

Sport @ Knightswood

Sporting Success

The PE Department is the focus for much of the school's extra-curricular activities. They were also very busy over Christmas, as you can see from the photos. Some S20 S1 and S2 pupils attended the annual Christmas Ceilidh, practicing the skills they'll need for all those weddings when they're older! They are all now able to tell their Dashing White Sergeant from their Military Two-step!

As ever, there are many sports clubs running after school. The clubs are well-attended and offer pupils the opportunity to exercise and make new friends. The school is being represented in Glasgow's basketball league at under 15 and under 18 level, and in the netball league at S1 and S3 level. In football, Knightswood once again has teams at every age group. S3 pupil George Elder has once again qualified for Scottish Schools in swimming, and in athletics. S5 pupil John Craig has qualified to compete in the Scottish Schools Athletics in the Kelvin Hall.



Under 13s Turn Season Around

Knightswood 2 - 0 Vale of Leven

The under thirteens came into this match knowing that a win would see them top the table over Christmas. With this in mind, the players took to the field full of confidence and raring to go, only to endure a goalless, cagey first half.

The Vale gave it everything they had and managed to string together a couple of nice passes, especially on the left wing, but the Knightswood defence managed to snare up everything that was thrown at them, with Patrick Frankurde in particular contributing another masterful, man of the match performance (his second in a row).

In the second half Knightswood managed to break into the Vale half with the partnership between Ryan Beaton in the middle and Kieran McLeod on the right looking particularly effective. Some excellent movement from Kieran and Ryan was coupled with a hardworking performance from Declan Hamill, but still the game remained goalless, not through lack of effort, but because of a lack of any real goal-scoring opportunities. Try as they might, the forward line found the increasingly resilient looking Vale defence difficult to break down. Managers Tedford and Gardiner considered, for a moment, substituting the frustrated Hamill and settling for what looked like an inevitable draw. "Declan started to get on the ball a lot more, and we really had them on the ropes for about a twenty minute spell in the second half" said Tedford afterwards. Greig Morrison and J.J. Gracie also began to find their way through the Vale's iron curtain, allowing Kieran on the right and Leon MacKinnon on the left to make inroads into the Vale 18 yard box. A couple of well worked opportunities, especially from set pieces, seemed to foretell that a goal was on the way...

And when it did come, it came in the form of a spectacular Hamill thirty yard drive! A mistake from the Vale goalkeeper allowed Declan to do what he does best, as a scuffed kick out seemed to be magnetically drawn to his right foot. As the ball fell from the sky Declan took the time to prime himself and when it landed, he cut right through landing a perfectly placed volley over the Vale defence, over the goalkeeper and into the back of the net. 1-0 and the Knightswood bench erupted!

The goal did not affect the high octane pace and the game continued much as before with both teams creating a plethora of chances. However the Vale now had the added impetus of having nothing to lose, whilst eagerness started to creep into the Knightswood team. The Vale recommenced their fast flowing style of football, with the two boys on the left hand side once more dominating the action. Knightswood, for the second time in the game, were on the ropes, and Tedford's face was glowing red as he contemplated another humiliating draw or defeat.

Thank goodness then for super-sub Michael McSwiggan! A deflected shot from substitute Josh Grace landed at the feet of Michael who, surrounded by the Vale defence, on his first team debut, with practically his first touch of the ball, belted the ball underneath the torso of the flailing keeper with a well placed shot, and into the back of the net. The day was ours!

Steven Carson came on for Dean Whyte and William McCall came into the game late on to bolster the team and the game was won. In the end it could have been 3-0 but for an excellent save from the Vale goalkeeper. All in all an excellent team performance with some superb passing and great individual skill. From the back to the front, Knightswood looked like winners on Saturday. Long may it continue!

Health News

We are looking forward to another year of Health Promotion Activities in Knightswood Secondary School. We got off to a great start with our new notice board situated in the admin corridor thanks to our PE Student, Ms Amico. This offers ideas for health while promoting the variety of healthy activities we are currently offering in and around the school such as the school nurse drop in facility, school counsellor, girls and boys youth groups and national events like Cancer Awareness. We also now have a leaflet dispenser for advice and information on health related issues including drugs and alcohol, positive mental health and giving blood. Make sure you have a look the next time you are in the school.

The Refresh Tuck shop has continued to be a success selling a selection of healthier snacks and drinks for everyone at Knightswood. This runs every alternate Friday outside the Assembly Hall during interval.

Last year our S1 won the Glasgow City Smoke Free class competition and 30 pupils enjoyed an all expenses paid trip to Euro Disney — they had a fantastic time. We are pleased to be joining this initiative again this year and look forward to the prizes — who knows, we may be sending 30 pupils to Euro Disney again! We have a strong senior school Health Promotion Committee and would welcome any suggestions or comments to help promote good health amongst Knightswood Secondary and the community.

Knightswood news

SECONDARY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2008



**In this issue: Dance School News ¥ Charity Events ¥ Awards ¥ Health News
Spotlight on Staff ¥ Creative Writing ¥ Sports ¥ Music Masterclasses**

Dear Parent,

A very warm welcome to the February edition of the Knightswood News.

Last Term was very busy but highly productive. This is reflected in the newsletter with articles about our Knightswood s Got Talent show, the success of one of our pupils, Vicky Glen, who won a national award for Modern Studies and our continuing success in the Arts & Sports world. We also have features on our Creative Writing Club and our Cello & Clarinet Master class. Our featured department is Support for Learning who are involved in invaluable work for our youngsters.

2008 is a very special year for Knightswood — it is the 50th anniversary of the school, the 25th anniversary of the Dance school and the 10th anniversary of the Musical Theatre course! To celebrate, we have organised a number of events throughout this session and the early part of next session. We will keep you informed of these events as they unfold.

Thank you for your continuing wholehearted support for what we are doing at the school. Together, we are developing and flourishing — long may it continue!

Kindest regards,
Ian Murhan,
Head teacher.



More than just a school

Regular readers will remember that every year our school pupils take part in various charitable activities. Annual events such as Danceathon, Readathon and Knightswood's Christmas Show, are enjoyed by a large number of our pupils. They give the pupils a valuable opportunity to give something back to our communities, as well as being good fun.

Knightswood s PT Dance, Ann Rybarczyk, spoke to the News about her latest Danceathon. It is great fun. Almost all the girls from the dance classes and groups get involved, and as you can see, they love dressing up and putting on a really good show. This year, we have raised over £3,000! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ann McCabe, John McLaren and Mick Warrender for their help before the event and to Isabel Gordon, Katrina Johnston, Irene McConnachie and Ellen McPake for their assistance on the day. Without the help and dedication of staff, these events would not be so successful.

This year's Christmas show followed in the footsteps of previous successes such as Mr and Mrs Knightswood and The K Factor. The show, called Knightswood s Got Talent, raised £300 for CHAS, through ticket sales and a collection on the night. The first half of the show featured nine musical acts performed live by pupils who had already won through a stiff auditioning process (they had to bribe Mr Hill with sweets). During the interval, the audience cast their votes, before settling down to a second half that featured a wonderful dance performance, an energetic display from last year's winners, and an astonishing ABBA tribute act. The winner this year was S5 pupil Jenna McCran who wowed the audience with her solo vocal performance of 'Last Christmas'.

DVDs of the performances will be available shortly, priced at £3, with half the proceeds going to CHAS and half to the World Challenge Group. Mr Hill's World Challenge Group consists of 8 S3 pupils. Their target is to raise £400 each for a canoeing trip from Fort William to Loch Ness. This exercise aims to allow young people to achieve personal and team goals to develop valuable skills for later life such as teamwork, leadership, problem solving and communication.



Celebrating Success!

Victoria Glen is celebrating success. Victoria, a sixth year pupil at Knightswood, was presented with a special award at the annual conference of the Modern Studies Association on Saturday 3rd November at Strathclyde University.

She is one of only three pupils in Scotland, and the only one from a Glasgow school, who achieved full marks in the 2007 Higher Modern Studies SQA examination. This is a wonderful achievement given that over 7,000 pupils from schools in both the state and private sector were presented for Higher Modern Studies. She is the first pupil in any Glasgow City Council secondary school to receive such an award. Victoria received her award from Professor John Currie of Strathclyde University.

Victoria's success is not only being celebrated by her family, but also by her school. She is an excellent role model for other pupils in the school. The story of her great success has been featured in the Evening Times. Raising attainment is a key priority not just for Knightswood Secondary School, but for all of the city's 26 secondary schools. Victoria's success shows that Glasgow's pupils can perform as well or better than pupils in any other parts of the country.



Knightswood

SECONDARY SCHOOL



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Musical Theatre News

The MTC Christmas Showcase 2007 was a sell-out. The Showcase, which has become an annual event, was held once again in Gilmorehill Halls in Hillhead. The show, which involved all the MTC pupils, contained drama, dance and excerpts from popular musicals.

They joined the Lord Provost as part of a civic delegation from Glasgow at a Burns Supper in Nuremberg, Germany. The event celebrated the twinning of our city with Nuremberg. Their performances illustrated what the best in Scottish talent can do. Their audience included the Lord Mayor of Nuremberg and the British Consul General.

Back in Glasgow, they performed at the Lord Provost's Burns Supper, an annual event and one of the biggest in the world. More than 1,000 guests gathered for the event at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow, where Diana and Lawrence performed 'The Address to the Heags', 'To a Mouse' and 'What Can a Young Lassie dae wi' an Old Man?' Among the star-studded guests were TV personalities Karen Dunbar and Kaye Adams.

As well as meeting their academic deadlines, the MTC pupils will begin their preparation for the summer show. This year's show, which will again take place in the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow, will be the British Premiere of *All Shook Up*. The show is a compilation musical in the style of West End hits such as *Mamma Mia* and *We Will Rock You*. The storyline is a romantic comedy, following Twelfth Night using Elvis hits to tell the story. The show opens on Wednesday, 11th of June. Ticket details will appear in the next issue.



Cello and Clarinet Masterclasses

A group of talented young musicians from Knightswood have been sharpening their skills on a visit to the Glasgow City Halls.

S3 pupil Zsombor Illés, and S2 pupil Gillian Deans were joined by April Shek and Patrick Frankunda of S1 on a full day visit to the City Halls. They joined around 60 other Glasgow school pupils participating in a workshop led by Fred Parry, the school's cello teacher. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for them to meet other pupils with similar interests, as well as benefiting from the advice of talented professionals. Zsombor, in particular, did well, soloing in front of the sixty-strong group of pupils, teachers and musicians.

Knightswood's clarinet-playing students also got in on the act; sixteen young players from S1 through to S3 attended a clarinet masterclass in the same location a few weeks later.

All the pupils represented the school impeccably. The masterclasses provided a great opportunity for the pupils to develop their musical talents.



Who will be the next JK Rowling?

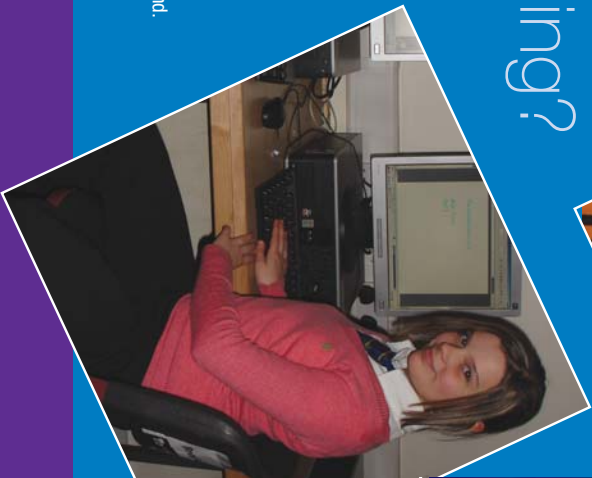
In an attempt to answer this question, Miss Bogucki of the English Department has been running a very popular lunchtime club. Nicole Butcherly, an S2 pupil, writes for the News and explains what all the fuss is about.

The Creative Writing Club is a group of first and second year pupils who gather on Thursday lunchtimes to write stories. Around 20-30 pupils attend each week. The club is run by the wonderful Miss Bogucki.

Each pupil creates a story or two each and when finished they are put into the club magazine, which is called *The Scribbler*.

You're probably wondering why I would want to spend my lunchtimes writing when I do that in English every day. Well, that's what makes the Creative Writing Club so good: you don't get told what you have to do, you can write about anything you want.

The Creative Writing Club is on from 1.15 to 1.35 every Thursday and you are welcome to come along if you wish. All you need to bring is your imagination and, if you want, your lunch, which you can eat in Miss Bogucki's class beforehand.



kss-sport.co.uk

It's now even easier to keep up-to-date with the scores for Knightswood's football teams. Thanks to the hard work of Mr Alan Grant (mathematics), the school now has a frequently updated website devoted entirely to football. As well as the usual information about fixtures and results, the website also contains quizzes and a fun and games section. The address is www.kss-sport.co.uk.

Spotlight on: Support for Learning

This edition of the News has turned the spotlight onto the Support for Learning Department.

The Support for Learning Department along with Pastoral Care makes up the Pupil Support Team in Knightswood. Mrs Eileen Carlin, PT, leads a department of four teachers, each of whom are qualified subject teachers with an additional qualification in Support for Learning. In addition, there are six Pupil Support Assistants who work alongside class teachers throughout the school.

The department has an essential role in the transition of pupils from primary school to secondary. Teachers from the department develop a close working relationship with primary 7 teachers, and assess the needs of all the pupils to ensure that they can be catered for in the secondary setting. The department also has a key role in the school's mission to raise attainment. Support for Learning staff work in a number of departments throughout the school on Raising Attainment initiatives. Central to this is their work on literacy; focussed support is provided in S1 and S2.

Any pupil can experience a difficulty in learning at some point in their school career. Support can be offered in many ways, including individual tuition, group tuition, a homework club and even special exam arrangements.

In addition, the department is at the forefront of the provision of ASDAN, a nationally recognised programme which aims to recognise and reward pupils skills as they complete 'Personal Challenges' in such areas as sports, healthy living, community involvement, work experience, expressive arts, relationships, citizenship, personal finance and enterprise. Knightswood's S3 ASDAN group are currently undergoing a sport-based programme which has been co-ordinated through Lbrox Study Centre, and involves visits to Xscape's Soccer Skills School, Bellahouston's Ski Slope and climbing wall. The S4 group, which was featured in a previous edition of the News, has now completed the ASDAN Bronze and Silver Challenge Awards.



Tears and Laughter

S4 pupils Lauren Gallon, Sarah Franklin and Eilidh McMillan report, for the News, on their visit to the theatre to see Willy Russell's popular musical, *Blood Brothers*.

On the 10th of October, a group of fourth and sixth years went to see *Blood Brothers* in the King's Theatre, accompanied by English teachers Mr Turner and Mr Pratt. After a short bus ride, we arrived at the King's Theatre, which was extremely busy.

The play was both serious and humorous with good songs, too. The first half focused on when the brothers were young and as it progressed, we became more and more engrossed. The actors were all very good, including Anthony Costa who we know as a singer in the boy band Blue. They portrayed children well and one particularly good song and dance they performed was 'Child's Play'. The costumes and lighting were also good, adding to the atmosphere and mood of the play.

After the break, the main focus of the play was showing us the problems the brothers faced as young adults. This half brought more seriousness to the play and continued to have us engrossed. At the end of the play there was a dramatic shock which left the audience in awe and some of us in tears. The audience gave a strong ovation leaving the actors and actresses very emotional. Anthony Costa played a really likeable character and he really connected well with the audience. We would highly recommend anyone to go and see this rendition of *Blood Brothers*.

DSS News

At this time of year, many of our S5 and S6 dance pupils are heavily involved in auditioning for places in further education. As ever, they have to juggle their preparations for their academic exams with an exhausting schedule of travel and the pressure to perform. Many of our students are seeking places in schools and colleges throughout the UK.

S5 pupil Shaun McLaughlin, from Glasgow, spoke to the News about his recent audition in London. Shaun, who has been at the school since S1, had applied for a place at the prestigious Royal Ballet School in London, which enjoys world-wide recognition as a renowned institution for classical ballet training. The school is located in new premises alongside the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. To be accepted for an audition at such an establishment is, in itself, an achievement. At first I was quite nervous about it. But when it sunk in, I realised that I was getting the kind of chance that I have dreamed about for many years.

In order to arrive prepared, Shaun had to be flown down to London the night before. You arrive an hour before your audition time, so that you can get changed and have a 45 minute warm-up. Your audition takes the form of a class, which lasts about an hour and a half. During that time you are working in groups. It's quite competitive — you are watching the others closely to size up the opposition, whilst trying to do your own work the best you can.

It would be understandable to let your nerves get the better of you during such intense pressure, but for Shaun, the experience was exhilarating. I was totally buzzing. I would swap it for the world.

For Shaun, and many of his classmates, the story is unfinished. As we go to print, many of the schools and colleges are still in the process of auditioning for next year's intake.

This year will see the Dance School present its 25th Annual Showcase. For the silver anniversary of the school, Artistic Director Elaine Holland has planned something special. The show promises to celebrate all things Scottish, from the past, through the present, to the future. More details will follow about the show, but for now, here are some important dates for your diaries: Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th June. The venue? The wonderfully ornate setting of Glasgow's Theatre Royal.

