

PARENTAL NEWSLETTER

December 2010

The grounds are still deep in snow and some of our staff and students are having a difficult journey to and from school. Nonetheless, we have managed to remain open for all but two days.

A big thank you must go to our janitors for keeping the paths into the school clear and to the roads department for clearing the car park.

Christmas is rapidly approaching and with that a whole host of exciting events at Elgin Academy.

Christmas Lunch

The canteen staff provides all the traditional fare on Wednesday 15th December. As this lunch is so popular we release S1 and S2 students slightly early (12.30) on that day.

Christmas Parties and Dances

S1, S2, S3 and S4 will have Christmas parties on the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th December respectively. After an early lunch at 12 noon, to allow for a change of clothes, students return for the start of the party at 1.30pm. There will be Ceilidh dancing and refreshments organised by Mr Davidson and the Guidance Team and ably supported by S6 students.

The date of the **Senior Dance** has been changed to Monday 20th December to enable the band, made up of former Elgin Academy students, to get back from University. Doors open at 7.30 and the dance will end at 10.30.

First Elgin Academy Farmers Market

S2 students in conjunction with the Royal Northern Countryside Initiative have been busy organising a Farmers Market. It will take place in the Academy on Friday 10th December from 11 until 3pm.

Producers include * CONNAGE HIGHLAND DAIRY * EASTERTON FARM VENISON * ELGIN ACADEMY HOME ECONOMICS * FOCHABERS ICE CREAM PARLOUR * JAMPACKED – NATURALLY * MACLEOD ORGANIC BOX DELIVERY * MORAY OSTRICHES * OLIVE TREE CHOCOLATE * THE BAKEHOUSE CAFÉ * WESTER HARDMUIR FRUIT FARM.

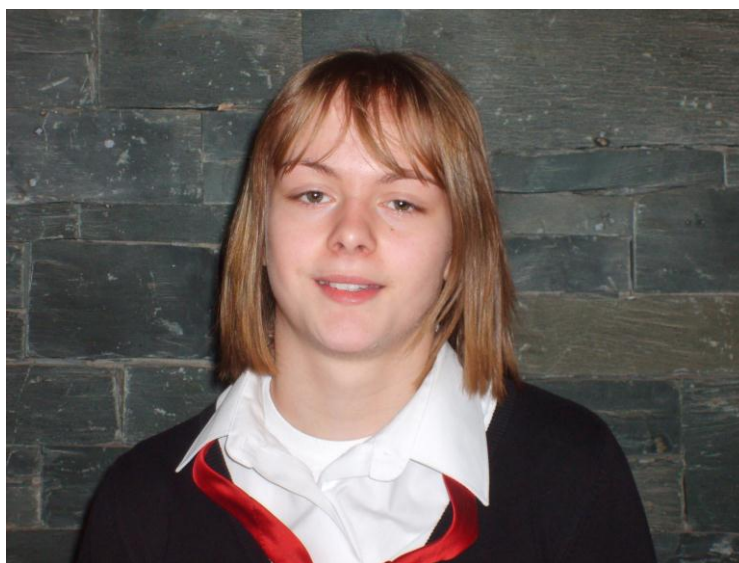
Mr Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, will open the event. Please come along and give your support to the **S2 Management Board** in this initiative.

HMle Return Visit

HMle returned to Elgin Academy from the 8th to 10th November 2010. A report is currently being produced by HMle and will be available to parents by the 21st December 2010.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Jodi Henderson** Sport Moray Junior Sportswoman. Jodi has eight Kickboxing world titles and a world cup title to add to her British, Scottish, Irish and English titles.



Congratulations to **Rowena Mackessack- Leitch** who came 6th in the Junior Ladies British Figure Skating Championship in Sheffield. Rowena was the highest placed Scottish competitor and won as Scottish Junior Champion.

Dates for Your Diary - December 2010

Wednesday 22nd School Closes for Christmas

Dates for Your Diary - January 2011

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Thursday 6 th | School Opens (Spring Term) |
| Thursday 13 th | Study Leave and Prelims begin |
| Thursday 13 th | S2 Parents' Eve (Surnames A-L) |
| Wednesday 19 th | S2 Parents' Eve (Surnames M-Z) |
| Monday 24 th | S5/6 Prelims begin |
| Friday 28 th | S4 Prelims end |

Dates for Your Diary – February 2011

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|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Tuesday 1 st | P7 Parents' Evening |
| Wednesday 9 th | S5/6 Prelims end |
| Thursday 10 th | Holiday |
| Friday 11 th | Holiday |
| Monday 14 th | Holiday |

Christmas Concert

Unfortunately the weather has beaten us. Due to disruption to rehearsals, the Christmas Concert planned for the 13th December has had to be postponed.

However we are planning a "Spring Concert" instead. It is always a delight to see the standard of musical talent in the Academy so watch out for news of this.

L.I.N.K.S.

The LINKS Group continue to raise money to support our link with Mzomhle High School in the township of Mdansante near East London RSA. **Bag Packing:** The bag pack in ASDA raised **£337**. A big thanks to Keturah Adams, Meg Daly, Catherine Westwood, Declan O'Hare, 2.11; Callum Radcliffe, Andrew Currie, Rhys Gorman, Kimberly Sorrie, Sarah-Jane Morrison, Katie Yeats 3S; Luke Cockram and to Mrs Sutherland and Mr Grant for their orchestration of the day.

St Andrew's Day Quiz: The quiz had to be postponed due to the weather but was rescheduled for Tuesday 7th December where a total of £252.31 was raised on the night.

Old CDs and DVDs in Exchange for a New Set of Football Kit

You can help the school football team by bringing in any unwanted CDs or DVDs. Our target is 1000 – that is 1 for every pupil in the school and for that we can get two new sets of kit. An ideal chance to get rid of old CDs/DVDs before Christmas to make way for the new ones!

Seatbelt Safety Campaign

All pupils travelling to school on school transport should have received a letter addressed to their parents, highlighting the importance of wearing a seatbelt on school transport whilst travelling to and from school. Police officers will spot check school transport on certain routes and any youngsters not wearing their seatbelt will have their names taken and will be issued with a first warning. After that a further spot check en route will be taken and any child not wearing a seatbelt who has already received a first warning will be informed that they are likely to be removed from school transport for a week. For your safety and the safety of others, seat belts must be worn whilst travelling to and from school.

Support for Maths Available

Maths Revision Sessions: Maths after school supported study classes will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Mr McFall's room (Y2) for years 4, 5 & 6 from 3.30pm-4.30pm during term time until the May exams.

Girls football

Congratulations to Elgin Academy girls football team who won the first Active Schools Girls Football Festival.



A Taste of Excellence

Congratulations to S1 students and staff on the magnificent "Taste of Excellence" evening which took place on 17th November. Parents experienced lessons in English, Maths, Science, Art, Technology, RME, Social Subjects, Home Economics, S1 Electives and were involved in discussion on the type of reports they would like to receive on their children's progress. The evening ended with coffee and scones baked during the evening and a chance to see Elgin by night from the Art Department at the top of the tower block.

Contributions to Charity

Well done to Cameron Farquhar S3 Gordon, who raised over £1000 for Breast Cancer doing the Loch Ness 5Km with his Mum.

To date this year Elgin Academy has supported **Jeans for Genes day** raising £624.26, **Breast Cancer Awareness** raising £809.01, and **Children in Need** raising £1100.24. Well done all!

Lost Property from week beginning 6 December 2010:

1 x Girls New Look Jacket, 1 x Beige Bear Hat,
1 x Black/Grey/White Stripe Hat, 1 x Black Hat,
1 x Pink Scarf, 1 x White/Silver Star Scarf,
4 x Pairs of Grey Gloves, 2 Single Grey Gloves,
1 x Navy Gloves, 1 x Purple Gloves, 1 x Black Gloves,
1 Single Purple Leg Warmer, 1 x White Umbro Trainers

1 x Pink with White Spots Umbrella,

There is also a large amount of unclaimed lost property that has accumulated since August 2010.

Autism Friendly School

Our School Improvement Plan for this session includes working towards recognition as an Autism Friendly School. A most helpful evening took place in November when a group of parents met with staff involved in this initiative. Mrs Cowie and Miss Brown visited Raynes Park High School in November to learn from their experience and we look forward to introducing some measures to support the young people

History Revision

Standard Grade revision classes will take place every Monday and Thursday from 3.30pm – 4.30pm in Room Y7.

S6 Leadership

The S6 Leadership Programme is proving very successful. Their contribution can be measured by the success of many of the events currently taking place including, supervision of the school grounds during break and lunchtime, organising whole school events such as the very successful Talent Show and fundraising as recently demonstrated with Children in Need. They are currently busy organising Christmas events such as the S1-4 dances and S1-2 end of term quiz. The successful Eco Group are looking for ways of making the school more responsible and other committees are offering support to younger students through ventures such as peer support and study support. Future developments of S6 include more support of students and a Youth Club which will commence in January for primary students to ease their transition to the secondary stage. As well as formal training undertaken by the authority, there is an In-house Leadership Academy running from October 2010 to April 2011 to explore leadership potential and even gain additional qualifications as this programme is accredited by the SQA.

Welcome to New Staff

Since the last newsletter Miss Ashley Davison has joined the Maths Department, Mr Jim Loudon and Mrs Diane Robertson have joined Support for Learning. Miss S Newbould has been appointed to Modern Languages replacing Miss Cramb who moved to a full time post at Forres Academy. Mr Sandy McWhirter will be returning to the Geography Department from Lossiemouth High School after Christmas.

Congratulations

Mrs Colette O'Neil will be moving to Lossiemouth High School after Christmas as teacher of Support for Learning.

Staff Illness

Ms Rosemary Armour, Principal Teacher of Computing has unfortunately been absent due to illness for some time. We have managed to secure the services of Mr P Penrose, formerly Principal Teacher of Computing at Elgin High School for part of the week and Mr G Wilson at another time.

Mrs Helen Watson Principal Teacher of Music has also been ill. Mrs Hazel Lestienne is currently Acting Principal Teacher in her absence. We send our best wishes to Ms Armour and Mrs Watson and wish them both a speedy recovery.

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year for 2011*

