

October 2019

UPDATE

Dyce Academy



View a full colour version
on our website:
www.dyceacademy.aberdeen.sch.uk

WELCOME

As we approach the start of the October holidays, I thought it would be useful to reflect on the term and share some information with you.

Staffing

I am happy to report that we are fully staffed. We are planning ahead and as such will be raising adverts for Physical Education and Physics.

We welcome Barry Gartland to Dyce Academy as Faculty Head Expressive Arts. I am delighted to give advance notice that the school show will be 'Sister Act' and auditions are already underway.

S1

Our new S1 pupils have settled in well and we have already met with their parents/carers in an early Information Evening. Here we introduced the key personnel that will support the young people through their time at Dyce Academy. They have also been let loose to go to Asda during their breaks which seemed to be a particular highlight for many of them.

School Improvement Plan 2018/19

I have met with all Faculty Principal Teachers (PTs) and agreed priorities for the new session. PTs have now completed their Faculty Improvement Plans for 2018/19. A copy of the full School Improvement Plan (SIP) is on the school website.

Senior Prefects

The senior prefects have been appointed and are establishing their roles within the school. They will be using 'How Good is our School' with a range of pupils across the school and are also wanting to look at the tightening up of school uniform across the whole school. We will be asking you for your views after the October break and including current P7's

School Roll

Our school roll is increasing and for the 1st time we have had to create a waiting list for the current S2 year group.

Curriculum Model

We are currently involved in looking at our curriculum model with a move to offering 7 National Qualifications. I will be writing to parents next term to explain what this will mean and the timescale. In addition, we have been in discussion with Bucksburn Academy to discuss the Senior options. More information to follow.

Examination Results 2019

I am particularly pleased with the examination results this year. We are maintaining performance at National 5 and Higher level and there is improvement at Advanced Higher Level.

We are very much measured by our attainment in Literacy and Numeracy. For those of you interested in statistics we were delighted with how our young people performed in Maths and English.

National 5 Mathematics 98% of those presented achieved Grades A-D (The highest figure in the city).

National 5 English 100% of those presented achieved Grades A-D (The highest in the city).

However, it is important to note that individual young people sit behind these figures. Every one of them will have a different set of goals and all achievements are equally valued. Every one of our young people deserve rightly deserved praise and that goes for a highly committed staff.

Have a fabulous holiday
Lesley Adam

S3 BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CLASS

The S3 Business Enterprise class members have been very busy putting out into both the Dyce and Newmachar communities their Emergency Dog Poo Bag Dispensers.

The comments received through Twitter and on the Newmachar Local Facebook pages have been very supportive of this venture.

Hopefully the pupils have positioned their Emergency Dog Poo Bag Dispensers in sensible, easily accessible places. Dog-owners, who perhaps forget to take a bag with them when out walking, are most welcome to use the dispensers.

Thanks again to all the pupils for their efforts with this enterprise project – I hope that everyone in Dyce and Newmachar who see these Emergency Dog Poo Bag Dispensers in their locality will be delighted that they are there!



S3 BUSINESS IN TECHNOLOGY

The S3 Business In Technology class organised a coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. The pupils worked extremely hard, not only on the day but for months in the run up to the morning. They contacted local businesses to ask for raffle donations and then sold raffle tickets around the school. They assigned themselves job roles for the coffee morning to ensure that everything went smoothly and even did some baking at home to sell on the day. Many of the staff kindly helped out by baking too. They have raised over £450 pounds to date and have plans to raise some more. A big well done to all involved!

CYCLING CLUB

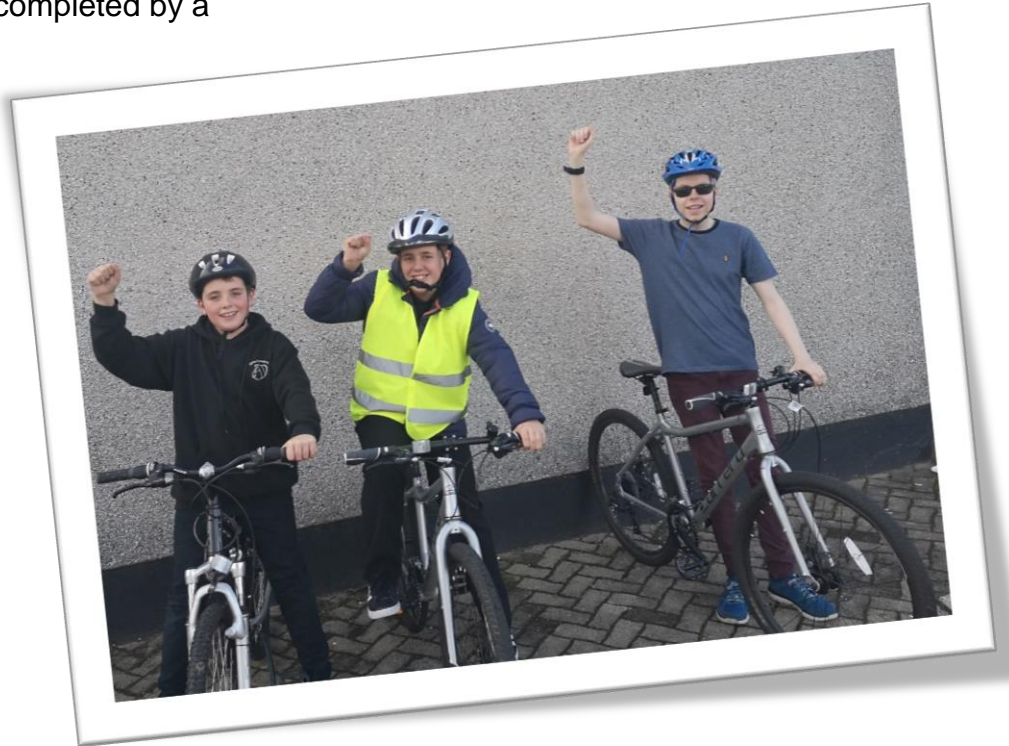
This has been a very busy term for the cycling club here at Dyce Academy. The new S1s have been super keen and we have had to turn people away as we didn't have enough bikes for the first few weeks of term. We have since split the club into two groups who attend on alternate weeks.

On behalf of the cycling club, Bradley applied to the Youth Activity Grant (c/o Aberdeen City Council) for some extra funding.

The application form had to be completed by a young person involved in the project and Bradley put a huge amount of time and effort into the application.

As a result, we have been awarded **£1500** to spend on cycling equipment, specifically some more bikes so we can all go out together as a group, and some bikes to accommodate some of our smaller pupils.

We should all be able to go out as a group on our shiny new bikes soon into the new term - let's just hope for some good weather!



DYCE ACADEMY & ITS FIRST LEGO LEAGUE NATIONAL COMPETITION

Dyce Academy with support from Oceanering have entered the First Lego League national

competition <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/>

We meet Wednesday lunchtime in Room 111 and have lots of fun building models and learning how to build and programme our Mindstorm robot.

Our first competition is in December and we still have space for some new members...especially if you are a whizz with robots.





LISTENING TO A GOOD BOOK



This year has seen a considerable increase in the numbers of our younger pupils wanting to listen to audio books.

Although we are in the process of adding new ones to the stock of the school library, we could always do with some more.

If you have any unwanted talking books suitable for pupils in the upper primary / lower secondary age range please consider donating them to us, it would be very much appreciated.

“When you read a book, the story definitely happens inside your head. When you listen, it seems to happen in a little cloud all around it, like a fuzzy knit cap pulled down over your eyes.”

“Mr Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore”

K. Yeoman, School Librarian

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES AWARD

STAR AWARD

14.09.19 was a day to remember. The Promoting Inclusion Award was won by a group of S4 tutorial pupils for their shared reading work with Dyce Primary.

We will remember this because it's the day that all our hard work was noticed. We would like to thank everyone that supported us during our project work; so a big thank you to Mrs Taylor, Mrs Adams, Mrs Yeoman and Mrs Wilson from Dyce Primary School.

We were glad to be able to take 2 pupils from our project along with us to the ceremony. We would like to thank Aberdeen City Council for hosting the awards in the beautiful Beach Ballroom. It was amazing watching so many schools come along to collect various awards for different reasons including environment, community, mental health, improving their school and many more.

Many thanks, Nicola and Andrew.



S4 MUSIC TRIP – SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

S4 pupils who are taking music this year attended a concert at the Music Hall in Aberdeen on the 18th of September.

The concert was given by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and included narrative sections followed by short music examples relating to Nat 5, Higher and Advanced Higher concepts.

The day ended with a full performance of the piece of music being discussed. This was all composed and conducted by Scottish composer, James Macmillan.

For many S4 pupils it was their first experience of seeing a live orchestra. The event was attended by all schools within the city and was very well received by all.

Many of the pupils from Dyce were impressed with performance and enjoyed it a lot more than they first anticipated.



PE & SPORTS AWARDS 2019

The PE & Sports Awards 2019 were held on Thursday 12th September this year. We would like to thank all staff and pupils for their hard work throughout last year which led to gaining of awards in and out of the curriculum. Here are some photos of the event, its nominees and overall winners. Congratulations!

Many thanks also to Gillian Jack and our ACMS pupils who provided music & entertainment throughout our awards ceremony.



Congratulations!!!

Award	Winners
Assisting	
Sports Leadership Active Schools Award	Nathan Murray & Rebekah Singer
"I Can Lead" Award	Caiden Thom, Nathan Murray, Kieran Downie, Angel Rodger
Life Stars Performer of the Year	Alex Bennett
Life Stars Leader Award	Iona Copeland
Active Girl Award	Kitty Richardson, Ellie Mowat, Taylor Ritchie
Sporting Contributions (Lead/ Council)	Iona Copeland
Overall Team of the Year	Basketball
Sporting	
Football	Aaron Angus
Athletics	William Hodi
Netball	Hannah Wilson
Dance	Abi Smart
Basketball	Kieran Downie
Badminton	Shae Gallacher
Running	Jordan Cruickshank
Swimming	Sarah Fraser
Table Tennis	Bradley Thompson
Cycling	Bradley Thompson
Curriculum	
Junior of the year	Ellie Mowat, Adam Cruickshank
Senior of the Year	Hannah Wilson, Cameron Reid
Higher Pupil of the Year	Myles Mack
National 4/5 pupil of the Year	Kayla Spence
Sports Personality of the Year	Adam Blake



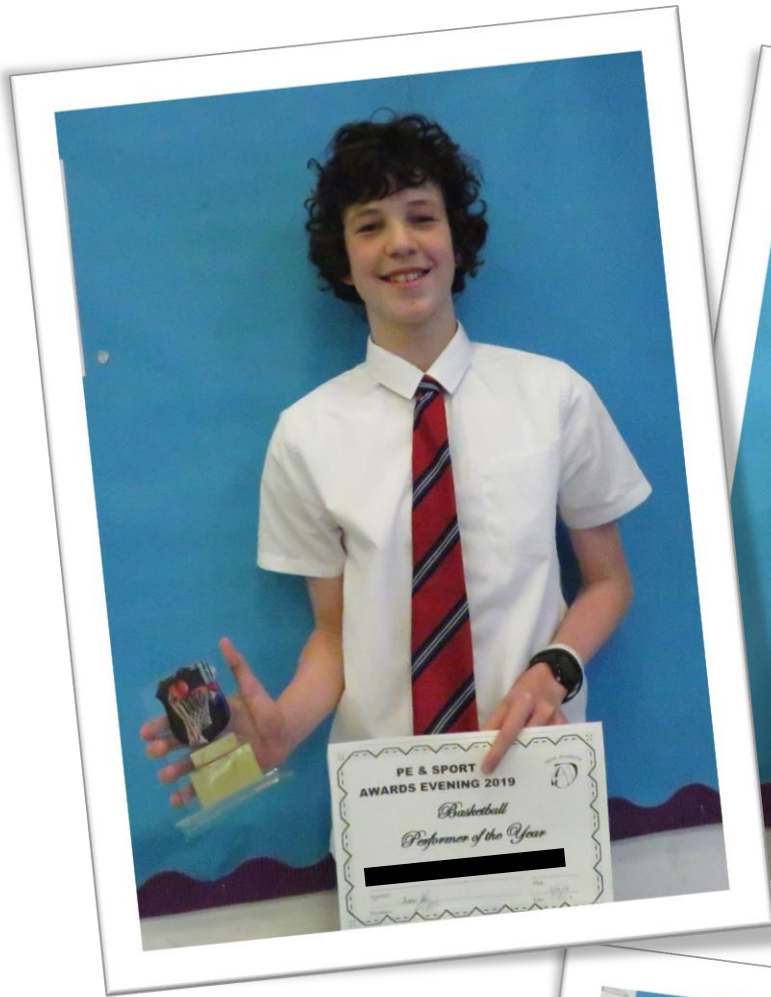






WELL DONE!







SCHOOL SHOW



After the success of Mary Poppins in June 2019, Dyce Academy Expressive Arts Faculty are continuing the flow of successful school shows. Our next school show has been announced as SISTER ACT!

Sister Act is a feel-good musical comedy smash hit based on the popular 1992 film. When disco diva, Deloris Van Cartier, witnesses a murder, she is put in protective custody in the one place the cops are sure she won't be a found: a convent! Disguised as a nun, she finds herself at odds with both the rigid lifestyle and uptight Mother Superior but uses her



unique disco moves and singing talent to inspire the choir she is ultimately put in charge of. Filled with powerful gospel music, outrageous dancing and a truly moving story, Sister Act will leave audiences breathless.

Over 20 pupils auditioned for principal roles and many others for chorus. Rehearsals will begin on a weekly basis after the October holidays and is set to be performed in term 4.

This show is “fabulous baby” and will make you want to “Raise Your Voice” and sing along with many wonderful chorus numbers.



S4 N5 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OCEANEERING CHALLENGE

Since September Emma Campbell and her team of wonderful Mentors from Oceaneering have been coming in to work with our S4 Business Management pupils. The challenge was to create a brief which detailed how they would raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Oceaneering provided seed money of £25 per group which our pupils could use to buy in goods or make their own products such as cakes and biscuits and sell them at a pop-up event in Oceaneering’s canteen. They have also provided prizes for the group which raise the most money and for the best baker.

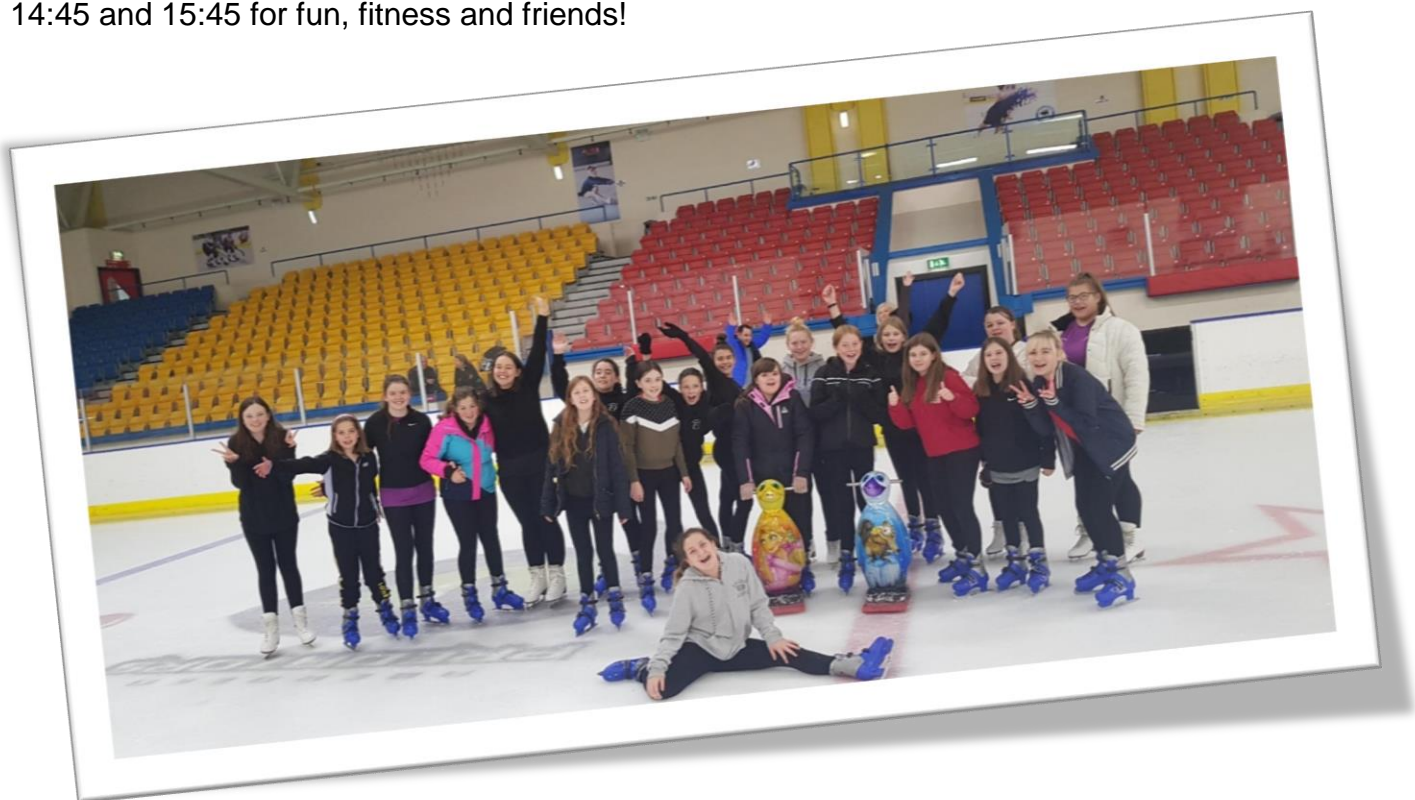
On 2 October our pupils set up their stalls and worked very hard to entice the Oceaneering staff to part with their money for a good cause; they made good use of their Marketing skills. From ‘Cake Pong’ to Jenga there were lots of competitions people could take part in as well as buying the delicious goodies on offer.

Mrs Keith and I would like to thank all of our pupils and Emma and her team who worked with our pupils. We would also like to thank the parents and grandparents who helped our teams out by baking goods and finally the staff at Oceaneering for making us feel so welcome and being such good sports.

ACTIVE GIRLS

Dyce Academy’s Active Girls took part in Active Girls Day Celebrations at the Beach Leisure Centre on Friday 4th October. Over 20 girls from S1-S4 took part in dance, spin and ice skating!

Active Girls is open to all girls at Dyce. Come along to the Games Hall on Wednesdays between 14:45 and 15:45 for fun, fitness and friends!



FRANCE 2019

On July 29th 2019, we flew out to Nantes, France for a two week languages camp. The purpose of this camp was to meet with 12 people aged 14-17 from each of our twin cities in France, Germany and Spain. Having previously studied French and Spanish in school we thought this would be a great opportunity to try out the languages we had learned.

We flew from Aberdeen to Amsterdam to Nantes and then had a 2 hour bus journey to Les Sables-D'Olonne. When we arrived, we unfortunately found out the Spanish people would not be coming. We were straight away mixed with the French and German people and split into groups with those who we would be sharing a tent with. Throughout the two weeks we did many activities including canoeing, surfing, cycling and sightseeing. We also went to France's 2nd largest theme park Puy Du Fou. During the 2 weeks, each country held their own national day. For our Scottish day, we made stovies for dinner and chose scottish country dancing for our activity. Learning languages in school really helped us as, even though our French wasn't perfect, we could figure out quite a bit of what they were saying.



OUTLOOK EXPEDITIONS

We arrived at Aberdeen Airport full of excitement ready for our 24 hours of traveling to Zambia. After a long journey we got there early in the morning to the temperature being 2 degrees. Firstly we explored Livingstone before moving on to the Okavango Delta in Botswana which was a full day of travel, where we saw zebras and elephants crossing the road.

After we went to Chobe National Park where we had 2 full days of safari, we woke up at 4 am before sunrise with Miss Howard kindly making us breakfast. We saw elephants, zebras, hippopotami, loads of giraffes and nearly saw a lion hunt. During sunset we went on a river safari where there were crocodiles after crocodiles. We then traveled back to Livingstone to see the famous Victoria Falls.



After our quick visit there it was time for our last meal together in Africa, before the 24 hours of travelling where we did meet some members of the Australian rugby team.

Arriving back to sunny Scotland to reunite with our families. Thank you to Miss Stevenson and Miss Howard for everything and looking after us.



Finally it was time to move on to the Project Phase of the trip. Where we volunteered at a local school. We were helping build bricks for school staff accommodation and over the course of 5 days we managed to build 252 between the 16 of us. We got to interact with children and teachers and also had a taste of their traditional food. Last stop our cultural walk through Mwandia with a guide visiting an African Hospital.





MODERN LANGUAGES NEWS

Languages Day was on Thursday 26th September and we celebrated in our usual style with some tattoos for pupils to sport their favourite European flag.

Ms Yeoman and Mrs Smith, our Librarians kindly allowed us to do our annual Euroquiz in the Library.

Senior pupils showed off their language skills by speaking Romanian, Spanish, Polish, and Tagalog.



We had a visit from the Aberdeen Language Ambassadors on Monday 30th September. Noah Houck and Bianca Blohberger came to Dyce Academy to promote the study of Languages and to share their experiences of travelling the world, learning all sorts of Languages from Russian to Turkish, German, Italian and French. Pupils had a great opportunity to find out from them what it was like to travel on your own to another country and speak another language in a real situation.



CRAFTING CLUB

Art Department – Monday lunchtimes

The school will be 40 years old in 2020 so the crafting club are working on plans for some sort of textile and needlework project which will celebrate this fact.

We want to have pupils and staff contributing to this piece so come along and share your ideas and skills.

See Mrs D Scott or Mrs D Reed

ECO GROUP

Art Department – Wednesday lunchtimes

This year two of our senior pupils are actively recruiting members from across all year groups to join and have their voices heard on topics such as Litter, Waste Minimisation, School Grounds, Biodiversity, Energy, Transport, Health and Well-Being, Food and the Environment, Water and Global Citizenship.

The pupils will be supported by a team of eight dedicated staff who will guide the pupils towards creating a strong Eco Committee. This committee will work with the school and community to create an action plan and a new eco code where they can aim to achieve a Green Flag Award.

This is an excellent opportunity to make a difference to your surroundings and be recognised for your efforts in shaping a sustainable future.

See Mrs Reed, Mr Evans, Mrs Binnie, Mrs Callan, Miss Howett, Mr MacDonald, or Miss Taylor for further information.

ART AND DESIGN

CIDM have been working on a range of different design briefs, skills and techniques.

They have begun looking at Graffiti and Mural Wall art and studying some of the Nu Art artists and their work in Aberdeen. As a class they are aware that the school will be 40 next year so they have started taking photographs and creating collages which could be turned into 'wall art'. At this early stage they are aiming at creating individual pieces but watch this space as a larger commemorative piece of art work could be ready for display.

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS ROAD RACE

On a hot day in Dunfermline the Dyce boys were at it again this time swapping their spikes for roads with the course being undulating meaning extremely hilly, so not a course for a fast time but they were ready for a fight.

After S1 to S3 races finished and the final warm-up prep done, nutrition taken on, Kieran Downie was first to run 2.17 miles. After a fast start it lead to the downhill section through which Kieran was able to get a clean lineout of his group that had boxed him in, to fight all the way up the long hill. He had himself in a good place to attack the downhill. As a group they worked hard to keep together and pull away. Kieran took the pace on the uphill section and came down to a sprint finish. The Dyce athlete finished a respectable 71st place and held on to beat his little pack of runners to run a solid time - well done to Kieran.



Now time for the final race of the day with Dyces' Jordan Cruickshank racing in it. The 2.75 mile lap had the constant climb twice with the bigger of the two main climbs 3 times but not a quick course. The race set off quick very bunched up to start with no room to pick up the pace at all but the downhill section came at the right time for the Dyce athlete to pull away from his group and latch on to another of the chasing packs up the climb. Working hard to pull through the groups back onto the down-hill and kept with this group for the rest of the way. The last kick for the Dyce athlete just coming in short in the sprint finish but finishing in a respectable 34th - well done to Jordan.



The boys did very well on a brutal course and did their school proud - well done boys!



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ABERDEEN

P&J LIVE AT TECA

11 November 2019

5pm-7pm

12 November 2019

9:30am-3pm

- 14-24 year olds
- Free entry
- Free group travel bursary contribution available for year groups S4-S6 (*terms and conditions apply*)
- Families and Individuals welcome.

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