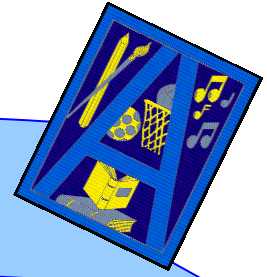


Abercorn News



October 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

Everyone has returned to school refreshed after our midterm break and ready to work hard in this very busy term before we begin our preparations for Christmas.

As you will see from this newsletters we have had 2 very successful fundraising activities over the last few weeks, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support in these ventures especially as the "recession" is having such an impact on all of our daily lives.

You will now have received a copy of your son/daughter's curriculum plans for this session. This is a very useful document as it will provide you with:

- names of teachers
- information on subjects and courses
- your son/daughter's targets

Included with the curriculum plans was a letter asking if you agreed with the targets that have been set and asking if there is anything else that we as a school can do to support you. I would be very grateful if you could complete and return this letter as soon as possible.

Parent's Evening is upon us once again and has been arranged for Thursday 8 November. Having listened to the feedback from parents/carers last session we are making a number of changes to ensure the vent runs smoothly. The main change is the time, **parents evening will begin at 4.30pm and finish at 7.30pm** and once again individual pupil information outlining which teachers they see for which subject will be available. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

As you will see from the "dates for your diary" section attached 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.

Patricia McGowan

Dates for your Diary (November 2012)

Monday 5th	S2 Museum Visit Arts and Crafts Fair, Bearsden
Tuesday 6th	Social Enterprise Parents Café
Thursday 8th	Parents evening - 4.30pm - 7.30 pm (all year groups)
Monday 19th	In Service Day (Curriculum for Excellence and New Qualifications)
Friday 23rd	Celebration of Success - opportunities to recognize the success of our pupils

Please see attached December Dates for your Diary

Sponsored Swim



On Monday 1st October all pupils took part in a Sponsored Swim. They were very motivated and did very well. To date this event has raised approximately £4000 with some money still being collected. We would encourage all pupils who haven't yet managed to collect sponsorship money to try and raise even a couple of pounds. The money raised will be used to help subsidise residential trips so all pupils will benefit. Thanks again to everyone who has already donated and well done once again to all pupils who took part.

Parent's Nights

Our first Parents Night of the new session will be on Thursday 8th November. The three hour session will begin at 4.30pm to allow time for taxi pupils to travel home from school. Jemma Cassidy from the Glasgow Council on Alcohol organization will have a table at the parent's night and will be available to answer any questions or offer advice and assistance in this matter, particularly if you are concerned about or looking for information on the effect of alcohol on people's health.

Halloween Party



On Friday 26th October the Wider Achievement group Abercorn Crazy Entertainers hosted a Halloween party for S1. The pupils all entered into the spirit of the theme with some great costumes on display. All in all it seems to have been a successful afternoon and everyone enjoyed themselves very much.

Social Enterprise Café for Parents

Our very successful Parents café is continuing in session 2012-2013 with a new time. This year the café will run on a Tuesday afternoon. Our first of the new session took place on Tuesday 2nd October and was very well attended.



We have a new group of pupils "staffing" the café this year. S3 Business are responsible for the management and promotion of the café – they have been hard at work in recent weeks researching cafes and trying to come up with ways to ensure our café is the best possible experience for our customers. They are also working on ways to 'brand' the café and have been looking at names and logos – all of which will be unveiled in due course. As our café is a social enterprise our profits are used to help others and the group have this year decided that Yorkhill will be the beneficiaries of our profits. They are discussing what form their donations will take. S3 Home Economics are responsible for menu planning and providing the home baked items for sale.

Our next café will take place on Tuesday 6th November with a slightly later start time of 2.15pm.

Gaelic Club

Recently we have started an S1/S2 Gaelic Club. Every Thursday lunchtime we have 10 pupils attending who are very keen to learn the language. So far everyone seems to be having fun. Watch out for some Gaelic at our future services!

Windfarm Trip



On Wednesday 31st October S2 visited the Whitelee Windfarm which is located on Eaglesham Moor just 20 minutes from central Glasgow. The windfarm has 140 turbines which can generate 322MW of electricity, enough to power 180,000 homes. This visit complemented their work in both science and ICT where they are beginning to understand the relationship between key scientific principles and technological developments by investigating the use and development of renewable and sustainable energy to gain an awareness of their growing importance in Scotland or beyond.

Bingo Night



On Thursday 11th October Abercorn once again held a very successful Bingo Night. S4 SVS had been responsible for organizing this event and shopped for prizes, advertised and sold tickets as well as shopping for and preparing the refreshments which were served at the break. Everyone seemed to enjoy the night and we are delighted to say it raised over £800. Thank you to everyone who helped out; attended or made donations. We are very grateful.

Drummore Primary 50th Birthday Celebrations



On Friday 26th October Ms McGowan was delighted to attend an event in our feeder primary school

Drummore to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. It was an enjoyable afternoon which she was pleased to share. We would like to wish Drummore all the best for the next 50 years and beyond.

Christmas Fair



Our S3 Personal Development group is currently working on a practical abilities project which will see them identify strengths and weaknesses and set themselves targets for improvements. They have chosen the Christmas Fair as a context and therefore they will be responsible for the planning and preparation of this event. They will be sending out more information in due course, however, they are at the moment looking for any donations towards the raffle and tombola. If you would like to make a donation they can be handed in to the school.

Personal Presentation Group Glove Making Enterprise

Following the success of the Personal Presentation Groups Bracelet Making enterprise project last Christmas; this year we are making personalised gloves for both children and adults. Gloves are priced at £2.50 each or as a special offer 3 pairs for £6.00 and come in a variety of colours and styles. The gloves will be on sale at the Christmas fair and service but can be pre-ordered by completing the order form on the attached advert.



Blackpool and Alton Towers Residential Trip



S3 and S4 groups have now been issued with permission forms to take part in a 2 night residential trip to Alton Towers and Blackpool on 24th March 2013. The cost of this trip is £100 and this can be paid in instalments from now on. For more information please contact Mrs Johnston or Mrs Logue.

S1/S2 Technologies Workshops

Our S1 and S2 classes will attend a series of workshops facilitated by Glasgow Life in the Glasgow Museums which will complement their work in technologies. These workshops are designed to allow them to learn about technological developments in society while participating in hands-on practical tasks. We have attended these workshops for a number of years now and they are always very well received by the pupils. It is hoped that this year's groups will enjoy them just as much.

Work Experience

The majority of S4 will take part in Work Experience Placements in February, however, a number of pupils have been out on placements recently with a few more due to go out in November. These placements are excellent opportunities for the pupils to experience a workplace and gain an insight into what is required of them in that setting. Those who have been out so far have experienced cafes, hairdressers and childcare and have all enjoyed their time very much.

Celebration of Success

Our annual Celebration of Success will take place on Friday 23rd November. As always this is an opportunity for pupils to celebrate the numerous successes they have had in Abercorn in the last year as well as paying our respect to St Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. This service is only for pupils; however, parents are most welcome to attend our annual Christmas Service which will take place on Tuesday 18th December and preparations for both services are well underway in the Music department.

Student Council

Our nomination and selection process has now been completed and the 2012-2013 Abercorn Student Council is in place. Each year group is represented and pupils are encouraged to speak to their Student Council representative if there are any issues or concerns. On joining the council all pupils were given the opportunity to nominate themselves for selection and were then chosen by their peers in a vote. This year's council is made up of:

S1 – Alex Reid, William Mitten and Martin Lee

S2 – Michelle Wood, Rosie O'Neil, Kosrat Sardar

S3 – Jamie Baxter, Jack Bulloch

S4 – Mary Cross, Gary Hamilton, Marc Stewart

S5/6 – Chris Kilpatrick, Michael Dougan, Neil Simpson and Victoria Richards

Michael Dougan was overwhelmingly voted to remain as the Chairperson for another year.

Some pupils are continuing from previous years and some are new additions however all are expected to show exemplary attitude and behaviour and be mature in their approach to representing the views of their year group.

At various points in the year they will also be called upon to represent the school at city wide events and may be asked to present information about our school to others. Congratulations to all pupils' chosen and good luck with the task!

Dates for your Diary (December 2012)

These are some of the activities planned for the month leading up to Christmas. There may be other activities arranged nearer the time which we will notify you of.

	S5/6 Annual Reviews - Parents/Carers to be informed of appointment times
Thursday 6 th	School Band will perform at the Annual Financial Services Christmas Lunch
Friday 7 th	School Christmas fair (organized by S3 Personal Development Award group)
Saturday 8 th	Ski Trip departs for Italy
Thursday 13 th	Trip to Pantomime, Pavillion Theatre (selected pupils only)
Friday 14 th	Arthur Christmas cinema Trip, GFT (selected pupils only)
Friday 14 th	S1 & S2 Christmas Party (afternoon only)
Sunday 16 th	Ski Trip arrives back in Glasgow
Tuesday 18 th	Christmas Service
Friday 21 st	School will finish at 2.30pm School reopens on Monday 7 January

