



Firrhill News

Produced by the Environment Group

August 2014

Anne Frank Tree Planting Ceremony

On 12th June, which had she survived, would have been Anne Frank's 85th birthday, the school held an Anne Frank Tree planting ceremony, organised by Mrs Watson, art teacher, Gayle Taylor, School Chaplain and Heather Boyce of the Anne Frank Trust UK. The tree, a weeping cherry, donated by the Klondyke Garden Centre, was planted by Stephan Brent (who as a boy fled Nazi Germany, via Kindertransport) and Gordon Macdonald MSP. Invited guests included: second generation Holocaust survivor Judy Russell, Rabbi David Rose who sang the 23rd Psalm, representatives from Braidburn School and Milestone House. Pupils read quotes from Anne's diary, a Hopi Indian prayer and there were musical performances.



"To commemorate the 85th anniversary of the year of Anne's birth and for all those children killed through wars and persecution and to help us strive for a better future"



Link to Stephan Brent's story <http://www.johngraycentre.org/learning/resources/holocaust-memorial-day-27-january/stephan-brent-story-local-kindertransportee/>

Otto Frank said, "If the end of the world would be imminent I would still plant a tree today"



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Anne Frank Tree Planting and Gardening *Our new garden is being used as a place for learning and reflection*



Thanks to the Environment Group, Ruth Gebbie, Gardens Designed by Ruth Gebbie & Duncan Monteith, Monteith Fencing



We are grateful to the pupils and parents who have worked hard preparing the soil prior to the tree planting. Two new crescent shaped flower beds were created, one with yellow roses donated by Colinton Parish Church and bedding plants donated by the Klondyke Garden Centre and another with a bergenia and heucheras donated by parents and camellias donated by Sainsbury's who also provided bulbs for the school planters. The garden features a beautifully crafted wooden beautiful wooden bench made and donated by Tiphereth, a Camphill Community for adults with learning disabilities.





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S6 Highlights

S6 is a special year for pupils because it is their final year at school and they need to decide what they will do afterwards. If they are applying to university it is advisable to make use of open days and visit university departments to meet staff and students. Their personal statement is an important part of the UCAS application and includes any relevant work experience, hobbies, personal qualities and achievements. As well as studying for exams the S6 year group can learn about road safety at a Young Drivers event at the Corn Exchange and they also receive information about alcohol, drugs and sexual health. Pupils may take additional short courses which include Mandarin or the popular Cooking for Survival course in Food and Consumer Technology.



S6 features a number of special social events and activities, such as individual and whole year photographs, a school year book entry, membership of an S6 committee such as: Eco Committee, Prom Committee, Interact Club and "The View to a Hill" pupils' newsletter committee. Social events include the Teddy Bears Picnic, the Scots Night in November, Ceilidh Night in January and before their exams, a fancy dress BBQ at Polkemmet Park to celebrate leaving school, then after their exams, a Commemoration Evening at school and finally the S6 prom at the Carlton Hotel.



Fancy dress BBQ: Tintin, hippies and Superwoman



This year for the first time, a "Class of 2014" Leavers Hoodie £15 was available to buy, the school logo is on the front and the pupils' names on the back make the number 14. Leavers also can join the Firrhill High School Alumni – a new group for former pupils who wish to remain in contact with the school and continue in a supportive relationship with the school



Senior pupils' Scots night

The advanced higher courses prepare pupils for more independent study at university or college



Ceilidh Night



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Transition

The new S1 transition pupils enjoyed their 3 day visit in June – this is a great way to become familiar with many of the new subjects taught at high school. Staff and pupils help the new S1s to feel welcome. In Food and Consumer Technology pupils enjoyed a cookery lesson, making tortilla chips and savoury dips. Later they also had sports, music and taster lessons in many other subjects. Getting to know the school and how to find their way around will continue during the Summer School and S6 volunteers known as “Helping Hands” will help S1 pupils get to their classrooms and navigate the school when they return in August.

Tortilla Chips and Savoury Dip

Ingredients

1 tortilla wrap
Olive oil for brushing

Dip

15mls of natural yoghurt
15mls of mayonnaise

With

5 mls of mango chutney
2.5 mls of curry paste

or

sweet chilli sauce

Method

1. Preheat oven to 200 C/ Gas 8
2. Line baking tray with tin foil. Brush lightly with oil
3. Brush wrap with olive oil, cut in to triangular shapes
4. Place on baking tray. Bake until crispy and golden in colour – approximately 5-10 minutes
5. In a small bowl collect mayonnaise and yoghurt. Now add either chutney and curry paste or sweet chili sauce. Mix together with a spoon.
6. Allow tortilla chips to cool. Place in a long foil dish with your dip at the side



Firrhill High School gives a warm welcome to all our new S1 pupils

This tasty and simple snack is fun to make and helps pupils to gain new skills and confidence





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Comparing Natural Regions

In the Easter holidays S1 pupils had to compare two contrasting natural regions and see how the plants, animals and birds are specially adapted to their environment.

Pupils who did well received a Geography Certificate of Achievement "for a great effort with your investigation on Natural Regions"



Parents Job Fair



For the 4th year running Firrhill High School's Parent Council's Business & Enterprise Group are organising the Parents Job Fair aimed at S5-S6 students. The Job Fair will take place on Friday, August 29th 2014, in the morning, from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. Any parent willing to share their work experiences with small groups of pupils on an informal basis please contact: fhsjobfair@yahoo.co.uk

The Bike Station

The Bike Station will be doing bike safety checks and fixing brakes or any safety issues in various locations around Edinburgh every Wednesday and Saturday. They have lots of bike hand-outs and are even able to give a bit of road safety and cycle training advice. So look on the Bike Station web site to see where you can next find them out and about. Go and have a chat about your bike issues as Sam and Barbara are keen to meet you and help get more people cycling safely. Bike checks Wednesdays and Saturdays: Middle Meadow Walk; Fiveways Junction; Craighleith Junction; Farmer's Market, Castle Terrace, and Leamington Lift Bridge <http://www.thebikestation.org.uk/edinburgh/>



Sam and Barbara's Dr Bike session on the canal tow path, near the lift bridge – keeping Edinburgh's wheels turning!

**The Parent Council & sub groups and the PTA will hold their AGMs on Monday 1st September in the School Library
Please come along and find out what these groups have done over the past year.
Refreshments will be available. All welcome!**



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Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition



Over 4 days from 6th - 9th May a group of nearly eighty S4 pupils accompanied by staff members Mr Boyd, Mr Bulik, Mr Cameron, Mr Isdale and Mrs Milner, accomplished their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The route started and ended at Threipmuir Reservoir near Balerno with an overnight stay at the Broomlee Centre in West Linton.

The groups covered a total distance of 20 miles using trails and paths over the Monks Rig and the Bore Stane. The weather was challenging at times with heavy showers but spirits remained high. The main difficulties encountered were blisters and heavy rucksacks.

Some of the aims of the expedition included: the history and geography of the Pentland Hills and exploring leadership styles and group dynamics.

Overall the Bronze Expedition was a great success. Firrhill High School offers the Duke of Edinburgh as part of its curriculum - *although the pupils do, of course, need to do a lot of work towards this in their free time as well.*

Longest Relay Race



In June five current and former Firrhill High School pupils took part in a world record attempt to run the world's longest relay race, right the way around the coast of Britain. The whole route was divided into 10km stretches and teams got together to run different legs. The team of Firrhill High School pupils ran the leg from Aberlady to Prestonpans from 1 am to 2 am in the morning. All five of the FHS pupils ran the whole 10km. The relay race started in Yorkshire and continued without a break over the following weeks <http://gbrelay.com/heroes-of-scotland.php>

Left to right:
Louis Hazelwood (S3)
Katie Almond (S3)
Oscar Hazelwood (S3)
Ally McLellan (just finished S6)
Anna Hazelwood (just finished S6)

