

# INSIDE

April 2017

# GHS



In this issue:



*SI will be*



*School Partnerships: Why Malawi?*



# House Captains



**Brodie:** Ross Bell and Ehi Anyebe **Glen:** Cameron Lyle and Bethany Furze **Moredun:** Caitlin McCartney and Lucy McKellar **Thornly:** Calum Russell and Faith Muyaba

Most recently the house captains have been conducting 'Pupil Voice' meetings, which occur once a month. Each pair of House Captains meets with pupils from their house groups and let these pupils present their concerns, ideas and feelings for their fellow pupils about the school and how the school could operate to make everyone's time at Gleniffer the best.

The house captains have been busy at work recently with the 'Inter-House Cross Country' event. This event included pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year competing in a long distance run around the school for their house. Winners were selected from each year group and the overall winner was Brodie house for both boys and girls. Mr Parsons and the Brodie House Captains were delighted with this result.

All the pupils worked extremely hard and did well and this event hopefully has excited them for the coming Inter-House Mini Olympics.

## House Charity Week

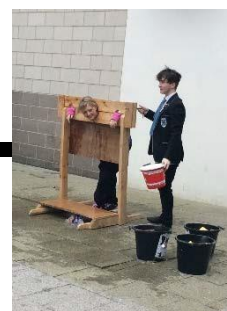
Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> March kicked off the house charity week with a S6 Boys vs Girls Netball match. This was a decider match as the last Netball match during Children in need week had been disputed as both the boys and girls claimed the victory was theirs. So the boys swallowed their pride and put on the Netball dresses for the deciding game which ended in a 7-0 demoralising defeat for the boys. It was a great game and event to start of the House Charity week and the House Captains were very pleased by the turnout.

Tuesday continued the week with a sickening Bush-Tucker Trial, which both pupils and teachers participated in, turning it into a competition to see who had the strongest stomach. The menu consisted of: Dog food and olives on crackers, Blue cheese and extremely spicy hot sauce on crackers (many participants claimed they couldn't feel their tongue after this), and lastly a cat food & mayonnaise smoothie. This event was another success for raising money but left both pupils and teachers feeling ill.

Wednesday was another great success in which the house captains held a bake sale which spanned across break time and lunch time, raising over £100.

The House Charity week ended on a splash with the very popular 'Sponge the Teacher'. Pupils were lining up at the chance to soak their teachers and were in a bidding war for the mystery buckets which were specifically made for Mr Parsons and the Head Teacher Mr Nicholls. This was another great event and was a great way to end the house charity week.

In total the House Charity week raised £400, which was split evenly between each of the 4 house groups. The house captains were extremely pleased with this total and are excited to donate the money to their charities: RAH Children's Ward (Brodie), Lisa's Gift (Glen), Accord Hospice (Moredun), Providing for People in Paisley (Thornly).



# Happy Easter!



Dear parent / carer,

Welcome to our third newsletter of session 2016 - 2017 which is full of our achievements and activities since the start of the term in January.

The term that has just passed is arguably the most challenging for staff and certainly senior pupils as SQA courses come to an end and the exam diet is almost upon us. It is also a time of change with second year making course choices and third to fifth year pupils selecting options for their new certificated courses all of which will start with the new timetable in June.

Outwith the classroom, it has been another very busy few months with a full range of extra curricular activities taking place, pupils going on educational excursions and the Malawi 2018 group settling into their extended run of fund raising activities to support their special classroom building project. Pupils have also been auditioning for our summer show 'The Sound of Music' where for the first time we will have pupils from our associated primary schools joining us on stage.

As you will by now know it was also the term when I announced my decision to retire after forty years in teaching, thirteen of which have been as Head Teacher of our wonderful school. With the decision made, I look forward to a most enjoyable final term making sure that I have everything in place to hand over to the new Head Teacher ready to start in August.

Here's to a very successful set of SQA exams and an eventful final term.

David Nicholls  
Head Teacher



**Miss Feggans**

The majority of S2 pupils continue to support our school values, ensuring high standards of behaviour, attendance and effort in school. In addition, the majority support our school uniform policy, ensuring high standards of dress. In January, the Teenage Cancer Care Trust gave a very interesting presentation to S2 pupils on the subject of looking after your health and what to do if you experience particular symptoms. This was a measured and informative presentation. Pupils were also given an information leaflet in PSE classes.

Miss Anderson, newly qualified teacher in English, arranged an assembly presentation for S2 pupils by the Holocaust Memorial Society. The speaker shared her personal memories of a visit to Auschwitz. Pupils were silent throughout the presentation, showing great respect to the speaker and to the memory of the atrocity of the holocaust. The speaker also spoke of her work with refugees in present times. This was a very powerful and thought provoking presentation.

Following the S2 Parents' Night in March, S2 pupils met with Pastoral Support staff to discuss subject choices for S3. This information will be collated and pupils will be informed in due course of timetables for next session.

All pupils had the opportunity to vote in the recent Scottish Youth Parliament elections. The Scottish Youth Parliament gives young people a voice at national level, it is therefore important to afford children the opportunity to contribute to this democratic process.

Pupils enjoyed a number of House charity events at the end of March contributing well, as our pupils always do, to support those less fortunate than ourselves. My thanks to S2 pupils for their contributions and to the House Captains and Pastoral staff for leading these events.

**Mrs McMunn****S1 Round Up**

The majority of S1 pupils continue to support our school values, ensuring high standards of behaviour, attendance and effort in school. In addition, the majority support our school uniform policy, ensuring high standards of dress.

All pupils had the opportunity to vote in the recent Scottish Youth Parliament elections. The Scottish Youth Parliament gives young people a voice at national level, it is therefore important to afford children the opportunity to contribute to this democratic process.

Pupils enjoyed a number of House charity events at the end of March. Our S1 pupils contributed to the charity fundraising organised by the House Captains and Pastoral staff. Our thanks to the pupils for supporting these events and to the House captains and Pastoral staff for organising these events to raise money for those less fortunate than ourselves.

**S3 Round Up**

As we move towards the final months of the Broad General Education for S3 pupils have been involved in events which are helping them make the transition to the Senior Phase in June. All S3 pupils participated in the Planning for Choices and Changes day in February; more information on this event is provided later in the newsletter. The event contributes to the options process for pupils moving into S4 and I am pleased to say this information has now been submitted.

As part of their studies within "Behind the Noise" 6 pupils visited the offices of "The Sun" newspaper in Glasgow to discover more about music in the media. They met both the main editor and the digital editor and had the chance to ask questions. They also discussed possible work experience opportunities for the future.

In March, 5 pupils represented our school at an event held at Tweedie Hall in Linwood. They participated in interactive workshops and focus groups giving their views on various aspects of growing up in Renfrewshire and we look forward to receiving the report.

# Head Teachers

The S4 pupils have been extremely busy this term. We asked Mrs. Prentice what they have been up to.

Mrs. Prentice can you give us a brief update of what S4 have been up to please?

"Yes I can! The focus has been very much on finishing course work (unit assessments, AVUs or course assignments) and revision where possible. Work experience week took place in January and parents evening in February. The options process for subjects to take forward into S5 has been completed.



What does work experience process entail?

"This is a chance for pupils to gain real life experience in the work place. The majority of S4 pupils found their own work placements through either family contacts or reaching out to places that offer an experience of where they would like to go in their pathway. Many pupils return from work experience very clear about what they need to do and as a result are more focussed.

Pupils need to be in their placement for the whole week. They need to follow the times and routines of the work place – which means some of them had very early starts (compared to school) or late finishes!!

Placements are very varied from hotels to hospitals, hairdressers to hard ware shops, nurseries, day care centres and garages to give but a few examples!

Each placement supervisor completes a report on the pupil's progress during the week. It is great to get back the positive praise.

One pupil (Oliver Gibson) appeared on social media where his work was highly praised. Another pupil impressed her placement so much that they offered her the opportunity to go on further training usually reserved for older workers (Shelly Hammond). We also received an email from another employer who was singing the praises of an S4 pupil, talking about his manners, behaviour appearance and work ethic (Adam Salisbury)."

Do you have any advice for pupils sitting their exams?

"All N5 pupils have been issued with the Easter Supported Study timetable.

The key piece of advice is to devise a study plan which ensures they cover all their subjects and at the same time allow for some relaxation. Pupils will be issued with an exam timetable and other information after the Easter holidays. Make sure you pin this to the fridge and remember when and at what times your exams are!!!!"

For more information on work experience, please see Mr Ramsay in Technical.



## Job well done!



### Mrs Sangster: S5 Roundup

Life since Christmas in Gleniffer has been chaotic for our Fifth year who have had to face prelims, unit tests and assessments galore this past few months. Fifth and Sixth year are working really hard to complete all their external coursework (folios and assignments) for their SQA exams which begin on the 2nd May. The end is almost here with the Easter weekend looming and the spring break fortnight within our sights.

### S6 Round Up

What an amazing term it has been since Christmas, passing by with incredible speed but S6 still managed to keep themselves busy attending Parents Evenings and participating in loads of fun events. After prelims were finished in March, we had the House Captains leading their groups to raise money for their House charities and created memories we will never forget. They planned loads of activities for a really fun week from the Bush Tucker Challenge, and a bake sale to sponge the (Head) Teacher. It was really entertaining and a lot of fun. Can't wait for Leavers Dance in June!

### Easter Study School

During the holiday I am delighted to announce a very extensive Easter School Supported Study programme, and as well as that an SQA Masterclass timetable will operate during the SQA exam study leave. Good Luck to all our Fifth and Sixth Year - I know all your hard work will pay off!

*Good Luck!*

# Employability



## Joint Employability Project: Update on Parents in Partnership

October saw the end of our inaugural Parents in Partnership Project (PIP). This highly successful pilot has helped shaped the way we support parents within Gleniffer High School. Parents got tasters of lessons, got to know the staff in the school and were provided with presentations from community learning groups.

Some of our parents continued to work with home-link through the Positive Parenting Program throughout Oct-Dec and in January, all the parents came together again for a presentation on the S1 Positive Mindset Programme which ran between September and March. Following on from this year, plans are already in place for PIP 2.0 which will see staff working with pupils as part of the primary visits in May.

PIP also marked the start of our Parents as Educators programme, where parents are invited to come into the school and deliver lessons to pupils. Our crocheting class was very well attended and thanks goes to Mrs. O'Connor who gave up her time to support our S6 students in Art & Design



## Princes' Trust

Miss Doherty and Mrs Allen in Learning Support have been working hard to support pupils in S3-S5 through the Princes' trust Achieve Programme which had replaced the ASDAN program. Pupils across all year groups have been developing skills in Employability, Enterprise and Citizenship, supported by the Business Ambassador programme.

## West College Scotland S2 Tasters

A group of our S2 pupils have now completed their 6 weeks of college tasters and have had some very positive feedback for the project aimed at encouraging pupils to apply to college by making them aware of all the opportunities available.

Tasters included photography, car mechanics, make-up artistry, sports and fitness and bakery and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the classes provided by the tutors at West College Scotland.



← Measuring  
Fitness

Nail  
Art →



Making  
Scars ↓



## West College S4/5 Employability Course

Sep-Nov: Over the 8 weeks, 4 of our S4 pupils undertook an employability course aimed at helping them to identify and develop skills, as well as give them an insight into college. The program has been very successful and led to successful applications into an early starting courses in January.

Between January and March a group of S5 pupils attended a similar course, with more of a focus on employment.

S5 pupil Ross Wilson said: "I enjoyed getting help making my CV and then taking it to Intu Braehead to apply for positions."



@EmployGleniffer



Employ Gleniffer

<http://employgleniffer.weebly.com>

## Scottish Apprenticeship Week

S3 girls got the opportunity to explore careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) by attending events at the NHS and Renfrewshire Council.



(LEFT) Exploring energy efficiency at NHSGGC Royal Alexandra Hospital (RIGHT) Pupils working on practical wiring skills at the Renfrewshire Council Clark Street Depot.

## Higher Expectations event

A group of S3 pupils attended this HE Event at the University of the West of Scotland as a follow-up to the S2 Pupils Exhibiting Potential event. The focus of the programme is to create opportunities for pupils to study at University and focus will be on building aspirational levels, with sustained encouragement and support. Pupils were given the task of preparing a short presentation on a Paisley 2021 Theme, providing an example of Paisley could be developed in the future culturally, socially or structurally.



## Hospitality Takeover day

Early in March, 25 S2 pupils took part in the DYW Hospitality/Tourism Takeover organised through Springboard, in collaboration with Renfrewshire Council and DYW West.

The event was for young people who had demonstrated enthusiasm and skill and have shown a keen interest in pursuing a career in the Hospitality/Tourism industry - one of the most flourishing job sectors in the country.

The event will consist of interactive workshops delivered by experts within the field and included activities such as cooking, cake decorating, "barista" coffee training, customer service, banqueting, event management, marketing and much more.



Another group of S5 boys attended an open day at GTG Training in Glasgow, taking part in workshop activities and receiving a presentation on the many training opportunities they have to offer. Of the 6 pupils who attended, 4 have applied for positions - good luck!



## Thank You

My thanks to staff, pupils, parents and partners who have made this an extremely successful (if busy) year for employability. Gleniffer has never had so many pupils engaged in employability skills, vocational courses and extended work placements. The **'Alternative Routes to Positive Destinations'** programme has greatly benefitted our young people and it has been a pleasure to see them develop under this scheme. As always we seek to keep our pupils, parents and community partners up to date with all of our employability activities and opportunities through our employability twitter feed @EmployGleniffer and website <http://employgleniffer.weebly.com> If you want to find out more or to get involved please email through the website or send a message through twitter/facebook.

Mr. Marshallsay  
Project Leader for Employability

# Employability

## Bakery Visit - West College Scotland

One recent event has been the visit to West of Scotland College's hospitality department where 5th and 6th year NPA Bakery pupils had the opportunity to learn commercial bread making techniques which was both fun and enlightening. Pupils prepared a range of breads such as onion bread, cholla bread, focaccia, soda bread and white bread.



## Travel and Tourism

Students of our travel and tourism class were lucky enough to have a speaker from the Glynnhill Hotel talking to pupils about working in the hospitality industry. This is something we are looking to expand and will be contacting a range of different employers from different industries to talk about the roles and the benefits of working within these industries.

## S4 Employability Week / Enrichment

Throughout May, the majority of our S4 pupils will be undertaking National 5 Exams. Pupils who do not have any formal examinations will be taking part in our Enrichment Activities, aimed at providing opportunities to develop skills for life, learning and work.



The first part of this is our Employability Fortnight which will see pupils taking part in a range of employability and skills-based activities. Between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May, pupils will be taking part in a series of team-building, STEM based activities including a careers fair for uniformed services including Police Scotland, the armed forces and paramedic services.

The following week will see the pupils assessing and developing and assessing their employability skills through a series of workshops, supported by Skills Development Scotland (SDS), employers and trainers. These include:

- Identifying Skills
- Networking
- Applications for work and training
- CV Building
- Careers Carousel
- Mock interviews

At the end of the week, pupils will be given the opportunity to undertake an extended work experience placement for the last three weeks of exam leave. During the whole 5 weeks, pupils will also have the opportunity to take part in taster courses at West College Scotland and employability course at St. Mirren.





# S3 Planning for Choices Event

Our annual S3 Planning for Choices and Changes event was the biggest and best yet. Over 170 pupils and over 30 employers and trainers including 3 parents from the school came together to help our S3 make subject choices for S4



The day began with a meet and greet carousel event where pupils got to meet advisors and get to know a little about their job and routes into their industries.



Next pupils were given the opportunity to explore their skills and personalities by making up a group name and poster using images from magazines. The poster was to reflect all the pupils in the group and help them to build a team. Representatives from the groups then had to present their posters in front of the whole year group.

The pupil group with the best poster presentation (as decided by a panel of teachers and S6 pupils) all received a £10 Intu Braehead voucher



A new feature for this year was our second group task where pupils needed to use skills for work such as time and recourse management, team leading and quality assurance to produce a range of sample boxes for our DN PLC Fragrances Lacostalot, Hugo Bass and Ted Butcher.

The group with the most profit were awarded a £10 Intu Braehead voucher each.



Thanks to all the staff who helped supervise and assist with the event, with special thanks to Mrs. Carr who was a massive help in organising group lists and resources.

Thanks also to the members of the girls from the S6 Higher Leadership group who assisted our advisers during the event with the support of some of our S6 badge-holders. They also took photos of the event and took around our selfie board to show our support for the Paisley 2021 City of Culture bid.



After a presentation from Skills Development Scotland, the culmination of our event saw employers, trainers and subject representatives spread throughout the social area in a careers fair, helping pupils find careers pathways and give them the best possible start to choosing subjects in S4.



# Energiser STEM Day

We were delighted to welcome this event back to GHS, the first visit was in April 2016 when six of our present S3 students attended a follow up week long residential course at Strathclyde University. The presenter Tom has attended each day but this time our STEM Ambassadors were former pupils Amanda Brotherstone and Holly Goodwin, both Engineers working with Energy companies. The first session involved looking at what an engineer does and the groups discussed renewable energy and how it is used in different countries.



The second session included building an electric car and learning how to charge it. The final session was testing the car and then being given a target distance to reach – in each session group 8 won with the group in the afternoon stopping right on the line and the runners up 2cm from the line; the morning winners were 4cm from the line which was also excellent. The members of the winning teams each received a set of headphones as a prize.

This interdisciplinary learning project was a collaboration between the Biology and Health and Food Technology departments.

## Indian Cookery IDL

Some of the S3 pupils have been working with a chef from the local Indian restaurant "The Multan" (found in George Street) to create their very own curry dishes. After an afternoon of teaching the pupils went away and came up with their own ideas for flavours and ingredients for a curry dish. This ranged from; meatball curries, fish and sweet potato, vegetables to variations on chicken korma. They also made their own chapattis and lassi (traditional Indian drink made using yoghurt) to accompany their meal. The henna club girls have also been contributing to Gleniffer's own Indian restaurant by designing henna design cups for the tables which looked fantastic!

The S3 pupils also put their science knowledge into use by becoming "restaurant inspectors". The pupils used their knowledge of microbiology to swab the pots, pans, surfaces, sinks, chopping boards and anywhere else you can think of in order to grow the bacteria on an agar plate to test which surfaces were the cleanest or dirtiest. They then tested various cleaning methods to see which worked best to ensure that our restaurant is the cleanest in town! All of this hard work came together when the pupils set up their own pop up restaurant and served staff their lunch. The pupils served the staff and waited on them hand and foot while others prepped the ingredients and spent the morning cooking the dishes, rice and chapattis. The pupils should be really proud of themselves and I would like to thank staff for all their support!



# Duke of Edinburgh

Mrs Robb and Mr Madden



The bronze Duke of Edinburgh award is well underway. The 20 pupils have spent the last 6 months working on skills for their practice and qualifying expedition. They have been working on map and compass skills, team building, first aid training and they have been learning some survival skills for camping. They are all looking forward to putting all they have learned into practice on the 9th and 10th of May for their practice expedition to Clyde Murshiel.



Pupils from the S4 and S5 Prince's Trust Achieve classes took part in a Construction taster day at Mirren Park School on Monday 13th March. They had the opportunity to learn bricklaying and tiling skills, use tools and hear about what it's really like to work on a building site. They learned about the importance of Personal Protective Equipment, and other aspects of health and safety at work. Pupils enjoyed working with instructors Robert and Kevin, and came away with lots of useful tips and advice for getting started in a career in construction.

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# Volunteering

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Andrea Adams, S6, regularly volunteers at Stanley Park Care home along with S6 pupil Bethany Furze and S4 pupil Kyle MacDonald. They spend a lot of time there working with the activities co-ordinator and speaking with the residents. The residents are all so pleased to see our pupils and are very thankful for all their hard work. They even recently threw Andrea a surprise 18th birthday party!



*"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the care home. I have met some wonderful people and learnt so much from the dedicated staff. This has shown me the challenges but also the amazing rewards that people have everyday working in this line of work."*

**Andrea Adams, S6.**

**BELIEVE  
&ACHIEVE**

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## Recognising Achievement

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### Music

Jessica Fraser in S4 has been invited to participate in an exciting opportunity later this year. She is taking part in an international music festival in Moscow, Russia. This invitation has come through her attendance at the Junior Music section of Royal Conservatoire in Glasgow as they have been asked to take a party of 8 traditional music students to the event. The trip will run from June 2017 and will involve 4 concerts.

We think her selection reflects some of the hard work she has been putting in on her instruments and her successful participation in recent events like the West of Scotland Accordion Festival, the Glasgow Music Festival and her involvement in the forthcoming Edinburgh International Harp Festival (plus her recent success on grade 7 piano).

### PE

Well done to all of our Cross Country Championship winners who ranked 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place.



### Hospitality



Pictured is Elena Dickson of S2 being awarded hospitality star of the future by Mr Nicholls. This was given by the S2 hospitality and tourism event at West of Scotland College, Paisley. Well done Elena!



From this...

...To this!



for  
malawi



ScotlandMalawi  
PARTNERSHIP



Why Malawi?

Scotland and Malawi have been linked for over 150 years through the work of David Livingstone, the Scottish Missionary from Blantyre. Gleniffer High School has been linked with Dzenza Primary school in Malawi since 2007. Since then we have done a lot together. Gleniffer High School has refurbished 9 classrooms and built boys and girls toilet blocks at Dzenza Primary School. We also had the Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher from Dzenza Primary visited GHS in August 2012.

We then launched our sustainable 2 year expedition programme in 2012, with our first group of pupils and staff travelling to Dzenza in 2014 and again in 2016. Our next group of expedition pupils and staff are due to depart in June 2018.

Long may the partnership continue!

## Gleniffer High School & Dzenza Primary School: Together in Partnership



**46%**  
of Scots have  
a friend with  
a Malawi link

For more information please contact:

Sarah Aitken Malawi Project  
Leader Gleniffer High School

[gw11aitkensarah@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw11aitkensarah@glow.sch.uk)

**94,000 &  
Scots &  
198,000  
Malawians  
involved**



week!

**Malawi week takes place in February every year and is enjoyed by S2 in each of their subjects. Check it out and see what they have been up to!**



**S2 MODERN LANGUAGES**

Classes enjoyed learning another language during Malawi week. During lessons pupils learned some basic phrases in Chichewa which is the national language of Malawi. Teachers and pupils watched a short video tutorial on the language and designed some posters with basic phrases. We can now all give basic greetings and say please and thank-you. A great start and something we can build on in the future.

**S2 MUSIC**

In music at this time of year our S2 pupils have been learning about a variety of musical styles from countries across the globe. They have had the opportunity to experience some cross curricular learning as we have encouraged pupils to gain a broader knowledge of cultures in a diverse range of countries. During practical sessions S2 pupils have built on their experiences last year where they learned to play pieces from European countries. They are now developing their performing skills playing repertoire from such exotic locations as India, Australia, Brazil, Jamaica and the U.S.A. Our World Music topic also provided the perfect opportunity to look at music from Africa linking with Malawi Week. Pupils learned about the birth of Jazz and Blues musical styles and they were able to play some African folk or work songs.



**S2 ART & DESIGN**

It is that time of year again when the competition is fierce in Art and Design over the outcomes each S2 class completes for Malawi week. The art works are displayed in the social area for all to see, and especially with S2 parents' evening it was vital that the pupils showed off their work to parents and carers as well. This year the pupils did a huge selection of different art work featuring African Masks using a wax resist scrapper technique, to paper mache fish to represent those found in Lake Malawi. Printed textiles using traditional pattern motifs, women in traditional costume and possible bus liveries to advertise the link between Gleniffer and Dzenza Malawi and Scotland. All S2s took part and learnt more about our link school and the way in which we as a community can help them to achieve their full potential.



## S2 ENGLISH

In English S2 pupils were reading, discussing and then answering questions on a non-fiction text. The article gave information about a project in a Malawian village, Mbeti, which encourages children (and their parents) to learn to read. The passage explains how community leaders, parents, teachers, and volunteers work together to teach children the basic of reading.

Miss Anderson's S1 and S2 classes were using images from the African savannah as stimulus for imaginative writing. A picture of their poems has been included in the newsletter.



## S2 PE

During Malawi Week our S2 pupils took part in Netball (girls) and Football (boys) for the whole week as these are the two National Sports of Malawi.

The Malawi national netball team, nicknamed "The Queens", ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the 2014 Commonwealth Games, beating Scotland who were ranked 9<sup>th</sup>!

## S2 Science

In the science department, pupils looked at how sugar cane is grown in farms in Malawi, as well as comparing the differences between a Malawian farm to one here. They also studied the effect genetic engineering has on crops, and debated whether they felt genetically modified foods are a good or bad idea.

Fairtrade sugar imported from Malawi can be bought at any Co-operative food store in order to support the economy of Malawi.



## S2 BUSINESS

During Malawi week, all S2 classes looked at marketing products in a Malawian market. Classes learned about the different types of markets in Malawi; those for tourists and those for locals. They learned about Malawian currency and how much things cost in one of the world's poorest countries. Miss Aitken provided a box of items bought at a Malawian market and the pupils then had to use their knowledge of the marketing mix to 'sell' the items to the class. The pupils found the project really enjoyable. They were particularly interested to learn about the value of Malawian currency and came up with some great marketing presentations.

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# French Exchange

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Preparations for the French Exchange Trip are well under way with the group of 25 pupils flying to Lyon on 7th June. We will stay in Amplepuis from 7th until 14th June in the Centre Recorbet which is situated at the Lac des Sapins. This is our first trip to our partner school and we are really looking forward to it. Activities include a visit to a typical French market, a game of "boules", a day out in Lyon as well as time spent with our French "buddies" and their families. Mrs Quinn has issued some paperwork which should be returned as soon as possible.

Mrs Quinn



*The school*



*The town*



*Our accommodation*



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## Author Visit

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### **The Library: Author Visit from Philip Caveney**

Gleniffer High School has a wonderfully stocked library. The Librarian is always organising fantastic events for the lower school. Author Philip Caveney (also known as Danny Weston) visited Gleniffer High on 1st March to deliver a workshop to some of our S1 and S2 pupils.

Philip is an award winning author who has published over 40 books. English class 2Y2 took part in a writing workshop with Philip in the library. Philip helped pupils develop ideas for writing a ghost story which they have continued to work on in class. Some great (and scary!) ideas have been generated. Philip also gave an inspiring talk to S1 pupils about his books, reading, and writing.





# S1 will be

# FUN

We asked departments why the Primary 7's should be looking forward to S1 in Gleniffer High School!

### Modern Languages

The P7 pupils from our French feeder primaries had a taste of what was to come when they came up to Gleniffer on Friday, 17th February to see the French play, "Shipwrecked en France". This was a very enjoyable morning for the pupils who gave some nice comments after the play.



"It was good to see a little bit of Gleniffer and I learned more French" - Katie Hindle - P7  
- Heriot

"Everyone was really kind at Gleniffer when we went into the building. Everyone said good morning" - Jenna - P6 - Lochfield

Pupils will definitely experience more in languages when they come to Gleniffer. Soon they will find that they are able to have a real conversation in French/German. In addition, they can take part in the French/German Exchange programmes and see the country and speak the language for themselves! Mrs Quinn



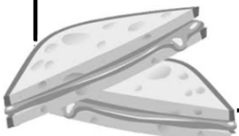
To all first years who will be arriving at Gleniffer High school and have been bombarded with lots of information; welcome from the catering staff!

Please keep your white lunch card with you every school day and top it up at the two machines in the social area.

We serve hot rolls, toast and hot and cold beverages from 8.15am.

At the morning interval, you can use your cards at the counter to buy hot rolls with bacon, sausage, potato scone, and a selection of baguettes, sandwiches with ham, cheese and chicken fillings. There are two trolleys in the social area with cash tills with a reduced selection.

Have you heard of grab-n-go? It is simply a fast, easy way to pre-order a pack lunch. Order in the morning or at interval using a pre-printed form and collect at lunch time from the social area.



Leave the hard work to us!

# W e l c o m e

## Mrs O'Higgins from the Art Department tells us all about Art & Design in S1

When I questioned my S1 and S2 pupils about what they thought they would do in art they all said 'colour in'! Now as an art teacher of many years standing, I was not happy about the fact that 'colouring in' seemed to be the only way to describe Art. I then asked them how their opinion changed after coming into high School. They all said that they did not know there was so much to Art. Not only was it using different materials and techniques but they also learnt a completely new language! They mean the Visual Language, where the visual elements are explained and new vocabulary is learnt. A cross-curricular group project also includes a link with modern languages where pupils study the Impressionist painters.



Art in S1 allows the pupils to get to grips with using new media and handling it will skill, these early lesson establish skills such as grading colour, mixing and applying paint and cutting skills. All of these skills are transferable across the curriculum and into work place situations so are vital to every pupil's success.

The activities are fun and relevant to pupils, some S1 work this year has covered Paisley buildings with a hint of a Van Gogh Sky, designing a new fruit drink container, 'scary house' based on architecture and a cactus painting with real spikes!

Into S2 they will continue to build on skills and venture into three dimensional work in preparation for subject choices in S3. Art in High School is as important as any other subject, pupils learn to evaluate and problem solve and sharpen their creativity!

# art and design



# S1 will be

# FUN

PE tell us all about why Primary 7's should be looking forward to PE in S1

The Primary 7s should be excited about coming to the PE Department in August 2017 for many reasons.

Firstly, they will experience a wide range of different activities through their time in the Department.

S1 pupils will participate in three periods of PE each week. Activities will be taught both inside and outside throughout the year and include sports like, basketball, badminton, gymnastics, netball, softball and Athletics.

The PE Department work hard to offer our pupils exciting and challenging experiences in a variety of activities to ensure all pupils find something they like and enjoy participating in.

As a department, we offer an extensive range of extra-curricular activities for our pupils to participate in during lunch times and after school. These include activities like Netball, Basketball, Fitness club, Dance, Hockey, Parkour, Skiing and Gymnastics.

Along with these recreational activities, some of our teams enter the Scottish Cup Competition as well as competing in local tournaments, this mean if you are interested in playing at a more competitive level there are lots of opportunities for this too.

On top of our Broad General Education and Extra-curricular opportunities, we organise and run many whole school and year group events for our pupils throughout the school year, these include S1/2 Christmas Dance, the Gleniffer Gladiator Games, Ski Trip, the School Cross Country, Health week and the Mini Olympics. If you enjoy participating in sport and activities – the PE Department is the place for you!!

**We look forward to meeting all the P7 in the PE Transition Day in June.**

### Clubs currently being offered

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
Lunch		Football (S1-3) Volleyball & Basketball (S1&2)		Dodgeball (S1-2)
After School	Netball (S1-3)		Basketball (S1-S6) Fitness (S1/S2) Dance (S1) Hockey (S1-S6)	Badminton (S1-6) Fit for Girls (S1-6)

The background of the top section features a collage of musical elements. At the top, the word "MUSIC" is written in large, bold, grey 3D letters. Surrounding the text are various musical notes, clefs, and staves. Below the text, there are illustrations of musical instruments: a tuba on the left, a harp on the right, and a drum kit at the bottom center.

# MUSIC

The Music Department are looking forward to meeting our new S1 pupils at their induction days. Music is a practical subject where performing and creating plays a pivotal role in the curriculum. Basic literacy skills will be developed to enable pupils to develop basic performing skills during taster courses on Keyboard, Guitar, Drum Kit and Glockenspiel in the months before Christmas. In addition pupils will build their knowledge and understanding of a broad range of musical concepts. In June we are performing the Sound of Music which will involve some P7 pupils performing on stage in this wonderful musical production so please come along and see for yourselves the opportunities and experiences available to pupils in Gleniffer High School.

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# ENGLISH

There are many reasons why Primary 7 pupils should be excited about coming to the English department in Gleniffer High School. In S1, pupils will read a variety of different texts including short stories, novels, poetry and media texts. Pupils are encouraged to be creative and use their imagination in English, so pupils should look forward to being able to create their own short stories, poems and more. Of course, an important part of English is reading and Primary 7s should look forward to visiting our fantastic library which is packed with many different, wonderful books.

Jamie Elliott from class 1.3 says: "In English we learn how to write things properly, how to create characters and we have looked at different poems and songs which have similes and metaphors in them. My favourite thing about English is being able to write your own stories and use your imagination."

Ella Gibson, also from class 1.3, enjoyed creating her own technological product and producing her own 'Dragon's Den' style persuasive pitch: "I really liked being able to come up with my own idea and creation and being able to have the final over what we did our solo talk on."

Ms McAnena, Principal Teacher of English, says: "I am very much looking forward to welcoming all Primary 7 pupils to Gleniffer High School for the May induction days and in August, as our new S1 pupils!"

# Business and Computing...

Some of the current first years were asked what you should be looking forward to the most and this is what they said:

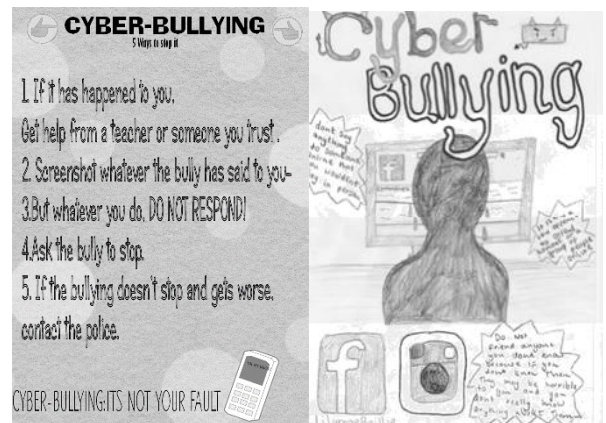
"I really liked working in groups and doing presentations to the class. I hope the new first years will too."

"The new first years should look forward to the Monsterz cereal project. It was fun working in groups with our friends. The databases unit was fun too."

"You do loads of fun things and one of them is Quizizz which is a fun quiz game. We found sound editing fun because you can alter your voice to be higher, lower, faster or slower. We used sound editing to record jingles and used them in our presentation to the class."

"I really enjoyed sound editing to make advertising jingles for companies."

"ICT is better than in primary as you learn a wider variety of computing skills including sound editing, spreadsheets, marketing campaigns, advertising and you create group presentations. There is a lot to look forward to and I'm sure you'll like S1 ICT."



Our S1 ICT course is exciting and hands on with lots of practical work at the computers. You will learn about keeping yourself and your devices safe online when we look at internet safety and computer security.

You will learn how to present information using word processing software and will get to create posters and letters using some advanced software features. You will learn about sound editing and will be able to create and record your own radio advert before learning how to create professional multimedia presentations in PowerPoint.

You will then learn a bit about Businesses including how to make decisions in a team, the characteristics successful entrepreneurs have and how to market a new product before you work as part of a team to create a marketing campaign for a new breakfast cereal.

You will learn about handling data using databases and spreadsheets software, then you will learn the basics of coding where you will remix and create a number of games. ICT is a fun and fast-paced course where you will develop excellent practical and problem solving skills.

We look forward to meeting all new S1 pupils in August!

# Notice Board

## HEAD TEACHER INFORMATION MEETINGS

If you would like to discuss the current issues in education, the vision the school has for your child and the aims for the second half of this session, then Mr Nicholls is more than happy to meet with individuals or small groups of parents at a mutually agreed time during or after the school day.

If you would like to meet with Mr Nicholls and have a particular area of interest or concern you wish to discuss, then please contact me on 01505 813116 or at [glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

## GLENIFFER HIGH SCHOOL CARES

As a school we aim to provide the best education and opportunities for participation and achievement possible with the staff and resources we have available to us. To ensure that we do this, I welcome your feedback on how you perceive the service we are providing or any constructive comments on how we could improve our service. If you wish to do this, then please feel free to contact the school as we really do value your opinions.

If you would like to express your views please contact us by telephone on 01505 813116 or by email at [glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

## UNIFORM

Our school has a very smart and practical uniform worn by all of our pupils. As we move around the school and conduct our uniform inspection visits to classes, I am pleased to inform you that the standard of dress remains excellent as a result of your support. Thank you for continuing to support the school in this important issue.

### Girls:

White shirt school tie  
Black zipper, cardigan, tank top or jersey (tops with school badges are preferable)  
Black skirt or tailored trousers  
Black shoes  
Dark warm and waterproof jacket  
School bag large enough for folders and pencils, pens etc

### Boys:

White shirt school tie  
Black zipper, tank top or jersey (tops with school badges are preferable)  
Black trousers  
Black shoes  
Dark warm and waterproof jacket  
School Bag Large enough for folders and pencils, pens etc

## SPONSORSHIP

This session the PTA has donated £2,000 to school funds and £500 to our special support fund for those most in need of help with uniform, PE kit and school trips. This money is, as always, greatly appreciated and is now proving essential if we are to continue developing our extra curricular programme, rewarding pupils for excellent behaviour, achievements, attainment and representing the school. In addition to this money, the PTA also donated £100 of gift vouchers to support the fund raising no uniform day on 20 December. A big thank you to them for this very kind gesture.

However, as we work our way through the session and we continue to support and reward our pupils, we are always on the look out for assistance with additional finance to help assist with the financing of the many extras that go on within our school community.

In addition to this request for assistance, we are also looking for sponsorship and or donations towards the third planned expedition to our link school Dzenza Primary in Malawi in June 2018.

If you would like to help the school by sponsoring a sports team, a musical event, the school newsletter, the school website, a subject within the curriculum or donate towards our Malawi 2018 development fund then please do not hesitate to contact the Head Teacher on 01505 813116 or at [glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

Any offer of help would be greatly appreciated.



## Sport in the Spotlight



The Gleniffer Netball teams have worked very hard this term and have been successful in many of their matches in both the Scottish and Renfrewshire Cup.

Our S1 girls dominated in their matches in the Renfrewshire Cup Competition that was hosted at Gleniffer, and won the competition. – They managed to get themselves all the way to the Quarter Finals in the Gold Section of the Scottish Cup. Huge Congratulations girls!

The S2 girls team also did very well in the Scottish Cup and played their way to the Quarter Finals of the Silver section of the Competition. Our S2 girls have also done well in the Renfrewshire cup and are playing in the finals day at the end of March at Castlehead – we wish them well and hope they play their socks off!

Our S3 girls have also worked well this year, and got to the Second round of the Silver section of the Scottish Cup, but unfortunately lost to St George's School for Girls. Both teams played well and their attitude and sportsmanship was a credit to both schools.

Senior Team – the girls have improved greatly since the start of the year with the help of the Wonderful Mrs Elliot. They have loved working with her and learning from her depth of experience. The girls got to the Second round of the Gold Section of the Scottish Cup but sadly just lost to our local rivals, St Andrews Academy. However, they did go on to win all their matches in the Renfrewshire Cup finals day at Gryffe High School and won the Competition – another victory for one of our Gleniffer girls!

## Basketball



Active schools recently organised S1/2 development days hosted in the Lagoon Leisure Centre with staff and players from Basketball Paisley. Two mixed teams participated in the 1st event completing the round robin event with both teams making it through to the knock-out stages, Gleniffer A winning the 3rd place play off. At the girls only S1/2 day, again performing exceptionally well, the team finished 3rd out of 15 teams.

Our S1/2 boys team just competed in the Paisley Qualifiers where they have qualified to represent the area at the Renfrewshire Secondary Games in May. The pupils have developed well over the term and have had a fantastic experience especially having the teams coached and managed by some of our senior boys players – Ross Lochhead, Liam McDougall and Kevin Clark.



# Sport in the Spotlight

For further updates check out our blog:  
[glenifferpe.wordpress.com](http://glenifferpe.wordpress.com) or

 @Gleniffer\_PE

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## GHS Hockey

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The S3 – S6 senior Hockey team had a very strong finish to the Renfrewshire Hockey league, achieving a bronze medal. This is an excellent achievement as many of the players have recently taken up the sport and find themselves competing against seasoned veterans from other schools.

The matches and training take place on a Wednesday after school S1-6 for an hour. If your son/daughter would like to play hockey, please encourage them to come along and give it a go.

A Big thank you to James MacPherson and Iain Reid for coaching the team.

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## Ski Trips

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### Ski Trip, 3 valleys, France, 2017

This year we travelled to Les Menuire, which is part of the world's largest ski resort in France. The pupils had the chance to explore the vast terrain putting their newly acquired ski skills to the test and try out their French language skills on our very nice instructor Elodie. Highlights of the trip included the pupils skiing their first black run and the famous giant milkshakes, which went down a treat after a hard day on the slopes. Many a night was spent hunting out the best pizza in the resort or trying to score a strike at ten-pin bowling.

### Glencoe, March 2017

38 excited S1-S3 pupils travelled to Glencoe Mountain Resort on 27<sup>th</sup> March to enjoy a wonderful day of skiing and snowboarding and even squeezed in a spot of sledging. A fantastic experience was had by all from beginner to the more experienced on what turned out to be a gloriously dry, sunny day. Thanks to Mr Bleach for organising.







# Sport in the Spotlight

## Football: Senior Team Results



## HEARTY LIVES

Hearty Lives Renfrewshire is a Peer Education programme which is run in association with Active Communities. It aims to address some of the known health inequalities in Renfrewshire and targets young people aged 11-18 to lead projects in their schools and communities.

The project has been up and running since October in Gleniffer High with 11 enthusiastic S3 pupils taking the lead and voicing their opinions on health issues that affect them and their peers and families. The pupils are assigned time each week where they meet with Mrs Forster to develop their skills as Young Leaders as well as their knowledge on health issues.

The group were very privileged to attend the Renfrewshire Youth Assembly in Paisley Town Hall where they got to network with other pupils from throughout Renfrewshire as well as take part in informative workshops from Youth workers and partner agencies. They also had an inspirational visit from Olympic athlete Eilish McColgan who chatted to the group about learning from failure and success through effort as part of the Champions in Schools Programme.

The group are looking forward to getting stuck into their project in the summer term where they hope to work with local primary schools, deliver activities during health week and really start making an impact in Gleniffer High.

Thursday 26 January	4-3 against Gryffe High School in the league section
Thursday 2 February	5-1 win against St Joseph's College Dumfries in 4 <sup>th</sup> round of the Scottish Shield
Thursday 16 February	4-1 against Linwood High School in the league section
Tuesday 7 March	2-1 defeat to St Modan's High School, Stirling in the 5 <sup>th</sup> round of the Scottish Shield
Tuesday 14 March	7-3 win against Renfrew High School in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> round of the St Mirren Cup
Thursday 16 March	9-1 win over Mearns Castle High School in the ¼ final of the St Mirren Cup

At the time of printing, the Senior boys' team have reached the league play-offs and are in the semi-final of the St Mirren Cup. Well done boys!



# Forensics Week

## The Scenario

The disappearance of Charity money from Gleniffer High School was reported by the Head Teacher Mr Nicholls. The money disappeared between 9.00 and 10.30am from a safe in Mr Nicholls' office.



**Sassy Sangster**



**Big Man Birrell**



**Gangsta Gorman**



**Prentice the Punk**



**Playa Parsons**



**Badboy Bilsland 25.**



The Forensics team worked hard at the scene collecting evidence...

- Blood on the door handle and on a tissue in the bin
- Ink from a note on the desk
- Fingerprints on the desk, door handle and safe
- A mysterious white powder on the floor

Meanwhile the criminal investigations team interrogated all of the suspects and checked their alibis....



Pupils used their knowledge and skills from **Chemistry, Biology** and **Physics** to collate evidence, critically analyse data and produced a crime report.  
 Biology - ink chromatography to match samples of ink with that found on a note in Mr. Nicholls' office.

Chemistry - flame test to identify the white powder that was found on the floor in Mr. Nicholl's office and match the samples found from each suspect.

Physics - U.V testing to find concealed evidence and determine finger prints to help identify the culprit.

With the help of our CSI team, the culprit was found to be **Badboy Bilsland!**

Mr. Bilsland, who made no defence, attempt to flee the scene, but was apprehended by DI Leishman.

He was later convicted for the crime of theft and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

In March 2017 S3 pupils participated in the LOST interdisciplinary learning experience involving activities both in and out of class

# S3 Lost Event

## The Story So Far...

A plane has crashed onto a hostile, uninhabited Island near the centre of the Pacific Ocean.

The Island measures a mile and a half in length by half a mile wide.



Over the course of the day, many aspects of survival on the island were looked into. These activities included gutting fish to eat as food, building a shelter, map reading, investigating skin protection and first aid.

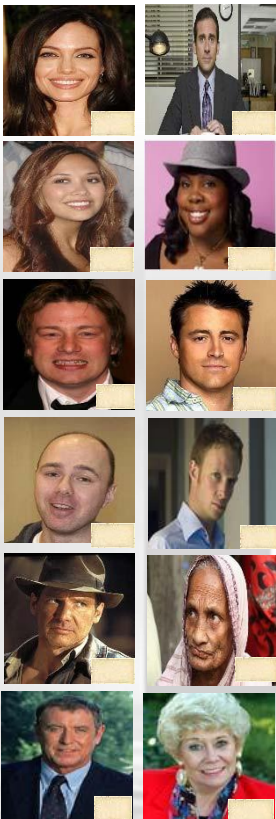
The teams also looked into ways of escaping from the island. Here, they designed and built rafts, as well as designing a signalling system that they could use to communicate with the outside world.



Each team also spent time debating as to which member of their group of castaways was worth most saving (and who wasn't!).



## The survivors....

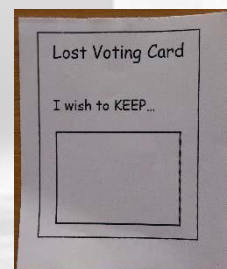


The teams also had a chance to get up close and personal with animals that may exist on the island, with the bravest pupils able to get a picture with a snake!



"It was a great day. All pupils and staff involved worked very well and were clearly enjoying the activities. By discussing with the pupils it was good to hear such a wide range of opinions as to who they thought was the most worthy of saving."

– Mr Morgan (Physics)





## Contact Us:

Tel: 01505 813 116

E: [glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

Post: Amochrie Road, Paisley, PA2 0AG

## Something We Need to Know?

*Please keep us informed about:*

- Absences,
- Reasons for absences
- Appointments
- Issues which may be affecting your child
- Achievements and successes of your child
- Holidays
- Family events

## Pastoral Support

If you have a particular concern, or something you would like to discuss with us in relation to your child, please contact your child's Pastoral Support teacher in the first instance:

- Brodie House: Mr Parsons
- Glen House: Mrs Denny
- Moredun House: Miss Cameron
- Thornly House: Mrs Harris



GLENIFFER HIGH SCHOOL  
PARENT COUNCIL



@GlenifferHigh

@EmployGleniffer



### Website:

[www.glenifferhigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk](http://www.glenifferhigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk)



### App: Gleniffer-High-School

Find us on the App Store or  
Google Play Store



Dear Parents & Carers

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to any of our fundraising events this year by either donating goods, coming along and spending your money or giving your child money to purchase cakes at our bake sales.

We unfortunately have had to cancel our Gin tasting event on 24<sup>th</sup> March due to low ticket sales and being unable to find suitable premises. Our next big event will be a vintage afternoon tea on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June . Tickets will be priced at £5 and the event will take the same format as last year so if you enjoyed that event please come back this year and bring a friend and help to support our school community.

We have 5 ladies retiring from the PTA this summer and since this will be one third of our helpers gone and are seriously needing new parents to come along and get involved in helping raise money for our vibrant school community. If you cannot attend meetings but would still like to help out please contact me through the school office and remember that old saying "many hands make light work" so if your child is getting an award at any of the Certificate of Merit ceremonies please remember the PTA who work hard to pay for these awards and maybe try to find a little time to help out.

Have a wonderful Easter and hope to see you at future events,

Regards

Beverly Barclay  
PTA Chairperson

