



# Newbattle News

Return to school Monday 7th April 2008



## Inside this issue:

Teacher Splash Fast Track	2
Celebrating Success	3
What's Hot & What's Not? Heartstart	4
Sainsbury's Active Kids Community Project	5
Role Play Eco Update	6
Dynamic Earth Competition Winner Rock Climbing Biology Revision	7
Term Dates Attainment & Achievement Competition	8

## Paris, New York, Milan.....Newbattle?



## OUR AMBITIONS REMAIN HIGH

*In contrast to the recent misleading headline in the Midlothian Advertiser, Newbattle continues to receive full funding from the government Schools of Ambition programme. We are delighted that our success in working together with pupils, families and the wider community is being acknowledged. The financial pledge made to the school in 2005 will undoubtedly be met in full and we will maintain our extensive programme of improvements over the coming years.*

*Our recent Fashion Dance show is yet another example of the way in which our School of Ambition status is offering outstanding opportunities to our pupils.*

The show took place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February. S2 and S5/6 pupils from Peak Performance groups in CDT, Art, Home Economics, Dance Academy and Media had been working towards the event for months. The evening was a huge success with pupils modelling exciting t-shirt, hat, mask and jewellery designs created in school, while Dance Academy pupils contributed two slick performances. All of this took place on a catwalk built by pupils in CDT.

Debenhams in Ocean Terminal donated spectacular ball gowns for the finale and we even had two limousines parked outside! Senior pupils were involved in creating fashion make-up for the event adding to the glamour and making everyone feel the part.

Goodie bags with freebies and prizes provided by our sponsors were greatly appreciated by the audience, while our special guest compères Mr Moore and Miss Barbini added elegance, by strutting their stuff down the catwalk. A t-shirt designed by Business Education pupil Paula Birrell, was a big hit: it sold out, with more orders placed! Here's what two of our pupils thought of the event.

### Lauren McDowall S5

*"I thought the fashion show was great due to all the hard work from different departments. Standing behind the curtain was nerve wracking, but it was still great. I thought working with the S2 was the best part."*

### Amie Robertson S2

*"Modelling designs you and your classmates had made was a great experience. At first taking part was daunting, but once I got out there and did my bit I was impatient to go out again! The 'behind the scenes' excitement, frantic chatter and smell of make-up is something I will never forget!"*

Without the hard work of our staff and pupils and the kindness of our sponsors, none of it would have been possible: a big thank you to everyone involved.

## TEACHER SPLASH

Who? - S3 Prince's Trust XL Class

Where? - Newbattle High Playground

When? - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2007

Miss Wozniak's XL class organised a 'Teacher Splash', which took place on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2007. At fifty pence for two throws of the wet sponge, pupils took full advantage! Many teachers volunteered to take part in the event, including Mr Taylor (Headteacher) and Mr Wilson

(Depute). Although there were numerous unhappy wet teachers, the class were ecstatic at having raised a grand total of £59.95! The class decided that this money would be better invested in the local community, rather than for personal gain. Therefore, this money will be put towards a Coffee Morning, which we have planned, at a Local Nursing Home.

Owing to the resounding success of the 'Teacher Splash', we intend to host another in the summertime. Hopefully, the warmer weather will encourage even more teachers to

take part in the event, in order that we can further donate to charity and organisations in the local community.



Miss Wozniak - P.T. Guidance

## FAST TRACK TO SUCCESS!

Last year, sixty Primary Seven pupils completed the first year of the 'Fast Track to Success' programme giving them an opportunity to experience Maths, English and Science at Newbattle Community High School. Since the introduction of this course, the Maths department have adopted different approaches to learning and teaching and have incorporated lots of new and different activities to this year's S1 class and across all years.



Louise Hogg and Aimee Brown, two of this year's S1 pupils, who participated on 'Fast Track' last year, share their experiences.

*'Before we went to 'Fast Track', Maths was the*

*subject I disliked the most! We felt that we lacked confidence in the subject but that has all been changed. We were picked to join the first group for 'Fast Track to Success' in 2007. We learned lots of new skills in Maths, English and Science. Everyone enjoyed the course because it wasn't just sitting at a desk working in silence; we did lots more fun activities like working in groups to solve problems and playing games to learn new skills.*

*As for the other pupils who went, we made friends with most of them and it was good to be able to do lots of team work with them. It was good to meet some of them before we started first year. The teachers at 'Fast Track' were all really nice and no one hesitated to ask t h e m a n y t h i n g .*

*Since beginning First Year in August, we are now in a class with other pupils who participated in Fast Track. In S1 Maths we have been working on fun activities, one of them was 'Enterprising Maths'. For this we had to work in groups of 4 and we had to research the topic 'Zero'. We had the chance to use the Library and the ICT suite to help us with our research then we had to create a poster to display what we had found out. Things are different from primary school and we get the chance to interact with other pupils in the class and to say what we think.*

*Going to 'Fast Track' in Primary Seven has made such a difference because we felt more confident about*

*'Going to 'Fast Track' in Primary 7 has made such a difference because we felt more confident about starting high school and it didn't seem so scary!'*

*starting high school and it didn't seem so scary! We already knew some of our teachers and our way around the school which really helped! We now feel our confidence has improved since being part of 'Fast Track' and have lots of goals that we would like to achieve when we are older."*



Reported by Louise Hogg and Aimee Brown

Check out our website on [www.newbattle.org.uk](http://www.newbattle.org.uk)

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS (Former Pupils)

We at Newbattle want to celebrate the success of former pupils who have gone on to achieve success in the wider world. If you know anyone that we could feature in a future issue, please contact Mr D Watkins at the school using the contact information on the back page

Grant O'Connor (left Newbattle 1993) is now a lawyer and solicitor and is a partner with Allan McDougall & Co Solicitors in Dalkeith.

John McIntyre is now a property lawyer, also with Allan McDougall & Co in Dalkeith.

David Halliday (left Newbattle 2001) graduated as a Primary teacher in July 2007, and is now working in Stobhill Primary School, Gorebridge: one of our feeder primaries.

Laura Dyett (left Newbattle 1998) studied Primary Education at Northern College, graduating with 1<sup>st</sup> class honours. She won the award for top student of her year;

and is now working in Prague. Julia Maunder (left Newbattle 1981) graduated with a degree in English Literature from Lancaster University, and is currently Deputy Headteacher of a large school in Wiltshire. Her sister Fiona Maunder graduated from North London Polytechnic, and now works for BP as a PR officer.

Lois Nelson, Bilal Azhar and Taymoor Asghar (left Newbattle 2007, 2006 and 2005 respectively) are all currently studying Medicine at Edinburgh University.

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS (Current Pupils)

In this issue, we continue our new regular feature where we celebrate the successes of our pupils both within and outside of school. If you are aware of any achievements that you think we should know about, contact Mr D Watkins at the school using the contact information on the back page

A big congratulations to the S1/2 Hockey Team who beat Penicuik High School 5-3 in a friendly match: Paul Taylor 2GP, Christopher MacInnes 1LL, Gemma Ballantine 1DM, Bruce Lean 1HP, Gillian Lean 1BM, Declin Mabon 1BM, David Henderson 1BM, Darryl Kinghorn 1BM, as well as a future Newbattle pupil: Kyle Taylor (Newtongrange Primary – P7).

We have an international sports star in our school! Robyn Russell 1CM is in the Scottish team for gymnastics, who came second in the Celtic Cup 2008 competition held in Lisburn (Ireland) in February.

Well done to Christopher MacInnes 1LL, Bruce Lean 1HP, Gemma Ballantine 1DM and Kyle Taylor from Newtongrange Primary School who have all been chosen as part of the Midlothian Hockey Development Squad.

Kimberley Simpson 1GP and Jonathan Simpson 2GP recently came first as part of a team completing a first aid course. Additionally, Kimberley recently won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the East Lothian under 13s cross-country championships in February 2008.

Congratulations to Natasha Stevens 2BM who recently completed a 1000m Cross Country course at Edinburgh University playing field.

Louise Falls 3BM has been highly commended by her Geography teacher for showing strong leadership qualities during group tasks; and Scott Veitch 3BM, Richard Harding 3IL, Derek Wilson 3JL and Jack Birkmyre

3GP have all been recognised for outstanding team work.

Laura McLaren 3IL was awarded the Most Outstanding Performer award at the dance festival held at Newbattle on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Our Young Enterprise team have put in a strong performance so far. The team, consisting of Paul Wilson 6M, Adele Knox 5BL, Keith Black 6P, Emma Wylie 5BL, Paige McLean 5CM and Craig Surgeon 6L, got first prize for Best Product Design at the Lothian Young Enterprise Trade Fair in December. We wish them good luck for the next judging in March.

Our Senior girls' basketball team have had an excellent Scottish Cup run this year: the team comprises Cheryl Robertson (captain), Amy Young, Janelle Reid, Mhairi Sutherland, Steph Bachen, Danielle McQuade, Sheree McArthur, Kirsty Whyte, Rachel Watson and Deniece Harley.

**Mr Watkins - Maths**

Check out our website on [www.newbattle.org.uk](http://www.newbattle.org.uk)

## WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT?

### HOTCHIP



In my opinion this has to be the worst song of the month  
**Hotchip** 'Ready For The Floor'

**AVOID THIS BAD SINGLE!!!!**

### THE FEELING



**The Feeling** have returned to the music scene with their brand new single 'I Thought It Was Over'. This outstanding single from the boys features a *disco feel* to their clique *pop/rock style* – focusing *instrumentally* more on the keyboards. They hope to achieve a top 5 spot with their stunning new sound. With *infectious* lyrics and a new *syncopated disco feel*, I'm sure the boys will have no difficulty at least gaining a number 3 single!

### ADELE



Eighteen year old **Adele's** haunting new single '**Chasing Pavements**' is one of the most invigorating pop ballads for many years. Her melodic voice *soothes* the ears whilst the emotional lyrics *ease the soul*. Adele spent three weeks at the number 1 spot before being displaced to number 2 by *Basshunter*. Congratulations on her success, I hope she delivers more illusive music in the near future.

Reported by Paul Wilson 6M

## HEARTSTART

Newbattle CHS is now officially a 'Heartstart' school! What does that mean? Well from this year, pupils in S3 will complete an emergency life skills course dealing with the unconscious casualty and what to do if someone has a cardiac arrest. Pupils in S5 and S6 will also complete a course to help them develop the skills necessary to help out in an emergency situation.

Life threatening emergencies are more common than many people think. Coronary heart disease is one of this country's biggest killers. According to recent statistics, every two minutes a person has a heart attack and in 30% of cases the casualty dies before he or she reaches hospital. When a person's heart stops pumping (cardiac arrest) it only

takes a few minutes for irreversible brain damage to occur. This is when emergency life skills become very important. Many people who might otherwise die can be saved if someone on the scene knows what to do.

By applying the necessary skills until the emergency services arrive, the emergency life skilled trained bystander can sustain life during those crucial minutes. Our aim at Newbattle is to train every pupil in emergency life skills and in the process preparing pupils in the important skills of participation and responsible action and encouraging them to be active citizens in their communities.

**Mr J Cudlipp - P.T. Guidance**

*'Every two minutes a person has a heart attack and in 30% of cases the casualty dies before he or she reaches hospital'.*



**BEATING HEART DISEASE TOGETHER**

## SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers are back!

I'm delighted to tell you that our school is taking part in Sainsbury's Active Kids campaign again. As you know, this is a great way for us to gain invaluable equipment for our after school clubs – at no extra cost to our school.

Last year you helped us collect an amazing 12830 vouchers which was greatly appreciated. This year we would like to collect even more so please start handing in vouchers from Sainsbury's stores now.

You can collect vouchers in a number of ways:

You'll get one voucher for every £10 you spend at any Sainsbury's Store (including their petrol station) and when you buy groceries online at [www.sainsburys.co.uk](http://www.sainsburys.co.uk).

Sainsbury's will give you a bonus voucher for every £10 you spend on fresh fruit and vegetables displaying their healthy apple symbol.

If you wish, you can also convert your Nectar points into vouchers by visiting [www.nectar.com](http://www.nectar.com) (please make sure you

select 'Secondary School' from the drop down list and follow the on-screen instructions).

Please spread the word to all your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues. Pupils can give the vouchers to their Homeroom Teachers or post them in the plastic folder hanging up on the pupil notice board in the PE Department.

**Miss S Wanstall — P.E.**

## ARCHVIEW LODGE PROJECT

After the summer holidays, Mr Bayne's S3 SVS Class were approached by Archview Lodge Care Home in Dalkeith to help them brighten up the garden in the Memory Lane dementia unit. The unit is for the elderly who have an illness called dementia. People with dementia have trouble with short term memory, and have difficulty in remembering things from their later life as adults. Often they can only remember details of their childhood. They forget who they are and have difficulty in recognising family and friends. In severe case some of them can't even feed themselves.

The Dementia Unit has a small garden area and our task was to design some kind of panels which will brighten up the garden and help patients

remember things by using cartoon type pictures. We were asked to use bright colours to make them stand out.

To begin with we made test versions of our ideas. We did this by downloading cartoon images of insects and flowers and projected them onto paper sheets. We painted these with poster paint which we borrowed from Art. Archview liked what we had done and asked us to go ahead with the final version. We projected the images onto plywood sheets which we painted with outdoor gloss paint. The final boards are shown below. We hope to present the boards to Archview before the Easter Holidays and would like the

### The SVS Class:

Danielle Chisholm, Johnny Livingston, Robyn Jenkinson, Dale Bennett, Karen Wilson, Jonathan Blain, Sheneice Ballantine, Sean Baird, Natasha Anderson, Martin Marr and Paul Preston

story covered in the local newspaper.

Reported by The SVS Class



Check out our website on [www.newbattle.org.uk](http://www.newbattle.org.uk)

## 'ANY TOWN' ROLE PLAY

On Thursday 24th January 2008 Eco schools attended a role play workshop run by Midlothian Council. Environmental Officers, David, Rachel and Shell, ran the workshop. The aim of the afternoon was to involve us in a debate about waste issues in a 'make believe' settlement called 'Any Town'.

We were split into groups representing different parties of the community. The groups were the landfill owners, local residents and Enecron (the multi national company wanting to build an incinerating power plant). Within our

group we had to consider how we felt about waste in our town and how we wanted to dispose of it. We discussed the advantages and disadvantages about having a power plant in the area and decided if we should keep it there or get rid of it. We had different opinions as to whether it should be more eco friendly staying the way it was.

We got the chance to ask questions to see if it would solve the problems in the area or not. We all had different ideas about putting another landfill in,

the health issues related to them and how it would affect our children, gardens, recycling, cheap electricity, compost, the types of jobs that might be lost and their fears. The local residents wanted to know where the power plant was going to go. The Eco Schools Crew discovered it was no easy task to solve a town's waste. It was difficult to please all groups in 'Any Town'. It has made us think a wee bit more about how much rubbish we throw out and where it goes.

## ECO SCHOOLS UPDATE

At the end of Term 1 the Eco Crew carried out a Waste Audit with the help of Midlothian Let's Recycle Team. The first aim of the audit was to assess how much rubbish we throw out as a whole school and secondly, what types of waste we actually put in the bin each day. With the help of the Janitor and Cleaners, the group collected rubbish from several areas of the school over a period of two days. The areas included the English Department, Science Block, Geography Department, Art, P.E Block, Home Economics and the Main Office.....This was the easy part!

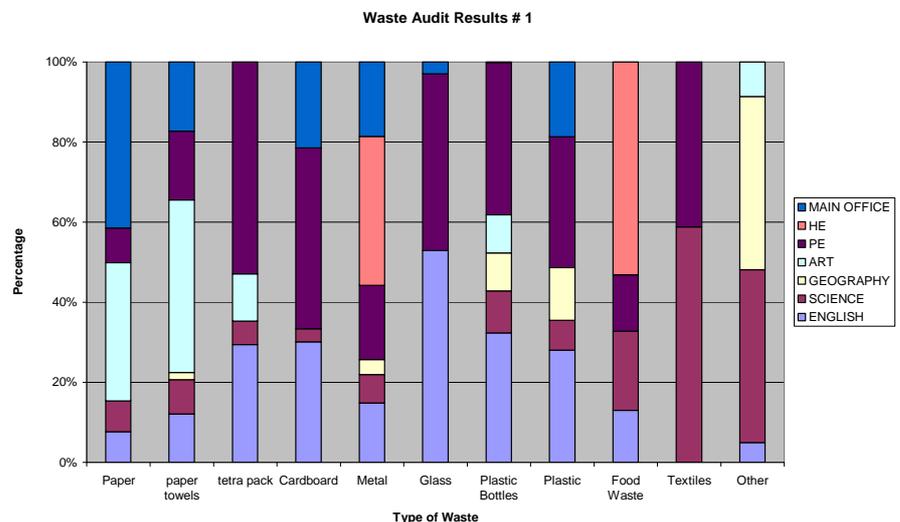
The waste from each area was then weighed and sorted into particular types. The results from this weighing and sorting can be seen in the table below. The total waste created by these areas amounted to over 58kg (An average British woman weighs about 60kg). This is roughly 29kg of waste a day from a small cross section of the school (over 4000kg per school year!! That's like the equivalent weight of a nuclear missile). The most waste was generated in the PE area and can probably be explained by the fact this is an active subject where pupils need frequent refreshments. As expected Home Economics waste comprised mostly of food and organic material, glass and metal tins. It was also

noted that the rubbish collected in Geography weighed the lowest. This is probably down to the fact that this area recycles its paper and most of its plastic in separate bins not collected. Overall, the results have proved interesting.

The Eco Crew plan to audit the remaining areas of the school before the end of the year. These results can then be used to determine which key areas are in need of recycling bins or green strategies. Most rubbish we throw away can be recycled and should be recycled. Our aim is to reduce the school's waste. This will be a challenge but a very worthwhile one!

*Most rubbish we throw away can be recycled and should be recycled'.*

Reported by  
Newbattle ECO Crew





## DYNAMIC EARTH

On 06 February 2008 some S2 pupils took a trip to Dynamic Earth and I am going to tell you what I thought about it....I loved Dynamic Earth!! We travelled back in time to experience an earthquake, visit the jungle and move through the ocean. Most groups also got to watch a short film in the movie dome, however my group never got to see this as it stopped working! I was very disappointed as I really wanted to see the film about the

environment and take part in the quiz. My favourite part of the trip was when I won a prize for keeping my hand on the iceberg the longest! At the end of the trip we also got to visit the gift shop. I would definitely recommend this trip to any pupils who are interested in learning more about our special planet. Geography should have more fieldtrips like this!

Reported by  
Anne-Marie Hall 2GP

## WINNER

The winner of the Christmas Competition was Jamie Lee Corcoran of class 1LL. Jamie Lee visited 'Haloed' salon in Dalkeith, owned by former pupil David Inkster and was treated to a new hairstyle.



## ROCK CLIMBING GROUP

Every Monday after school Mr Bayne and Miss Frame take a group of up to nine pupils rock climbing. The group visit two favourite locations to rock climb. These places are called 'Alien Rock' and 'Edinburgh Indoor Climbing Arena' at Ratho. The cost of these excursions is £5.00 .

Rock Climbing is good because it teaches us how to work together in groups, where we have to trust each other to do their job correctly. It gives us skills we could use in the future. We have learned how to climb, 'top roped' and can safely belay our partner. It also lets us make new friends. One thing that I particularly like is climbing the 'rope ladder', this is very wobbly! After the Easter Holidays, we plan to climb outside at Traprain Law in East Lothian. We are also planning a visit to the 'Ice Factor', an

indoor ice wall in Kinlochleven on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. News on this to follow.....



Reported by Michelle Cawley 3BM

*'Rock Climbing is good because it teaches us how to work together in groups'*

## BIOLOGY REVISION CLUB

*Confused by Cells? Puzzled by plants?*

*Don't get cut up over enzymes!*

Come to the **Biology Dept.....**

Every Thursday after school  
3.30 pm—5 pm

**ACT NOW TO IMPROVE YOUR GRADES**

## Newbattle Community High

64 Easthouses Road  
DALKEITH  
EH22 4EW

Phone: 0131 663 4191  
Fax: 0131 654 2611  
website: [www.newbattle.org.uk](http://www.newbattle.org.uk)  
Email:  
[newbattle\\_hs@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:newbattle_hs@midlothian.gov.uk)



Our School of Ambition

<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>	
All Resume	Monday 7th April 2008
Spring Holiday	Monday 21st April 2008
May Holiday	Monday 5th May 2008
Victoria Day (Staff In Service)	Monday 19th May 2008
Term Ends	Wednesday 2nd July 2008
Pupils Resume	Wednesday 20th August 2008

## ENJOY YOUR EASTER HOLIDAY

### Newbattle Attainment And Achievement

Preparations for the **2008 SQA Examinations** are in full swing. Since the last Newbattle News we have had Preliminary Examinations for S4 and S5 & 6. The S4 results look very promising at first sight and the students have now taken part in the **Get In The Zone!** workshop which is designed to help in setting targets for the summer exams. Parents have been involved as well, with an excellent attendance at the Parents' Meeting in January and a good showing at the **Parent Power Plus** event last month. Target-setting for S5 & 6 is due before the end of term.

There is a lot to live up to this year – we have had very gratifying examination results in the last two

diets and are very much hoping for three in a row! There will be Easter revision classes during the holidays and all candidates are encouraged to take advantage of these.

Finally – good luck to all of our candidates for the **2008 SQA Examinations!**

### Easter Competition

'Unique Beauty' salon, 32 Main Street, Gorebridge offer a wide range of services which include: acrylic nails, St Tropez fake tanning, waxing, manicures and pedicures etc. Tricia the owner has kindly offered a £30 voucher as a prize for the Easter 'Newbattle News'.

To be in with a chance of winning the prize, please answer the question below:

**In which country is the seaside resort of Saint Tropez?**

To enter, use the online form on our school website. Go to:

<http://www.newbattle.org.uk/competition.html>

**Closing date for competition is 14th April 2008.**

**UNIQUE BEAUTY 01875 - 822149**

## Return to school Monday 7th April 2008

Investors in staff — Investors in pupils

Investors in staff — Investors in pupils