



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

May 2018



Follow on Twitter @FirrhillPE

Keanna's Commonwealth Games

Keanna MacInnes, S5 recently competed in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. She took part in the 100m and 200m women's butterfly and the 4x100m medley relay (women's). The 100m heats took place on 4 April and Keanna came 4th in her heat, achieving a new Personal Best of 59.63 seconds and also a new Scottish Junior record. She qualified for the semi-finals where she came 11th. The 200m butterfly heats took place on 9 April, and Keanna was placed 10th – a very good result! In the 4x100m medley relay Scotland won a brilliant 5th place and a new Scottish record – outstanding!



WOMEN'S 200M BUTTERFLY				
HEAT 1/2				
		WR	GR	
		2:01.81	2:06.09	
RESULTS				
1	3	AUS	THROSELL Brianna	2:09.93
2	4	DOM	ATKINSON Charlotte	2:09.95
3	5	ENG	LARGE Emily	2:11.35
4	6	SCO	MACINNES Keanna	2:11.78
5	1	RSA	COETZEE Dune	2:12.38
6	2	ENG	WILLMOTT Aimee	2:12.40
7	7	NZL	GASSON Helena	2:13.25

Gold Coast 2018

LONGINES



What an amazing achievement! Huge congratulations to Keanna (right) on her fly swimming success. We wish her the very best for the future.





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Apprenticeship Evening

On Wednesday 14 March a very successful evening was held to inform parents, carers and pupils about different types of apprenticeships. Approximately 100 people attended to hear about Foundation, Modern and Graduate apprenticeships.

Jon Buglass from Edinburgh College spoke about the apprenticeship family, detailing foundation and modern in particular.

This was followed by Abbey Lewis, an 18 year old student from Tynecastle High School, who is doing a two-year Business and IT modern apprentice with Firrhill High School. Scott Killen from Napier University told us about the exciting new graduate apprenticeships that Napier are running for those interested in computing. The talks comprised a mixture of PowerPoint and video presentations, providing a very interesting and informative evening. The event was rounded up by Richard Imlach, a parent who works for Sky, who run a wide and varied modern apprentice scheme.



<https://www.napier.ac.uk/study-with-us/apprenticeships> for information about graduate apprenticeships at Napier, contact ga@napier.ac.uk.



Thanks to the speakers, teacher Mr Isdale and members of the Business & Enterprise group.





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The New Planters

The Eco Committee wanted planters to brighten up the main entrance and to help with bio-diversity. On 12 April three wooden planters were sited at the school's main entrance. They are fully lined and filled with top soil. Pupils have since helped to plant them up and put mulch around the plants to suppress weeds. The Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants Fund is also funding three additional metal planters, which will be sited in the local community. All the planters will be low maintenance: the wood is pretreated and lined with a membrane, and the planters will be filled with hardy plants, suited to Scottish weather and windy conditions. Some general care will still be required such as weeding, watering and more mulching.



Thanks to parents Carolyn Hargest, Environment Group leader who worked hard to apply for the Community Grants Funding, Ruth Gebbie, PTA member, and to Springfield Landscaping who made the planters.

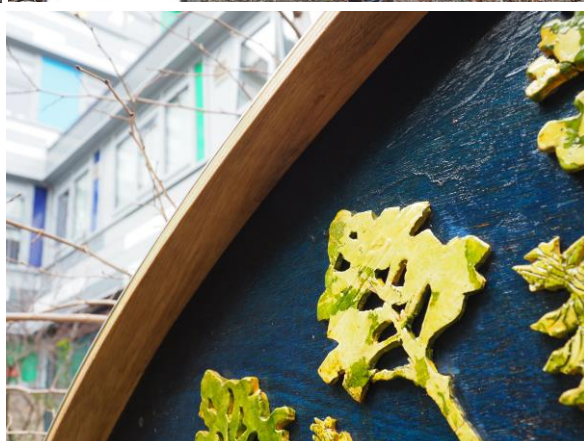


The Celebration Garden

The "50 Trees of Knowledge sculpture", which was created by pupils and Mr Mulholland in 2010 to commemorate Firrhill High School's 50th anniversary, was in need of some repair. On 22 March Ruth Gebbie, parent, and Bruce from Springfield Landscaping replaced the rotting wood and added a stainless-steel topper. On 23 March, Carolyn Hargest, parent and Environment Group leader put a first coat of protective yacht varnish on the wood. Then on 23 March Craigie Oliver, S4 applied a second coat of yacht varnish on the wood.



Thanks to the Environment Group for organising and funding this repair, and to Ruth Gebbie, PTA member and Springfield Landscaping for their time and expertise.





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Business Brunch 2018 by Callum Wellington 3A1



Follow on Twitter @Mf1Firrhill

On Tuesday 30 January, ten S3 pupils from the modern languages department went to Dynamic Earth for a "languages business brunch". When we arrived, we were greeted along with about 200 other young people. We toured all of the stalls, finding out information from different organisations, and learning what language skills can do in the workplace.



After that we listened to the head of SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages), who spoke about what SCILT do in Scotland and what languages can do for us. We then walked around the stalls some more to find out what jobs are available in Scotland, and around the world, and which universities specialise in different professions and languages. We continued to do this until lunch. There were around 30 stalls with organisations including Macdonald Hotels, the RAF, Edinburgh Napier and beauty specialists.

After lunch, we made our way back to the main hall to hear a talk from a business manager who told us how languages had benefitted him, both in Thailand and here in the UK. We went on to separate rooms to hear individual talks from a specific company. We listened to two Skyscanner employees from an office in France and Russia and why they need languages, and then a hotel manager who has been to Dubai, Indonesia and Singapore working with people from all over the world. Overall, the day was very interesting and eye-opening for everyone and definitely encouraged us to consider taking languages in the future.



Thanks to the Modern Languages staff who arranged this exciting trip.

PTA Quiz Night

Firrhill PTA Fundraising



QUIZ NIGHT

When?

Friday May 4th 2018 at 7:30pm

Where?

Colinton Bowling Club (Redford Road)

How much?

**Tickets £12 each
including baked potato supper
prepared by MacKenzies**

How do I get a ticket?

Email ruth_gebbie@yahoo.co.uk



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Litter

Litter is an issue that is being tackled at Firrhill. Pupils are learning about some solutions to littering and how to reduce litter. On 7 November, members of the Senior Pupil Council joined pupils and staff from Braidburn School and Oxbgangs Primary School in a community litter pick.

The Parent Council recently raised the issue of litter in the school, its grounds and the surrounding local area. Fred Bell, PC Chair and Carolyn Hargest, Environment Group leader, emailed Amey who are responsible for the Janitors, to ask them to continue to prioritise litter in the school and grounds. Mr Graham Hamilton, head teacher, met with Eric Cummings from the council to discuss how to reduce littering by pupils.

The Senior Pupil Council had a litter theme for their pinned tweet! We thank them for asking everyone to put their litter in the bin.



Follow on Twitter @FirrhillSSC



Pinned Tweet



FHS Student Council @FirrhillSSC · 26 Oct 2017
Follow Harvey's example - use the bins! #dontberubbish



21 68



TRASH
GOES
HERE



The school bins have been labelled to show which are for landfill and which are for mixed recycling.

In addition to using litter bins, we can help to keep our local area cleaner by using the council website to report any environmental problems, including litter, dog fouling and graffiti.

<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report> .

Or if you simply want to report litter, go straight to http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20001/bins_and_recycling/306/litter_and_street_cleaning

S2 pupils created anti-littering posters to help combat littering and to increase recycling.



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Easter Sports Camp



Follow on twitter @FirrhillPE

The Firrhill Easter Sports Camp ran from 9 to 12 April for P1-S1 pupils, offering a wide variety of sports, led by qualified instructors. This year 95 pupils attended the Easter Sports Camp and there was a Commonwealth Games theme, featuring Commonwealth sports, teams with host city names, plus the opportunity to watch live sports at lunchtime, including S5 pupil, Keanna MacInnes, who competed in the 100m and 200m butterfly and the women's 4x100m medley relay.

Thanks to Lorna Norman, Active Schools Coordinator, for organising Firrhill's very successful, fun-packed Easter sports camp!



Shinty, an exciting new sport, was introduced this year and proved very popular with pupils. A new shinty club will be starting this term!



The pupils enjoyed the variety of sports offered at the camp.



A bike club is also starting on Wednesdays after school.





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Vision Aid Overseas

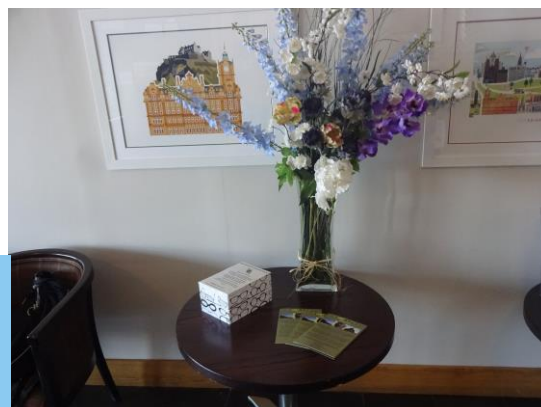
Before the Easter break, the school had its sixth annual Vision Aid Overseas glasses and sunglasses collection. Firrhill collected a total of 360 pairs, which were taken to Specsavers Morningside (photo below). A new VAO glasses collection box has just been placed in the foyer of Swanston Brasserie, home of Swanston Golf Club (photos centre and below right) and Colinton Parish Church members continue to collect for VAO (photo right).

2013	35 pairs
2014	86 pairs
2015	110 pairs
2016	150 pairs
2017	280 pairs
2018	360 pairs



Vision Aid Overseas

Thanks to all who donated glasses and sunglasses. The donated spectacles will bring the gift of sight to all the matched recipients and will transform lives!



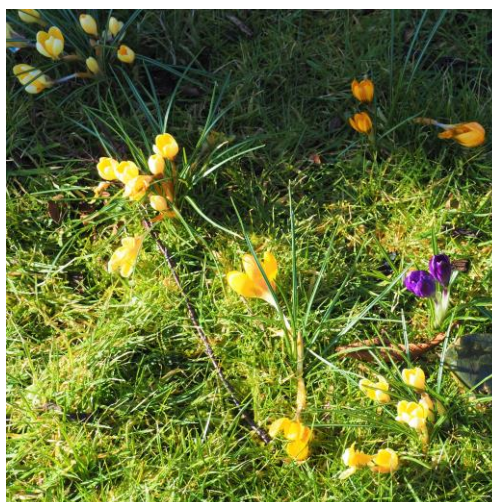
The Anne Frank Garden

Follow on Twitter @FirrhillHMD

Stephan Brent, who planted the Anne Frank tree in 2014 and came to the UK via the Kinder Transport system, recently died at Liberton Hospital on 16 March 2018, aged 89. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Angela, his three sons, and family members in the UK, Israel, the USA and Australia.



Volunteers from Tiphereth have kindly re-oiled the bench in the Anne Frank Garden. The daffodils, snowdrops and crocuses have been blooming and look great.



Snowdrops in flower around the Anne Frank Tree, the weeping cherry.



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The Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships

On 11 March the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships took place at Inveralmond Community High School, Livingston. Pipers and drummers from Firrhill and Craigroyston High School and Craiglockhart Primary School combined their talents and did a fantastic job, performing in the debut band section, playing *The Brown Haired Maiden* and *The High Road to Gairloch*. Thanks to instructors Mike Pretsell, Pat Rudolf von Rohr and Brian Alexander, and to Dawn Alsop, Chair of Firrhill Pipe Band Club.



The Firrhill Pipe Band Club runs on Mondays, after school with piping instructor Mike Pretsell. Tuition is available for all levels, from beginners through to pipers and takes place in the drama classroom (on the first floor). Lessons cost £6 for a 30 min group session, and the pipers have a warm-up session prior to their class. To find out more, contact dawn.alsop@blueyonder.co.uk.

