

# WHITEHILL SECONDARY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2008

## Visits to the Scottish Parliament



No less than three groups of Whitehill Secondary pupils visited the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh during February.



On page 2, Mr Dorward writes about the Modern Studies visit and Mrs Brownlow writes about the S1 ABOUT visit. In the first of our reports, Ceara McGrory describes the School Council's trip.

### **Ceara's report on the School Council visit**

Our visit to the Scottish Parliament was a very interesting and worthwhile experience. The School Council, accompanied by Mrs Rice and Mr McGovern, were given the opportunity to meet various Members of the Scottish Parliament and ask them about any issues that are important to us, whether they are local or international.

We arrived at the Scottish Parliament and were welcomed by the various members of staff, after going through the various security measures put in place to ensure that safety of the people inside the Parliament. Although this security is necessary, it did feel like going through security at Glasgow Airport! We were then taken into a room to learn a little about the Scottish Parliament and how it works. During this time our attention was alerted to an Independent candidate, Margo McDonald, who is a committed and vocal supporter of Scottish Independence. I admire this woman for having the courage to stand up on her own for what she believes, despite being a brave sufferer of Parkinson's Disease.

Three MSPs were kind enough to take time out of their busy schedule to come and talk to us. The first man was Bob Doris, a member of the Scottish Nationalist Party. The second was Robert Brown, a member of the Liberal Democrats. The final man, Paul Martin, is a member of the Labour Party and a Constituency MSP.

*(Continued on page 2)*





We were given the opportunity to ask the MSPs about any issues pressing on our minds or simply about their own background. They were more than willing to talk to us, although they were silenced when they were asked which MSP they most admire from a party other than their own! We found out that Robert Brown was a teacher before becoming a politician to try and make a difference to Scotland. This will be very encouraging for anyone who wants to be a politician but fears a huge amount of experience is needed.

The final part of our day was observing the Parliament in action. We were able to view the politicians arguing their cases and questioning the motives of their fellow politicians. In my opinion, this was the most interesting part of our day because we were able to see exactly what the politicians are doing to try to improve life for the civilians of Scotland, or indeed whether they are doing anything at all!

Overall, the School Council's trip to the Scottish Parliament was one in which many questions were answered and many issues were raised with the politicians themselves, by the pupils of Whitehill Secondary. It was very interesting to see the Parliament in full working order and we were enlightened to the fact that politicians are normal people themselves, and not simply power hungry people doing nothing for Scotland.

*Ceara McGrory*

In February the Modern Studies Department took some 30 S.2 budding politicians on a visit to the Scottish Parliament. There they received a talk about what the Scottish Parliament does for us. They also met with two of Glasgow's MSPs - Robert Brown (Liberal Democrat) and Bob Doris (SNP) - who kindly stayed for a question and answer session with the pupils. Thereafter the pupils visited the Chamber where they heard part of a debate on Scotland and its role in Malawi.

*Mr. Dorward*

We also visited the Scottish Parliament with a group of twenty S1 pupils as an ABOUT reward. Thanks to Mrs Keddilty who helped us on the visit.

*Mrs Brownlow and Mrs Bride*

### Information for parents about SQA examinations

SQA examinations for S4 begin with Art and Design on 30th April. Higher and Intermediate exams do not start until 11<sup>th</sup> May. Study leave for S4 starts on 30th April but study leave for S5/6 does not start until 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Senior pupils have been issued with "Your exams 2008". Please read the sections about unacceptable conduct and about items banned from exam rooms. **Make sure your son/daughter does not bring a mobile phone to school on exam days. The rules are very strict.** Any pupil caught with a mobile phone, **switched on or off**, will forfeit the exam.

Several departments are running special exam revision classes in school over the spring break. These classes have been an enormous benefit to exam candidates in the past. **Please urge your son/daughter to take advantage of them.**



# Stock Market Challenge



Third year Whitehill and St Mungo's pupils recently took first and second place at the Glasgow and East Dunbartonshire round of the Stock Market Challenge. Our team of Suzanne McGregor, Andrew Corletto, Daryl Hawick, Rebecca Rollo and Nicole Johnston was a very close second, winning £300 for the school. Well done to our budding Stockbrokers!

*Mrs Fleming*



**Congratulations** Recently Halima Ali of 1.B has been awarded a certificate for reading Lemony Snicket's 13-volume *Series of Unfortunate Events* from beginning to end. It's a pleasure to see someone reading steadily through such a long series.

Of course, she's not the only one. Many of our pupils read entire series of books. It's no small achievement: the *Harry Potter* series runs to 3,400 pages, *A Series of Unfortunate Events* to 3,500. In fact Whitehill has always had many excellent readers, some who have read hundreds of books even before leaving primary. At Whitehill, pupils explore new authors and subjects and develop into even more sophisticated readers. It's an extremely worthwhile skill. Well done to you all!

*P.Gallagher, School Librarian*



## It all adds up

A new era of financial health is coming to Whitehill! The next school term will see the arrival of the Addzup Account from Glasgow Credit Union. Addzup allows young people to save money in their own way and in their own time. Anyone over the age of 12 who holds a Glasgow Young Scot card (National Entitlement Version) can join by filling out a membership application form, obtained at school.

Depositing into the account couldn't be more convenient as deposits can be made via the Addzup Save Spots located in school. Withdrawals from the account can also be made at school, making Addzup the easiest way to save!

Addzup not only helps young people to save, it also helps to prepare them for their future and educates them on financial matters.

Glasgow Credit Union isn't just for the pupils, it's for the parents too. GCU offers a range of financial services from savings and current accounts to mortgages and low cost loans!

It might seem like a little, but it *Addzup* to a lot!

*Colette Forrest/Mrs Brownlow*





## Win a £10 Borders token

The poem "Au Printemps" was written in French by Jade Love. The poem is being published in The Glasgow Modern Languages Newsletter. A £10 Borders token prize can be won for the best English translation of the poem from a Whitehill pupil. All entries should be given to Mrs Carey by Friday 25th April.

Quand enfin arrive le printemps

Tout le monde est content.

La nature se réveille

Et ça m'émerveille.

Au printemps, il y a toujours du beau temps.

Malheureusement, il y a de la pluie de temps en temps,

Les animaux sortent de leur hibernation pour l'hiver,

Après le froid, c'est le retour du vert.

Au printemps, la neige fond

Et on voit le gazon.

C'est une saison où il fait beau et il y a du soleil,

Tout ce qu'on entend, c'est le bourdonnement des abeilles.

Au printemps, une nouvelle vie commence,

La sérénité est intense.

Après le printemps

Le beau temps commence!

*Jade Love et Vanida (FLA)*

## Campus PCs

Over the past year as School Campus Officers, we have been delivering input on littering to Whitehill pupils and to primary pupils at each of the four primary schools within the Learning Community.

We have also been encouraging school pupils to take pride in their local community, and several school pupils have participated in litter picks in and around their schools.

We were recognised for our achievements at the Clean Glasgow 2008 Awards and were awarded £100 and a certificate for the category 'Best Partnership Working'. The event was covered by the Evening Times, and Whitehill Learning Community received some very positive coverage in the paper and on the Evening Times and Clean Glasgow website. The money will be used to purchase bulbs and plants for the garden area to the front of the school. This can be done as part of the Enterprise project.

We would like to thank all the pupils involved and hope they continue in their efforts keep their school and community litter free.

## Your Turn programme

The "Your Turn" programme was a fantastic programme designed initially for teenagers in third year who were thought as "leaders" who could have a big say in some of the things that happen in Glasgow. The programme took place over three days at three different venues. The event was great because we all got to meet different people from different schools across Glasgow. We all enjoyed the programme and we all received certificates at the end.

The three days were enjoyable and were worth going to.

*By Emma Wheeler, Kirsten McPhail, Lauren Mcleod, Ryan Bounagui, Daryl Hawick and Grant McCabe.*



**Congratulations** to Craig Johnstone (S6), seen here being presented with his dux award at the Christmas assembly by Mr. McAllister. Craig achieved four A's and one B in the SQA examinations last May.

This session, Craig will be sitting Advanced Higher Mathematics, Higher Administration, Higher Business Management and Higher Modern Studies.

Nest year Craig will be studying Mathematics at Glasgow University. He received the unconditional offer of a place at Glasgow and has accepted it. Craig says he has enjoyed his time at Whitehill. Well done!



## Celtic Learning Programme

For the past six weeks a group of S3 pupils (William McCord, Ross Telfer, Lynsey Anderson, Jonathan Brown, Scott-Billy McCausland, Lauren Croly, Jordan Simpson, Grant McCabe, Charlene Tannahill, Ashton Gibbons, Steven Thomson, Andrew Tough) have been attending the Celtic Learning Programme. Every Wednesday afternoon they have been out of school on activities such as rock climbing, ice skating, football training and basketball at venues such as the Glasgow Climbing Centre, Tollcross Leisure Centre and Escape.

There will be more activities after the spring break. William liked ice skating and rock climbing best. Jonathan liked the climbing best. Thanks to Mrs Dalziel and Celtic FC for organising the visits and to Gerry, the Campus PC for accompanying us.

*William McCord and Jonathan Brown*

# Activities Week

Arrangements are now underway for Activities Week.

Keep **ABOUT** to ensure yourself a place on excursions and activities in June.

**ABOUT** is the Whitehill School Code for Pupils.

**A** is for Attendance. **B** is for Behaviour. **O** is for Organisation.

**U** is for Uniform. **T** is for Timekeeping.

## Tesco Vouchers for Schools Scheme

Mr Campbell is collecting vouchers. These can be used to purchase software and IT equipment. If you have vouchers, you can leave them at Reception for him.

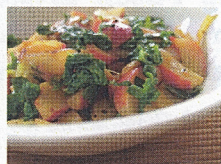
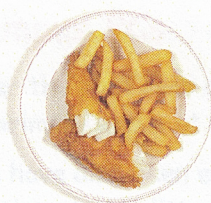
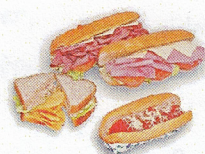




***Aim for a fit and healthy life for your children***



# Healthy Eating



## **Changes to the Fuel Zone and Fuel Zone menus**

**On Monday 21st April,  
you'll find a new  
redesigned Fuel Zone Area  
with new redesigned  
menus—Subzone, baked  
potatoes with a wide choice  
of fillings, Bake'n'take, Hot  
Bites and Grab'n'go.**

**The emphasis is on “your  
food - your choice”.**



## Dates for your diary

Spring Break	Monday 7 April 2008 to Friday 18 April 2008 inclusive
May Day	Monday 5 May 2008
In-Service	Thursday 22 May 2008
May Weekend	Friday 23 May 2008 and Monday 26 May 2008
School Closes	Friday 27 June 2008
Teachers return	Thursday 14 August 2008
Pupils return	Monday 18 August 2008
September weekend	Friday 26 September 2008 and Monday 29 September
Mid-term holiday	Monday 13 October 2008 to Friday 17 October 2008 inclusive

### Examination dates for senior pupils

SQA Standard Grade Examinations run from 30 April to 28 May 2008

SQA Higher and Intermediate Examinations run from 14 May to 5 June 2008

S3 Examinations run from 16 May to 21 May 2008



The P.E. department would like to thank pupils and staff for their tremendous efforts during Sport Relief week (10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March)

**Activity Mile** All core P.E. classes rose to the challenge of completing an activity mile during lessons and embarked upon this with a great deal of enthusiasm.

**Quiz** Every registration class was issued with a sports quiz from Monday to Thursday. Thanks to those classes who braved those tricky questions and returned the quizzes with a £5 class donation.

**Basketball** On Tuesday lunchtime, five teams of pupils formed to take on the staff and senior pupils in a basketball game. Commiserations to the pupils who put up a valiant fight, but were sadly defeated by a staff/seniors partnership.

**Football** Congratulations to Gary Fraser (2E) who won the Keepie-uppie competition on Wednesday lunchtime, managing a staggering 640 touches of the ball, with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places going to Kenny Stevenson (3.1) and Declan Hughes (1.1).

**One mile challenge** Well done to Gemma Lewis and Samantha Rumsby from S4 who ran the mile on Friday lunchtime with some of the teachers.

A huge thanks to PC Lindsey Faulds for getting pupils from Golfhill Bike Club involved. The Golfhill pupils helped to raise more money by getting on their bikes and cycling the mile. Well done! Thanks to the Learning Base staff who completed the mile during Period 6 on Friday - Mr McGovern in his suit and running shoes was a sight to remember, and Cathy Smith in her big blue wig and fancy dress will not be forgotten.

**Miss Amadio** Many of the events that run in school would not happen if nobody was willing to put in the hard work to organise them. Miss Amadio worked her Sport Relief socks off to pull together a whole week of activities to help raise money for a worthy cause (as well as run about 10 miles throughout the week). We would especially like to thank her for her efforts in organising such a successful fundraising event.

**Final total** I am extremely pleased to announce that, through the generosity of staff and pupils, Whitehill Secondary School raised a whopping total of £437.53 for Sport Relief. Thanks to everyone for the support and generosity shown throughout the week - the money will go to a very good cause.

*Mrs Campbell*





**Aim for a fit and healthy life for your children**



## **Sports activities this session**

### **S1 Football**

The S1 football team have now completed all of the season's fixtures. The boys have trained and played with a very positive attitude and been a credit to the school. Well done! If you have not played this year and would like to be involved next year, please come along to the P.E. department and speak to Mr Renton.

### **U13 Coca Cola Cup competition**

Whitehill Secondary School entered a boys and a girls team into the U13 Coca Cola 7's football tournament held at Garscube Science Park on 27<sup>th</sup> February. The boys' team put up a valiant fight but unfortunately did not make the final and the girls' team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the competition, narrowly losing out to St Andrews. Well done to all players! Your behaviour and attitude were exceptional.

### **Rugby News**

Well done to Nathan Delgado for getting selected for the Glasgow District Rugby League representative squad for 2008. Yet another accolade to go alongside the International Caps gained while away touring Serbia with the Scotland Under 16's Squad last year. Nathan has done exceptionally well over the last two years and has continually developed his abilities. Whitehill is very proud of Nathan and the achievements he has accomplished while representing the school.

The S1/2 Rugby League squad has made a great start to the fixtures this year, winning all of their opening games comfortably.

The performance of the boys was noticed by the Scottish Rugby League Development team and some of the boys will be being watched closely over the coming fixtures.

The S3/4 team has had a good start to the season with some convincing wins at the opening tournament of the season at Nethercraigs sports complex. Keep up the good work, boys!

Training is after school on Monday and there is development work done in the school's Rugby League Academy on Friday afternoons with Alex Bibby from Scottish Rugby League Development.

*See Mr Sim for any more details.*

## **New Youth Club**

There is a new Youth Club in the Salvation Army hall at 265 Craigpark Drive every Wednesday night between 6:30 and 8:00pm.

The organizers have games consoles, a pool table, air hockey and football tables, as well as drinks and snacks. Entry costs one pound.