



4 October 2019

Dear Families

October has arrived and suddenly it appears very dark in the morning! We have had a really varied week in school and it was so nice to see you all at Parent Consultations.

On Monday afternoon, the P7 team met with pupils to let them know their dormitories for their forthcoming trip to Lagganlia Outdoor Education Centre Monday 7th October- Friday 11th October. Follow their adventures on our Lagganlia 2019 blog:

<https://scienneslagganlia2019.home.blog>

I attended the Edinburgh Primary Head Teacher Association day on Tuesday. It is such a privilege to be able to work with the other 87 primary head teachers across the city. We learned more about Additional Support for Learning Referrals, Procurement and Developing the Young Workforce. The latter is an area that we at Sciennes are keen to develop further in school and it will be one of our school priorities for session 2020/21.

On Tuesday and Thursday we welcomed families to Parent Consultations. The teachers had been really looking forward to meeting with you all and to share your child's learning with you. Almost every child had a family member present. Thank you for your support and keen interest in how your child is getting on in school. Your support makes a difference to your child's learning and it also helps make this job even more rewarding. If you were unable to make an appointment or were unable to attend on the evening, we will be in touch to work out a suitable time. I would also like to say thank you to the Parent Council ( and some excellent pupils!) who helped serve the refreshments and the school badges. Thank you to the parents who completed our feedback form. Once, I have analysed them I will give you a summary of what you said.

All of the Primary 3 classes visited Pizza Express over the past couple of weeks. They all had a great time, even when one of the restaurants forgot we were coming! On that particular visit we were very grateful to Fiona Dow and Mrs Tariq for organising the restaurant, mopping the floors and helping with pizza making! They went above and beyond! The final class to visit were P3D and they went to the Morningside branch on Wednesday. The children were warmly welcomed to the restaurant and they learned to make pizza. They also learned how different herbs and spices are used to enhance the flavour of foods. The visit was highly

interactive, and the children and adults really enjoyed the trip. I received a gift of a freshly made pizza, so my tofu curry remained in the staff room fridge for another day! Thanks to all the parents for their help.

On Wednesday, Ms Gallagher attended an ICT Co-ordinator meeting at Wester Hailes Education Centre. These termly meetings are a great way to meet up with colleagues in the city to share approaches to digital learning.

Kristofer, Ben, Calum, Rebecca and Eddie from P7a all attended the Hearts Expo on Wednesday. The children wrote this piece for you:

First, when we arrived we entered the temporary changing room and put our boots on. Next we were told what the plan was by Graham ( the guy who organised it). After that, we went out onto the community pitch and played a bunch of 3v3 matches against Cramond, Royal High and Bonaly. We all played very well. We then got a few photos altogether with the stadium in the background. We went into the changing room and got changed into trainers. We then got taken around the stadium. We saw the pitch, the new home and away dressing rooms, the new main stand and we met club legend Gary Lock. Kristofer, Calum and Ben forgot to bring their trainers and did the stadium tour in their socks! Becca and Eddie remembered their trainers!

We had so much fun playing against other schools. Thank you for the opportunity.

On Thursday the NHS nursing staff were in school administering Flu vaccinations to families who wished their child to be vaccinated. They are visiting schools all across Edinburgh.

On Friday at Assembly, we launched our Junior Award Scheme for Schools (JASS) for P6 and P7 pupils. JASS is a Duke of Edinburgh style award for 10-14 year olds and stemmed from an original idea by Sciennes staff! Today it is an international programme, recognising young people's personal achievements. Pupils can gain Bronze in P6 and Silver in P7 (with Gold achievable by the end of S2). All our pupils attending Lagganlia next week will gain accreditation for one quarter of the award, the 'Adventure' element. P7A Lauder pupils shared their memories of Benmore and what they are looking forward to at Lagganlia.

I attended a meeting today with Parent Council and wider parent representation along with Robbie Crockatt (School Estate Planning Manager) and Julie Kelly (Learning/Estate Planning Officer). This was the first meeting to look at some options for Sciennes Primary and our capacity/building issues. It was a very open meeting with lots of discussion and it is great to have started the consultative process.

Many girls from Sciennes P1 to P7 were part of an amazing ballet production of Cinderella by the Grange School of Ballet at the Churchill Theatre last weekend. The girls all worked so hard and the show was excellent!

Some children are bringing Pokemon and similar cards to school. Unfortunately, this has led to upset for a few children during the swapping process. Please can you remind children not to bring them into school if this will cause upset.

Mrs Beth Walker, P.E. Specialist, retires on Tuesday 8th October after 15 years of dedicated service as a PE teacher at Sciennes. Mrs Walker was also our Swimming Teacher since 1997 and she organises a vast array of EPSSA (Edinburgh Primary Schools Sports Association) events for the city such as Cross Country, Sportshall Athletics, Basketball, Interscholastics and Swimming Gala. Mrs Walker has also organised and led our annual upper school Sports Days and has attended a multitude of after school events over the years, particularly lending

her support behind the scenes to all the P4 Scots Nights and P7 Leavers' Dances. She will be sorely missed but we hope she thoroughly enjoys an entirely deserved rest and remains in contact.

Have a great weekend.

Andrew

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