



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

September 2018

The Job Fair



Thanks to all who took part!
We would welcome new
parents to help next year.



On 15 June Firrhill held its seventh Job Fair, organised by the Parent Council's Business and Enterprise group. This year the Job Fair focused on the S4 year group, although older pupils were also welcome. In a friendly atmosphere, parent volunteers from a wide range of jobs helped pupils understand what different jobs entail. If you would like to take part in next year's Job Fair, please email fhsjobfair@yahoo.co.uk.





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The Job Fair (cont'd)

Jobs/companies represented included: Scottish police, vet, doctor, occupational health, Road Safety Officer, engineering, sport and exercise, hospitality, the Apex Hotel, law, accountancy, Cycling UK, Napier and Heriot-Watt universities, radiographer, physiotherapist, childminder, City of Edinburgh Council, recruitment officer, administrator and teachers.



Firrhill is working towards becoming a Cycle Friendly Secondary School, and we are grateful to Mark Symonds and Lorna Henderson, City of Edinburgh Council Road Safety Officers and Esmond Sage, Cycling UK, who presented cycling-related careers at the Job Fair.



Thanks to the Business and Enterprise group for their hard work organising this successful school Job Fair.





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Follow on Twitter @MfIFirrhill

Berlin trip by Katie MacIver and Poppy Bertram

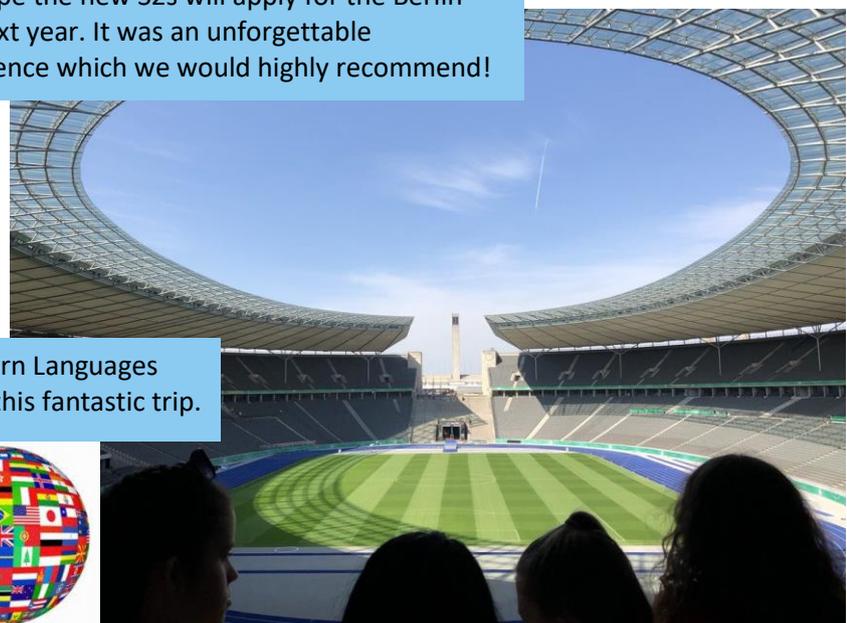
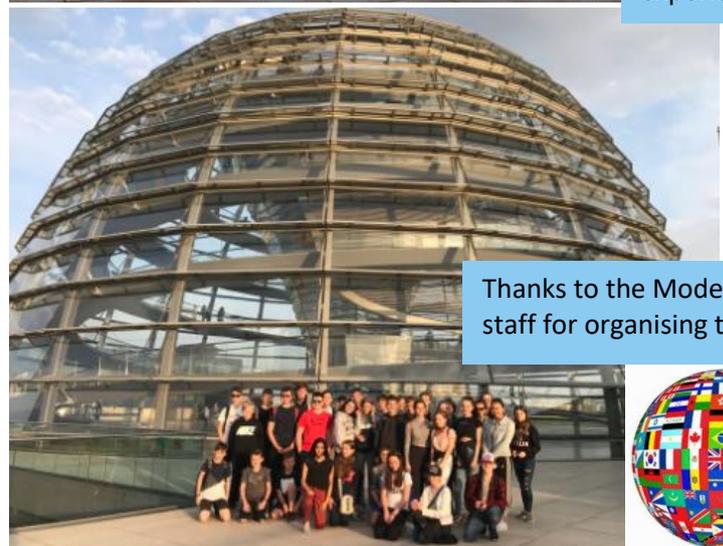
On 14 May a group of S2 pupils visited Berlin for a fun and educational trip which was about both language and history. We began the trip with a walking tour of the city – though our feet weren't very thankful for it! We saw many sites along the way, including the world-famous Brandenburg Gate. When we visited Sachsenhausen we all found it emotional, but it was an important piece of history for us to learn from and remember. We thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Alexa shopping mall – there were lots of shops to buy gifts and souvenirs for family and friends at home. One of our favourite places visited was the Olympic stadium and we also enjoyed going up the TV tower because it gave incredible views of the city.



It was an amazing experience and we all made many great memories in Berlin, which would not have been possible without the help of all the wonderful staff who led and organised the trip.



We hope the new S2s will apply for the Berlin trip next year. It was an unforgettable experience which we would highly recommend!



Thanks to the Modern Languages staff for organising this fantastic trip.





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Edinburgh Canal Festival



Follow on Twitter @FirrhillMusic

EDINBURGH CANAL FESTIVAL and 12th annual RAFT RACE will take place on SAT 16TH JUNE 2018



On 16 June, during heavy, persistent rain, Firrhill's Big Band and Soul Band performed at the Edinburgh Canal Festival in the Canal Basin, Fountain Park. This is the 10th year of the festival, which includes: stalls, raft races and live entertainment. Despite extremely dismal and challenging weather, both bands performed very well to an appreciative, if rather damp, audience. Very well done to all who took part!



Thanks to teacher Mr Courtney, who organised the Soul and Big Band Canal Festival performances.



Well done to all the pupils who turned up on such a wet day and still gave great performances.



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The Firrhill Pipe Band Club

The Firrhill Pipe Band Club runs on Mondays, after school, with piping instructor Mike Pretsell. Tuition is available, from beginner chanter through to pipers. Lessons cost £6 for a 30-min. group session. The pipers have a warm-up session prior to their class. On the last week of term, Mrs Hargest, former Pipe Band Club chair (2013-2017), was presented with a thank you card and gifts!



The club welcomes P4-S6 pupils. To find out more, contact Dawn Alsop dawn.alsop@blueyonder.co.uk.

The pipers are keen to practise at lunchtimes with the drummers – this will take place in the small gym hall.



The club is run by parent volunteers and would welcome new helpers.



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Planters on Colinton Mains Drive

On 17 July, Firrhill High School placed three planters in our local community. The project was organised by the Parent Council and funded by the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership, Community Grants Fund. Craig Dunlop from the City of Edinburgh Council advised on the precise location and size of the planters (800mm x 800mm x 750mm), which were supplied and delivered by Blueton to Colinton Mains Drive. The planters have fork-lift channels, so they can be moved if necessary. Thistle Timber & Building Supplies Limited delivered six bags of gravel (for drainage) and a ton of top soil. However more top soil was required so additional topsoil and compost was obtained from Mortonhall Garden Centre. Slow release fertiliser was added to the compost and then the plants were positioned, watered and firmed in. Finally, mulch was added. The planters look absolutely fantastic!



The planters brighten up the area by Colinton Mains shops.



The planters are in natural Corten Steel, which has an attractive rusty appearance. Hardy plants suited to Scottish weather: fierce winds, freezing conditions, heat and drought were chosen. They are planted with a central shrub, "Chamaecyparis pisifera Boulevard", and surrounded by variegated periwinkles named "Ralph Shugart". Former Firrhill pupil Alice Hargest helped. The local community and shop owners are delighted! Approximately 20 people stopped to talk and praise the work! The pupils and local community are keen to maintain the planters – which will only require minimal maintenance – such as re-mulching, topping up soil, replacing dead plants, and some weeding and watering. Very well done indeed!

Special thanks to Firrhill parents, Carolyn Hargest, project leader, and Ruth Gebbie, who gave specialist gardening advice.



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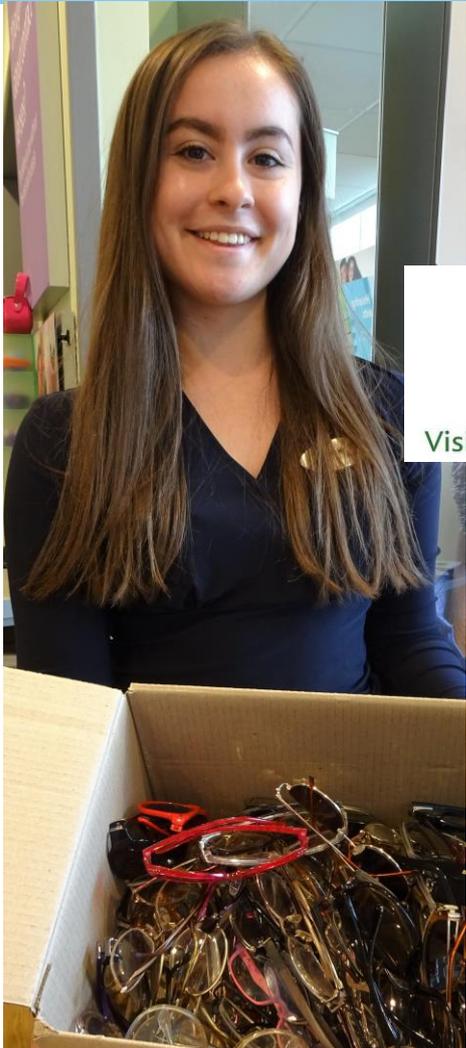
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Vision Aid Overseas

The Parent Council's Environment Group is helping Firrhill High School with its seventh annual Vision Aid Overseas glasses and sunglasses collection. During June and July, we collected 270 pairs, which were taken to Specsavers, Morningside. VAO glasses collection boxes are sited at: Swanston Golf Club, Colinton Parish Church (photo middle right), Oxgangs Library (photo right), the City of Newcastle Golf Club and Oxgangs Primary School. Members of the community drop off their unwanted glasses and VAO takes the glasses to Africa and matches them with suitable recipients. Corrected vision makes a huge difference in the daily lives of the recipients, providing the ability to work, study and care for families. To recycle and reuse glasses through VAO is a wonderful opportunity to help people in the developing world receive the gift of sight!



Thanks to all who donated glasses and sunglasses. We have already collected 270 pairs since the Easter break! The donated spectacles will bring the gift of sight to all the matched recipients and will transform lives!



A box of glasses was donated to Specsavers in June (photo bottom right) and a further box donated in July (photo above)!



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Litter Posters

In January S2 pupils from Mrs Dunn's and Ms Kerr's PSE classes created these amazing litter posters to help combat littering. This is part of a special drive to tackle litter.

By Molly and Maria

Litter

- Don't drop litter. Put it in the bin. Don't drop litter!
- Litter consists of waste products that have been disposed improperly, without regard, at an inappropriate location.
- 9 billion tons of litter ends up in the ocean every year.
- 50% of littered items are cigarette butts!
- The most common object found during litter clean-ups is fast food litter.
- Chewing gum does not degrade ever! Get washing and bleach has to be used to remove it!
- Don't drop litter!
- You harm the animals!

The only things that like Litter are...

RATS

The pupil's posters will be used in an anti-littering campaign and will be displayed in the school and on the plasma screen in the foyer.

POP IT IN THE BIN

THE BIN

DON'T RUIN NATURE!

BINS DON'T BITE!!!

DON'T LITTER

- It can release toxins into the air or water!
- It can kill animals like birds.
- It will pollute the environment.
- BINS ARE HUNGRY
- DROP YOUR LITTER IN THE BIN!
- CIVILS LOOK SPHERICAL!
- RECYCLE PERKS
- 1510 Mackenzie Eye
- Shantis
- General LITTER

LITTER

- Balloons and string can cause serious harm to environmental birds.
- Don't spit out Gum on the pavement because it doesn't biodegrade.
- Coastal and marine litter includes items washed on beach or are caught whether washed or not. Let's think as a result of human activity.
- Litter can affect our health and local environment.
- Fast food litter eg. bags, containers, sweetie packets and crisp packets.
- Roadside litter creates a negative impression of Scotland.
- 75% of people say the litter problem has become worse since 2015.

Stop the reign of Litter

And Recycle

It is important not only to encourage pupils to put litter in the bins, but also to consume fewer packaged food items, to take litter home and to recycle whenever possible. *The bins need to be emptied regularly as the wind can cause litter to blow around and birds scavenge in the bins for food.*

Pupils and teachers have a rota for doing litter picks in the school grounds. The janitorial staff, employed by Amey, litter pick on a regular basis. Parents from the Environment Group also collect litter when working in the school grounds.

Don't Litter

General Data Protection Regulation

By now this will be familiar to most people – general data protection regulation (GDPR) is a new piece of legislation designed to strengthen data privacy requirements. Your Parent Council has adopted a data protection policy to make sure we meet GDPR requirements; the policy also applies to the Parent Teacher Association and our working groups. We have posted this policy on the Parent Community section of the website.

Fred Bell, Parent Council Chair