

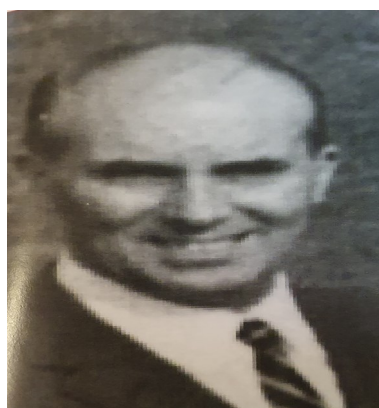
THE STORY BEGINS!

THE SWINGING SIXTIES

The school of St. Francis Xavier's was first located in Manor Street and opened in 1852. 20 years later, the school relocated to Callendar Riggs and in 1904 it was extended to Silver Row.

In 1960, the school moved to its current site, here on Merchiston Avenue where we are now celebrating its 60th Anniversary on this site. However, St. Francis Xavier's Primary School has been educating children for 168 years.

The Headteacher was Mr Duncan O'Hara at the time of the opening of the new school. He was replaced by James Crampsey in 1964.



INTERVIEW WITH MISS

AILEEN McFEAT

Former pupil and Depute Headteacher, Miss Aileen McFeat fondly shared some of her St. Francis Xavier's memories with Eve Donaldson, Romana Amjad and Rachael Campbell.

Miss McFeat attended St. Francis from April 1966 to 1973. Her Primary One teacher was Mrs Sandra Orrack and the Head Teacher was James Crampsey. The school uniform was same as the one the children wear today - red and black striped tie, grey skirt or trousers, white shirt and a black blazer with the school badge on it. Her favourite teacher was Mrs Strain, closely followed by Mrs Bennie.

She recalls that classes were much bigger then and she had 48 children in her class - 25 of them boys and 23 girls. They sat in rows, rather than groups, which she liked as it meant that it was quiet and she could get on with her work. The mornings consisted of the three R's—reading, writing and Arithmetic. The afternoon focus was 45 minutes of R.E. each day, then crafts, gym, music or Social Studies. The teachers were strict. Discipline and good manners were important. The children were encouraged to respect their elders, speak properly and live a good life like Jesus. She remembers the belt, and believes that it was a deterrent, but it was used sparingly.

The school day was much longer in the 1960's with the day beginning at 9 and finishing at 4.00. They not only had a morning break, but also an afternoon interval. At playtime, all the children got a small bottle of milk. Lunch was served in the hall and there were two sittings - for girls then boys. Girls were always first, so the boys always got extras if there was any left! Children sat at tables of 8, and they were served by a P7 pupil who would collect their food from "the hatch." The best day was a Friday, as it was "fish and chips day." All the children loved the puddings, especially the caramel shortcake. After lunch the P7 pupils cleared the tables. Teachers also had their lunch in the hall, served by a P7 pupil - all the P7 pupils wanted to serve the teachers as it was a privilege.

Her favourite subjects were Maths and PE, which she excelled at. Her competitive nature and natural sporting ability meant that she was picked for the school netball team in P6 - when it was only usually P7 girls that got to be in the team. That year, St. Francis won the Schools League. Aileen fondly remembers being part of the School Band. P5 - P7's could be in the band and Aileen was the Conductor. The Band participated in Falkirk's District Festival Competition and played, King of the Mountain Hall. She also remembers the school having a very successful football team, which her brother played for.



After leaving St. Francis Miss McFeat went to St. Mungo's High School then returned to St. Francis as class teacher in 1983. She went on to become Depute Head before leaving in 2012 to be Head Teacher of St. Joseph's - having spent more than 35 years happy years in St. Francis Primary School!

BEATLEMANIA

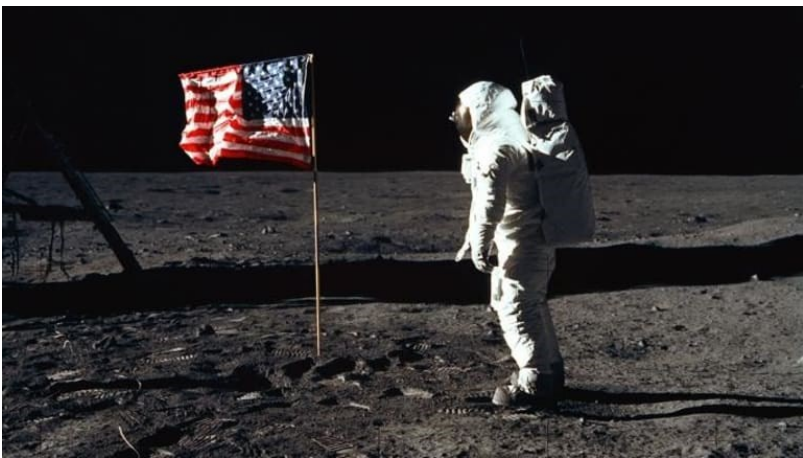


The Beatles burst onto the music scene in 1962 with their first hit, Love Me Do. John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr's popularity grew quickly and they became one of the most influential bands of the 1960's. They went on to have 17 number one hits.

THE SPACE AGE

In 1961, Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space. One month later, Alan Shepard became the first American in space.

Millions watched in 1969 as American, Neil Armstrong took his first steps on the Moon. Accompanied in Apollo 11 by Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins they became the first men to successfully land on the Moon. Neil Armstrong described the event as, *"One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."*



FILM RELEASES

101 Dalmatians—1961

Mary Poppins - 1964

The Jungle Book—1967

THE LISBON LIONS

In 1967 Celtic became the first British club to lift the European Cup after defeating Inter Milan, 2-1 in

Lisbon. This team became fondly known as the Lisbon Lions.



1960s FASHION

In the early 60's women wore mini skirts and leather boots and men wore Paisley shirts and velvet trousers. 1966, saw the introduction of Psychedelic clothes with bright colours for both men and women and the age of the Hippie is born.

Jackie Kennedy, Twiggy and Mary Quant became fashion icons.



ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

- John F Kennedy was elected the President of America in 1961. He was assassinated in Dallas in November, 1963.
- U.S. Civil Rights Leader, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous *"I Have a Dream"* speech. He was assassinated in 1968.
- The Berlin Wall was erected - it completely cut off West Berlin from East Berlin.
- The Vietnam War took place between 1965-1969.