

# King's Park Secondary School Newsletter for Parents and Families

September 2006

## School Dates

Holiday	Fri 22/9/06
Holiday	Mon 25/9/06
Inservice Day	Tue 26/9/06
Holiday	Mon 16/10/06
	to Fri 20/10/06
Pupils return	Mon 23/10/06
S4 Parents' Meeting	Wed 25/10/06
S5/6 Parents' Meeting	Tue 2/11/06
P7 Parents' Open Evening	Wed 15/11/06
Christmas Concert	Wed 13/12/06
Last day of term	Fri 22/12/06
Holiday	Mon 25/12/06
	to Fri 5/1/07
Pupils return	Mon 8/1/07
S3 Parents' Meeting	Tue 30/1/07
Holiday	Mon 12/2/07
Holiday	Tue 13/2/07
Inservice Day	Wed 14/2/07
S1 Parents' Meeting	Wed 7/3/07
Last day of term	Fri 30/3/07
Holiday	Mon 2/4/07
	to Fri 13/4/07
Pupils return	Mon 16/4/07
S2 Parents' Meetings	Wed 28/4/07
	Mon 1/5/07
Holiday	Mon 7/5/07
Inservice Day	Thu 24/5/06
Holiday	Fri 25/5/07
Holiday	Mon 28/5/07
P7 Induction	Thu 31/5/07
	Fri 1/6/07
Prize Giving	Mon 25/6/07



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## Our Plans

Dear Parents and Carers

I have great pleasure in sending you this newsletter, which contains only a few examples of the achievements of some of our pupils. There are many more pupils we want to tell you about in future newsletters, and I would be delighted to receive nominations of pupils who should feature in these pages.

It has been a busy start to the term, and I am grateful to the staff for their work towards meeting the targets in our School Improvement Plan. These are:

- Raising attainment
- Development of a praise policy
- Monitoring and evaluation of the work of departments
- Promotion of positive behaviour
- Review of discipline system
- Set up a behaviour support base
- Development of enterprise initiatives
- Provide more opportunities for pupils to be actively involved in their own learning
- Extend effective use of ICT across the school
- Improve links with primary schools
- Develop procedures for monitoring and tracking of pupil progress, and introduce target-setting for pupils
- Improve attendance
- Improve further the support for pupils with additional support needs
- Assess pupils' knowledge, attitudes and skills in Personal and Social Education
- Development of King's Park as a health promoting school

In addition, we are about to conduct a review of the curriculum and option choice structure, which have remained unchanged for several years.

There is a great deal of good practice across the school, and we are exploring ways of continuing to share this so that all teachers and pupils will benefit.

Please be assured that a very high priority is to improve pupil attainment, so that your sons and daughters are stretched to achieve the best qualifications they can, regardless of their level of ability.

We also know that pupils must be given chances to achieve in areas other than examination results, and this newsletter gives information about some of the opportunities available.

We are very aware of the importance of the school's reputation in the local community, and are working with pupils to emphasise consideration for local residents, keeping the streets free of litter, and taking part in community involvement projects. Pupils who are found to have dropped litter or behaved in an anti-social manner will be dealt with very firmly, and we welcome the support of parents.

Wishing all pupils an enjoyable September week end, returning to school refreshed and ready for the remainder of term.

Kind Regards  
Mrs Margaret Barr  
Head Teacher

## Buddies

S1 pupils are supported by buddies (volunteer senior students).

### *Why did you want to be a buddy?*

'To provide a friendly welcoming face for some younger pupils'  
*Andrew Harkins, 5L1*

### *Is it good to have a buddy?*

'Yes, it's good because they always help you. It's someone that you know. You can ask about things, like the points system.'  
*Pavandeep Athwal, Humza Mohsan and Ryan Gittens, all 1L1*



## Physics Visit to Royal Society Science Exhibition



Physics pupils visited the Glasgow Science Centre recently. They were commended for their mature conduct and gained a lot from the experience.

*'I learned a lot of things I didn't know before.'*

*'Things were explained in a way that was easy to understand.'*

*'It helped me to see how Physics is put into practice in every day life.'*

*'In particular I enjoyed learning about light and sport and exercise science.'*

*'It was interesting to discover how physics, chemistry and biology intertwine and affect each other.'*

*'... very fun and interesting ...'*

*'The speakers knew a lot about their fields.'*

*'Dr K is a great teacher.'*

*'I particularly enjoyed designing my own aeroplane engine. Good fun!'*

*'I learned more by interacting with other people and by viewing the different experiments. I think I understood things better this way.'*

*'The professors and doctors explained everything very well and made it sound interesting.'*

## Sponsor a Child

King's Park is delighted to be associated with the 'Sponsor a Child' programme of the international charity Plan International\*. King's Park pupils are sponsoring pupils from around the world by contributing small amounts every Friday. The young people are from Indonesia, Zimbabwe, El Salvador, Somalia and Bangladesh.



..., 10  
Soe, Indonesia



..., 11  
Zimbabwe



..., 14  
El Salvador



..., 15  
Mali, Somalia



..., 12  
Kisamat,  
Bangladesh

\* <http://www.plan-international.org/>



## Congratulations to our Jazz Band

who were awarded the Chic McCafferty Cup by winning the inaugural Glasgow Schools Jazz Competition at the Glasgow International Jazz Festival in June.

## And Also the Choir

. . . who entertained honoured guests before a gala dinner for sponsors of Kelvingrove, some days before it opened to the public in July.

After the performance, Jack McConnell, First Minister, sought out the King's Park pupils to thank them for their performance.



## Royal Bank of Scotland – Enterprise Training Day

Congratulations to sixth year who participated in an Enterprise Training Day with the Royal Bank of Scotland. Students worked in small teams to produce business letters, menus and budget accounts, and then made a formal presentation to their peers and representatives of the Royal Bank. The day was a huge success with teamwork and creative thinking producing some fantastic results. The winning group Numero Uno, impressed the judges with their very professional presentation and their co-operative working. Well done to all participants.



## Parents – Can You Help?

### Enterprise and Employability.

Clare Harker, the Enterprise and Employability Officer for the King's Park New Learning Community\*, is keen to make contact with local and national businesses, charities and other community groups to develop relationships between the school and business community. If you can help with this, or are interested in becoming involved in making links between the King's Park New Learning Community and the world of work, please contact Clare Harker, EEO, King's Park Secondary. Thanks!

\*

<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/GingtoSchool/NewLearningCommunities/>

**Sponsorship.** This newsletter was prepared in colour, and can be emailed to any parent on request. However, to keep costs down, it has to be copied in monochrome. It would be wonderful to have a glossy colour newsletter featuring the achievements of lots of our pupils, with clearer photographs. Can any parent recommend a source of funding for this?

## Castle Toward Art and Design Exhibition

Congratulations to ..... whose paintings were displayed at an exhibition in Glasgow of School of Art following her residential stay at Castle Toward in August.

*'I went to Castle Toward for a week to further my skills in art. I learned different painting techniques that can help me with my portfolio in Advanced Higher Art and Design. It was a great experience where I got to meet new people and make good friends. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys Art.'*



## National Festival of Youth Theatre

..... took part in a summer youth theatre project at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama – the resulting new musical 'Giacomo's Circus of the Fantastic' was staged as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and has been selected to open the National Festival of Youth Theatre.



## International Youth Symphony Orchestra

Congratulations to ..., who has been selected to take part in a prestigious music course in Bremen, Germany, with the International Youth Symphony Orchestra, following her attendance at the Castle Toward music course and performances with the Glasgow Schools Symphony Orchestra.

*'The GSSO concerts have proved to be very successful and encouraging to Glasgow's young people, and I hope that many of them will be encouraged to audition for the GSSO and some day have the opportunities that I have received. In Bremen. I will be staying with a German family. I think that this course will be one of the hardest, but most exciting courses I have ever done, and I look forward to being able to come back and use all the skills I will learn in this new experience.'*



## Message for the Parents of P7 Pupils from our Partner Primary Schools

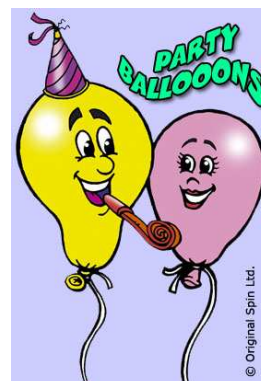
*We hope you find that this newsletter gives you a flavour of the things which are happening in King's Park Secondary, and that you can see how proud we are of our pupils. If you were able to attend the Healthy Eating Evening on Tuesday 19 September, we hope you found it useful and enjoyable. We look forward to meeting you at our P7 Open Evening on Wednesday 15 November, when you will be very welcome to visit our school, chat to staff and see some of the work which we do. We look forward to meeting you soon.*

## It's Party Time!




### S1 Party

Mrs Burke's S4 Social and Vocational Skills class are working hard to host a party for S1 pupils on Wednesday 20 September after school.

This has involved team work, careful planning, food preparation, choosing music and activities, research and publicity. Well done to the class!



# Just some of our clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		8.00-8.55 am Fitness/Football and Healthy Breakfast for S2 boys		
<b>Lunch Time</b> Fitness Club Girls' Football	<b>Lunch Time</b> Fitness Club	<b>Lunch Time</b> Fitness Club Netball S1/2	<b>Lunch Time</b> Fitness	<b>Lunch Time</b> Fitness
<b>After School</b> U13 Football Netball S3-S6	<b>After School</b> U13 Football (b) squad Boxercise	<b>After School</b> U14 Football Badminton	<b>After School</b> U14 Football (Wk 1) Senior girls Dance/Cheerleading (after the Oct break) Hockey - Boys and Girls all ages	



To be Arranged


Basketball




School Teams

U13 Football  
U14 Football  
U15 Football  
U16 Football  
U18 Football  
Girls' Football

Basketball  
S1-2 Netball  
S3-6 Netball  
Badminton

**Junior and Senior Choirs**




**Keyboard and D-Jing Club**



**Jazz Band**



**Ceilidh Band**



**Rock Group**



**Symphony Orchestra**



## Congratulations

receiving an award for designing a “button” for the Actively Preventing Cancer website\*. His button is now live on the website.

\*

<http://www.activelypreventingcancer.org.uk/menu.html>

## Platinum Award for Enterprise

... receiving the Platinum Award at City Chambers, on behalf of the school.



## A Safety Note . . .

We recently had to deal with a small number of pupils who were causing a nuisance in King's Park at lunch time. Their parents were contacted, they were given detentions, and the school has banned them from going to the park at lunch time. The pupils now understand that the school will never tolerate such behaviour, and it will be dealt with very firmly. We hope that the matter is now resolved, but we will involve the police if necessary.

We recognise that it is important that responsible citizens continue to use our local parks. While we would not wish to ban all pupils from using the park because of the behaviour of an inconsiderate few, we are happy to support any parent who has told their son or daughter not to go to the park. In the meantime, any pupil behaving irresponsibly in the park will be banned from going there, and may be denied the privilege of leaving the school at lunch time.

## Outstanding Contribution Award

The pupils were presented with an Award in June 2006 – for Outstanding Contributions to the Life of the School - helping out at PTA and school events outwith the school day e.g. PTA Plant Sale, PTA stand at Gorbals Fair, P7 Parents Evening, Prizegiving.



## Prefects

Thank you to Mrs Logan, acting DHT, for her work in setting up the structure for Prefects, and for her ongoing work with senior students.

- Prefects' Council
- Charities Committee
- S6 Common Room Management Group
- School Public Relations Group
- House Activities Committee
- Service to the Community Group
- Prom and Leavers' Do Committee
- International Committee
- Health Promoting Committee

The Prefects, House Captains and House Vice-Captains have now been appointed, and the next step is to elect the School Captains and Vice-Captains.



## Social and Vocational Skills

Mrs Pryde's S4 SVS class are providing a service to all staff. The Crazy Cake Company will be producing Gingerbread, Lemon Top Cake and Carrot Cake. This service enables the pupils to understand the ins and outs of running a small business.

Mrs Burke's S4 SVS class are organising a welcome party for S1. This party will take place on Wednesday 20 September from 3.30 pm until 5.00 pm in the Assembly Hall.

Both the S3 sections are raising money for charity. Mr Doyle's S3 are going to be taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Wednesday 4 October, and all money raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Relief. Last year £198 was raised for this worthy charity.

Mrs Mackintosh's S3 are running the Cookie Challenge, which will raise money for ChildLine.

Good Luck to all four sections!