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The weekly newsletter of St Mary's School

Edition No. 16

16th January 2015

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 19th January

Staff Inset 5:15pm

Tuesday 20th January

SMT Meeting 8:30am

Wednesday 21st January

1st XV Rugby v Merchiston (A) 2:30pm

U11A Rugby v Merchiston (A) 2:30pm

U9A Rugby v Merchiston (A) 2:30pm

1st Netball v Cargilfield (H) 3:00pm

2nd Netball v Cargilfield (H) 3:00pm

Wednesday 21st January (cont'd)

U11A Netball v Cargilfield (H) 2:15pm

U11B Netball v Cargilfield (H) 2:15pm

U10 Netball v Cargilfield (A) 2:30pm

U9 Netball v Cargilfield (A) 2:30pm

Thursday 22nd January

Scottish Prep Schools' Ski Championships

Friday 23rd January

Burns Lunch

Board of Governors Sub Committee

Meeting 2:00pm

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

I had the pleasure of reading out an example of creative writing from a Form 4 pupil in Monday's Assembly. The story involved survival during heavy storms, which thankfully turned out to have occurred in a dream. While talking about this super piece of work, the wind and rain were bashing off the windows of the Morrison Hall, which provided theatre-like effects. Fortunately the campus stood up to the severe weather over the weekend, and pupils were very sensible in wrapping up warm and understanding the risks caused by high winds. Well done to Mrs Runciman for inspiring our young story writers.

David Cusani of Club Correze met with Form 7 parents to discuss the itinerary for the planned French trip this summer. We are very grateful to Mr Cusani for making the journey up from Macclesfield, and for setting out an action-packed educational excursion on the school's behalf. Madame Hutchison is working closely with Madame Syme to finalise the mini curriculum that will be intertwined with the busy schedule.

Form 8 are at full-tilt with our scholars putting in many extra hours and others attending support tutorials beyond the school day. I have been impressed by the focus shown amongst our senior pupils.

Wednesday saw some fixtures going ahead, despite snow in Edinburgh. Please see the website for details of matches that did take place.

On Thursday we celebrated the 60th birthday of Helen McSorely, one of our domestic staff, by presenting her with a bouquet of flowers and some light refreshment for later in the day. Helen is a most popular and hardworking member of the team, and she was very touched that the school acknowledged her big day.

This morning, Mr Mill gave a most informative and uplifting assembly on the Scottish Islands Peak Race. He described his experiences, having competed in this event six times, most impressively three times as a schoolboy. For those of you who do not know, there is a significant endurance challenge involved in this event. The Assembly concluded by Form 5 singing a rehearsed song about Benbecula, accompanied by Mr Mill on the guitar and supported by school. I presented a book token for 10 book reviews to Eloise before we were visited by our butterfly for the second Assembly in a row, reminding us that summer is on its way!

Middle School have been busy with full cast rehearsal today, and Miss McRae seems pleased with progress made. Thank you to all the parents that came along to help.

I hope you all have a restful weekend.

PARENT/TUTOR MEETINGS

A reminder, that parent tutor meetings begin the week commencing Monday 2nd March at 5.15pm (see the school calendar). Timetables will be issued in due course for Forms 5, 6 and 7.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Thursday 29th January – Borders School Cross Country championships.

Tuesday 27th January – Community Nurse to see Upper Transition about medicine safety

SCOTTISH PRIMARY SCHOOL CHESS COMPETITION

SBC have cancelled this event.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Music Lessons

Mr Smith (chanter) will be back in school next Thursday, January 22nd.

Mr Jamieson (drumkit) will not be in school on Tuesday, 27th January but will take lessons on Thursday, 29th January instead.

Peter Pan

Tickets can be ordered at the school office using the ticket order form sent out in brown envelopes last week. Please include full payment with the order form.

We are looking for two sheepskin coats to use in our production of 'The Keymaster'. If you have one which you would be willing to lend us, please contact me on kmcrae@stmarysmelrose.org.uk

Miss McRae

KINDERGARTEN



It is lovely to see the children settle back in to Kindergarten. We are already busy talking and learning about 'Winter' and enjoying our weekly visits to art, music and drama, ICT and the gym hall.



Mrs L Berni

CHURCH COLLECTION

£500 was raised at our Church Service for our chosen charities:
JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) Scotland £250
Connors Journey £250

GAP STUDENTS

Our GAPs are looking for babysitting opportunities for parents of St. Mary's pupils. Please contact the office for further details.

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

Mr Morris's brilliant but torturing Christmas quiz (a quantity of cryptic conundrums in which were concealed the names of 30 London Underground stations) raised £21 for our charity of the year, Columba 1400. Those competitive enough to complete it are still waiting for the answers to be revealed..... Thank you, Mr Morris, for taking the time to devise it, it was extremely clever.

The Friends of St Mary's are keen to recruit new members, especially from the lower school. To this end we are hosting an informal get-together in the dining room after drop off on Mon 2nd and Tue 3rd Feb. – with coffee, tea and BACON BUTTIES! We hope the smell of coffee & bacon will lure the hungry and harassed school-runners who may not have breakfasted. From a purely practical point of view we thought we would aim to have forms 3-8 parents on the Monday and Kindergarten up to Upper Transition on the Tuesday – but in reality it doesn't matter when you come! Or indeed if you come both days!

19th February at 7.30 pm., very important and informative talk, delivered by Miss McRae and Alan Mathieson (St Mary's parent) on internet safety for children. Individual invitations will go out in brown envelopes in due course.

Watch this space for news of Mr Morris's FINAL (boo hoo) Quiz Night, likely to be early next term.

Mrs Muir

SCHOOL SHOP

Mrs Blunt has sourced some dark green lab coats which might be suitable for Art. They are not compulsory. If anyone would like one, please contact Mrs Blunt on 07976 292509.