



East Park

ISSUE 1 Nov. 2013

eastparkpatter

Your newsletter for East Park

In this issue...



Welcome to eastparkpatter

Judy Cromarty



As Executive Director of East Park, I am delighted to introduce "East Park Patter" which I, my colleagues and the Board hope you will find to be informative and reflective of the vibrant life of the school, residences and wider community.

The newsletter will be produced each term and distributed to all our parents, carers, stakeholders and friends of East Park. This will mean we will have both a local and national readership as East Park enjoys close contact with partners and supporters across the country – and we are always looking to expand our address book!

The value of community has always been at the heart of East Park. This has been demonstrated in a variety of ways over the organisation's 140 year old history – yes 140 years! To mark this historic

and exciting landmark, 2014 will be a year of celebration in which we will applaud the successes of the past and the present and look forward with confidence and enthusiasm to the future. "East Park Patter" will carry a regular feature on the activities. This first edition gives a brief overview of the history of East Park and indicates some of the proposed events.

The newsletter will also keep you updated on pupil and residents achievements; fund raising activities; volunteer supported activities and opportunities. We will also provide information on any local or national policy or legal developments which have a relevance for the pupils and young people attending East Park.

The key strength underpinning the community spirit of East Park has always

been the relationship between the school, residences, parents, carers and our wider partners. "East Park Patter" should be another avenue to develop this relationship by being a means for us all to share news and ideas of mutual interest: your contribution will be invaluable and is warmly invited. Please feel free to comment on any aspect of the newsletter (ideas on layout, range of content); give us your views on current developments; make suggestions for the 140th celebrations; let us know of activities in your local area which may be of interest to other parents; suggest ways in which we could enhance our contact with the local community.

We look forward to hearing from you – our contact details are on page 4.

With very best wishes from all at East Park.

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East Park

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

eastpark.org.uk





It's our Birthday!

In 2014 East Park will be celebrating its 140th anniversary.

For 140 years we have been providing Education and Supported Accommodation to children and young people with additional support needs in Glasgow and throughout Scotland.

East Park has gone from strength to strength during its 140 years history

East Park first opened its doors during the reign of Queen Victoria in a direct response to the Education (Scotland) Act of 1872.

Although unrecognisable from those early days in the cottage on Maryhill Road, the philosophy at the heart of our work remains unaltered.

East Park has gone from strength to strength during its 140 years history. Our success lies in our ability to continue to recognise and to respond to changing societal needs, evolving education and social care policy and legislation and having the ability to develop our services to meet those needs. 140 years on, our philosophy reflects current legislation, best practice, and a commitment to excellence in the services that we provide for our children and young people from across Scotland.

That calls for celebration!

To find out more about our services and how we will be celebrating our birthday visit us at www.eastpark.org.uk

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



Awards & Successes

Dramatic success - Alisha's Surprise



Staff and young people from East Park receive the Reaching Higher Award.

Our young people and colleagues have developed, written and performed a play about what it's like to be a disabled child in care – an amazing piece of work.

The play is called Alisha's Surprise and tells the story of Alisha's birthday party. It's a poignant exploration of the effect that being a child in care has on the event.

The play was performed as part of the "Being Heard: Listening to and Learning from Looked-after Disabled Children and Young People in Residential Care" project. Following rave reviews after their truly inspirational performance at

Our young people have been heard and have reached higher & are rightly awarded for their outstanding achievements

The Lighthouse in Glasgow, the young people and everyone at East Park were thrilled to be chosen as the winners of this year's Reaching Higher Award from SIRCC (Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care). SIRCC is part of the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS).

Our young people have been heard and have reached higher and are rightly awarded for their outstanding achievements.

The SIRCC Residential Child Care Awards celebrate good practice in the provision of services for children and young people in residential care in Scotland. You can read more about their important work at www.celcis.org.



Better Breaks - Better Believe It!

East Park successfully bid for funding from the Better Breaks Fund in April.

The Better Breaks Fund is set up by the Scottish Government with the aim of improving the range and reach of short breaks for disabled children and their families, especially for children with multiple support needs. The Minister for Public Health, Michael Matheson said, "Families caring for a disabled child or young person should have the same choices and opportunities as others".

Families caring for a disabled child or young person should have the same choices & opportunities as others

recognised that the development of new services that create opportunities for children and young people to meet friends and enjoy leisure activities together is vital.

The Summer Club and the After School Club were a resounding success with many families enjoying the summer holidays this year like never before.

Oh....and the sun shone!!!

Better Breaks can be immensely important for children, young people, and their parents or carers as they provide many with the opportunity to experience something new, learn new skills and make new friends.

East Park was successful in their bid because it is



Cameron learns to drive a fire engine!!

iPad Fever hits East Park



Patsy and John exploring the iPad

We recently secured funding from Children's Aid Scotland which allowed us to purchase fifteen iPads for the school. Everyone loves an iPad and our children and young people are

taking to the new technology like ducks to water...the teachers can't get a look in! They are having to learn to turn take!

The technology is so

important, not least of all because the children are so highly motivated to use it. The arrival of the iPads means that East Park can continue to work with the University

so up for that!! You can learn more about this exciting research being undertaken by the University of Edinburgh at www.clickeast.co.uk

...a new iPad App for children with autism, designed to help them learn and practice basic social & communication skills in a fun way.

of Edinburgh in their research study. The university has developed a new iPad App for children with autism, designed to help them learn and practice basic social and communication skills in a fun way. Our children are





MARATHONACHIEVEMENTS



Fundraising & Volunteers

Team Tesco

The local **Tesco store** in Maryhill hosted a bag packing day for East Park in April. The **Scouts from the 29th Glasgow**,

seasoned campaigners in bag packing, volunteered their support on the day along with friends and family of East Park and helped raise over £500.

Aye to iPads



Childrens Aid Scotland Limited

awarded £10,000 to our iPad project which allowed us to buy the hardware to roll out this important work.



In the PINK

Turcan Connell Solicitors fielded 17 of its staff to take part in the Great Scottish Run on the 6th October. Aply led by Kenneth Pinkerton, a trustee of East Park, the team from Turcan Connell ran across the finish line at

speed, looking as glamorous as when they first set off! Also running for East Park, specifically for Workmates, were a team from Resdiary headed up by Mike Conyers, whose daughter Emily is a Workmates student. East Park staff also entered their own team who trained vigorously on a diet of Chinese carry outs and Rod Stewart concerts and who finished at an elegant

measured pace! Our three fabulous teams raised over £5,000 for our iPad project. This project entails working with the University of Edinburgh to monitor the impact of bespoke apps in supporting our young people's progress with communication alongside a wide range of other educational targets. The research findings will be written up in the summer of 2014, providing learning,

not only to support East Park's children, but also for the wider educational community.



Kenneth Pinkerton

OTHER NEWS...

Christmas

Oh yes... Christmas!!!!.... As we roll with frightening speed towards making that Christmas shopping list here are a few ideas to perhaps ease the stress!! School pupil Ewan Hendry designed the fantastic card



that we are selling this Christmas. You can now buy your Christmas Cards at reception or order by phoning 0141 956 2050. Cards cost £3 for 5. And for those oh-so-tricky people on your Xmas list who seem to have everything,

what about a gift of an East Park Rose to plant in their garden?

The East Park Rose is sold in partnership with Harkness Roses and East Park benefits from the sale of each rose. Visit the Harkness website www.roses.co.uk/bush-roses/100-east-park.html to see how you can have a part of East Park in your garden.

IN THE NEXT EDITION...

Our next edition will be in February 2014 – just in time to really get our anniversary party started!! In the meantime you can follow us at www.eastpark.org.uk or at Facebook [www.facebook.com/eastpark.glasgow] or on Twitter [www.twitter.com/eastparkglasgow].

We would love to hear from you with any feedback you may have or if you have any stories that you want to share. Please contact us with your news and views for our next edition at **epnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk**

Until then have a bloomin' good Festive Season and we'll see you in the New Year.



Parent Representative



East Park has appointed a Parent Representative. Patsy Douglas joined the Board in November 2012 and brings with her considerable

personal experience and knowledge in dealing with the challenges that parents and carers can face when bringing up and looking after a child with additional and complex needs. You can find her on the main web site www.eastpark.org.uk. or contact her direct at **eparentrep@hotmail.co.uk**

THE MIGHTY JAGS

East Park is thrilled to have been nominated Charity of The Year for the 13/14 football season by Partick Thistle Football Club. An exciting year is planned and we may even see mascot Jaggy McBee around the classrooms and residences! If you'd like to get involved then help us on 29th December or 27th March when we'll be collecting funds at home matches at the PTFC ground! Call us to find out more!