

'Ain't No Party'..... Like a Maths Club Party

Again this year we have had a high level of participation in our Maths Club Specials. These are our way of providing a supportive and semi-competitive environment for exam revision. We held three events at Credit level and two at General level.

In the first Credit event the impressive Archie Ogilvie did extremely well to hold off the challenge from the determined Murray Nairn and his equally determined sister Arabella Ogilvie. The second event we saw Blair Aitchison walk off nonchalantly with the giant bar of chocolate with the consistent Iona Paterson running him close and the improving Ailsa Jackson and the again unfortunate Murray Nairn sharing third place. The third event which was held just a week before the prelim saw Ailsa Jackson turn in an astonishing performance. Leading from the beginning she went on to win by a margin of four points (a record!). There was a five way tie for second place and Jack Chambers (2nd) and Struan Paisley (3rd) emerged victorious in the tie-break to reach the illustrious status of Maths Club Smarties.



Our overall winner was Murray Nairn who threw off his "always the bridesmaid" tag by accumulating the most points over the three nights. Arabella, Iona and Ailsa almost matched Murray's consistency and their overall performance was well worthy of commendation.

In the first General level event Michael Paton emerged victorious over Chris Walker, Katie Anderson and Josh Muir who shared second place. On the second night Michael and Josh were again well to the fore but had to settle for joint second place as Shannon Elliot, attending her first MCS, narrowly edged home as the winner.

After the Christmas holidays there will be Maths Club Specials at Intermediate 2 and Higher levels in preparation for the February prelims and then all levels will be catered for in March and April.

Pupils should also be reminded that there is the "run of the mill" Maths Club on a Thursday night after school in M2. This gives pupils the opportunity to come in with any individual problems and get advice from a teacher. Those who attended before the prelims commented on how much this helped their preparation.

Going back to the Maths Club Specials, it was good to see both staff and pupils enjoying prelim revision so much and to have 24 enthusiastic Maths Clubbers still working away at ten past five really was a treat, again proving that "There ain't no party like a Maths Club Party".



EHS Seniors Make their Mark in Enterprise Week

The 16th November was the start of Global Enterprise Week and Earlston students showed their excellence in the Make Your Mark Challenge which is run nationally. A group of seniors beat off the local competition earlier in the month and visited Glasgow.

Their challenge was to come up with a business idea centred around one slogan:

Let local inspiration lead you to a cool creation!!

The Team created the idea of 'Tour De Bordérs' - a service which provides tours round Border Towns of historic landmarks and places of interest using a Pedicab - the 'cool' eco-friendly way of travelling!

The team had to create 3 documents: A Business Ideas sheet; A Competitors Outline; A Money Matters sheet.

The team worked extremely well on the day and as a result reached the Regional Finals in Glasgow!!

Their pitch in Glasgow was described as professional, organised and detailed. They were a credit to the school and although they did not reach the UK finals, they were awarded a special prize for achieving excellence in the financial section of their pitch.



Huge congratulations for the commitment and determination shown and success of the Enterprise Project!

Watch out Alan Sugar...Tour De Borders is on the market!!

Tour De Bordérs Team: Ronan Runciman, Ross MacDonald, Lillie Archenhold, Amy Thomson, Jack Wilson.

Dates for your diary

- Thurs 21 January : Burns Suppe
- Wed 3-11 February : S5/6 Prelim examinations
- Tues 2 February : S2 Choice of Course Evening
- Wed 10 February : S1/2 Disco
- Thurs 11 February : S3-S6 Disco
- Fri 12 February : In-service day
- Mon 15 - Fri 19 February : Holiday
- Wed 24 February : S2 Parents' Evening
- Fri 5 March : Ghana Day
- Wed 10 & Thurs 11 March : Dance Festival
- Wed 17 March : S3 Parents' Evening
- Tues 30 March : S2 Excursion Meeting for Parents
- Wed 31 March : Easter Concert
- Thurs 1 April : Church services & school closes for Easter
- Mon 19 April : school restarts after Easter holiday



THE EARLSTON HIGH SCHOOL BUGLE



THE NEWSLETTER OF EARLSTON HIGH SCHOOL

January 2010

RESPECT HONESTY RESPONSIBILITY COMMITMENT EXCELLENCE

Happy New Year

Happy New Year—I hope you and your family have enjoyed the festive period. The first term in our new school was busier than expected but extremely positive. Once again it is a pleasure to share with you the many activities that the school has enjoyed throughout the term. None of this would have been possible without the willing support of staff, pupils, parents and the wider community—thank you. The adverse weather conditions resulting in a delayed start to the term is unfortunate, but I am confident that together we can make up for lost time, especially for those sitting SQA exams in May.

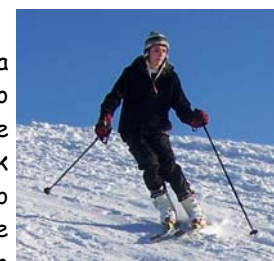
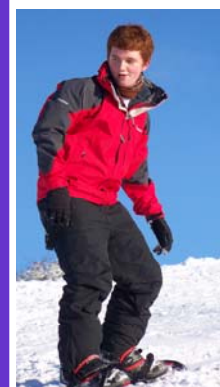
Enjoy the read and best wishes for the year ahead.

Miss M Strong

S'NO'W SCHOOL!

It seems hard to believe that these EHS students are actually in Melrose, not the French Alps. Zooming down the 'quarry', pupils (and a few parents too!) of all year groups had fun in the snow. Pupils on sledges, skis and snowboards were gliding over the white blanket of fresh snow on January 7th.

Alex Hall, in fifth year, took a welcome break from studying to recharge his batteries on the 'piste'. He made ski-ing look effortless. Likewise, Paul Nairn, who had made the trek over from Newtown, enjoyed testing out his snowboarding skills. Having made a 'jump ramp' the boys soared through the air and actually landed on their feet!



Sledges were the most popular form of travel and Greg Baird and Ben Chalmers certainly whizzed at speed on a sledge which resembled a bob-sleigh.

So, 'No school' became 'Snow school' as everyone made the most of the weather and the extra days of holiday. Hopefully no one broke any bones and returned to school ready for some hard work!



Earlston's Got Talent

The Sub-Group of the Parent Council made a slight change to their calendar of events this session and adapted their usual success of Stars in Your Eyes to be Earlston's Got Talent.

The event, held in November, was just as much a success as previous 'Stars' events. Three 'celebrity' judges gave their esteemed opinion on a variety of acts with their usual good

humour and candour.

Many thanks to our celeb judges—Mr Kidd, Mrs Morton and Mr Meikle. Mrs Morton was wearing her 'Cheryl Cole' dress.



The hosts for the evening were sixth years Angus Yellowlees and Robert Turner. They kept the audience entertained with their witty repartee between acts.

Who can forget Olivia Hoppe's sensational and unique performance? She started as Pavarotti—complete with belly and beard—and concluded as a graceful and elegant soprano, wearing a beautiful evening dress. She won over the voters but was piped to the winning position by young Christopher

Rogerson, one of the four first years who performed in the show. Christopher's solo performance on the snare drum stole the show and he collected the first ever Earlston's Got Talent trophy.



The first years certainly gave the other year groups something to think about as they were all superb. Cherise and Freya both delighted the audience with their singing. Angus, like Christopher, went for an instrumental performance and played 'Hallelujah' on the tuba. Hannah Jeffrey, another talented junior, accompanied herself on the piano.



The seniors had better keep rehearsing as the younger students are hot on their tails! Congratulations to all the performers for a splendid evening's entertainment. A special thank you to the Parent Council Sub-Group for organising the event.

The Dances

The assembly hall was all a glitter with fairy- lights and tinsel to add that extra sparkle to our first Christmas in the new school. Kilts and dresses had been waiting in wardrobes for their chance to turn pupils into princesses or princes for the evening. Pupils (and staff) were transformed and Gok Wan was nowhere in sight!



Every year, the Christmas Dances are organised by the S6 committee, who are kept on the straight and narrow by our experienced organiser Mrs H Morton. Every year they worry about creating that special evening and every year they manage to create some magic to ensure everyone has a great time.



This year's committee worked tirelessly to transform the assembly hall into a dance hall. The P.E. department had prepared the dancers for those intricate steps and offered guidance where needed.

Miss Buchan and Mr Renwick were unrecognisable(?) as The Blues Brothers and made unforgettable(?) DJs.



The stars though were the pupils, who looked amazing as they walked along the red carpet like true celebrities.



Congratulations to the S6 Dance committee for a fantastic set of Christmas Dances.

New Year Resolution?

A plea to parents when doing the 'school run' and dropping off students at school—please can we ask you to use the turning circle and designated 'drop-off' bays. This is to minimise the amount of traffic near the school entrance. Your help here will be much appreciated.

The Concert

When everyone else was writing Christmas cards and buying those last minute gifts for someone special, the music department was preparing us for the Christmas concert. And we were not disappointed with their gift—it was spectacular.

As with previous concerts at this time of year, it was a tale of two halves: the first being a more traditional musical concert; the second a mini-show. The windband, conducted by Mr Kennedy, opened the evening's entertainment and the S6 Music students followed with a 'Fairytale in NewYork'. Later in the programme the S5 Music students performed the classic 'White Christmas. There was singing from the junior choir, senior choral group and the staff choir. Other instrumental performances were from the String group, Guitar group and Woodwind ensemble. Each piece was introduced by the Heads of school, although they didn't quite look themselves—they were 'X Factor' judges.

The second half was a real 'thriller'!! Charting the life and music of Michael Jackson, students excelled in this superb tribute.



The Jackson Five were: Peter, Mark, Hamish, Rory & Kieran.



The Christmas Café

The S6 Charity committee is always busy and there was no rest for them in the build up to Christmas either. Using the space set aside for vocational skills, they transformed it into this year's Christmas café.

All the usual chocolate delights were: piping hot chocolate with chewy marshmallows; tantalising tray bakes with a Christmassy theme; mouth-watering mince pies and the 'pièce de résistance'—a chocolate fountain!



From out of the cold and into the warmth came the special guest—Father Christmas himself. He too enjoyed the yummy delights and festive spirit.

Staff changes

After nine years of dedicated service, Ms C Bryden (Kitchener) leaves the English department to take up a post at Oban High School. Over the years she has made an enormous contribution both to the department and to the wider life of the school—huge numbers of pupils have benefitted from her commitment, creativity and energy. Ms Bryden is involved in so many activities, events and initiatives across the school, it will be very difficult to fill the void. She epitomises the essence of EHS.

Sadly the school closure prevented staff and pupils from saying farewell to her before she left, but we hope she will visit us over the coming months so that we can rectify this. Thanks for everything and bon voyage.

Miss Morgan also leaves this month to move to Dingwall High School. Although she has been at EHS for a shorter period of time she will be a huge loss both to the Geography department and to the school. Pupils taught by her appreciate her calm approach, tolerant wisdom and diligence.

Miss Morgan's leadership of environmental issues across the school has brought huge benefits to our community and we hope to build on this work in the coming months. Dingwall's gain is most definitely our loss. We wish her well.

These jobs have been advertised and as soon as these posts are filled, pupils and parents will be notified.

Another change in the Geography department is the return of Mrs McGinlay to full time as she takes on classes for Mrs Harvey-Jamieson, who is on maternity leave. Best wishes to Mrs H-J and hopefully she'll be putting her feet up and resting at the moment.

Christmas in class

In the run up to Christmas pupils were still busy in class, although some had adopted a Christmas theme. In Home Economics, the first years were busy making peppermint creams. If they were intended as a wee gift for Mum, then it's unlikely they made it home. Too good to wait—many were eaten on the bus!

The Asdan challenge group was also busy making these amazing Santas to decorate the school entrance hall.

Megan Bilsland (S6) as part of her Enterprise Challenge made delightful Christmas gift bags as a charity fund raiser. Well done!



Excellence in Admin

Saturday 28 November 2009 Andrew Deans, our Head Boy last year, was recognised as one of the top performing students in Business Education in Scotland during the 2009 diet of SQA examinations.



Andrew was awarded this prestigious prize at the Scottish Business and Economics Association (SBEA) annual conference. Mrs Thomson and Miss Watson attended the conference to watch and celebrate his success. He was presented with a special medal and a voucher to celebrate his achievement in Higher Administration.

Andrew is currently studying Law at Edinburgh University.

Excellence in Attitude

At their Awards Assembly in December, the first years were presented with their Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates. To be awarded a certificate it requires nominations from subject teachers. These nominations can be for different categories such as: completing homework, working hard, being helpful in class, etc.

For a Gold Award, 12 or more teachers have to make a recommendation; between 9-11 teachers for Silver and between 6-8 teachers for a Bronze certificate.



Mrs McDonald, Year Head for S1, announced each award winner and the Heads of School made the presentations. Elspeth and Robert (Head Girl and Head Boy) offered their congratulations and Rory and Jan (the Deputies) shook hands with each winner to say, 'Well done.'

Second year pupils were also awarded their certificates in December and it is fantastic to see so many pupils working consistently hard and doing their best. The pupils in the above photograph are some of the Gold award winners from S1.