

VISITING POET INSPIRES STUDENTS



On Monday 8th March, the Advanced Higher English class was privileged to have in our company the award-winning Dundonian poet, Mark Thomson, who inspired us with his poetic interpretation based on the influence of his life's experiences. Earlier in the day, Mark had worked with first years on their creative writing skills.

Thomson's collection of poems "Bard Fae Thi Buildin Site" does more than just paint a simple picture of hardship in the housing schemes of Dundee. He reflects on the uncomfortable but not uncommon subject matters of drugs, alcohol and violence, whilst remaining loyal to themes of family, friends, home and Scotland. So many of these themes are pertinent to our lives, so we all felt that we could really relate to his subject matter, conveyed through his awe-striking performance poetry (once we could comprehend his braw Dundonian accent!).



Part of our Advanced Higher English coursework involves the exploration of the poetic genre, so we found this experience in the reading room of our school library, to be highly beneficial to our subject. Initially, we were

merely delighted to have the time to escape from the traumas of analysing and re-analysing John Donne poetry, but quickly we realised how lucky we were to have been given such an opportunity to listen to Thomson's talent for performing.

If there's one thing we would like to pass onto you, our readers, it is Mark Thomson's inspirational words - "Dinna be feart tae write doon the first thing that comes intae yer heed. Ye dinna ken, it might be published wan day!"

Hot off the press—Rugby Success!

Many congratulations to the U15 Rugby team for their success as winners of the Brewin Dolphin U-15 Scottish Schools Rugby Bowl Final. Held at Murrayfield just last week, the boys played a superb game to win against Linlithgow Academy: 29 to 19.



It's a relief - Mr Kidd sold all his socks!



The PE department led the activities to raise money for Sports Relief. Mr Kidd became a vendor, selling the rather fetching stripey red sport relief socks. They became the new 'must have' fashion item.



S1 competed in a fitness challenge during their PE classes and the whole school was invited to run, walk or crawl a mile or three in aid of sport relief. So on Thursday lunchtime, the astro turf was a busy place and the participants were cheered on by spectators from the viewing deck.



Ewan Runciman and Aaron Darling were just two of the many participants who completed the three mile challenge.

We raised a total of £400 and had good fun along the way.

Dates for your diary

Wed 28 April to Tues 8th June (inclusive) - S4 Study leave

Mon 3 May - May Day Holiday

Tues 4 May - In-service day (no school for pupils)

Wed 6 May - Parent Council meeting

Mon 10 May to Fri 14 May (inclusive) - S2 Excursion week

Tues 11 May to Tues 8 June (inclusive) - S5/6 Study leave

Thurs 13 May - P7 Parents' Information Evening

Mon 17 May— Junior new timetable starts

Mon 7 Jun - Holiday

Wed 9 June - S5/6 Induction Day

Thurs 10 June - Sports Day

Fri 11 June - Leavers' Evening

Wed 16 June— P7 Parents' Tour and meet Pastoral staff

Wed 16 & Thurs 17 June— P7 pupils visit EHS

Sun 26 to Wed 30 May - School Show

Fri 2 July - last day of session. School restarts 17.8.10 (pupils)



THE EARLSTON HIGH SCHOOL BUGLE



THE NEWSLETTER OF EARLSTON HIGH SCHOOL

April 2010

RESPECT HONESTY RESPONSIBILITY COMMITMENT EXCELLENCE

Message From Miss Strong

It has been an extremely busy time in school since our last newsletter. S4-6 students are in the final stages of their course work as they prepare for their exams - I wish them well and look forward to celebrating their success on 5 August. There have been many exciting events in the life of the school - this is just a snapshot of some of the news. For regular updates please make sure you visit our website, which is updated weekly.

Cricket Club

Congratulations to our new Cricket Club, run by Mr Bryson in conjunction with Cricket Scotland. The club hosted its first Cricket Sixes earlier this month, a tournament for all



Borders schools, and is going from strength to strength. They are now busy organising summer fixtures. Training is every Thursday at 4pm.

Borders' School Dance Festival



We were also invited to the Borders' schools' dance festival on Friday 19th March, which showcased dances from the majority of the Borders' schools.



Dances from Earlston included the Senior's 'Smash Into You', the 3rd year boys' 'Time For Some Action', the fast hip-hop dance by S4-S6 girls 'Church', and Jessica Bennett's highland dancing of her own choreography.

It was a day thoroughly enjoyed by all and showcased all the dancing talent we have at Earlston High School.

Dance Festival 2010

This year's Dance Festival was an especially eclectic showcase of dancing - the programme boasting highland, jazz, Irish, hip-hop, and contemporary dancing.

One of the highlights of the evening was the highland piece performed by Jessica Bennett (S5) and Miss Buchan. Their lively sailor styled dance was outstanding and performed with precision timing. Miss Buchan then joined the rest of the PE staff and they gave a memorable performance and showed us



the original moves of Beyonce's 'Single Ladies' dance. They were however called off the stage by former pupil Claire McCulloch, who then took over with her dance group to

complete the routine.

An unusual entry was that of Mr Foggin's 1st year science class, including the man himself. After practising hard at lunch times they created an imaginative dance showing the

definition of solids, liquids and gases. Solids were represented by the song 'Ice Ice Baby', whilst liquids were 'Riverside' and gases 'Bonkers'.



The night drew to an end with a contemporary

piece performed by Rebecca Fraser and Catriona Reid.

Then finally the Senior Dance group's performed to Beyonce's 'Smash Into You'. This was another powerful contemporary piece choreographed by three of our sixth years, Jan Baird, Kayley Henderson and Jenny Cook, who have led the junior and senior dance groups this year.



GHANA DAY

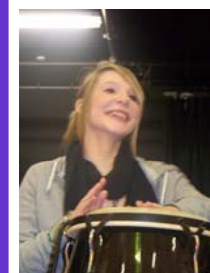
On Friday the 5th March, pupils and teachers celebrated Ghana Day, which is now an EHS annual event linked to the day Ghana was given its independence. The day is a celebration of Ghanaian culture and an attempt to raise funds to support Mangu Junior Secondary school.



The day was a huge success! It was embraced by all, with several people making a great effort to dress-up. Pirates, cowboys/cowgirls and a very successful Johnny Depp impersonator swaggered round the corridors. As well as fancy dress other students made a real effort to wear Ghana's colours. Peering from the Refectory railing pupils all merged together in a rainbow of reds, yellows and greens.

At lunchtime, activities were quick to begin. In the assembly hall, you were instantly bombarded by the noise of drums, face painting and other tribal 'goings on'. Everyone was eager to rivet a beat-less rhythm on the traditional tribal drums. Although the noise may have drowned out the sound of your thoughts, it was pleasant to see people with huge smiles on their faces, enjoying themselves - another reason for organising the event.

Mr Smart, Principal Teacher of Biology, had invited one of his friends, Sam, to join the celebrations. Sam comes from Ghana



and shared his expertise and enthusiasm of the drums with the pupils.

Mr Smart further added that Sam was "fantastic as usual" and with his help a great number of pupils were encouraged to participate in the lunchtime activities.

Sam's visit was also appreciated for another reason: it was a prime opportunity for pupils to ask questions about Ghana and gain better insight into the differences in the way of life and really understand how the money raised would help the community of Mangu. On the day a total of £140 was raised.



HMIe Inspection

Nine HMIe inspectors visited EHS the week beginning the 15 March. They observed 60 lessons and met with groups of pupils, parents, staff as well as individuals. The Inspection Report will be published on 18th May.

NATURAL HIGH FOR S1

The assembly hall was full of excitement on Wednesday 10 March, courtesy of David Graham's Natural High presentation. David was on a whirlwind tour of the Borders secondary schools and we were lucky enough to enjoy his presentation at Wednesday's S1 assembly.



The audience was in full swing, dancing, clapping and singing to the lyrics of David's own composition, 'Natural High'. He also had some of the pupils on stage competing in football and dance competitions. Gareth won the sports competition with his amazing football skills. The lucky winners received goodies such as the CD of David's song, radios, personal organisers and sports bags.

David's message was loud and clear and he wanted everyone to understand that drug taking only led to fake highs which are short-lived. He tested our knowledge in The Risk Factor game to show us that alcohol was actually the drug which caused the most deaths in a year. Some of the audience were quite shocked by this and it certainly gave them something to think about.



Natural High is all about using our own talents and experiences to get a real buzz and feel happy. In one of the competitions, pupils had to think about the presentation's message and come up with a catchy slogan. Heather's caption was 'Don't take drugs, they will waste you away. Get your natural high today!' Niall entered the competition with 'Don't take drugs they can kill you after a while, but a natural high can make you smile.' The winning caption came from Megan, whose rhyming slogan said, 'If you use drugs, you'll just want more. Then you won't be able to soar.' Well done, Megan.



The presentation was absolutely brilliant and that was the view of everyone at the assembly.

Kitchen of the Year!

Congratulations to our hard working kitchen staff who were awarded SBC Kitchen of The Year



WEAR RED DAY

SINCE 1961, the British Heart Foundation (BHF) has strived to prevent premature deaths due to heart disease. Every February the BHF introduce a campaign in order to celebrate



their progress and continue raising awareness concerning the problem. This year they aimed to raise money to fund research into the disease and to help fund those living with the problem. As part of their HEART AWARENESS campaign, they promoted a national Wear Red Day and so on Friday the 26th Earlston High wore red!



Each student who participated in the event donated a £1 to the charity. The grand total was £775.75 and Elspeth Murray, our Head Girl, presented the cheque to the BHF at the S1 assembly in March.

EHS Parent Council is 'Babe'!

(Back after breaking for Easter!) (Okay, so it's not a great headline but thought it might catch your eye!)

With so many pupils in the throes of exams or on study leave, spare a thought to all those stressed-out parents trying to ensure their offspring gets enough sleep; tiptoeing through bedroom detritus to avoid unnecessary confrontation ("Yes - your exams are more important than a clean bedroom!"); soothing troubled brows and providing all those things needed to keep them firmly on track. It requires a lot of energy and oodles of empathy - so the thought of a night out attending a Parent Council meeting isn't so bad!

This year it is fair to say the Parent Council has been preoccupied with helping everyone to settle into the new school and now we can look forward to many years in the fabulous building with facilities suited to the 21st century. We have also tried to keep up-to-date with new initiatives such as GLOW, the world's first national intranet for education providing 'a trusted and safe environment for pupils, teachers and parents' and 'a variety of online tools to enhance learning experiences' (for more information about GLOW go to www.ltscotland.org.uk/glowscotland/index.asp)

'A Curriculum for Excellence' means that there will continue to be challenges to be met to ensure our children's education remains as good as it has been previously and the Parent Council will continue to assist in whatever way we can to make the changeover as seamless as possible. (To access the CfE Parent Toolkit go to: www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/buildingthecurriculum/engagingwithparents/index.asp)

If anyone (parent or pupil) has any issues they want to raise with the Parent Council we can be contacted by email - earlstonhs@scotborders.gov.uk (for the Attention of the Parent Council) or by letter, and these will be forwarded on.

The next meeting of the Parent Council is on Wed 4th May at 7pm.

S1 Sewing Club

The Home Economics dept was keen to give pupils greater choice and the 'Design and Make' unit has enabled pupils to design a re-usable shopping bag and make it 'their own'.



S1 pupils have embraced the new fabric technology unit showing dedication and creativity whilst developing and producing their unique and exciting designs.

The sewing club was started due to the high demand and endless enthusiasm from pupils and is proving very popular. It has been a fantastic experience watching the designs develop into trendy but useful accessories!

Students from other year groups are keen to get behind a sewing machine and develop their skills in fabrics and textiles too.



S1 Disability Workshops

At the end of February, the Modern Studies department organised a series of workshops connected to the work the first years were doing on disability. Three speakers came into school through the Borders Disability Forum. Evan Thomas, the BDF project manager, spoke about the different types of disability - physical, mental and sensory. He gave examples of the difficulties associated with each type and let the pupils see some of the aids used by disabled people such as a talking kettle and speaking clock. After time at the first station, pupils moved on to the next workshop from Sally McGreevy who spoke on visual impairment. She had the pupils doing visual exercises to get their eye muscles working and let them try on special glasses to simulate particular eye conditions.

At station three, Jean Proudfoot from the Deaf and Heard of Hearing network, showed lots of devices to help people with hearing problems: an alarm clock which flashes, a smoke alarm with a red flashing light and a flashing door bell. She also explained about lip reading and the use of sign language.

The first years were very interested in each of the workshops, which superbly complimented their class work. Each class has also visited Earlston itself to look at the sort of issues a disabled person might face when in the village.

