



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

February 2016

Firrhill's Soul Band



On Monday 21st December Firrhill High School's Soul Band performed in Tesco Colinton Mains. Thanks to: Mr Russell, music teacher; pupils; parents; Tesco Community Champion Anne Williamson (above).

Thanks also to all those who gathered to listen and donated generously raising a total of £383



Soul Band pupils range from S1-S6 they rehearse on Monday afterschool with Mr Russell (left)



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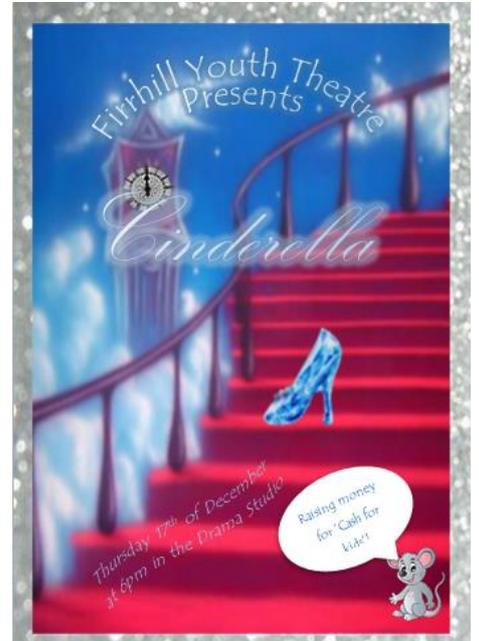
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Cinderella Pantomime

On Thursday the 17th of December we were treated to the first ever pantomime from the Firrhill Youth Theatre. A group of S1 to S4 pupils entertained us with a genuinely funny (oh no it wasn't....oh yes it was) performance of Cinderella. From the S1 Cinderella to the S2 Ugly Sisters and S3's Fairy Godmother, Baron, Baroness and Prince Charming all the actors did a fantastic job. Special mention should go the Ugly Sisters and Buttons who also made a surprise appearance at the Christmas Concert to advertise the show (which was in aid of Cash for Kids). There was also a fantastic supporting cast and we were all left looking forward to their next production. All the cast say a massive "thank you" to Miss Woodward who directed and organised the show. Jane Williams, Firrhill Parent

"In December 2015 the Firrhill Youth Theatre made their debut with a performance of the pantomime Cinderella. They were a huge hit, and we look forward to many more productions from this exciting new group!"
Says Mrs Graham, Curriculum Leader Expressive Arts



The Firrhill Youth Theatre currently meets on Wednesday lunchtime at 1pm in the Drama Studio. The youth theatre is open to S1 – S4 pupils. The group are now considering their next challenge and are always looking for new members interested in performance or production skills such as make-up, lighting and sound.

"The pantomime of Cinderella, performed to an audience of friends and family at the end of term, was a huge success and was really warmly received by the enthusiastic audience", says Miss Woodward.

"We would always be thankful for donations of costumes or props". All donations can be handed into the Drama Department (Ms Bentley or Miss Woodward).

Pantos have always been a real Edinburgh favourite and Firrhill's Cinderella was no exception. Well done to all involved!

"It was tremendous - I didn't think it would be so funny, or that there would be so much acting talent. All of the cast looked like they really enjoyed it too" said one Firrhill Parent



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School Litter Pick



On Thursday 29th October, a beautiful autumn day, Miss King's registration class accompanied by Mr MacIntosh, Science teacher and S6 pupil Andrew, did a litter pick in the school grounds. This is a weekly event which rotates through the S1 and S2 classes with S6 helpers who kindly assist on a rota basis (during one of their timetabled free periods). The pupils are in small groups and they work as teams taking turns to hold the bag or litter pick.



Afterwards Mr MacIntosh weighed the bags of litter and the total was calculated. On this occasion 25kg of litter was collected (approximately the equivalent to half the body weight of an average S2 pupil).

"The school litter pick is a good way for the pupils to learn to care more for their school grounds whilst having fun and working together" said Mrs Hargest, Firrhill Parent



Thank you to the Parent Council who have donated £130 to buy some more litter pickers



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Oxgangs Library 25th Anniversary Celebration



On Friday 27th November a number of Firrhill pupils, took part in Oxgangs Library's 25th anniversary celebrations. The Saxophone Ensemble led by music teacher, Ms Stephen played really well and the newly formed Brass Ensemble led by Mr Jenkins gave a superb debut performance. Librarian John McGowan welcomed everyone then Baillie Elaine Aitken made a speech and cut the celebration cake (above, centre left) after which refreshments were served while librarian Lindsey McCullough (below right) played the mandolin. Special guests included Heather Levy, Chair of Firrhill Community Council who presented the competition prizes (above centre right), Christine Vincenti and Gordon Macdonald MSP (below left).



David and Amy, S1 were winners in the drawing and photography competition pictured with our school librarian Mrs Dickson (above). It was a lovely anniversary of 25 years of Oxgangs Library and it was fantastic that Firrhill High School was part of this special event.





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Firrhill Pipe Band Clubs *New pupils are always welcome to learn chanter/drums*



Firrhill and cluster primary pupils are enjoying the FHS Chanter and Drumming Clubs. The teachers are Mike Pretsell, Andrew Gray and Brian Alexander. Some pupils enjoyed a taster session with David Farquhar. Interested pupils can join the clubs, please contact Mrs Tracy Graham, Expressive Arts, or email Carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com



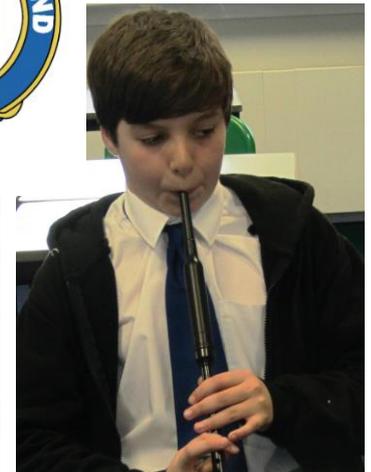
Great news!
Two new sets of bagpipes have been loaned to the Firrhill Pipe Band Club by the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Trust (SSPBT)



The Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships will take place at Broughton High School, on Sunday 13th March 2016. It is a good opportunity to hear bands from all over Scotland and there is a new freestyle category to enjoy. Watch for an hour or stay all day! Free entry, programmes and refreshments available!



The Bagpipe Amnesty
a new SSPBT scheme to collect and refurbish donated bagpipes and give them to new players
<https://youtu.be/Nyjo91kRZao>





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St Augustine's Church Christmas Concert



On the afternoon of Sunday 20th December a number of Firrhill pupils took part in St Augustine's Church Christmas Concert to raise funds for the church. The concert included: the Angela Watson School of Dance; piano (K MacRae); cello (H Davidson); songs (R Moir); poetry (N Dyer) pictured along bottom row from left to right. There was also a monologue (J Miller); Latin singers/Glee Club and more piano (L Wareing). With festive jokes, audience participation and refreshments served during the interval, the pupils gave a great performance for an appreciative audience. Well Done!

