

James Gillespie's High School



Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher

December 2006

We are already in a time when many of our students are celebrating important cultural festivals. Christmas is an important Christian festival but we are also close to Hanukkah and Hajj for our Jewish and Muslim young people. As I have been saying in Assemblies there is a common theme of "Light" in all cultural celebrations and it is the joy brought by light that I have been emphasizing as an important similarity for all religions and cultures.

May I wish you all an enjoyable winter holi-

day. As you will see from the "JGHS Diary" students resume on the 8th January. The fifth and sixth years students will be quickly into Prelims and the fourth year will be working towards their exams. It is a difficult time for the senior school so please work with us to provide optimal conditions for study. As always we need to work in partnership.

While I am at that point we need to know more about what you wonderful people can offer the school. The JGHS Trust needs an

accountant and the school needs volunteer scribes for our Prelims and SQA exams. Please let us know if you can offer us any input in these areas.

Enjoy the Usher Hall Concert. Celebrate the successes of this marvelous school.



Mr. A. Wallace

Deagh Naidheachd! (Good News!)

Thanks are due to Alasdair MacLeod (S5) and Robert Hind (S6), for ably representing Gillespie's in the BT Gaelic Debate in Stornoway last month. Unfortunately we didn't manage to bring the trophy back to Edinburgh again this year. We were knocked out by Dingwall Academy, the eventual winners. The boys did very well however, particularly in the open questioning round, in which they argued against the motion that "Children should be allowed to leave school at the age of 14".

The S4 Gaidhlig class had an interesting visit to the Scottish Parliament on the eve of St Andrew's day. We were invited by the Parliament's Cross Party Group on Gaelic to sit in on one of their meetings, and to hear about the launch of a Young Enterprise Scheme for Gaelic speakers. It is hoped that we will participate in this scheme in the future, and perhaps launch the careers of some future entrepreneurs!

Nollaig Chridheil is Bliadhna Mhath Ur! (Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!)

F. NicArtair, R Craig (Modern Languages)

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ A new CD, **The Return**, featuring the music of our students has been produced by the Music Department and is on sale for Christmas. You will be able to obtain your copy at the Usher hall during our Carol Concert. If you miss this chance to buy don't worry, there is an order form on page 3.
- ◆ Remember to visit us on Wednesday night, 13th December for the PTA Festive Fun event. Enjoy an evening of seasonal crafts and entertainments. It's also an opportunity to do some last minute Christmas shopping.
- ◆ Why not come along to see our students in *The Merchant of Venice* at Traverse Theatre on 8th February 2007. (Details on page 4.

Events

USHER HALL CAROL CONCERT

Thursday 14th December

Tickets for this event are now on sale!

Performance items include: senior and junior wind bands, string orchestra, guitar and clarsach ensembles, jazz band, percussion ensemble, flute ensemble, senior choir, senior vocal group, S2/3 choir and P7/S1 choir.

With around 600 pupils performing, this promises to be a fantastic night's entertainment – buy tickets now to avoid disappointment!

Tickets are available from the box office at the Usher Hall on: 0131 228 1155, or directly from their website: www.usherhall.co.uk where you can choose your seats.

You may also buy tickets through the school website: www.jghs.co.uk

THANKS FROM US

Many thanks go to all the music staff and students who made such a huge contribution to several concerts within the last month.

Fanfare Concert	– 22 nd November
Childline Concert	– 4 th January
'Spirit of Christmas' Concert	- 8 th December
Tree-lighting ceremonies	- 5 th Dec. & 9 th Dec.

It has been a very busy month, but we're all prepared now for the carol concert!

Young Edinburgh Awards

2006

These awards celebrate the achievements of young people in the city. I am delighted to say that our school was very well represented in this prestigious event.

Joint Host	Jake White
Community Involvement	Louise Trotter
Environmental Action	Josie Vallely Edinburgh Woodcraft Group
Visual & Performing Arts	Our girls as members of the F-word Girls Group
Sporting Achievement	Ewan Paterson
Entertainment	Pulse of the Peace—Mairi Lang

Mr. A. Wallace, Head Teacher

MUSIC SUCCESSES

KIRRIEMUIR FOLK FESTIVAL

This event took place on Saturday 18th November in Kirriemuir Town Hall.

Many of our string students participated in this competition:

Jamie Vernon	Hannah Fisher
Tess Moran	Takuji Usui
Ruari Vernon	Phoebe Fisher

Phoebe gained 3rd place in the 12-and-under competition, the other students played in the orchestra which gained 1st place in the orchestra competition.

Jamie, Takuji and Hannah (together with Miss Steven), gained 2nd place in the quartet competition.

'The Strathspey and Reel Society' was nominated as one of the four best strathspey and reel societies in Scotland, in the Trad.

Music Awards which took place in Fort William on Saturday 2nd December.

Congratulations and thanks to all the students involved, and a special thank you to Yla Steven for all her hard work and commitment.



**FESTIVE
FUN**
Wednesday 13th
December: 7-9pm

Admission: 50p
Calling all students, staff, parents and friends, come along to J.G.H.S. and enjoy an evening of seasonal crafts, entertainment, ice cream sculpting, 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 at reception.
See you there!

James Gillespie's High School

The Return

This is the title of the wonderful new CD that has been produced by the Music Department. For those who are old enough to remember our last CD, Called the Debut Album, the title will be self explanatory. Now you all know why the title was chosen. I believe it is important to know these things if you are a CD collector. Who knows it may be valuable one day. It is, after all, a limited edition.

The CD will be on sale at the Usher Hall Concert, Festive Fun, etc., but you may wish to order a copy to ensure you have this year's must buy!

There are 13 amazing tracks, featuring all our instrumental groups and choirs and a range of conductors.

To order a copy, please complete the order form below. The price is £10. Profits will go to the school's South African Project.

Many thanks,

A. Wallace

Mr. A. Wallace
Head Teacher



James Gillespie's High School – The Return

I wish to order _____ copies of the CD. I understand each copy is £10.

I enclose cash/cheque payable to James Gillespie's High School for £_____

Name:

Address:

Child's Name: _____ School: _____ Class: _____

Please return this form with your remittance to James Gillespie's High School.

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

Wednesday, 13th December 2006
Thursday, 14th December 2006
Thursday, 21st December 2006
Monday, 8th January 2007
Tuesday, 9th January 2007
Thursday, 18th January 2007
Friday, 19th January 2007
Tuesday, 23rd January 2007
Wednesday, 24th January 2007
Friday, 26th January, 2007
Tuesday, 6th February 2007
Friday, 9th February 2007
Monday, 19th February 2007
Tuesday, 20th February 2007
Tuesday, 27th February 2007
Wednesday, 28th February 2007
Friday, 2nd March 2007
Tuesday, 6th March 2007
Wednesday, 7th March 2007
Thursday, 15th March 2007

PTA Festive Fun Event
End of Year Concert, Usher Hall, 19:30 hr
End of Term, School closes at 12:00 hr
Staff and Pupils Resume
School Board and PTA Meetings
Parent Forum No. 3
S4 Reports Issued
JGHS Trust Meeting
S4 Parent Consultation Evening
PTA Burns Supper
School Board and PTA Meetings
Mid Term Holiday: School closes at 12:00 hr.
Staff and Pupils Resume
JGHS Trust Meeting
S4/S5 Coursing—Parent Information Evening
S2 Coursing—Parent Information Evening
S2 reports issued
School Board and PTA Meetings
S2 Parents' Evening (non practical subjects)
S2 Parents' Evening (practical subjects)



Shakespeare

Shakespeare Schools Festival

Some of our year 3 Standard Grade Drama students will be taking part in a production of William Shakespeare's, *The Merchant of Venice*, as part of the national Shakespeare Schools Festival. The festival runs from 29th January – 10th February 2007. Our performance will take place on **THURSDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2007** at the Traverse Theatre (Edinburgh) at 7.00pm.

The students have been working really hard during rehearsals and would love it if you could come along to the Traverse Theatre and show your support on the night. Tickets will be on sale at the Traverse Theatre box office in the new year. See you there.

Miss M Rose (Drama and Media)

News Round-up

Dance Success

Some of you may remember Anna Wallace and her dance group entered the Edinburgh Schools Dance Competition last year and won a prize for 'Best Interpretation of a Theme'.

This year Jordan Blackie choreographed a piece especially for the competition. Jordan and her group of Ruth Brannan, Mirium Brown, Phoebe Dalziel and Amie Igoe performed at the competition last night and they were awarded overall 3rd place.

Ms. J. Smith (Physical Education)



Trampoliners On A High

On Sat Dec 3rd, several members of JGHS represented the School at the Scottish Schools Trampolining competition held in Perth (they went with their respective trampoline clubs, but were listed by school). Medal winners included:
Jamie Thomason 2nd
Rowan Goddard, 2nd, under 15 elite
David Butter, 3rd, under 15 elite
all of the Craggs Trampoline Club
Nigel Goddard