

KINGUSSIE HIGH SCHOOL



November Newsletter

November 2009

We have had a busy few weeks including prelims for S4, completion of our window replacement programme and electric cars driving round in the playground!

The electric cars had us on the TV and we also featured on Radio Scotland for our after school Roller Ski Club.

I hope you find the information inside of interest - we have a great number of exciting activities going on in many areas of the school.

In addition we include the sample menus from our canteen. The Catering Staff are working wonders in the busy canteen to provide a variety of tasty lunches. At present we are looking to increase canteen capacity.

Please remember to contact me at the school about any issue.

John G Tracey
Head Teacher

**Mon
30th Nov**
in the High School Hall

7.30pm
for tea and shortbread
Begins 8.00pm Prompt

£5 Entry
£3 Concession
£12 Family Ticket

Kingussie
High School
presents a

Homecoming Celebration

An evening of traditional music,
drama, poetry and song.
Featuring the first performance from the
Badenoch and Strathspey Schools Pipe Band
An a wee bit shortbread.
In aid of the Malawi project

Kingussie High School
Ruthven Road, Kingussie PH21 1ES
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HIGHER GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK



On Friday 13th November, the Higher Geography class took part in fieldwork in the Cairngorm area. Having just finished studying glaciation and National parks it was time to go outside and have a look at examples within this area.

There are many examples of glacial features of erosion and deposition in the area: Roche moutonees near Dulnain Bridge, corries, arêtes and erratics up Cairngorm, kames at Loch Insh. These and many more features were looked at, discussed, sketched and photographed. The Cairngorm Rangers Nic Bullivant and Rory Macdonald also helped out by taking the group on a guided walk into Corrie Cas and Corrie an-t Sneachda. The group looked at conflict within the park, discussing aspects such as footpath erosion, the Poo Project and access for climbers and walkers from the ski area.

DO YOU DO ANY INTERNET SHOPPING?

You can help raise funds for Kingussie High School PARENT COUNCIL at no extra cost to yourself.
easyfundraising.org.uk

If you register with the web site and then enter the retailer of your choice via the web site a percentage of your purchases or a donation goes to the cause of your choice.

Kingussie High School Parent Council are registered as a cause and can be found in the list on the web page. All you have to do is choose us as your nominated cause.

Please have a look at the web site and if you decide to use it to help us raise funds then put it in your favourites.

GRAPHIC DESIGN AWARD

Well done to Katy Franks who recently received the CAD Graphic Design Award for S1/2 2009. In addition to the Award scroll, Katy received various goodies including software and book related to Graphic Design.

AFTER SCHOOL ROLLER SKI CLUB

Highland Nordics After School Club is going from strength to strength. The group of committed skiers were recently interviewed by Radio Scotland - this was broadcast two weeks ago on the Outdoor Programme at 7am on Sunday morning. If you missed that or it was a bit early for you then you can download it as an icaste! The group of enthusiastic, fun skiers have all achieved their 'yellow award' badges and are now working towards their orange award - well done! Weather permitting they are all looking forward to transferring newly acquired skills onto snow soon!



HIGHLAND LEARNING FESTIVAL

By Lauren Gunning 1 Tromie and Bradley Willies 1 Feshie

The Highland Learning Festival was held at Dingwall Academy on the 27 October. We were picked from our primary 7 class from last year, to come up with a power-point and commentary for this festival. Our presentation was on the Transition Project between primary and high school and based around Global Citizenship, the theme being the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. After three weeks of working together with Mrs Duthie and Mrs Reid-Evans we had all finished our work and were heading up to Dingwall for the presentation. We presented our table top activities developed during primary 7. Our presentations went very well, although we did not have many viewers the people that did come were very interested and came around to look at our games that we had on display. Some of the teachers said that they were going to use some of our ideas in their classes. We thought that by the end of the day we had all shared quite a lot about children's rights and had learnt about teamwork and presentation skills.

Children in Need!

As part of the Children in Need fundraising effort the whole school had a "Dress Down Day" last Friday with donations going to Children in Need. There were many amazing outfits to be seen on the day, especially amongst the S6 who had gone to a lot of effort to look the part. They also took part in a very muddy Children in Need project at lunchtime afternoon. Several staff and S6 pupils braved the elements on a very wet day as pupils paid money to throw sponges - which soon became very muddy when they bounced along the ground! To finish on a high, the volunteers were asked questions and if they wrote down the correct answer to a simple question, they escaped the bucket of water over the head. Unfortunately (due to the rain) none of the pens worked and so all had a VERY VERY wet ending!



The Coop sponsored the event by providing Fair Trade foods for the break. Bill Sadler from the Coop engaged young people in discussions on the issue of Fair Trade while they sampled these goodies.

Feedback from the students is very positive. They enjoyed the day and felt that it is correct for them to be challenged to think about their impact on Human Rights. Most recognised that they had responsibilities to make sure everyone has the same Human Rights even if it means we need to change how we live.

Kingussie High School students wish to thank Janis Keast and Alison Pyott from Highland One World Group, Wendy Young and Alice Allen from Christian Aid, Ross Bartlett from Red Cross, Sarah Watson from Oxfam and Brenna Nyznik and Sarah Brown from Mercy Corps.

Following the workshops delegates were asked to do something different. This included recycling more and getting families to try to do the same, as well as reducing carbon footprints. Some delegates will take more note of where products come from before they buy and others will be more aware of the environment and global issues. Hopefully all the delegates shared what they learnt at home and small changes will be happening within the school community.

TOURISM AWARDS

Members of staff and pupils attended the Highlands and Islands Tourism awards as guests of the Auld Alliance Gourmet Academy. Under the leadership of Lydie Bocquillon, the Academy had been shortlisted in the highland finals. This was under the community category, due partly to the work undertaken in the school and also the Food Film Festival. Unfortunately they were pipped at the post. A great night was had by all, with some great food and excellent entertainment from the Red Hot Chilli Pipers. The keynote speaker on the night was the first minister Alec Salmond.



S5/6 CONFERENCE

Thursday 19th November saw the first Global Conference for senior pupils at Kingussie High School. The theme for the day was Human Rights and the students were challenged with the question "What has it to do with me?" Students had the opportunity to work with people they might not normally work with as S5 and S6 were mixed up for the day. Workshops were facilitated by representatives from a variety of local and international organisations. Students were challenged on a wide range of issues from recycling values, to discrimination, from asylum seekers and refugees to climate change. Young people were asked to be involved in taking local and global actions to protect Human Rights and they all made individual pledges at the end of the conference to make changes to help protect everyone's Human Rights.



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CHRISTMAS DANCES

Junior Dance Tuesday 15 Dec
Senior Dance Thursday 17 Dec
❁❁❁

£12 senior £6 junior

Tickets will be available from 2-4 December

- listen for info in the daily notes

Buses from Aviemore and Newtonmore

DON'T MISS OUT!

Prize Bingo

With a Christmas Theme



At Kingussie High School

On

Tuesday 8th December 2009

"Eyes Down" at 7pm

Lots of great prizes

Refreshments

Raffle

Organised by the Ucan Club and the
Malawi Group

All proceeds to be divided between Mary's
Meals and the Malawi Group trip

**Please come along and give your
support - it will be an evening of fun and
entertainment**

What's new with the Ucan Club

We have lots of new members, who are bringing loads of enthusiasm and new ideas. So why not encourage your son/daughter to come along and find out more?

We meet at lunchtimes on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays in Stanners Bank.

During the last week of term we will be helping the S1 pupils to complete their Backpack collection for children in Malawi. If you have any more donated items for the backpacks please send them to the school.

For further information please contact Mrs Rimell or Mrs Duthie at school

Ucan Dates:

Ucan Club members are very busy preparing for several fundraising activities. Here are some dates for your diary:

Sunday 6th December: Sales Table at the Kingussie Sunday Christmas Market

We will be selling home baking (especially cakes, biscuits and sweeties), Christmas cards and labels, Christmas gifts and novelties, candles and candle holders.

You will find the stall by the Post Office and the sports shop in Kingussie. Please come along and give your support.

Tuesday 8th December: Prize Bingo

Lots of super prizes with a Christmassy theme. Eyes down at 7pm

This year the Ucan Club is joining forces with the Malawi Group so we have an even bigger and better evening. Full details of the event are displayed on posters throughout the community.

Friday 11th December: Sales Table at the Christmas Fayre in Talla nan Ros, Kingussie

This event is organised by the Parent Council. We will be selling all kinds of Christmas gifts and goodies on our stall.

If you would like to offer help by donating prizes for Bingo, provide home baking for our Christmas Stalls or in any other way then please the Ucan Club or the Malawi Group.

Thank you – we couldn't do all this without your support.

BEING A GHOST IN INVERNESS

On the 30th and 31st of October some pupils from the KHS Drama Club took part in a Halloween event on Ness Islands. Lorraine Blyth from Eden Court explained what we had to do. Basically, we had to jump up at people and scare them. However, we also had great fun doing short improvisations as dead pirates stranded on the small island underneath the bridge joining two of the islands.

After getting into costume, I helped with doing the group's make-up.



Unfortunately there were only two pots of white face paint between everyone taking part in various activities (about 50 people in total), and they had to last two

nights! When everyone was looking decidedly "dead", we sat in the dressing room and went over exactly what we were going to do once we were on the island. Lorraine told us that she would be Captain John, barking orders at us throughout the night. We then went to our location and set up everything we would need – lights, props and the soundtrack – and waited until it was time to open. The first visitors came over the bridge and we got great reactions from them. Jumping up, waving foam swords about and yelling pirate phrases seemed to work. However, as there were over 7,000 visitors that night, and all of them stopped to look at what we were doing, a bottleneck soon began to build up on the bridge and we had to stop for about half an hour to let it clear.

My favourite part of the event was the fake fighting. Jessie and I came up with a story about men's poor driving skills. We agreed that Robert was driving the ship when he heard the sirens (who were another feature on the islands). He was lured, by their song, into the rocks where he crashed and stranded us on the tiny island. Whenever the Captain gave the order, we fought Robert one by one, and were 'killed'.

We all thought that the event was great fun, and would love to do it again. I certainly think it was worthwhile doing, even if we did get a bit wet in the rain!

By Kirsty Turnbull S5

SENIOR FOOTBALL

Senior boys enjoyed their match against Inverness High School and did very well to achieve a 3-1 victory despite their lack of experience on astro turf. Goal scorers were Andrew MacDonald, Thomas Borthwick and Ryan Borthwick while Connor Gemmell McDonald put on an excellent debut performance. Last Saturday seniors also did well to win against Nairn 6:1. Goal scorers this time were Ryan Borthwick (3), Connor Gemmell McDonald, Stuart Downey and Ryan McConnell.

PARENT COUNCIL



Christmas Market

Friday 11 December

Talla Nan Ros

10.30-5.30pm

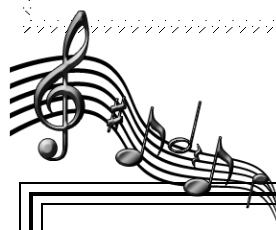
Free entry- Superb Christmas Shopping Opportunity

Stalls-Refreshments-Bottle Tombola-Grand Raffle

Entertainment by local youngsters (At regular intervals throughout the day)

Come along and see Cairngorm Reindeer (10.30-12.00).

(All proceeds to Kingussie High School Parent Council funds)



To put you in the mood for Christmas.....

An evening of Christmas magic in music and song

Featuring Coire Choristers with Christopher Josey

Local musicians, young and 'not so young'
All your favourite Christmas Music -
Traditional and Modern

An evening not to be missed!

Talla Nan Ros

11th December

7.30pm

Tickets £5.00 adults/£3.00 children

* Ticket prices include mulled wine and mince pies (Non alcoholic drink for U18's)

Please buy tickets in advance from Kingussie Post Office or ring 01540 662294 or 662423

(All funds raised to Kingussie High School Parent Council)



STARWRITER

Well done to Erin Kish from 3 Gynack who, earlier this year, was a winner in The Association of Scottish Literary Studies schools writing competition. Erin's story, entitled "My Heart is in the Highlands", took her to first prize in this national competition. Hopefully, she will build on this strength in creative writing and perhaps develop into a published author in the future. Her story is set out below.



MY HEART IS IN THE HIGHLANDS

*There were men coming, the shout went round. The laird's men most likely.
Coming to turn us out, but we wouldn't be turned out.*

Suddenly we heard screaming and saw the frightened children come running. The laird's men had pitchforks and my father let out a blood curdling scream as it went through his skull. My mother was in hysterics, she was pregnant with her fourth child and its father had just been murdered. I was empty of emotion, too many times had my father beaten me for me to break down in tears at his death. Anyway this was not the time. My older brother was grabbing some belongings and yelling at me to get some food. I ran into the old hut and shoved some food into an old tattie sack. I scooped up my little sister into my arms and hurried out the door. The smell of terror hung in the air mingling with the scent of blood. Lots of families were fleeing to these hills but my mother was too heavy with child to go running into the hills.

We were rounded up like animals and herded along the rough dusty road. My mother was weeping for her dead husband and my little sister for her beloved house and cot. We were shoved and beaten to move faster and dragged along the road. My brother pleaded for some water for my poor mother but the answer was a harsh resounding, "NO". You could smell the filthy richness of the men who were taking away our freedom from us. See the solid determination set like steel on their faces. How could so few individuals destroy so many lives? Further down the road we were told to stop. The soldiers gave us all a cup of water, and told us to go to sleep.

That night I was woken by rustling sound next to my head. I saw my brother stand up and he was immediately surrounded. He pleaded with them until they let him go a short way off into the trees. When he came back I shifted to rest my head on his chest. I listened for his heartbeat. All was silent. I sat up in alarm and shook him awake. He shoved me away and went back to sleep. I resumed my earlier position and fell into a restful sleep.

I was woken next morning by a loud shouting. Someone had run off. The whole "camp" was in turmoil. Half the soldiers were sent looking and the other half started us on our way.

Late that afternoon we arrived at the boat. It was a wreck already! How was it going to cross the Atlantic? We were herded inside and down into the bottom where the rats crawled and the bedpans were stored. FULL bedpans! It was on that horrible vessel halfway across the Atlantic my baby brother was born. A screaming bundle of well not joy anyway.

Two years later and that same bundle of joy was sitting in a bath screaming like his life depended on it, whilst my brother and I stood by. My little sister had been one of the many victims of that hateful vessel and its hateful crew. But we had moved on and started anew. I turned to my brother and voiced my thoughts on Canada, "It's not that bad after all is it?"

"Aye, he replied, but my heart's in the Highlands."

MALAWI PROJECT 2010 NEWS



As many of you already know Kingussie High School has a link with Muloza Community Day Secondary School (CDSS) in the Mulanje district in southern Malawi. Just as our community is set in the shadow of Cairngorm Mountain, Muloza lies at the base of Mount Mulanje, a vast isolated granite massif rising to 3002m, the highest point in central Africa. The link was established in 2007 after a study visit by Mr Duthie supported by the Scotland Malawi Partnership. In 2008 two staff from Muloza CDSS visited Kingussie and enjoyed 10 days of intensive activities both in school and within the community. During the visit we established a Partnership Agreement to link the schools for the benefit of pupils allowing for development of Global Citizenship themes, exchange of pupil materials, comparative studies and opportunities to explore each other's culture as well as sharing learning and teaching practices and methodologies. In 2009 Mrs Stewart and Mr Mackintosh visited Muloza bringing back lots of enthusiasm for the link project and a better understanding of some of the challenges faced by staff and pupils in Malawi.

In the summer of 2010 a group of S5 and S6 students along with four staff will be travelling to Muloza CDSS to further develop the link. Our young people are hoping to learn with their peers in Muloza CDSS. Most of our young people have a Sports Leader Award and we hope to organise sporting activities within the school - we might even try to share some shinty skills. We will also be leading workshops and activities on issues such as HIV/AIDS, Rights of the Child and Gender Inequality. There will be opportunities for cultural exchanges and time to experience life in a country very different from Scotland.

As you can imagine this project will require much funding and fundraising is an important part of the overall project giving our young people leadership and personal development opportunities. Kingussie High School students will learn many new skills and gain first hand knowledge of many global issues. The costs of the project are being met by a mixture of direct payment and group fund raising. Many of the young people involved have part time jobs to raise their contribution and are looking for support from family, friends and the community.

So far we have raised £1400 towards our total of about £15,000.

A group provided soup and sandwiches for the Strathspey Away weekend in early November. We are grateful to



the families who provided soup on the Sunday. The young people made a great team of sandwich makers. Calum and Mr Mackintosh had a great time selling cakes to anyone who looked interested. Two parents, Dot Haggerty and Mike Donaghy, invited their friends to supper and charged them to eat. They even had some of the young people manning a bar and charging for drinks. Everyone entered into the spirit of the evening and we want to thank Dot and Mike and their friends for raising over £700 towards the project.

Everyone was on hand at the S3 Parents' Evening as the Malawi Project Group have taken over the catering for the year. Donations were sought for refreshments during the evening including home baking donated by students and parents. The young people offered to look after younger children parents spoke to teachers for a donation with juice and biscuits included. Scott and Conor had a treasure hunt with a mystery prize going to the winning square. Scott's mum made some tablet for sale and others donated home-made chutneys and jams. Thanks to everyone for their support. The group will be at every parents' meeting this session hoping to offer a first class service in return for small donations.

A car boot sale was attended by Calum and Chloe on a wet Saturday morning. Thanks to families and



friends for items to sell. Please keep these coming as we intend to go to another sale soon. Mrs Mossman is happy to take donations in room 3.

Joanne's mum has produced a quiz

sheet with a £10 prize for the most correct

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answers - entries due by 20th March. This will be available on Parents' Nights.

The young people have devised a logo that you will see in the community and hope to soon have T-shirts printed with the support of the Braeriach Hotel in Newtonmore.

Forthcoming events - please support us:

26 November	Bake Sale - Kingussie High School
30 November	St Andrew's Night Concert in conjunction with Music and Technology Depts
2 December	S1 Parents' Night
8 December	Prize Bingo in conjunction with UCAN Club
11 December	Christmas Stall at Parent Council Market
13 December	Shopping Bus to Glasgow
18/19 December	Supporting Newtonmore Pantomime
22 December	Christmas Bake Sale - Kingussie High School

KHS/CBNSC Juniors roll on to more Championship Success on rollerskis

With older Club Members away in the Alps for High Altitude Glacier training at the end of October, it was the turn of Cairngorm Biathlon & Nordic Ski Club Juniors from KHS to make the winning headlines at the GB Rollerski Championships, this year held on the motor racing circuit at Castle Combe in Wiltshire.



This was also the Final Round of the 11 Race GB Rollerski Series and the last rollerski race of a year that has again seen CBNSC Juniors continuing their success in this demanding sport. With the Under-18 Boys Series Title already secured by Scott Dixon

(Calum Irvine taking second place) and the Under-14

Series Title taken by Jaeger Lamont, it was George Rea who took the Honours that day, storming to a terrific win in the Under 14 Boys GB Championship Event. The



CBNSC Under-14 Boys from KHS have dominated the Series this year with Jaeger Lamont, George Rea and Robert Sircus all taking victories, winning eight of the eleven races between them, with the remaining three



going to another KHS pupil, Jamie Homyer of Highland Nordic.

In the Under 18 Girls Championship there was an excellent win for Katy Homyer of the Highland Nordic Club who also confirmed her dominance of the Under 18 Series this year. Returning to competition for the first time in a year there was also a very pleasing second place for Eleanor Lawrie, winner of the title last year, also securing 3rd equal place for her in the GB Rollerski Series. In the Under 14 Girls Event it was Catriona Dudgeon from Feshie Bridge who took the Championship Honours, securing her own dominant position as the leading girl for her age group with Hannah Richardson also taking points as an under-12 competitor.

CBNSC are based at Glenmore Lodge and during the winter meet at 1.30pm on Saturday afternoons with another fitness training session on Wednesday evenings also at Glenmore Lodge. If snow conditions are suitable this session may alternatively take place out of doors using available light and Head Torches. Further information and photographs showing the KHS pupils and others in action can be seen on the Club website at www.cbnscc.co.uk or by contacting Club Chairman Rex Sircus on 01540 651554.

UNDER 15 BOYS' FOOTBALL

The boys produced a great performance against a much larger and physically stronger Nairn Academy team on Saturday 21 November. They were very unlucky to be held to a 3-3 draw. Nairn's opening goal came mid way through the first half and was against the run of play. The scores were soon levelled with a bullet header by Jack Jeffries from an excellent whipped in corner kick. The second half found Kingussie dominating with their quick passing game slicing through the opposition. An excellent move involving Lachlan Macgregor, Keiran Partridge and Neil Stewart provided the opportunity for Drew Dawson to score. Unfortunately the boys "switched off" at this point and allowed Nairn to score a break-away goal and then one from a corner. Pushed on by captain Callum McGregor, the home side fought their way back into the game and were rewarded by a clinical drive from Neil Stewart which just "sneaked" inside the post. Nairn finished strongly and Kingussie were indebted to goalkeeper Rory McGregor for his outstanding double save in the final minute of the match. Training is on every Tuesday after school with Mr McIntyre and Mr Mackintosh. All boys in S.2 and S.3 are welcome to come along.