



Firrhill News

April 2017

Produced by the Parent Council

U16s Football

Firrhill's Under 16s football team played Portobello on Saturday 4 February at Saughton Fields. There was plenty of action on the pitch however this Lothian Schools Football League U16s match ended in a goal-less draw. Credit to our goalkeeper who did a great job defending the goal.



Thanks to coach Gavin Richmond and all the parents who gave support.

Firrhill relentlessly kept up the pace and showed lots of skill throughout the match, but by the final whistle neither team had managed to score.





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Badminton Club



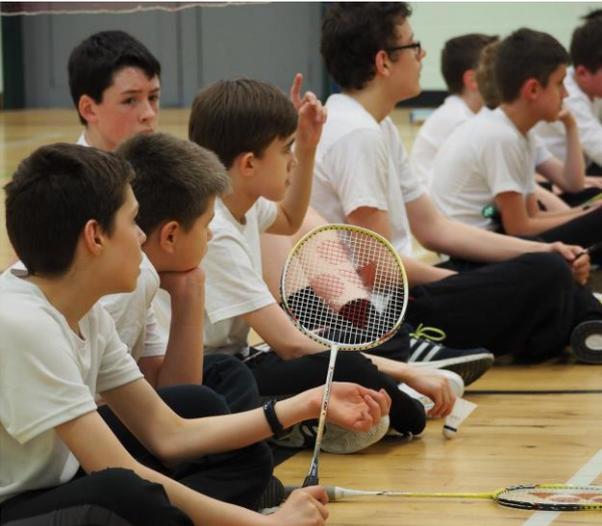
The badminton club is covered by the school sports membership scheme which costs £20 per year and includes all clubs (except hockey).



On Wednesdays after school Mr Leitch runs a popular badminton club which takes place in the gym. S1 & S2 pupils meet from 3.30 to 4.15 pm and S3-S6 pupils meet from 4.15 to 5.00 pm. Firrhill's Under 14s team placed second in the Edinburgh Schools Badminton league. Well done!



Thanks to all our dedicated staff members who run Firrhill's many sports clubs.





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Basketball



On Friday lunchtime the school basketball club for S5 & S6 pupils, led by Mr Walkinshaw, meets and trains in the gym. The senior team took part in the Basketball Scotland Competition, "School open boys cup" (knockout stage).

Miss Carmichael, Curriculum Leader, says, "It is great to see pupils enjoying a wide variety of sports - hopefully many will continue sport after leaving school".





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CMS Career Insight Day for Law



As part of Firrhill's "Developing the Young Workforce" programme, 15 S4 pupils and Ms Ranger attended a career insight day for law at the CMS law firm offices on Castle Terrace on 10 January.

The day was extremely well received by everyone, with pupil feedback including "I really enjoyed the tour, it made me realise all the different jobs there are in a legal office", "I liked debating the ethical issues" and "I now know more about career pathways if I do law".



Roslyn Mullholland and her colleagues Esther, Scott, Colin and Jenny organised a very enjoyable day which included a range of activities to give pupils a greater insight into the possible careers within a legal practice. Pupils discussed what lawyers actually do, the types of law you could specialise in, and the skills required to work within the legal profession and a law firm. They also had a tour of the office and had to think about business etiquette and how they should present themselves in a client meeting.



After a super lunch, pupils worked in groups to debate an ethical issue. They had to decide if they were "for" or "against" the issue and had to present their point of view to the others. Everyone then voted if they were persuasive with their presentation. The topics included knife crime, euthanasia and cannibalism.



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Urban Flora Project

Throughout Scotland pupils are invited to take part in the Botanical Society of Scotland's 2017 Urban Flora Project. An exciting opportunity for pupils to photograph wild flowers and plants found growing in their school grounds and surrounding areas. Photos must be accompanied by the GPS location or post code. Pupils can use cameras, iPads or mobile phones. If possible, plants should be identified and named. Images must be submitted on a CD by the end of July 2017.

The school with the best portfolio of wild flower photos will win £50 worth of books on wild flowers. Please contact Maria Chamberlain mchamber@exseed.ed.ac.uk if further details are required.



The Urban Flora Project is suitable for all primary and high school pupils, from any school. Participation can be as part of a science lesson, a science club, eco group activity, photography club, Duke of Edinburgh Award or as individuals. It is hoped that a number of Firrhill pupils will take part and develop an interest in wild plants, nature, the outdoors and photography.



"Hopefully both pupils and staff will enjoy the Urban Flora Project and learn about wild flowers and photography" says C. Hargest, Firrhill Parent.



The Botanical Society of Scotland organises regular lectures held at 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR. The lectures (held in the lecture theatre) are free of charge and are preceded by tea and biscuits from 5.30 pm, start at 6.00 pm. Why not go along? All welcome! For more information, see <http://www.botanical-society-scotland.org.uk/>



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Nest Boxes

On Tuesday 7 February Brian Robertson, RSPB Edinburgh local group leader and Carolyn Hargest, parent, sited some new nest boxes in the Celebration Garden and in the school grounds, to the rear of the school. There were four tit nest boxes, three robin boxes and one sparrow box. Even as the boxes were being sited, a robin and blue tit were already looking interested.



We hope some of the nest boxes will be used by birds in the spring.



It is hoped that by feeding the birds in the Celebration Garden they will be attracted in and use the nest boxes.



For more information about the RSPB Edinburgh Local Group <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/edinburgh/>



Blue tits (top right) and great tits (left) like a box with a round hole; robins (above) prefer an open nest box.



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Vision Aid Overseas

From 14 to 29 March, Firrhill pupils and parents donated glasses and sunglasses for Vision Aid Overseas (VAO) which organises a fantastic glasses reuse and recycle scheme that helps people in Africa to receive glasses and sunglasses. VAO matches the prescription glasses and sunglasses as closely as possible to the recipients' needs. Volunteer opticians and optometrists train local workers to carry out eye tests and match prescriptions.



2013	35 pairs
2014	86 pairs
2015	110 pairs
2016	150 pairs
2017	280 pairs

It is a great opportunity to help people in Africa to enjoy corrected vision and protection from the harmful rays of the sun. The small act of donating unwanted glasses is life-changing – enabling people to gain employment, receive education and provide or care for their families.



Vision Aid Overseas



Specsavers

Thanks to everyone who donated glasses and sunglasses, helping VAO to achieve an amazing number of donated glasses and sunglasses from Firrhill.

Please continue to collect your unwanted glasses and sunglasses. Glasses can be left at reception for Mrs Hargest or donate glasses to Specsavers Morningside.

Well done to all those involved. Special thanks to the members of the community who have collected glasses for this project: Oxgangs Library, Colinton Parish Church, Oxgangs Primary School, Waverley Care, Milestone, and also further afield at the City of Newcastle Golf Club.

Firrhill PTA Fundraising

QUIZ NIGHT



When?

Friday 5 May 2017 at 7.30pm

Where?

Colinton Bowling Club (Redford Road)

How much?

Tickets: £12 each

Including baked potato supper **prepared by MacKenzies**

How do I get a ticket?

Available from the school office, the PTA and PC members



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Waverley Care, Milestone Shed Project

Firrhill pupils and parents donated plastic bottle tops which were threaded to form a decorative feature for the new shed at Waverley Care, Milestone. Originally, it was intended that pupils should have greater involvement in making the shed. However, due to the school closure and subsequent building works, this was not possible. The shed is looking very good and pupils will be invited to visit and see it in use.



Waverley Care
making a positive difference

Thanks to everyone who donated bottle tops, and to the Eco Committee for collecting bottles from the recycling units.



“Waverley Care, Milestone would like to say a huge big thank you to Firrhill High School for all their involvement in helping us make the shed happen and making it so bright and colourful. A couple of our residents really enjoyed coming along to help at one of the workshops”.

“We are looking forward to spring when we can use our new shed as an outdoor workspace/potting shed. This will protect us from the Scottish weather as we continue to develop our new “Willow Garden” area and raised beds.”

Well done to all those involved in this local community project, we look forward to the opening celebration!



Please continue to collect bottle tops and donate these to Waverley Care, Milestone as still more are needed for the project.



Farewell to Ros Nixon



In December, after 14 years at Firrhill, Communications Officer Ros Nixon left to take up an administration post at Royston Court Care Home, Granton. Ros was an asset to the school, a helpful presence at many school events, including the Diversity Day film launch, the opening of the school hair salon and PTA quiz nights (where her team often won the wooden spoon). We will miss her hard work, sense of humour and ability to tell an amusing tale. We wish her success and happiness in her new post.

The Environment Group in particular benefitted from Ros Nixon’s help: proofreading the *Firrhill News*, often providing drawing pins and scissors, and allowing her office to temporarily house various eco items ranging from homemade cards to fat balls for birds, and plants.

“We are very grateful to Ros for her help over many years and wish her all the best in her new job”, says Carolyn Hargest, Environment Group Leader.

Ros is a George Clooney fan and loves mischievous squirrels! #georgeclooney #squirrels