

James Gillespie's High School



Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher

December 2005

The term seems to have flown past and soon we will be breaking for our Christmas holiday. It is an important time for all of us to celebrate and also to reflect on the past year. November and December are important times for many of the cultures in our school since we celebrate Eid, Diwali and Hanukah as well as the Christian feast of Christmas.

I hope you will be able to attend the concert at the Usher Hall but I

would also like to draw your attention to our S6 performance of Lorca's "Blood Wedding" on Friday and Saturday of this week. It is a chilling reminder that there should be more to the festive season than the purchase of gifts and that the crass commercialization that has occurred in our country should not prevent us from thinking of the appalling injustices that exist throughout the world making this time of the year a sad or even frightening time for many.

May I wish you, the parents and students, peace and happiness from all the staff who work to make our school so successful.



Mr. A. Wallace

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South Africa Update

I have just returned from a short trip to South Africa. I was invited there to take part in Zwelibanzi High School's "30 Years of Excellence" celebrations, part of which was to formally open the library which was built using funds raised by our students. This is housed in the James Gillespie's wing, named in honour of our school.

It was a wonderful trip which also allowed me to set up a food fund using money donated by one of our parents, secure photographs of the sixty young people now being sponsored by parents and staff at JGHS, and to make connections with two other schools, Ogwini H.S. and Hillview P.S. for Gracemount and Sciennes who have agreed to partner them.

I also visited CIDA City Campus, a "free" university for disadvantaged black students and secured a place for a student from Zwelibanzi whom we will sponsor.

I can assure you our project is doing an enormous amount to develop our partner school and is admired greatly by a wide cross section of the S.A. community.

We must sustain it and widen its scope. Thank you to all who have contributed.

In February I will return with members of the School Board and the PTA to meet with the governing body in Umlazi and in April Mrs. Chetty will lead a trip with staff and possibly 30 students to visit, as part of our Enterprise and Citizenship Programme.

Staff and students from Zwelibanzi will visit for "Diversecity" but this year the project widens to include a visit from the Principals of Ogwini and Hillview.

"Live, Love and Learn"

Part of the James Gillespie Library, Zwelibanzi High School

Special points of interest:

- Come see the 6th Year production of Lorca's Blood Wedding on 9th or 10th December. See page 2 for details.
- PTA Festive Fun event is on Thursday, 15th December. It will amaze you (page 3).
- Don't forget our final event of the year, our Carol Concert in the Usher Hall on Monday, 19th December. Don't miss it! See page 4.



BT Gaelic Youth Debating Competition



**Our Winning Team
Seamus MacLeod and
Anna Roberts**

(L to R) Ms. Craig and Ms. McArthur of our Modern Languages Department, Seamus and Anna (JGHS), and Cairistiona MacRitchie and Allison Buchanan representing Millburn Academy, the runners up).

NACH MATH A RINN IAD! - DIDN'T THEY DO WELL!

Mealaibh ur naidheachd...(Congratulations) to Seamus MacLeod and Anna Roberts, our team who won the BT Gaelic Youth Debating competition on 23rd November in the Scottish Parliament. Sixteen teams took part this annual event, the first rounds of which were held in Stornoway in early November. Anna and Seamus spoke in favour of the motion that, "Online dating is the way forward". It was a lively topic and Anna and Seamus performed very well indeed. The event was broadcast live on "Radio nan Gaidheal and highlights were also shown on "Dè a-nis?" on BBC2. All those involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

F McArthur, R Craig

Modern Languages



S6 Production

Blood Wedding

by Garcia Lorca

As we approach the Christian festive season come and see a play that embodies appeals for freedom, justice, social equality and the end to a cycle of hatred.

Love, Passion & Death Await!

Friday 9th Dec 7:30pm

Saturday 10th Dec 7:30pm

£5 Adults -- £3 Concessions

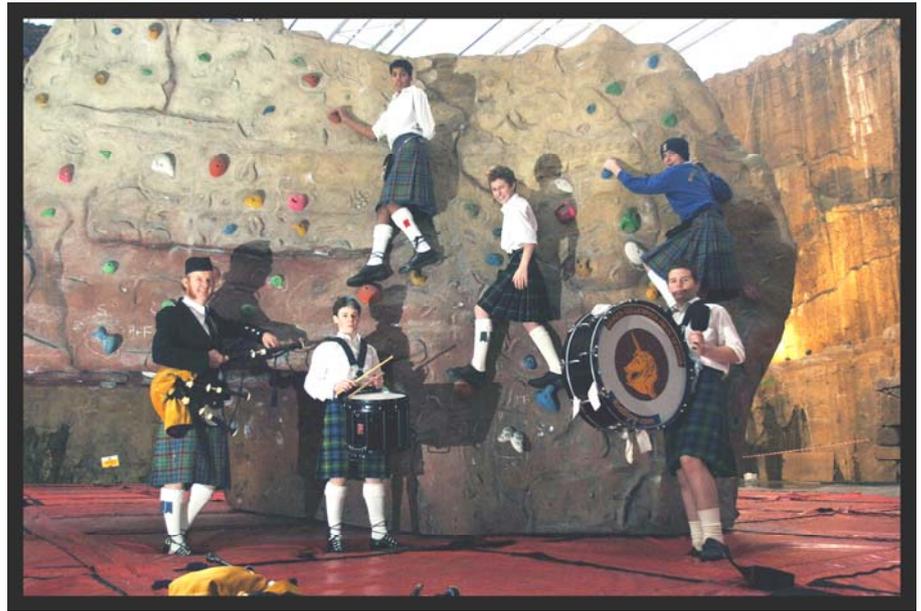
Tickets on sale from Monday 5th Dec

JGHS Pipers Reach New Heights

JGHS's pipers have been out and about playing for Royalty. The occasion was a visit by Prince Edward to the adventure centre to address the participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. This meant that there were not many other people at the front door where the band was playing for the Prince's arrival and departure. He was able, therefore, to take the time to come over and talk to the individual members of the band and was very complimentary to them.

After the prince left we were approached by a member of the PR team from the Children and Families section of the council who had a photographer in attendance to take promotional pictures for the centre. She asked the band to come and do a photo call on one of the climbing rocks. A number of pictures were taken of them climbing the rocks resplendent in their kilts. The James Gillespie's Bass drum was clearly visible in the forefront.

The Duke of Edinburgh leader also believed that the photographs may



have been passed on to the Scotsman or Evening News. Several members of the council team said to me that it was good to know of the existence of the band for future occasions similar to this one. All in all it was a very successful day for us, not only for the chance for our members to meet the Prince but also because the band was exposed to exactly the

right people to promote its future.

Thanks very much for allowing the kids the time off and I hope you might report the event in a newsletter to let other potential members see that membership of the band really can be "cool" at times.

Gavin Gray.

FESTIVE FUN
Thursday 15th
December: 7-9pm

Calling all students, staff, parents and friends, come along to J.G.H.S. and enjoy an evening of seasonal crafts, music, ice cream sculpture, bowling, fair trade christmas shopping and much more.

If you can help at the event, please call Sara Hood on 07766571082. Please hand in any contributions for the raffle or tombola to the school office.

See you there!

Enterprise in Education

During National Enterprise Week (14 - 18 November) all the Enterprise initiatives in school were running flat out and it was difficult to avoid groups selling things and encouraging students to get involved in worthwhile work for others. One of the most ambitious projects was to get as many JGHS students as possible to make a Christmas card for a student in Zwelibanzi School. With the help of the Sixth Year we managed several hundred cards which Mr. Wallace had to take to South Africa in his luggage !

Sales of the school Christmas card featuring our beautiful new stained-glass window are steadily increasing and the Senior Enterprise group never miss an opportunity to promote and sell them. The interlinked wrist-bands have not taken off quite as expected but we are hoping sales will increase as our annual Diversity celebration approaches.

Christmas cookies made by some of the boys in the group are now proving a popular attraction at break-times and the bakers are talking of increasing production to meet demand!



James Gillespie's High School

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JGHS Diary

Friday, 2nd December 2005
Tuesday, 6th December 2005
Friday, 9th December 2005
Monday, 19th December 2005
Tuesday, 20th December 2005
Thursday, 22nd December 2005
Thursday, 22nd December 2005
Monday, 9th January 2006
Tuesday, 10th January 2006
Tuesday, 10th January 2006

S3 Interim reports issued
School Board and PTA Meetings
S6 Drama Performance
End of Year Concert, Usher Hall, 19:30 hr
S1 & S2 Parties
School Closes 12:00hr
Start of Christmas Holidays
Staff and Students resume
School Board Meeting
PTA Meeting

Carol Concert

Usher Hall 19th December

Tickets have now gone on sale through the box office at the Usher Hall.

You can buy these directly from JGHS school's website found at www.jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk (where you can also see photographs and information from last year's concert) or please contact the box office on 0131 228 1155 or book through their website: www.usherhall.co.uk

Carol Concert Rehearsals

Rehearsals for all bands and orchestras are as follows:

Senior Wind Band	Mondays	3.35 - 4.45pm	Hall
Senior Jazz Band	Wednesdays	lunchtimes	B3
Flute Ensemble	Every 2nd Tuesday	3.35 - 4.30pm	B1
Junior Wind Band	Wednesdays	3.35 - 4.30pm	Hall
Guitar Ensemble	Wednesdays	3.35 - 4.30pm	B3
Clarsach Ensemble	Wednesdays	3.35 - 4.30pm	B17
String Orchestra	Fridays	12.00 - 1.15pm	Hall
Percussion Ensemble		Lunchtimes weekly	Bridge Rm
Pipe band			

One weekly rehearsal outside school (see Mrs. O'Brien for more details)

News Roundup

UKMT Mathematical Challenge

On November 8th, 85 pupils from Higher and Advanced Higher Mathematics took part in a National Maths competition called, UKMT Mathematical Challenge. This was a very demanding exam, which involved lots of problem solving and very good numeracy skills.

We are pleased to report that 30 pupils gained bronze, silver and gold certificates for their performance in the competition. Sang Seo an S6 pupil achieved the highest award, gold, for his outstanding results.

N. Izatt (Mathematics Department)

Water Bottles

Parents, please provide our students with a suitable water bottle that can be filled during breaks. This will alleviate the need to leave the class,

and miss lessons, in order to get a drink.

Lost Property

DON'T

Lost Property

Every Monday 15:35—15:50

At Reception Foyer

Very important to check this

Every 2 weeks it will go to charity if unclaimed

IT

If your name is on the item and it is handed in—it can be returned to you.

Mrs. Robertson—Welfare Assistant

School Board

James Gillespies welcomes the following parents to the School Board:

→ Dinah Barr

→ Nigel Goddard

→ Mark Kinghorn

Our new staff representative is:

→ Neil McCallum

Our new student representatives are:

→ Zoe Hay

→ Ruth Wylie

→ Liam Young

We thank all of them for their valuable contribution to the life of the school.