



**In this edition we have
a review of the
2013 - 2014 session**

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Wester Hailes Education Centre

News

Lottery funding to Celebrate Scotland's Commonwealth Connections

Wester Hailes Education Centre received lottery funding to send three pupils to the Northern Cape, South Africa to visit their twin school, Barkly West High School. During the visit they learned Tswana dancing and taught the South African children Scottish country dancing. This is being followed by a return exchange visit where primary school children from feeder primary schools will attend workshops in Tswana dancing. The project will culminate in a final Commonwealth celebration event with South African and Indian dancing.



This newsletter is a celebration of the many achievements of our students and staff over the past session. You can see and read of our successes in the Arts, Sport, Sciences and Technologies. We are committed to establishing Wester Hailes as a Centre of Excellence, offering a wide range of opportunities and support to engage in Education, Culture and Sport. Thank you for your support. 'Together we are succeeding'.

Sheila Paton - Principal



Teacher of the Year

Our very own drama Teacher, Katie MacLennan won this year's Pride of Edinburgh Teacher of the Year Award. Katie who has been with us for three years has been inspirational in encouraging and developing our Students in the Performing Arts.



Public Speaking Competition

Wester Hailes S3 finalists, Toni and Shannon delivered excellent performances to rapturous applause. Our students were runners up in an event that included School teams from James Gillespie's, The Royal High and Holyrood (winners).



Pupil Lawyers

Pupils from Wester Hailes Education Centre learned about the Scottish legal system by taking on the roles of the major participants in the Edinburgh Mini Trials held on 5th October 2013 in the real courtrooms of Edinburgh Sheriff Court. Pupils convened the court, heard the evidence and returned their own verdict.

The Art Room

The Art Room is a UK charity working with children to increase their self-esteem, self-confidence and independence through art. The Wester Hailes Education Centre Art Room is the first in Scotland and opened in June 2014.



The Art Room believes art can help children learn and achieve success. Our vision is that the Art Room will develop as an outreach centre, where young



people across the city who are at risk of disengaging from education can access nurture and support. The following is a list of some of the items we use in The Art Room if you would like to donate any items please hand them in to the School Office: beads, buttons, corks, broken jewellery, wooden furniture. To find out more about The Art Room visit www.theartroom.org.uk

Exciting Competition at Giant Heptathlon

Giant Heptathlon is an exciting competition format which the following schools Tynecastle, St Augustines, Queensferry, Forrester, Firrhill, Craigmount, Balerno and Wester Hailes Education Centre took part in.

The teams engaged in a range of athletics based activities under the guidance of qualified coaches. Activities encompassed sprinting, hurdling, relays, endurance, jumps and throws.

Lord Speaker's Peers in Schools Outreach Programme

Wester Hailes Education Centre hosted a talk from a member of the House of Lords in November 2013 to encourage students to engage more with the political and parliamentary process. Lord Sutherland met with senior Modern Studies students for an hour to talk about the work and role of the House of Lords. This was followed by a question and answer session on various aspects of the parliamentary process and life at Westminster generally.





The Library Big Book Bash

In November 2013 the Languages Faculty and our school Librarian aimed to promote reading for pleasure and in particular promote books written by modern Scottish authors. The event was very well supported by senior students and teachers.



First Edinburgh Secondary School to Receive Game On Scotland Award

Amidst an exciting programme for young people to engage in the Commonwealth Games, Wester Hailes Education Centre became the first secondary school in Edinburgh to receive the award presented by the Game On Scotland ambassador, Holly Cram, on a day of activities from street dance to gymnastics. Holly also provided a coaching session for the school's girls hockey team. The day was also supported by former Gold medallist Steve Frew who set learners a number of gymnastic challenges stretching from the pommel horse to ring exercises.



A Gold Star for WHEC

Some of Edinburgh's poorest performing schools are enjoying soaring exam success - helping keep city-wide results above the national average, figures have revealed. Wester Hailes Education Centre is leading the charge and this year saw the number of pupils with three or more awards at Higher grade leaping to nine per cent.

Added Snap, Crackle and Pop for Breakfast Club

Wester Hailes Education Centre's Breakfast Club received a boost with some funding from Kellogg's. Following a successful application we were informed that the school would be receiving some much needed extra funds to support this popular club. A healthy start to the day is so essential and these funds will ensure that the club is able to continue to supply nutritious, balanced meals to our students.



Royal Lyceum Theatre on Project Scrooge

53 students have recently had the privilege of working with the Royal Lyceum Theatre on Project Scrooge. We were one of only 6 secondary schools to be accepted onto this project. The project, led by teachers and theatre artists, who explored creativity and inter-disciplinary learning through a series of creative challenges inspired by the production of A Christmas Carol. Each project was individual to each school and students were allowed to develop their creative and thinking skills.

All 53 students attended a performance of a Christmas Carol at the Lyceum which sparked their imaginations. Over three days, they worked in small teams to create a Project Scrooge extravaganza which included giant puppets, live reporting and tweeting, Christmas Crafts, dance, shops and money through the ages.



Students Sign Up to Vote

Senior students at Wester Hailes Education Centre found out how easy it is to register to vote and what the process of voting in an election is like by participating in a National Voter Registration Day event, ensuring that they understand the importance of voting. STV cameras were there to record the session.



'Keys to the Castle Competition' 2014

A group of five S4 pupils won this years 'Keys to the Castle' competition organised by Historic Scotland and Springboard UK (a travel and tourism industry charity).

About 50 groups from across Scotland entered and we were fortunate enough to provide the winning team. Tommy Kivlin, Michael Singh, Vicki Soutar, Billie Leigh Taylor and Ryan Walker came up with some very good ideas for improving visitor services at Historic Scotland visitor attractions such as Edinburgh Castle.



Cracking Cakes

Throughout this academic year the students in the practical cake craft course have developed skills in cake baking and finishing techniques such as modelling, colouring, crimping and piping. The class has developed their knowledge and understanding of cake design and researched and produced their own celebration cake for their final assessment. The class has been very dedicated throughout the year, they have been very creative and have worked hard supporting one another to achieve the highest standards.

Science Fun Road Show

Wester Hailes Education Centre hosted a visit from the Edinburgh University SCI FUN road show. With lots of interactive exhibits students and pupils from local Primary Schools learned about the role of science in their everyday lives. The aim of the Roadshow is to encourage more young people to consider STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) based careers as well as supporting the school curriculum.



Awards Ceremony for Senior Students

On Friday 4th April we held our annual award ceremony for S4, S5 and S6 students. The awards were presented by our former pupil Ian Murray MP. Ian gave an excellent speech on the value of education and reflected on his journey from being a student at Wester Hailes Education Centre to becoming a member of parliament. Ian encouraged all the students to take advantage of the excellent education on offer and to aim high.