

eastparkpatter

Your newsletter for East Park



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Looking Forward

Gerry Wells Chairman of East Park



Having served as Vice-Chair, I was delighted in October 2018 to be appointed Chair of East Park Board. I feel honoured to be in this position and I look forward to assisting the organisation to achieve future success.

After a career in social work and having lived and worked in and around Glasgow for more than 40 years, I am very aware of the huge part East Park plays both within the local community and within Glasgow City. It has a long history, evolving over the years as it continues with a mission set out almost 145 years ago. It has developed into a national resource.

East Park is a remarkable charitable organisation which meets the educational and developmental needs of unique young people in ways many local authorities are unable to. But East Park is not just filling a gap, it provides fully immersive care and support that ensures the best opportunities for children

and young people who live with challenges that many, other than their parents and families, can have little appreciation of.

Delivering these services involves three key partners – young individuals, families and East Park staff. The Board of Trustees takes a keen interest in hearing how these partners

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interact and what is needed to help ensure progress for all of them. We know environment and resources are crucial and we strive to ensure we do the best we can. The developments of our intensive support residences and the individual classrooms are examples of major long-term investments, but small

everyday things can make all the difference too. Trustees also seek assurances on staff training, development and welfare. Skilled, confident and valued staff will ensure young people and their families feel appropriately engaged and supported.

As I have spent time in East Park, I have been consistently impressed with the skill and sensitivity of staff as they engage with the children and young people. I have enjoyed attending prize-givings and Christmas celebration events, and have been moved by the talents and skills individual young people can develop through the specialist support East Park provides. I now very much look forward to ensuring the skills evident on the Board of Trustees are used to the best advantage of East Park, to working closely with the Executive Director and the Senior Management Team, and to getting to know more staff members at Board meetings.

EAST PARK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER REGULATED BY THE CARE INSPECTORATE AND EDUCATION SCOTLAND

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East Park

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LOTTERY FUNDED



GLASGOW NORTH Christmas Card COMPETITION WINNER



Alexander is presented with a certificate from Patrick Grady

Glasgow North SNP MP Patrick Grady holds an annual Christmas Card competition which this year included over 600 entries, from 11 schools across the constituency, in December. This year's competition was won by East Park pupil, Alexander and the runner up was also an East Park pupil, Luca!

The theme of the competition was 'Animals at Christmas' with the winning entry depicting a festive polar bear. The winner was picked by a panel of local artists who had exhibited their artwork in the Glasgow North constituency office as part of a 'Local Artist Project' set up to promote the work of local creative talent. Patrick Grady MP said: "Alexander's winning design was a real standout entry and perfectly captured the theme of animals at Christmas. The judges loved his creative entry which cleverly depicted a jolly winter bear with a cosy festive hat. "All of the



design entries were fantastic and a real advert for the artistic talent that we have here in Glasgow North. "The winning card will be seen by many people and organisations across the constituency and beyond, and highlights the vital work of Glasgow Riding for the Disabled Association in supporting people living with disabilities across the city. "I'm hugely grateful to all the pupils who took part and for the support they've had from their teachers and schools. Thank you also for the very generous sponsorship from businesses in Glasgow North which helped make this competition a success." Kieron O'Brien, our Executive Director said: "We are hugely proud of Alexander for his winning design and all the pupils at East Park who took part in the competition.

It was a lot of fun for everyone involved and we're delighted to get recognition for the creative talent that we have here at the school."

From Strength to Strength



Amanda at Tesco

Class Hawthorn have enjoyed expanding their community learning opportunities throughout the school year. Community learning opportunities teach the young people a huge number of life skills such as learning to be in the community, learning to cope with community sounds, learning to be around members of the public and learning to walk safely. It also gives the pupils a sense of road safety as well as physical activity, enjoyment and fun. The class have coped extremely well, some popping along to the local Tesco and some managing to venture into Glasgow City Centre! Each pupil has managed to build up their outings by travelling further and being out longer over the course of the year – this of course, is not done without intense planning, preparation and hard work carried out by the committed class staff. Just some of the places the young people have been are Maryhill Swimming Pool, Tesco Café, Ten Pin Bowling, Rouken Glen Park, Glasgow Green and

even travelling on school and public buses! An example of a successful outing is when residential pupil Amanda managed to walk to Tesco where she chose a cake from the café. On the way back to school, Amanda made her support workers aware that she wanted to go into one of the charity shops where she chose two CDs which Amanda then listened to on her CD player when she got back to class. Amanda successfully helped to pay for her cake and CDs at the tills in both shops and was out for about an hour altogether. Well done to Amanda and to all pupils in class Hawthorn, what great achievements!



Alexander at Rouken Glen Park

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Some of the pupils in Pine Class, have been completing work for their SQA National I Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The pupils have been busy sorting through recycling at school and taking it to a local recycling centre. They have also been reusing

materials to make artwork and to decorate our sensory garden, The Den. The pupils have also been promoting waste reduction in school by designing posters to remind people to switch off lights and reuse water cups. Well done Pine Class!



Star Story!



Jim With Student, Ryan at Indepen-dance

Some of our Workmates students and residents regularly attend a dance class called Indepen-dance. Recently, Indepen-dance publishes an article about our very own James in their newsletter. . . Jim has attended Indepen-dance with

several different members over the years and is well-known face with staff and members. Jim always comes in with energy and participates fully with whomever he is supporting. All of the Indepen-dance tutors and assistants appreciate Jim's friendly and chatty demeanour. Jim's famous move is his high kicks and he always asks 'how are you?' Indepen-dance wanted to do a little shout out to Jim to let him know how much he is appreciated at Indepen-dance and we hope he continues to come for many years! On behalf of Indepen-dance Thank you Jim, you are a Star!

East Park Parent Forum and Family Learning

With pupils from all over Scotland attending East Park, we recognize that it can be really difficult for families to come in to school for family learning events or Parent Council meetings. We set up the East Park Parent Forum in May 2018 as an opportunity to involve parents and carers in school activities. Families are able to get to know each other in a relaxed setting, while finding out more about the learning experiences and development opportunities their children take part in during the school week.

makaton, speech and language therapy, story massage, transitions and Forest School.



In October, families joined us to take part in our first ever Big Draw event and it was great to see young people, staff and parents being creative together.

All parents and carers are very welcome to attend, and we look forward to seeing as many parents as possible from school, residences and Workmates at our next event.



Lewis and parents

Family learning opportunities or Parent Forum Meetings are

In October, families joined us to take part in our first ever Big Draw event...

held monthly, and we plan to extend the range of events throughout 2019. So far, topics covered have included communication methods,



LONDON BOUND



Marcus on the train

In December, one of our Residential young people embarked on his biggest adventure yet...London! Marcus was thrilled when he boarded the train and although it was a long train journey, Marcus coped very well. He kept himself entertained with his colouring books, movies and even treated the whole train to a singsong whilst listening to his music!

Marcus and his two support staff, Megan and Catherine managed to squeeze in loads of fun-filled activities during their stay in London including watching 'Wicked' at the West End theatre, a boat ride along the Thames, the London Eye and Buckingham Palace where he even got to see the Queens guard Parade - he found this all very exciting! Marcus even managed to brave the busy London underground, which staff are very proud of him for.

During Marcus's stay, he took many pictures on his camera, which have since printed and put into a memory book, which Marcus looks back on often. Well done Marcus, what an achievement!



Christmas Generosity

A HUGE thank you to all of our supporters who supported our children and young people at Christmas time by donating lots of presents and sweet treats for them to enjoy. Our pupils, residents and students had a fun-filled festive period thanks to your generosity. Special thanks must go to the Royal British Legion Bikers Branch who, yet



Our Festive Snack Captain!

again, delighted our children and young people with an amazing morning at East Park. During the group's visit, we had young people attend who have not been able to attend in the past, which was lovely to see – thank you so much to the bikers for their continued support. Everybody at East Park wishes all of our supporters a very healthy and happy 2019.



Happy for us to keep in touch?

East Park would love to continue to share the achievements and learnings of our children and young people by sending you our quarterly East Park Patter. However, if you would rather not receive this newsletter please complete this tear off slip and return to **Fundraising, East Park, 1092 Maryhill Road, Glasgow, G20 9TD.**

FUNdraising in 2019

We are on the lookout for anybody who wishes to challenge themselves on behalf of our children and young people by taking part in a sponsored event in 2019. There are many planned events that you can sign up to, for example, if walking is your thing – The Kiltwalk 2019 is your event. Or 'The Wee Jaunt' in Falkirk is a flat cycle track for

cyclists of any ability – including beginners - which takes place in May or why not be bold, set yourself a target and sign up to The Great Scottish Run later on in the year. We would be delighted if you could sign up to help raise money for our amazing children and young people. Please see our website for a list of events coming to a place near you!



Kenneth at The Great Scottish Run

SUPERSTAR STAFF!

Local hair and beauty salon and East Park supporter Boveda, recently held a competition for East Park staff, where staff could 'nominate a colleague' who they feel deserves recognition or someone who has gone above and beyond to support our children and young people. A large number of nominations were submitted to Boveda to decide on the winner so much so that there were two winners! Amy Little, Principal Teacher and Michelle Devlin, Learning Support Worker



were delighted to find out that they had won a pamper session. Congratulations to all who were nominated, to the winners and a massive thank you to Boveda for helping us celebrate our wonderful staff!

Amazon shoppers... we need YOU!

When you shop at Amazon Smile (which is exactly the same shop as Amazon), Amazon will make a donation to a charity of your choice at no extra cost. By simply choosing East Park, we can benefit from every single purchase you make!



Help spread the word and start shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk to support the vital work we do for our children and young people.

I would **not** like to receive the East Park Patter anymore

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