Mrs Logue and Mrs Johnston visited the Argyle Street Christmas Market. They were given a tour of the market and heard the background and history to each of the stall holders as well as the Christmas traditions in their country. They were given the opportunity to try as much of the food as they wanted and everyone agreed that some of the food items available were delicious.

## Sponsored Swim



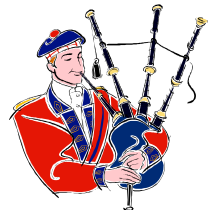
Our annual sponsored swim took place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November. All pupils took part either swimming lengths of the pool or walking laps of the hall. Everyone was enthusiastic about raising their sponsor money donations and we are delighted to announce that almost £4000 was raised during the event. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to the family, friends and neighbours who donated. There were prizes available for most money raised and the winners will be announced next month – so watch this space!!!!

## Diana Award Inspire Event

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December Mrs Logue and 5 S4 pupils will visit the Science Centre for the first Diana Award Inspire Event. Pupils will have the chance to mix creativity with developing work related skills. They will undertake a Music Workshop in the morning and a CV writing workshop in the afternoon. Throughout the day there will be inspirational speakers, make it challenges and debate to participate in.

## Care for a Ceilidh

We were fortunate recently to have musicians visit the music department to perform ceilidh songs. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the ceilidh, as Ian Smith, Tony Collins and Martainn Skene gave the pupils a few tunes and held a Q&A about their instruments.



The pupils loved hearing new instruments, and our visitors said they were very polite and enthusiastic - a real credit to themselves and to the school. Well done to them all.

## Christmas Lunch

Pupils will have Christmas lunch on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.





We would like to extend a very big thank you for some recent fundraising efforts. Mr Kerr has worked tirelessly to support our former pupils who have been chosen to attend the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles in 2015. He organized a very successful fundraising evening in the

Goodyear Club in Drumchapel on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November which raised over £2000 and also £120 for the Greater Maryhill Foodbank. Thank you to all who supported the event.



In addition, Mr Kerr has contacted a number of local businesses for financial support to help the Special Olympics athletes achieve their fundraising amount. A number of people have donated to this worthy cause, in addition delighted to receive a cheque for £500 from Digby Brown for school funds. We are very grateful for their support.

