

Leith Links

July '12

Headteacher's News

With the academic year 2012-13 having ended, we can look back on another successful year in ever-challenging circumstances. The school has retained a sense of stability in a context of change, most of it coming from beyond the school: Curriculum for Excellence changes and management restructuring to name but two. Despite pressures, staff have continued to give of their best for the pupils in our charge and a growing number of pupils have responded positively to the encouragement to be more aspirational. The Evening of Celebration on 27 June was another occasion where we recognised and rewarded the achievements, commitment and effort of many of our pupils. It was good to have an audience of over 300 people to celebrate their successes with them. The end of term also saw the usual school trips, sports activities, work shadowing placements and, of course, the induction days for new S1 pupils which were held on 20-21 June.

One exciting new development that will begin to take shape in the new session is the Confucius Classroom Hub. The City of Edinburgh applied earlier this year to Hanban, the cultural department of the Chinese Government, for this resource which is essentially a focus for the teaching of Chinese language and culture. (There are some 15 in local authorities across the country already.) The Edinburgh bid was successful and I am pleased to say that Leith Academy has been selected as the site for this classroom hub. This is a recognition of our work already in the area of Mandarin teaching, as highlighted in previous issues of Leith Links, and a sign of confidence in our ability to develop things further. The Authority has appointed a full-time permanent teacher of Mandarin to work across the city and who will be based in Leith. He will ultimately be joined by a Chinese teacher from Tianjin, a city near Beijing that already has links with Edinburgh, and where I myself visited as part of a headteachers' study group at Easter. We would hope to extend exposure to China and Chinese in local primary schools and through our Adult Education Programme.

Among the changes that the school faces is the turnover of staff that we have had and which will mean a larger than usual set of new faces in the new term. Although we have had no retirements at this time, we have nonetheless said goodbye to a number of colleagues whom we thank for their contributions to school and to whom we offer our best wishes for the future: Yvonne Brown (Business Education), Rona MacFarlane (Modern Languages), Susanne Quinn (English), Fiona Rae (SfL); and to those of our probationers who are moving on elsewhere: Fiorenza Kirkwood and Alanna Petrie (English), Sarah Rowson and Lucy Zhang (Modern Languages).

In turn we welcome Claire Withers (English), Kimberley Martin (Geography), Cathy Heads (Business Education), Kim Winning (CDT), Fiona McKay and Julia Liesse (Modern Languages), Shane O'Hagan (Drama), Mairi Logie (SfL) and David Phillips (Computing). We also welcome a probationer teacher for 2012-13 in Simon Ferrie (PE) and we look forward to welcoming back June Stevenson (Business Education) and Lesley McLeish (English).

Changes in the management team and in Pupil Support can be seen in the box at the side of this article. Under the Council's management restructuring timescales, acting positions have been extended until September at which point I should be able to make a longer-term appointment to cover. Heads News continued on page 4



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Useful Contacts

Senior Management Team

Mr J M Simpson - Headteacher

Mr D Peat - DHT

Miss S Cook - DHT

Miss A Bridgeford - Acting DHT

Ms M Peebles - Business Manager

Pupil Support

House Heads

Mrs F Stevenson (Anderson)

Mr O Cook (Barton) - Acting

Ms L Macrae (Cowan) - Acting

Mr G Hansen (Port)

ASL Manager

Ms C Prime

Community Programme Manager

Mrs C Carstairs

Important Dates for Your Diary!

August

7 SQA results issued to pupils
 13 Staff resume (In-Service Day)
 14 In-Service Day
 15 Pupils resume
 20 Adult Class Enrolments begin
 21 (-30) Malawi visitors in Scotland
 24 Sports Fair (S1/S2)
 28 Higher Education Convention (S6)

September

3 S1 Information Evening
 5 S1/S4/Prefects photographs
 10 Adult Classes begin
 LA Council (7.00 pm)
 12 (23) Scottish group to visit Malawi
 14 S4 Inter-House Sports
 17 AUTUMN HOLIDAY
 <<MONDAY TIMETABLE>>
 19 HPV Vaccinations (1)
 20 S6 Photographs
 22 European Languages Week
 24 (w/b)

Wanted

Are there any Library books lurking in the dark recesses of your teenagers rooms?

If there are we would like them back - no questions asked.

Please hand any books you find in to the school office or better still if you can persuade your teenager to put any school books into the

Book Amnesty Box (in the Resource Centre)

We will make sure they are returned to their proper home!

Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies

Joe Monaghan and Darren Millar, having studied Buddhism at Higher level, had the honour of meeting and asking questions of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at The Usher Hall on 22 June 2012.



Leith Academy turn on the style in League success

Leith Academy under 14s has won the Edinburgh Schools' Football Association Division 1 League.

The boys won the league title in an emphatic way beating our closest rivals Portobello 5-2 away from home. The boys lost two very early goals but got back into the game by half time scoring twice before the break. Leith continued the second half scoring early in the half to see off a very strong Portobello team. The team have had a very successful season reaching the league cup final but losing out to the team that we had put out of the Scottish earlier in the season, Newbattle High School. The boys need to look back on a very successful season having not lost a league match, reaching a cup final and losing out to Braidhurst High in the 4th round of the Scottish cup.



Well done to all the boys who participated throughout the season.

Local law firm helps our pupils learn about responsibilities

An education programme which examines the legal system is helping our youngsters understand that laws bring responsibilities as well as rights.

Local law firm, Watermans Solicitors, have nominated our school for The Schools Law & Citizenship Web. We are very grateful for the firm's support.

The programme, which is backed by the Law Society of Scotland, is run by teachers to help schools in practical ways. A key feature of the scheme is the use of current news stories to bring citizenship topics to life in the classroom. The classroom materials also introduce pupils to legal concepts and terms they will encounter later in life.

Neil Waterman, Senior Partner at Watermans, confirmed the firm is happy to participate in the scheme, saying, "Schools depend upon support from their local community and we are happy to play our part by funding this imaginative programme".

Speaking on behalf of the Law Society of Scotland, Director of Education & Training, Liz Campbell, commented, "We are delighted that Watermans have nominated Leith Academy for this imaginative programme which helps break down some of the misconceptions and stereotypes which still persist about lawyers and the work they do."

Project Director, Patrick Gaffney, also thanked Neil Waterman and his colleagues for getting involved. He said, "We can only make a difference in schools with support from the legal community. I am very grateful to both Watermans and the Law Society of Scotland for coming on board."

Nadia Steele - PT Social Subjects



Edinburgh City Schools' Dance Competition



Well done to those who competed in the Edinburgh City Schools Dance Competition. Leith Academy had entries from both junior and senior pupils. The standard across the city was extremely high with some very stiff competition from. Although just missing out on a prize on the day the groups from Leith performed excellently and had a great day out. Well done again!



At the end of May the Modern Languages Department took several groups of 52 Spanish pupils to Tapa on The Shore for a taste of Spain.



We were greeted by a Spanish native waiter who insisted we all spoke in Spanish.

We ordered our food and drinks (in Spanish, of course!) and were delighted with all the delicious dishes that were presented to us.

¡Qué rico! There were **al-bóndigas, patatas bravas, calamares, pollo rebozado, berenjenas con miel, ensalada mixta and pan.**

We pretty much finished everything - but we couldn't resist some **postre - churros con chocolate**. Some people even had two helpings!

Then it was back to school with full bellies. Let's hope there's another trip soon.....

¡Hasta pronto!



"I really enjoyed going to Tapa restaurant. The food was delicious and it was nice to try different food. I probably will come back there because I loved the food and the service was also really good. It was a really good day."

"

The calamari was very nice and so was the chicken."

"I really enjoyed the Tapa restaurant because it was great tasting different food that I'd never tasted before. I would really like to go again."



"It was fun ordering in Spanish. I liked the chicken the best, but the churros were really nice J."

Mrs MacKinnon's 23-month secondment as acting headteacher at Currie Community High School and a permanent appointment as House Head for Cowan (arising from Mrs Fisher's retirement at Christmas). In respect of this latter appointment, Lorna Dewar has elected to return to her substantive role as a PE teacher and Lorna Macrae will fill the post at the start of the new term.

Prefect interviews took place towards the end of June and a new cohort is now in place. The appointment of senior office-bearers, at both school and House level, will be announced in August, following consultations with pupils and staff.

I would not want to end this item on the changes that we have seen in 2012-13 without mentioning Mr Jim Wyllie. You will know by now that sadly he died on 24 April at the age of 53 following a stroke he suffered earlier in the year. Having started at Leith Academy as a CDT teacher in August 1979 some three days before his own 21st birthday, his work here was literally a lifelong calling. An inspirational teacher who connected with young people throughout his 33 years in the school, he is sorely missed both among his colleagues and his pupils. Pupils' reaction to his passing was sincere, genuine and mature. The specially set-up Facebook page where they could pay tribute and their massive attendance at his funeral at Warriston where one of their number delivered a most moving eulogy, spoke volumes for the esteem and regard in which he was held and the impact that he had had on their lives. Their solidarity and their expressions of sympathy, I know, were of huge comfort to Mr Wyllie's family at a very difficult time indeed and showed them in very positive and supportive light that reflects well on them as members of the school community.

I will conclude by hoping that you have a relaxing summer holiday and look forward to the school's rising to the challenges that the new session will bring with the same positivity with which we have handled those in the year just gone.

Leith Academy Parent Council invites you to join us.

These are a few of the 24 parents that have joined us in meetings over the last year, alongside 4 teachers, 2 Councillors and 4 pupils.

Come along to:

- *Meet other parents*
- *Hear about what is happening in the school*
- *Have your say about school issues that are important to you*
- *Support the work of the staff and pupils*

Dates for meetings next year:

- ***Monday 10 September***
- ***Tuesday 13 November***
- ***Wednesday 6 February***
- ***Monday 22 April***
- ***Tuesday 11 June (AGM)***



Community Education

We will start taking enrolments for the Adult Education programme from Monday 13th August and classes start from Monday 10th September.

*We will be offering our usual popular courses - such as **Christmas Cake Decorating, French, Italian, Spanish, Bridge, Pottery, Drawing and Painting, Radio Skills, Natural Remedies, Laughter Therapy, Massage, Guitar, Gujarati Cookery, French Cuisine, Japanese Cookery, Swimming, Fitness** and many more - for people to come back or move up a level, along with some new ones to tempt you - such as **Resin Jewellery** for people who are allergic to metals or would just like something a bit different, **Wooden Toy Making** to create some useful family heirlooms, **Open Office** which is a free computer system to download and use on your computer anywhere any-time, **Digital Art** to help you create cards, surreal photographs and anything else your imagination suggests, **Handbag Making with Hot Water Bottle Covers** for stylish nights out and cosy nights in, **Write a Book in 10 weeks, Geneology and Family History, Mandarin Language** classes including a family one on Saturday mornings, **How to have a professional Home Manicure, Knitting** and a one day **Knit a Panda hat** for a present or for yourself, **Facial Care and Perfect Brows** for you to be able to do at home, **Laughter Therapy, fancy Make Up and Hair** to help you go from a day time glow to night time glam, **Swarovski Angels** for Christmas, **Macaroons and Biscuits, Drawings inspired by Gallery Visits, Comic Book Drawing, Meditation** and others as one day or regular weekly courses.*

Hope to see you after the holidays.

THE BACK PAGE

THE OLYMPIC ISSUE JULY 2012



With the London Olympics just around the corner it was only natural to have an Olympic theme for the summer term. With pupils on exam leave the sporting fixtures and events have been limited BUT..here we have the chance to read about potential future Olympians in our school.

BASKETBALL S1/2

GOLD goes to...

Leith Academy S1/2 Basketball team were crowned champions of the North Edinburgh Basketball League, and remained unbeaten throughout the year. This was the first year this league has been introduced to Edinburgh and to finish as winners is to the credit of not only all players involved but Mrs Millar and the Senior Pupils that helped coach throughout the year. Congratulations! International Honours

Alexander Ferguson and Sean Nealon in S1 have gone on to represent Scotland in Basketball for their age group this year. A huge achievement for both of them. Well Done both!

DANCE

Broughton High School Dance Show

Dance has exploded since Miss Anderson has joined the school and all the hard work in dance practices by pupils was showcased at the Broughton High School Dance Show. Two groups went there with numerous other High Schools across the city.

Olympic Games Show case

Our high school dancers had the opportunity to showcase just how good they are when they did a demonstration at the City of Edinburgh Get Set for the Games Olympic Event. There were huge numbers with 31 primary schools in attendance and many more sporting organisations from across the city. The dance was put together to the music of the Samba band Pulse of the Place, which had a number of our pupils also playing in.

BADMINTON

Leith Academy strike Gold (again!)

Pupils from all ages of the school competed against pupils from Trinity and Craighroyston High School in a singles and doubles badminton festival. After a series of close match ups, and Leith and Trinity both matching one another with wins, Leith Academy narrowly beat Trinity to win overall.

FOOTBALL

Over the course of two very wet Scottish Summer weeks, Mr Enwood and Mr MacKay as well as both girls and boys of the school braved the weather to take part in a charity football event at St Augustines. Not even hail, gale force winds and torrential down-pours could stop them taking part.

Pupils and PE staff had the opportunity to experience the GB Mens Volleyball play their last warm up games before the



Olympics against Belgium. The game was played at the Pleasance Arena, and pupils were lucky to

have front row seats for the match. Belgium finished eventual winners but it was a great experience to see real Olympians and some pupils even had their photo taken with players!

DRAGON BOAT RACE

Tribute to Jim Wyllie

Both Staff and pupils took to the water at Ocean Terminal in

Leith in the annual Dragon Boat Race to raise money for Jim Wyllie's named



charity (RNLI). The team thought it would only be natural to dress in the theme of Leith Academy School uniform. Having never attempted (or trained!) for this event the team came a very credible 10th out of 28 teams. We might even recruit for next year!

CLOSING CEREMONY

A final thank you to all staff, parents, coaches, local clubs and above all the pupils for all their efforts and support for the after school clubs and teams this year. THANK YOU!

Please see the new timetable of After School Activities for August 2012 (blue flyer). **Remember £15 to sign up, and take part in as many after school clubs and teams for the year.**