

The Compass School

Summer Newsletter 2018



Welcome to our news update! A number of these items have been reported on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/thecompassschool) and school website (www.thecompassschool.co.uk). However, we are aware that some parents do not perhaps visit these sites on a regular basis so we hope you will enjoy this more traditional style report on our children's activities.

As Session 2017/18 draws to a close, we have taken time in class and at whole school assemblies during the past few days to reflect on a hugely successful academic year here at The Compass. Rather than 'wind down' to the end of term as some schools do, at The Compass we always aim to end on a high and the past few weeks have given our children ample opportunity to mark the conclusion of the school year in many impressive ways.

What a wonderful performance our children in Forms 1, 2 & 3 gave us at the theatre in the final week of June in their summer musical, 'Going Buggy!' They sang, acted and danced their way through a very amusing story of our friends in the insect world who combine to campaign for greater rights for bugs - even taking their cause to the Scottish Parliament!



There were great performances too from the children of Forms 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 who



this year, performed the musical 'The Little Mermaid'. With a show packed full of memorable songs, the children put their heart and soul into each performance and greatly entertained our large audiences.

What fantastic performances we witnessed from our children as they sang, danced and acted with such talent and enthusiasm throughout the week.

Thank you to all our parents for your enthusiastic support of our children at our Sports Day in the final week of term at Knox Academy. It was lovely to see the children enjoying a traditional Sports Day, with smiles and laughter very much in evidence.



Early in June a party of Form 8 children and staff travelled to Glen Doll in the Cairngorms. From there, they successfully completed an ascent of the munro, Mayar (928m), making their way through and up the spectacular Corrie Fee. On a day when sunshine was in abundance, the party overcame the hot conditions for climbing and walking, with all of the party making it to the summit – a considerable achievement for our oldest children. Following the walk, the party stopped at the Clova Hotel for a well-earned celebratory meal. Well done to them all!

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On the same day Form 7 enjoyed a superb day of hill-walking in the Pentlands, walking approx. 12km in sunny conditions from Balerno to Flotterstone, taking in five peaks on the way. What an energetic and enthusiastic group of children they were, taking on the challenge in their stride and comfortably achieving the challenge set of them! Led by former Compass parent, Philip Gilholm, the children learned a whole range of hill craft and map-reading skills during their walk. Finally, they enjoyed a well-earned tea at the Flotterstone Inn to conclude a very special day together.



In May, Form 6 spent three action-packed days at Loch Insh near Kingussie in the Highlands. Arriving on Monday, the children quickly got to grips with a whole range of water sports such as paddle-boarding, windsurfing, canoeing and sailing. On land, there was time for energetic orienteering and mountain-biking. It was a tired but elated group of children who arrived back at school on Wednesday evening, full of tales of their exploits and their many accomplishments!



Also that month, Form 8 spent four amazing days in France. Staying in Chateau de Grande Romaine at Lesigny, to the east of Paris, the children spent four activity-filled days, during which they enjoyed a very enriching experience of French life and culture including visits to the château and town of Fontainebleau; to the Museum of World War One at Meaux; a tour and medieval show in the UNESCO World Heritage town of Provins; a visit to a local market-place where they used their French to purchase various ingredients from which to make their lunch; and took part in various French-related activities at the chateau itself. What great tales the children had to tell when they finally arrived back at Edinburgh airport on the Thursday evening.



Also in May, Form 5 visited the Belmont Centre, Perthshire where they enjoyed a three day adventure during which they undertook problem-solving tasks as 'evacuees' from the Second World War; took on an orienteering challenge; honed their skills in archery; worked effectively as a team in 'nightline'; and learned all about living outdoors and how to survive in the wild. A trip to Dundee's Olympia Centre with its giant flumes and wave machines rounded off an action-packed three days for our young adventurers.

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Finally, children from Form 4 enjoyed a very exciting adventure at Netherurd House, near West Linton in the Borders. On what was perhaps the sunniest Netherurd expedition in all of our twenty years of visiting the centre, the children made the most of being outdoors, with canoeing, pond-dipping, exploring, a zip-line and numerous games all part of an action-packed programme which never seemed to stop!

In recent weeks, Form 1 have enjoyed trips to the Ormiston Tree and Dynamic Earth, Form 2 have visited Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh and Form 3 have been out and about undertaking some orienteering, compass skills and map work at Gosford, Yester and Archerfield estates.

Clubs have been as busy and fun as ever with a variety of activities on offer from Science to Surf Club.

Children attending Science Club this term have had great fun trying out experiments and furthering their scientific knowledge. One of their activities involved making a ring of skittles on a plate. Hot water was then added to one and cold water to the other. The children then had to predict which plate has hot water and which one has cold and explain their thinking.

For their next activity, they made rockets out of plastic bottles. They put some vinegar in the bottles and added a wrapped up parcel of Bicarbonate of soda. It was then a case of: "Cork... shake... stand back... and watch them fly"! And their rockets certainly did that!!



Also this term, Art Club have enjoyed spending several beautiful calm sun-dappled late-afternoons drawing, collaging and painting outdoors this term. Careful observation of nature and architecture in the school garden has been enriched by the children's imaginations and by the inspiration drawn from the textures and colours of a range of art materials, culminating in our mixed-media canvases.



It was another exciting end to the hockey season on 23 June as the children took on their parents in a series of matches which saw plenty of endeavour, determination and skill from all participants! With goals flying in and with much laughter and fun being had throughout the morning, it was a very happy way to bring this year's hockey sessions to a close. Following the matches, it was time to thank our fantastic team of young coaches who support Mrs McCutcheon and all our children so well throughout the season - Daniel, Rachel, Katie and Francesca.



The Athletics and Cricket teams have enjoyed weekly training and fixtures this term with the cricket team enjoying a win by 11 runs against Cargilfield at Neilson Park! Some very good play from both sides and a happy and competitive contest for all participants to enjoy!



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We look forward to welcoming the children back to school after the holidays and to continuing to work with each one of them in helping them develop as happy, fulfilled and confident young people in the new school year.

We hope you have a lovely summer ahead!