



Firrhill News

January 2018

Produced by the Parent Council

The Christmas Market



On 9 November Firrhill held its fourth Christmas Market, organised by the Parent Teacher Association. It provided an excellent opportunity for some early Christmas shopping, with stalls to browse including: craft items, raffles, festive fayre and plants. Some stalls were run by pupils, others supported local charities: the Cat Protection Society, Scottish Autistic Radio, "In Stitches with Asperger's" and the RSPB Edinburgh Local Group.



The Firrhill Christmas Market raised over £1,000 for school activities including: the Venezuela trip, Holocaust Memorial Day and the Environment Group. The Rights Respecting Schools Award pupils raised funds for Unicef. What a great evening!



Thanks to all who took part in, or supported this Christmas fundraising event. Special thanks to Ruth Gebbie, the Parent Teacher Association, pupils, staff and parents.





Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

January 2018

Soul Band

Soul Band, directed by Mr Courtney, provided musical entertainment at the Christmas Market. Their repertoire included: *Build Me Up Buttercup* by the Foundations, *Crazy In Love* by Beyonce, *Move On Up* by Curtis Mayfield, *Blame It on the Boogie* by the Jacksons, *California Soul* by Marlena Shaw, and *September* by Earth Wind & Fire.

Follow on Twitter @FirrhillMusic



An excellent performance!





Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

January 2018

The School Travel Plan

On 1 December, nine pupils from S1-4 and Environment Group members Stella Thomson and Carolyn Hargest, met Mark Symonds, Road Safety and Active Travel Liaison Officer from the City of Edinburgh Council, to discuss how to revise the school's Travel Plan, which was created in 2013. Travel Plans are usually updated every three years and are based on information from pupils and staff about their daily journeys to and from school.



Pupils and staff complete a survey about their journeys to and from school, describing any problems encountered, or reasons they are not able to travel in a sustainable way. The results are analysed and published in the Travel Plan, which will be put on the school website.

A link to the pupil travel survey has been emailed to all carers and parents: <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/firrhill-high-student-travel-survey/>. The survey is open to all pupils. The closing date is 14 January so there is still time to take part and have the opportunity to be entered into a free prize draw, with the chance of winning two £10 Amazon vouchers and two £10 Love2shop vouchers. The survey will also be helpful in the school's application for the Cycle Friendly Secondary School Award and may even help towards our next Eco Schools' Green Flag Award. The higher number of responses the more meaningful the information will be. There is also a staff travel survey for all staff members, including: teachers, janitors, admin staff and cleaners.



Cycling Scotland

At the Christmas concert the Environment Group had a cycle information stall where free leaflets were given away, including "the Wheel Deal" cycle leaflet. Hyacinth bulbs were sold to raise eco funds.



Cycle Friendly Secondary School





Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

January 2018

School Planter

On 29 September a large planter was sited at the front entrance of the school. Thanks to the Eco Committee for suggesting this; the Parent Council for funding; R. Gebbie, parent, for gardening expertise and design, Tesco Colinton Mains for the hebes and C. Hargest, parent for the ivy. The planter is made from treated weather-proofed timber and came supplied with soil. Compost, plants, water and mulch were added!



These beautiful, hardy plants were chosen because they are well suited to containers. They can withstand their exposed location and tolerate certain levels of drought! Pupils, staff and parents will be encouraged to look after the new planter. The main tasks will be watering, weeding and some mulching.



The Environment Group is delighted with the new planter and has obtained funding for several smaller planters to complete the transformation of the main entrance of the school. Thanks to the Environment Group, the Eco Committee, R. Gebbie and C. Hargest.



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

January 2018

The Christmas Concert

 Follow on Twitter @FirrhillMusic



Firrhill's Christmas concert was on 12 December. There was festive music and art work in the concourse, plus two stalls organised by the Environment Group: one selling hyacinths to raise funds for eco activities and a cycle information stall with free leaflets about safer cycling. The Parent Teacher Association sold raffle tickets.

Everyone performed brilliantly and it was a great concert!





Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

January 2018

The Christmas Concert cont'd



Follow on Twitter
@FirrhillMusic

The following students have enjoyed recent success in external board music exams:

Trinity results for November 2017

Joseph Little – Grade 6 Saxophone (Merit)

ABRSM results for November 2017

Megan McLean – Grade 5 Guitar

Amelie Colvin – Grade 2 Clarinet (Merit)

Stuart Rehfish – Grade 2 Clarinet (Merit)

Thomas Sorensen – Grade 2 Violin

Kate Wellington – Grade 2 Violin (Merit)

Erin Speirs – Grade 2 Violin (Distinction)

Aimee Clark – Grade 2 Violin (Distinction)



Thanks to all the performers, and to the sound and lighting team and the backstage crew.



A cheque for £2,700 raised through the Whole School Challenge was presented to Barbara Johnstone from Riding for the Disabled.





Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

January 2018

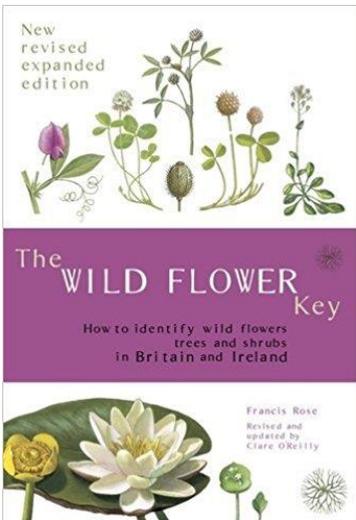
Urban Flora Prize

On 24 November John Grace and Maria Chamberlain from the Botanical Society of Scotland visited the school to present prize money and a beautiful certificate to some of the pupils who took part in the Urban Flora competition. Miss Statham, Depute Head Teacher, Mrs Hargest, Environment Group Leader and Mr McCann, school librarian, met and talked with our special guests. The lovely certificate will be framed and put on display. Mr McCann will order some books about wild flowers, and a special plate inscribed with the names of the participants will be inserted. The books will be useful for pupils who wish to enter the 2018 Urban Flora competition.



Well done to the Firrhill pupils whose photography and plant ID skills made them the winners of the Botanical Society of Scotland's Urban Flora competition. A prize of £50 has been donated to the school to spend on wild flower books for the school library. The pupils photographed and identified wild flowers in the school grounds and local area. The location was noted using a grid reference.

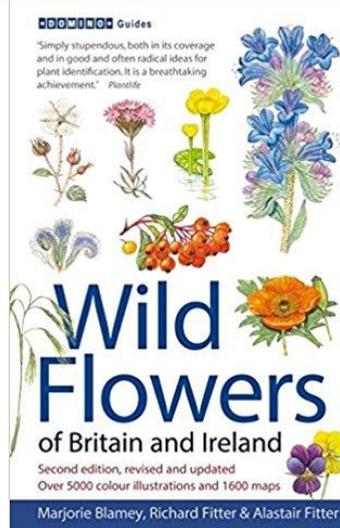
To be part of Firrhill's entry for the 2018 Urban Flora competition, simply photograph, and if possible, identify some wild flowers, noting the location either by grid reference – this can be done with a mobile phone app – or give a street name. Declan McCann, school librarian, will be happy to help with plant ID. Email the photographs or send them on a USB stick to Carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com.



BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND




PLANT PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE 2017
FIRRHILL High School





Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

January 2018

The Seniors Football

On Friday 3 November Firrhill Seniors - a team of S5 and S6 pupils - played against Newbattle High School at Meggetland, supported by pupils and parents.

The Seniors played well, and the final score was 3-2 to Firrhill.



Follow on twitter @theHillSeniors

