

Welcome to our Term 3 Newsletter

This has been a busy term for active schools with lots of activity going on in all of the clusters. In January we launched an initiative to encourage primary pupils to be rewarded for taking part in sport locally outside of school hours. This included not just the range of Active Schools activities at lunchtimes/after school but also extended to community clubs and recreational activities that can be done with parents.

It was called 'Midlothian Commonwealth Passport' to coincide with the games in the Gold Coast games back in April. Pupils were able to record on a passport card an record each activity for up to ten times over the five month period, we also allowed a wild card sport and for one to take place outside the authority.

All pupils taking part had their names in a draw with a chance to win a family tubing session, Ryze vouchers, free places at the councils summer holiday programmes and free family swim sessions to name a few of those on offer.

School prizes were also available, Rosewell had the highest percentage of returned forms and won a visit from rugby player Scott Riddell with Roslin and Glencorse receiving equipment vouchers for second and third respectively.

Of all the pupils took part in the passport initiative received either a gold, silver or bronze water bottle depending on how many activities they completed. A fantastic achievement by all the pupils and their parents who would have been heavily involved in encouraging and making arrangements for the opportunities and we hope it continues.

We believe to have not just encouraged more pupils to be active and try new sports but also to promote the many opportunities available across Midlothian to the benefit of not just council facilities but also the clubs and organisations we work with throughout the year.



Local Sports Clubs Supporting Active Schools Festivals

Over the last two terms there have been many Active Schools Festivals for a number of sports. A lot of hard work goes in to organising these popular events, not just from the Active Schools team but from many local sports clubs. There are many ways in which these clubs help us to organise and deliver our festivals and we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their support and the pathways they provide pupils. Of course, we cannot forget to celebrate the achievements of the pupils and schools who attend.

Basketball

In March, we ran our second Basketball festival of the year. This event would lead the first and second place schools through to the Lothian Regional Finals, to be held at the Oriam Sports Centre on the 6th June. This event was very popular with schools, so much so that we had to adapt our usual format as so many teams signed up. With so many teams attending it was great to have the support of High Flyers Basketball Club and Midlothian Basketball Academy. These two clubs were able to referee the games to the same standard that games will be refereed at the Lothian Finals, helping to prepare the two qualifiers.

There were a number of close games with some great displays of sportsmanship. The final points were very close but well done to the teams from Loanhead and Danderhall Primary Schools who finished first and second respectively.

Hockey

Our annual Hockey Festival took place in March. This event is always well supported by Eskvale Hockey Club who provide referees and help to run the event. This year's event was won by Paradykes with Cornbank finishing in second place. This meant Paradykes can attend the National Finals in June and both schools were invited to attend the Regional Final which took place on Thursday 17th May. The Regional Final was a great morning of hockey with both teams winning some of their games. Well done to Paradykes and Cornbank Primary Schools for making it to this event, what a great achievement!





Hockey Cont..

David Robertson, a coach at Eskvale, goes round many of the Primary Schools in Midlothian to offer pupils the opportunity to try Hockey. Additionally, he runs many community clubs in local Leisure Centres. This provides a great opportunity for children to get started with Eskvale Hockey Club in an environment they are familiar with and somewhere which is easy for them to get to. Hockey in Midlothian has grown significantly since David started working with us.

Paradykes and Cornbank Primary Schools were even offered extra coaching from David to help them prepare for the Regional and National Finals. We wish these schools good luck in their upcoming events and thank David and Eskvale for the extra support they have provided!

ClubGolf

There were three ClubGolf Festivals organised for P5's throughout Midlothian, in March. The Dalkeith and Penicuik Festivals ran successfully, however the Lasswade Festival was, unfortunately, cancelled due to the weather and ground conditions. The Lasswade Festival had a record number of P5 classes sign up, so the support Broomieknowe Golf Club offered was going to be essential. The club liaised with the Lasswade Coordinators to arrange volunteers to support the event and offered to bring equipment. Although, in the end, their help was not required, the offer was greatly appreciated.

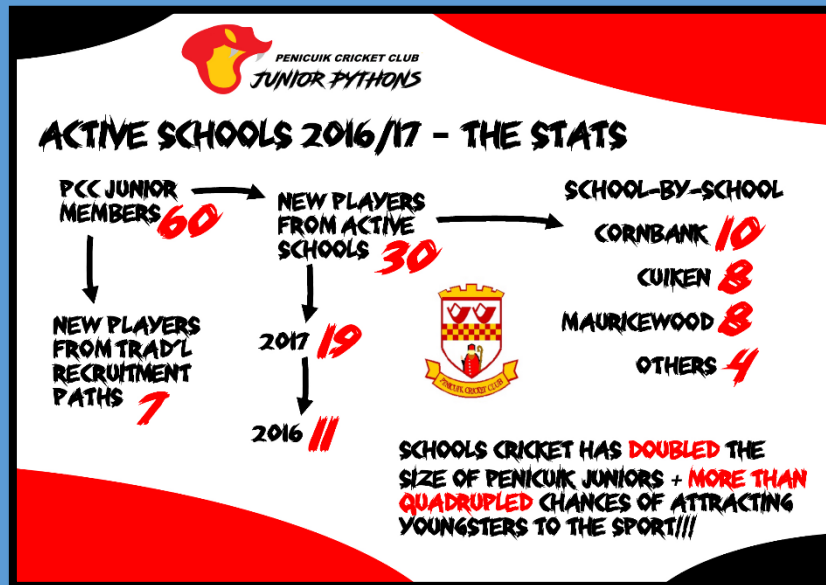
Athletics

At the end of May we will run our Athletics events. These are some of our best attended events with a large number of pupils participating. With events accommodating almost every school in Midlothian, we rely on support from Lasswade Athletics Club. Throughout the year, they support us at both our Sportshall and Giant Heptathlon events but the number of coaches and volunteers who come along for our outdoor events increases greatly! Lasswade Athletics Club provide us with equipment and take on roles such as starting marshals, officials and timekeepers. This is a great help as it not only allows the event to run smoothly and on schedule but it gives pupils the chance to receive some coaching on events they don't normally get to try and pupils can meet the coaches they would be working with if they decide to join the club. A massive thank you to Lasswade Athletics Club.

It is fantastic that so many pupils are able to take part in a range of sports festivals. To the local sports clubs who make this possible and provide pupils with a pathway to their club, thank you!

Termly Sport in Focus - Cricket in Midlothian

Founded in 1844, Penicuik Cricket Club ranks amongst one of the oldest clubs in Scotland and is currently Midlothian's only Cricket club. For a number of years now, Active Schools has had extremely positive links with the Cricket Club, sharing the common goal of introducing the sport to as many local school pupils as possible, with a view to developing the 'Clubs Junior Section. This link has become particularly impactful over the past 3 years, on the arrival of Jack Hilton, who is leading the charge on what appears to be a very focussed and determined one-man Cricket crusade.



The infographic above details the fruits of Jack's efforts in 2016/17.

Since returning from a winter spent in New Zealand in April (developing Cricket!) Jack has put some very ambitious, yet achievable, plans in place. He will be offering taster sessions in most Penicuik area primary schools over the coming months, with the possibility of then also delivering some tasters in the Lasswade area schools. In addition to this, Jack is currently delivering a lunchtime Cricket session at Roslin primary school, with 15 pupils attending, with these positive numbers testament to Jack's coaching quality, drive and enthusiasm.

On Tuesday 22nd May, over 250 primary school pupils attended the annual Active Schools cricket festival. The pupils took part in several Kwik Cricket games over the course of a morning – held in the grounds of Penicuik Cricket Club - it was a fantastic spectacle and introduction to Cricket for all that attended.

Penicuik Cricket Club, which celebrates 175 years in operation in 2019, welcome all primary school pupils in p1 – age 10 to come along to their weekly junior training sessions which run every Friday from 5.30 – 6.30pm at their home ground on Kirkhill Road, Penicuik.

The club is also currently promoting 'All Stars Cricket' for 5-8 year olds which will run from Friday 19th May – 18th August, 4.30 – 5.15pm. Pupils signing up to these sessions will receive a personalised bag, bat, ball, t-shirt, cap & water bottle.

For more information on Penicuik Cricket Club opportunities, contact Jack Hilton: Jackhilton4@sky.com or 07854527855.

A Midlothian School is an Active School

The Active Schools Team pictured below have been operating in Midlothian since January 2005 and offer a range of activities and opportunities to pupils across all 39 schools in the authority.

The team offer activities for pupils at school along with staff training and support, inter school festivals and events, linking with local clubs and the community sports hubs, providing leadership opportunities for senior pupils and volunteers to name a selection of their focuses. Active Schools is a national initiative and further details about Midlothian can be found here.

The team are an integral part of the school and sport/activity framework of Midlothian. Since its inception the programme has been supported by **SportScotland** and a recent report highlighted the success of the team's recent achievements.

Jenna, Kate, Judith, Jenny, Joanne, Carolyn, Ewan, Scott and Debra would be delighted to hear from you if you have any questions or interested to get involved as a volunteer.

ActiveSchools@midlothian.gov.uk or call 0131 561 6519

We would like to thank everyone for all their continued support for the active schools programme this year.

With lots of sporting events taking place, please share photos of you taking part in any sport over the summer via twitter – use the hashtag #activemidlothian or tag us @active_mid

Please keep an eye out for the new active schools programmes which will come out in pupil's school bags during the first few weeks back.

We hope you have a great summer and look forward to seeing you in August.



ACTIVE SCHOOLS COORDINATORS

Active Schools Coordinators

Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, Midlothian, EH22 1DN

Tel 0131 561 6519