

JGHS Council Bulletin

No.3 June 2008

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Or see the web site <http://council.jghs.org.uk> for more information and news updates

Sign up for e-mail updates via the website, or leave your postal address for us to send out mail

Or via the School Office - FAO School Council

Update from the School Council Chair, Nigel Goddard

School Buildings Renewal

Our campaign to have JGHS buildings renewed has moved on. Late in 2007 the City Council commissioned a feasibility study for renewal of the school, which has resulted in a very exciting plan for a new school on the current site. It would be constructed in three phases, with all pupils remaining on site during reconstruction, and would result in a completely new school fit for the 21st century.

Our new school is part of the Wave3 group (JGHS, Boroughmuir, Portobello, St. Johns and St. Crispins). The estimated cost is £165M for all five. Traditionally this level of funding is borrowed (e.g., PPP, Scottish Futures Trust), and the repayments are shared in an agreed way between central government and the local authority.

As you may be aware from the local media, there is no agreement on a way forward in Edinburgh at the moment.

We plan to hold a parent meeting about the renewal plan in the autumn. In the meantime, **please do take a look at the plan, which will be available in the School Library from June 3rd** and on the school council web site soon. We'll probably need to put pressure on the Government and the City, and if we have your email address we can let you know what actions are planned. If you would like to get involved in the campaign - particularly to help involve the catchment primaries, please get in touch with us.

Home Study Policy

The May School Council meeting heard more about the School's policy, which is currently under review.

Deputy Head Teacher Mr Rae has brought together parents into a working group, which is meeting again later this term.

If you have any views, do let us know - or you can send comments direct through the link on the School website:

<http://www.jghs.edin.sch.uk/parents/homestudy.html>

Next School Council Meeting is on Tuesday 3rd June in the School Staff Room

PROGRAMME:

7-7:30pm: Tea & coffee will be available. This is a good chance for an informal chat with other parents, staff & S6 students.

7:30-8pm: School Council business, including Head Teacher's report.

The agenda is posted on the school council web site.

8-9 pm: "Active Schools" programme in JGHS

- What is this government sponsored initiative?
- What is on offer to the students at JGHS?
- Feedback on the impact of the programme over the past year.

Followed by an informal discussion.

Parents, students, staff please join us for any part or all of the evening programme.

All very welcome

even if you can only drop in for a while.

If you need any assistance to be able to come along on Tuesday 3rd June, including transport or child care please let us know as soon as possible as we may be able to help.

If you cannot make it along to any of the meetings but still want to know more about what's happening, what we are planning, how you can make suggestions or get involved please get in touch by any of the contact methods listed above

JGHS Council News

City Council School Review

The City Council School Review team has completed its report on James Gillespie's.

Contact the City Council for a copy of the report, or it can be viewed online

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Attachments/Internet/Learning/Schools/School_reviews/School_report_reviews/James-Gillespies-high.pdf

A number of JGHS parents submitted comments to the Review team, which was helpful and appreciated. The Review is very favourable, whilst identifying some action points for improvement. The Head Teacher, Mr Wallace, has already indicated to us that these points are being addressed, but further updates will be taken at School Council meetings.

School Council Autumn Diary Dates

- Tues. 2nd Sept. - Health Promoting School
- Tues. 7th Oct. - School uniform
discussing different perspectives
- Tues. 4th Nov. - discussion topic to be confirmed.
- Tues. 2nd Dec. - School Council AGM

All meetings take place at 7.30pm in School, with time from 7pm to see Council members or raise any issues informally. Check at school reception or our website for venue details.

Health Promoting School Questionnaire Results

Readers with a long memory may recall the health promotion questionnaire sent out to JGHS parents last October. A questionnaire was also given to staff and to students and sought views on school organisation & ethos; physical environment; links with families & community; and preferences for increased involvement and information.

The School Council added a couple of questions about communication. The 82 responses from parents have now been analysed. Overall the views are positive though areas for improvement included building security; ready availability of drinking water throughout the school site; quality of eating places throughout the school; the effectiveness of the school system of praise; and better information about what is taught in class. A full copy of the responses will be posted on the School Council website and will be incorporated into the staff and student analyses when they are complete.

The additional questions on communications gave a useful measure of the way parents prefer to receive school-related information with an even split between e mail and hard copy in the schoolbag.

Working with the School

The Events Group in collaboration with the School Management, the City of Edinburgh Education Department & local Police presents:

a Parent Forum on

INTERNET SAFETY

on Monday 9 June

From 7.30 to 9.00 In the JGHS Library

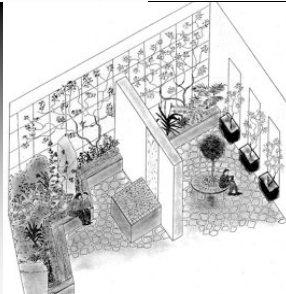
All parents and carers welcome

Events Group

Small Grants for School Projects

The Events Group has gathered a significant sum of money through staging Ceilidhs, small coffee/tea stalls at parent nights, bars at bigger events, etc., and has decided to invite Heads of the school departments to suggest small items to buy or small initiatives to fund for the benefit of pupils in their particular part of the school. We expect there will be quite a lot of demand beyond what we can fund this round, but all requests will be banked and may generate more targeted fund-raising efforts in future.

Many thanks to all parents who have contributed to the amounts we have raised so far by supporting the events; and to all the hardworking parents, pupils (especially fifth and sixth years), teachers and school management staff who helped to stage these events.



The James Gillespie's Trust cordially invite you to the Opening of the Alison Laidlaw Memorial Garden - Designed by Marion Rodger Friday June 20th 2008 from 12noon to 4.30pm at JGHS - Everyone welcome!

Buffet lunch; Garden opening; School tours; Meet your old school friends!

Concert by current pupils; Exhibition and tea

Attendance is free, but the optional lunch costs £10 to be ordered & paid in advance.

Call 07711 031 567 to reserve your place or email frances.jgtrust@googlemail.com

Please see <http://www.jamesgillespiestrust.com> for more details