

MAY NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 Issue 7

Wednesday 30th May, 2007

Summer Term Diary Dates

Thursday 31 May

PTA/School Board
AGM 7.30 pm

Wednesday 6 June

PTA Committee Meeting
7.30 pm

Thursday 7 June

P1 Induction 7 pm

Friday 8 June

Sports Afternoon

Thursday 14 June

Nursery Induction
Evening 7 pm

Friday 15 June

P1 Induction Afternoon

Friday 15 June

P7's to Cults Academy

Monday 18 June

P7's to Cults Academy

Monday 25 June

P7 Farewell concert tbc

Monday 2 July—

Thursday 5 July

P7 Activity Week

Thursday 5 July

P7 Leaver Disco

Friday 6 July

End of year Church
Services

Friday 6 July

School and Nursery close
at 3.00pm

Monday 20 August

In-Service Day

Tuesday 21 August

School re-starts 9.00 am

Dear Parents,

The summer holidays are just over five weeks away and we are coming up to a very busy time at Culter School. You will be receiving lots of information and letters throughout the month of June and I would just like to remind you that most school information can be found on our website should you need an update.

Our Health Week was a great success with the children experiencing a wide range of activities to encourage healthy lifestyles. Many thanks to Mr Grant who organised and coordinated the week, which was a huge task.

It was good to see so many parents in school last week for parent/teacher interviews. I enjoyed meeting many of you for the first time. Thank you to all parents who responded to the questionnaire on the new Parental Involvement Bill. The PTA/School board AGM takes place on Thursday 31st May at 7.30 pm and we hope to be able to feed back some of the results at the meeting. The new Bill provides parents with an opportunity to be involved in the running of the school in a way which suits their needs and we look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM.

Our school sports will take place on Friday 8th June. Hopefully the weather will be good, however if it is raining and the sports have to be postponed, a message will be posted on the **School's Information Line Tel: 0870 054 1999 Pin Code 011270**. Please use the information Line rather than calling the school office as staff cannot deal with the high volume of calls which come in regarding sports day. Thank you for your help with this.

Culter has now submitted a bid for accreditation as a Health Promoting School. As I am sure you are aware, we have undertaken a range of initiatives and activities to encourage pupils to engage in healthy lifestyles and encourage this through many aspects of school life. I would like to thank all staff and parents for their efforts in this. Special thanks go to Miss Bowie and Mrs Robinson who collated and presented the evidence for our bid. This was a huge task and the folder was a credit to Culter. We will hear in June whether our bid has been successful.

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We can now confirm that Culter School will run thirteen classes next year. This is the same number as we have had during 2006/2007 and will mean we have some composite classes again next session.

Staff will be working together over the next two weeks to confirm class configurations and to place pupils in the most suitable class to enable good progress. I hope to be able to let you know your child's class and teacher by mid June however the staffing situation is still unclear at present. All parents will however have this information prior to the summer break.

The School Development Plan is now ready for submission to Aberdeen City Council. I will share the main priorities with parents following discussion and approval of the plan with our Education Officer. Any new initiatives will begin in August on return from the summer break.

I look forward to seeing many of you in school over the next month. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Susan Crossan
Head Teacher

Misuse of Internet Sites and Mobile Phones

The widespread use of www.bebo.com and other similar sites by school pupils is evident across Aberdeen City Schools. In many cases, the sites are used appropriately as an information exchange and contact point. However, you should be aware that **many** schools are experiencing difficulties due to the misuse of this site and the resultant problems brought into schools. Examples are: Advertising fights, bullying, posting of false information about members of staff. If your child has been subjected to electronic bullying, please keep any evidence of the bullying, especially if it contains the email details of the sender. Please be aware that Grampian Police have already taken action against several Bebo users using print outs presented to them by victims in relation to bullying and breach of the peace. Please assist your child's school by ensuring that your child is using this site appropriately. You should also be aware that misuse of mobile phones to photograph pupils or staff will not be tolerated. Such behaviour will be subject to the school's Behaviour Code and pupils who are found in breach of the code by using mobile phones during school hours will be subject to the schools agreed sanctions. You should be aware that Aberdeen City Council supports schools in keeping pupils and staff safe and we ask that you support us in our efforts to do so. A short leaflet with advice for parents about keeping their children safe on Bebo is available to download at <http://www.abernet.org.uk/index.php?name=UpDownload&req=viewdownload&cid=13> or by going to www.abernet.org.uk selecting *Downloads* and then selecting *Advice to Parents*.

Pupils' Achievements

STUART SMITH P6F ACHIEVES BLACK BELT IN KARATE

Stuart Smith recently gained a Black Belt in Tang Soo Do, an ancient martial art from Korea. Stuart began his training in the summer of 2002 when he was just 6 years old. It has taken him only 5 years to attain his Black Belt. Stuart was graded his Black Belt by Master Adlington who is the senior Tang Soo Do Black Belt in the UK. The grading went on for 2 hours and Stuart was tested in many Forms & Weapon Forms. His stamina and endurance were also tested and he was pushed to the point of exhaustion. Stuart had to complete over 70 sit-ups, 150 press-ups, 100 star-jumps and had to stay in the horse riding stance for 3 minutes. Stuart also had to complete various kicks and punches as well as sparring against 3 other students. For a full report on Stuart's tremendous achievement, log onto www.culter.aberdeen.sch.uk/children.htm

CHESS CHAMPION 2007



Congratulations to Carl Milton P5B our 2007 Chess Champion. Carl fought off tough competition to win a much coveted trophy.

Also, Carl and Alex McMahon P7C have been invited to attend the 3rd Lord Provost's Cup Chess Championships on Wednesday 6th June. We wish them well and hope they enjoy a 'Grand' day at the Town House.

FOOTBALL STAR



OF THE FUTURE?



- Sam Burnett P6F has recently had his
- contract renewed with Aberdeen Football
- Club Under 12's. The Club have to be happy
- with your performance for contracts to be
- renewed and some children are disappointed
- when that does not happen. However, in
- Sam's case this is the third time he has had
- a contract with AFC, having played with
- U10's, U11's and U12's. They must be very
- impressed with Sam and so are we. Well
- done Sam.

PRIMARY 7H MAKE MOVIES

Primary 7H and Miss Hyland have been making movies using a simple 'Paint' programme and 'Movie Maker'. They imported their drawings into 'Movie Maker' and then edited it to make films on their current topic 'Decisions'. Some of these films have been uploaded into our 'Blog Site' and the rest will follow. They are brilliant. To view their work log onto:

<http://culterschool.edublogs.org/primary-7/>

While you are there, have a look at what Bobby (P1) has been getting up to. Please leave a comment for the children, as they have worked hard and would like your feedback.



Maxwell Makes A Difference

You are being given another chance to purchase the book made by our current P5's & P6's last year during Language Week. The book costs £5.00 per copy. Please send payment in an envelope to Miss Murray P1M and a copy will be sent home.

CALLING ALL PARENT HELPERS

SCHOOL LIBRARY

Parent helper(s) are required to assist with the recently re-organised Infant Department Library. At present the Library area needs to be tidied once a week i.e. check books have been returned to the correct section etc. then in due course when 'Library' computer finger printing system is in place in the Infant Hall, a parent helper will be required to assist our classes to use the system like a real library. Please contact Mrs. Wyer if available to help with weekly library tidy up meantime.

Similarly, the Upper Stages Library requires parent helpers to catalogue books onto our new Junior Librarian system, so some knowledge of computers would be an advantage, but full training will be provided.

WEBB IVORY

Would you be interested in organising Webb Ivory fundraising this year? The Christmas catalogues have raised approximately £750 per year for the past 10 years. It is a well established fundraiser and help and advice is available.

Both the Library and Webb Ivory provide valuable resources for the school and the children. Your help would be much appreciated.

NETBALL COACH

Lorna Thomson, our present Netball Coach, is unable to continue coaching after this term. She is looking for someone willing to take over this post to allow the Netball Team to continue. If anyone is interested, they could come along and help at training and events until the end of term with a view to taking over Coaching responsibility thereafter. Please contact Lorna Thomson on 734393 if you are interested.

CAN YOU BEAT THE BRITISH CHESS CHAMPION?

Grand Master Jonathan Rowson is hosting a sponsored Chess Event in the Northern Lights Room at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday June 9th from 10am until 4pm. Jonathan is Scotland's strongest ever chess player and has been British Champion for the last three years. He will compete against 100 players at the same time and is keen that as many young people as possible get an opportunity to play chess with him. There is an entry fee of £3 for children under 16 and the organisers, Mental Health Aberdeen, are also asking that you raise at least £20 in sponsorship. All money raised will go to Mental Health Aberdeen, a local charity which provides support to people with mental health problems.

For further details and registration, please contact: Cathy Orr—email cathy@mhaberdeen.org.uk or by calling 01224 590510

Finally, a number of dinner tickets are owed to the canteen. Could you please ensure all tickets are paid back before the end of this term. Thank you.

For up-to-date news, visit www.culter.aberdeen.sch.uk