



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

December 2017

Job Fair

If you would like to take part in next year's job fair on 15.6.18 please contact fhsjobfair@yahoo.co.uk

On Friday 16 June the Parent Council's Business and Enterprise Group ran its sixth Job Fair. In a friendly atmosphere, with a wide range of jobs represented, there was the opportunity for informal discussion, stalls to browse and leaflets to take away.



The Job Fair focused on S4 pupils, and some S5 pupils were able to drop in. Thanks to the Business and Enterprise group, parents helped pupils understand what different jobs entail.





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Whole School Challenge

On 10 October pupils enjoyed taking part in a special whole school challenge event, which aimed to climb the equivalent height of the 75 highest Munros. As well as keeping fit by stepping on beams, the pupils enjoyed listening to music and raising money which will go towards helping the both the community and pupils. Mrs Carmichael, CL Health and Wellbeing, said: "Well done! It was a fantastic effort".



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The pupils achieved a total of 86,514.67 metres climbed – this was well ahead of the target figure.



Thank you to everyone who supported and sponsored this event.





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S1 Parents' Social Night

On Thursday 26 October the Parent Council invited S1 parents to a special social night to meet some senior staff members and chat to other parents. There was the opportunity to learn more about the school whilst enjoying drinks and nibbles in a relaxed atmosphere. A question and answer session was led by Catriona Luff, parent. Mr Graham Hamilton, Head Teacher and Depute Head Teachers Mrs Roberta Porter and Miss Julie Statham attended the event.



Thanks to the Parent Council and the Parent Teacher Association for organising and hosting the S1 parents' social night.



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Nest Boxes, Feeders and Litter Picking

On 25 September Mrs Chidwick, former Firrhill parent, and Mrs Hargest parent, cleaned out the school bird nest boxes. Two blue tit nests were removed, and there was evidence of nest building or roosting in three more boxes. It is important to clean out the boxes to reduce levels of parasites and ticks. Some boxes needed to be repaired or repositioned. The feeders were replenished with fat balls and two bin bags of litter were collected.



A common frog was in Pond Garden.



Ponds encourage biodiversity, and birds use ponds to bathe and drink.



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European Day of Languages *by Katie Horsburgh 6D1*

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@FirrhillRRSA

On Tuesday 26 September, Firrhill celebrated European Day of Languages by promoting diversity and language learning throughout the school. The S5 and S6 Language Leaders had a stall in the foyer, where the younger years thoroughly enjoyed participating in language-based games including guessing the real meanings of foreign idioms. We also made a welcome sign with "welcome" in all the languages spoken in Firrhill. Our research showed that 22 languages other than English are spoken fluently by Firrhill pupils alongside 37 languages, from Cantonese, to Hebrew to Swahili, which are spoken at varying levels.

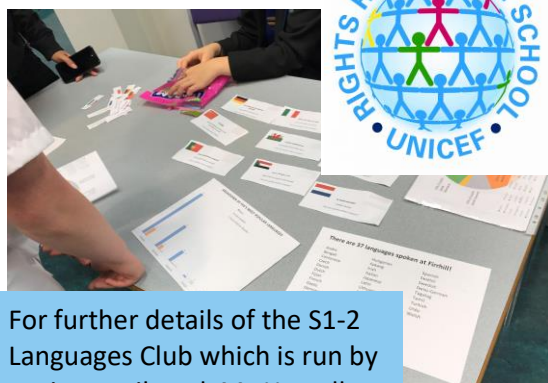


The day also had close connections with the Rights Respecting Schools group, which promotes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child within Firrhill.

Article 30: "You have the right to practise your own culture, language and religion," was given particular focus.

Language learning is known to help people become more open and tolerant, which is an important incentive to learn a new language, especially in today's world.

You can get involved with Languages at Firrhill by joining our S1-2 Languages Club on Wednesday lunchtime, taking languages as subject choices, or learning a language for fun at home. Speaking another language is an invaluable skill, be it for travel, making friends, or the workplace.



For further details of the S1-2 Languages Club which is run by senior pupils, ask Ms Howells.





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The Otto Frank Tree

On Friday 29 September Ruth Gebbie, Sandra Mitchell and Carolyn Hargest bought the Otto Frank Tree, a lovely crab apple tree, the latest addition to Firrhill's beautiful Anne Frank Garden. Pupils helped to plant the tree and the bird fat ball feeders were replenished.



Crab apple trees have fragrant fruits which can be made into tasty crab apple jelly.



Anne Frank's father Otto said: "I believe that it's everyone's responsibility to fight prejudice". A plaque inscribed with this quote and made by Alan Wood of The Engravers Workshop, will be placed beneath the tree.



Turf was lifted, a hole was dug and the crab apple tree, plus fertiliser were added. The tree was tied securely to a stake, watered and topped with mulch.

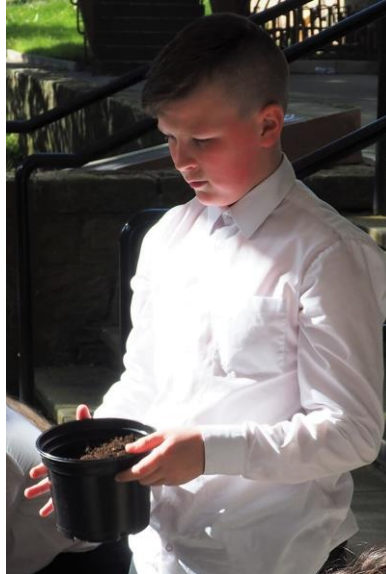


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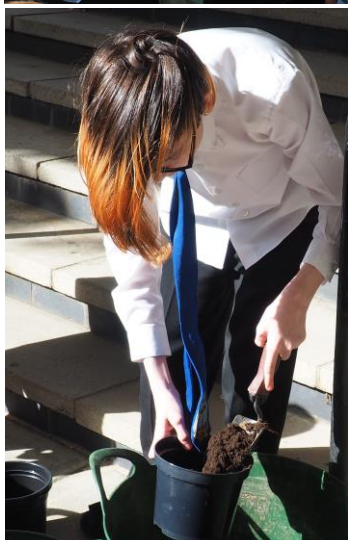
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Hyacinth Bulb Planting



On 19 September a group of S2 pupils helped Mrs Ritchie and Mrs Hargest, parents, to plant 100 early flowering pink hyacinth bulbs. The bulbs were placed in a mixture of compost and bulb fibre, in a 2 litre pot. The compost was damp, but not too wet, and it has added charcoal in it to reduce the possibility of mould growing. The bulbs were gently placed quite near the surface – not buried in deeply. It is also important to ensure they do not touch each other or the sides of the pot. The bulbs spend 8-10 weeks in a cool dark environment until they are two inches high. They can then be moved into a warm room until they are ready to bloom and then they should be

be placed in a cooler room.



Thanks to the Parent Council for funding the purchase of bulbs.





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The Anne Frank Tree's plaque is repaired



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The Anne Frank Tree's plaque had become detached from its mounting. On 4 October, with help from Duncan Monteith, parent, the old metal mounting was dug out and removed. Alan Wood of "The Engravers Workshop" kindly provided a new metal mount for the plaque, which was then cemented into the ground by Duncan Monteith. The Anne Frank Tree's plaque says: "To commemorate the 85th Anniversary of the year of Anne's birth and for all those children killed through wars and persecution and to help us strive for a better future".



Thanks to Mrs Hargest, Environment Group Leader, who organised and coordinated the whole repair job.



With thanks to Alan Wood of "The Engravers Workshop" and Duncan Monteith (Monteith Fencing) for enabling this repair.



Anne Frank.

The Anne Frank Trust UK