



NEWS FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parent/Guardian

Every day I continue to be inspired by our pupils and my colleagues and all that they do together to make St Augustine's a special place.

All of the activities and achievements since August continue to highlight how impressive our pupils are and the energy, talent, enthusiasm and commitment they bring to our school and how dedicated our staff are.

This session, we have had a number of staff leaving us temporarily—all on maternity leave:-

Mrs Campbell	-	Business Education
Mrs Carson	-	Modern Studies
Mrs Connor	-	Geography
Mrs Klos	-	Physical Education
Mrs Scally	-	Modern Languages

New staff joining us to help cover maternity leave:-

Ms Campbell	-	Geography
Mr Campbell	-	Business Education
Mrs Dixon	-	Modern Languages
Ms Pia	-	Physical Education
Mrs Ramsay	-	Modern Studies

I wish you and your families a Happy & Holy Christmas and a good new year.

M McGee

Head Teacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 6 Jan
In-service—staff only

Thurs 7 Jan
Pupils resume

Thurs 14 Jan
Parent Council Meeting 6pm

Mon 18 Jan
Senior Phase Prelims begin

Fri 29 Jan
Senior Phase Prelims end

Wed 3 Feb
Transition Mass
11.15am Cathedral

Thurs 11 Feb
S2 Parents' Consultation
& Information Evening
3.50—6.20pm

Fri 12 Feb
Term ends

Mon 15—Fri 19 Feb
February Break

Mon 22 Feb
All resume

Thurs 3 March
S4 Parents' Consultation
& Information Evening
3.50—6.20pm

Thurs 17 Mar
Parent Council Meeting 6pm

Thurs 24 Mar
Non uniform day
End of term service

Fri 25 Mar—Fri 8 Apr
Easter Break

Mon 11 April
All resume



St Augustine's S1s at St Joseph's Primary School.

Congratulations to St Joseph's on the winning of the prestigious Gold Sports Award, 1st primary school in Edinburgh to get this!



The start of winter

*Walking down a winter road,
Not knowing what to do.*

*Making footprints in the snow,
The forest I'm going through.
Listening to the animals
Rushing quick inside.*

*Now running quickly home,
I dash through the trees
Now I'm home and cosy and
warm
I feel the fire breathe.*

*I then calmly fall asleep,
Stocking at the end of my bed.
Soon after, I wake up
And cross my fingers for luck
As I reach for my stocking's threads.*



Maria Feeney 1A1



S3 Geography Field Trip to Loch Lomond National Park

On Thursday 17th September 50 S3 pupils had the opportunity to visit Balmaha in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park as part of their S3 Geography course. The group were fortunate to experience a warm, sunny day and had plenty of chances to try out their new iPads whilst capturing pictures of the beautiful surroundings.



Lead by members of the National Park Ranger Service the group participated in 4 workshops covering the Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share challenges they are undertaking as part of the John Muir Award scheme. This will be followed up back in the classroom during the rest of the year.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE SCHOOL HAS UP TO DATE ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, EMAIL AND EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS FOR YOUR CHILD.





Higher Drama - Class Act

The Higher Drama class have been busy this term working in partnership with the Traverse Theatre. They are part of the Class Act project. The theatre provided workshops with professional play wright Isabel Wright who helped the students write their scripts. The students have directed their own pieces and will perform them personally on 4 December in school. The plays will be then published and performed at the Traverse Theatre, on Thursday 20 January by professional actors. The students involved were:

Mairi Boyle | Mackenzie Kelly | Callum McDonald | Holly Taylor | Sarah Malone | Pamela Lowrie
Jade McLellan | Oliwia Kozłowska | Jamie Elvin | Cyrus Uy | Dylan Walker | Aniq Khurshid | Liam Turnbull



Teen Titles Party

This year's Teen Titles Party was held at the beautiful, historic Reference Library in Central Library. The annual Party is a chance for teen readers and reviewers to meet authors and other reviewers, and this time some of the Library Helpers went along. Cathy MacPhail told us about her novel 'Another Me' being turned into a film (which we saw at the School's Launch with Cathy earlier this month!) and Brandin from Craigryston told us about how authors work with his school on projects and about Kirkland Ciccone's lunchbox. We had a great time – we collected autographs from Terry Teri, Elizabeth Wein and Cathy MacPhail, took photographs with Cat Clarke and Kirkland Ciccone, checked out resources that schools can borrow and ate lots of delicious mini food. Our only question is – when do we get our invitations for next year's party?!



Kayleigh Lowrie, Pamela Lowrie and Sophia Paschall-Duncan





9/11 Survivor visit to the Modern Studies Department

On Thursday, 8 October 2015, S3 Modern Studies pupils attended a talk in the Department from Dani Sanderson, a paramedic who was at the scene of 9/11. She described her involvement in the disaster and the aftermath that she personally faced. She lost 411 of her rescue services colleagues and was herself severely injured.

This was very emotional and gave us a glimpse of how the disaster affected the rescue services on the scene and the horrific injuries which people received. As she was speaking the whole class was in complete silence, holding on to her every word. We were all so stunned at what she had gone through that as we left the classroom we were all lost for words.

Emily Laidlaw and Amy Woodcock



School immunisation programme

Immunisation helps protect our communities from a wide range of illnesses. Thanks to immunisation, diseases such as polio have disappeared in the UK. However, these diseases could come back as they are still seen in many countries throughout the world - which is why it's so important to get your jabs.

The NHS Lothian school nurse team carry out an annual immunisation programme. The vaccinations will be given in spring term 2016. Consent packs were issued on the 29 November. Please discuss the consent pack at home and return it to school as soon as you can.

The teenage booster to ensure protection from tetanus, diphtheria and polio will be offered to pupils in S3. This completes the programme, begun in infancy, to give life-long protection.

In addition this year all S3 – S6 pupils are recommended a meningitis vaccine (ACWY). This is to protect against the W strain of meningitis which is on the increase across the UK.

Late Coming

It is important that pupils develop the good habit of being on time for classes. Regular late coming is unacceptable for a number of reasons:-

- It is unfair to pupils who have been on time as class lessons are seriously disrupted by constant late comers.
- All employer's references have a section for reporting on time keeping of pupils. This applies to all jobs, whether temporary, permanent or part time.
- It is a bad habit to develop and certainly does nothing to prepare our pupils for life after St Augustine's.



School Uniform Policy

Parents are asked to co-operate with the school in encouraging the wearing of the school uniform. Wearing school uniform contributes to a positive school ethos and helps avoid discrimination and reduces peer pressure to wear expensive designer clothing.

- **Black tailored trousers or skirts of a suitable length**
- **White school shirt**
- **School Tie**
- **Sensible black school shoes**
- **Blue School Blazer with school badge (for years S5 & S6)**

A black v-neck cardigan or v-neck jumper will be acceptable over a white school shirt and school tie

Ties can be purchased from the School Office

Jeans, joggers, leggings, jeggings, tracksuit bottoms, trainers and designer tops, caps and boots are not appropriate school wear (including ankle boots)



S5/6 Art Work





Polish National Day—11 November



Students reading a poem in Polish and English:
Weronika Borowska, Beth Marshall
Francisca Nwachukwu, Jazmine Okolo

Polskie Święto Niepodległości

11 listopada szkoła Św. Augustyna z dumą obchodziła Polskie Święto Niepodległości. Sześćdziesięciu pracowników szkoły, uczniowie oraz goście zebrali się razem, by cieszyć się polską muzyką, jedzeniem i poezją. Stuart Robertson i Kat Przybycień z Polish Scottish Heritage opowiedzieli nam o swoim projekcie oraz historii Narodu Polskiego.

Uczniowie z grupy TRUE Colours, którzy zorganizowali całą imprezę, planują również celebrować Chiński Nowy Rok w lutym oraz Dzień Św. Patryka w marcu.

On 11 November, St Augustine's was proud to commemorate Polish National Day at the school. Sixty members of staff, students and visitors came together to enjoy Polish music, poetry and food. Stuart Robertson and Kat Przybycien of Polish Scottish Heritage told us about their project and explained some of the history of the Polish nation.

The TRUE Colours student group organised the event and plans to celebrate Chinese New Year in February and St Patrick's Day in March.

Beth Marshall



Szymon Podboraczynski
playing the Polish
national anthem



Stuart Robertson and Kat Przybycien of Polish Scottish Heritage



News from the Science Department

It's been a busy few months in the Science department at St Augustine's. Friday 11th December sees the culmination of weeks of work undertaken by our S2 pupils and pupils from St Margaret's, Fox Covert RC, St David's and St Joseph's Primary schools towards our "Today's Science; Tomorrow's Engineers" competition. There are over 60 teams competing, presenting their work to judges from industry and the Universities. Primary pupils have been developing solutions to improving accessibility for people with disabilities and many of our S2 pupils have been developing solutions to reduce energy use through the school's STEM program. The work the pupils have undertaken is excellent and we're looking forward to their many varied presentations on the day.



This year has been the UNESCO Year of Light and we have taken part in activities to celebrate this. Six of our S2 pupils (Corinne Brownlee, Aodan Burns, Kerri Ford, Brendan Harrison, Titi Kachale and Joseph Moore) linked with researchers from Herriot Watt University over a couple of months to plan an experiment to demonstrate the existence of photons. This was then presented at a celebration day on 2nd December at the University. They were joined by many more of our S2 pupils, some of whom were hanging their LED lanterns, created in conjunction with both Herriot Watt and Edinburgh Universities, which formed part of an illuminations event that evening. They were treated to a lecture by Prof Jim Al-Kalili (of BBC fame) whilst it was broadcast internationally and experienced many demonstrations into applications of light, including holography, food testing and electron microscopy.

Recently, our AH Biology class undertook a workshop on classification, where they had the opportunity to develop an understanding of the complexities of identifying and classifying species of many varied animals, including armadillos and cockroaches. One of the students, Thomas McLean, has been able to undertake his AH Biology project at the zoo, studying factors affecting animal behaviour, which has yielded some interesting results. Prior to this, many of our S2 pupils visited the zoo for a day of various activities, including making mobile phone microscopes and robotics workshops



Prior to the summer, 40 of our S2 and S3 pupils enjoyed a visit to the Glasgow Science centre. They enjoyed a very visual and entertaining lecture on the workings of the digestive and respiratory systems, watched an incredible 3B movie in the IMAX, learning about animal conservation efforts and explored the many exhibits across the 3 floors of the GSC.



On the 20th June 2015, a group of 30 pupils embarked on a science trip to Geneva. The group visited the magnificent Cathedrale St Pierre and had the opportunity to explore the surrounding local area, which included visiting quite a few Swiss Chocolatiers! The pupils then embarked on a paddleboat adventure; taking in the sights of the beautiful Lake Geneva and the towering Jet d'Eau (a jet of water which reaches a staggering maximum height of 140 m). They also visited the History of Science museum; there the pupils were able to see how scientific instruments had evolved through the centuries. Outside of the building, the pupils were also able to talk with a group of astronomers who were investigating sun spots using polarising lenses on their telescopes. They finished the day with a relaxing cruise around Lake Geneva. The next morning the group visited the Geneva Observatory. Whilst there they were given lectures on the detection of exoplanets

and given the opportunity to see the observatory's telescopes. At the end of the visit, the pupils watched a 3D movie on the formation of the Universe. Afterwards they made their way to visit the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. The pupils were given the opportunity to talk with many of the scientists and technicians working at CERN, and were given a tour around CERN's testing facility. The technicians explained how many of the components functioned and the importance of testing them before fitting to the Large Hadron Collider. At the end of the tour the pupils were shown CERN's control centre, where all the functions of the Large Hadron Collider are carefully monitored. Just outside of the control centre, there is a scale model showing how the Large Hadron Collider functions. The pupils had an absolutely amazing time and to finish the visit off were given a quiz, where lots of prizes were won, involving Swiss Chocolate!

