Ysgol Craig y Don School

Clarence Drive, Craig-y-Don, Llandudno LL30 1TR

Pennaeth/Headteacher: Mr Iwan Lloyd Jones B.Ed **www.ysgolcraigydon.cymru**

Rhif Ffon/Telephone: 01492 878906 e-bost/e-mail: swyddfa@craigydon.conwy.sch.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers

This letter comes to you from the office of a very proud Headteacher, one who is proud of his pupils, staff and parents and is also grateful to them for all their support, effort and generosity.

For the purposes of this particular letter it all started this weekend just gone, although preparations and organisation have been going on for some weeks. There were dozens of pupils from Ysgol Craig y Don taking part in this year's URDD Area Eisteddfod at Ysgol Creuddyn; reciting, singing, playing instruments and so on and so on. And they were fantastic! When the Cor Cerdd Dant and the Parti Deulais sang on stage in the afternoon there was hardly a dry eye in the house, including yours truly. They both came first and will be competing at the county Eisteddfod at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy, Llanrwst on Saturday March 19th, which is the day Wales play Italy in the six nations, hopefully for the championship if the boys play to their potential against England the week before. Also competing in Llanrwst will be Lucas Anderson in the individual recitation, Parti Sarah in the group recitation and Parti Joe in the Ymgom. We wish them all the best.

I want give a mention here also to all the others who took part this year, maybe for the first time, who were not fortunate enough to perform on the stage in the afternoon, who had practiced and prepared for weeks and weeks beforehand, who got up early in the morning on Saturday and went along to the preliminaries, who maybe didn't get the result they were hoping for but accepted the judge's decision with all good grace. Well done to you! You'll be back next year, I'm sure. Dyfal donc a dyr y garreg!

Win, lose, stage, no stage, county eisteddfod, national or not, being involved in an Eisteddfod is such a valuable experience for any pupil. Dedicating oneself to the practices and preparations beforehand in itself exhibits a great deal of self-discipline and commitment. As for the experience (some may say ordeal!) of performing before a packed room of strangers and a judge has got to be one of the best character building activities anyone could be involved in, and that's before you've even reached the stage! Future job interviews will surely hold fewer fears for someone who's been through this kind of experience.

I'll say it again, I was extremely proud of everyone who was involved with the Eisteddfod on Saturday. Pupils, staff and parents, thank you all.

Continued ….

St David's Day celebrations

What a great event the school's St David's day coffee morning, concert and cake stall in aid of Diabetes UK proved to be. Thank you to everyone who came along and enjoyed the pupils' performances and to everyone who supported this important cause so generously. We raised over £570 pounds which will go to help Diabetes UK fund important research into this awful disease. Thank you also to all the staff who organised the cake stall, the concert and to the school council who organised decorations in the hall. Remember, you can keep up with my preparations for the London marathon in April at www.runlondon2016.com.

We also had great fun with Years 1 and 2 in the afternoon. They celebrated by singing and enjoyed Mrs Griffiths' and Mrs Thomas' Welshcakes, Welsh Cheese (made from milk from Mrs Hughes' year 5's cows!) and Bara Brith. Yum! It's a good job I've increased my activity level recently!

Parent/teacher meetings – week commencing 7th March.

These will be held next week and they are an important opportunity for you to see your child's work and discuss how they are progressing. We encourage you to make every effort to attend these very important meetings.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS NEXT WEEK – as next week is parent evening week, all After School Clubs will be postponed next week **apart from** Football on a Wednesday and Cookery Club for Year 6 on Tuesday.

WORLD BOOK DAY – tomorrow is World Book Day! Pupils are encouraged to come to school in their pyjamas as a kind of book at bedtime theme, or dressed as a character from a book if they wish.

COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL - Some parents make the most of the opportunity at the end of the day, to collect their children from the school gate and walk their dog at the same time. We have no issue at all with anybody who chooses to do so however, we ask very kindly that anybody who brings a dog along, is aware of the people/children around them as it can get very crowded on the pavement outside school at home time.

Yours sincerely

Iwan Lloyd Jones

Headteacher