

Duncanrig News

May
2015

May Newsletter

We have had a very busy term since Christmas, with the focus very clearly on preparing S4-S6 pupils for the forthcoming national exams. Most of them are now on study leave. The best wishes of all the staff go with them.

At this time of year my attention turns to next session as I attempt to secure teaching staff for the next school year. Our timetabling team are hard at work preparing the timetable for session 2015-2016.

Pupils and staff have been heavily involved in focussing upon our school values, visions and aims and you can see the product of the discussions on the next page.

A huge amount of activity is again evident in this copy of the newsletter and is testimony to the range of opportunities available to our pupils.

I hope that you enjoy this newsletter and remember that it is available to download from our school website.

George Wynne
Headteacher

Public Speaking Success

Congratulations to

Sian Oo (S3)

and

Julia Duncan (S4)



who each won a place at the National Finals of the ESU Junior and Senior Public Speaking Competition. Sian's topic was "Equality: are we there yet?", whilst Julia spoke on the subject "Charity begins at home". The Finals will be hosted by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in June where the girls will compete against speakers from all over Scotland.

Duncanrig Vision, Values and Aims

Having concluded our consultation about our school vision, values and aims we have agreed the wording for each of them. This has been an extremely positive exercise for our school community and the revised vision, values and aims can be seen below.

Our Vision

In Duncanrig we work together to build positive futures for all. Our school community is a place where learners develop respect for themselves, for those around them and for the school environment. Values are established and skills developed, allowing pupils to build their confidence, achieve their potential, contribute successfully to society and play an active part in shaping the future for themselves and others.

Underpinning everything we do is the desire to raise attainment, provide opportunities for achievement and celebrate success.

Our Values

Respect for self, respect for others, respect for our community, respect for the school environment.

Contribute when and where you can – be **positive** and give all you can give.

Show tolerance towards others and celebrate **diversity**.

Don't settle for less than your best – be **determined** to be all you can be.

(The highlighted words are the key values that emerged from the consultation exercise with pupils.)

Our Aims

Working together, we encourage all pupils to become:

Successful Learners – who take responsibility for their own learning and self-development.

Confident Individuals – who have a high self esteem and value their own worth.

Effective Contributors – who are willing to give of their best at all times.

Responsible Citizens – who show respect and care for each other and their community.

A group of staff and pupils are now engaged with Novograp, an East Kilbride based graphic design company, to look at how the vision, values and aims can be displayed to best effect within our school.

Parents as Partners



Parent Council News

Members of our Parent Council represented Duncanrig parents and carers at the annual South Lanarkshire Council “Parents as Partners” evening. This is an evening where Education Resources staff explain their plans for the coming year, highlight existing good practice and ask Parent Council members for their views and opinions.

The Parent Council members were also asked for their input into our vision, values and aims exercise. Our Parent Council continues to play a major part in the life of our school.

SQA Exams – Study Leave

As S4, S5 and S6 pupils embark upon an extended period of study leave to prepare for the SQA exams, parents and carers are asked to be aware of the phenomenon of “*too much time*”. While this may seem illogical, given that the exams are squeezed into a 5 week period, pupils will find that they have significant amounts of free, unstructured time between exams. Pupils are not always good at managing large blocks of time and this can lead to a lot of wasted time, guilt and frustration.

Please play an active part in helping your child to manage this time more effectively and ensure that he/she has a study plan for the duration of the study leave and – more importantly – is sticking to it.

The exam results for your child are not predetermined and can still be influenced positively by the amount of work done during study period. Please help pupils to stay focused and “give all they can give”.

S1 Parents Information Evening

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who were present at the recent S1 Information Evening: the turnout was spectacular. The feedback obtained on the evening was very positive and parents/carers indicated that they found it both informative and helpful. Remember that the presentation shown on the evening is available on our school website.

Canberra PS



Physics Fights Crime

A car window smashed; a mobile phone grabbed; a community stunned. Whodunnit? This was the scenario P7 pupils from our partner primaries were asked to consider on a visit to Duncanrig when they were given a novel introduction to the shadowy world of forensic science.

Castlefield PS



Crosshouse PS



The workshop, entitled Physics Fights Crime, was designed to raise the profile of Physics and give primary pupils a chance to experience investigative science first-hand, while at the same time affording them an opportunity to enhance key literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills.

East Milton PS



Able led by S3 helpers, the young crime busters (some 315 in all) were given a series of Physics-related tasks enabling them to gather and record evidence to solve the 'crime'. Fingerprints and glass samples found on suspects' shoes were closely analysed. So too were subtle changes in car colours under different lighting conditions. The workshop finished in professional style with pupils writing reports to the Procurator Fiscal on the evidence they had found.

Greenhills PS



Kirktonholme PS



The S3 pupils who supported each team also benefited from the initiative. Whether learning or assisting, all the pupils enjoyed the experience. It was a hugely successful event which the pupils enthusiastically participated in and found very enjoyable.

Mossneuk PS



South Park PS

Zoolab

On Monday and Tuesday 16th and 17th of March the rainforest arrived in Duncanrig. All S1 pupils had the opportunity to enjoy a 45 minute workshop where they learned about the different features rainforest animals possess and the habitats in which they survive. Pupils also had the chance to meet and hold several rainforest animals including:

- Giant African land snails
- Madagascar hissing-cockroaches
- Indian stick insects
- Chilean rose tarantulas
- Emperor scorpions
- Giant African millipedes
- Corn snakes
- White's tree frogs



The workshops were a fantastic success and enjoyed by all. Many pupils were also able to face some of their phobias. As a result of these workshops, pupils have gained a greater appreciation for the amazing world we live in and a better understanding of the role they can play in Global Citizenship.



National Recognitions for Duncanrig Pupils

I am delighted to inform you that 3 Duncanrig pupils have gained national recognition in their sports with one of them becoming a double national champion.

Greg Kelly (S4) – Scottish Indoor 60m and 200m Junior Champion

Greg performed magnificently at the recent Scottish Junior Indoor Age Group Athletics Championships at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow winning gold medals in both the 60 metres and 200 metres sprint events in the Under 17 category. Greg controlled both his finals from gun to tape and set personal best times of 7.27 seconds and 23.12 seconds.

Taylor Bartlett (S2) – Scottish National Swimming Championships

Taylor recently swam at the Scottish Championships in Aberdeen and came home with an impressive haul of medals! She had a marathon commitment, competing in a total of 8 individual swims and 2 relay events.

Her first swim was the 1500 freestyle, where she won a bronze medal: a commendable performance as she was the only 13 year old competing. Taylor also gained bronze medals in the 200m freestyle and the 400m freestyle.

Tiegan McCann - International Children's Games

Congratulations to Tiegan McCann who has been selected to represent Team South Lanarkshire at the International Children's Games in Alkmaar, Holland in June of this year. Tiegan will be part of the girls football team.

Community Involvement

In response to recent changes in legislation and the increase in fines for littering (from £50 to £80), we were asked to participate in a community partnership exercise by our Community Police Officer, Greg Robertson. The partnership involves 2 main aspects;

1. PC Robertson and a member of the Senior Management Team will patrol the neighbourhood around the school periodically to remind pupils of their responsibility to dispose of litter responsibly.
2. I have been liaising with PC Robertson to increase the number of litter bins available for pupils to deposit rubbish in on their way back to school from the Westwood Square.

We have also had conversations with local traders about the amount of packaging they are using with carry-out food sold to our pupils at lunchtime.

Charity Fundraising

Comic Relief

David McNutt, S3, raised £280 for Comic Relief through a sponsored silence on Friday 13th March. This is David's third such event to raise funds for charity since he came to Duncanrig. He said that he just wanted to "do my bit for charity" and feels everyone should do the same.



Marie Curie Field of Hope

Pictured opposite are Scott Joyce and Chloe Wilton of this year's S5 Scottish Studies class beside some of the daffodils they planted for the Marie Curie Field of Hope. The class has so far raised £350 for research into cancer treatment and the care of patients affected by this disease.



Pupil Success - Fishing

Avid angler Josh Maitland has been fly fishing since he was 5 years old and favours fishing on Scotland's many stunning rivers. Josh is a member of several angling clubs and has been a regular columnist in a number of national angling magazines. He is a Clyde River fly Monitor for East Kilbride's River Calder.

Casting on the River Tay



Fin-perfect Brown Trout



Business Partnerships in Action

Pupils in S2 and S3 had the opportunity to work with staff from EDF Energy during an SLC competition to design an energy efficient building. The EDF staff provided advice and guidance to our pupils as they worked their way through the design and construction of their model.



The pupils took their model to Council Headquarters as part of a South Lanarkshire showcase where they had to explain and justify all their design and construction decisions to a panel of judges. The pupils found the event was very enjoyable and I would like to thank the staff from EDF for all their help and advice



We were delighted to welcome a visit from Mr Jim Johnstone, the Community Skills Manager of Morrison Construction. Mr Johnstone is looking to forge links with Duncanrig and is hoping to be involved with fundraising, career talks, employability awards, work experience, site visits, technical aspects of design and speaking to students about all aspects of construction.

Email from a member of the public

Good afternoon

Please accept my apologies for not emailing this earlier. I would like to commend the pupils of Duncanrig Secondary School on their impeccable behaviour on Friday 20th March 2015.

I, along with 5 of my friends were on the last train home from Glasgow to East Kilbride when we entered the train carriage that was full of Duncanrig pupils. I can honestly say that I have never experienced pupils with such wonderful manners and behaviour. If the truth be known we were making more noise than them.

We later discovered that the pupils had been at their Prom and attended Duncanrig. They are an absolute credit to your school and deserve recognition.

Truly an inspiration for the future generation

Thank you
Winnie Cunningham

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Red Nose Day Fundraising

Staff and pupils got into the spirit of Comic Relief to participate in 2 fundraising events. Hundreds of our S1 – S3 pupils took part in the fun run to raise funds for Comic Relief and The Luwero Project. Although everyone was a winner on the day there were medals presented to the first 3 finishers in each year.



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Later that day senior pupils challenged staff to a charity netball match. I am delighted to report that the staff team won 4-3. 😊



Music Success

At the recent Glasgow Music Festival, our Concert Band won gold in the School Band category. Our pupils were very impressive from start to finish and deserve all the plaudits they received for producing an outstanding performance.

Our Junior Choir performed for the first time at the Festival and came a very creditable 3rd in the Under 14's category. The Senior Choir came a very respectable 4th place, 1 point behind the choir in 3rd. The Junior Ceilidh Group, on their debut, came 2nd in the Scots Music Ensemble Class, whilst our Senior Ceilidh Group came 1st (again!!!) in the Folk Group Class.

Following on from our Concert Band's success at the regional finals in November, the group were invited to perform at the National finals in Perth. The band was awarded a Gold Award and the members were praised for their high level of mood and character, their excellent dynamics and effective ensemble playing. Their conductor, Mr Shanks, also received a great deal of praise for his excellent control of the band and for getting the best out of every pupil involved. He really has transformed this group of young musicians and is a credit to our department and the school. Many thanks to all involved but a special thanks to Mrs Diane Senior and Mr Derek Love who came along on the bus to help out and also to all the parents and friends who attended.

Music and Drama Festival 2015

Congratulations to all the performers and composers who were involved in our Music and Drama Festival. It was a fantastic event and was well attended by staff, pupils and parents. Our winners this year were -

Young Classical Musician of the Year (Junior)	<i>Maria Goodarzi S2</i>
Young Classical Musician of the Year (Senior)	<i>Fraser Cooper S4</i>
Young Contemporary Musician of the Year	<i>Paul Nally S6</i>
Young Composer of the Year	<i>Lauren Reilly S6</i>
Young Performer of the Year (Drama monologues).	<i>Campbell McKenna S5</i>

Sporting Success

Rugby

Duncanrig Rugby hosted our first ever girls game recently (we have entered several festivals and tournaments over the last few years but never hosted an inter-school match before). Our S1-3s were beaten by a bigger, more experienced Lesmahagow side but still enjoyed the encounter immensely and are looking forward to their next game at home. I was about to thank Mr Martin after noticing he had popped down to watch the game but then he shouted "C'mon the 'Gow!". Please berate him in a suitable fashion!

The photo shows the girls resplendent in their new kit.



Volleyball

Well done to all the pupils who participated in the S1 Inter-House Volleyball Tournament. Their behaviour, effort and standard of performance was fantastic. A special thanks goes to Andy Fleming from the Scottish Volleyball Association for coaching he provides to the pupils on the day. Below you will find photos of winners and a photo of Andy Fleming with our Outstanding Performance Award winners.

The Winning House was BLANTYRE



South Lanarkshire Schools Cross Country Championships

Well done to all our bronze medal winners from the recent SLC Championships and all the other competitors who represented our school so well in bitterly cold conditions at Biggar.

S1 Girls Team

Bronze Hannah Dickson, Lauren Scott, Jenna McGurn, Kesley Weir

S1 Boys Team

Bronze Benjimin England , Ollie Fairlam, Thomas McCourt, David McGiven

S2 Girls Individual

Bronze Suzanne Fisher

S2 Girls Team

Bronze Suzanne Fisher, Lori McDonald, Sophie Thomas, Emma Henderson



Dates to Remember

S2 Reports
w/b 4th May

S4 Work Experience Weeks
w/b 18th May
w/b 1st June

S5/6 Return to School
Monday 8th June

In-service Day
Thursday 7th May

Holiday Weekend
Fri 22nd – Mon 25th May

Summer Break
Wednesday 24th June
School closes at 1 pm

S2 Parents Evening
Monday 18th May

S1- S3 Prizegiving
Thursday 4th June