



WALLACE HALL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2009



Wallace Hall Academy pupils support Children in Need



Inside This Issue

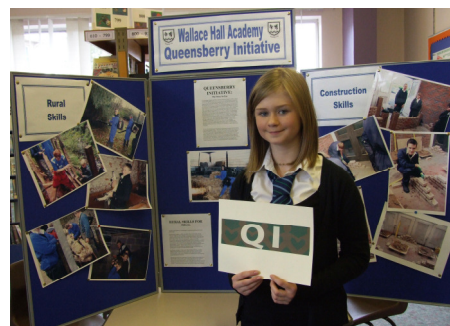
- ♦ *Parent Council News*
- ♦ *Queensberry Initiative News*
- ♦ *School Trips*
- ♦ *Hallowe'en Disco*
- ♦ *P7 Night*

Five S2 pupils at Wallace Hall Academy - Monica Barbour, Laura McLellan, Susan Dempster, Abbie Thompson and Claire Manson (not in photograph) - organised baking for a staff coffee morning on Wednesday 18th November in aid of Children in Need. In addition the girls collected donations around the school on Friday 20th November. Supported in this initiative by Sharon McLean, Acting Depute Head Teacher at Wallace Hall Academy, the girls raised the excellent sum of £145.20 which will be forwarded to Children in Need. Ms McLean said "The girls had the idea of raising money for this very worthwhile charity and put a lot of time and thought into baking their cakes and setting them out at the staff meeting. All of this was entirely their own initiative and I would like to commend all of them for their efforts."

Queensberry Initiative News

Logomania

Wallace Hall Academy's Art Department has been brimming with Second Year pupils' logo designs. This year their design brief was to come up with a logo for the Queensberry Initiative, the school's enterprise community project which focuses on the 'outdoor classroom' and working together with local employers, our cluster primary schools and the wider community.



Sophie Jackson's design was selected as the overall winner. Mrs Black and Mr Hall gave her some advice about its development and preparation and the outstanding result is shown in the photograph where Sophie holds the final product. The design shows pupils working together, emphasising the teamwork aspects of the Initiative. The chosen colour scheme links it to the outdoors.

The logo will be used on all stationary to do with the project as well as in publicity materials. Many thanks to Sophie and the Art Department for producing such a professional result.

The Scottish Learning Festival



The annual Scottish Learning Festival is a national and very successful event which brings together teachers and other educationalists from all over Scotland and further afield to look at the current issues of interest to education. This year Wallace Hall Academy was very pleased to be invited to take a stall at the Festival to inform others about the Queensberry Initiative, the project which seeks to link pupils to the community, the

land and to get them out of the classroom and into the countryside.

Two senior pupils, Alex Davidson and Finlay Scott, who are studying Intermediate 2 Rural Skills travelled to Glasgow to promote the course they are studying in an innovative partnership between the school, the Queensberry Estate and Barony College. Through this partnership pupils are able to study both Intermediate 1 and then to specialise in Intermediate 2 Rural Skills by using the facilities of Queensberry Estate rather than making the journey to Barony College each week. This local slant has increased interest in rural careers and pursuits and has helped the school to build useful links with Queensberry Estate and local employers.

The boys enjoyed their day at the Festival and were very skilled at talking to the teachers who stopped by to question them about the Initiative. In fact, it was clear that their communication skills are of a very high standard and that they were a real attraction in the Local Authority village at the event. They have helped to put the Queensberry Initiative on the national map.

The Queensberry Initiative gratefully acknowledges the support given by the Queensberry Estate, Barony College and its funders, including LEADER, Fairer Scotland Fund, the Holywood Trust, Dumfries and Galloway Council and Keir Community Council.

In addition, Trisha McCurrach and Nick Riley also represented Wallace Hall Academy at the Scottish Learning Festival. Opening the very first workshop of the conference, Trisha and Nick delivered a presentation on Building Teachers' Capacity for Change. Over 70 delegates heard from Trisha how innovative the teachers at Wallace Hall Academy are in delivering an exciting curriculum for their students while Nick described the complexity of the Learning Leaders' role at Wallace Hall Academy.

Alton Towers Trip by Ryan Payne

Page 3

50 Physics pupils from S3 and S6 went to Alton Towers Theme Park to find out about the physics of rollercoasters. We left Wallace Hall at 5 am to make it to the park in time for opening. We were given a very informative talk about the physics of the rides and roller-coasters. We learned a lot about forces and how roller-coasters stay on the tracks even when upside down.

The park itself was enormous! We went on a number of rides including River Rapids, Log Flume, Rita, Nemesis and Spinball Whizzer. Our favourite rides were Air and the thrilling Oblivion where we reached speeds of 75 miles per hour! We left the park at closing time for the long journey home totally exhausted.



December 2009

Hallowe'en Disco



S2 Chemistry Trip

by Bethany Ransome

Page 5

Last week our S2 Chemistry class paid a visit to the Glasgow Science Centre. This was an amazing experience and we saw a lot of different experiments taking place. We were able to try a few of them out for ourselves in the workshops held throughout the day. The trip was a fantastic experience. Thank you to Mr Bell, Mr Muir and Mrs Dalglish for organising such a great day out.



December 2009

P7 Wallace Hall Academy Parents' Evening



Photographs from the very successful P7 Parents' Evening held on Monday 23rd November 2009.

Wallace Hall Academy Website



The Wallace Hall Academy website has recently been re-freshed by Mr Chris Williamson from the Technical Department and Mr Jamie Pape from the English Department. Please log in to www.wallacehallacademy.co.uk now to see all the up to date news and photographs from Wallace Hall Academy.

Sports News

Page 7



On the 7th and 8th of November, Laura Kennedy (S4) and Blythe Aitken (S5) were selected to play in the Inter-District Hockey Championships at Peffermill, Edinburgh. There were seven districts in each category: North, East, Highlands, Midlands, West, South and, most importantly, the South West. Blythe and the Under 18 team played brilliantly and, although they didn't win their section, the team put up a strong fight. Laura played some good matches with the U16 squad but unfortunately her team didn't win their section.

By Laura Kennedy

Congratulations to both girls on their selection.

On 16th November the S2 Wallace Hall Academy Streetball Basketball team scored an impressive victory winning the Annandale and Eskdale Sports and Leisure Trust Streetball Basketball Tournament. The boys convincingly won all three of their matches to secure the trophy. Photograph shows the WHA S2 team (L to R) Finlay Gibson, Craig Neill and Oliver Frost. Missing from the photograph is Eugene Fung.



Dof E News at Wallace Hall Academy



All DofE expeditions have been successfully completed for last session's enrolment. This session's expedition training is well on its way with two very successful sessions on CPR. Next session activities planned include route planning for both the bronze and silver participants, development of culinary skills on a camping stove and further first aid instruction. If pupils wish to become involved in the DofE Award, please speak to Mrs McNay, Acting Depute Head Teacher.



December 2009

PARENT COUNCIL NEWS



Hello - my name is Anne Stoddart. I am the new Chairperson of the Parent Council and have children in S3 and S6. As a result of the Parental Involvement Act 2006 you are automatically a member of what is called the Parent Forum at your child's school. The Parent Council is a representative group from that Forum who meet on a monthly basis to work on behalf of all parents at the school.

Your Parent Council is made up of parents representing each year of the school, two co-opted members from the community, a teacher representative and a local councillor. We meet once a month with the Head Teacher, Head Girl and

Head Boy to discuss issues brought to our attention by parents, the community, the school and the educational authorities. Our aim is to find solutions in all our children's best interests.

At our December meeting we will be working with Mr Jamie Pape, English teacher, to update our pages on the school website so that you will know

- who we are and what we look like
- when our meetings are
- what's on the agenda
- what we are doing from approved minutes of previous meetings

Our meetings are friendly but organised. We want you to feel comfortable to come along when you feel the agenda is of interest to you and not feel you are under any pressure to speak or sign up for a job. It is so important that the council is representative of every child in the school so please, give us a try, bring a friend and contribute or just listen to what is being discussed. It is a great way to stay in touch with the school, get to know other parents, staff and pupils and keep up to speed with a rapidly changing school environment.

Calendar of Meetings 2010

Tuesday 12th January

Tuesday 9th February

Tuesday 16th March

April Easter Break no meeting

Tuesday 11th May

Tuesday 8th June

All our meetings are held in the school at 7.30pm. I can be contacted via the school office and look forward to meeting you or hearing from you soon.

Anne Stoddart