



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

January 2019

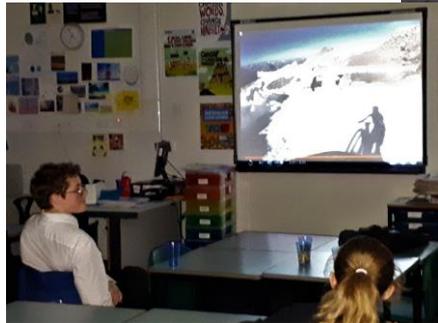
S1 & S2 Bike Club

 Follow on Twitter @FirrhillPE

On Tuesday 6 November the S1 & S2 bike club pupils enjoyed popcorn while watching exciting mountain biking videos. They then enjoyed using Virtual Reality headsets to watch extreme mountain biking in 360° Virtual Reality.

360° VR Extreme biking report by Sneha

"I was pretty excited about using the Virtual Reality headsets and when I put on the video, I was so thrilled. It was great! I called out "this is amazing" and I could not stop myself from smiling. This was a really fun activity!"



"Danny MacAskill rides the Cuillin Ridgeline".



The adventure film *Divided* – Lee Craigie and Rickie Cotter's fantastic cycle ride along the challenging Great Divide, will be shown in the new year.

Bike club events will be advertised in the weekly bulletin and the plasma TV.



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The Book Swap/Give-away



On 3-6 December the school held its seventh book swap/give-away event, organised by C. Hargest, Environment Group leader.

Thanks to parent helpers and school librarian Mr Declan McCann who organised this fun and worthwhile event.

The event was part of our Book Week Scotland's celebrations and aims to promote reading, enjoyment of book ownership and reduce waste through the reuse of books.

Waste minimisation is one of Eco School's seven topics. An amazing 390 books were donated, and as well as many books being given away, the school library was able to add 50 excellent books to its collection. Some old leftover books will be used in a "book art" project.

Pupils, staff and parents were encouraged to select books to read and enjoy!



Please donate books for the next book give-away event in February, contact: Carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com



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Digimap is used in Outdoor Learning



Recent outdoor learning at Firrhill includes the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Training expedition that took place in the Pentlands in the first week of October. More than 70 pupils went on the two-day expedition and camped overnight at Bonaly (although no photographs of this expedition are shown here). The Silver Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying expedition to Deeside was in September (for 20 pupils). A Gold Duke of Edinburgh Training expedition to Torridon took place at the end of September (for 15 pupils). There was also an Advanced Higher Geography fieldwork trip to the Pentlands and also a three day stay at Kindrogan.



Thanks to the PTA for providing £120 for "Digimap", which has been a very useful tool in all these outdoor learning activities.



"Around 40 pupils in S2 and S6 are now doing their **John Muir Award**. We work with the Green Team on a "conservation day". Pupils need to do 24 hours of "Discovering, Exploring, Conserving and Sharing" local wild places. We go to the local woods and hills, and feedback from pupils is excellent at the moment." said Mr Boyd, Geography teacher.

Digimap for Schools is an online mapping service for use by teachers and pupils. Established in 2010 and building on the [EDINA Digimap](#) service for higher and further education, *Digimap for Schools* is a collaborative venture between [EDINA](#) and [Ordnance Survey](#).



Here are some photographs of the expeditions and fieldwork that we have been doing this term. "Digimap" has been integral to all these trips!





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Bike Sheds

Following the recent revision of the School Travel Plan, the school bike sheds have been repaired, new signage added and doors with integral keypad locks fitted. Mark Symonds, Road Safety and Active Travel Liaison Officer, City of Edinburgh Council, organised the repair and upgrade, which were funded by Sutstrans and the City of Edinburgh Council.

Mr Denvir, Staff Cycle Champion, can supply the keypad code to cyclists – it is anticipated that this code will be changed on a termly basis.



Cycle Friendly Secondary School



Mr Hamilton, Head Teacher, commented that it was good to see that eight pupils were already using the bike shed on a regular basis.

Please remember, on dark winter days lights are essential and gloves are also necessary to keep hands warm enough to operate brakes safely.



Cycling Scotland

Firrhill is working towards becoming a Cycle Friendly Secondary School and has received £1,000 development funding from Cycling Scotland for 32 lockers for cyclists. The Parent Council are funding four further lockers, plus a RUTS cycling course and a “Dr Bike” session. Tools and bike-related events are being funded with £180 from the school’s sponsored walk.

We are delighted that the upgraded bike sheds are already in use. The new lockers for cyclists, will be located inside the school. These improvements will enable more pupils to cycle to school. The staff bike shed is too small and more spaces are required!

Pupil Cycle Champion Training Event



Stella Thomson and Carolyn Hargest, Environment Group members, with Harris Imlach and Jack Morgan S3, Pupil Cycle Champions.

On 29 November Cycling Scotland hosted a pupil cycle champion learning event at Glasgow College, City Campus. The day was designed for pupils and teachers, to learn and develop new ways to promote cycling at school.





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Craft Afternoon

On Tuesday 20 November, Mrs Graham's S3 fashion class took part in a fun and creative Christmas Craft Afternoon at Colinton Parish Church. The students were invited by Gayle Taylor, School Chaplain who is based at the church, and her colleague Moira Sheriff who provides pastoral care for older people. The afternoon was designed to bring different generations together, to learn from each other and also to prove that art is for everyone!

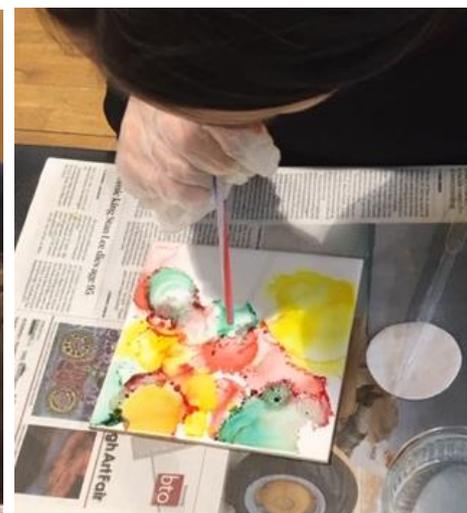


Well done to all who took part in this craft for all generations event.

Firrhill pupils showed examples of needle felting and weaving they had completed in school and ran workshops on how to do these crafts. They worked with Braidburn pupils and older members of the community, and as well as sharing their own skills, learned card and gift box making techniques and made decorative tiles.



The afternoon was a great success, as the initiative provided good company, new insights and laughter, as well as hand-crafted, inexpensive Christmas presents for young and old to give for Christmas.





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Firrhill Hair Salon

On Thursday 8 November, young actors from Longstone Primary School who were performing in "Midsummer's Night Dream" at the Brunton Theatre came into Firrhill's hair salon to have their hair done prior to the performance. Firrhill hairdressers from S2 to S5 worked as a team, to achieve really dramatic, theatrical and truly amazing looks for the performance. Well done to all pupils involved!



The Firrhill pupils did a fantastic job creating magical hairstyles for the Longstone Primary performers.



Thanks to Jaqueline Lamont Hairdressing Tutor for helping the pupils create such fantastic hair styles.



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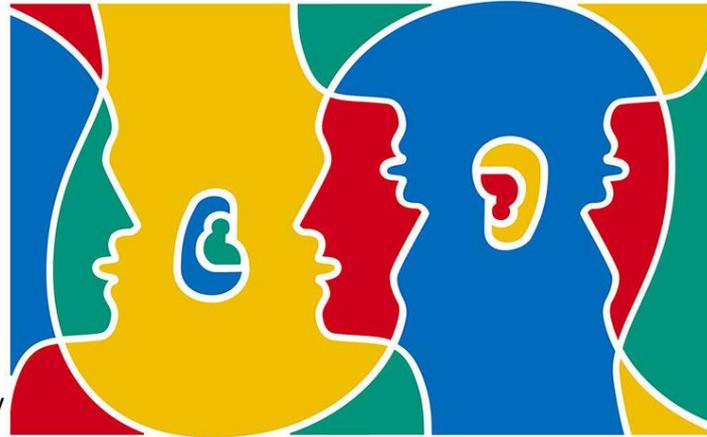
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European Day of Languages by Anna Horsburgh 5D1

Every year since 2001 we have promoted diversity within language learning in schools. On 26 September we celebrate the "European Day of Languages". This year Firrhill's senior pupil "Language Leaders" ran activities in the foyer. We held quizzes and games to promote the enjoyment of learning about foreign cultures and languages and had a quiz to guess the country based on the flag. We also printed out "welcome" in a number of different languages to create a welcome display in reception. We discovered that 22 languages other than English are spoken fluently in the Firrhill High School community. Language learning is known to help people become more open and tolerant – an important incentive to learn a new language, especially in today's world. Firrhill's Language Leaders strive to make the community a welcoming environment for any bilingual pupils and staff.



There are a variety of opportunities to improve your understanding and exploration of foreign languages at Firrhill. You could get involved by joining our S1-3 Languages Club on a Wednesday lunchtime. Our Language Leaders will be there to offer support with homework, run games, and put together quizzes through-out the year to help expand your cultural knowledge. This space also welcomes S4-S6 pupils who wish to complete homework and receive support from our senior pupils. It is also a quiet area to study. Speaking another language can be a rewarding skill and can really reap benefits in the workplace!



The day tied in with the Rights Respecting School group, which promotes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child within Firrhill High School.

We gave a particular focus to Article 30: "You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion".



For further information on the S1-2 Languages Club, please speak to Ms Howells or a Language Leader – you can identify us by our purple badges!





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“Storyworlds” Exhibition

On 9 November the exhibition “Storyworlds” opened at The Writers’ Museum on the Royal Mile. The exhibition is part of the “Year of Young People” and features the work of 11 Firrhill High School Advanced Higher Art and Design pupils and one Drummond High School pupil. The students worked with artist Tessa Asquith-Lamb over six Friday afternoon workshops, to create paper sculptures inspired by their favourite piece of Scottish writing.

 Follow on Twitter @FirrhillArts



The exhibition runs until May 2019, so pop in and be amazed by their stunning work.

Remembrance



Some artwork done by Advanced Higher Art students for this year’s Remembrance Day assemblies.

