

MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 14 – 16.11.18

A bit of a catch up this week as the Meadowpark viral menace had me bed-bound last Friday.

There are a lot of good things to report on though which is exciting. Mrs Davis and I met with Max Sykes from Canon two weeks ago to request cameras to assist with recording and evidencing of activities and research related to SQA Personal Achievement Awards. Max has been a huge support to Meadowpark since we came into existence in 2015 and although hasn't been directly involved, facilitated Katy Tunstall's guest appearance in July 2017 with the pupil support team from Knox Academy which was hosted here and was a massive boost to all staff and pupils at the time. The good news is that Max was able to confirm this week that Canon will be generously donating 10 cameras to Meadowpark pupils so that they can express themselves digitally where often the voice becomes a hindrance. We are absolutely thrilled about this and look forward to sharing our story with Max and the team at Canon on how well our pupils progress.

On Tuesday 6th November we had a very successful parent's evening with 63% turnout and it was wonderful to watch parent's faces see the classes where their children spend so much time. One of the purposes of the evening was for parents to get to know each other as many of the friendships created between young people but as they all live at a distance from each other, parents can't always meet up as daytime friendships often exist online once school closes.

Today was Children in Need and we have raised in excess of £100 which for a population as small as ours is a tremendous effort. However I honestly don't want to see another cake, brownie or 'top hat' for a very long time. We have yet to have the duck race which will take place on Monday under the auspicious eye of Michelle, our administrator. Perhaps next year we will have a sponsored silence!

On Wednesday I attended the ELPA (East Lothian Play Association) AGM heralded as the 'funnest' AGM, and I have to say it was. Not only was Theresa Casey able to whizz through the agenda – correctly in accordance with procedures, but with efficiency and humour. We were treated to cake and mocktails and indulged in Loose Parts Play which is where my relationship with ELPA began. I gave a small talk called 'Circles and Serendipity' and described my education and playful journey from primary, nursery and into ASN. Amazingly I was able to put my hands on my final year dissertation from college which was entitled 'Children's Street Games and Songs' and written many more years ago than I'm prepared to admit to now, but put it this way, over 3,000 words, handwritten and images cut and pasted – literally with scissors and glue not the convenient click of a mouse! I was especially chuffed to note the tutor's note was still there and the M for Merit I was awarded.

I met with Henry Lennon from Morrison Construction and we have a visit planned for a site visit and for collaboration between Meadowpark and Morrison. I am hopeful that through this relationship we will be able to entice and support our young people into considering a career in construction. As Morrison Construction like to leave a legacy after working with schools, perhaps this could lead to the beginning of our garden project.