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Welcome Back

I Would like to begin my first newsletter welcoming new parents and carers to our Castlebrae community. As well as our newsletters we have a school website, twitter feed and regular texts to keep you informed of all the exciting new events at Castlebrae Community High School. The newsletter will also be delivered to Primary 5-7 of our feeder primary schools - Castlevie, Niddrie Mill and Newcraighall. **Norma Prentice - Head Teacher**

News on Staff Changes

- DHT Junior Phase - **Ann Archer**
- DHT Senior Phase - **Vincent Spicer**
- CL Social Subjects and RME - **Chris Hume**
- Science Teacher - **Tom Lindsay**

KEY DATES.....KEY DATES.....KEY DATES.....KEY DATES

- 26 September **Biggest Ever Coffee Morning**
- 22 October **Construction Challenge**
- 14 November **Children in Need**
- 8 December **YPI Final** 12 December **Christmas Concert**

KEY DATES.....KEY DATES.....KEY DATES.....KEY DATES

TSB Media Article

Castlebrae Community High School Senior Boys' football team were awarded the Scottish Schools 'Team of the Month' for May 2014.

The team was selected from every competing High School in Scotland. The school faces difficulty in fielding a team at this age group due to the small school roll meaning that students from S3 are sometimes called up to ensure fixtures are fulfilled.

The team was nominated for the award after completing every fixture in the season 2013/14, especially after experiencing some heavy defeats. Numerous opposition praised the boys for their unwavering commitment and effort in such difficult circumstances and have gained respect across the Lothians school league for their attitude.



The Captain is Joe Murray (holding the award)

**The boys can't wait for the season
2014/15 to kick off!**

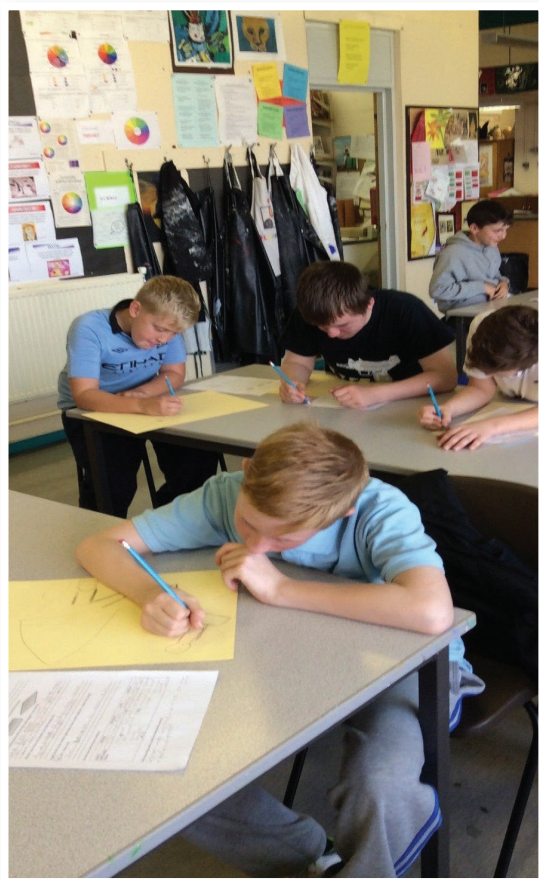


S1 Team Building Morning

S1 spent an amazing morning with My Adventure on Thursday 11 September. The experience enhanced the Castlebrae Cluster Transition Programme. Our S1 Pupils have spent time together over the past few years getting to know Castlebrae staff and this has ensured that the transition into our high school has been a good experience.

The activity morning was supported by Mrs Archer and Ms Watt and although it was a cloudy morning everyone engaged in their learning. The aim of the morning was to strengthen the bond of the S1 group and so the activities were based around problem solving and team building. Groups were formed and were given the task of skipping under bridges, crossing toxic swamps and transferring tennis ball "bombs" into safety pods! At the end of activities S1 pupils visited the Art Department and completed a written evaluation of the morning and produced sketches and paintings illustrating the tasks of the day.

The evaluations were very positive and all agreed that active learning outdoors was an excellent way to strengthen the S1 Team.





Lindsey Watt

Lindsey Watt has been seconded to the Castlebrae Team for two days a week for this academic session. Lindsey is Headteacher of Castleview Primary School and has had previous experience as a member of Children and Families Schools and Community Services, Senior Management Team and the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning's Attainment Group.

Lindsey's remit will be to support Broad General Education at Castlebrae and S1/Primary/Secondary Transition across all cluster schools.

FLASH POINT

Thursday 6th November 2014 at 4:30 – 5:30 parents of P7 pupils in the cluster are invited to meet the teaching team at Castlebrae Community High School. The session will introduce the Senior Management Team and give parents an opportunity to have a tour of the school.



I have thoroughly enjoyed working at Castlebrae Community High School for the last 12 years. I started as an Art and Design teacher and then moved on to become the Curriculum Leader for the Creative and Aesthetic Faculty.

I am very excited to become a member of the Senior Management Team at Castlebrae and bring with me my experience of teaching and working in the Craigmillar community and my knowledge and experience of the students here at Castlebrae.

We have another exciting transition programme planned for this year. A programme that will forge strong links with our cluster primary schools and I am working closely with Lindsey Watt on that. Our Young Achievers Group is also developing well and involves some of our second and third year boys. Please also check the website for details of the many study and homework clubs that are being offered this year. There is something for everyone! I am also working to get our Junior Team up and running and they will be ambassadors for the school, charged with various duties and responsibilities.

Ann Archer – Acting Depute

Auschwitz Trip

On the 17th of September two students from Castlebrae Community High School were lucky enough to be included in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' course which included a trip to the famous death camps of the Second World War in Poland. The Day consisted of an early start of 5am at the airport to fly out to Poland for the day, with 200 pupils from around Scotland.

Our first stop was in the village of Oswiecim, the site of the Great Synagogue, where we had the opportunity to see what Jewish life was like before the war.

Next we were taken to Auschwitz camp 1, which has been turned into a museum. Here we got to see what life had been like in the camps and saw the iconic piles of shoes, glasses, suitcases, pots and pans that the prisoners had brought with them thinking they were just going to a work camp.

The last camp we visited was Auschwitz Burkenau. This was where the 'selections' had taken place and the gas chambers were built. In this camp it is estimated 1.2 million people were killed.

This experiences can be very emotional and upsetting, but the students are encouraged to stay with how they feel and reflect on the lives of those who suffered.

As part of the 'lessons from Auschwitz' course the students will also present their experiences to their school community once back in Scotland in hope that the lessons from Auschwitz are never forgotten.

Debbie Allan
RME



Castlebrae joins Careers Academy

Careers Academy is an initiative to raise students' aspirations, attainment and bridge the gap between education and work by giving them access to real experience, skills for learning, life and work. It is a 2 year programme during S5/6. They will be assigned a Mentor from an Edinburgh business who will work closely with the students during their 2 years giving them support in all areas of their life. During the 2 year Academy the students will attend Master Classes, meet regularly with their Mentor, and undertake a 4 week paid internship within their Mentors' businesses.

We wish all 8 students taking part every success in this fantastic opportunity.

Mr Lindsay

I'm the new teacher for the Science Department. I'm looking forward to getting students into doing plenty of experimental work in science as well as senior biology and chemistry. I will also be coaching the S1 football team and can't wait to get a 7-a-side tournament up and running.

The AlcoLOLS Project

The AlcoLOLS project is an innovative project aimed at helping teenagers to learn to talk about drinking, or choosing not to drink. Through dialogue with their peers it hopes to shape Scottish teenage drinking culture.

4 students from Castlebrae High School, Brooke Murray, Nicole Gormley, Kelly Dodds and Lauren Mutch, have been trained as mentors and through peer only dialogue groups hope to start to change how teenagers view drinking.

The girls have been running the project in school for a few weeks and by the end of term they will have had dialogue with every student in school.

They also attended Queen Margaret College on the 29th September to hear Kenny MacAskill MSP speak about the project which he enthusiastically supports.

Well done girls.



Creative Industries

Earlier this month our Creative Industries students had an initial meeting with a contact from MUSA, (Museum of the University of St Andrews).

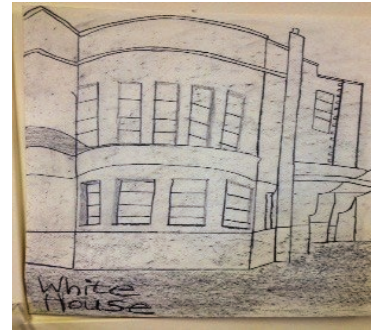
MUSA, working in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council investigates cultural exchange within communities and individuals across time and space. More broadly the project looks at how people respond to living in a bilingual or multilingual environment.

Our Creative Industries students had already started working as 'Community Artists' for their SQA National 5 course work, and are in the early stages of researching and developing their ideas for a wall mural which will enhance the appearance of that area of the school into a brighter more colourful place. The two large murals will be painted on the two walls by the steps opposite the undercover walkway. We will be working collaboratively with MUSA over the next year, incorporating the theme of multilingual environment into

our artworks. MUSA will provide funding for the project which will make our creative work more exciting, coursework more relevant and our painting skills more professional.

Our students had been inspired by the local theme of Craigmillar, after an educational visit to Artspace last month to see a multimedia exhibition entitled 'From Here'. We are looking at areas of local interest around Craigmillar like Craigmillar Castle, The Whitehouse, the Hays chairs, Jack Kane Park and Castlebrae Business Centre. We will then zoom out and look at Edinburgh, focussing on The Castle, Arthur's Seat, Parliament building and the Forth Road Bridge. Zooming out again we will consider our community in Scotland and within the world.

We look forward to sharing our creative ideas as they develop over the course of this year, unveiling our artwork and to the final exhibition at St Andrews next summer.



National Poetry Day

2nd October 2014

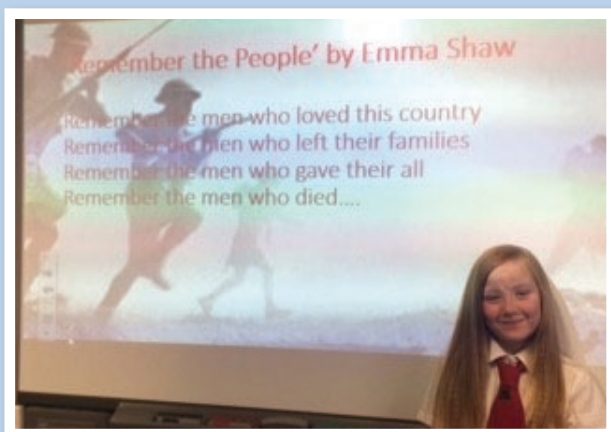
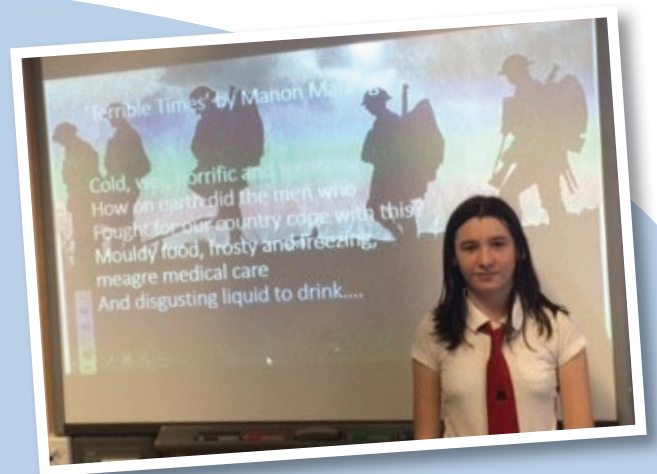
In this special assembly we celebrated National Poetry Day in true poetic fashion. Ms McCulloch opened the assembly with a potted history of National Poetry Day and explained this year's theme - Remember.

This was followed by a recital by S1 pupils Manon Maurage and Emma Shaw of the poems they wrote.

Callum Garriock of S3 took to the floor to give a splendid rendition of third year pupils' interpretation of "Hedge Sparrows" - one of this year's chosen poems.

The assembly was brought to a conclusion by Nicole Moffat of S5 who read Norman MacCaig's "Basking Shark".

A first class performance all round. All poems written by the pupils are on display in the English corridor.



News from the Library Resource Centre



Author Visit

We have had a busy start to the session with activities in and around the Library Resource Centre. In August, Christopher William Hill author of 'Osbert the Avenger' visited and had a very lively, fun session with S1 students.



Teen Titles Party



Also in August a group of students who had written book reviews for the Teen Tiles publication attended the annual Teen Titles Party at the City Arts' Centre where they were able to meet students from other schools and authors of some of the books they had reviewed.

Scots Hoose

In September a group of students attended the Scottish Storytelling Centre where author Matthew Fitt launched his new Scots language website. Some of our S3 students performed a short drama sketch about Mary Queen of Scots. Callum Garriock played the role of her son James VI on the day Mary would be executed and he was brilliant and very entertaining. The Scots Hoose website highlights students' writing in Scots and a poem written by Caitlin Heron of S3 is already on the site - <http://www.scotshoose.com/index.html>



Silver Surfers - Castlebrae pupils become teachers for a day

Working with the local library, Castlebrae Community High School has formed a computing club using a number of young people from the school. The pupils from S5/6 visit the library on a weekly basis and assist and teach a group of older people about different basic ways to work a computer, a tablet or any other electronic device, for example, downloading the latest iPad/Android apps, how to use E-bay, how to send emails, and how to use search engines effectively such as Google.

The club refers to themselves as the 'Silver Surfers'. At every meeting the pupils have the chance to have a one-on-one tuition session with the older person they have been teamed up with. This allows each older person to be able to specify what it is that day that they would like to go over.

The first Silver Surfers meeting was Tuesday 7th October and was a massive success, our pupils were Aimee, Blair, Dale and Jordan and the feedback from the older people after the event was extremely positive. The next Silver Surfers will be Tuesday 21st October at Craigmillar library.



Social Subjects and RME

I'm Chris Hume and I'm the new Curricular Leader of Social Subjects and RME. I spent six years at Gracemount High School, am currently the Lead Teacher of History in Edinburgh City Council and am in the process of finishing off writing my second history textbook, which is published in the new year. In my spare time I enjoy playing guitar, football, watching films and reading. I'm really enjoying my time at Castlebrae and look forward to helping the school be the best it can be.

Thanks, Chris.



Nairn's Sponsorship



Nairn's sponsored the purchase of 25 t-shirts for all the National 4, 5 and Higher Physical Education students. The t-shirts mean all the students look the same during P.E. bringing a real team feel to the class. A massive thank you to Nairn's for this sponsorship and we hope to sustain this Community partnership in the years to come.

Castlebrae Football

Continuing on from last year Castlebrae has a healthy school football program that is rapidly improving:

Joe Murray, Lewin Mapira and Rafal Kasprzyk represented Castlebrae at the Senior Lothian School Boys Trials. Congratulations to Lewin Mapira who has been selected to attend the final trial. Follow us on our website or Twitter to find out how he gets on!

We have a 7 a-side girls' squad who last season regularly competed in the football festivals organised by Edinburgh Schools Football Association. The team have signed up to do the same again this year!

We have started our own S1 7 a-side League with Drummond, Balerno and Gracemount.

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated by their peers:

- Senior Football Captain for 2014/15: Joe Murray
- Senior Football Vice Captains for 2014/15: Sean Munro and Brandon Hunter
- Girls Football Captain for 2014/15: Kelly Dodds
- Girls Football Vice Captains for 2014/15: Johanna Moffat and Jordan Elliot
- S1 Boys Football Captain for 2014/15: Kris Cheverton
- S1 Boys Football Vice Captains for 2014/15: Logan Carter and Ian Dodds

Community Partnership with Craigmillar Boxing Club

Castlebrae have teamed up with Craigmillar Boxing Club (based at Sandy's Community Centre) to gain a £1000 grant to boost the ever increasing Community Club's membership. The Fitness Suite at Castlebrae will be kitted out with an extensive range of boxing equipment. This will allow 'fitness through boxercise' to take place in both curricular and extra-curricular activities. Any student who wishes to continue this experience outside of school will be directed towards the qualified boxing instructors from the Craigmillar Club.

Physical Competency Project with Edinburgh Napier University

The Castlebrae Cluster is about to embark on an exciting project with Edinburgh Napier University focusing on improving fundamental movements with our Primary Students. This project will highlight current fundamental movement levels (lunge, squat, push and pull movements) which underpin the ability to undertake more complex skills within the Cluster and also produce a resource pack for teachers to help grow this area further.

Breakfast Club



Every Friday morning a hard-core group of students and teachers attend the 'Sean T Breakfast Club'. This club start at 7am in the small gym and comprises of a; workout, shower and breakfast. A great start to the day!

Young Ambassadors : World's Biggest Coffee Morning

This year's Young Ambassadors are:

Jordan Elliott and **Emma Graham**

These girls were chosen as ideal students to become role models in the Castlebrae Cluster for sport, especially the involvement of girls. As such the girls have started on their yearlong project to implement a 'girls only' after school club one day a week comprising of a number of activities and guest coaches.



We had a very busy week in school recently as we raised money for Macmillan Cancer Support. The senior Hospitality students organised a Bake Sale, a Coffee Morning for the staff and made a fabulous cake that was raffled. Our assembly that week focused on the work of the charity to help students gain a better understanding of what they were raising money for.

All Sewn Up



The sewing machines are working hard in Home Economics at the moment as our new S1 students are making aprons which they will then use when they start cooking. They are having fun using the embroidery machine to personalise their work with their names on the pockets.

At the other end of the school our senior students studying Fashion and Textile Technology have been developing a range of skills and are now putting them to good use to make a garment.



Future Chef

We are about to launch our bid for the FutureChef title for this year. This is a competition organised by Springboard, the training agency for the Hospitality Industry. We are looking for students, under 16 years of age, to come along after school on Mondays to try out dishes and hone their skills, before competing against each other to become Castlebrae's FutureChef champion. This student will then go forward to compete against students from across the city. As the competition progresses, a chef is appointed to mentor the student, giving them a great experience and an insight into the world of the professional kitchen.

We have been quite successful in the past and are hoping we can go far this year.

Fizzy/Energy Drinks Whole School Ban

As of September 2014 Castlebrae has introduced a whole school ban on Fizzy and Energy drinks anywhere on the Campus. The purpose is to help improve the Health and Wellbeing of our students (by reducing the massive sugar intake these drinks bring) and impact positively on their school achievement and attainment.



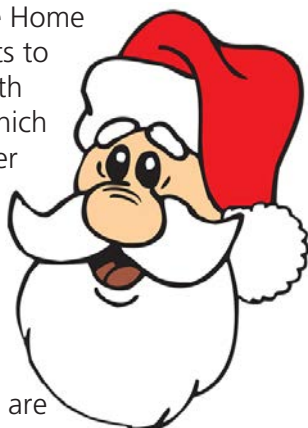
Red at the Fair

This year saw us taking part in the Portobello Village Show for the fourth time. It was another beautiful day and we had customers seeking us out to buy produce that they had enjoyed previously. The team had worked hard, including being in school on the Saturday, to get the baking done and then turned out on the Sunday to man the stall.

The girls were great ambassadors for the school, receiving many positive comments about the quality of their products, the professional presentation and their politeness. Well done to everyone who was involved.

Christmas Cake Club

After the October break the Home Economics department starts to get into the Festive spirit with the Christmas Cake Club which will run on Wednesdays after school. There have been some fabulous cakes produced in previous years and we are eagerly anticipating the creations that this year's group will produce. Students and staff are all welcome.



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Danielle who has graduated from Edinburgh College in Events Management. Danielle studied Practical Cookery, General Operations, Creative Cake Production and NC5 Hospitality whilst she was at school. She was an asset to the department taking a lead role in many of the activities and functions we organised. We are very proud of her and wish her well as she embarks on her degree course at Queen Margaret University.