



SCIENNES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ANDREW HUNTER

Headteacher

1 February 2019

Diary Dates:

Monday 4 - Friday 8 February. P6 at Benmore Outdoor Centre.

Monday 4 February P7 Basketball at Craggs Hope Trust Trophy

Tuesday 5 February Chinese New Year.

Tuesday 5 February Internet Safety Day

Tuesday 5 February Andrew to talk to Grange Association. 7pm St. Catherine's Argyle Church.

Thursday 7 February, Parent Council Meeting at 7pm

Thursday 7 February P7 Cluster Tennis at Meadows

Friday 8 February Swimming Gala Trials

Friday 8 February - Break up for mid term

Monday 18 February - All return to school.

Dear Families

It is a Double Roundup! Last week was so busy that it didn't quite make it to print!

Over the past two weeks so much has been happening in school. We were joined on the 21st of January by Rachel Fraser and Alba Caideron who are both PGDE students from The University of Edinburgh. Rachel is with Ms Walker in P4 and Alba is with Ms French in P5. They are with us until the 1st of March. I'm sure they will have a great time at Sciennes and learn lots. I also met with the Facilities and Buildings subgroup of the Parent Council and we discussed the maintenance of the playground. We shall meet together with the Playground Team from the council at a later date.

I attended a National Improvement Framework Day on the 22nd with all Primary Head Teachers. The draft Inclusion Framework for Edinburgh was launched at this event and we were given an opportunity to read it and provide feedback.

We had a fabulous Burns/Scots assembly on the 25th January, full of poetry and music....including that famous Burns inspired song....erm "Shang a Lang" by The Bay City Rollers! The children and the adults loved it! I am obviously too young to remember it. In the afternoon we had a teacher training session where I introduced the frameworks that makes up the Edinburgh strategy called Edinburgh Learns. This covers seven different frameworks in Equity, Health and Wellbeing, Learning Together (parental engagement),

Teaching and Learning and Pathways (to Develop the Young Workforce, Quality Improvement and Inclusion). These are part of the council strategy to Raise Attainment for All. We then carried out a Health and Wellbeing audit based on the wellbeing indicators of being Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible and Included. The analysis from this will feed into the Health and Wellbeing section of our Improvement Plan for session 2019/2020. The enthusiasm and really good discussion really made the afternoon stimulating, productive and fun.

In the evening I enjoyed a vegan Burns supper with friends in the country....The Address To The Haggis was still blood thirsty though!

This week has been very cold. It was so cold that first thing on Monday morning we thought the heating in school had failed but no....it was just very cold! The children have loved playing outside despite this and I am pleased that the children are also getting the opportunity to get across to the nature strip. We want to give them more opportunities to use it as it is a brilliant addition to our playground.

Primary 6C helped interview candidates for two jobs at the Children's Parliament. The class interviewed the candidates on Monday and Tuesday of this week, after a training morning the Friday before. The class learned a lot of interview skills and got to think about what skills someone needs to work with children. The staff from The Children's Parliament were very impressed with our children's creativity along with their gravitas at contributing towards such an important task.

On Tuesday, I attended the Cluster Head Teacher meeting at James Gillespie's High School. We discussed Modern Languages, Primary 7 Transition, Homework and Digital Technology. It was really interesting to hear what is happening in other schools and sharing our ideas in these areas.

Our English as an Additional Language (EAL) teacher, Aisling Groarke left to take up a full time class teacher post at Preston Street Primary. We shall miss her as she has been such a support to our children but we wish her all the very best. Our new EAL teachers are Olga Hunter and Susan Currie. Ms Gallagher, Ms Anstruther and I met with them this week.

In November, we were invited to develop a musical science resource with Lewis Hou, of 'Science Ceilidh'. The STEM resource uses music and dance to explain neuroscience, culminating in a performance piece. As part of the project, some children in P7B were filmed during a Science Ceilidh session in school, to use in an instructional DVD for other schools and teachers. The project was fully funded by the Youth Music Initiative, and will be distributed to each primary and special school in Edinburgh. On Thursday 31st January Lewis kindly invited ten of our P7B pupils to take part in the launch of the DVD at Dynamic Earth. Our pupils shone brightly in their demonstration of the dance they learned from Lewis. They were then magnificently confident leading the delegation of more than eighty teachers and educators in designing their own creative, scientific dance moves!

Three more sleeps for our P6 children heading to Benmore next week. Wrap up warmly everyone! Ms Gallagher, Ms Anstruther, Miss McGrouther, Mr Hutchison, Mr Mitchell, Mrs Lucy Walker and Mrs Kat Ross are really looking forward to going with the children on the trip.

Just a reminder that I shall be talking at The Grange Association at St Catherine's Argyle Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5 February. The theme is Sciennes School: Past, Present and Future and I shall be joined by pupils from The Gender Equality Pupil Group.

I do hope you have a good weekend and that this lovely cold yet sunny weather remains. I do not want snow as that may hamper my EMF Relay training! Thanks to those parents who have volunteered and we will get back to you next week. There is still time to put your name forward. Just drop me an email to the address below!

Andrew

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