

# James Gillespie's High School



# Newsletter

## Message from the Head Teacher

December 2007

Our St. Andrew's Day walk went very well. To take over a thousand students on a walk on a cold, wet and windy day is not small feat. The students were excellent. So far we have raised nearly £4,000 towards school improvements. However, although I am delighted with this response, over one half of the student body have not returned sponsorship forms or contributed in any way. Obviously this is voluntary but the idea is fully supported by the student council and the money raised could lead to real improvements in the physical environment. Please encourage your child to return the forms and donations.

Last week we heard that Blank Canvas, one of the school bands, had won the XFM Rock School Competition. Last night they played alongside "The Stereophonics" in the Carling Academy to open Winter Wonderland. They have also won £1,000 of musical equipment for the school. We are all delighted. This is an early Christmas present.

The band consists of Arran Rahimian, Callum Bolger, Daniel Mackay and Douglas Bruce.

More good news in a different medium!

Rhian Hughes in S3 was recently presented with the Faber Cup which she and two older girls won in a chess competition against Ireland, Wales and England in the summer. They were presented with the trophy in the Scottish Parliament by Stuart Maxwell, MSP.

The holidays are approaching fast and our Carol Concerts are proving to be a sellout. I hope to see you there.

Enjoy the festive break. We will see the students on 7th January 2008.



*Mr. A. Wallace*

### Inside this issue:

Details of this year's Carol Concerts	2
Sign up for the Burns Supper	3
Wonderful Christmas Gift Idea that will actually save you money!	3
Read about our Green and Charitable activities.	4

### Special points of interest:

- ◆ Our St. Andrew's Day walk was a resounding success. Please encourage our students to return their pledge forms and the money they have collected.
- ◆ You have an opportunity to shape the James Gillespie's of the future. Please submit your ideas for the development to Nigel Goddard, see below.

## School Council: Involving parents

The Feasibility Study looking at the future of JGHS' buildings is underway and gathering speed. The initial review of the school buildings was carried out by a team consisting of the Project Manager, Architect, Structural Engineer and Quantity Surveyor. They were shown around the school on 19th November by Nigel Goddard, Chairman of the School Council and David Anderson, Business Manager.

The project team has reported back to the Head Teacher, Mr. Wallace, Nigel Goddard and David Anderson. At this stage they are working only on the outline case for the project and considering the elements of the plan in terms of a "space budget" rather than detailed plans for the replacement/refurbishment of our buildings. This meeting was held on 11th December and a good discussion was held concerning what we currently like about the school and what we feel could be improved.

The school has made a commitment to provide the project team with list of points for consideration, consisting of what we feel works and what does not, together with our vision for the James Gillespie's of the future. The school will respond to the project team before the end of December with our ideas based on how we see our curriculum developing in the years to come.

Nigel would like to consult with our parent body as widely as possible and to that end has committed to responding with further ideas by the end of the second week of January. This would be just in time for the project team to complete their report for presentation to CEC by the end of January. Nigel would therefore like to hear your views. You may submit them on paper to Nigel Goddard, c/o the School Office or e-mail the School Council on [council@jghs.org.uk](mailto:council@jghs.org.uk). Please let Nigel have your views as soon as possible

# Music Department News

## CAROL CONCERTS

Due to the Usher Hall being closed, the carol concert this year will run over two evenings in the school hall which is an exciting new venture and a break from tradition.

The evenings will feature some spectacular performances and will also feature a more informal and festive atmosphere with new arrangements and ideas.

Once again, it is a showcase for all the musical talent that exists in the school, and an opportunity to indulge during the festive period!

The concert details are as follows:

### *Junior Concert on Wed. 12<sup>th</sup> Dec*

This concert will feature: pipe band, junior clarsach ensemble, junior wind band, S1 choir, S2/3 choir and guitar ensemble (please note that this ensemble features both junior and senior pupils).

### *Senior Concert on Thu. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec*

This concert will feature: pipe band, senior clarsach ensemble, senior wind band, flute ensemble, percussion ensemble, senior choir and string orchestra (please note that this ensemble features both junior and senior pupils)

We value your support as always, and tickets will be on sale at school during interval every day from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November, priced £6/£4 conc. or £10/£8 conc. if attending both evenings.

## LOVE SINGING?

The world famous Edinburgh Chorus are now recruiting new members to join them.

There will be an 'open rehearsal' for any pupil interested on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at The Hub, Castlehill, Edinburgh**

To attend the rehearsal, or for information on how to join, please contact Margery Ramsay (Chorus Administrator): tel. 0131 473 2027 or email: [chorus@eif.co.uk](mailto:chorus@eif.co.uk)

## NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR OF SCOTLAND and NYCOS TRAINING CHOIR

Applications are now invited from singers ages 16 – 24 for the national choir and singers aged 15 -19 for the training choir.

Both choirs offer talented singers the opportunity to meet and sing with others at national level: NYCOS has performed at various concerts around Britain, including the Royal Albert Hall.

Auditions for interested pupils will be held during 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. to 9<sup>th</sup> March in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and singers are asked to prepare one song for their audition – all applicants will be offered an audition, so start practising now!!

Closing date for application forms is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January – forms are available from the music department or please email: [ruth.townsend@nycos.co.uk](mailto:ruth.townsend@nycos.co.uk)

## EDINBURGH SCHOOLS' BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2008

Are you currently in a rock band? If so, this is the competition for you!

As in previous years, top rock and pop bands from City of Edinburgh schools will be given the opportunity to play at The Liquid Rooms in Edinburgh on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008, with the winners (there are several categories) receiving prizes including airplay on Forth 1 FM and a recording session at a top Edinburgh studio.

There will be two qualifying heats on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at Liberton and Forrester High Schools respectively.

Initial entries for the competition should take the form of a recording of each band on CD or Mini Disc, and, from this entry, the panel will select 10 bands to perform at the two heats listed above.

Following this, 5 bands will be selected to perform at The Liquid Rooms.

A recording of your band on either CD or Mini Disc must be sent to:

**Neighbourhood Coordinators, Instrumental Music**  
**Business Centre 1/2**  
**Waverley Court**  
**East Market Street**  
**Edinburgh**  
**EH8 8BG**

**Please mark 'Battle of the Bands' on the outside of the envelope.**

## GOOD LUCK!!!

Are you an Outstanding young Musician?  
Do you need help with your music costs?  
Awards for Young Musicians is pleased to announce that applications are now invited for its 2008 Awards. The organisation supports young instrumentalists, making music in any genre, who can clearly show that they are really talented and committed and that they need financial help with their music expenses.

Open to 5 to 18 year olds, awards range from £200 to £2,000.

Application forms are now available. For further information:

Visit [www.a-y-m.org.uk](http://www.a-y-m.org.uk)

Email [awards@a-y-m.org.uk](mailto:awards@a-y-m.org.uk)

Call: 0117 9049906

Or send an A4 SAE (with 70p postage please) to:

Awards for Young Musicians

PO Box 2754

Bristol BS4 9DA

Closing date for applications: Friday, 4th April 2008.

JGHS Events Group in close collaboration with staff and pupils presents:

# Burns Supper & Ceilidh



*Three course Burns supper*

*Complementary glass of wine*

*Speeches and dance to music by Lothian Schools Strathspey & Reel Society*

***Great night out for parents, staff and senior students (S6 students only, sorry)***

*Buy tickets at*

*The Council AGM on Tuesday Nov 27;*

*The School Carol Concerts on Dec 12 and 13*

*or by contacting Carol Farrell, tel: 620 3509 or mob. 0798 225 4975*

*If you are able to help on the evening, please send an email to:  
ebomberg@staffmail.ed.ac.uk*



## Christmas Gift Idea

Year Groups S1 through S4 will have been given the 2007/8 SPREE Book of vouchers to take home to parents. The SPREE Book contains over £3,500 worth of vouchers allowing money off a range of goods and services. A wide selection of restaurants offer deals such as 2 for 1 meals over the whole spectrum of cuisines. Similarly informal dining and takeaway restaurants offer equally attractive savings. A wide range of leisure services also offer considerable savings on a huge array of activities, such as cinemas, tenpin bowling, pool, rounds of golf, and visitor attractions such as Camera Obscura, Edinburgh Dungeons, Bedlam Games. There is even the opportunity to

save up to £199 on a trip aboard Superfast Ferries. Shoppers too are well catered for with reductions at jewellery shops, health and beauty treatments, gift shops, driving lessons and MOT tests.

Your children will have brought the book home for you to look at. It will only take a couple of minutes or you to find enough savings to pay for the costs of the SPREE Book. The SPREE Book normally costs £22 but JGHS has negotiated further savings and we will be selling the book for only £19. For each book sold the school will receive a minimum of £6 going up to £11 per book if we sold one to every household. There is no limit to the number of books families may buy. We are offering a sixth book free if you buy five! The make excellent Christmas gifts for family, friends and neighbours.

Your child will have brought the book home to you in an envelope. To buy the book just return the envelope with a cheque for however many books you wish. In the unlikely event you decide not to buy a SPREE Book please return the book to the school in the envelope it came in.

**Please support the school by buying a SPREE Book and at the same time enjoy a remarkable range of savings of the things you and your family enjoy.**

# James Gillespie's High School

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## JGHS Diary

Wednesday, 12th December 2007  
Thursday, 13th December 2007  
Friday, 21st December 2007  
Monday, 7th January 2008  
Tuesday, 8th January 2008  
Friday, 18th January 2008  
Monday, 21st January 2008  
Friday, 25th January 2008  
Thursday, 31st January 2008  
Tuesday, 5th February 2008  
Tuesday, 5th February 2008  
Friday, 8th February 2008  
Monday, 18th February 2008  
Tuesday, 19th February 2008  
Tuesday, 19th February 2008  
Tuesday, 26th February 2008  
Thursday, 28th February 2008  
Friday, 29th February 2008  
Tuesday, 4th March 2008  
Tuesday, 11th March 2008  
Wednesday, 12th March 2008

Junior Carol Concert—School Hall  
Senior Concert—School hall  
School closes at 12:00hr for Christmas holiday  
All resume  
JGHS Trust Meeting  
S4 Pupil Reports issued  
S4 Parent Consultation Evening  
JGHS Events Group Burns Supper  
Instrumental Parents' Evening, 16:00hr  
School Council Meeting, 19:30hr  
JGHS Trust Meeting  
School closes at 12:00hr for mid-term holiday  
Staff return  
Students return  
S5/S6 prelims begin  
S2 Pupil Reports issued  
S2/S5/S6 Coursing Parents' Evening  
S5/S6 prelims end  
S2 Parents' Evening (Practical Subjects)  
School Council Meeting, 19:30hr  
S2 Parents' Evening (Non-practical Subjects)

## News Round-up

### Pedals not Petrol

Tom Sparks has now successfully launched his "Pedals not Petrol" project. From January students cycling to school will reap the rewards. There will be bike doctors to help students maintain their bikes, a website to offer advice on safe cycle routes and much more, not to mention a reward scheme where students will earn points and receive vouchers if they cycle to school.

Well done to Tom who secured the funding from the Scottish Executive after entering a competition two years ago when he was an S3 Modern Studies student.

*Ms. Halliday, P.T. Modern Studies*

### S2 WaterAid Charity Fundraising

As part of their Geography, Water and Health Unit, the S2 year group are encouraged to make a regular donation of the equivalent of a can of juice, some 50p, for the duration of the course, some 8 weeks. The S2 Geography students have raised some £8,000 for this cause over the last five years. WaterAid charity workers provide regular feedback from field projects to explain how the money is being used to improve the water quality of many rural dwellers. The whole exercise is designed to allow the S2 group to see that, with a small action, they can make a positive difference to the lives of those who are in the unfortunate position of having an inadequate water supply

The Department would welcome any help or advice from the parent group and would ask if all S2 students could be encouraged to make a thoughtful response to the appeal.

*Mr. Woods, P.T. Geography*



### Composting Food Waste

Composting is a good idea at JGHS because it improves soil, so plants in our garden become healthier and more resistant to disease. Another good thing is that it reduces waste sent to landfill site. By composting at JGHS we can reduce this type of waste going to landfill sites around Edinburgh. This means that we will be helping to reduce global warming.

Composting works by food waste being collected and then it gets taken to the compost bin. When you have put all of the waste into the bin you put the lid on it and leave it. It takes 6-18 months for the food waste to turn into compost. The compost is made more quickly if it is in a sunny spot, this helps speed up the composting process. The compost should be moist but not too wet. When the compost is finished it should be black and crumbly and it should have an earthy smell.

The foods which can be composted are;

- ◆ Fruit scraps and vegetable peelings
- ◆ Tea leaves / bags and coffee grounds
- ◆ Egg shells

The foods which cannot be composted are;

- ◆ cooked food
- ◆ meat, fish and dairy products
- ◆ Bread

*Isobel Watson, 3R1*