



East Park

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eastparkpatter

Your newsletter for East Park



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Welcome to eastparkpatter

Geraldine O'Neill, Head of Care, East Park

As Head of Care at East Park, Geraldine O'Neill spends much of her time implementing the many policies and directives that shape the way in which children in residential care are looked after. It takes a great deal of focus and commitment to ensure that all of the requirements set out by the Scottish Government are being met, so this is a job where an ability to deal with detail and red tape are essential.

It is work that Geraldine, who began her career as a nurse, relishes, but the very best part of the job she says is that her efforts and those of all the staff have a collaborative effect and create an atmosphere where the young people at East Park can flourish. "Everyone at East Park works as a team, so we are all thrilled when any of our young people take a step forward, however small," she says. "It could be as simple as when a child, who was always attempting to run

away, can finally go to the park without taking off or can walk along Maryhill Road without being at risk, but when a member of our staff calls to tell me about it, that's what really makes this job worthwhile."

It takes huge resources to care for children with complex autism and of more than 130 staff, around 80 are directly involved in the care of the 18 young people who live in East Park's four residential houses. These small units of just four or five to a house are a home-from-home for those who live in them who can be aged up to 18 years of age. A further house provides respite care and each house is under the care of a Team Leader who ensures that there is constant communication between teaching staff, carers and parents. This joined-up approach is what has made East Park exceptional in its field, says Geraldine, and she is full of praise for the Team

Leaders who, she says, do an outstanding job. "They and their teams are in constant communication with teaching staff and parents. Consistency is the key to the success of East Park and I am always being impressed by how dedicated everyone is to achieving the best possible outcome. "Progress can sometimes be very slow, but nobody ever gives up."

This was recognised in the recent Care Inspectorate report that described the quality of care and support at East Park as "excellent," its highest possible grading. For Geraldine, who joined East Park in 2007 after holding senior roles in several organisations that supported young people with disabilities and their families, the work is hugely rewarding. "The staff at East Park are so professional and so committed to the young people in their care – that's what makes it so special."

East Park

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Spring Break

After a very successful summer school in 2013, we decided to offer a holiday programme during the spring holidays this year. School holidays can be a hard time for both the young people and parents and we believe that the holiday

“This is the best day ever, I wish school was like this every day!”

programme made the spring holidays more enjoyable for everyone. Parents were given the opportunity to choose the number of days and dates that suited themselves and their child best.

During their time at the holiday programme everyone had the chance to participate in person centred activities and high staff ratios made

this possible. We did lots of activities, both within and outwith East Park and great fun was had by all the children and young people.

A quote from David Brookes, when on an outing to bowling, sums up his feelings on the holiday programme - “This is the best day ever, I wish school was like this every day!”

East Park’s COMMONWEALTH CELEBRATORY ADVENTURE!



East Park has been celebrating the 2014 Commonwealth Games in a number of exciting ways, supported by the Big Lottery’s Celebrate Fund. Throughout the summer term of 2014 the children and young people have experienced a Commonwealth Adventure! The whole school theme for that period has been the Commonwealth Nations and the Commonwealth Games, culminating in an end of term Celebration for the school, our extended network of family and friends as well as the local community, on 19th June. In fact it’s a double celebration as East Park also marks its 140th anniversary!

Each class chose a commonwealth country to study throughout the term, focussing on the culture, geography, food and other aspects, fitting well with the Curriculum for Excellence. In addition, the young people have been learning about, and experiencing, some of the commonwealth sports. We have also worked

alongside a specialist theatre maker to create the adventure using sensory theatre techniques and simple role-play. The children have dressed-up, explored tastes, heard sounds and sung songs. The Celebrate Day has also been an opportunity for the



The East Park Maryhill Commonwealth Tournament

classes to showcase their work to each other, and for them to sample some of the ‘local’ culture and cuisine!

Earlier in the year, to celebrate and be part of the Commonwealth Games the pupils of East Park took part in an art competition to create posters to go on display in the Athletes’ Village. The pupils had to select a sport from the

games and create an exciting poster depicting this sport. A range of materials were used and everyone enjoyed using modelling clay and pipe cleaners to make sports figures and cheering spectators, and colourful paper and fabrics for backgrounds. The work is on display at East Park and shows the amazing and original poster designs that the pupils created. East Park Trustees had the difficult task of choosing eight posters to go on display in the Athletes’ Village.

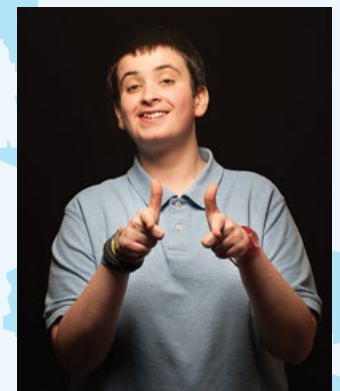
The winners of the competition are: Malcolm Hollamby, David Brooks,

Tournament. Each of the twelve participating schools represented a different Commonwealth country and great fun was had by all. David Galt, Partick Thistle Community Trust Coach said “It was a great day and I hope that you all enjoyed it as well, and personally, from my point of view, I would say working with the East Park kids nearer the end of the day was one of the best experiences of my coaching career.” Congratulations go to the winning team from Highpark Primary School, which was presented with the Maryhill Challenge Cup at the Celebrate Day.

Last but not least, we were excited and proud to learn that one of our pupils, Malcolm Hollamby, was chosen to represent the school in the Queen’s baton relay - an unforgettable experience for him and his family.

Ewan Henry, Sammy Forrest, Liam Cowan, Graham Miller and Zac Owens. A big well done to everyone who took part and produced such wonderful artwork.

In May, East Park organised, in collaboration with Partick Thistle Football Club, a knock-out football tournament for local primary schools, the East Park Maryhill Commonwealth



Malcolm Hollamby

Care Inspection Gives Top Marks!

In March 2014 we had a visit from our Care Inspectorate Inspector, Janie Fraser. The inspection lasted three days and during that time Janie visited the houses and spoke to staff, parents and resident children and young people. We were delighted, when a few weeks later in April 2014 we received our report which awarded us "Excellent" for The Quality of Care

and Support. The report emphasised how staff in East Park ensure that young people are involved, not only in decisions about their own life but also in the evaluation and development of the service. It also stated that "East Park was delivering high quality care resulting in excellent outcomes" and that the staff had developed "excellent personal plans" for each child "which

demonstrated real insight into their health and wellbeing". The report acknowledged "the commitment and sense of pride staff took in their work" and concluded that East Park "provides a safe, nurturing and valuing environment, which helps young people learn to live with and share with others, helps them to develop as individuals and ensures positive outcomes and realisation of

their potential".

We are very proud to have achieved this outstanding report. Across East Park, both in school and in the residences, all staff will continue to work hard, alongside children, young people and families, to maintain these high standards and to provide young people with more positive life experiences, better outcomes and a sense of security and stability.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY



WAAD was celebrated around the world on 2nd April and East Park proudly took part. We had two themes for everyone to get involved with - "Light It Up Blue" and "Onesie Wednesday"! For those daring enough to wear their onesies, we had a onesie parade in the cafeteria and Linda Gray, East Park's Head of Education, made blue pancakes for everyone!

They proved very popular! With regards to "Light Up Blue", we wanted to get some buildings in Glasgow involved. As you can see, Maryhill Burgh Halls and The Lighthouse both agreed to turn their lights to blue to raise awareness for autism. Maryhill Burgh Halls even kept their lights blue all week! It was great to have this wonderful support from such iconic buildings in Glasgow.



The Great East Park Cook Off!



During health sessions at East Park, classes have been exploring healthy eating, looking at healthy and not-so-healthy food groups, how food groups help our body, fresh and processed foods and portion size. Workmates have been attending healthy eating sessions at college. Young people and staff have become more conscious of what they are eating and more aware of what is healthy and what is less healthy. They have even started to avoid Helen (Health Care Coordinator) in the corridor when they have bought a wee cake!!

We decided to follow in the footsteps of the great Mary Berry (although changing the format slightly) to have a "cook off" for the most healthy meal. Over 2 weeks in March, each area planned, shopped and made a meal to

incorporate their learning. The young people and staff then presented their menu and meal to a panel of 3 judges. The judges were made up of a variation of Geraldine, Lisa, Christine, Linda, Dr Martin, Jackie, Carol (head judge) and Helen.

Each meal was judged on its content of the four healthy food groups, portion size and presentation, with each judge voting on one of these areas - **and all voting on taste.** Competition was fierce and steps had to be put in place to avoid cheating and bribes! Although it was a very close contest the overall winner was Class 4 - Carly, Blair, Graeme and Bramble. The prize was announced to a drum roll at assembly. The prize was a voucher for Braehead to spend how they like even McDonalds!!!!!!!



Fundraising & Volunteers

East Park Angels



Thanks to the brilliant team at Shell in Glasgow, who have adopted East Park as their chosen charity for 2014, young people from East Park attended a fantastic day out in April to watch the Rocks play a home match. As you can

see, they also met the team, which was really exciting! Shell staff collected money and ran a stall on behalf of East Park and raised almost £500! A huge thanks for their continued support!



The East Park Pacers WALK ON!

East Park staff took part in The Kilt Walk, Glasgow, in April to raise money for The Kilt Walk's nominated charities as well as for a small sensory garden for the children of East Park. The team had a great day out as well as raising over

£1,500, and were entertained by celebrities, bagpipe players and an uplifting welcome at the finish line.

It was a dry day so perfect conditions for walking 23 miles – although there were a few sore feet on the Monday!

Cycling to Raise Funds for East Park



John Dunn, Project Manager for East Park's capital project, along with a team of friends and colleagues, cycled the Etape Caledonia and raised over £2,000 for East Park! The route, which took in 81

miles and climbed almost 2,000 feet, was completed by John (pictured centre) in just over 5 hours. Well done to all and thank you for raising our profile as well as much needed funds!

A Big Thank-You to The Jags!

As the 13/14 football season closes, we are grateful to Partick Thistle FC, who nominated East Park as their Charity of the Year for the season. As well as raising much needed cash, the partnership has

given East Park a fabulous opportunity to raise profile and let many more people know about our work. As for the club staff, they have coached our young people, Jaggy McBee took part in the Christmas Concert, they ran our Maryhill Cup football tournament and generally supported us all round. Thank you once again and we wish you all the best in the SPL next season!



Stephen O'Donnell of Partick Thistle with Highpark, the winners of the East Park Maryhill Commonwealth Tournament

MARATHON SUPPORT from Stewart!

Stewart Paterson, Political Correspondent for the Evening Times, recently ran the 2014 Virgin Money London Marathon for East

Park in April. Stewart did amazingly well, finishing the marathon in 4h 44m 08secs and has raised over £700! Stewart decided to support East Park after hearing we were Partick Thistle's Charity of the Year.

Congratulations Stewart and thank you for choosing to support East Park!