

# Whitehill Secondary

## newsletter

### Parents -

Help us improve Whitehill. Remember the ABOUT code and check that your son or daughter brings the school diary, uniform and a bag to school.

## BRIDGETON BURNS CLUB ANNUAL SCHOOLS COMPETITION: WHITEHILL SUCCESS!

Pupils outside of  
Burns Cottage



**Eight** S1 pupils and two S3 pupils entered Bridgeton Burns Club 2000 Schools' Newsdesk Competition. For this competition, pupils had to prepare a submission in the form of a newspaper article as it might have appeared two hundred years ago in Burns' time.

S1 /S2 pupils were asked to write an account of the events, on Tam's journey home from the inn, from "Tam O'Shanter."

The senior pupils' task was to write a newspaper article with the headline - "Driver defends himself on speeding charges by claiming toothache" - based on Burns' poem "Address to the Toothache."

The adjudicator, a recently retired Secondary Headteacher, praised the efforts of all the Whitehill pupils, complimenting the pupils on the high quality of their work. **Kimberley Thomson** of class 1.6 was the winner of the James B. MacWilliam Trophy which is awarded to the best entry from all the primary and secondary age groups. At the annual concert in the Shettleston Hall on 2nd February, not only will Kimberley be awarded

with this magnificent trophy, but she will also receive a silver medal and a cash prize as well! Just behind Kimberley, in second place, was **Shaneese Robinson** also of class 1.6, and in third place was **Joao Magalhaes** of class 1.5. Shaneese and Joao will receive certificates and cash prizes. **Stephanie Hay** of class 1.3 will receive a **Highly Commended** certificate.

**Kimberley Fitzpatrick** of class 3.2 was the worthy winner of the Senior Pupils' competition, with **Natalie Nimmo** of class 3.5 being a close runner up.

This was Whitehill's first appearance in the Bridgeton Burns Club Schools Competition for several years. The S1 pupils are all members of Miss Gray's lunchtime Creative Writing Club. As part of their preparation for the competition, Miss Gray organised a trip to Alloway one Saturday in November. The group enjoyed the visit to Burns' Cottage and to the "Tam O'Shanter Experience" - a visit which clearly paid dividends! Many thanks to Miss Gray for her support and encouragement for these talented writers.







# An Interview with Adrian Hood, the Whitehill Sports Co-ordinator

Adrian Hood was appointed Sports Co-ordinator for Whitehill in September 1998. This position was made possible by funding from the SportScotland Lottery Fund.

**Q. Adrian, what does your job entail ?**

**A** The main aim is to increase the level of participation in extra curricular sport - also to try to develop links between the school and exterior sporting clubs so that sport just doesn't finish when the kids leave school so that there's something that they can go on with to keep active. It's good when you get pupils who progress to representative level but the elitist element isn't the main focus within the school. It's sport for everyone.

**Q What sort of sports activities does Whitehill offer ?**

**A** Obviously the most popular one is football. We have four boys' teams. We've also got a girls football team. We have a basketball club which is mixed age group and mixed- ability for boys and girls. We've got a very popular badminton club. We have staff who have an interest in these activities and that's why they run. I appreciate greatly the help and support that the members of staff involved give to the clubs.. I would love to get more activities up and running but it would require more members of staff to get involved - Netball or volleyball for example. I think a dance club would go down well. If a member of staff wanted to run a club I could arrange for training and for exterior coaches, such as Sport for Youth coaches to come in. We haven't got a swimming club because we can't get use of the pool outside school hours

Recently we've been lucky enough to get money from the Trustees Fund to set up a fitness room in the PE department. This is going to be a great asset for both curricular and extra-curricular activities. (It'll also be an opportunity for teachers to get fit !) We've got an athletics club starting up with a coach coming in from Glasgow Athletics Development. That'll be running from February.

**Q How do you encourage young people to get involved ?**

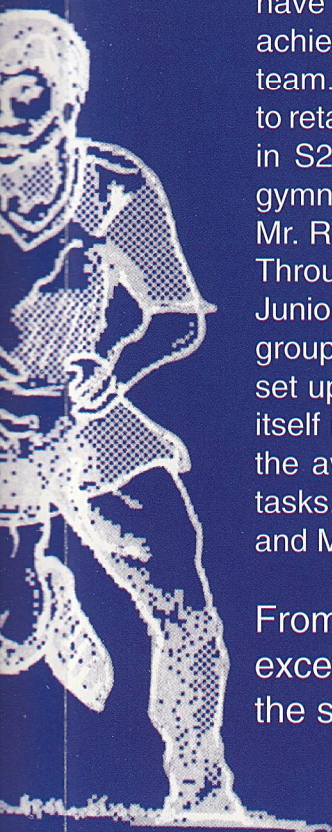
**A** If I see a pupil who shows interest or talent in a certain activity, I make them aware of what's on and encourage them. I also try to get them to bring their pals along - the more, the merrier. These clubs are built solely around fun. They are not elitist - just get yourself along and enjoy yourself.

**Q Suppose there's a boy or girl who's maybe a bit awkward and a bit overweight but who knows that he or she would like to do something - how would you get him or her involved ?**

**A** I want to emphasise to all parents that sport is a great thing for raising self-esteem. Every pupil that comes along is made welcome and given the opportunity to take part at his or her own level. There's no pressure. It's fun.







**Q Do you think that grown-ups appreciate the value of participating in sport more than teenagers do ?**

**A** You often hear adults saying "I wish I'd done that" or "I'm unfit" I don't think young people realise just what a benefit taking part in physical activity can have on their lives. You know yourself - when you're feeling fit, everything's better - even schoolwork.. Glasgow is one of the most unhealthy cities in the world- there's a poor level of fitness among youth. Regular participation will help to combat this. I urge parents to get their kids involved - it will make them healthier, smarter, more confident, more attractive to the opposite sex and it will lengthen their lives. In short, they will be much happier people.

**Q Do you get involved with ordinary teaching and do you get involved with Primary sports ?**

**A** The Sports Co-ordinator is only one day a week. My time is allocated throughout the week. I have two Standard Grade classes, for example. The PE department are very supportive and they work very hard ,as well, to get pupils involved. Last year ,I set up a Primary Fun Afternoon which was very successful. This year I want to make it bigger and involve all of our associated primaries. Mrs Stevenson and I both teach in the Primaries as part of the Whitehill Learning Community Programme and things are going very well.

**Q How successful has the project been ?**

**A** Undoubtedly, it has been very successful in terms of the numbers participating but there's still room for improvement. I want the numbers to keep rising - both the number of clubs and the number of pupils.

The Girls Football Team is one of the best in Scotland. At international level we have **Michael Skilling** who represented Scottish Schools Athletics - a huge achievement. We have **Christopher Howie** playing for Glasgow 14's Football team. Our basketball team were league champions last year and look on course to retain it this year. We're also doing well in the Glasgow Cup. **Emma Greenhill** in S2 represents Glasgow at Netball. **Ruth Patrick** represents Glasgow at gymnastics. **Gary Haining** is part of the West of Scotland Athletics Squad. Mr. Renton's 13's Boys Football Team are doing very well. Through Mr. Coyle and myself, we arranged for a group of pupils to attain the Junior Sports Leader Award. That is up and running again this year with another group and along with that, we now have the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme set up in the school. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils . The award itself is held in very high regard by employers and Further Education. To get the award, you must prove you can accept responsibility and carry through tasks. The teachers who are involved in the course are Mrs Gray, Mr. Spalding and Mr. Heppell. Thanks very much to them for getting involved.

From my point of view, the support I've had from the Headteacher is excellent . Mr. Liveston sees sport as having a real importance within the school. It is so important for the ethos of Whitehill.



## Refurbishment

Work on the school should begin in the next two or three weeks. Section by section, the building will be refurbished. Areas will be closed off and whole departments decanted to other parts of the school. There will be construction teams and materials around the building for the next year or so. We're sure you appreciate that when this work is going on, it is essential that pupils follow instructions to the letter and do not go near areas or use stairs from which they have been forbidden. If children do not follow these instructions, they may be putting themselves and others at risk.

**The safety of your children is paramount. We ask for your co-operation. Please emphasise to them how important it is to follow safety codes.**



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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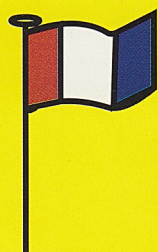
UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## Marked Improvement in Attendance Rates

Thanks to the effort of Guidance Staff, register teachers and the Senior Management Team, the attendance rate at Whitehill has improved significantly. We would like to thank parents for their co-operation in raising standards. The average absence rate in Whitehill this session is 16.3% which is an improvement of 3% compared to the same time last session, but, although this is an improvement, it could be much better, especially on Friday afternoons, when some pupils take the easy option and miss classes.

Parents, please support us in our efforts to raise standards. **Do not let your children take Friday afternoons off.**

We will never improve our exam results until we improve attendance and latecoming. If you have any doubts about your children's attendance or latecoming, **phone** the school on **551 8221**. We will help by answering your queries straight away, telephoning you back or sending a printout to arrive at you next day. You can also arrange appointments with Guidance teachers and year group heads if you wish.



## French Dictionaries

**Please buy a French-English dictionary for your son or daughter. Pupils are allowed to use a school dictionary in SQA exams.**

A French-English dictionary at home would help your child improve their homework and overall progress in tests, assessments and class work.

**WH Smith** has a good selection of Dictionaries.

The best ones are either **Collins** or **Harraps Pocket French Dictionary**, costing **£6.99** or the **Oxford Colour French Dictionary**, costing **£6.99**.

There are smaller dictionaries called **Collins Gem**, costing **£3.99**.

Dictionaries are sometimes sold in Bargain Books and Asda at reduced price.

