



Season's Greetings from Whitehill Secondary School

December 2008

IT'S OFFICIAL—WHITEHILL IS A HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOL

Following the recent accreditation visit from the Authority, we can now officially say we are a Health Promoting School!

The review focused on various aspects of school life and involved a review team from Education Services and NHSGGC studying the evidence provided. The team also met with pupils, parents and staff.

Formal Health Promoting Schools status in Glasgow is awarded to schools who meet a specified standard across 9 quality indicators. Each indicator is assessed on a scale of 1-6 and to achieve Health Promoting Schools status a school must have all 9 indicators at a level of "good" (level 4) and at least 5 indicators at very good (level 5).

We were awarded a formidable 5 excellent (level 6) and 4 very good (level 5).

The review team stated that *"the range of health and well being activities on offer demonstrates the high value placed on promoting healthy lifestyles in the school."*

Very few areas for improvement were highlighted but we are keen to keep develop our work in this area so will be taking forward the recommendations made in the review report. We will consult with parents/carers and our partner agencies on school health policies; foster greater links with our neighbouring community and increase involvement from parents when planning for health promotion. If you would like to get involved in any of this work please contact the school. The full report can be viewed on our website.

Some of the items in this issue

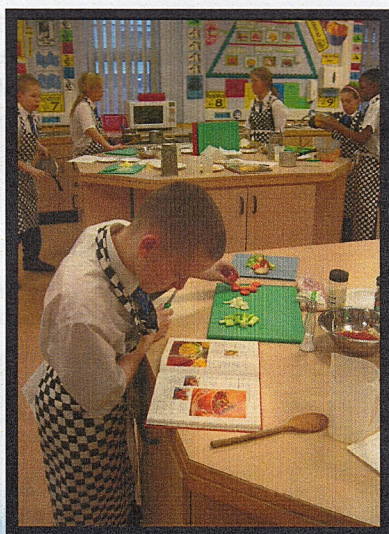
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Important Dates

19/12/08	Christmas Service
19/12/08	School closes for holiday
5/1/09	Return to school

Contact us

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Web: www.whitehill-sec.glasgow.sch.uk



STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2007-2008

The report charts the wide-ranging achievements and experiences of our pupils throughout the last school session. We strive to ensure that pupils are given every chance to realise their full academic potential but we also provide them with extra curricular opportunities, to enhance their social, sporting and citizenship skills.

We hope you will agree that there is much to be proud of and a lot going on. If you wish to discuss any aspect of the report, please don't hesitate to contact us. The full text of the report can be viewed on our website.

The Nine Lives of Roddy Hogg

'The nine lives of Roddy Hogg' is a play by the Baldy Bane theatre company that focuses on the main characters, Roddy, his friend and his sister, getting into situations involving road safety. The cast put across the message of road safety in a way which was both funny and entertaining.

The story starts off with the grown up character of Roddy trying to save a girl who has been knocked over (a situation which has an impact on him, as his sister was knocked over when he was a child.) The plot then moves back to when he was a baby, when he was walking in the street with his mum. While looking around, he is nearly knocked over by a car. This situation is used a lot in this play, not only with Roddy, but with his friend, Malky, and his sister. As he grows up he gets into the same sort of situations, to his embarrassment. The play ends on a sad note, with Roddy's sister getting killed by a car while riding his bike home. It was surprising that it was her that died because the whole story sees Roddy nearly getting knocked over and his sister telling him to cross the road safely.

The play uses the audience as minor characters in the plot, sometimes mentioning them talking to characters or not being somewhere where they should. Using audience participation was a good way to get pupils more involved in the play. It also produced laughs among the audience.

At times the play could be funny, at others it could be emotional. There was a good mix of both. With the cast playing multiple roles, and very well too, and sound effects being used appropriately. This play is a great way to show the dangers of the road.

Poetry Live

Mr Cawley's S4 English class attended a Poetry Live event in Glasgow City Hall on November 17th. The event was excellent and provided a valuable opportunity to meet some very well known poets. The positive attitude and behaviour of the pupils who attended reflected very positively upon the school.

As part of the S1 PSHE programme promoting Road Safety Awareness, the Baldy Bane Theatre Company performed "The Nine Lives of Roddy Doyle". The pupils really enjoyed the performance and it made them think about their safety. Clases in the English Department, wrote excellent reviews of the play. See Jamie Corletto's review above.

As part of the 16 Days of Action, A Moment's Peace Theatre Company worked with our S2 to film a performance and workshop to be shown to our schools. The pupils did very well and enjoyed the experience.

Blackout was another example of the use of drama to illustrate important themes in PSHE. Young Actors from Barnardo's and the Young Citizens Group performed an exciting hard-hitting play about the consequences of your actions. The pupils and staff who watched the performance enjoyed it and took part in the workshop.

Poetry and Drama at Whitehill

S1 PSHE

East End Youth Network are working with all our S1

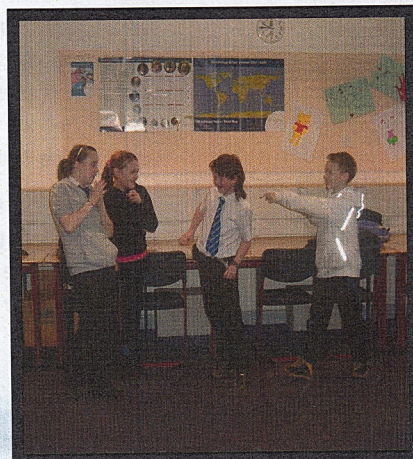
There have already been 3 sessions of workshops on

HEALTH

ART AND DRAMA

SAFETY

There will be two further sessions on LIFELONG LEARNING and COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT in May and June 2009.



Home Economics News

5th/6th Year "Lifestyle and Consumer Technology" Int 1

Pupils worked in groups at Cragielee Nursery building relationships with the children and developing an understanding of the workings of a pre-school nursery. Pupils then planned and prepared to host an activity afternoon for the children. This gave them the responsibility for the planning preparation and carrying out of a child based event with the focus on healthy eating and personal hygiene.

In the preparation for this event the pupils researched the dietary targets for the pre-school child; made recipe cards; produced healthy eating leaflets and posters; stitched puppets representing fruit and vegetables and made aprons.

The healthy eating event took place on Wednesday 29th October; pupils presented a puppet show with the theme of healthy eating, hand washing and tooth brushing. The children then took part in a baking workshop given by Whitehill pupils where they prepared a healthy snack using the recipe cards and wearing the aprons made by the pupils. The posters will be displayed in the nursery to give advice to parents and copies of the leaflet will be made available. Ms Shona Elliot (Head teacher) was very impressed with the pupils who made an excellent impact during the events

Well done to the pupils who made the Home Economics events such a success. They are too numerous to mention.



S1 Homework

A reminder that all S1 should now be completing one homework per week.

S2 Scottish Diet

Well done to the S2 pupils who have just completed their unit assessment for the Scottish Diet. Pupils were involved in producing foods suitable for an active teenager. Recipes were chosen linked to the Scottish Dietary Targets. Part of the assessment includes Peer and Self assessment to provide pupils with feedback on their performance.

S3 S Grade- REHIS

All S3 SG pupils are working hard to complete their Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland training. Successful pupils will receive their Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate.

S4

Pupils continue to make excellent progress in practical work. All pupils should be working hard to develop their Knowledge and Understanding and their Handling information elements



PE News

Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership This provides the ideal starting point for pupils who wish to develop their leadership skills. It is a practical qualification in which candidates must demonstrate their ability to lead others in basic sporting or recreational activities. This year we have a group of 17 pupils following the course. On Monday 1st December they were involved in leading activities in the Primary 7 Fun Day organised by Kenny McAdam (Active Schools Co-ordinator) and Mrs Campbell. 95 pupils attended the morning from Alexander Parade, Golfhill and Haghill Primary Schools. Well done to the Sports Leaders who did a great job at planning, preparing and delivering their activities. The morning was a very enjoyable experience for all concerned.

Y Dance A dance option has also been added this year, and it has proved to be very popular with the girls. Sarah Potter from a company called Y Dance, has been working with around 25 girls during 4th year core PE time. The girls have responded very well and have worked hard to produce a performance piece. Well done! Keep up the good work.

RMPS News

Most of our S2 pupils visited an exhibition on the Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide this term. This is in line with their RMPS work which is on the subject of Human Rights. The aim of these trips is to highlight awareness, towards groups of people, whose human rights are being denied.

For the Holocaust trip, they took part in workshops and viewed an exhibition about the life of Anne Frank and read extracts from her famous diary.

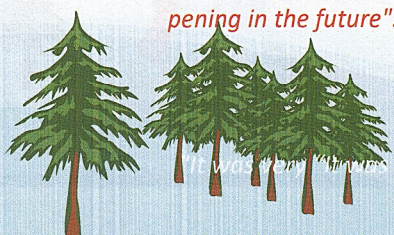


For the Rwandan genocide the pupils saw a performance, (performed by survivors of the 1994 genocide), of African music and dance. Both events were excellent.

Many of the pupils were visibly moved by the African performers and the stories they told

"Genocide causes a lot of bother around the world and people should speak up more".

"It was very interesting and we learned a lot about the Jews and how they were treated. We think its important to learn about these things so we can prevent it happening in the future".



ECO Group

Many thanks to the following pupils who have been working very hard to make sure that your paper, plastic and aluminium waste is being recycled.

Halima Ali
Chantelle Chrystal
Louise Dorman
Dylan Graham
Hannah Hill
Scott Johnston
Victoria Menzies
Richard Reeves
Ami Torrance

The recycling campaign continues. Please use the bins provided and help us work towards our goal of achieving Green Flag Eco School status.



Work Experience

The 4th Year pupils have now all had the opportunity to attend a work experience placement. Placements were varied and amongst some of the most exciting were those arranged by the pupils themselves. There were opportunities with the Army, the Police, a variety of construction placements from plumbing through joinery to painting and decorating. There were placements in nurseries and primary schools, shops and offices, horticulture and the media.

Pupils reported that they had learned a lot from their placements and that they had found the people they worked with kind and helpful.

Comments such as 'positive', 'enthusiastic', 'possessed a keen interest', 'fitted well into our team and was a pleasure to have', 'always completed tasks set to a good standard' and 'has been an excellent representative for [Whitehill] school' reflect the things employers wrote about the pupils.

Several employers indicated that they would be keen to offer the pupils who had visited them jobs once they left school.

Comenius Visit



From Wednesday 26 until Sunday 30 November pupils and staff from Heinrich-Schutz-Schule in Kassel, Germany and IES Cardenal Herrera Oria in Madrid, Spain visited us in Glasgow as part of Whitehill's involvement in the Comenius Project. The Comenius Project aims to provide opportunities for schools to introduce or strengthen the European dimension into their curriculum by enabling pupils and staff from across Europe to work together on joint projects.

For our project we agreed that each partner school would produce a walk showing the past, present and future of their area. Our cultural activities took in Glasgow Cathedral, the Tolbooth, People's Palace in the Glasgow Green and no cultural tour would be complete without a guided tour of the Glasgow School of Art—a landmark architectural gem designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

We also introduced our guests to a traditional Scottish meal of Scotch Broth; haggis, neeps and tatties; dessert and coffee and shortbread—beautifully prepared and presented by Mr Fleming and his S3 and S4 Home Economics pupils. Mr Hood added to what was an already very enjoyable event by piping in the haggis.

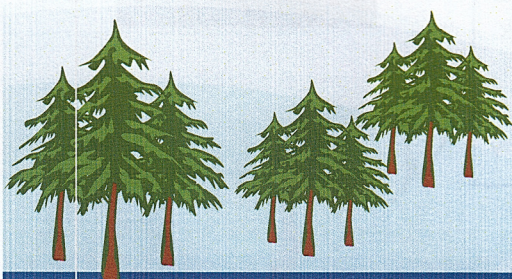
In addition to proudly showing our visitors the numerous cultural aspects of Glasgow, we also introduced our guests to some of Glasgow's best shopping areas to allow for the obligatory souvenir purchases. Evening activities were catered for by visits to the Bowling at the Quay and the Pantomime at the Kings Theatre. We all enjoyed this visit tremendously and are looking forward to visiting our partner schools in Madrid in March and Kassel next session.

Christmas Service

The School's Christmas Service will be held in Denistoun New Parish Church, Armadale Street at 11.30am. The service will include traditional carols, musical items as well as the presentation of Attendance Certificates to pupils achieving 100% attendance.

Nina Dawson-Scott, Dux of the School, will also be presented with a Cup and Medal in recognition of her academic performance.

Parents and friends are welcome to attend our service which will last roughly one hour.



ICT News

BUSINESS NEWS

Dragons' Den

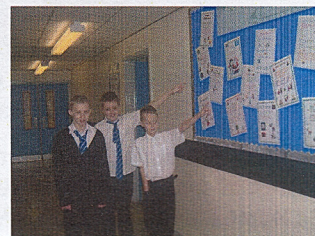
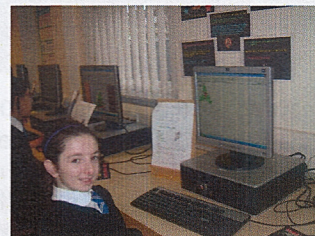
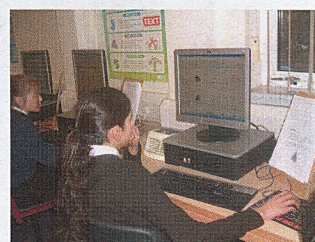
Inventive pupils from the Higher/Intermediate Business Management class recently participated in a Dragons' Den themed challenge facing a formidable panel composed of Mr Liveston, Mrs Fleming and Miss Belardo. The Dragons were impressed with the knowledge and enthusiasm shown by the pupils for their brief of developing and marketing greetings cards. The feedback to the team included the comment that "the winning team should patent their idea".

The Credit Crunch

Miss Belardo recently accompanied the Higher Business Management pupils to a seminar held at Heriot Watt University on the Credit Crunch and the Current Economic Climate. All pupils found the experience worthwhile and hope to be able to use some of the information gained in their Higher examination.

S1 ICT

Below are some of our very talented pupils hard at work on their ICT Christmas Project.



Santa Comes Early

Congratulations to Zoe Dorman of S1 who was presented with an iPod nano by Greater Easterhouse Alcohol Awareness Project. Zoe won the prize by logging on to the the GEAAP website (www.youngboozebusters.com) and taking part in their questionnaire and games. There are still iPods to be won so log on and have a go!

Congratulations also go to Anthony Gillen of S2 who was presented with an iPod by Karen Fearnside of Glasgow Community Safety at a recent assembly. Anthony completed a competition leaflet at the Safety Roadshow in November.



Mr Liveston and staff would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. We look forward to seeing seeing Pupils and Staff refreshed in the New Year. School returns on 5 January.

