Dear Parents / Carers,

I am delighted to introduce our November newsletter highlighting the many and varied successes as well as keeping everyone up to date with key information relating to our school. Plans to replace our PE facilities by extending our new games hall are now with the planning department. These plans can be found HERE and you can also register and share your views with the planners.

We have some staffing news this month, we have welcomed Mrs Thomson who has been appointed as Curriculum Leader Social Subjects and RMPS and we are saying goodbye to Mrs Barraclough who is leaving us for a post at Currie High School following many years of excellent service. Mrs Barraclough is an extremely popular teacher and we wish her luck in her new post.

Outward Bound 2015

Final preparations are being made to launch the 2015 Outward Bound adventure week. This will be our 3rd adventure week and we are hoping for many new and returning participants. The current P7 pupils at local Primaries will be invited to join a transition programme to help start their High School life in the best possible way, current S1 pupils can take part in their John Muir Award, current S2 pupils will be able to sign up for their Adventure and Challenge Award. Listen out in the bulletin for further details and collect a letter when this trip is announced.
STEM, wind turbines, outdoor activities, Character Scotland, SYHA, Boots & Paddles and waterwheels. Put them together and what do you get? A fantastic residential experience in Rowardennan Youth Hostel on the banks of Loch Lomond.

A group of twenty Liberton S3 pupils, and two staff, were very fortunate to have the opportunity to take part in a three day residential trip staying at the Rowardennan Hostel, Loch Lomond. The group took part in a variety of team building outdoor activities with a focus on STEM.

What is STEM?
STEM stands for Science Technology, Engineering and Maths. Our pupils took part in a range of activities which included building and testing wind turbines and water wheels. These activities provided hands on experience of the practical application of STEM. During the residential, pupils had the opportunity to think about the exciting career opportunities in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Pupils with a background in STEM will be in demand in the job market in the future. There is a massive shortage of workers in Britain with these skills.

Character Scotland
Character Scotland also made a valuable contribution. Pupils completed an individual survey which helped them to identify their character traits. We will use this to help them to develop their own character, identifying their strengths and areas for development. The group will also take part in the inspire>aspire programme. Character Scotland were so impressed with our young people that they have asked the group to participate in and give a presentation at a conference in June. Our thanks go to SYHA for providing the funding, accommodation and a volunteer helper, Boots and Paddles for their expertise during the outdoor activities and Character Scotland for the resources and expertise to allow the young people to identify their strengths and develop their ‘character’. Last but not least a big thank you to Mr Valentine, Geography department, who masterminded the project! A film of the project can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rczjaJmM2Hw
**Young Sports Ambassadors**

Our Young Sports Ambassadors, Becky Young, Stephen Dolan, Callum Sibley and Euan Hollingdale have been hard at work in school this term. They delivered their first sports success assembly which was a fantastic way of introducing them to the whole school. They supported our first ever ‘sports fare’ which took place in the Games Hall on a Monday afternoon. The fare brought a number of sports coaches, clubs and health organisations together to talk to the pupils about things they could get involved with either as part of the school sports membership or out in the local community. They are also in the process of collecting nominations for our new Sports Council. This will be led by Kyle Riddell, an S6 pupil and its aim will be to involve a male and female pupil from each year group in a panel which will promote sport, organise competitions and further engage the pupils at LHS in the fantastic range of opportunities offered to them. They will be the pupil voice for sport and dance in the school.

The Young Sports Ambassadors just returned from an action packed weekend at Lagganlia Outdoor Centre, where they joined 20 other Ambassadors from across the city. They took part in activities but also got involved in workshops on presentation and event management skills. They are now in the process of planning an event for our primary transition period next June.

**Under 14’s Football Team**

Our new S1 footballers had a confusing start to season and were unsure of which league that they would be playing in! After a little chopping and changing it was decided that S1 and S2 boys would join together to play in the schools under 14’s league. A tough job for the younger players. With Brian Carrigan, a parent coach at the helm and assisted by Euan Hollingdale, our Young Sports Ambassador, the team has started to progress confidently in the league. Their last fixture saw them play with only 10 men and win 5 – 2 against Balerno at home, which now puts them in 5th place in the league. This team are still looking for additional players, so if your child would like to get involved then please ask them to speak to Ellie or a member of the PE department. Training takes place on a Friday from 1:45pm.

**Under 15’s Football Team**

Our under 15’s team were promoted last season into the top flight league for schools in Edinburgh. Despite playing 5 games without a win, the team is definitely due to come out on top very soon. The boys who are training and playing each week are playing with determination and a good attitude, so we are very confident that good things will start to happen. The New Year will bring with it a change in coaching staff as we say goodbye to
Stephen Dolan and welcome a coach from outside the school. Craig will be coming to meet the team on Friday 12 December at their training session, so I urge ALL under 15’s players old and new to come along.

**Basketball Team’s**
Liberton High School has never traditionally been a huge basketball playing school......well......now, we are! Our Under 15’s team and Open boys’ team have been having great success in their Scottish Cup Basketball Matches this term. Our Under 15’s played Gracemount at the start of November and came away with a 19 – 6 victory, which was amazing as we were missing half of the team! They also had narrow losses against George Heriots and Portobello, both of which are very tough opponents. The Open boys played an epic game against St Augustine’s and after an aggressive last quarter, won 36 – 33. The belief that the boys had in themselves was incredible that day. This self-belief definitely travelled with us to St Thomas this week, where they played against a team of national league basketball players. St Thomas emerged winners out of this game, but Liberton chased them all the way and actually won the second quarter!

**S1/S2 Handball**
Our thanks must extend to Raymond Wilson, coach of South Edinburgh Handball Team who travelled with our first S1/S2 Handball team to Napier University to play in the East of Scotland Schools Handball qualifiers. After a hard fought day of handball the team finished in second position. This result has ensured that the team will go through to the finals in March 2015. Handball training takes place in school on a Monday from 4:30 -5:30pm and a Thursday lunchtime. New player are always welcomed.

**Mountain bike Club of the Year**
Our Bike Club were nominated for another award, this time for our effort in developing Mountain biking. Since the design and build of the trails in the school grounds our pupils have been able to do much more specific training in trail riding. This has been complimented by an October holiday trip to Glentress with a group of 6 young people. The opportunities that the Bike Club offers young cyclists is unrivalled across the city and for this reason, our coach Trevor Bryant travelled to Peebles Hydro for the annual Developing Mountain bike Conference to see if we had won! We didn’t win, but came a close second place, which we think is an amazing achievement.
Young Volunteer of the Year
Ex pupil Lewis Balsillie was nominated by Active Schools as Young Volunteer of the Year for cycling. This is a prestigious award given out by Cycling Scotland to recognise the commitment and dedication of volunteers who help ensure that young people are able to access Bikeability within our primary schools. Lewis took part in a Cycle Training Assistant Course when he turned 16 at school and ever since has dedicated a huge number of volunteer hours to the school bike club and also spent his core PE time volunteering at Craigour Park Primary. Since deciding to leave school and pursue a college course, Lewis has remained involved in cycling and has just finished another block of volunteering at Liberton Primary School. Lewis WON the award and got to meet Commonwealth Games Athlete James McCallum at a national conference at the Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow. Cycling qualifications are available in school for any pupil 16+, we are actively encouraging out senior school to get involved. Our cluster primary schools are desperate for Bikeability volunteers to support P5 and P6 next year. If any young person or adult is interested in getting involved in this scheme then please contact Ellie on ellie.forgan@ea.edin.sch.uk

School immunisation programme
Immunisation helps protect our communities from a wide range of illnesses. The NHS Lothian school nurse team carry out an annual immunisation programme, which includes: The teenage booster to ensure protection from tetanus, diphtheria and polio – will be offered to pupils in S3 during March 2015. Pupils will also be offered the MenC booster at this time to protect against meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning) caused by meningococcal group C bacteria. The HPV vaccine for girls aged 11 to 13 to protect against cervical cancer – will be offered to girls in S1 and S2 in January 2015. The MMR vaccine for those who did not start or complete the two doses required in childhood is also offered to pupils.

Community Access to Schools
I would like to introduce myself – I am Birgit Harris, the new Acting Community Access to Schools Coordinator based at Liberton High School and part of the Community Learning & Development South Edinburgh Team within Children & Families. My role will be to increase community access to schools in Edinburgh South with a focus on Liberton High School and Gracemount High School and in particular to develop adult education programmes.
This is the new adult education programme for January 2015. Why don’t you start the New Year with something new? Have fun learning or improving a skill.

**ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT LIBERTON HIGH SCHOOL**

**Starting 26 January 2015**

**Enrolment:** from 8 December 2015 via [www.joininedinburgh.org](http://www.joininedinburgh.org)

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<td>Badminton Intermediate / Advanced</td>
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<td>Creative Crochet Beginners</td>
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<td>Printmaking Beginners &amp; Post Beginners</td>
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<td>Spanish Beginners</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Cookery for Men</td>
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I was based at Drummond Community High School for the last 14 years and was responsible for the large adult education programme with some 70 day and evening classes, over 1,000 enrolled adult students and some 35 adult tutors. At Drummond I worked closely with some school departments and local community groups developing joint projects. Having been a mature student myself I am passionate about adult education and lifelong learning. Some examples:

**Collaboration with the Mansfield Traquair Centre** - Series of talks on the wonderful murals by Phoebe Anna Traquair & Mansfield Traquair Church / building; 3 practical art workshops and exhibition attracting over 300 visitors in May 2014

**Celebration of Languages & Cultures** – Event with some school departments, 30 organisations and local community groups celebrating their languages, cultures and food (e.g. Spanish organisations, Sudanese community group, Cultural Peer Group, Thistle Shapla
Organisation etc.) – attracting some 400 visitors. A recipe book is being produced in collaboration with the school’s Home Economics and Art Department.

**Cultural Peer Project** – A successful project bringing together local native speakers of English with ESOL Learners (= English Speakers of Other Languages) exchanging their insider knowledge of Edinburgh and sharing languages and culture through joint outings, cooking, learning & celebrating together.

**Translating Cultures** – A special Book Project which invited adults to participate in this innovative project bringing together languages, embroidery / stitching, bookbinding and printmaking exploring different cultures, journeys and languages. The results were stunning and could be exhibited in any museum.

At present, I am trying to find out what might be needed in the Liberton and Gilmerton area and I am keen to hear from you as an individual or group what you feel should be offered in terms of adult education or provision for the local community. Please ring me on 0131 672 0720, or email me: birgit.harris@liberton.edin.sch.uk

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Birgit Harris

**Christmas Carol Concert**

This year’s Christmas Carol Concert, will be held in the school on Wednesday 10th December 2013 from 7.00 pm. This is the eighth year that we have held the Christmas Concert in the School Assembly Hall and I am sure that it will be yet another festive showcase of the talent that we have at Liberton High School. I hope that you, along with family and friends, will be able to join us on the evening for a night of festive cheer along with a wee glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Tickets are available from the Music department priced £3.00 for adults and £2.00 for concessions (OAP’s and students).
S5/6 Media Team
Our pupil media team have been interviewing a first year from each of our cluster primary schools to get their impressions of their first term at Liberton, here is what they found.

How did you feel when you first started high school and how do you feel now?

S1 Jac Baigan Prestonfield Primary School: I felt nervous because there was only 2 people who came to Liberton from my primary school so I didn't know anyone. I was also excited to start high school. I feel more confident now because I know my way around the school and I know more people.

S1 Jamie Arnott Gilmerton Primary School: I felt nervous because I didn't know my way around the school but now I feel a lot better as I have gotten used to the layout of the school so I can find my classes easily.

S1 Robert Van Dijke, Liberton Primary School: I was scared because of the amount of people that were here. I'm really happy as I now know what I'm Doing and I have made lots of new friends.

S1 Liam Lewis, Craigour Park Primary School: I was quite nervous and was afraid because everyone was much bigger than me and I was afraid of being bullied but now I know it's not like that and I have made lots of new friends.

What do you enjoy about High School?

S1 Jac Baigan Prestonfield Primary School: I enjoy high school because I have met new people and have made more friends. I enjoy home economics because I like to cook and I enjoy computing because I like to play around on the computer.

S1 Jamie Arnott Gilmerton Primary School: I enjoy high school because I am not in the same class all day so I like to move about to different classes. I enjoy CDT because I enjoy designing something and then making it.

S1 Robert Van Dijke, Liberton Primary School: I really like high school as we aren't in the same place all day and we can move around between classes.

S1 Liam Lewis, Craigour Park Primary School: The things I enjoy most about high school are there is more options of things to do and the lessons are fun and more challenging.
LIBERTON HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

QUIZ NIGHT FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported this event and thank you so much for all the donations of wine and snacks. We raised a fantastic £341 for school funds. Thanks to everyone who helped on the night and of course Alan and Michael our fantastic quiz masters who give us their time and expertise for nothing. Thank you also to the staff at the Inch Park Sports Community Club who always ensure the night runs smoothly and everything is set up and ready for us.

Congratulations to the teachers who came first in the quiz, Mr Russell, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Valentine, Mrs Barraclough, Mr Barraclough, Mr McCorquodale, Mr Kelly and Mrs Kelly. (I think I’m going to have to charge Mr Kelly a £1 for every time he mentions the fact that the teachers won!!)

Thanks to Tina Palfreyman for taking photos to put on the LHSA pages on the school website. Mr Kelly won the bottle of gin in the aeroplane game and John Paul Mason S6 won the pupil prize.

The bingo was won by Tim Barraclough, Mrs Barraclough's husband and pupil Hannah Macrae S2.

Well done to all the winners. Thank you so much. See you at the next one!!

UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

CAKE SALE
We are holding a cake sale in the school on Friday 5th December between 12.30 and 1.30pm. If you are able to donate some home baking or come along and help on the day, we would love to hear from you, please contact us at liberton_pta@yahoo.co.uk

SCHOOL EVENTS
Carol Concert Wednesday 10th December – we will be providing refreshments.
S1 Parents Evening Thursday 11th December – we will be selling refreshments and tuck.

THE GIVING MACHINE
If you are Christmas shopping on the internet, please consider using The Giving Machine. TheGivingMachine is a not for profit social enterprise whose sole aim is to raise money for UK schools and charities. Every year your favourite online shops pay £millions in sales commissions to websites who drive shoppers to them. By shopping via www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk you can ensure that any commission paid on your purchase is converted into a cash donation. TheGivingMachine receives the commission and converts 75% of it into cash, the remainder is used to help towards their operating costs. With over 400
stores like Thomas Cook, Amazon, Ebay, M&S, NEXT, Tesco, Getting Personal, Sainsbury and John Lewis taking part you are bound to find what you want from your favourite shops at TheGivingMachine. You can join to become a Giver by visiting www.thegivingmachine.co.uk - entering your name, e-mail address and postcode and selecting our school as your chosen beneficiary. Then, every time you shop online, logon to TheGivingMachine before you shop and you will make free cash donations with every purchase you make. It doesn’t cost any extra and you do not have to make special purchase to qualify. You will receive e-mails from TheGivingMachine thanking you for your support and letting you know when the school receives a payment. Apart from helping us for free, the benefits of becoming a Giver include exclusive special offers from the online retailers and access to free fun giveaways and competitions.

It really is as simple as that. Please ensure you don’t miss this opportunity to give while you are shopping and help spread the word to friends and family so we can raise as much as we can from this amazing scheme. Your help will make a difference to our school.

**We also have a 100 Club**
Mini lottery £12, £1 per month
Proceeds from 100 club, ½ to prize money, ½ to school funds
Current prize money 1\textsuperscript{st} - £20, 2\textsuperscript{nd} - £10 and 3\textsuperscript{rd} £10
100 club runs from October to September, pay by cash, cheque or standing order
We are always looking for new ideas to raise funds for the school so if you are interested in joining the committee and/or helping at events, and/or joining the 100 Club, please contact us by email at  liberton_pta@yahoo.co.uk

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} December at 7.15pm in the staffroom. Everyone welcome.
Thank you very much. DIANE PATON.

**We want your feedback to help us get better**
We are committed to working in partnership with our pupils and parents/carers and what you tell us makes a difference. Please communicate your views by emailing: admin@liberton.edin.sch.uk

Stephen Kelly
Headteacher
Twitter: @LibertonHighHT