



Firrhill News

August 2017

Produced by the Parent Council

S6 Commemoration Evening

The S6 Commemoration Evening took place on Tuesday 6 June, at which pupils were presented with certificates and awards. Depute Head Teachers recounted the highlights of each pupil's school years. We discovered what they are going to do next. A great opportunity to both celebrate achievements, and to wish them well in their future careers.

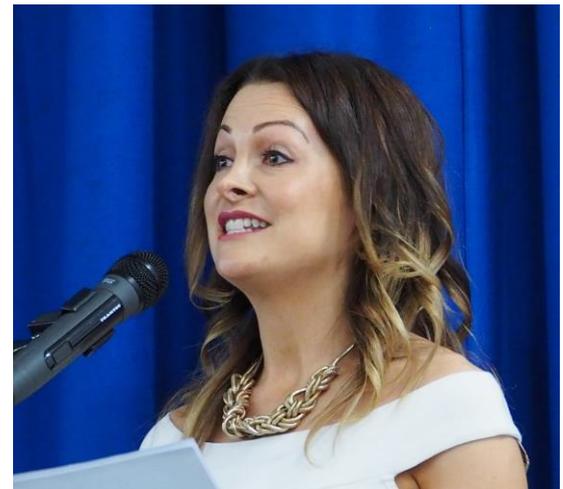
Thanks to the Firrhill staff who organised this lovely evening.



Mrs Porter, DHT could not attend, so Mr Brodie, PSL spoke in her place.

During the evening there were musical interludes by Lloyd Burden-Garabedian, Robbie McDermott and Ellie Buglass. An excellent motivational talk was given by former pupil, Nicola Roy, who is now a successful actress, on stage, film and TV. The award ceremony was followed by refreshments. Many thanks to the new S5 pupils who helped by serving the delicious canapes provided by Mackenzies Catering.

Lloyd Burden-Garabedian Played "Sonatina" by Clemanti.





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S6 Commemoration Evening, continued

This year the Dux Medal for academic achievement was awarded to: K. Hargest, J. Gordon & S. Yeoman.



Ellie Buglass sang, "Songbird" by Eva Cassidy.



We wish the S6 leavers every success in the future.





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Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition



The Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition took place from 7-9 June, on Speyside. 30 pupils took part, walking in small independent groups between Kingussie and Nethy Bridge through the Rothiemurchus Forest. They camped out for two nights and cooked meals of pasta or rice on stoves. The weather was very wet at times, and the midgie season had begun. The pupils coped admirably in their midgie nets and were in high spirits throughout the whole expedition.

Many groups also investigated the fauna and flora of the forest and observed lapwings, red squirrels, roe deer, red deer, buzzards and mountain hares, but saw no capercaillie or wildcats. Pupils were supported throughout the expedition by mountain leaders Mr Boyd, Mr Cameron and Mr Hathway, and Mr Whyte drove the minibus. The Silver Qualifying Expedition is in September.

Thanks to the staff for their hard work and very well done to all who took part.





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Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

From Tuesday 9 May to Thursday 11 May over 70 S3 pupils completed the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's qualifying expedition. They were supported by Firrhill staff including Mr Cameron, Mr Isdale, Mrs Milner, Ms Anderson, Ms Sharp, Ms Harkness, Mr Wallace, Ms Jones, Ms Giroud, Mr Whyte and Mr Boyd.

The pupils navigated their way across the Pentland Hills from Balerno to West Linton before returning to Carlops. The weather was sunny and warm during the day but cold at night. The pupils cooked their dinner and breakfast on stoves at the campsite at Broomlee Outdoor Centre in West Linton. Each group also completed an aim, such as identifying the fauna and flora of the Pentland Hills.



Thanks to the Firrhill staff who organised this excellent opportunity for so many teams of S3 pupils to achieve their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award as part of the school curriculum.



The Bronze D of E also includes Skills, Volunteering and Physical Activity sections.



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The Celebration Garden



On the morning of 30 May, Mrs Watson's S2 art class did some gardening in the Celebration Garden, accompanied by Mrs Watson and Miss Kirkwood, Art teachers, and Mrs Hargest, parent. They planted three lovely azaleas, donated by Tesco, Colinton Mains and added some London Pride to the planters. They removed weeds, litter and builders' rubble (following the recent renovations), and put some pebbles in the cobble river.

Everyone worked well together, and a lot was achieved in a short space of time.



Thanks to the Environment Group who created the Celebration Garden. Thanks to Tesco and to Mrs Hargest for donating plants and pebbles and to the Parent Council for the compost.



The Parent Council AGM is on 4 September at 7.00 pm in the school library. Come along to learn more and support the school.



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The Celebration Garden continued.

On the afternoon of 30 May pupil volunteers from Mr Hollis's PSE class helped Mrs Hargest and Mrs Jardine, parent members of the Environment Group, to plant and tidy the Celebration Garden.

Two fuchsias were taken out of containers and planted in the garden. Alchemilla and London Pride were added to the planters, then watered, and mulch was added to help retain water and reduce weeds. Some weeding and litter picking was done so the garden is now looking good. The gravel also helps to reduce weeds, and this means less work is needed to maintain the garden.

Well done for working to make the Celebration Garden beautiful!



The Celebration Garden, designed by parents in 2010 to celebrate Firrhill High School's 50th anniversary has been created and maintained by pupils, staff and parents. There is a cobble river leading to a Moon gate panel, a commemorative piece of artwork, some benches made from sleepers, bird nest boxes, feeders and a wood pile to encourage wildlife.





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S6 Prom



The S6 Prom is the final part of the S6 year. Friends and family often meet beforehand for the all-important photos and pre-prom celebrations. The S6 pupils are responsible for arranging their prom, and the Prom Committee works hard to make a perfect evening. This year the weather was good. The 2017 prom was held at the Roxburgh Hotel, where pupils and staff enjoyed a meal, speeches and disco.

Good luck everyone – work hard and enjoy your new opportunities.





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Parent Council Meetings

The Parent Council meets on a regular basis throughout the year. There are also Working Group meetings. All parents and carers are welcome – do come along as this is a great opportunity to help the school and to learn about what is going on. The Parent Council and Parent Teacher Association AGMs will take place on 4 September at 7.00pm in the school library – please come along and support the school! Ruth Gebbie, PTA Chair, will summarise the school’s annual fundraising activities, and Fred Bell, PC Chair, will speak about the work of the PC. The accounts of both groups will be presented. The leaders of the PC working groups will say a few words about their groups’ various activities.

Email the Parent Council firrhillpc@gmail.com



Join a Working Group:
Health and Wellbeing,
Environment,
Business and Enterprise,
Communication.



Parent Council meetings are “open” so all parents are welcome to attend. Thanks to all the dedicated parents who work hard to help the school. Come along and find out what is happening!

The meetings are at 7.00 pm in the school library:

Parent Council: 4.9.17; 6.11.17; 29.1.18; 23.4.18; 28.5.18

Working Group meetings: 25.9.17; 20.11.18; 5.2.18; 14.5.18



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