



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

January 2016

Firrhill Christmas Concert

On Tuesday 15th December the Firrhill High School Christmas Concert took place. This very successful evening included performances by: the Ceilidh Band; Flute Ensemble; Brass Ensemble; Saxophone Ensemble; Junior Band; Guitar Ensemble; Rock Ensemble; Junior Choir, String Group; Soul Band; Junior Rock Band; Whole School Choir and a mimed Drama Performance.

The PTA provided refreshments and also organised a raffle with great prizes. Mr Hamilton, the Head Teacher, concluded the evening with a vote of thanks and particular mention to staff members who helped the pupils prepare and to the backstage Crew and the Sound team. Very well done to all who took part in this superb event!





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Firrhill Christmas Concert continued



Pupils' art work including Christmas card designs, photography, paper stage decorations (above right), guerrilla knitting (front page) and a sculpture (left), inspired by the work of Kwang Young Chun was on display. Prior to the concert the Brass Ensemble (right) played music in the concourse and Clarsach players performed during the interval.





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Fanfare Concert

On Friday 27th November the 2015 Fanfare concert took place at Central Hall. The performers are talented musicians from Edinburgh Schools, including many Firrhill pupils. The Edinburgh Schools Wind Ensemble (below) with new director, Mr Graeme Hodge played Declaration Overture by Claude T Smith and Eighties Flashback arr. by Paul Murtha.

The evening included the Edinburgh Schools Classical Guitar Ensemble; Edinburgh Schools String Training Orchestra; Edinburgh Schools Rock Ensemble (photo right); Edinburgh Schools Jazz Ensemble and the Edinburgh Secondary Schools Orchestra who concluded the evening with a really wonderful performance.



Edinburgh Schools Jazz Ensemble (right) gave a spirited performance!

The Youth Music Initiative's, performance pipe band, Piping Hot! (below) with Drum Major Brian Alexander (Firrhill's drumming instructor) and Pipe Major Lee Moore





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S2 Hockey Club Victory



On Saturday 31st October, in warm but damp conditions, the Firrhill S2 Hockey team played Dunfermline High School at home. The team coached by Lilian McNab, former Firrhill parent and supported by S2 parents enjoyed a fantastic 9-1 win. What a brilliant result!

Thanks to the Firrhill Hockey Club (which is run entirely by parents) for providing pupils with this wonderful opportunity to learn hockey, develop teamwork and enjoy exercise. We wish all the Firrhill hockey teams, every success throughout the season.





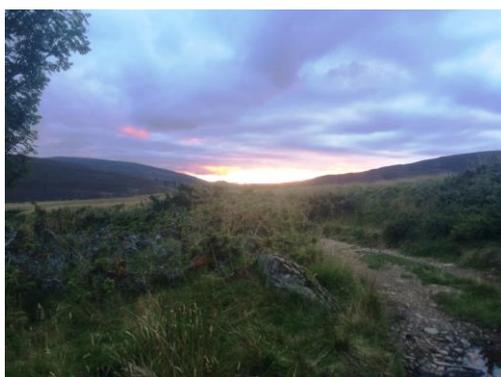
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Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver Expedition

On Saturday 19th September, a glorious autumn day, eight senior Firrhill High School pupils and staff members, Mr Cameron, and Mr Gillies, in the role of supervisors, set off towards North Deeside to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award qualifying expedition. The pupils were split into two groups. The first group were dropped west of Braemar and from here they walked to the North of Ballater over the course of three days. The other group would do the same route but in reverse. Each group faced the challenge of walking long distances carrying full kit. Spirits were continually high amidst the sore legs and occasional midge bite. The pupils had the fantastic opportunity to tuck into their evening meal in some spectacular settings, including Glen Fenzie and Glen Cairn. It was necessary that each group have an aim, this involved documenting the local wildlife and flora and fauna, luckily both groups managed to spot an adder on the second leg of the expedition, Britain's only poisonous snake - a very rare experience. As each group reached their final destination on the Monday afternoon they were picked up and taken back to Firrhill High School which brought to an end a very successful DofE expedition.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award requires the participant to be at least 15 years old. The DofE Silver Award has 4 sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. You need to do at least 6 months Volunteering and a minimum of 6 months on either Physical or Skills and 3 months on the other – it's up to you which one you do for longer. The DofE silver expedition lasts for 3 days and 2 nights.



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Light Night – Lighting up Edinburgh



On Sunday 22nd November a number of Firrhill pupils took part in the Light Night performances in George Street prior to the city lights being switched on by special guest Susan Boyle. Money was collected for Cancer Research UK



Well done to the Firrhill pupils who, despite freezing conditions, performed magnificently for the Light Night, Edinburgh festival.

There were a large number of stages showcasing a great variety of types of performances, including drama, choirs & all types of dance styles from ballet and modern dance to bhangra. All ages took part and the afternoon ended with a firework display. It was great that so many Firrhill pupils participated and enjoyed performing in Edinburgh's spectacular Light Night.

