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Watson's Qualifies for Bronze Environmental Standard Award

THE SUCCESS of the environmental initiative that has been running at Watson's has been recognised in qualifying for the Bronze Award of the Eco Schools programme. This first step towards our goal of a prestigious Green Flag Award has been awarded for putting in place the organisational structures that will facilitate positive environmental change within the School.

For example, the School now has an Eco Committee. This group draws membership from teaching staff, support staff, Governors and pupils and provides a forum for coherent policy development and action planning. Through the active participation of members from our whole school community we hope to contribute to the saving of both resources and the environment while at the same time developing the skills and understanding of those involved in the process.

Participation is not restricted to those involved in the Eco Committee. An Eco Action Club runs twice a week at lunchtimes, with the members being highly involved in fact finding and action planning. This group has already worked on refurbishing the School pond (see photograph) and are planning the School's first (the world's first?) Eco Week in early March.

Within the timetable, pupils have had the opportunity to contribute to environmental change



Photo: Mr J Braithwaite

Fiona Mackenzie, Jenny Barratt, Eilidh Mackenzie (all S3) and Mr Jared Fox, the Hamilton Fellow, take a break from pond digging.

within the new PSD curriculum. Groups of S1 students have been looking into waste minimisation and litter reduction policies, S2 have written storyboards and film scripts for energy saving commercials with the help of Fiona MacFarlane from Theresnobusiness (watch this space) and S4 have surveyed transport choices made by the School.

Currently, the Eco Action Group is gearing up for an energy-saving switch off campaign to run in conjunction with Eco Week. Under the slogan "Together we can save it" the whole School community will be encouraged to reduce any unnecessary energy use in an attempt to help us collectively form new environmentally friendly habits. If you have any suggestions, comments or would like to help, please email g.morgan@fc.gwc.org.uk



Celebrating the Year of the Monkey

At a special assembly, pupils from S5 and S6 led the School in a celebration of the Chinese New Year. The Year of the Monkey was introduced by Sarah Kwan (S6) pictured far left, who used her own experience to tell us about traditional family celebrations.

Mark Liu (also S6) demonstrated the dragon dance inside a wonderful costume, kindly loaned to Watson's by the Chinese School at Drummond Community Centre, while members of the fifth and sixth year portrayed Chinese Zodiac characters to deliver an animated history of this tradition. Mrs Meiklejohn, whose idea it was to hold the assembly, said it was a fantastic cross-cultural experience, of which she was proud to be a part.

Watson's Nurseries also celebrated Chinese New Year celebrations. Pictured on the left is Beth Miller in front of a special display put together by the Nursery children.



Congratulations to Claudia de la Peña (S4), who drew the winning entry in a poster competition to promote National Continence Awareness Week last year. Claudia based her artwork on a design by physiotherapists at the Eastern General Hospital, and copies of the winning poster have been widely distributed to hospitals, doctors' surgeries and community sites.

2003 Xmas Appeal for The Ark Trust

A huge thank you and well done to all staff, pupils and parents who helped make this year's Christmas Appeal a success once again. Such an impressive result was worth all the effort.

Two of the staff from the Ark spoke at a Senior School assembly in the New Year, pointing out yet again that Watson's annual contribution really does keep them going for the coming year. The Ark also has a clothing store, Sox in the City, and Space 44, a 'drop in' centre for homeless women and children. It is very busy with young children and we know that it and the other services would welcome donations at any time throughout the year. If you do find yourself clearing out wardrobes, cupboards or attics, please bear the Ark in mind. Contact them directly or through Mrs Cheyne at School (tel: 0131 446 6020 or email: j.cheyne@gwc.org.uk). For more information on how to help, see the Ark's website: www.ark.ednet.co.uk.

Martha Kearney to Speak at Founder's Day

Martha Kearney will be the Founder's Day speaker this year. She left Watson's in 1976 and attended Oxford University. She is now Political Editor of BBC TV's *Newsnight* and has quickly developed a reputation as one of the BBC's most high-flying political journalists.

Martha went on to join *Newsnight* in 1994, having previously been a reporter for BBC1's *On the Record*, since 1988.

Prior to the BBC she worked in radio as Lobby Correspondent for LBC/IRN, before joining Channel Four TV's famous *Week in Politics* team.

In 1998 Martha was nominated for a BAFTA for her coverage of the Northern Island peace process. As well as her *Newsnight* appearances, Ms Kearney is also a regular presenter for the *Today* programme, *The Talkshaw* for BBC4 and BBC4's *Woman's Hour*. In 2000 she was nominated, with Jenni Murray, for the Sony Radio Award for News and Talk Broadcasting, and in 2001 Martha won the Sony Radio Bronze Award.

Musical Links forged with Royal Blind School

The School was delighted to receive an invitation to visit The Royal Blind School, to develop a musical link between our pupils and the children at the Canaan Lane Campus.

Our first visit took place back in November, when Miss McKerchar and Mr Scott accompanied a group of six instrumentalists from the Junior School. Our children joined in lessons at the Blind School, and performed a programme of Scottish tunes and well known songs. This was a real success, as everyone was

able to move, clap or join in with simple percussion instruments.

This was followed by a visit from our Senior School pupils in December, when a Recorder consort joined classes at Canaan Lane to perform seasonal music.

These visits have been very enjoyable for those who took part from Watson's and for the pupils and staff at Canaan Lane. There are huge benefits to be derived by both schools and we are delighted that this link has been established.

Watson's Pays Tribute to our National Bard



Tributes to the National Bard extended from the Nursery to the Watsonian Football Club, who enjoyed a traditional Burns Supper followed by a ceilidh at Myreside. To book your event at Myreside, contact the office on 0131 446 6100 or visit the website at www.gwc.org.uk for further information.



the Senior School



Myreside

Technology you Can Count on

Our Mathematics Department has taken a lead in the use of graphical calculators to enhance learning and teaching, including a pilot project in Scotland designed to explore new learning dynamics by networking this technology.

Now the work of our Head of Mathematics, Mr Hopley, is demonstrated in a new resource that has been distributed to schools across Scotland. Using

Graphic Calculators, a Practical Help and Resources CD Rom was developed by The Scottish Interactive Technology Centre at the University of Edinburgh and Learning and Teaching Scotland in collaboration with other contributors, including Mr Hopley.

There is video footage of Mr Hopley teaching several maths lessons where graphical calculators were used to enhance understanding. In addition, the CD Rom contains copies of calculator programs that he has written and that have been used throughout GWC's Mathematics Department and in many other schools around the UK.

Speech Delivered to PPE Society by MSP

Tommy Sheridan is a very busy MSP, so the PPE Society was very pleased on their third attempt to get him to deliver a speech explaining the policies of the Scottish Socialist Party and answering the many questions of the pupils. He spoke with great passion to a packed house then answered questions in the limited time available on crime, poverty and the distribution of wealth. Most were very impressed by his strongly held convictions even if they did not agree with his means of achieving a more egalitarian, democratic and just society. He has provoked many to question the 'conventional wisdom' which dominates political debate in Scotland. He said he greatly appreciated the opportunity to be able to discuss his ideas with such an articulate, interested group of young people. We hope to invite him back to talk on a more focused range of topics in the near future.



Aequitas Society Continues its Good Work

Fair Trade Friday is on the first Friday of the month with a cake and candy stall to raise funds. In February we ran a video Bring and Buy Sale (selling CDs, DVDs, videos and video games) in aid of the Christine Witcutt Centre for children with learning difficulties in Sarajevo, Bosnia. We are pleased to announce that from the beginning of 2004, following discussions with Mrs Laura Torrance, the Catering Manager, only Fair Trade coffee will be served at Parents' Evenings.

Aequitas/Peace & Justice continues to be one of the most enthusiastically attended activities in the Senior School, with over 20 pupils from S1 to S6 meeting every Friday lunchtime. We are very active in raising awareness (and money) in support of some of the worldwide causes we care about.

New Horizons

Morna Hill (S6) is looking forward to an eventful summer, as she prepares for a trip to the Lalibela Game Reserve in South Africa. She hopes to study Veterinary Medicine after leaving school, and working at Lalibela will give her incredible hands-on experience of treating wild animals.

Morna secured this opportunity by applying to the African Conservation Experience, and she is one of eight volunteers heading for the Reserve in August. She will spend time at the wildlife rehabilitation centre, as well as taking part in anti-poaching patrols.

Morna is one of many pupils who are keen to broaden their horizons before continuing with future study. Each year, a number of our leavers take advantage of the wonderful opportunities provided by the Hamilton Scholarship, the Wynberg Exchange, the Murray Award for students studying languages abroad, and the Sanson Award and Watsonian travel grants, which support individuals undertaking projects and expeditions overseas.

Development Matters

The George Watson's Family Foundation is a registered charity and has recently had a satisfactory audit from the Inland Revenue.

We are proud of what has been achieved so far, but to maintain funding of over half a million pounds annually for bursary support, and finances to ensure the best possible facilities, there is a very real ongoing need. Leaving this year are our first Foundationers, and on behalf of them can we thank all of you who have supported the Foundation and given them the opportunity of a Watson's education.

Over the remainder of the session, many fundraising events will take place including the Enablement Fund Ceilidh on 13 March (please contact Chrys Hibbert on 447 3244 for tickets), Foundation Day and sponsored events run by pupils and staff.

If you think that you or your company could support the Foundation, please do not hesitate to contact Lesley or Roy in the Development Office on 0131 446 6008 or email development@gwc.org.uk.

Drama at Watson's

by Mr H Paterson

Curricular drama was first introduced at GWC in 1992 and is now well established and offers a full range of curricular courses in its purpose-built accommodation. In addition to class teaching, the Department's extra-curricular commitment continues to keep our three teachers very busy.

In October, the Higher Drama pupils presented their devised drama *Is this Scotland?*. This was followed by the S3 Youth Theatre production of *Little Shop of Horrors* in November and the annual House Drama competition in December. A new innovation was the Creative Dance presentation, which was very well received.

The Department also provides support for other productions whether it be by providing props, costumes, set or just advice. Our contribution to the English Department's production of *Hamlet* this term was the choreographing of the sword fencing scene.

This year's School production with the Music Department is *Oklahoma* to be performed in June. Preparations for the S3 production of *The Wizard of Oz* are also under way and a second Creative Dance presentation is being planned for this term.

Extra-curricular work does not always involve productions: a large number of pupils are members of the props, costume and stage crews which meet on a regular basis.

Over 120 pupils from S3-S6 regularly attend the Drama Department's theatre outings; individual tuition is given to pupils preparing audition pieces for drama courses, film, television and drama colleges; and at the end of session, 32 pupils from S4 will be departing for Tolon to participate in the popular Greek Drama Tour.

There is never a dull moment in the Drama Department.

Congratulations

Advanced Higher Mathematics

Alastair Currie and Oliver Dixon (ex 03) have been awarded prizes for outstanding performance in the Advanced Higher Mathematics exam in May 2003.

Physics

Bronze awards have been won by four of our Sixth Year pupils: Gordon Bates, David Ferrier, Campbell Brown and Thomas Perry, in the prestigious British Physics Olympiad, a competition conducted by written examinations.

Music

Olivia McKnight, Douglas McCallum, Rachel McKean and Anna Gorzkowska (all S1) have been selected to play in the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland. Felicity Johnson (P5) has been selected to play for the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain for her age group. Julia Somerville (S5) has been selected to play the harp for the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland.

Judo

David Jones (S2) won Gold at the Scottish Schools' Judo Championships.

Tennis

Mairi Drummond, Natalie Binnie, Patrick Baker and Blair Robertson (all P6) were all picked to play for East of Scotland Tennis in the U11 age group at the Scottish Inter County Cup in December.

Rugby

The 1st XV reached the semi-final of the Scottish Schools' Cup, finally losing to Dollar Academy 0-30. The match was played on the International Pitch at Murrayfield in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Michael Hunter (S6) attended the national training weekend

at Murrayfield and, along with Graeme MacGilchrist (S5), has been selected for the Integrated Edinburgh U18 squad for the District Championships in February and March.

Hockey

The following boys have been selected to attend training with the East District teams: U18: Nick McLaren and Andrew Sweetman (both S6); U16: Charlie Hibbert, Cammy Fraser, Tom Blyth, Ali Evans and Craig Sutherland (all S4). The 1st XI Boys' hockey team won their own 'Brass Monkeys' Tournament and also the Stewart's Melville Indoor Competition.

The 1st XI Girls' Hockey team reached the semi-final of the East District Schools Cup. The match against Mary Erskine finished 1-1 with Watson's being put out of the competition through the penalty stroke knock-out rule. Fiona Kerray and Jenny Drewitt (both S5) have been selected for the East Hockey U18 Indoor Squad.

The 2nd Year B team is unbeaten so far in the season despite having to play occasional A team opposition.

Swimming

In the Scottish National Schools Swimming Championships on 31 January, the Junior swimmers performed well with the Boys U12 4x50m relay team of Michael Connelly, Michael Walker, Euan Kerr, Andrew Chalmers and Scott McKean taking the Gold medal position to become national champions. In the Senior section seven swimmers placed well.

In the Scottish Novice League diving competition Laura Smith (P6) and Grace Reid (P3) took part in the national novice diving competitions and won gold.



P7 Netball

The Primary 7 Netball team of Joanna Crerar, Vanessa Kambi, Rebecca Inkster, Alex Wilson, Rachael Cave, Fiona Trew, Caitlin Garrett, Catherine Dick and Sarah Barrie had a marvellous victory against Corstorphine to win the Edinburgh Schools Knock-Out Winter Tournament. Over 35 schools took part and GWC girls won some tight matches to reach the final at Ainslie Park on 23 January. It was very close, the score being 8-8 after the third quarter. However, the girls played magnificently to win 12-10 at the final whistle.

Galleon Camps

Book early to secure a place!
The emphasis is on fun and participation, and this multi-activity course is suitable for all ages and abilities, from P1 up. It runs weeks commencing 28 June, 5 July and 12 July 2004. For further information, please contact the Galleon staff on 0131 446 6066 or visit the website at www.gwc.org.uk for details of the full range of Galleon activities.

Pupils Continue to Impress Arkwright Trust

Our impressive record of Arkwright Scholarship awards was extended this session, when Ross Johnston, James Scobie and Ross Pelling (all S5) became the latest Watson's pupils to receive this highly prestigious award.

The Arkwright Scholarship rewards flair and originality in solving Engineering Design problems. By supporting scholars in their Highers/A-Level years, Arkwright aims to encourage the best of the nation's young engineering talent into industry.

The scholarships are sponsored by key industry players, and our pupils joined other UK winners to be formally presented with their awards at a ceremony in London at The Institution of Electrical Engineering.

Swimmers Help Make Wishes Come True

The Junior School swim team excelled themselves when they took part in the national Swimathon for the 'Make a Wish' charity. The charity aims to turn the wishes of children with life threatening illnesses into reality.



The challenge for the children was to obtain sponsorship for each length of the swimming pool they could swim in half an hour. Some managed a fantastic total of 76 lengths and the team raised a staggering total of £1,052, which they hope will help children, and the families of children, living with life-threatening illness.