ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

School Website : www.arran.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

Email : arran@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

November 2016

Follow us on Twitter: @arranhigh

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been another very busy and very successful term in the school. Building upon our very good SQA examination results, the best in modern times, we have also enjoyed considerable success with school sport. You will read below of these successes and I am also delighted to tell you that in addition to what is detailed below, we are a finalist in the Sunday Mail National Sport Awards in the School Sport category.

This success is a result of the efforts of our incredibly hard-working school staff, our partnership work with Active Schools, the Arran Youth Foundation, parents and local sports clubs.

Most of all however this success is as a result of the participation, leadership, drive and commitment show by our young people, in particular our young sports leaders. I am very privileged indeed to lead a school with such a strong community and I look forward to taking our approach to school sport even further in the coming months and years.

If you would be willing to be a parent volunteer for school trips, or if you would be interested in offering an extra-curricular school club of some sort, please contact the school office and we will arrange either for you to complete a PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) disclosure form, or arrange a quick chat to talk about your idea.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas and New Year. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to the benefit of all of our young people in 2017.

Barry Smith

Head Teacher

Head Teacher Commendation Awards

The following pupils have received awards this month:

Fiona Bulger, Ella Kerr, Ryan Wilson, Finlay Aherne, Dan McAleer, Scott McKay, Max Robson, Jaden Simpson, Cir Tulloch & Owen Popplewell – Volunteering to help backstage at the school Show in June.

Marsha Bain – Taking part in an Essay Competition and gaining 2nd Prize

Bradley Lord – Taking part in an Essay Competition and gaining 1st Prize

Wiktoria Grzywacz – Being a valuable help as a translator within the Early Years Class.

Sport Scotland Gold School Sport Award

Arran High School was recently awarded the Sport Scotland Gold School Sport Award. This award is the highest accolade that a school can receive from Scotland's National Governing Body for sport.

This award is a result of Arran High School putting sport at the heart of our planning, practice and ethos, putting young people at the forefront of our planning of sport opportunity and the close partnership between all school staff and our Active Schools Coordinator.

Mountain Bike Club Award

On Thursday 17th November at the Scottish Mountain Biking Awards, Arran High School Mountain Bike Club was presented an award for best club by Craig Burn, CEO of Scottish cycling.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

A number of Arran High School pupils received Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Bronze, Silver & Gold Levels at the Arran Outdoor Education Centre. They were presented by Gavin Ferguson (NAC Development Worker – DofE & Achievement Awards). There were also a number of Kayaking Level & Coaching Awards presented to pupils by Ian Stapes (AOEC Centre Manager). DofE Diamond Challenge awards were also presented. Participants presented their kayaking expedition experiences to an audience of many before partaking in a feast of an Italian Buffet. Well done to everyone who received an award.

Any student who will be 14+ during this school year who would like to find out more about the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme should speak to Mrs Hogge, Mrs Cannon or come along to the drop-in session in the Youth Cabin located at the rear of the school on a Wednesday after school.

We have a 1 x Silver Award place and 1 x Gold Award available for the Kayaking Expeditions which take place in June/July 2017. This involves training at the Auchrannie Pool on a Sunday evening. Further details can be obtained from Mrs Hogge.

Rag Bag

There is a new larger Rag Bag bin situated in the school car park. Please feel free to deposit any used textiles (not pillows or duvets) for re-cycling. The next scheduled collection will be on 5th December.

Lost Property

Please ask your child to check lost property. Any unclaimed items will be donated to the Rag Bag Scheme on 5th December. It would be helpful if clothes, especially sweatshirts and polo shirts, could be labelled with pupil names.

Remembrance Service

'Lest We Forget'

Arran High school held a Remembrance Assembly on Friday 11th November and observed a two minute silence at 11.00am.

The short act of remembrance was led by the Mrs Jean Hunter with Fr N Colford and Alan Milligan of the Scottish Sub-Mariners Association. Music was supplied by Mali Beatan and Megan Hamill. Lois Ashley played the Last Post and Ross Kerr piped the invited guests in and out. Poems were read by John McNeish and Rory Morrison. A collection was taken by prefects for 'Poppy Scotland'. A total of £72.78 collected.

The contribution of all those involved and the interested and respectful attention of staff and pupils made it a moving and meaningful assembly.

Arran High School also sold poppies for the Scottish Poppy Appeal 2016 and raised a total of £176.51

S5/6 Leadership

A number of our S5 and S6 pupils are involved in completing the SQA Leadership Award this year. Part of this award involves taking responsibility for planning and carrying out a project within the school or the community.

One of our S6 pupils has decided to further develop her interest and skills in Psychology by carrying out a research project on the impact that having breakfast has on the short-term cognitive abilities of pupils. Ella hopes to collect information from as many S1-S3 pupils as possible and use this data as a way to inform pupils, staff and parents of the impact that breakfast has. Parents of all pupils in the lower school should have received a letter from her explaining the research and what to do if they do not wish their child to be involved. The research is planned for the second week in December.

Raising Awareness of Dyslexia in Arran High School

The week of 7th-12th November, as part of a Dyslexia Scotland initiative, was declared to be Dyslexia Awareness week. To raise awareness of this hidden disability, Dyslexia Ambassadors have been appointed to work within schools to raise the profile of this learning difficulty and help to remove stigma associated with it. S3 pupil, Eilidh Hamill, is the Ambassador for Arran High School.

At the recent S3 parents' night, Eilidh created and manned a stand to raise awareness amongst parents, pupils and staff. Information posters were on display, fliers and brochures were available to take away for future reference and blue ribbons were distributed. This will be repeated for the S2 parents' night.

Furthermore, Eilidh is holding a series of short presentations to all PSE classes (S1-6) about dyslexia and removing perceived barriers. The main message is that dyslexia isn't a barrier, it's just a hurdle and that with the correct support anything can be achieved.

Eilidh Hamill

S3 Leadership

During the week of the 24th-28th of October a selection of our S3 cohort undertook a rigorous week of leadership training at the AOEC. They had the opportunity not only to experience various outdoor endeavours, climbing Casteal Abhail, abseiling etc. The pupils also developed their team work skills through various activities through their days but most notably the activities they undertook during the evening sessions, these activities included thinking about the qualities of perfect rulers and reflections on their own work and progress over the course of the week. As a final point as these pupils take the experiences and skills they have begun to develop to better themselves, their school and their local community, all we can do is watch and think 'oh the places they'll go'.

S1/2 Positive Praise Scheme

As some of you are aware Arran High School run a Positive Praise Scheme for S1/2 Pupils. This involves pupils collecting stamps on their Stamp Cards on a weekly basis, which ultimately get tallied up and put towards various awards for the pupils throughout the year as follows:

Friday 16th December – Last card count before Christmas

Friday 23rd December – Amazon vouchers issued to top 2 in S1 and top 2 in S2

Friday 24th March – Last card count before Christmas

Friday 31st March - Amazon vouchers issued to top 2 in S1 and top 2 in S2

Friday June 2nd – Last card count before summer

Friday 9th June – Top 12 S2 Pupils – Water sports day at AOEC

Thursday 15th June – S1 and S2 PPB Disco with P7s (Numbers to be confirmed)

Tuesday 20th June – S1/S2 Film afternoon (Numbers to be confirmed)

Friday 23rd June – Top 18 S1 Pupils – Royal Highland Show – Edinburgh

Children in Need Day 2016

Arran High School raised a total of £234.54 for Children in Need on Friday by having a Non-Uniform Spotty Day and a Pupils v Staff Quiz in the afternoon, which took the form of favourite game shows Pointless & Family Fortunes. It also included rounds of Riddles & General Knowledge questions

Scholastic Book Fair

We are having a half price book fair in the school library from Tuesday 6th to Thursday 8th December. With so many brilliant book bargains to explore, it's the perfect way for you to get the latest titles for Christmas.

There are over 200 titles for you to browse through, starting from only £1.49 – there's sure to be a book for everyone to enjoy.

Parents are also invited to come along to the book fair each day from 3.45pm to 4.30pm

Uniform Reminder

Parents are reminded that the school uniform for all **students S1-S5** is as follows:

Black School Polo Shirt and/or school jumper

Black trousers or skirt (Black 'long' shorts are also acceptable)

All **S6 students** wear a RED polo shirt and Black trousers or skirt

Please note that **white polo shirts are no longer part of our school uniform** and are no longer on sale from the school

Attendance/Absence from School

Attendance is formally recorded by class teachers period by period. All of this information is recorded electronically.

Absence from school can be recorded as authorised or unauthorised.

Parents are asked to inform the school by letter or telephone, if their child is, or is likely to be absent. Each morning, office staff will endeavour to contact the parents of absent pupils for whom no telephone call/letter has been received, after internal checks have been made. If no explanation from a child's parents, the absence will be regarded as being unauthorised.

Contact will be made via email, text and/or telephone.

If contact is unable to be made to the parent by the office or no there has been no response by lunchtime to the school as a result of chasing up the absence, then the names of pupils will be passed to the Guidance Teacher responsible for the school year, who will then follow up the absence.

Further details regarding absence can be found in the school handbook.

Christmas Showcase

Arran High School will be presenting a Christmas Showcase on Tuesday 20th December at 7.30pm in the school theatre. This will be a Christmas evening of music and songs by our very talented pupils.

Tickets will be on sale very soon via the school office. There will also be a raffle.

(Christmas Showcase 2015)

Jeans for Genes Day

Arran High School participated in the Jeans for Genes Day on Friday 23rd September and raised a total of £188.97 by having a non-uniform day for this very worthy cause.

Dates for your Diary

Ski Trip Meeting - Monday 28th November – 7pm – For all Parents/Carers of pupils going on the Ski Trip in January

S1 to S3 Junior Christmas Party – Wednesday 7th December – 7pm-9.30pm

School Photographer in School – Wednesday 7th December

Week 5th December to 9th December – Scholastic Book Fair in the School Library

Christmas Lunch – School Canteen – Thursday 15th December

Arran High School Christmas Showcase – Tuesday 20th December – 7.30pm

S4-S6 Senior Christmas Party – Wednesday 21st December – 7pm-10pm

School Closes – Friday 23rd December

School Re-opens – Monday 9th January