



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

<p>Monday 30th January Tuesday 31st January SMT Meeting 8:30am Rehearsal, <i>Wind in the Willows</i> 4:00-5:30pm Wednesday 1st February 1st XI Football v Mowden Hall (H) 2:30pm U11A Football v Mowden Hall (H) 2:30pm U11B Football v Mowden Hall (H) 2:30pm U9A Football v Mowden Hall (H) 2:30pm U1st Netball v Belhaven Hill (H) 2:15pm 2nd Netball v Belhaven Hill (H) 2:15pm U9B Football v Mowden Hall (H) 2:30pm</p>	<p>Wednesday 1st February (cont'd) U11A Netball v Belhaven Hill (H) 3:00pm U11B Netball v Belhaven Hill (H) 3:00pm U10 Netball v Belhaven Hill (A) 2:45pm U9A Netball v Belhaven Hill (A) 2:45pm U9B Netball v Belhaven Hill (A) 2:45pm Thursday 2nd February Board of Governors Sub Group meeting 1:00pm Glenalmond Concert 4pm– (see following invite) Friday 3rd February Full rehearsal <i>Wind in the Willows</i> Form 7 Parent Meeting-London trip - 5:15pm</p>
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NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

For the second time in a space of a month, I would like to thank Mrs Bell for conducting assembly on Monday morning as I escorted a number of Form 8 pupils to Loretto, to sit a variety of scholarships and assessments. In my absence, Mrs Bell reiterated some very important school rules, presented stars of the week certificates to the Pre-Prep, and congratulated Nicole and Finlay Bu on their successes in the Scottish Borders Book Mark competition. She presented both with their book token certificates. Whilst the normal routine runs for the majority of the school, middle school rehearsals are taking place for the fast-approaching 'Wind in the Willows'. I am pleased to say excitement is growing as Miss McRae and her extensive support team build towards the opening night.

Wednesday morning saw the school carry out a fire drill, and whilst this would not normally be mentioned in my newsletter, it is pleasing to report that the evacuation procedure was conducted in an exemplary manner. A full briefing of a similar process was given to all 90 boarders, should the alarm sound overnight. A busy fixture afternoon unfolded, and individual match reports can be viewed on the website. Special mention should go to Lieutenant Routledge, Mrs Rhodes, Mrs Bell, Mrs Wright and the U10 and U9 netball teams, as one of our two minibuses suffered a puncture whilst returning from Mowden Hall. The staff involved were quick to praise the responsive, co-operative and calm conduct of all the girls. I would like to thank Mrs Jeffrey and Ms Oswell for adjusting their routes to bring

home some of the girls, and particular thanks go to the three good Samaritans, local forestry workers, who helped change the tyre and maintain the safety of all involved.



Whilst Wednesday was the famous Bard Robert Burns' birthday, we postponed our celebration until Thursday, so that haggis could be on the menu for the whole school. On Thursday morning, Mr Bell piped in the haggis, carried by Mr Rawson, and superbly addressed by the eloquent Eloise.

We spoke of Burns' poetry, made particular mention of "Tam o' Shanter" and "A Man's a Man for A' That", and concluded our celebration with a rendition of 'Auld Lang Syne'. Following on in my father's footsteps, I made it abundantly clear to the gathered congregation that no hands should be joined until the final verse, when the actual words instruct the congregation to do so. The lunch that followed later in the day was superb. Many thanks to the kitchen staff for doing this.

Thursday was also Australia Day, but Max and Jessie politely stepped aside to join in the Burns celebrations. When in Rome and all that. However, tribute was made to this day in the Australian calendar by a fabulous event run by Mr and Mrs Rawson for the boarders in the evening. "I'm an Australian, get me out of here". Check the latest news and the boarders' blog for gruesome details.

http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/489261/St_Marys_School/Parents/Latest_News/Thursday_Night_Boarding.aspx

This morning, we were treated to a most informative and appealing assembly from Mrs Johanna Urquhart of Lomond School, and the Head of Lomond Junior School, Mrs Ailsa Lawn. The two proudly showed slides, talked of the school's guiding principles, and answered the many questions asked. We are very grateful to Mrs Urquhart and Mrs Lawn for visiting St. Mary's for the second time in a space of a few months. Lomond School appears to be in great heart.

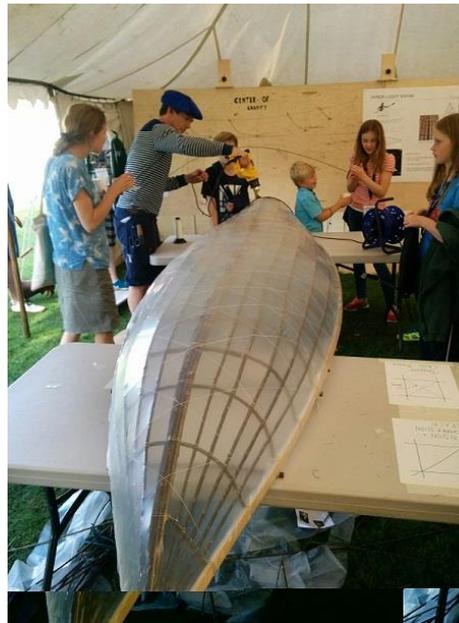
You may have spotted Dr Hawson and his enthusiastic volunteers' hyper-light canoe, built at Bang Goes The Borders, then sailed across the River Tweed with two fully grown adults aboard. Dr Hawson's fabulous initiative to support the migrant offshore aid station is represented by the tying of ribbons to the frame within the craft. This is now on full display inside the Hamilton Building entrance. Do take time to read Dr Hawson's description of how the boat was produced, and how that process has evolved into such a moving fundraising effort.

Finally, excitement is growing as the Kindergarten nears completion. Plans are afoot to assist with relocating Kindergarten resources, and I will be in touch with you all when we are sure the schedule completion date will be made.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

HM

Do you remember the hyper light boat built at Bang Goes The Borders which sailed on the River Tweed? It is now on display in the Hamilton Building in memory of migrants who have lost their lives at sea. We supported the Migrant Offshore Aid Station at our Carol Service in December.



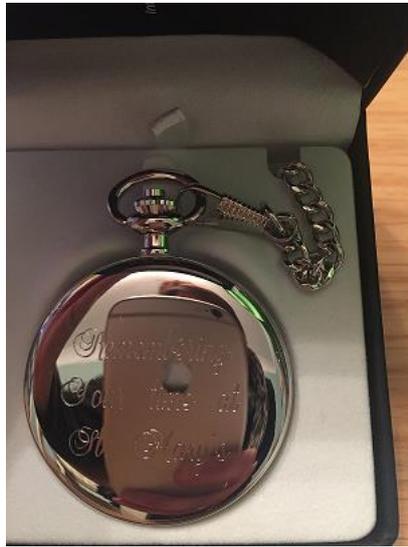
FORM 7 TRIP

Reminder to Form 7 parents that we have meeting to go through the details of the London Trip at 5.15pm on Friday 3rd February, in Form room.

Mrs Hardie

LEAVING PRESENT

For those of you who contributed to the parents' collection for Richard Mill's leaving present, he was presented with an engraved stopwatch, £470 of John Lewis vouchers and a bottle of champagne.



MUSIC AND DRAMA

Wind in the Willows

There are still a few tickets left for each performance of the above show. Forms 3, 4 and 5 have worked very hard and are looking forward to welcoming you to their show. Ticket sales are open to parents throughout the school. Please just ask at the school office.

Props

Thanks to those who have already been able to help with props. Here are the latest items we need...

- 3 x tweed flat caps
- 1 x hobby horse
- Old umbrellas

Videographer

Videographer required for Tuesday 7th February – please inform Ms McRae if you know of anyone who could video our show.

If you are able to help, please let me know on kmcrae@stmarysmelrose.org.uk

Miss McRae

BOARDING HOUSE FUN

Great fun in the boarding house this week; see the weekly blog and additional article on latest news.

http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/489014/St_Marys_School/Boarding/St_Marys_Boards/Week_ending_27th.aspx



http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/489261/St_Marys_School/Parents/Latest_News/Tuesday_Night_Boarding.aspx

FORMS 3 AND 4 GIRLS

Please can all girls have gloves in school for games lessons. There are too many cold and sore fingers.

Mrs Runciman, Mrs Rhodes and Mr Routledge

LOST PROPERTY

School hat with panned name Finnian

Skort named Zara M

Kilt sock named Oliver dG

New Premier League orange football belonging to Antony

HOT OFF THE PRESS – Anna attends a presentation at the BGH today (more info next week)



Invitation



to all parents and friends of St. Mary's School
Glenalmond College Music Department
Afternoon recital
Thursday, February 2nd
4 - 5pm, Morrison Hall, St. Mary's School, Melrose

Please let us know if you are able to attend by emailing office@stmarysmelrose.org.uk

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

***STOP PRESS *..... SAVE THE DATES!!**

Saturday, 11th March

An event for all rugby lovers!

Come to the Townhouse in Melrose to cheer on Scotland against England and raise money for the school minibus. Starts with the Italy vs France match then onto the main event to see if Scotland can win their fourth match in a row. £10 for pie and chips - please bring some raffle and auction prizes.

Wednesday, 15th March

We shall be holding a Toy Swap/Swish. More details to follow in due course.

CAKE SALE

An advance warning that we shall be holding a cake sale on Wednesday, 22nd March in aid of the Scottish Borders Brass Band Association. More details to follow in due course.

FOSM NOTICEBOARDS

For those who may not know, we would like to make you aware of the position of the Noticeboards around the school where FOSM Event Notices are placed. They are:

- Outside F2 on the wall of the Sanderson Building
- In passage of the Sanderson Building, between F3 & F4
- In Hamilton Building, opposite the School Office
- Info board inside foyer to Hamilton Building
- Kindergarten

THANK YOU

Peter Gibson and Duncan Buchanan would like to thank everyone who has helped, supported and sponsored them before, during and after their Mountain Spine Races. Peter finished his 108 mile race in a total time of 42 hours 13 minutes, with Duncan completing the 268 mile race in 149 hours 22 minutes. All the time and effort put in was to help raise awareness and much needed funds for the Borders Search and Rescue Unit based in Kelso, of which they are both volunteer members.