

Campbeltown Grammar School

News

December 2009



Massive Result for Children in Need



Pupils and staff have so far raised a massive £11,383 for Children in Need on Thursday 19 November. This includes over £600 from the 5-a-side football tournament organised by Campbeltown Soccer Centre and a similar amount from KYES thanks to Phil Edwards' sleep-over in their Main Street offices. Many thanks to the local Co-op for donating bread, cheese and ham for the French café. S6 students organised a huge range of activities during the day and topped it all off with an excellent and well-supported concert in the evening. A coffee morning in Campbeltown Town Hall the previous Saturday contributed around £1200. The total is likely to finish close to £12,000, as cash was still coming in as the newsletter was being prepared, including £250 from the staff and customers of the Numero Dix hair salon and £50 from an anonymous parent.

This superb effort was recognised when CGS was singled out for a special mention by both Nicky Campbell and Jackie Bird, presenters of BBC Scotland's television show on the Friday evening. Letters and emails commending the school for its efforts were received from, among others, Councillor Andrew Nisbet, who represents Helensburgh and Lomond South on the Council. He said, "A quite staggering total collected. Well done to all concerned. They most definitely deserve better buildings!" Jim Mather MSP, Minister for Enterprise Energy and Tourism, wrote, "I am hearing that Campbeltown Grammar School raised over £11,000 for Children in Need. This is a superb effort from a school with only 500 pupils in challenging times. It is a result that will surpass the performance of many much bigger schools both in Scotland and across the UK. As a result, I draw great confidence from your fund-raising success and see it as evidence of wider achievement in community and teaching terms."

Pupils feeling ill during the school day

Once again we have to ask parents to ensure that their children follow the correct procedures if they (the children) begin to feel ill while in school.

Over the recent past we have found that many pupils, mainly girls, are phoning or texting parents to say that they are not feeling well. In some cases their parent has come and picked them up from school but no-one – pupil or parent – has had the courtesy to inform anyone at school about this. The first indication that the pupil has gone missing comes when anomalies in the school register are picked up in the final daily attendance check at period 6. This could cause real problems. For example, if there were to be an emergency which required the evacuation of the school, fire officers would have to be told that these individuals were missing and a search would have to be made of the burning building, at great risk to the fire-fighters. While this is a hypothetical example, these are the procedures that would have to be followed.

The correct action to be taken if a pupil feels ill during the day is for the pupil to ask his/her class teacher for permission to go to the school office. Staff there will take the pupil to the medical room and will assess whether the pupil should be supervised there until well enough to return to class, or sent home. If the decision is taken to send the pupil home, we will contact the parent to arrange this. If your child contacts you directly, as outlined above, please ask him/her to follow the correct procedures. Please **DO NOT** simply make a private arrangement to take the child home without reference to the staff of the school.

Some pupils say they are reluctant to go to the school office as they will simply be sent back to class. This is not the case. Pupils will be sent back to class only if they are genuinely able to do so. Most pupils are in fact keen to continue to attend classes if at all possible. Some have been known to pretend to be ill in order to avoid something they don't like or don't want to do. In either case it is important that they go to the school office as per the procedures outlined above. We want to discharge effectively our duty of care towards them and if we are to do this we need, at all times, to know where they are.

Litter

The school has been working closely with the local Environmental Warden to tackle the issue of pupils dropping litter when out of school at lunchtimes. A number of pupils have been reported for dropping litter and when this happens they are put on a supervision card and banned from leaving the school grounds at lunchtime. Four pupils were dealt with this way during the month of November.

As a school, we take the issue of litter extremely seriously, and regularly brief pupils at assembly about the importance of disposing of their rubbish responsibly. We have had the local Environmental Warden in to hold anti-litter education sessions with entire year groups. Now that we are working towards our first Green Flag – following our great success in gaining Bronze and Silver Eco-School awards – we need to ensure that everyone is doing their bit to tackle this problem.

Parents can help by discussing the issue with litter with their children at home and by reinforcing the need for them to be responsible citizens in this regard. As a school we gain all sorts of plaudits, such as the country-wide praise we received for raising money for Children in Need, for getting above-average results in the SQA exams, or for the successes of our choirs, bands, or sports teams, but it only takes one carelessly discarded cola can to bring all that down and reduce us to the lowest common denominator. Please therefore ensure that your children are well versed in the need to dispose of litter responsibly. We all need to work together on this!

Christmas Concert

Owing to a clash with the annual Panto trip, the School Concert scheduled for Thursday 17 December has been postponed until 4 March. Further details will appear in the next Newsletter.

CGS is officially a 'Fairtrade' school!

Mr Wilson, Principal Teacher of Enterprise, has congratulated the four members of the CGS Fairtrade Steering Group – Jamie Colville, Sally Chute, Caitlin Millar and Jake Sanders - on securing 'Fairtrade' status for the school. The Steering Group was responsible for ensuring that the Fairtrade Foundation's goals were met – writing up and ensuring the school adopted a Fairtrade policy, promoting Fairtrade products and encouraging the teaching of Fairtrade issues across school departments – all backed up with evidence to guarantee a successful outcome. The Fairtrade Team are pictured in action below.



PTSA News

The PTSA would like to say a huge thank you to all those who came along to support our joint primary/secondary St Andrew's Night Ceilidh. Thanks to you the event was a great success, and as well as an entertaining evening and a delicious supper we also made a profit of just over £1200.00! The S6 pupils have generously requested that the great majority of the proceeds go to the primary-secondary transition programme as they were so successful in their own fundraising for Children in Need.

Plans are well underway for our next PTSA event. By popular demand we are organising the **Feel Fit Again in 2010** event on **Friday 5 February 2010**, which with your support can be even bigger and better than last year! Perfect timing to give those New Year resolutions a boost!

It is always good to have new members to help with PTSA activities – next meeting in the New Year.

Parents ~ Teachers ~ Students ~ All welcome!

Health and Wellbeing - World Aids Day

It was World Aids Day on 1 December. Students throughout the school have been encouraged this week to broaden their personal knowledge on HIV, the focus of World Aids Day being "HIV - it's everyone's business". Competitions were held during registration (£10 gift vouchers were won by quiz winners Amy McIntyre, S3, and Hannah Shaw, S5) and the subject discussed at House assemblies. On Friday we were pleased to welcome Laura Stephenson from NHS Highland to deliver a presentation to S5 pupils and also participate, along with some local NHS colleagues, in the Healthy Me lunchtime drop-in. The school remains most appreciative of the input made from NHS Highland in assisting with on-going health promotion within the school.

MAKE YOUR MARK CHALLENGE – REGIONAL FINALS



Four Higher Business Management pupils reached the Regional Finals of the national Make Your Mark Challenge, a competition held during Global Enterprise Week. The panel of judges liked their concept of combining two local products and services together (Springbank Whisky and the Kintyre Way) to become *Whisky on the Way*, a tourist walking tour enabling participants to sample some of Springbank's finest whisky. Unfortunately they could not attend the next round in Glasgow, but they managed to record their Dragon's Den style 'pitch' on video and send it to the finals. They are awaiting the results.

In the photo, John Bateman, Jacqueline Brown, Hannah Shaw and Jamie Colville show off their *Whisky on the Way* idea.

Home Economics News

On Friday 4 December, the Argyll and Bute heat of Futurechef was held in the Grammar School. Pupils travelled from Rothesay, Dunoon and Lochgilphead to join the home contestant, Natasha Lee of S4. Natasha's menu was Marsala-spiced, locally-landed monkfish with red lentils, pickled carrots and coconut, followed by Cinnamon Crème Brulee with apple crisps and Granny Smith jus.

Everyone had a most enjoyable day, made all the more so for Natasha when it was announced that she was the winner of the contest! The runner-up was Fraser MacNicol of Lochgilphead. The judges were Katherine McGlynn local Coordinator for Springboard, Flora Grant of the Ardshiel Hotel, Campbeltown, and our own senior depute, Mr Michael Casey.

Natasha has also been commissioned – later in the month – to cook for a local dinner party, for which she has already raised £100 for Children in Need.

On 15 December, Mr Stephen Hampson of the Argyll Hotel, Bellochantuy, is coming in to make seafood dishes with our S3 hospitality group. We are also hoping to have Hughie McAllister (of recent Hairy Bikers TV fame) delivering fresh, locally caught produce to be cooked on the day.

Liam and Kevin represent Scotland in Germany



Kevin and Liam are pictured (both on extreme left) with the Scottish Drum Majors who took part in the Fulda Military Tattoo in Germany recently.

Liam and Kevin Renton, Pipe Majors with the Kintyre Schools Pipe Band traveled to Fulda in Germany recently to take part in the Fulda Military Tattoo 2009. Fulda is a small town around an hour away from Frankfurt and the tattoo, which was on 13 and 14 November, takes place in the town's 5000-capacity Esperanto Arena.

This year, the tattoo featured the Drum Majors' Challenge, the largest ever display of Scottish Pipe Band Drum Majors on stage in a single performance, a spectacle never before seen at a tattoo anywhere in the world with more than 10 nations taking part, including, Scotland, England, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, Holland, France and the United States of America. The colourful show featured World, Scottish, British, European and Champion of Champion Drum Majors.

The Drum Major Challenge was coordinated by Drum Major Billy Jordan, currently the 2009 European Champion and Drum Major of the Dumbarton & District Pipe Band. Along with Billy were Liam and Kevan, Paula Braiden, Brian Wilson, Andrew Symon and Iona Burns. The routine which the group used had been practised for weeks in advance and many of the flourishes used were new to a number of the Drum Majors, including Liam and Kevan. They were joined by another 40 Drum Majors (creating a St Andrews Cross) and the Lothian and Borders Police Pipe Band to bring together the most spectacular show of Scottish pipe band drum majors. The group thoroughly enjoyed their 6-day trip and along with all the others, Liam and Kevin are already thinking about next year!

Senior Pupils take Sports Leader qualification



Fiona Galbraith pictured leading her session watched by Jillian Gibson of Active Schools.

On Monday 30 November, 17 senior students completed the Community Sports Leaders Day Award held in the Victoria Hall. This course was organized through Active Schools and the PE Department and uses the medium of sport to help people learn essential skills such as working with and organising others, as well as motivational, communication and teamwork skills.

A Sports Leader Award is a nationally recognized qualification and can help towards future employment or education. A number of students who completed the course will be involved helping in our associated Primary Schools in the New Year with an after school club programme.



Everyone who took part received a free Sports Leader hoodie embroidered with the school badge.

Remember!

No coloured, fizzy drinks in school please!

Water only!!

House Charities

In an initiative started by the school's Student Council, members of the four Houses have been voting on the charities they will be supporting in the coming year. Children in Need is the big, high-profile cause, of course, but we also raise funds for other charities and this year it was felt that it would be good for the pupils to be able to find out more about the causes they were supporting. Each Registration class put forward its own suggestions, then each House held a vote to decide which of the suggestions would be adopted as the House charity for the year. The following were the charities selected this year.

Bengullion	Make a Wish Foundation
Davaar	Help for Heroes
Kilbrannan	Red Cross
Knockscalbert	Royal Hospital for Sick Children (Yorkhill)

Each House will choose a new charity every year.

Christmas Parcels

Pupils in their Registration groups are gearing up to fill the Christmas boxes which we deliver every year to elderly members of the communities served by the school. 120 boxes are filled with goodies of all sorts and are delivered by the pupils with the school's best wishes. This year the deliveries will be made on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December. Classes have raised money among themselves to pay for the items placed in the boxes.

Visit by Council Executive

We told you in the October newsletter that CGS had not made it into the group of secondary schools to be given new buildings as part of the Scottish Government's funding initiative. Since then it has emerged that only one of the 14 schools chosen for new builds is in as bad condition as CGS. All of the other 13 were graded B or C for building condition, whereas this school is graded D. Argyll and Bute Council's preference is for a new-build, stand-alone secondary for Campbeltown. However, under the previous system this was not affordable. Attempts are now being made to see how funding might be secured to make a new school possible.



In recent months we have had numerous visits by officials and elected members. The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay area committee visited the school to see things for themselves. The new Chief Executive of the Council, Sally Loudon, has visited. On 19 November, following a meeting in the town, the entire Executive Committee of the Council was here and saw at first hand the situation we have to cope with in heavy rain. Water was steadily dripping into the PE department and a number of other areas, and the car park was flooded. Many of the councillors were quite shocked by what they saw.

At the end of last week, local MSP Jim Mather called at the school and discussed the situation with Mr Crossan before being shown around some of the more problematic areas. It is hoped that, as a result of these visits and the evidence gathered about the state of our buildings, a fresh initiative may now be made to secure funding for a new school.

Christmas Concert Postponement – please remember!

The School Concert scheduled for Thursday 17 December has been postponed until Thursday 4 March.

Dates to note this month

Thursday 10 December	S5/6 Interim Reports issued.
Tuesday 15 December	S4 Prelim exams end.
Thursday 17 December	Delivery of Christmas parcels.
Friday 18 December	Delivery of Christmas parcels.
Monday 21 December	Pupils' Christmas Dance 7.30 – 10.30 pm.
Tuesday 22 December	Junior School Christmas Service Senior School Christmas Service Christmas Extravaganza 1.30 pm School dismisses for holidays 2.30 pm.
Wednesday 6 January	School re-opens.
Monday 18 January	S5/6 Prelim exams start.
Friday 29 January	S5/6 Prelim exams end.
Friday 5 February	Next issue of Newsletter. 'Feel Fit Again in 2010' event (PTSA)

Late News

We apologise for the late arrival of the December newsletter, which was the result of circumstances beyond our control.

Keeping in touch

Parents are welcome to be in touch with the school about any matter at any time.
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