



Business Bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 3 March 2020

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Ian Perry</p>  <p>Vice Convener: Councillor Alison Dickie</p> 	<p>Councillor Eleanor Bird Councillor Mary Campbell Councillor Joan Griffiths Councillor Steve Burgess Councillor Callum Laidlaw Councillor David Key Councillor Jason Rust Councillor Susan Webber Councillor Louise Young</p> <p>Added Members for Education Matters</p> <p>Religious Representatives Monsignor Anthony Duffy Mrs Fiona Beveridge Rabbi David Rose</p> <p>Parent Representative Alexander Ramage</p>	<p>Lesley Birrell Committee Services 0131 529 4240</p> <p>Laura Millar Service and Policy Adviser to the Convener and Vice-Convener Tel: 0131 529 4319</p>

East of Scotland Para Sport Festival 2020

The annual Para Sport Festival is on the horizon for 2020, welcoming young people from across the East of Scotland with a physical, visual or hearing impairment and providing them with an opportunity to try a range of Para Sports, delivered by some of the best clubs and coaches across the country. This year's festival is scheduled for Friday 27th March 2020 at Forrester / St Augustine's High School, Edinburgh.



The event, previously named the Paralympic Experience Event, is entering its ninth year since inception prior to the London Paralympic Games in 2012. This year's event is especially exciting as we look forward to the Paralympic Games in Tokyo between 25th August and 6th September, showcasing the considerable talents of thousands of para athletes from over 100 countries.

It is a fantastic opportunity for primary and secondary aged young people to experience some of the sports that are successfully showcased at the Paralympic Games. The activities selected reflect the strong club structure in the region and will aim to ignite the transition from the event to more regular sporting activity with one or more of the session's being delivered. Several Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport (SGB's) have also expressed a desire in supporting the event over the years and this further emphasises the amount of collaborative work involved.

The festival is a partnership event between Scottish Disability Sport, [Edinburgh Active Schools](#), [Lothian Disability Sport](#), Borders Disability Sport, [Edinburgh Leisure](#) and the Active Schools Network who work together, along with local club coaches, to offer sessions in athletics (including race running) swimming, boccia, football, orienteering, wheelchair

basketball, judo, goalball and more to the children and young people from East Lothian, Edinburgh, Midlothian, the Scottish Borders and West Lothian. This year's event will also be supported by the [Celtic FC Foundation](#).

Video footage has been captured from previous festivals highlighting the aims and potential impact of the event featuring testimonies from young people, parents, club coaches and professional officers. We hope this footage will prove a useful tool in providing an accurate insight to the event - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdkfhV4KwNc>

If you are interested in attending the event, please find an online entry form by following the link here. Alternatively, you can download a paper copy of the entry form by clicking here.

If you have any questions surrounding this information then please contact SDS East Regional Manager Neal Herbert on 0770 939 3514 or neal.herbert@scottishdisabilitysport.com.

Directors Annual Assurance Schedule – Communities and Families reported to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on the 14 January 2020 which asked them to note the Community and Families Directorate annual assurance schedule, for scrutiny.

Each year the City of Edinburgh Council requires that Executive Directors complete Certificates of Assurance that represent their view of the effectiveness and appropriateness of controls in their areas of responsibility. These Certificates support the Annual Governance Statement which is a component part of the authority's Statement of Accounts.

An Assurance Schedule, to help prompt Executive Directors and relevant Heads of Service to consider various aspects of their control environment, is circulated in advance of Certificates. The schedule will help highlight any areas of concern.

A review of the process was initiated in response to feedback received in relation to last year's exercise resulting in the implementation of a 'comply or explain' model. The format and design of documentation was also updated to reduce manual administration and implement auto-population of improvement actions. This is designed to help officers to use improvement actions to inform the corporate governance framework self-assessment exercise. The process will continue to be reviewed in line with feedback.

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee agreed that an update would be provided on the Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin, including a link to the full report.

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s12584/Item%208.5%20-%20Communities%20and%20Families%20Annual%20Schedule%20of%20Assurance%20Report%20GRBV%2014%20January%202020.pdf>

Green Pencil Awards

Aimed at all Edinburgh children in the P4 to S3 range, this year's competition was launched on 29 August at Blackhall Library by the author Vivian French. The Green Pencil award aims to promote literacy, in particular reading and creative writing, and is all about firing the imagination. It also helps raise awareness and encourages learning about nature and other important environment topics – this years theme was “Going, Going, Gone – Scottish Wildlife in Danger?”. Another aim of the competition is to encourage young people, and their families, to use and join their local library if they are not already a member.

There was a huge number of 1200 entries received from young people via their schools and local libraries across the city. The winners were announced at a ceremony hosted by the Convener of Culture and Communities Committee, Councillor Wilson on 28 November at the Central Reference Library. The overall winner was Charlotte Schlegel from Preston Street Primary School.



Book Week Scotland 2019

Edinburgh Libraries went all out for Book Week Scotland again. Events ranged from meeting over 400 school children with author visits and workshops, our E Read promotion attracting the highest ever check out at 472 times, adult author visits, creative writing workshops making our outreach for BWS to over 700 adults and nearly 900 children. One first time event which received extra funding from Scottish Book Trust was our Library Link “blether” events. Chippy was the favourite Scottish word at McDonald Road library, when six library links from across the city gathered together to celebrate Book Week Scotland. Launched in 1992, Library Link is a bus service which runs in nearly every library across the city for anyone who has difficulty getting to the library because of their age, disability or ill health.



The link services from Corstorphine, Granton, Sighthill, Piershill, Wester Hailes and McDonald Road came together for a 'blether', a chippy and sing song, with entertainment provided by the Ceilidh Crew. Organised by Edinburgh Libraries, our partner The Royal Voluntary Service and with funding from Book Week Scotland, over 40 Library Link members arrived to some classic Scottish tunes from the Ceilidh Crew which had been requested by the guests beforehand, Mairi's Wedding and My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean both really got the crowd going, before stopping for fish and chips and a blether. The time went all too quickly, and it was soon time for everyone to go home.

Oxgangs Library

For the past year Oxgangs Library have been working hard to improve the green spaces around the library. This has been done with the help of the community, especially the local children who have played a pivotal role in getting things done! Initially the kids seemed unsure, can gardening really be that exciting? Well it turns out... it can! Our first project involved planting some lovely pollinator friendly bulbs at the front of the library, these were a mix of snowdrops, crocus and snakes head fritillary. Although the local earthworm population might be a bit disgruntled, it turns out they have played a key role in getting the kids involved. Who can find the biggest earthworm providing all the motivation needed to get stuck in do some digging. We then set our sights on bigger goals! Our attention was brought to the wonderful Free Trees scheme by the Woodland Trust, so we decided to apply for a hedging pack.

This provided us with a whopping 36 trees, including Dogrose, Dogwood, Crab Apple, Hawthorn and Hazel. These arrived mid-November and were successfully planted once the ground had thawed, again with the kids providing a helping hand.

We are looking forward to these maturing over the next couple of years. Not only will our new hedge provide food and shelter for local wildlife, it will also provide a nice outdoor space where the community can feel closer to, and learn about, nature. If you would like free trees from the woodland trust scheme, please find more details here <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

Yearly Awareness Weeks - Libraries

Over the year Libraries support those hard to reach customers by making the library more user friendly to these needing a little extra help;.

- Dyslexia Awareness event was a musical event by Dyslexic musicians, over 60 people attending in a relaxed atmosphere in Central Reference Library with stalls of information for adults and children
- Autism Awareness took the form of a panel discussion with Autistic people training, helping Autistic people and again stalls of information.
- Deaf Awareness had us playing host to an amazing author, who went deaf, then regained her hearing, so was able to relate to all in our audience.
- The libraries have film clubs across the city and we now host accessible film events for deaf/hard of hearing with the aim of it being city wide in the New Year

Broomhouse Girls Triathlon Project

Broomhouse Primary School is in an area that is designated 3 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation with 43% of children qualifying for free school meals. Pupil attendance is well below the national average and annual pupil turnover is 33% of the school role. Over the course of five weeks a group of female coaches from Edinburgh clubs worked with a group of 27 P6 and P7 girls on all aspects of triathlon – swimming, biking and running, culminating in a mini event.

Having an all-female coaching team was critical to the success of this initiative and the coaches involved were positive female role models for the girls. As female coaches they are aware of the myriad of obstacles for girls and women in sport. Each week the coaches were challenged in different ways and were able to skilfully adapt their session plans and behaviours so that the participants could enjoy the most meaningful experience. Initially, 55% of the girls could not swim and around 40% could not ride a bike. However, by the end of five weeks every girl participating in the initiative felt confident enough to take part in the final event. This is testament to the coaches' belief in the initiative and the reason for becoming involved in the first place. It was critical to the coaches that every girl involved with this project learnt new skills and had fun in the process. There needed to be opportunities for challenge and in order for these challenges to be accomplished the coaches created a supportive environment so that everyone felt they could, for example, fall off their bike and want to get back on it.

Outcomes of the course include: local triathlon clubs now have an ongoing relationship with Broomhouse Primary School and its pupils; an after-school triathlon club is planned for Forrester High School which the majority of participants will attend – this will be led by a young woman who is currently undertaking her UKCC level 1 Triathlon Coaching qualification; and young women from local clubs will be offered the opportunity to undertake their BTF Triathlon Young Activator Award should they wish to be involved with the work at Broomhouse/Forrester



Canal View Primary School and Outdoor Learning Team- Exploring the Local Community via Affordable Outdoor Learning and Active Travel

Throughout November, Primary 7's from Canal View Primary School embarked on an unforgettable adventure programme. They undertook their maiden voyage in canoes along the Union Canal. Initially, the Primary 7's (and some of the staff) were a little apprehensive given that this was a first-time experience for all. With the encouragement of the instructors from Bridge8 and participants' determination, they successfully made their way to Hailes Quarry Park. Meanwhile at the Park, a few other challenges were taking place, including Bushcraft and exploring / identifying the local wildlife. Pupils had to set up their own camp bases to stay warm and dry; using only a small selection of materials. They gathered around the campfire for snacks. Skills, knowledge and experiences were developed throughout the programme. To the delight of the pupils, every week there was a different treat to cook on the camp-fire. They made dough in School and enjoyed it toasted on the camp-fire along with toasted marshmallows. On their journeys back to School, the canoeists were set challenges along the way, which is one of their greatest highlights. On arrival at School, they had a debrief and had to evaluate the day. They enjoyed sharing their experiences and creating next steps for the following week. Staff were impressed with the high levels of teamwork and problem solving evident during the adventure. Pupils constantly had to discuss, evaluate and adapt their designs. These negotiating and communication skills have now been transferred and used within the classroom setting. The pupils used their experiences to develop their writing.

"I love all the cool bugs in the Canal. I love feeding the cute ducks and the beautiful swans. My best memory is when I went canoeing on the Union Canal." P7 Pupil at Canal View PS.

"We would like to thank the Outdoor Learning Team for all of their support and look forward to continuing our outdoor learning experiences in the future." Canal View Primary School.

Congratulations to all the participants and staff at Canal View PS. The Outdoor Learning Team are supporting schools in developing onsite and local outdoor learning programmes. This provides affordable provision and contributes to the Council's net-zero carbon target.

Find out more at <https://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk/images/Download/Outdoor-Learning-News-Winter-19.pdf>



Football 4s and Soccer 7s Programme

Block 1 of our Primary School Football 4s and Soccer 7s Programme has now concluded for 2019/20. In Block 1 we had over 1500 P4-7 pupils from 56 schools playing trophy-free football every single week. Thanks go to the 200+ leaders who give up their time to take the teams and make this possible. As part of our Development Plan, over 100 leaders attended our inaugural Welcome Meeting and a further 30 attended and completed their 1.1 Early Touches qualification. Block 2 registration for P3s and for new P4-P7 teams will open in January. Thanks to all schools, parents and pupils for making the programme such a success, as well as the Scottish FA, Hearts Community and Hibs Community Foundation for the partnership support

EDINBURGH PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2019/20 BLOCK 1
FOOTBALL 4S & SOCCER 7S PROGRAMME

56 SCHOOLS

183 TEAMS

1500+ BOYS AND GIRLS EVERY WEEK

Thanks to everyone who has been part of our programme in Block 1! We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year!

"To grow and sustain the value and benefit of Primary School football in Edinburgh for individuals, groups and communities, by providing better quality opportunities for everyone to participate and develop through the game"

SOUTH EAST REGION

EDINBURGH THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

FOOTBALL FOR ALL

Football Performance Programmes



After a series of high-quality selection days, our 2019/20 Edinburgh P7 Select and P6-S1 Progression Academy squads were chosen. These squads receive a weekly performance session as well as participating in four South-East Region festivals across the year, alongside the equivalent squads of Midlothian, East Lothian and Borders. Six of our 20 Progression Academy girls have been chosen to form part of the South East Regional Performance Squad, along with five players from our S1-S3 Sports Academy squad.

Furthermore, five of our former Sports Academy players have also been selected, meaning 16 of the 37 players in the South East Regional Performance Squads have come through our Performance programmes. Well done to all players and coaches involved

Outdoor Learning Team Planning and Development

During December, the Outdoor Learning Team held a planning and development day at Bonaly Scout Centre. This provided an opportunity to start work with colleagues from Schools and Lifelong Learning on the development of Bushcraft. Participants focused on how the Team can build capacity, improve guidance and develop competency across the Council; providing appropriate support and resources. Bushcraft can be used as a standalone activity or as part of a multi-activity programme, with significant benefits and outcomes. Colleagues also discussed and detailed initial ideas on how to create and deliver a new Outdoor Learning Strategy, which will include a significant focus on building capacity, reducing inequality, and contributing to the Council's net-zero carbon target. There was a strong emphasis on how to consult and involve colleagues, families, volunteers and Outdoor Learning partners.



Active Schools North West Dance Shows

The North West Active schools hosted two dance shows at Broughton High School for schools who have been delivering Active Schools Dance Sessions between September and December. With 29 different schools performing and over 250 participants over the two nights, It was great to see some of the dance skills learned and inclusiveness of all the dance groups! Edinburgh Dance Academy performed as special guests with a group performance with Ellie Ferguson, winner of The Greatest Dancer, performing as part of the group. Thank you to the dance providers and instructors for continuing to work in partnership and support the Active Schools programme!



Bonfire Community Improvement Partnership

The Multi Agency Bonfire Community Improvement Partnership had been planning and implementing an overarching plan for supporting our communities in the days preceding and during the bonfire activities within our communities. The group worked together to reduce the amount of flammable material available, ensuring local households were able to dispose of bulk items in a safe and in an environmentally-friendly manner. Support has been provided to local youth providers to support local children, youths and families to enjoy the festivities in a safe and friendly manner. All services worked together on the 5 November to ensure that everyone's safety was paramount across the city and coordinated resources were deployed by all partners. As a result, Edinburgh saw a reduction in the level of emergency calls. Work has been ongoing with the Scottish Government around the public consultation and development of an action plan following the consultation. The Community Safety Minister Ash Denholm attended the City Chambers to Thank all the staff working on bonfire night for their hard work in enabling residents to feel safer and ensure a reduction in calls and Antisocial Behaviour within the city. A report will be prepared for the Edinburgh Community Safety/Justice Partnership following the formal lessons learned exercise.

Craigmillar Tapestry Project

The Craigmillar Tapestry Project was awarded £5000 from the City of Edinburgh Council and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in December 2018. The purpose of the funding was the delivery of a community art project, resulting in seven embroidered tapestry panels made by the Craigmillar community.

The project was overseen by Connecting Craigmillar, a local community development project, with support from a member of the Council's Lifelong Learning Team. The worker for Connecting Craigmillar organised stitching workshops throughout the course of 2019, supported the community in their involvement, and promoted the initiative locally.

World renowned Tapestry Artist Andrew Crummy delivered seven designs for the panels, each based on a different aspect of Craigmillar's culture and history. The designs include images of Craigmillar Castle, the Niddrie Stone, the Violin / Symbol of Craigmillar Festival Society and the local statue of Helen Crummy, who was one of the founders of the Craigmillar Festival Society.

There were approximately 65 hours of stitching workshops (including and stitching time) delivered overall by the textile artist Dorie Wilkie, to members of the community as well as students at Castlebrae High School and Castlevue Primary School. Parents and carers at Castlevue also participated in the workshops and stitching. The aim of the workshops was to teach different embroidery techniques which could be applied to the tapestries. Six of the tapestry panels have been passed around to be worked upon by members of the community, and the two schools worked specifically on a panel about Agnes Moffat, a child coal bearer in Craigmillar, whose testimony contributed towards a change in law around women and children working in coal mines. The parents and children from Castlevue Primary School focussed on the rights of the child in their stitching themes.

Three community events were held throughout the course of 2019 to promote the project locally: a launch in February 2019, June 2019 - as part of Thistle's 75th anniversary celebrations and a celebration of the progress and completion of some of the panels.

Lifelong Learning supported all above events and helped recruit participants, especially from the local and Syrian Refugee community. In addition to the Scottish local images multiculturalism is reflected in the borders of some of the panels – for example a Kurdish and African panel border.

It has been a wonderful project bringing young and old together, learning new skills, developing creativity as well as celebrating local creative talent and sharing different cultures.

The stitching groups are continuing to meet:

Wednesday, 10.30 am-12.30 pm at Craigmillar Library

Thursday, 1.00 – 3.00 pm at The Thistle Foundation

Funding for Phase 2 of the project has been applied for.

Katie Quinn (Connecting Craigmillar Coordinator) and Birgit Harris (Lifelong Learning)



Craigmillar Tapestry – violin panel (designed by Andrew Crummy) at Castleview Primary celebration event, 5 December 2019.

North Cairntow Project

Since July 2019 a partnership project between MECOPP (Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project) and Lifelong Learning has been delivering jointly funded tinsmithing sessions at North Cairntow, the Gypsy/Traveller site in North East Edinburgh. MECOPP has been supporting the Gypsy/Traveller community for a long time and their staff are well respected and trusted. Prior to starting the project both the tutor and Lifelong Learning Development Officer undertook training provided by MECOPP and Gypsy/Travellers to find out about their life and culture and the prejudices they have to overcome within their unique history. Tinsmithing, a craft traditionally practiced by Gypsy/Travellers, was offered by an adult education tutor who undertook research into the craft before offering practical sessions to the Gypsy/Traveller community.

They were well attended by a broad spectrum of age. The sessions were creative and good fun and gave great opportunities to share conversations. A very successful and enjoyable collaboration between MECOPP and Lifelong Learning. More art and lifelong learning projects are planned for the future.

This work is a testimony to that enduring spirit this community have shown over many years to establish the site in the Craigmillar area, which will go through an upgrade over the next year or so.



Granton Community Centres Public Artwork

“Many Hands Make a Community”

The Royston Wardieburn Community Centre has a new public artwork proudly on display in the centres foyer entrance. The artwork was installed in December and is a legacy of the community’s creative achievements and a successful example of partnership work delivered by local voluntary organisations and Lifelong Learning, who worked together co-producing a multicultural festival and participative art project in the heart of Granton during October 2019.

The Art Project ran over a four-week duration, leading up to a one-day community celebration which engaged the community in a programme of music, dance, crafts and food tasters. The purpose of the art project was to make decorations for the main hall and engage local groups in the making process.

A series of 14 artist lead workshops were devised to reach out to groups of local children, young people, parents and older people who had the opportunity to learn how to make felt, making elements of the design or helped to construct of the larger artwork. The workshops were facilitated by Inspirial Arts artists, who were commissioned to come up with the original designs inspire by a “multicultural, one world theme”.

The community groups which participated in the workshop programme included the Pilton Community Health Projects Chat Café, the community centres youth and children’s clubs, the Granton Youth Centres Friday club, the Spring Chickens 60+ group, Granton Library families group and the Granton Community Gardeners Community meals, held in in the Granton Parish church. A total of 75 people of all ages were engaged in the making workshops and each person had the chance to make their own felt hand which was incorporated into the final art piece called “*Many Hands Makes a Community*”.



Thanks to the CEC events fund, the community centre management committee and partners who deliver a fantastic celebratory event, bringing 250+ members of the community together, to socialise and celebrate the Granton areas uniqueness and cultural diversity, bringing young and old, established and new residents together! The newly installed public artwork is a bold and colourful statement feature, which has proved popular and made an impact on the centre users and visitors. A credit to the artists Craig Betney and Jenny Muirhead for their excellent design and workshops and thanks to all the 75 people who contributed to making the art piece.

“Many Hands Make a Community!” will be enjoyed and seen by the wider community and by centre users for many years to come. Pauline Fordyce
Lifelong Learning Development Officer NW Locality.

Queensferry go Wild

At Queensferry Primary School an alternative week is planned for those children who, for various valid reasons, do not go to Benmore for the P7 residential. The aim is to give them a fun and exciting week with the opportunity to experience some outdoor learning in the local environment. This year they did den building and fire making in the nearby Ferry Glen, with toasted marshmallows of course! Also on the programme was a trip to Beecraigs, kayaking at Port Edgar and some cooking back at the school. This is a great example of inclusion, and ensuring pupils do not miss out.



Blackhall - Goalball

Blackhall Primary School have set up a new sports club for pupils with visual impairments across Edinburgh. Sarah Goulding, parent at Blackhall came up with the idea and working with Active Schools, Lothian Disability Sport and Scottish Disability Sport, a plan was put in place for training needs, funding and how best to publicise the sessions. The funding bid was successful, and the project was granted £548 from Blackhall Sports Committee for equipment. The first session was delivered on Friday 24th January and was a great success! We look forward to introducing more children with a visual impairment to Goalball!



New Pitches Opened at Hunters Hall Park

Convener of Culture & Communities Committee, Cllr Donald Wilson, officially opened the new third generation (3G) pitches at Hunter's Hall Park. Councillor Wilson was joined by children from Edina Hibs and Gold & Gray Soccer Academy along with partners Edinburgh Leisure and the Scottish FA to cut the ribbon and open the pitches for community use.

The £800k investment, funded by Section 75 developers contributions, is the first part of a masterplan to develop new sports facilities at Hunter's Hall Park. Future phases will see new cycling spaces developed along with further infrastructure improvements.

Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) Presentation Evening

The Sport and Outdoor Learning (S&OL) Team, which coordinates the Council's DofE Operator's Licence, hosted the City's Silver Awards Presentation Evening on the 16 January at City Chambers. 89 persons attended, including 39 participants from 10 different DofE Centres. The Council welcomed Peter Moir, Operations Manager from DofE Scotland, to present the awards. Congratulations to all the young people who have recently achieved their Silver Award. The Royal High School Fiddle Group kindly provided the music.



For 2018/19, the total number of City of Edinburgh DofE starters and completions continued to rise to all-time highs. This resulted in a 10% increase in the estimated value of participants' and leaders' contributions to the Edinburgh community; totalling 212,438 voluntary hours, estimated by DofE Scotland to be worth £1,958,042. These figures indicate the significant value of the DofE programme to Edinburgh's communities. Thank you to all the volunteers and participants.

Targeted support has resulted in a significant increase in the number of disadvantaged young people starting a DofE Award in 2018/19. Figures indicate a 4-year high, plus a

29% increase from 2017/18. This remains a key priority; focusing on maintaining the increase in starters and ensuring more disadvantaged young people reach key milestones in their award, including completions. Key contact: Fraser Robertson
Fraser.Robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk

Building Capacity Through New Cycling Training

The Sport and Outdoor (S&OL) Learning Team is leading the way in Scotland in delivering a relatively new suite of CyclingUK training modules. In January, staff from the Council's Benmore and Bangholm Outdoor Centres delivered the Mountain Bike Trail Leader, Night Riding and Expedition modules. Participants included Centre staff and trainee instructors. The S&OL Team will shortly be offering the modules to Council staff, volunteers and partners via a new professional development offer. This is designed to build capacity; deliver regular and progressive affordable outdoor learning; and support the development of cycling across the City. It links in well to the Council's commitment to reducing inequality; improving health and wellbeing; and meeting the net-zero carbon target.



Key contact: Cliff Smith Cliff.Smith@edinburgh.gov.uk

Edinburgh Primary Schools Sports Association (EPSSA)



The EPSSA programme of events continues to grow from strength to strength across the city, welcoming pupils from P5 – P7 from all member schools to a range of sporting festivals and competitions. As the new coordinator, I am working hard to ensure the experience and events that my predecessor Beth Walker established are continued so that primary pupils can have the opportunity to utilise their sporting skills and compete in a fun and positive setting. My highlights have so far included an exciting Sportshall event with champions, Craiglockhart Primary School and runners up Bonaly Primary School qualifying to represent Edinburgh in the East Regional Finals. I have also thoroughly enjoyed hosting the P6 and P7 Netball events at the Oriam and was delighted by the good turnout and sportsmanship on display at our recent Saughton Cross Country Festival. We were even blessed with blue skies!

There is an action packed few months coming up with our historic football tournaments, mixed basketball, Interscholastic athletics, swimming & diving gala and further netball and cross country festivals all featured in our calendar. 2020 is going to be an active year!

Graeme Anderson (EPSSA Coordinator)

Photo – St Cuthbert's PS Cross Country Team at the Saughton Cross Country Festival



HMD 2020 theme is “Standing Together” and marking 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the 25th anniversary of Genocide of Bosnia

Edinburgh Libraries always commemorates HMD and this year we worked closely with the HMD trust & our Community Libraries and were honoured to host Lejla Damon.

Piershill, Blackhall, Sighthill, Ratho and Stockbridge Libraries, all took part in making “memorial flames” and these are on display in Central Library 27 – 31 Jan.

Lejla was born in Sarajevo on Christmas Day, 1992. Her mother had been raped in a detention camp in Foca by Serb soldiers before somehow making her way to the capital, where she gave birth at Kosevo Hospital.

Two British journalists, Sian and Dan Damon, who were both based out of the hospital that year, happened to interview her mother. The deeply traumatised Bosniak woman said in the footage that they filmed that she feared that she might “strangle” the days-old child, or that the baby might grow up to be like the men who raped her.

Lejla states she is NOT a victim and has had a privileged life and that it is now time to give back. Lejla’s goal is to eventually have gained enough experience and knowledge in the corporate world to enable her to join an NGO and make a difference.

Meanwhile Lejla volunteers, for “Remembering Srebrenica War Child” and with her friend they are building links to children born of war around the world, from Iraq to Myanmar to South America to Africa and beyond.

Lejla spoke to 50 S1 pupils at Tynecastle High School and the event was excellent. Some of the questions presented by the pupils were extremely thought provoking.

In the evening members of the public came to Reference Library to hear Lejla speak and commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and for our audience to be able to tell their stories.

If you were Rabbin Burns

Children across Edinburgh Libraries (schools and community branches) were challenged to put themselves into Robert Burns’s shoes for the day and imagine what would our Bard be writing about if he were alive today, would he be reciting his poems on youtube, sending we tweets about mice on twitter or would he be winning a grammy for his raps?

The results included a design to show us what his Instagram page would look like from Liberton High school, but the overall winner was a poem named “Lay Me Down In A Bed Of Daisies” from a pupil at St Augustine’s High School who felt that Burns would still be inspired to this day by the beauty of Scotland’s nature.

The competition was run to compliment the Burns themed competition that runs every year in our sister city Dunedin in New Zealand.

Go Safe With Ziggy Campaign

All branch libraries across Edinburgh received copies of the Go Safe With Ziggy Campaign books that promote road safety and are gifted to all children across Scotland in Primary one. Ziggy aims to equip children with the road safety skills needed to keep them safe now and in later life. Many libraries have created displays around the books to encourage parents to use the books as part of their bedtime story routine.

Macmillan @Edinburgh Libraries

Macmillan @Edinburgh Libraries is a volunteer-led service providing emotional, financial and practical signposting within Drumbrae, Leith, Morningside, Portobello and Craigmillar Libraries in addition to an Information Hub at Central Library. Set up in 2016, the team of specially trained volunteers are on hand to answer any questions, providing confidential information and support to people affected by cancer, whether they are newly diagnosed, finished treatment, a family member, carer or friend.



They aim to give “time away” from a medical environment and offer a friendly face and a listening ear. Each Library offers a daily Drop In Session from 10.30am-2.30pm where no appointment is needed and there is no limit on the amount taken with each person. They are informal, warm and welcoming spaces, with tea and coffee provided where people can find lots of information on cancer and its impacts, as well as reading material that may help on a range of topics such as healthy eating or physical activity.

People affected by cancer are often disabled and disempowered by both the condition and the organisations that support them leading them to withdraw from their communities not knowing who to turn to for support. The team of volunteers provide one of the greatest gifts we can give to people and that is time. Time to listen, time to understand what the real issues and concerns are. They then use their skills and knowledge to provide a holistic, person centred approach when providing support and information when its needed most. Plus, this service greatly benefits from the ability to provide support and information within a free accessible community setting open to all.

The Service is now seeing many repeat visits within the Library showing that the accessibility to provide that “open door policy” encourages people to come back if they have further questions or concerns. The volunteers have also had people return to share good news stories as they have felt they have been with the throughout. In the words of one of our volunteers “knowing that we have been there for them, in good times or bad, and for them to then thank me for my time makes me feel very humble that I can be there for someone when they need it most”.