



Firrhill News

April 2016

Produced by the Parent Council

S1 Science Club

On January 25th the club studied taste buds and pupils discovered that sometimes other senses such as sight or smell influence what we taste. The colour of a drink leads us to anticipate what flavour we might expect and our sense of smell is used to fully appreciate flavours



“What flavours do we expect when a drink is coloured green or pink?”



The current Science Club programme includes investigating:

- Taste buds
- Making bouncy balls
- Photochromic painting
- Foam fire extinguishers
- Slimeballs
- Jelly baby wave machine
- Elephants toothpaste
- Eggsperiments
- Hologramagic

Pupils had to pinch their noses and eat Jelly beans – all in the name of science!

The S1 Science Club is a great way for pupils to have fun whilst learning about science. This lunchtime club is very popular and has benefitted from PTA funding.

A big “thank you” to the PTA for funding the Science club and to the Science Faculty staff for running this very worthwhile lunchtime club



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Traffic Survey

On 24th February a beautiful, bright sunny day, Mrs King's S1 Geography class undertook a traffic and environmental survey. The pupils had sheets for marking tallies of various types of traffic and one pupil reported that in 5 minutes on Oxgangs Road North by Caystaine Court (on the section of the main road continuous with Colinton Mains Drive) they had counted an astounding 100 cars travelling past. It was definitely quite noisy by the main road. The survey also notes whether they thought it was safe to cycle in this area.

Earlier in the year the school took part in the annual "hands up" survey to discover how pupils travel to school. The results are useful to observe trends and also to encourage sustainable forms of transport. At Firrhill High School the majority of pupils walk to school, some catch the bus and fewer pupils cycle or are brought by car. Walking and cycling are good for the environment and good exercise too. If using the car where possible pupils should "park and stride" or car share.

The Head Teacher kindly requests that parents please "do not park at the front entrance of the school as this can be dangerous for pedestrians"



Pupils who cycle during the summer term can have a locker to store their cycle helmet and other items. Read "the Wheel Deal" Pupil Cycle Leaflet for tips and ideas on how to cycle safely:

<http://www.firrhillhighschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/cycle-leaflet-final-version.pdf>

Also see the School Travel Plan for safer routes to cycle to school:

<http://www.firrhillhighschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Firrhill-High-School-Travel-Plan-Final-Version.pdf>



The pupils also surveyed traffic in a second location near Oxgangs Primary School. They will analyse their data to draw conclusions about traffic in the local area.



Oxgangs Primary School's New Business Manager

Oxgangs Primary School is delighted have Fiona Hare (nee Bathgate), a former Firrhill pupil appointed as their new Business Manager. Fiona studied business management at Robert Gordon University and previously worked in a GPs' surgery in Aberdeen as a Practice Manager. For Fiona, a mother with two preschool children, this part time post is ideal. She started in August and is enjoying working in a busy primary school. Carol Munro, who previously held the post as Oxgangs Primary School's Business Manager, left in order to work with two special needs schools. Firrhill High School seeks to maintain strong links with all our campus schools; we know Fiona will be a tremendous asset to Oxgangs Primary School and wish her the very best in her new post.





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S3 Hockey vs Ross High School



Thank you to the dedicated parents who run the very successful Firrhill Hockey Club



On Saturday 23rd January 2016 the S3 team played in a plate match at home against Ross High and achieved a well-deserved win. However their plate dreams ended in the next round where, despite putting up a valiant fight, they lost 2 - 0 to Edinburgh Academy. Well done to all the team, coaches and parents for another brilliant hockey season.



On the 11th March an S3 team took part in the East District Tournament and finished as runners up in the plate competition losing to Edinburgh Academy





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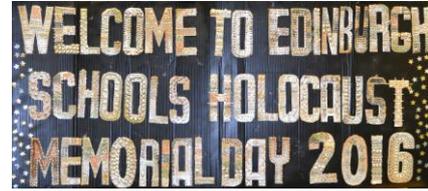
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Holocaust Memorial Day Committee's Celebration Lunch

Following the recent very successful Edinburgh Schools Holocaust Memorial Day event on January 28th where guest speaker Zigi Shipper holocaust survivor (photo far right) spoke about his life including being held in two concentration camps and going on the Death March. The HMD committee pupils, staff and guests enjoyed a small lunchtime gathering, held as a token of appreciation for their contribution to the smooth running of the Edinburgh Schools Holocaust Memorial Day event.

Mrs Barley, science teacher baked a special "Thank You" Cake; Mrs Watson, art teacher presented certificates. The Committee wrote messages and placed them on the school's Holocaust Memorial trees in the foyer.



The message for Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 is "Don't stand by. Make the world listen"

To read more about the HMD event visit <http://hmd.org.uk/news/hmdt-blog-preparations-hmd-2016-firrhill-high-school>



<http://www.firrhillhighschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Firrhill-news-march-2016.pdf> For more about the 2016 Edinburgh Schools HMD Event



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Grissini

Ingredients:

- 150g Strong Flour
- 1.25ml salt
- 2.5ml fast action yeast
- 10ml olive oil
- 75ml warm water (approx.)

Optional ingredients:

- 5ml pesto
- 5ml sun dried tomato paste
- 5ml mixed herbs
- 5ml dried chilli flakes
- 20g cheese
- 2.5ml sesame seeds

The S3 pupils were asked to demonstrate originality and effective shaping of dough. This plaited loaf was made by Susanna Anderson it looks amazing and tasted fantastic too!

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C or gas mark 7.
2. Sieve flour into a large bowl.
3. Stir in dried yeast.
4. Measure water using 25ml boiling water from kettle topping with tap water
5. Add any additional optional ingredients to dry ingredients.
6. Add the warm liquid a little at a time to create a dough
7. Knead for 5 minutes.
8. Divide mixture into 8 equal portions and roll into breadsticks.
9. Cover with greased cling film and leave to prove for 10 minutes.
10. Lightly glaze and top with sesame seeds.
11. Bake for 8-10 minutes.



World Book Day Interview

To celebrate World Book Day, which took place on 3rd March, We interviewed Mrs Shauna Dickson, School Librarian.

What was your favourite book as a child? "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott

Are there any books you would recommend to pupils?

Depending on the year group, I would have lots of suggestions. For S1-S3, we have an excellent list: "Great reads for younger teens" available in the School Library

How do you choose the books you read?

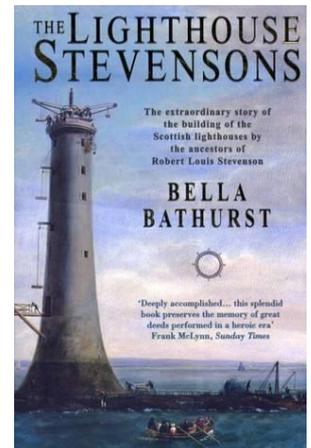
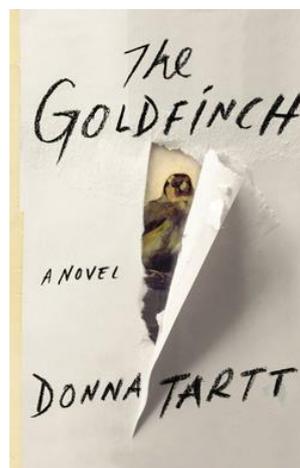
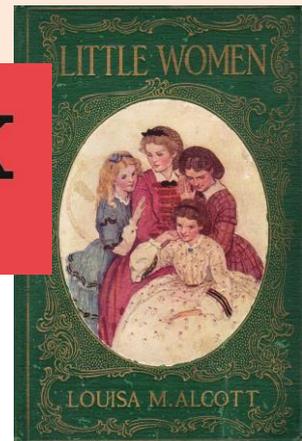
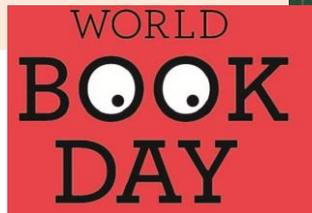
Suggestions from friends, book group or reviews in newspapers

What's the best non-fiction book you've read recently?

Bella Bathurst: "The Lighthouse Stevensons"

What is the last book you read but didn't finish?

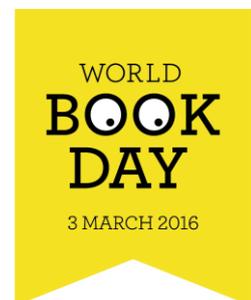
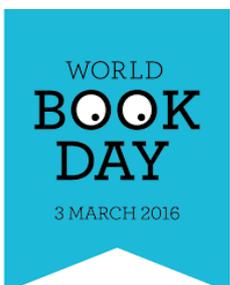
Donna Tartt: "The Goldfinch"



There are so many types of books so why not try something different?

<http://trinity.webplus.net/Free%20Your%20Mind%20Leaflet%20December%202014.pdf>

Related events include:
World Poetry Day 21st March;
World Book Night 23rd April
Edinburgh Comic Art Festival
1st August





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Bird Nest Boxes

In spring 2015 a number of bird boxes and a bird feeder, funded by the Parent Council, were placed in the Pond Garden, which is on the left hand side of the concourse as you approach the assembly hall. In June blue tits (pictured below) were seen nesting in one of the boxes. Outside of the nesting season birds may also use nest boxes to roost or shelter in. Nest boxes need to be cleaned out over the winter. In January some of the nest boxes were repositioned. The pupils recently made some fat balls for the birds to eat. The school bio pond is used by birds for bathing and drinking and also attracts insects too.



Fat balls are high energy bird food and are easily made by mixing lard, nuts, grain, oatmeal and seeds. Why not make some for your garden birds?



Swifts are currently on the amber alert list as they are short of nesting sites. The school would like to support biodiversity by siting some swift nest boxes in elevated positions to the rear of the school. Swifts can be seen locally from April to September. Oxgangs Avenue is a very good place to watch Swifts.



The Firrhill Easter Sports Camp



To reserve a place please complete the application form and return with payment to Firrhill High School office.



The Firrhill High School Easter Sports Camp runs from Monday 4th to Thursday 7th April for P1-S1 pupils who are grouped P1-3 and P4-S1 according to age. The club is organised by Lorna Norman Active Schools Co-ordinator and provides a great opportunity for pupils to improve their existing sports skills and also learn new ones. It is also a good way for younger pupils to make friends from other schools. For more information please see the school web site or email Lorna.norman@ea.edin.sch.uk



"I liked going to it. It was really good" said Kirsty, Bonaly Primary

"It was good. I liked playing football" said Izzy, Bonaly Primary about the Easter Sports Camp