



# Weekly News 18th January 2019



## From the Head

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As we look ahead to February there are number of events which we are eagerly anticipating. Each year we seek to offer a workshop for parents which enhances their own knowledge of digital safety and which empowers them to make positive decisions with and for their children. This session we have been able to secure input from the NSPCC, and Heather Whyte will be leading our 'Find Out Friday' event on the topic of 'keeping your family safe online' in the GP Room on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February between 2.10pm and 3pm. Heather will also talk about the current trends in apps, how they are being used by young people and their suitability for different age groups. I strongly recommend this talk to parents of pupils of all ages. Please do let my PA, Karen Schmitz ([ka.schmitz@st-margaret.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:ka.schmitz@st-margaret.aberdeen.sch.uk)) know if you will be coming along and we shall make the appropriate arrangements.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February we are also holding a working open morning to which current parents and prospective families are invited to tour the school between 9.30am and 12 noon. Please do share this date with friends who would like to learn more about what St Margaret's can offer their daughter(s).

Later in the month we are collaborating once again with The Robert Gordon University, this time on a one-day conference – *Gender Balance in Architecture and Construction* – which will be held at the school on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. S2 and S3 girls from St Margaret's and schools throughout the city and Shire have been invited to take part in the event, which will promote careers to girls in these traditionally male-dominated areas. Another date for the diary is Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> when at 12.45pm eight senior pupils will give a lunchtime recital at The Citadel to which members of the public are warmly invited.

This is just a snapshot of the diary for next month which will also see the Junior Swimming Gala (5<sup>th</sup> February) a One Act Festival at The Lemon Tree (7<sup>th</sup> February) and many more opportunities for our pupils!

## PTA

*fun*raising + *fund*raising!

### News

The PTA held a committee meeting last Monday at 4pm in school - an earlier time slot in the hope of being more convenient for those attending. We had an enthusiastic discussion on possible future events, to suit all ages - the minutes of the meeting will be available shortly on the school website. Our main social event this term will be a Spring Afternoon Tea to which everyone is welcome!

### Upcoming events -

Spring Afternoon Tea at the Park Cafe, Hazelhead—17th March 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Uniform Sale - Saturday 22nd March 2019

Next PTA meeting - 4pm, Monday 22 April 2019 in school

Film Night - time/date to be confirmed

### Fundraising

We like to share with you how your contributions to the PTA funds raised is being used, be it though volunteering or donations. The girls here in After School Care are enjoying some new beanbags!





## Nursery - Wee Green Spaces with a Twist!

This week we decided not to do our usual trip down to Bon Accord Terrace Gardens and instead walked to the supermarket to choose and buy our snack. First the children decided what they would like for their snack and wrote their own shopping list. On our way to the shops we looked for signs that had the letter 'a' on them and different styles of 'a', as that is the letter we are learning about this week. We were able to go around the shop looking for the food on our list and count how many we needed of each item. The children helped to scan the items through the till, put the money into the machine and waited for the change to come out. We talked about our £20 note and how we knew it was 20 and pounds and not pence. We knew that the change we were given was less than how much we had put in. The children then helped to put up our Teepee at the front of school, where we could enjoy the snack we had bought.

Miss J. Minett





In the lead up to Christmas last term, the children in After School Care had fun creating Christmas crafts and playing with fake snow. As the weather turns colder, we might be able to play in the real snow so please remember to wrap up warm!

Dressing up has been very popular over the past few weeks but Ruth and Yashila in 5 Junior, decided to make their own outfits with shiny paper. It was a challenge to move around and they discovered that the costume made them very hot.

On the last day of term, we had a fun Christmas party. We played games, took part in dancing competitions and then had a disco with the lights off and using the light up batons. The older girls have been enjoying playing with them after 5pm in the dining room. They have created games to play with them.

So far this term we have been making loom bands, Hama bead pictures, dressing-up and working on a rainforest display. Amy in 6 Junior and Elena in 4 Junior made a mind map of their ideas and drew a plan of what the display could look like. Everyone else has been helping by making snakes, parrots, spider monkeys and poisonous dart frogs. It's looking like a busy rainforest already.

Miss S. Thomson





## Conservation Club

This week the Conservation Club prepared posting boxes to place around the Junior and Senior School to collect up all the empty crisp packets. Walkers have announced a recycling scheme whereby the packets will be collected at certain drop off points then reused to make benches, watering cans etc. They have promised to make the bags fully compostable or recyclable by 2025. In the meantime the girls at St. Margaret's can make a difference by posting their bags in the boxes and not throwing them in to the general rubbish which ends up in landfill. The boxes will be emptied periodically and the bags taken to one of the two drop offs in Aberdeen.

Mrs G, Wyatt







Mrs G, Wyatt





## Procurator Fiscal Public Speaking Competition

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Four girls in III Senior have been participating this week in heat one of the Grampian round of the Procurator Fiscal Public Speaking competition: Ashanee Hapuarachchi, Sophie Jennings, Liberty Mountain and Emma Simpson. The topic for this first heat of the competition was, "School uniform should be compulsory for all pupils". All of the girls prepared thoroughly informative speeches that were delivered with confidence and flair. They were asked questions by their opponents and the judging panel comprising of two local procurator fiscals. Each girl was able to offer composed responses demonstrating their wealth of research on the topic. We are extremely proud of them for all their hard work going into this competition and have no doubt that this will not be the last we hear from these girls in the public speaking arena.

Mrs S. Torrie







## Equine Careers Event

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Aberdeen Riding Club are hosting an Equine Careers Event on Monday 11th February 2019. The event is open to anyone who has an interest in a career with horses, and is free of charge.

As part of our commitment to young people and trying to help anyone who has an interest in careers with an equine link, we are delighted to have support from the following professionals who will be attending:

Alan Gilbert - Police Scotland, Mounted Unit  
Eilidh Costelloe - Professional Rider and Coach based at Oldtown Equine  
Equine Vet and Vet Nurse from Ardene House Vet Practice  
Jason Sim (AWCF) and Tom Stott (Apprentice Farrier)  
One of our own, home-grown ARC Coaches

Each professional will give a short introduction with an insight into what their career involves, we will then have a relaxed format where attendees can wander around the room and chat to each professional to find out more about each career path and ask any questions they may have.

We have speakers from a range of professions, some of which require some serious academic qualifications to get into and some of which require no academic qualifications, but a bit of talent and hard work!

We can guarantee honest advice on each career path and a lovely friendly atmosphere for everyone in attendance. We would really appreciate if you could circulate the attached poster containing the above information about our event and ask any interested parties to email me at [lessons@aberdeenridingclub.com](mailto:lessons@aberdeenridingclub.com) so we have an idea of numbers.

Ali Bertram  
Office Supervisor  
Aberdeen Riding Club