



## ANDREW'S WEEKLY ROUNDUP

Believe, Achieve



28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Families

I hope you have all had a good week. Here at Sciennes we have all been busy enjoying learning and having fun too! A perfect combination.

Primary 1 to 3 had their assembly on Monday afternoon. They built on their work on what makes them unique and they heard the story of The Lion Inside where the children learned that they all have their own inner special roar!

I attended a Leadership Conference at Murrayfield Stadium on Monday morning. We heard presentations from senior leaders in the council including our Chief Executive, Andrew Kerr. It was a good opportunity to meet with colleagues across the communities and families division and discuss how we can all work together to make our council the best it can be. On Monday afternoon I attended a Leadership Learning Partnership meeting with the Head Teacher from Gracemount Primary, the Acting Head Teacher from Carrick Knowe Primary and a Quality Improvement Education Officer (QIEO.) We each presented our attainment story for our school and we then discussed and agreed action points for the way forward. I then shared this with the teaching staff at Sciennes at a training session after school on Tuesday. The South East Locality Council Committee met on Monday evening at the City Chambers and Laura Bird and Phoebe Cochrane from our parent council and Lucy Gallagher our DHT attended and spoke about the progress made so far towards eventually closing Sciennes Road to create an extended playground for our school. We were very grateful that they were able to attend.

On Tuesday I met with Stuart Irvin the Parish Minister at St Catherine's Argyle and we discussed using the church at Christmas and Easter for our assemblies. Primary 4 will also visit the church as part of their studies later in the year. We were delighted to welcome back our fabulous and highly engaging Patron of Reading, author Janis Mackay who worked with our three Primary 5 classes on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Janis told the children how she became a writer and where she got the inspiration for some of her stories. Children then took part in writing activities including time travel and attempting a novel! Quotes included "inspiring me to write my own book" by Poppy and "I wrote for 25 minutes last night" by Sofia. The children are also enjoying Janis' "The Accidental Time Traveller" as their class novel. We are really grateful to the Scottish Book Trust for fully funding all these creative writing workshops. Ms Anstruther, Ms Gallagher and I met on Tuesday to discuss the abbreviated parent version of our standards and quality report from last year and our improvement priorities for this year. Look out for this next week! I enjoyed our meeting so much

that I almost forgot that I was going out on Tuesday evening to see Joan Armatrading at The Usher Hall. We made it just in time and I am glad we did as she was amazing!

Primary Seven pupils took part in Clean Air Day in June last session (when they were in P6,) causing quite a stir as they marched and sang on the Mound and George Street, placards in hand! Their placard designs were entered into a competition organised by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). Three designs were selected by SEPA's Principal Air Scientist Dr Colin Gillespie to be made into full scale banners. The winning designs were by Isha, Caela, Jamie-Lee, Parzana, Ivy, Phoebe, Essie, Sophia and Niamh. On Wednesday, Colin was joined by Councillor Lesley McInnes (Transport and Environment Convener) to announce the winners in a special presentation. I had the honour of reading out the winners. The Evening News took photographs of P7 with the banners. Look out for photographs from the press call! The banners will be displayed in rotation on the school railings! Congratulations to all P7 pupils in their campaign efforts for better air quality not just in our bid to close the road in front of the school but also to tackle pollution in the city and beyond. We are very excited that UNICEF took note and invited Sciennes to feature in photographs, quotes and interviews for their UK wide toxic air campaign. Please consider signing up to show your support.

[www.unicef.org.uk/clean-air-child-health-air-pollution/](http://www.unicef.org.uk/clean-air-child-health-air-pollution/)

On Thursday I had great fun working with Primary 3C in PE. We did some warm up activities including dancing to 80's pop classics (my idea!) then we moved on to ball skills (their idea!) The children were great and were able to evaluate their learning and how to improve it. Thankfully they didn't apply the same theory to my dancing! I also really enjoyed spending time with Primary 7B in the digital learning suite. They were showing me the individual PowerPoints they had created. The children had devised their own success criteria on which their presentation would be judged and they gave formative feedback to each other. I was super impressed with their skill and knowledge. I also experienced a first!.... a powerpoint on socks by Ivy! It was just great. I never knew there were so many different types of socks! Primary 3A have been reading George's Marvellous Medicine and linking it with writing instructions. On Thursday they made their own Marvellous Medicine in class using lots of unusual ingredients. They were very keen to tell me about this in the playground. They even tried a spoonful when it was made and thankfully nobody grew and grew like Grandma in the story! Peel Primary school in Livingston came to Sciennes on Thursday to look at our playground. They are at the early stages of planning their new playground and the depute head and two members of their parent council wanted to see ours in action. Planning, benefits and the management of our playground were discussed and they left with lots to think over and take back to Peel Primary. I would like to thank Laura Bird for helping with this.

We also have a very exciting addition to our playground. In October 2017, Kirsty McCarter from Sustrans contacted our school about a hugely exciting project to support Sciennes' Active Travel initiatives. Our school was identified for this project due to its high rate of cycling, walking and scooting and its continued commitment to health and wellbeing. Sustrans offered to provide our pupils with a 'Wee Hub' which is a bicycle maintenance station consisting of a free-standing pump and an information panel. Last year, in collaboration with Graeme Raeburn from Sculpture and Design Ltd, Sustrans devised and delivered activities with our former JRSOs (Essie, Lyall and Anna) and representatives from the ECO Group (Max, Ellie and Matthew) to enable them to design a Wee Hub that is unique to our school. Graeme and the team from Sustrans worked over the summer to produce a prototype which was installed in the playground last week. The children have been delighted to see their designs and ideas transformed into an eye-catching info-graphic panel. It will also be great for keeping our bike tyres inflated! We would like to thank Sustrans for this wonderful opportunity for the school and pupils to participate in the development of a national project. We are

extremely proud that, although many further installations are planned, this is the first of its kind in Scotland. Well done Sciennes!

At Friday's P4-7 Assembly September we celebrated Global Goals Week for the third time since their launch in 2015. We looked at what action is already taking place at Sciennes to support the Sustainable Development Global Goals (SDGs) and how we can take further action. We also spoke to the children about how they can help improve our school. This session we are trialling Learner Participation groups in P4-7 and we invited all children to take part in one of six school improvement groups, linked to our school improvement plan. Committees will be formed for each of the six groups who will meet with lead teachers throughout the year while the wider body of about sixty pupils in each group will meet together a few times throughout the year. The older children will also work with P1-P3 to seek their views.

Primary 3 came up with the suggestion that they would like us to collect food over the next 2 weeks to donate to a local foodbank to help those in need. They want us to tie this in with our Harvest assembly. I think this is a great idea! They mentioned it at assembly today and they will go around classes next week to remind children. Primary 3 are very excited to be leading this project. They would love it if you could all donate some non-perishable food items. Some recommended items are; UHT milk, tinned custard, tinned vegetables, tinned rice pudding, soups, jam, coffee, tea, fruit juice (long life), pasta sauce, chocolate and sweeties. These can be sent in to school from next week. I thank you in advance for your compassion and generosity.

I have attached a communication from Fran Armour, our new Events and Fundraising organiser! It would be wonderful if you could join us on Wednesday and offer your support. We really do need it and really do appreciate it!

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Hi All,

Let me introduce myself, I'm Fran Armour and my daughter Bella Thompson is in P5A. This year I am organising the Events and Fundraising Group (EFG) at Sciennes. This group has two main duties within the school; to organise social events for our children and young people and to raise additional funds for the school.

Past fundraising has gone towards the purchase of new iPads, playground improvement, cycling lessons as well as a whole host of important opportunities for the children. Parent Council funds also go towards providing trips and subsidising school camps and helping raise equality of opportunity for all children in the school.

We are incredibly lucky to have a very supportive parent body at Sciennes but times are tough and budgets at local level are becoming increasingly tighter and so we need your support to help maximise the opportunities for children at Sciennes.

I would like to ask for volunteers to come forward to help form a core group to help me organise fundraising events and initiatives for the next academic year. **The first meeting of the EFG group will be on Wednesday 3rd of October at 7:30pm at The Royal Dick Bar in Summerhall.** As a member of this group your time commitment will only consist of attendance at 6 meetings throughout the year with additional volunteer hours at each event. We have two large events, our winter and summer fairs. With your help we can make this a bumper year for fundraising at Sciennes.

If you are interested in being a part of the group or at any of the events. Please email me at [scienneseventsfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:scienneseventsfundraising@gmail.com) as soon as you can.

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It was wonderful to have good weather once more for our September family cycle to school day. Thank you to the children and adults who took part. It really is a fantastic initiative. I was out of school first thing this morning so I missed the grand arrival. I will take part soon...ish!

Ms Gallagher and I are off to Carrick Knowe Primary this afternoon as they are hosting a city-wide Assessment and Moderation course and we are interested to hear the latest thinking in this area. Then it will be the weekend. I am looking forward to meeting former colleagues tomorrow in North Berwick for a dog walk on the beach followed by much deserved coffee and cake for us humans and liver cake for the pooches.

I do hope you enjoy your weekend.

Andrew

## Key Dates



### Key dates

Book Fair Week

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct Parent Consultations 4pm-7pm

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct Events and Fundraising Meeting Summerhall 7.30pm-8.30pm

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Oct Flu Vaccinations in Hall

Sustrans Wee Hub Bicycle Maintenance Station photocall

Parent Consultations 4pm-7pm

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> 10am - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm October P7 at Lagganlia