



# Eskdale e-news

Welcome to our new e-newsletter. If you are reading this on paper and you have an e-mail address we could use, please let us know.

On Saturday 17th September 92 current and former students from Eskdale School, along with 8 members of staff, travelled to Gateshead to take part in this year's BUPA Junior Great North Run. This is the 12th year that the school has taken part and in the last 2 years alone has raised over £8000. This year's chosen charity is "Retts Syndrome"

Year 11 Student Maria Mastrotonardo completed it in 18min 46sec, closely followed by Olivia Cockerill also in year 11, with 19min 13sec. The pair came 13th and 16th respectively out of approximately 5000 runners. Year 9 Student Jay Ferns finished in the top 20 with a speedy time of 15min 37sec.

Former Eskdale Student Gareth Griffin ran to raise money for his school friend Dale Milne and hoped to raise about £400



## WINDOWS 2011

Nearly 60 years after Eskdale School was built, the windows in the main teaching block have finally been replaced with new UPVC double glazed units. This work took place during the

summer holidays with staff, students and visitors all commenting how much lighter it has made to the classrooms and what an improvement it has made to the external appearance of the school. Additional windows are being replaced in the workshop area of the school soon, and it is hoped that these works will help reduce the school's energy costs and reduce our carbon footprint. The works were funded mainly by North Yorkshire County Council.

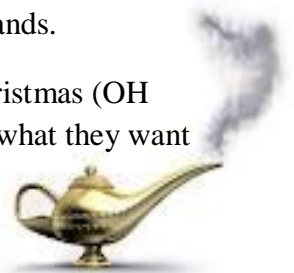
**School recipe book** – We are making a School Recipe Book – submit your favourite recipe with your name and photo (of the food!) to [www.theschoolcookbook](http://www.theschoolcookbook) access code 2f5b1021 .



## GENIE TRAINING FOR DT STAFF!

No the Design and Technology staff have not been getting ready for the pantomime season and a performance from Aladdin, but instead have had a very productive days training that involved a particular electronic microchip called a 'Genie' chip. This microchip can be individually programmed via a computer to carry out specific tasks and commands.

The department intends to introduce this technique to Year 8 students after Christmas (OH YES THEY ARE!) so that students will be able to customise and decide upon what they want their particular project to do.





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## Music

The concert on Wednesday evening was a fantastic evening, showcasing the varied musical talents of our Year 7 pupils. The next major event is the Christmas Concert to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December so please put that date in your diary. We have held auditions for our production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' and rehearsals are now underway. The performance will be in March. Instrumentals lessons with the peripatetic teachers are going smoothly and the year 7 students all seem to be on board with their lesson times and practices. If there are any problems though please contact Mrs Anderson.

**Parent Teachers Association – AGM** – please come along to elect the first committee on Wednesday November 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.30pm in the school hall. We will also be planning our first event of family Bingo on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 7pm in the School Hall, come along and join in the fun, prizes and refreshments available. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

BINGO				
12	18	41	47	61
7	26	39	54	70
4	27	FREE SPACE	49	63
5	23	35	58	73
3	30	32	52	75

**Shoe box appeal** - We are again supporting the charity "Children in Distress" by putting together gift boxes; these need to be in school by 14<sup>th</sup> November, so they can reach their destination by Christmas. All contents should be new, we also need £2 to cover the transport costs. Your child should have all the details. Thank you for your generosity.



**Are you having a half term clear out?** Did you know that we can raise money for school funds by recycling unwanted CDs and DVDs? We need CDs and DVDs with barcodes, boxes and their original artwork, sadly not computer games or single CDs. A big thank

you to all who have sent in CDs and DVDs so far.

**Staff were "In the Pink" last Friday supporting Breast Cancer awareness week, and form ZH have been baking and selling badges to support McMillan Nurses.**



**Barcodes for Wheel Chairs** – did you know that the barcode of any Yorkshire Tea product can be collected and exchanged for wheelchairs? Please send yours into school and we will pass them onto Whitby Endeavour Rotary Club. They are also collecting the rainforest tokens found on packs.



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**Fibonacci Year 7 Maths class** enjoyed a challenge set by Ms Boyd from WCC. Ms Boyd was accompanied by four ex-Eskdale students who visited us on Tuesday 4th October.

Students worked in groups and had to think strategically about which route they were going to follow that would allow them to become the overall winners. The 5R's: Reasoning, Reflective, Resilient, Resourceful and Responsible all played important roles during the challenge. All teams were successful making a profit using monopoly money, but three teams proved to outshine the others. A great experience for all students involved and thanks goes to Ms Boyd and the WCC students. Mrs Z Hurworth.



## German Exchange – October 2011

Eskdale has run a successful German Exchange since July 2002. Our exchange school is the Heinrich Böll Schule in Fürth / Odenwald in Southwest Germany. Mr Bloor worked as a language assistant at the school when he was a student (in 1987!) and has maintained contact ever since. This year a group of 31 German students and 2 of their teachers visited the Whitby area from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October. 12 stayed with partners at Eskdale School and the rest (some on their 3<sup>rd</sup> visit) stayed with their partners who are now at Whitby Community College.

The German visitors arrived at Eskdale on Saturday lunchtime. They were met by their partners and host families and spent the weekend visiting the local area.

On Monday, the German students visited a range of lessons with their partners as well as helping out in German lessons and giving lots of English students the chance to practise their German.

On Tuesday the German students and their English partners went to Newcastle. As well as a tour of the sights of the city there was also a chance to do a bit of shopping in Eldon Square and there was a stop at the Angel of the North on the way home.

Wednesday was spent in Whitby and amongst other things the visitors experienced a very windy trip out to sea on the Esk Belle, the Dracula Experience, Fish and Chips and losing money in the arcades! There was a farewell party on Wednesday evening at Eskdale before some tearful goodbyes when the Germans left early on Thursday morning for Manchester Airport and their flight back to Frankfurt.

Eskdale and Whitby Community College students will have the chance to return to Germany and stay with their partners there in June 2012. This visit will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our German exchange as well as the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mr Bloor's links with the German school. Thank you to the students and their families who hosted German partners this year without them the exchange programme would not be possible. DANKE!!



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## **New Wild Life Area at Eskdale**

Over the course of the coming year, several areas of the school grounds are being encouraged to return to the wild in order to encourage more insects and bees.



This is part of the Bees' Project that the school has become involved in. Following on from that we have also forged links with the Cornfield Flower Project. An area of land to the rear of the school has been rotavated in preparation for sowing of some quite rare and endangered seed.

Tom Normandale, Project Officer for the Cornfield Project has visited the school and brought with him a variety of seeds such as Corn Buttercup, Cornflower and Field Gromwell all of which are Nationally Critically Endangered. Corncockle is classed as possibly extinct in the wild, unless you know different!

Hopefully if the project is a success seed will be gathered by our garden stewards and passed back to Mr Normandale who will then start the process again with another school. The hope is that these rare wild flowers will begin to flourish once again in the wild.

Well done to all our garden stewards who worked hard and won a Silver Award from Yorkshire in Bloom, and a Gold Award from Whitby in Bloom. If you fill up and return the "Bags to School" then this raises more money for the garden, and please keep the Morrison's vouchers coming into school.

**Pupil Premium** - this funding is linked to the number of pupils receiving free school meals, if you are entitled but don't claim we miss out on £488 per claimant. It is a confidential provision. Parents do not have to pay for school lunches if they receive any of the following:

Income Support; Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance ; Income-related Employment and Support Allowance; support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit; Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190; Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit .

Please contact the school office for a form or use this link -

<http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/index.jsp?LGSL=4&LGIL=0&ServiceName=Apply%20for%20free%20school%20meals>

As you can see, there has been a lot going on since September. Do let me know your views on this first e-newsletter. We are trying to be greener and save some money. I hope that your child has had a successful and enjoyable first half term. I feel thoroughly settled in and have enjoyed the chance to meet some of you over the last few weeks. I look forward to welcoming you to various events over the next half term and wish you all a good half term break.

*S. Whelan*

Headteacher