



Produced by the Parent Council

Firrhill News

May 2017

S2 Netball

On Monday 27 February, the S2 netball team, coached by Mrs Harkness and Miss McCaig, played Lathallen, Dundee in an exciting quarter final match. The teams were well matched and both played very well throughout, but Firrhill had the upper hand and finally won 31-26 this fast paced, exciting silver cup match.



Well done to all who took part – great team work!



The S2 team played in the Scottish Schools Cup Finals at Ravenscraig, but lost the Silver Final 23-18 to Balwearie High. To finish as runners up was a really fantastic achievement. #greateffort



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S1 Netball

On Monday 6 February, the S1 netball team played Castlehead in a Scottish Cup match. Firrhill teachers Miss H McCaig and Mrs K Harkness coach the team. The girls did very well in getting to the bronze level, but despite playing their best, with stiff opposition they lost 1-24.



Well done to all who took part in the Scottish Cup match – great team work





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Bagpipes on Loan

In January the Firrhill Pipe Band club were delighted to receive two sets of refurbished bagpipes, on loan for a 2-year period, as part of the "Bagpipe Amnesty" scheme organised by the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust. Pupils at Firrhill and its feeder primaries can learn the chanter, pipes and snare drumming from P3-S6. There are also chanter and drumming clubs at Oxbangs Primary and drumming at Pentlands Primary.



Pupils are welcome to join these clubs. For more information contact carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com





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Band Night

On Tuesday 21 March, Firrhill presented an evening of music from the Junior and Senior Wind Bands, Big Band and Flute, String and Saxophone Ensembles.

Thanks to the pupils for their amazing performances and to the Instrumental Music Instructors for their work, with special thanks to Ms Stephen, who organised Band Night.



A very enjoyable evening – very well done everyone!



"Carlo Madden retired at the end of term, having been at Firrhill since 2008. He has led the Senior Band throughout this time in many public performances, competitions and even foreign trips. He will be much missed by all at Firrhill. While we are sad to see Mr Madden go, we are delighted that Brass Instructor, Mr Hodge will take over as director of Senior Band after the Easter break", said Mrs Graham, Curriculum Leader Expressive Arts.





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Band Night (cont'd)



Well done to all who took part in this special Band Night. There are so many talented musicians in Firrhill and the feeder primaries – it was a great evening.



Music Exam Success

Harris Imlach, Grade 3 trumpet – Merit

Congratulations –
excellent results.

Robbie McDermott, Grade 8 trombone – Merit

Alexander Hodge, Grade 5 trombone – Distinction

Magnus Leslie, Grade 5 trumpet – Distinction

Rachel Adamson, Grade 5 clarinet – Pass

Amy Downie, Grade 5 clarinet – Pass

Rory Robinson, Grade 3 clarinet – Merit

Catriona Wilson, Grade 3 alto sax – Pass

Callum Alexander, Grade 1 clarinet – Merit

Rachel Brown, Grade 3 violin – Pass

Callum Wellington, Grade 3 violin – Pass

Thanks to Instrumental Music Instructors, G Hodge,

K Stephen & C Johnston for all their hard work.





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School Gardens

In December some senior pupils helped Mrs Hargest, parent, to plant grape hyacinths and daffodil bulbs, donated by Tesco Colinton Mains, in the Anne Frank Garden. The bulbs were naturalised in the lawn and will provide a nice display every spring.



Great tits and blue tits (right) prefer a single nest box with a round hole. Sparrows (below, right) are very sociable birds and like to nest together in a sparrow terrace.



Thanks to the Parent Council for funding the Bird Feeders and to Tesco for donating the spring bulbs.



The Anne Frank tree, a weeping cherry, (above) was looking really lovely in March.



Some new bird fat feeders were placed in the Celebration and Pond Garden where they will attract birds who may use the nest boxes.

Providing food should attract birds into a garden. We hope that by providing fat balls – a good source of energy – we will see more birds in the school gardens.

Birds also need water. The pond is already being used by birds for drinking and bathing to keep their plumage in good condition.





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More Bird Boxes

On Monday 13 February, a cold blustery day, Brian Robertson, RSPB Edinburgh Local Group leader, and Carolyn Hargest, parent, sited eight more nest boxes in the school grounds. The boxes were for tits and robins. The nest boxes will be monitored, and we do hope that in the spring one or two may be used by birds. This would provide an opportunity to place a camera to record activities at the nest box – how exciting!

Thanks again to Brian Robertson, RSPB Edinburgh Local Group leader, for his time and expertise in siting eight nest boxes in the school grounds.



giving
nature
a home



Robins and flycatchers like open fronted nest boxes.



Thanks to the Environment Group for funding eight new nest boxes, the school now has 21 nest boxes in the grounds.



RSPB Bird Identifier to help with bird IDs

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-and-wildlife-guides/bird-identifier/>



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Seniors Football

Follow on twitter @TheHillSeniors



On Friday 12 March, Firrhill Seniors played Portobello at home in the Lothian Cup quarter-finals. Firrhill scored a goal in the first half and, despite further opportunities for both sides, the final score remained 1-0 to Firrhill.



It has been a good season for the Seniors – they went on to win 6-3 against Holyrood at home, and drew 2-2 when they played against Boroughmuir at Meggetland. On 21 April in the semi-finals at Forresters the Seniors lost against Musselburgh with a score of 3-2. Very well done and thanks to the parent coaches, friends and family for their support.

