



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

April 2019

Road safety improvements

As part of the revision of our school Travel Plan, a travel survey was completed, asking questions about how the journey to school could be improved. Some comments by staff highlighted the need for a dropped kerb on the mixed-use path which runs through the school grounds, and also the need for two convex mirrors on the school driveway. The Environment Group, David Hall, Business Manager, and the City of Edinburgh Council have worked hard to arrange these new road safety improvements. Additional cycle signage in the school grounds and 36 indoor lockers for cyclists are soon to be installed. It is hoped that these measures will enable more people to enjoy a safe and sustainable journey to school.



The school's Park Smart banners are fixed to the railings by the PE block with cable ties that may detach in the wind. Parent Carolyn Hargest reattached the banners, which are a reminder to park considerably – or better still – walk, cycle or use public transport.



Environment Award

The Environment Group – one of the Parent Council's working groups – presented the school with a beautiful pewter quaich, purchased from a charity shop, as a new "Environment Award"! The quaich will be awarded at the "Celebration of Achievement" to a pupil, or group of pupils "for significant work to improve the school's or the wider community's environment". It will be mounted on a wooden plinth and engraved with the name(s) of the person(s) receiving it.

The topics picked for our new Eco School's Green Flag journey are "school grounds" and "global citizenship" which tie in with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal No 4 "the right to receive a Quality Education". The Environment Group members hope the new Environment Award will encourage more eco work by pupils and also help to highlight the school's environmental work to the wider community, including parents/carers and visitors.



Carolyn Hargest, Environment Group leader, said "this lovely new award will help to promote and highlight environmental work."



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Rural and Urban Training Scheme

The Environment Group, one of the Parent Council's working groups, has three current aims, one of which is to promote cycling and work to achieve the "Cycle Friendly Secondary School" award. The group requested funding for nine S3 and S4 pupils to take part in a Rural and Urban Training Scheme Mountain Bike Award course (SQA level 4). The pupils spent three days in the workshop, learning about bike maintenance, and then enjoyed three days cycling on local trails. The group enjoyed the course and achieved a valuable qualification. Very well done!

Thanks to the staff who arranged this course and selected the pupils to take part.



"It was great to see pupils learning cycling skills – hopefully, ultimately, more pupils will do this course!" C. Hargest, parent.



The pupils enjoyed the course, which took place on Thursdays from 21 February to 28 March. Well done for earning an SQA level 4 qualification!

