



Produced by the Environment Group

Firrhill News

March 2015

Diversity Day Film Premier

The film premier event began in style with a red carpet provided by Bryan Jamieson, Edinburgh Entertainments. The Maid of the Forth Stompers played jazz. Mrs Watson, Art teacher and creator of Diversity Day, welcomed everyone then Stephan Brent shared his experiences of the Holocaust. Poetry written by Alan Waddell, English teacher and Ray Pattie librarian, was read from the Diversity Day Book (a collection of reflections and photographs compiled by Sheila and Daisy Watson).

Jim Moser, second generation Holocaust survivor introduced the film about Diversity Day which took place at Firrhill High School on 18th November 2014 and features interviews, workshops and the incredible testimony of Harry Bibring, Holocaust Survivor. Mairi Scobie S6, who conducted the interviews, received an Oscar (donated by Activity Awards) as did Ian Cowie, director and producer.

A commemorative flame, kindly donated by Timpson, was presented to the school by Carolyn Hargest, Environment Group Leader and Mrs Porter, Depute Head Teacher, presented certificates to Firrhill and Braidburn pupils.

Ros Nixon proposed a toast to Diversity Day and Cllr Richard Lewis ended the evening with a word of thanks.





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Firrhill Celebrates Diversity

Mrs Watson says "As architect and event manager of Diversity Day I plan to organise a second Diversity Day in November 2015, to put on the 'Children of the Holocaust' drama, to spearhead the Edinburgh Schools Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 which is to be hosted by Firrhill and to hopefully roll out our Diversity Day initiative to other Edinburgh schools."



The Diversity Day Film Premier was a success thanks to pupils, staff, parents and former parents

With special thanks to:

Mrs Watson, Firrhill teacher who worked tirelessly to create and plan the event together with Mrs Hargest, Firrhill parent.

Oxgangs Library staff: John McGowan and Ray Pattie for their roles in planning and hosting the event.

Equipment: Pentland Community Centre

Refreshments: Scotmid, Tesco, Edward Dalgleish & Ian Cowie

Flowers: Mrs Hargest, the Environment Group & Morrisons

Funding: Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership Trust

Helpers: Steve Wright, PTA; Di McBean, Environment Group

Thanks also to our special guests, friends and family



A link is now available to watch the film on vimeo <https://vimeo.com/119756126>



The Holocaust Memorial Tree with messages of hope for the future



Our commitment is to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination

The film will be shown in our local community. The next viewing will be at Caiystane Court





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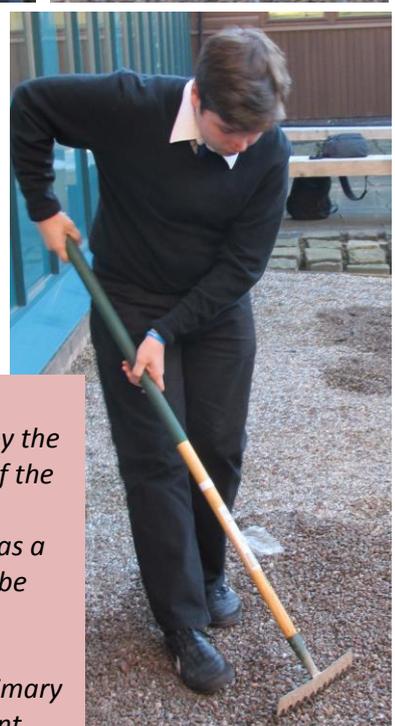
Gravel & River Cobbles

On Friday 5th December 2014 Firrhill pupils, parents and friends of the school helped once again to move a further 2 tons of gravel into the Celebration Garden and the Pond Garden where it was raked into place to suppress weeds. Also more cobbles were added to the Celebration Garden's cobble river

Thanks to the PTA for funding this project and to Ruth Gebbie for help and advice



The water butt in the Pond Garden was refilled and left, to allow the chlorine to disperse, making it safe for topping up the pond, without harming pond life.



"I was very impressed by the behaviour of the pupils who helped; it was a pleasure to be involved"
Sue Bellis,
Oxgangs Primary School Parent

"The pupils did an amazing job, working very hard and achieving a lot in a very short amount of time"
said Carolyn Hargest, Firrhill Parent



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The Scottish Schools Swimming Championships 2015

Firrhill High School had four swimmers qualifying for the Scottish School Swimming Championships 2015, which was held on 31st January in Aberdeen; Lauren Sutherland (S4), Harvey Tait (S3), Keanna MacInnes (S2) and Lewis McKenzie (S1).

Lewis had a commendable swim in the 12/under 50m breaststroke, improving on his qualifying time by almost 2 seconds and narrowly missing out on a place in the final. Keanna won gold in the 13/14 years 100m butterfly and 200m butterfly, setting new championship records in both events. The record for the 100m had been held by Hannah Miley since 2003!

Lauren won gold in the 15/16 years 200m breaststroke and 200m IM and also took the award for the top overall swim in the girls' 15/16 years age group.



Keanna S2 © Brianbat Photography 2015



Lauren S4
© Brianbat Photography 2015

The Scottish Diving Championships



Erin MacInnes won two silver medals (3m junior and 3m senior) and one bronze medal (high board) at the Scottish Diving Championships held on 6-7th December 2014

"Congratulations – very well done!"
says Ms Carmichael, Curriculum Leader,
Health and Wellbeing

SCOTTISH
swimming
everyone can swim!

Pupils who compete in swimming and diving put a tremendous amount of time and effort into their sport. Their determination and dedication is admirable so it is great to see their commitment pay off with such excellent results.



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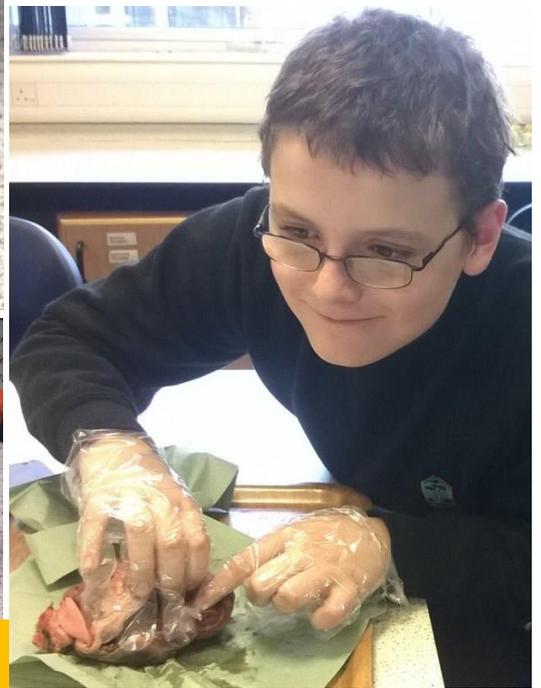
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S1 Science Club

The S1 Science Club run by Miss Duffy, assisted by science department staff, continues to prove very popular. With a varied programme packed with exciting topics, pupils are encouraged to learn and explore aspects of science in an extracurricular club.



Thanks to the PTA for funding this very worthwhile club



This term the topics covered are:

Fire writing

How clean are your teachers? (growing microbes)

Vitamin C testing - Is orange juice really good for you?

Forensic Investigation fun

Foam Fire Extinguishers

Thermo-chromic Paints: painting cups & drinking coffee/tea

It's a bug's life!

Lava Lamps

Cheese Making challenge!

Engineering Challenge - who will be the best?

Alcohol made by micro-organisms



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Explorer Scout Trip to Kandersteg

During the summer a group of 84 Explorer Scouts and Scouts from SMESU and its partner group 114th Braid Scout Group and their leaders, set off for the International Scout Camp at Kandersteg. There were many Firrhill High School pupils and former pupils in this group. The scouts took part in a lot of activities including: hiking, swimming in an alpine lake, mountain biking, high rope fun, ice climbing, glacier walking and a visit to the chocolate factory. However one of the main aims of the trip was to make friendships with scouts from other countries and so they held a big ceilidh! They also gained some Kandersteg badges.



SMESU



A big thank you to the SMESU leaders who arranged this amazing adventure