



Produced by the Parent Council

Firrhill News

August 2018

Commemoration Evening

The Commemoration Evening took place on 5 June, with Senior Staff recalling the highlights of the S6 pupils' school years. There were musical interludes, prizes and an address by former pupil Jamie Borthwick, editor at Scottish Television, who gave some amusing words of encouragement to the S6 leavers. The evening was concluded with a note of thanks by head boy Alan Rowan and head girl Mitch Wilkins. Refreshments were provided by the Parent Teacher Association, served by pupils and Parent Council, PTA and working group members. A nice farewell for a super S6!



We wish the class of 2018 the very best in the future.





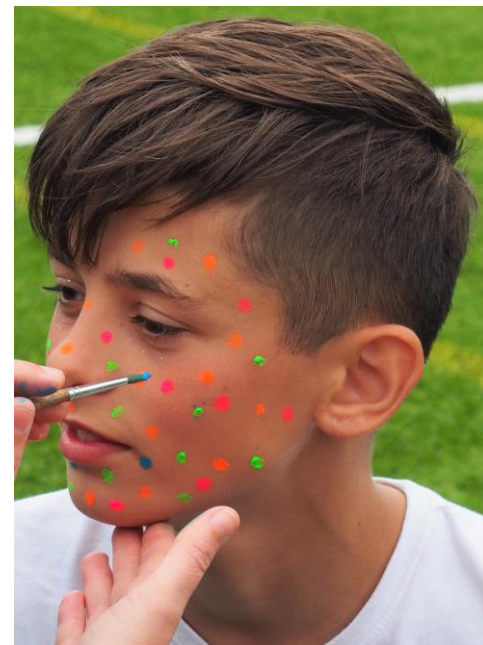
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Sports Day

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Firrhill's sports day took place on 13 June, with many fun sports activities organised into three zones: the "Tough Mudder"; the "Energy Zone" which comprised various "potted" sports events, sumo wrestling, face painting and pillow fights; and the "Athletics and Fun Races", which included traditional track and field events and also some fun races.

Thanks to Miss Anderson, CL Health and Wellbeing (acting), for organising this event and to all the staff who helped to make the day a wonderful success. Very well done everyone!





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Sports Day continued



Thanks to all who took part and to the Firrhill staff who helped on sports day!





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Paris Trip By Kate Wellington, Emma McDermaid and Amy Hodgson



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On Monday 14 May 40 S1 pupils and five members of staff went to Paris for five days! We enjoyed a bit of shopping at the airport, then we departed at 1.45 pm and arrived in foggy Paris at 3.30 pm. Our hostel was around the corner. When we arrived, we had our dinner then got ready to go up the Montparnasse tower which was only 30 minutes down the street. We went up a fast lift which made everyone's ears pop! We got to the top, sadly it was a bit foggy but we could still see the Eiffel Tower. There was a café and a gift shop, so everyone bought some gifts for their families. There were souvenir coin machines where you could get a picture of Montparnasse. If you went right up to the top, then you could see everything more clearly and it was dark, so we could see the lit-up Eiffel Tower which was amazing!



Tuesday was our first full day in Paris and the weather was foggy but warm. After a good breakfast we went to get our stuff together for all the things we were doing that day. When we were all ready we walked down to the Catacombs. The Catacombs are a place underground where lots of bodies were buried. The stairs down to the bottom of the Catacombs took ages to descend. We were amazed by all the skeletons that were there. Afterwards, we jumped on a coach and headed to the Sacré Coeur cathedral to go around it and take in the beauty of it. It was stunning. Sacré Coeur stands for sacred heart. It was one of the nicest cathedrals anyone had ever seen. Once we had finished looking at the cathedral we went to an area where we had some free time and maybe get a painting of ourselves called a caricature. That evening, after dinner at the hostel, we had lots of fun bowling and we didn't want to stop!

The Firrhill S1 Paris trip is a great way to learn about Paris, enjoy French culture and practise language skills.



On Wednesday we went on a cruise down the river Seine. We each got a headset so that we could listen to the history and facts about Paris. Then we went to the Stade de France. The first thing we did was meet our tour guide, who was excellent at speaking French, English and Spanish! She let us sit in the stands and told us how football matches, rugby games, athletics competitions and concerts are held there. Then we went to the police area where the fans cells were. We got to see the cells, investigation room and the reception. Then we got to run onto the pitch like we were footballers, and that was great. Once we had finished being footballers, we went into the changing rooms, which were very big. They all had a shower, office, massage room, dressing room, toilet, hot tub and a cold tub room. Unfortunately, the tour had ended, but we still had a lot to do. So, we hopped on the coach and went back to the hostel. We got back and put on our best clothes because we were going to the Hard Rock Café. We walked to the café which was very nice. We all sat down and ordered burgers. They were so yummy. Once people were starting to finish their meals, all the boys started watching football and the girls were just chatting. We were all tired, so we walked back, and we got to the hostel about 9.30 pm.



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Paris Trip continued

by Kate Wellington (1A1), Emma McDermaid (1A2) and Amy Hodgson (1A2)

Thursday was our last full day in Paris before we went home the next day. Everyone got up half an hour earlier because Thursday was the day we were going to Disneyland! All 40 pupils and five staff members were so excited. When we got to Disney nobody could contain their excitement. We got through security and collected our fast passes for all the rollercoasters we wanted to go on. We had to go in groups of four or more if we wanted to explore on our own. There were lots of Disney shops and teddies. Whilst we were wandering around the streets there were parades going on. In the morning lots of people went on a ride called Hyper Space Mountain. It was like a virtual reality



Star Wars ride and was very scary. There was also a ride called "Big Thunder Mountain", which was fast, and you got a bit wet. In the middle of Disneyland there was the magical Disney castle, which was spectacular. When the time came to go back on the coach lots of people had bought Minnie and Mickey Mouse ears. After we got back to the youth hostel we had a quick dinner then went up to our rooms to do some packing. The last thing we did that day was to take part in a quiz which was made by the teachers. The quiz was about French words being turned into English song titles. There was also one on movie characters as well. When the quiz was over we all went up to our rooms exhausted from the wonderful day we had just experienced.

Friday had come, and it was sadly the day that we were leaving Paris. But that would be later in the day, so we still had lots of time for sightseeing, free time and some shopping. In the morning we had our breakfast and waited for a coach to come and take us to the Notre Dame Cathedral which is called "Our Lady" in English. Notre Dame is a very famous cathedral. Once we had admired the outside we went inside, and it was very beautiful. There were lots of stained glass windows with lovely patterns and people on them. Once we were finished, we walked down to the river and took some pictures of the view.

We walked down the river to a place where we went to get lunch and have a look around. We went in groups to look at souvenirs and buy food. When most of us were finished we got a card for the teachers to say "thank you" for taking us to Paris, and they were very happy. Next, we went to a park to relax for a while before we needed to leave for the airport. At the park some people borrowed a toy boat they could put in the water to race each other. Once our time was up, we went back to the youth hostel and collected our bags because we were heading to the airport. When we got to the airport we got a snack for our dinner and got on the plane. It was a very late flight so when we got back to Edinburgh it was about 10.55 pm. We said goodbye to everyone and our parents came and picked us up. Everyone had a fantastic time in Paris and we were sad that it was over.



Thanks to the Firrhill staff who organised this great trip!



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Transition Bike Ride

On Wednesday 6 and 13 June the new S1 pupils from Bonaly Primary School enjoyed a transition cycle ride to Firrhill High School, followed by riding into Colinton Dell to Spylaw Park, then returning back to Bonaly Primary School, including a rather steep climb up West Mill Road and Bonaly Road. This led bike ride aims to show the new S1 pupils a safer cycle route to high school and a short trail ride in the Dell. The route goes from Bonaly Rise via Laverochdale Crescent to the Polo Field woods, along Redford Road past Colinton Primary School, over Colinton Mains Drive by the Braid Burn to Oxgangs Road North.

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There are cycle sheds for pupils to lock up their bikes.



Everyone enjoyed the new S1 transition cycle ride. Thanks to staff and parent volunteers!





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Prince's Trust Achieve Programme

Jay Gammie S3 and Charlie Eadie S2 are pictured here after being awarded with their certificates for completing the Prince's Trust Achieve Programme. The Achieve Programme helps 13 to 16 year olds to develop the skills and confidence they need to engage and succeed in education, so they can reach their full potential. Achieve offers an informal and engaging style of learning to help young people improve their attainment, attendance, personal and social development and engagement with learning. The programme includes a number of adventurous activities, focusing on developing life skills, active citizenship and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) as well as a residential. Both Firrhill pupils really enjoyed the experience and were praised for their positive attitude and participation in all activities. Very well done!



Greenshoots Programme

Jakub Malgrab S1 recently completed the Greenshoots programme and was presented with his award at a celebration at Tynecastle High School. He was commended for the way in which he participated in all activities and his development of very good team skills. Jakub has now been successful in gaining a place on the Advanced Greenshoots programme and is looking forward to a variety of activities, including two residential. Congratulations on this achievement!



Achieve

All proceeds from the sale of these books will go to cancer sufferer Kira #KiraTheMachine.
<https://solvingkidscancer.org.uk/campaigns/Kira>

Books written by pupils

In May, Mr Waddell and Ms Elder accompanied 20 Firrhill High School pupils who took part in an exciting project with White Water Writers where pupils are given the opportunity to work together to improve their literacy skills and ultimately write a book in just one week, which is published and sold. The pupils were responsible for planning, drafting and editing the publications, with very little input from the facilitators. All the pupils involved worked hard throughout the project and demonstrated commitment and drive in realising their vision for the text. The books are available on Amazon for £4.99, and the pupils kindly chose to donate proceeds from sales to Kira #KiraTheMachine.



Project: Iris



Project: Iris, after deciding to go ahead with a never before tried experiment regarding superhuman powers, six random members of the public signed up for scientific tests on if it was really possible for humans to have alien powers. Zaira, James, Murray, John, Eric, Timmy and Marius embark on the adventure of a lifetime, into the deepest unknown. With new things to discover and new people to meet, there is never a dull moment in our solar system. But will they survive? Read on to find out...

Vengeance



Vengeance: Peter Peterson, a disturbed man with an ugly childhood. Living with parents as drug dealers can't always be easy. Violence drama and murder, oh my! The book *Vengeance* has it all. This book will have you on the edge of your seat, making you want to turn the page.



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Kira the Machine

 #KiraTheMachine

Firrhill pupil Kira was diagnosed with an aggressive neuroblastoma in 2014, when she was 11 years old. She had received 19 rounds of chemotherapy and three major abdominal surgeries. The life-saving surgery she desperately required was not available in the UK, but in order for her to receive this treatment in the USA, her family needed to raise £340K. Firrhill pupils ran an amazing fundraising campaign on her behalf, also involving many neighbouring Edinburgh schools in the fundraising, including Currie, Craiglockhart and Bonaly Primary, and the Royal and Balerno High Schools.

Fundraisers included "hats for Kira", cake sales, bag packing and bucket collections. The generosity of pupils who gave both time and money on Kira's behalf was inspirational. Mr Hamilton, Head Teacher is extremely proud of Firrhill's pupils, who contributed an amazing £15,000 towards Kira's cancer surgery which she received in May at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York.



We wish Kira a speedy recovery and hope she will be back at school in the autumn term.



Some links to press coverage of Kira's inspirational story:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-43994559> BBC News article.

<https://twitter.com/FirrhillISSC/status/990172821295894528> a film on Twitter about fundraising for Kira.

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/classmates-drive-funds-for-kira-noble-s-lifesaving-treatment-1-4731729> Edinburgh Evening News article.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/746a6680-4fe2-11e8-820c-9146b8a57671> The Times.

