



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

November 2017

Sports Information Evening

Follow on Twitter @FirrhillPE

On 13 September Miss Carmichael, CL Health and Well-being, and Miss Norman, Active Schools Coordinator, held a sports information evening. There was information on how to join the sports membership scheme which allows entry into all school sports clubs (except hockey, which is run by parents) for £22 per year, payable via parentpay. Pupils participating in sport at an advanced level can be helped through the Athlete Support Programme. The school plans to introduce house colours for sporting achievements. The Young Sports Ambassadors interviewed: Louis Moore, road cyclist; Sarah Tait, 1500m steeplechase U17 record holder; and Holly McKey, alpine skier, U16 Scottish Outdoor Champion.



The 2017 Holland/Germany sports tour awards for “players player”, “goal of the tour” and “most improved player” were presented by Miss Watson, Mr Denvir and Miss Anderson.

The 2019 Sports Tour was launched, which will hopefully include hockey, football, rugby and basketball teams.



The Young Sports Ambassadors presented volunteer awards to: Miss Anderson, teacher; Josef Pechar, pupil; David Downey, former pupil; and Carolyn Hargest, parent for their involvement in Firrhill’s sporting activities.

International sporting achievements: Ieuan James, former pupil is World Junior Champion for sprint kayaking. Keanna Macinnes is World Junior bronze medal winner in the 200m Butterfly.





Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

November 2017

Sports Information Evening (cont'd)

Follow on Twitter @FirrhillPE



Taster sessions were provided by: Camanachd Shinty Club, Harmeny Athletics Club, Napier Knights American Football Club, West Edinburgh Basketball Club and Interlopers Orienteering Club. Information stalls in the foyer included: Boroughmuir Cricket Club, Napier Knights American Football Club, North Merchiston Football Club, Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Club, West Edinburgh Warriors Basketball Club, Firrhill Hockey Club, the Thistle Lawn Tennis Club and Firrhill Rugby Club. Information about all clubs is available from Miss Norman and on the PE notice boards.



Well done to all who took part in this interesting and informative event. Congratulations to all the award winners!



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

November 2017

The Bockarie Sonnah Memorial Match



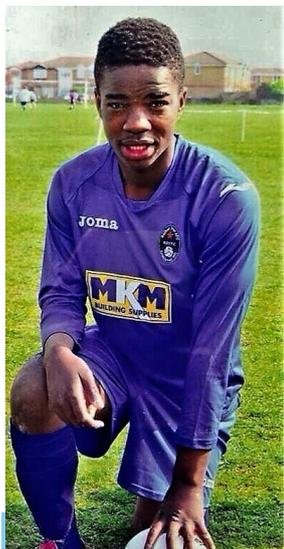
Follow on twitter @FirrhillPE



On Monday 11 September the staff vs pupils memorial football match dedicated to Bockarie Sonnah took place at "The Stade de Tesco". Prior to the match there was a minute of applause in honour of Bockarie, who sadly lost his life in Tordfuff Reservoir on 14 July 2014. The action-packed match ended in a 6-1 win for the pupils. Mr Hamilton, Head Teacher, presented the cup.



Thanks to all who took part in, or supported this memorial football match in memory of Bockarie.



30.5.00-14.7.14
Sadly missed by all.





Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

November 2017

World Junior Championship Bronze Medal Winner

Keanna MacInnes, S5, swims for Heart of Midlothian swimming club and is a member of the Scottish Youth Squad and the National Open Water Squad. She holds the Scottish Junior records for 100m and 200m butterfly and is Scottish Junior Open Water Champion for 2km and 5km.

July: at the recent Scottish Open Championships, she won the national senior title in the 200m butterfly in a very close and exciting race against Olympian Hannah Miley. She also took the senior silver medal in the 100m butterfly and the national junior titles in the 50m, 100m and 200m butterfly and 400m Individual Medley.



Keanna has recently been selected to represent Scotland at the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.



Scottish Swimming



Follow on twitter @FirrhillPE @ScottishSwim

August: as a result of her performance this season, Keanna was selected to represent GB at the World Junior Championships in Indianapolis in August, where she won a bronze medal in the 200m butterfly in a new Scottish junior record time.



Firrhill's Christmas Market



Firrhill Christmas Fair

9 November 2017
7:15 PM – 9:15 PM
Entry £2
Stalls And Refreshments
Come and have a blast at this years
Christmas Fair



Keanna received prizes for "Junior Athlete of the Year" and "Junior Open Water Swimmer of the Year" and was nominated by British Swimming for their 2017 "Emerging Athlete" award.

The Firrhill Christmas Market is on Thursday 9 November 7.15 to 9.15 pm, £2 entry. Enjoy some festive refreshments and browse the stalls to find some great Christmas gifts. This super poster was designed by Dylan Flahive-Malcolm S2.



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

November 2017

Parent Council and Parent Teacher Association AGMs Email firrhillpc@gmail.com

On 4 September the Parent Council and Parent Teacher Association held their AGMs. Fred Bell, PC Chair, gave a report and the PC accounts were presented and approved. There was the opportunity to hear from the leaders of the working groups: Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Business and Enterprise, and Communication. PTA Chair Ruth Gebbie, Catriona Luff, former PC Chair, and Mrs Ros Ranger, Parent Council staff representative (who is moving to Balerno High School as Depute Head Teacher), were thanked for their hard work. The AGM was immediately followed by a PC and a PTA meeting. The PC meetings are open, and all parents and carers are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please come and visit a working group meeting or a Parent Council meeting – all are welcome!



The meetings are held at 7.00 pm in the school library.
Parent Council: 6.11.17; 29.1.18; 23.4.18; 28.5.18
Working Group meetings: 20.11.17; 5.2.18; 14.5.18



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

November 2017

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition

The route, through the mountains of Kintail, was tough, and the weather was persistently wet. The groups were strong and their navigational skills were good, which was especially important under these weather conditions. They remained good-humoured and morale was high. They were very determined to complete the expedition – a true wilderness walk. On the final day of the hike, the heavy clouds vanished as hot sunshine dried them off on the final leg to Eileen Donan Castle. The Duke of Edinburgh assessor was impressed with their progress during their challenging hike and by their handling of all aspects.

From 15-19 June a group of eight pupils went on a very challenging Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award qualifier expedition.



Thanks to the dedicated staff team, without which this expedition would not have been possible.





Produced by the Parent Council

Firrhill News

November 2017

Book Interview

Book Week Scotland 2017 is 27 November - 3 December.

To help us celebrate World Book Week, Scotland, Miss Statham, Depute Head Teacher, tells us why she loves reading and recommends some of her favourite books.

Please donate books for the Book Swap event by contacting carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com

Why read?

It gives you magical extra lives as well as your own: you can polar explore; time travel and watch Vesuvius explode as well as living happily in Edinburgh. It makes me understand other people better, what motivates them. When I am feeling a bit grumpy, because of forgotten ties etc., I remember the words from *A Christmas Carol*, "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

Early reading choices

The first book I read myself as a child was *A Bear Called Paddington*. I am a bit untidy like Paddington, who always has sticky marmalade-covered paws and I love the disasters he gets into, which always end with a good slap-up tea of some kind.

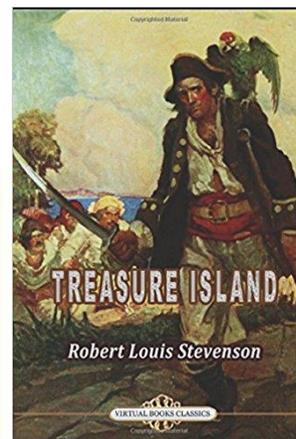
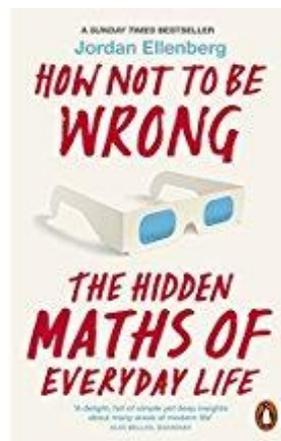
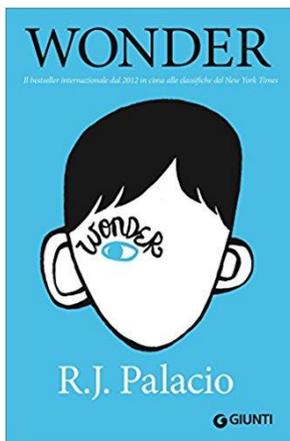
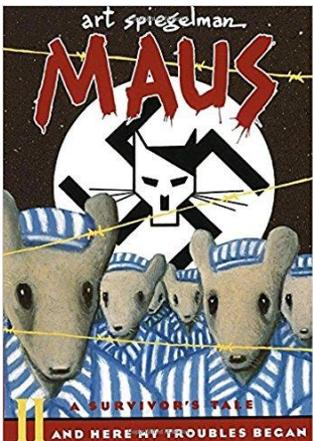
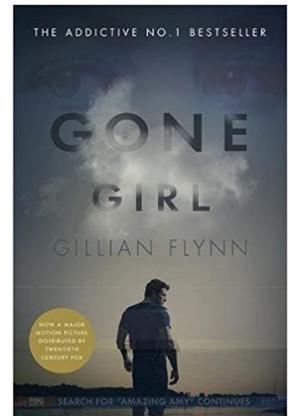
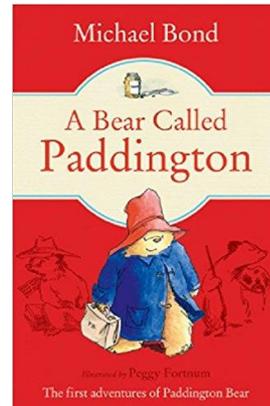
Book I never finished?

Gone Girl: I cheated and watched the film.

What books would I recommend to pupils?

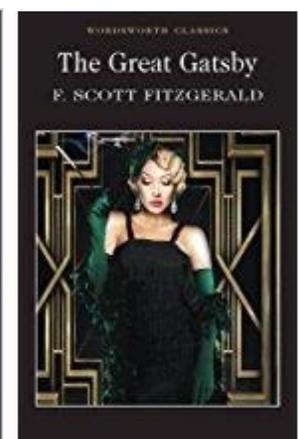
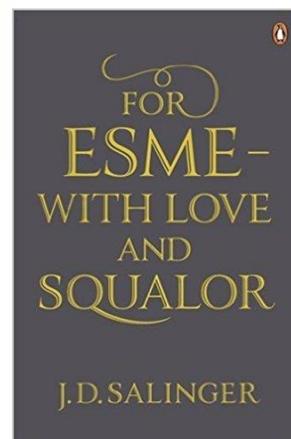
My first years recommended that I read *Wonder*, by R. J. Palacio which is about a boy called August who gets stared at wherever he goes because of his face. It is both funny and sad but also very uplifting. It makes you want to be a better person. I would recommend it to any age.

Novels I think you should not leave school without having read are: *For Esme with love and Squalor*, by Salinger, where he deals with the way war experiences soured his spirit; the gorgeous *Great Gatsby*, which has a narrator you can fall in love with and is laden with unforgettable symbolism and *Great Expectations*, which is a warning to all of us about thinking we know it all and forgetting our loyalties. My favourite Scottish novel is *Treasure Island*, a top adventure. The *Maus* cartoon books are also a bearable way to read about the Holocaust.



Do you read non-fiction?

I read a lot of recipe books and especially like the Hairy Dieters because their recipes actually work. I also try to read some maths-related books. I recently read *How Not to Be Wrong*, which was all about Maths, so I could annoy the other deputies and Mr Isdale by quoting from it.





Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

November 2017

The Anne Frank Garden

 Follow on twitter @FirrhillHMD



On Monday 28 August Firrhill parents Duncan Monteith and Carolyn Hargest placed two commemorative plaques, funded by the Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership, in the Anne Frank Garden. Mr Monteith firstly attached the wooden plaques to the metal posts, dug a hole and fixed the posts in the ground using quick-setting cement. The plaques commemorate Firrhill's Holocaust Memorial Day speakers Zigi Shipper, who spoke at the 2016 Edinburgh Schools' HMD, and Harry Bibring, the guest speaker at Firrhill's HMD 2017. Holocaust survivor Zigi was imprisoned in several concentration camps, including Auschwitz, where there were many birch trees. Zigi's plaque is by the new birch tree and states "Do not hate. Hate will ruin your life". Harry, who left Austria via the Kindertransport system, has a plaque by the new rowan tree with the quote "There is only one race – the human race". The Anne Frank Tree, a Weeping Cherry tree in the centre of the garden, was planted in 2014 by Stephan Brent, who came to the UK via the Kindertransport system.

The garden is a lovely place to sit and relax but also is a means by which to remind everyone of the need to end discrimination and prevent further Holocausts.

Thanks to Duncan Monteith and Carolyn Hargest for placing the plaques in the Anne Frank Garden.

