

Leith Links

December '10

Headteacher's News

We come to the end of another busy term and look back on what has been achieved since August, details of which have appeared in recent Leith Links and which are brought up to date in this edition.

The local authority undertook a review of the school on 22 and 23 November, as part of the follow-up to the most recent HMIE inspection. Their report should be published soon and parents will receive a copy which should inform you of the continuing progress that the school is making.

On Thursday 2 December the Lord Provost and the City Council hosted a civic reception at the City Chambers to mark the school's 450th anniversary. Despite the weather conditions about 90 people attended the event in the Council Chamber. These included current and former staff, current and former pupils, parents and representatives of agencies, businesses and community organisations that support the school in its day-to-day work.



The event also allowed for the school flag to be flown at the City Chambers, the first time in history that a Leith flag has been given this honour. It was indeed a proud occasion for the school in

having its current work, as well as its contribution to the education and development of Leith and Leithers over the centuries, officially recognised.

The recent adverse weather has indeed brought its own challenges for the school and I am grateful to staff for the perseverance they have shown in getting into work, in some cases from the other side of the country. I am grateful too to parents who, despite the difficulties, have sent their children in to school. It is important that we continue to operate as best as we can, especially in relation to pupils who will be sitting SQA examinations this session. As the forecast indicates that we might have to endure the current cold climate for some months to come, we will need to organise ourselves better such that we can carry on as normal through it all. In connection with this, we have, as a school, increased the activities that can now be accessed from home, both on the school website and on GLOW, the national schools site. Pupils have been given instructions on how to do this and, if schools require to close again, then the opportunities will exist for work still to be undertaken from a home computer.

The recent weather has taken its toll on the usual Christmas activities but we are still going ahead with our Christmas service on Thursday, 23 December, after which school will close for the holidays. Members of the Pupil Council have been working on the format of this service and I hope as many pupils will feel able to attend to support their fellow pupils and celebrate the season as a school community. School will re-open for pupils on Tuesday, 11 January 2011 at the usual time. (Monday, 10 January is an in-service day for staff.)

Might I finally take this opportunity of hoping that you have a good, restful Christmas holiday period and offer my very best wishes to you for the New Year.

 : 0131 554 0606

 : admin@leith.edin.sch.uk

Useful Contacts

Senior Management Team

Mr J M Simpson - Headteacher

Mrs D MacKinnon - Senior DHT

Mr D Peat - DHT

Miss S Cook - DHT

Ms M Peebles - Business Manager

Pupil Support

House Heads

Mrs F Stevenson (Anderson)

Ms A Bridgeford (Barton)

Mrs K Fisher (Cowan)

Mr G Hansen (Port)

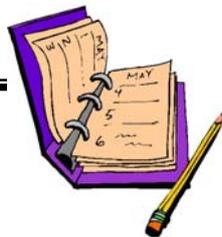
ASL Manager

Ms C Prime

Community Programme Manager

Mrs C Carstairs

Important Dates for Your Diary!



| | |
|----------------------|---|
| January 2011 | |
| 10 | In-Service Day Adult class enrolments |
| 11 | Pupils resume |
| 17-21 | S1/S2 Monitoring and Tracking Reports issued |
| 18 | LA Council (7.00pm) |
| 25 | S1 Burns Ceilidh |
| 31 | Adult classes start |
| February 2011 | |
| 4 | S3 Inter-House sports (dodgeball/football) |
| 7 | S3 Parents' Consultation (4.30-6.30pm) |
| 7-11 | S4/5/6 prelims S3 Monitoring & Tracking reports issued |
| 14-18 | Half-term holiday |
| 21 | In-Service Day (CfE) |
| 24 | Senior Ceilidh |
| 24-26 | Modern Studies trip to London |
| March 2011 | |
| 8 | LA Council (7.00pm) |
| 18 | Maths Challenge Competition |
| 22 | HPV vaccinations (3) |
| 24 | S3>S4>S5>S6 Parents' Evening (7.00 pm) |
| 28 | S3>S4 coursing |
| 31 | Adult classes end |
| tbc | Staff vs S4-S6 pupils hockey match |

Modern Languages

On Wednesday 3rd November, as part of National Schools' Film Week and French Film Festival, a group of S2 and Senior pupils studying French went to see the film 'Micmacs'. Here are some of their reviews:



Micmacs is a French man that gets shot in the head and vows to get revenge on the makers of the bullet. He has the help of a group of homeless people with extraordinary talents. It was a very interesting film to watch and I really enjoyed it. If you don't mind reading subtitles, go see it. **Eilidh Mackay**

In Micmacs a guy got shot in the head and then went to live in a scrap yard then gets revenge on the people that shot him. He fell in love with a girl that can get into really small places and always hides in the fridge.

The film was about a man that got shot in the head and his dad got blown up by a bomb. The man tries to get rid of the factories that make guns and weapons. Micmacs was quite a good film.

2nd Year pupils went to see the film 'Le Petit Nicolas' here are their comments:

It was a good film and what made it better is that it had subtitles because not everyone would have understood it. I thought it was funny and a great film! **Tianna Campbell**

'Le petit Nicolas' film was very good. I enjoyed it and it was very entertaining. It is a film I would recommend. **Sorcha Dalling**

It was funny. It was exciting. It was great. 10/10 **Leighton Paterson**

Here are a few comments about "la journée de la jupe" (Skirt Day) seen by senior pupils studying French:

"We went to see a French film called "Skirt Day" with our French class. The film was about a teacher who was always disrespected by her pupils and some of the staff because she wore skirts to work. She ended up taking her class hostage with a gun one of her pupils had brought into school. The film was very good and shocking!" **Isabel Stiven**

"I thought that the French film '-Skirt Day' was very thought-provoking. I had never seen anything like it before so it was a big shock at some points. Overall I really enjoyed it!" **Lisa Anderson**

"Je pense que le film "la journée de la jupe"était très intéressant et la fin du film était mauvaise et triste. Le film était moderne alors je peux comprendre elur situation!" **Sadaf Ashraf**

"Overall I enjoyed "Skirt Day" and found it to be an interesting, different film. The themes explored were unusual and I liked how you weren't sure whose side to be on!" **Fergus Ross**

"Skirt Day" was an interesting and thought-provoking film. I enjoyed it immensely because the acting was realistic and the setting was familiar. I would recommend this film to anyone who likes foreign movies in particular French ones. **Alexander Bouch**

Community News...

Brrr! We managed to get through most of our evening classes despite the snow and freezing temperatures and now look forward to next term. Our usual favourites are going ahead with **Guitar, Belly Dancing, Singing for Fun, Knitting, Walkers Club, Gujarati / Indian/ Chinese & Thai cookery, Woodwork, Pottery, Upholstery, Computing, Jewellery, Fitness, Acrylic, Portrait, Watercolour and Life Drawing** as well as **Massage For Fun and Zumba, Zumba, Zumba.**

Our new evening classes include:

- **Black Cement Sculpture** will run for 1 immersion weekend of planning and welding the basic construction of your sculpture, followed by 3 Saturdays to refine the work of art and to add layers and finally the black cement. You will be working with a professional artist on hand to help you realise your ideas and release your imagination. The sculptures will be suitable for indoors or outdoors and offer a unique opportunity to create a fabulous, personal artwork.
- **Bridge for Beginners** to exercise the problem solving part of your brain by learning the rules and rudiments of bridge, giving you hours of future entertainment and enjoyment - and great fun whilst learning!
- **Love the Clothes You're In** is a course that looks at the clothes you already have and helps you with colours and styles that really flatter and compliment you, and puts them altogether as a revamp of your wardrobe without having to pay too much



- **African Cookery** is delicious, rich in nutrition and has a unique flavour, using a range of ingredients like cassava, yam, cocoyam, rice, beans, maize, sea food, poultry and meat to mention but a few. Students will learn the following: how to identify African ingredients; prepare simple & delicious meals and understand the nutritional value of ingredients.

- **Flower Arranging** is a fun and creative course that will teach you the basics in flower arranging. You'll learn wirework, techniques, design and much more - including basic wedding work, seasonal designs, table centres and gift bouquets to mention a few. You will

receive a starter kit of necessary tools at your first lesson. There is an extra cost each week payable to the tutor for flowers but this will be at cost price and a great bargain.

- **Navigation Skills for Hill Walking** with 3 evening classes 2 Saturday walks designed to use some night skills and also practice bad weather navigation. It is great to know you're safe when out walking and to be able to put the theory into practice.
- **Home Cooking** so you can learn to make economical, traditional meals including puddings, to make sure you have nutritious and delicious recipes to keep everyone happy. Learn to make a foolproof cheese sauce and Yorkshire pudding as well as sponge puddings with custard



And we have some **Saturday and Weekend courses** to tempt you, such as:

- **Romantic Pampering** present making and **Natural Skincare** workshop to learn to make your own potions using only simple, natural ingredients with a professional herbalist - lots of goodies to take home!
- **Cup Cake Decorating, Japanese Cookery and Vegan Special Occasion Cookery** one day courses
- **Reiki and Emotional Freedom Technique** courses as well as day of exercises for learning **Confidence Through Drama** to boost your confidence in standing up and speaking out
- **Purse Making and Floral Fabric Accessories** to make stylish and personal items
- **Comic Book Drawing** for adults or for adults with young people to create your very own comic and characters
- **Creative Writing, Oil Painting and Digital Camera techniques**



We are sure that you will find something here to try out for the New Year - all you have to do is ring the office or pop in to see us and make your booking. All staff and parents receive a 10% discount so book now before the courses are full. **WE ALSO OFFER VOUCHERS IF YOU WANT TO GIVE SOMEONE A CLASS FOR A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.**

Have a Very Happy Christmas and a Great Hogmanay—The Community Team

WALL OF ACHIEVEMENT – PE Department

If pupils have performed particularly well in PE, their teacher will display their name, the activity and the reason they have been chosen on our 'Wall of Achievement.' For example; excellent skill level, co-operative team member, most improved player etc are a few reasons why pupils might be chosen. Here are the pupils who have achieved recognition within a particular activity for the first school term.

Well done to all of them!

Gymnastics

- Matthew Heavey S5
- Redmond Barker S4
- Ryan Duthie S4
- Konrad Kantorski S1
- Katherine Thomson S2
- Zara Burgess S1
- Shawn Wilson S1

Swimming

- Ruairidh Groat Hardy S1
- Brook Dougal S1
- Sarah Anderson S1
- Charmaine Kernachan S1
- Andrew Carins S2
- Liam Gallacher S2
- Morven Archibald S1

Aerobics

- Raheema Sayed S3
- Kelsey Black S3
- Dorota Chojnacka S3

Badminton

- Taylor French S4
- Megan Urquhart S3
- Rebecca Clark S3

Dodgeball

- Domantas Kaminstas S2
- Bobby Dickens S3

Rugby

- Lewis Knox S3
- Euan Morton S3

Dance

- Demi Irving S2
- Anna Masko S3
- Inez Blachowicz S2
- Lois Holmes S4

Water Polo

- Connor Henderson S2
- Cameron Fyffe S3
- Khima Gautam S3

Basketball

- Chloe Gault S3
- Peter Liddell S5

Hockey

- Martyna Szer S3
- Mitchell Thorburn S1
- Murray Scott S1
- Chloe Brambrick S1
- Morgan Fullerton S1
- Scott Wren S1

- Kirsty Burgess S3
- Ryan Phillip S3
- Kiara Morrion S3
- Sean Grant S1
- Nicola Hutchinson S3

Football

- Gordon Kinnear S2
- Lewis Lomax S2
- Christy Park S5
- Liam Conaghan S4
- Ryan Philip S3
- Lewis Park S2
- Mikey Wells S3
- Cameron Fyffe S3
- Sam Campbell S3
- Liam Conaghan S4

Military Fitness

- Inez Blachowicz S2

Personal Survival

- David Crawford S2

Fitness

- Darren Dinse S2

Tennis

- Charlie Johnston S3

After School Clubs @ Leith Academy

New Year New You

It's a great time to join an after school sport or physical activity club at Leith Academy

New After School Clubs - 2011

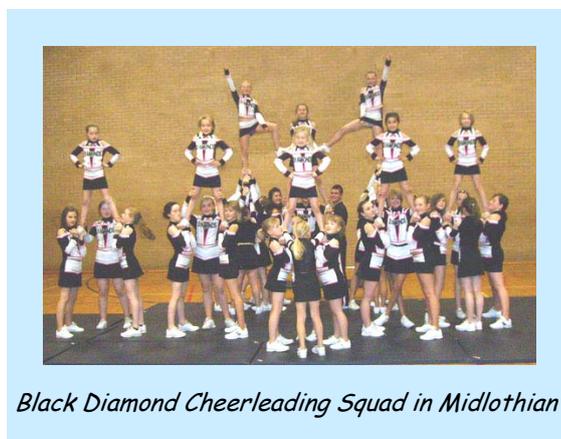
- Boys Fitness including boxing and circuit training
- Bronze Medallion
- Sailing
- Fitness Classes

To sign up - complete an EE2 form and pay £10 for the term

Cheerleading - Black Diamonds

A professional cheerleading squad, 'Black Diamonds' will be training at Leith Academy in the New Year and are really keen to get pupils involved.

This is a great opportunity for Leith Academy to have their own competitive cheerleading squad!
More information to follow in the New Year.



Black Diamond Cheerleading Squad in Midlothian

If you have any questions about any of the above clubs please contact your Active Schools Coordinator
Jessie Dahl on 07884 228 020 or jessie.dahl@ea.edin.sch.uk