



**October 2013**

Dear Parent/Carer

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

Together with this month's edition of the newsletter you will receive 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 planned outcomes for the session

Included with the curriculum plans is a letter asking if you agree 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 7th November from 4.30 pm until 7.30 pm. We do ask that you keep individual meetings with subject teachers to be between 5 and 10 minutes so that the evening can run smoothly for everyone. Once again individual pupil information outlining which teachers they see for each subject will be available. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

I recently held interviews for the two vacant Depute Head Teacher posts within the school. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mr Shields who has now been appointed DHT on a permanent basis. In addition we will be welcoming a new member of staff, Ms Kay Hunter who will join us in December as our second DHT. I am confident that you will all welcome her to our school community.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I have to inform you that Mr Roy Henderson, our school minister has moved on to pastures new. Roy has been an excellent support to the school over the years and I know that we will all feel a sense of loss during our assemblies as he will no longer be present. Pupils, staff and parents will miss his sense of humour and all of the outstanding work that he has done for Abercorn over the years. I am sure you will join me in wishing him every success in his new Parish.

*Patricia McGowan*

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

**S6 Leavers Reviews will take place during November. Parents will be advised of individual appointments**

<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Zoolab to visit S1 in school
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Parents Evening (4.30 pm until 7.30 pm)
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Blairvadach Trip (Mr Baird and Sports Leaders)
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Social Enterprise Parents Café 2.30pm -3.15pm
<b>TBC</b>	Celebration of Success

## Parent's Nights

Our first Parents Night of the new session will be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November. The three hour session will begin at 4.30pm. Parents are asked to stick to an appointment time of between 5 and 10 minutes per teacher.

## Halloween Party



On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Bingo Night



On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October Abercorn once again held a very successful Bingo Night. S4 Personal Achievement Award 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 £700. Thank you to everyone who helped out; attended or made donations. We are very grateful.

## S1 Coca Cola Trip



S1 pupils attended the Coca Cola factory in East Kilbride to hear about the company and their production process. All pupils enjoyed the trip and were commended for their excellent behavior.

## Social Enterprise Café for Parents

Our very successful Parents café is continuing in session 2013-2014. Our first café of the new session took place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September and was very well attended. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances we didn't manage to hold a café in October, however, we are back on track and the next one is planned in for Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

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.

As our café is a social enterprise our profits are used to help others and the group have this year decided that The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice will be the beneficiaries of our profits. The class are currently discussing what form their donations will take, however it is likely they will support the hospice's current *Brick by Brick* appeal which is being run in order to raise funds to support the building of a new hospice in Bellahouston Park.



S3 Home Economics are again involved in the project and are responsible for menu planning and providing the home baked items for sale on the day.

Our next café will take place on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** running from 2.30pm till 3.15pm. Parents attending are more than welcome to wait and take their children home with them at 3.25pm.

## Amazonia

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October S1 pupils took part in a very successful trip to Amazonia. This visit allows them to take part in a workshop where they learn about the animals in the rainforest and how they survive. Since they have been studying the novel Crash in the Jungle in English it is an excellent opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding. At the same time they are also able to put their Art & Design work into context since they sketch throughout the trip.

## Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Queens Baton Relay



We were delighted to discover that we have been chosen to have a Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton bearer.

The Student Council agreed the person chosen should be an ambassador for sport within Abercorn and therefore they chose 4 Special Olympics athletes - Kyle Hannin (S5), Ryan

Cuzen (S5), Alistair Robertson (S6), Garry Hamilton (S5) - to form a shortlist.

The whole school then had the opportunity to listen to the nominations and vote for who they thought should be chosen to carry the baton. Alistair Robertson was the successful pupil and we are currently waiting for more information on where and when he will be involved. We will of course share this with you when we know more and hope that as many of you as possible will be able to go along to support Alistair as he runs with the baton. Congratulations Alistair.

## School Meals

At the end of last session (June) we issued information regarding Free School Meal entitlement along with the necessary forms. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals for this session, and you haven't already completed the forms, you must do so as soon as possible. Any pupil who has not been awarded free school meals is required to pay £1.40 per day. More information and the required forms are available from the school office.

## Transport Co-ordination Centre Freephone Number

We are aware there are ongoing issues with some of our school taxis. Please call the Transport Co-ordination Centre on **0800 032 4444** if a pupil is not going to be on the morning taxi run. This is a freephone number available 24 hours a day. The school should also then be informed of any pupil absence.



Please note also that the wait time for taxis is now only 2 minutes. Pupils should be ready and waiting for their taxi to arrive as drivers are unable to wait outside the house for longer than 2 minutes.

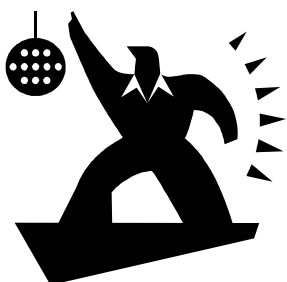
## Parent Council Social Event

Our Parent Council have organized a Social Event on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November (see attached flyer). We hope you will be able to come along and support this night. Our thanks to the Parent Council for organizing this event.

**Abercorn Parent Council**  
have organised a  
**Social Evening**

**in The Goodyear Club**  
**307 Duntreath Avenue**

**G15 6SA**



*Tickets £5  
available from the school*

*Saturday 2nd November*

**Raffle**

*7.30pm - late*

**Tombola**

**donations gratefully  
received in school**