

# James Gillespie's High School



# Newsletter

## Message from the Head Teacher

December  
2004

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and an enjoyable holiday. This time of the year us a very busy time for all of us. We have already celebrated Eid al-Fitr and Diwali. In a multicultural school like ours it is certainly clear that winter is the time for "light and candles" for Hanukkah.

December is a time too for you to join the school in a wide variety of public events which we hope you will attend. The students all work so hard to make these events a success and we hope you will support them; they

deserve as big an audience as possible. Details of our forthcoming events can be found overleaf.

We are all looking forward to a very busy and successful 2005 and I wish all of you the very best for the new year.



*Mr. A. Wallace*



Special points of interest:

- ♦ **The school will close at lunchtime on Wednesday, 22nd December 2004.**
- ♦ **The school office will be closed for the whole of the holidays.**
- ♦ **All pupils should return to school promptly on Wednesday, 5th January 2005 at 08:30 hr.**

## Didn't they do well!

### MEALAI BH UR NAIDHEACHD! - CONGRATULATIONS!

Well done to Kirstie MacLeod and Robert Hind in S4 and Seamus MacLeod and Anna Roberts, in S5, who represented Gillespie's in the annual BT Scottish Schools' Gaelic Debating Competition. This year was special, since the final stages of the competition took place in Gillespie's and in the Scottish Parliament. Kirstie and Robert did very well indeed. They were the only Lowland team to reach the semi finals. The winning team from the Nicholson Institute in Stornoway defeated the motion that, "Glasgow is a better city than Edinburgh", as proposed by the team from Gairloch at the final debate in the Parliament on 24th November. All stages of the competition were broadcast by BBC

Radio nan Gaidheal. Thanks are due to those students who provided entertainment on the evening of the semi-finals, and to staff who came along to help out - 'S math a rinn sibh uile !

### Young Actors on American Trip

Two S6 students Tina Anderson and Eleanor Bird have been selected as part of a group of 10 from Edinburgh's Lyceum Youth Theatre (LYT) to work with a school theatre group in Seattle. The trip is will run from 9 Feb to 20 Feb 2005 with the students attending the local High School in the mornings, traveling on the big yellow buses, and rehearsing afternoons and evenings. Former Gillespie's student, Tim Rose, will in the party as playwright

creating a new work especially for the venture. A return trip is planned for the American students to visit Edinburgh in July 2005 when it is planned to perform the work in Edinburgh and Stirling.

### Tollcross 'Lighting of the Tree' Ceremony

Thanks go to four of our senior students who performed several carols as a brass quartet at this ceremony on 2nd December.

Hannah Luqmani, Anna Roberts, Seamus MacLeod and Alex McIver did a fantastic job on a very cold evening to help make this a merry and festive event!

### Football Stars

Kyle Hay in S6 who has been selected for the Scottish Schools FA national Under 18 squad - a fantastic achievement to be representing his country.

Rosie Adams in S3 who has been chosen for the SFA Under 15 Girls "Elite" Development Squad. Only three girls from the Edinburgh area were chosen for this squad.

### European Travellers

Devin Chetty and Elina Beswick represented the school at a conference in Berlin on the subject of Diversity in European Schools.

# James Gillespie's High School

James Gillespie's High School  
Lauderdale Street,  
Edinburgh, EH9 1DD.



Telephone: 0131-447-1900  
Facsimile: 0131-466-7035

Email:  
Admin@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk

Website:  
www.jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk



## JGHS Diary

Friday, 10th December 2004  
Tuesday, 14th December 2004  
Wednesday, 15th December 2004  
Thursday, 16th December 2004  
Monday, 20th December 2004  
Wednesday, 22nd December 2004  
Wednesday, 5th January 2005  
Thursday, 13th January 2005  
Friday, 21st January 2005  
Thursday, 27th January 2005

Mystery Play "The Nativity"  
PTA Festive Fun Evening  
Unveiling of Chewing Gum Sculpture  
Usher Hall Carol Concert  
S1 & S2 Parties  
School closes for Holidays at 12:55hr  
Students return at 08:30hr  
Fanfare Concert, Usher Hall  
S4 reports issued  
Instrumental Instruction Parents'  
Consultation Meeting

### Usher Hall Carol Concert - Thursday 16th Dec. 7.30pm

This promises to be an exciting evening's entertainment with over 500 students performing.

Items include senior and junior wind bands, senior jazz band, flute ensemble, guitar and clarsach ensembles, percussion ensemble, string orchestra and choirs from P7/S1 combined, S2/3 combined, senior vocal group and senior choir.

Tickets are available from the box office on 0131 228 1155 and are selling fast!

### Mystery Play

S6 students are producing a re-imagined version of the medieval mystery play "The Nativity".

The play moves from the creation of the universe to the birth of baby Jesus. The roots of the Cycle plays date back to Medieval times and at its core is the idea of theatre by the people for the people. '

'The Nativity' will be performed on Friday 10th December and tickets will be available one week before.



### Lateness

It is a matter of some concern to us the number of students who arrive late to school. Numbers have been increasing of late. We look to our parents to support the school in reducing this problem. Good time-keeping is essential for the smooth running of all organisations whether they are schools or commercial organisations and our young people need to realise that employers will take an equally serious view of lateness.

Let's all work together to improve our performance in this area in 2005.



### Freedom of Information

As some of you will be aware the Freedom of Information Act 2002 comes into force on the 1 January 2005. The Act entitles individuals to request information from all publicly funded bodies. As part of the preparations within the City of Edinburgh Council we at James Gillespie's are publishing a pamphlet to assist those seeking information from the school. The pamphlet will be available from the school office from Wednesday 15 December.

### Free Piano!!

An opportunity does not come up often like this one!!

Due to receiving a reconditioned piano, we have a spare piano in the music department free to anyone who is willing to organise the uplifting of it.

The piano is a Bechstein and, although older and with a few bass keys causing problems, is a fine instrument with a lovely tone.

First come first served!! Please contact Mrs. O'Brien.

### Friends of James Gillespie's High School

The various "Friends" schemes we have in place in the school have been very successful and have indeed been making us new friends. As reported in the last newsletter, our neighbours have seen a significant improvement in the local environment as a result of our "Friends of the Neighbourhood" project in which our students are clearing litter from the surrounding streets.

Further projects will be kicked-off in the New Year to deal with the environment within the school and the global environment.

Look out for more information in future Newsletters.

