



17 May 2019

Dear Families

It has been a bit of an odd week for me as I have only been in the school building on one day!

On Monday, I attended a full day Health and Safety training session at James Gillespie's Primary School. This was very interesting and it was good to have time to really consider what should go in a risk assessment and when we should use them. I shall go over this with the teachers in the new term.

PC Amy Fowler gave an excellent presentation on Internet Safety to P7 and she loved the wonderful drawings she received from P1. PC Fowler mentioned Tik Tok, a social media tool we alerted families to last year because it can enable access to inappropriate content

Congratulations to our fantastic P7 Netball team who have successfully reached the Edinburgh Final of the EPSSA Summer Tournament. Many thanks to coaches Lisa Green and Ms Daryl Gladstone.

In the evening, I attended a Parent Council group meeting to discuss the creation of a questionnaire for parents. Look out for this soon.

What wonderful weather for the Primary Sevens to enjoy the outdoor space of The Meadows at lunchtimes and for P3 to begin their cycle training adventures! Many thanks to Miss McGrouther, Mr Robertson and all our cycle trainers for organising. P1a/b enjoyed using the balance bikes in the playground. They enjoyed it so much we are going to make it a weekly activity as part of their Health and Wellbeing.

On Tuesday, I attended the final Edinburgh Primary Head Teacher Association (EPHTA) meeting of the year. We covered topics as varied as Additional Support for Learning, Standardised Tests, English as an Additional Language, Dyslexia and Literacy Guidelines and we bid farewell to Eileen Littlewood, Head Teacher at Forthview Primary who is retiring at the end of the school session. Our very good friend Scott Loudon, Evening News photographer, gave us some exciting news on Tuesday when he invited four of our P7 pupils - Anna Nimmo, Finn Elliot, Jamiee Kirk and Aidan Andi - to feature on the cover of this year's Evening News Top Class P7 supplement! Scott returned on Wednesday to photograph all three P7 classes for the special edition. Look out for an email explaining how and when to get hold of

copies. The weather was so good in the evening that at home we had a bbq in the garden. It felt naughty on a school night!

I attended a Supported Self Evaluation at The Royal Mile Primary School on Wednesday. This involved observing Learning and Teaching in the school and meeting with staff and pupils to help validate the school's self evaluation. In the afternoon, the teachers at Sciennes attended the first of two training sessions looking at how we support children with English as an Additional Language. In the evening, Ms Gallagher, Mr Hutchison and I went to Meggetland to watch P7 boys playing football in the Inspector's Cup. They played extremely well and were undefeated in their matches. They narrowly missed out on reaching the quarter finals with other results going against them. They were an absolute credit to the school and their coaches and they displayed outstanding teamwork.

On Thursday, we welcomed back Rob Cockroft, Support for Learning Specialist at James Gillespie's High School who, along with Leanne McQuade has been effectively supporting our P7 Transition arrangements this term. Families will soon receive an email inviting them to attend an evening presentation at JGHS on Monday 17th June and further information about Transition to S1 can be found on our website:

<https://sciennesprimaryschool.com/school-places/p7-to-s1-transition/>

In the evening, we welcomed Mollie Hughes to Sciennes. Mollie gave us an inspirational, informative, humorous and terrifying talk about her experience at being the youngest woman to climb both the North and South faces of mount Everest by the age of 26! It was a great evening, attended by many parents and older children with many interesting questions being asked. Many thanks to parent Susan Dunlop for organising this. All funds raised from the sale of the tickets will be used to support Health and Wellbeing in the school.

On Friday, Hopscotch Theatre Company were at Sciennes to give a performance of 'Cyberbuddy', a thoroughly engaging way to help our P4-P7 pupils think about Internet Safety.

Mollie Hughes made a welcome return to give her presentation to P5-P7 pupils. I attended the Health and Safety Conference for all senior leaders in the council at The Assembly Rooms. Health and Safety being the responsibility of all was a key theme.

A reminder that Monday is a holiday and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 21st May when we will be joined by some very special visitors from UNICEF, in celebration of our Golds Rights Respecting Schools Award and in recognition of our pupils' campaigning on Toxic Air. Please consider signing the UNICEF campaign petition below, featuring P7 pupil Carys Gillespie and reading the attached report which features many of our pupils.

<https://act.unicef.org.uk/page/29595/petition/1?locale=en-GB>

<https://downloads.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Healthy-Air-for-Every-Child-A-Call-for-National-Action-1.pdf>

We also attach a report on Active Travel at Sciennes, written in support of all the incredible hard work undertaken by Kirstin Unger, Laura Bird and Phoebe Cochrane in submitting a funding application to Sustrans to progress the permanent road closure of Sciennes Road.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/q70nl1o7yxpmsl9/Sciennes%20Primary%20Engagement%20and%20Behaviour%20Change.docx?dl=0>

On Wednesday 22nd May we will host another exciting visitor. Keep an eye on our Twitter feed when all will be revealed.

The next meeting of the Parent Carer Support Group is next Tuesday 21st May 5.15pm in the SFL base.

Please remember to keep the date for the Summer Fair on Saturday 1st May from 12-2.30. The theme is The Year of Green Action.

Finally, thank you to those of you who have sponsored the Hairy Haggis Runners so far. Here is the link to the Just Donate page

- <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/sciennesmf2019/492573> Many thanks for your support on behalf of the runners and the children.

Have a super long weekend.

Andrew

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