

KINGUSSIE HIGH SCHOOL



Summer Newsletter

June 2010

This is the last Parents' Newsletter for session 2009-10. It seems to have flown by but it has been busy and eventful as all sessions are.

The last few weeks have seen us back to the normal routines after Study Leave, Activities Week, S6 Induction and the like. Our normal routines have included visits by our Primary 7/new S1 pupils. Two busy days for them to help them get used to the building, the staff and the way we work. Quite a change for them but very exciting.

We have also heard that the new building to replace the huts will be built - great news! However, it won't start until financial year 2012-2013 - a great disappointment. Our pupils and Parent Council have been campaigning very effectively. Our local councillors and Highland MSPs have backed this campaigning. It is agreed by all that we are very overcrowded and that our huts need to be replaced as they are not fit for purpose. Yet another 4 years could pass before our pupils and staff can work in acceptable conditions. It does not seem fair.

Shame to have a negative note but it's summer. The holidays are here! I wish everyone a relaxing and refreshing time over the next few weeks. See you in August!

John Tracey
Head Teacher

GRADUATION 2010

Our annual Graduation Ceremony took place on 17 June where parents and friends were given the opportunity to take part in a "formal" farewell to all the pupils finishing their time at KHS. After an introduction by Mr Tracey and some last minute instructions from Mr Ross the pupils went up on stage individually where their respective Guidance teachers said a few words about them and their school career. This was followed by the presentation of Leavers Certificates and 2010 pen. The School Captains then said a few words, cut the cake and the official photograph was taken. The evening ended with strawberries and cream which was enjoyed by all.



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FILMING

Congratulations to Huw Mitchell on winning a Bronze award in the Scottish Schools Animation Awards organised by the University of Western Scotland. His film, 'Bite at the Movies' was very well received by the judges. You can see Huw's film by finding KingussieFoodonFilm on Youtube.



REVENGE OF THE HAGGIS

Kirree from PhoenixVP Film Company visited the Technology department during the activities week in May. She was here to help pupils create a film called 'Revenge of the Haggis'. This is to be an entry for next sessions Food on Film project. The pupils spent four days coming up with ideas, writing and rewriting scripts, filming and recording sounds. Some of the pupils spent time working on the titles and theme music, composing their own pieces of work. Kirree helped mainly with sound recording, demonstrating how effective the sounds and music can be on a film. She helped them to edit a scene where the pupils are tucking in to a grand plate of haggis, neeps n tatties. The purpose of the project was to allow two of the pupils to direct the complete movie. This was a very valuable learning situation where the two pupils were completely in charge of 10 others. The teachers really enjoyed watching this part of the project but to be fair to the two lads, they did very well. We look forward to seeing the final edited version at the Food on Film Festival in February next year.

GB ROLLERSKI CHAMPIONSHIP 2010

The Cairngorm Biathlon and Nordic Ski Club once again played host to the annual rollerski race on the Cairngorm Ski Road which for the first time this

year was also recognised as the British Rollerski Championship for 2010.

Swirling mists on the Mountain tops and light rainfall did nothing to dampen spirits on the day, accompanied by the sound of the pipes and drums of the Badenoch and Strathspey Schools Pipe Band as every race set off. A strong field in the Under 14 races was led home by Jaeger Lamont (13) from KHS. The Under 14 Girls' Championship was taken by Catriona Dudgeon (13) of CBNSC from KHS. A very pleasing result coming just two weeks after a painful fall in an earlier event, with Hannah Richardson 3rd, Shona Irvine 5th and Rhona Convery 6th. In the boys Under 18 race it was Calum Irvine (15) of KHS and CBNSC racing to a superb win with Robert Sircus (14) of CBNSC 3rd and Sam Cairns 4th. The Under 18 Girls' Title was taken by Katy Homyer (16) of the Highland Nordic Club at Insh.

A total of 21 racers then lined up for the Senior Event over the full course up to the Coire Cas Car Park with third place going to Scott Dixon (16) of CBNSC and from KHS in a time of 20 minutes and 53 seconds. Coming in at 6th place was his Father Mike Dixon of CBNSC to take the Bob Lacy Trophy for the First Placed Veteran (Over 40) in the British Rollerski Championship.

The Prize Giving Ceremony followed with Special Guest Olympian Noel Baxter of the Great Britain Alpine Ski Team handing out the trophies. In closing the Championship Race Director Rex Sircus of CBNSC thanked the many individuals who had worked so hard on the day and over a long period beforehand and commented on how important and how good it was to see so many talented young people now taking up the sport and helping to create a very promising future for Nordic skiing and Biathlon in this Country.



MALAWI PROJECT2010

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Pictured above are the intrepid travellers about to set off for Malawi. We wish them well on their

KART CLUB



CAIRNGORMS
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY



THIS PROJECT WAS PART-FINANCED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY [Cairngorms Local Action Group] LEADER 2007-2013 Programme

Sunday June 13th was the big day for the Greenpower challenge. This was an event held for Scottish Schools at the Alford Motor Museum. It involves building a car which takes TWO standard car batteries and the same prescribed electrical motor for all entrants. It's an endurance event, which lasts 4 hours. The winner is the car which covers the greatest distance. Kingussie entered the event last year with the 'Silver Streak' and we came in 9th out of 15 cars. This year, there were a total of 20 cars and we came in 5th in our brand new car and 18th in the Silver Streak.



The Silver Streak Mark II was last year's car with alterations. We replaced the wheels with bigger ones and changed the gearing. Unfortunately in the rush to get it finished we didn't have time to let the pupils practice. They found the new steering different and awkward. Some of our modifications then needed additional support. This actually meant we spent almost two hours in the pits. Of course, when we did get it going we were flying around the track, passing everybody, fairly eating up the miles. If we had been able to race for the full four hours, we would have been very close to the winning cars. You can see from one of the photos that the car took a fair bit of punishment. However, the chassis held together well and protected the pupils during the race. The Streak was built and driven by S2 pupils.



Our new car, named the Osprey, after the bird on the Cairngorm National Park Brand, did much better. This was a kit car purchased from Greenpower with several modifications fitted to it. The main change was a Tridium data logging system supplied by SHM Communications and designed and built by local



computer expert John Moyce. This system could not only keep a check on the speed, GPS positioning, voltage, current and temperature of our car, but was actually designed to control the heating, lighting, and electricity use in a multi storey building. A very powerful piece of equipment. The car sent out data to the internet in real time and allowed us to watch for battery power loss during the race. This was very much like an F1 computer screen, which we could access by logging on to the internet beside the track and watching the data coming in. We hope that

using this data will allow us to make significant changes to the design. With more testing we should be able to improve considerably. Over the course of the race we were only two miles behind the winning car. Quicker pit stops would have made a significant dent in the two miles. And being penalised for driving fast, didn't help. But after all it was a race! This car was built and raced by S4 and S5 pupils, particularly Connor Grant who made a significant commitment to the vehicle. **This Osprey project was part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community [Cairngorms Local Action Group] LEADER 2007-2013 Programme.** We are extremely grateful for this help. As part of this project we have been involved with the EV project in the Park. John Thorne from the Park came and gave talks to various classes and explained to them the significance of the Electrical Project in the National Park.

We'd very much like to thank all our sponsors and the parents who came along to the very wet weekend. They did us proud. And thanks to our two Engineers, John Moyce and Gus Carnegie, who have given up many personal hours to assist in this project. We're really looking forward to next year's challenge. If you want to visit our website, go to - <http://khs-electric-cars.moonfruit.com/>

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ASG MUSIC TRAIL



On Friday 18th June the KHS Choir went on a mini tour of Badenoch and Strathspey as part of the transition project for new S1. They visited Newtonmore Primary, Alvie Primary and finally Kingussie Primary before heading back to school. The choir sang songs in different styles which they have prepared over the year for various concerts and events. The programme included *Teach me the Blues*, *Caledonia*, *One Song*, *Scales and Arpeggios* and *Bring Him Home*. In between songs, Vicky Stables (3Sp) played Clarinet, Erin Crombie (4Sp) played Piano and Jessica Convery (4Sp) played Guitar as well as musical performances from some of the primary pupils. In Newtonmore, we heard a group of fiddlers; Alvie performed some songs they have been preparing through a Scottish Opera project and Kingussie presented a mixture of piping, singing, violin and piano. It was great to see the interaction between Primary and Secondary pupils and a good morning was had by all. Also, it was a great opportunity for the new choir uniforms to have an outing! Well done to Roma McCook in S6 for designing the logo.



KHS pupils help achieve an 'A' Grade and an international award

Below is a letter of thanks from a Slovakian student who asked some of our pupils to complete questionnaires about knowledge of and attitudes towards people with additional support needs. Peter gained an 'A' Grade for his thesis and also gained an international award. Well done, Peter and thank you to our pupils who responded.

"I would like to say thank you and specially some of your pupils to help me to do my diploma work. On September 2009 they answered my questions about people with learning disabilities. And after I have used their answers for research in my diploma work. The

work studies the opinions of young people about the integration of people with learning disabilities in Great Britain and Slovakia. It analyses the historical development of care issues for people with learning disabilities in these countries. It deals with governmental reforms and differences in care for this minority. This work represents the intermediate objective about recognition of the basic rights of people with learning disabilities and it interprets the individual steps to their integration in society."

Sincerely
Peter Brodnan
Slovakia

OLYMPIC PASSPORT

Well done to Katy Homyer who has been awarded a British Olympic Association Olympic Passport following recommendation by British Snowsports. This is awarded to athletes likely to appear at a future Olympic Games. It gives the athlete support and privileges in their training. Katy has regularly helped her school colleagues by coaching at the after school roller ski club. There have been 34 sessions this school year. Katy recently won the British Under 18 Roller Ski Championship - the fourth year in a row that she has been British Champion. Last season she gained a qualification for the European Youth Olympics and she awaits the announcement of the British Team this coming December. Her father will be the Cross Country Ski Team lead at Liberec, Czech Republic, where the EYO will take place next February.

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Action Earth success for Asdan Group!
 For the second year running, the Asdan Group have been successful in obtaining an Action Earth Award. This



grant has enabled the pupils to continue with the development project at Glebe Ponds in Kingussie. For the past two years pupil volunteers have worked with the local community, to develop and maintain these five acres of local natural beauty.

Recent developments include planting indigenous trees and shrubs and, to begin to prepare areas into a "close to nature" garden. Congratulations to the Asdan Groups for giving up their time to help with this valuable community facility. Their hard work really is beginning to make a difference.

What's new with the Ucan Club.....?

- ❖ The Ucan Club's Sales Stall at the Kingussie Karnival, and the Calvine Open Garden Day, continued to boost our funds for Mary's Meals. Well done to the boys and girls who gave up time during their weekend to help out.
- ❖ We had another very busy and successful backpacking day during the school's activities week. This has resulted in 70 more school bags for Malawi, filled with all the things a child needs for school. The day also included a presentation by Gaynoll Craig, who told the pupils all about her experiences with Mary's Meals in various parts of the world, including Haiti.
- ❖ Sales of hand crafted cards continue to increase. This year we have raised in excess of £400 by selling cards through the Kingussie Bookshop and Newtonmore Craft Centre.
- ❖ Ucan members have put together a collection of digital photos, for Mrs Duthie to take out to Malawi, which illustrate the many ways in which the school supports the Mary's Meals feeding programme and the backpack collection. We look forward to hearing more about how Mary's Meals operate first hand when teachers and pupils return from their trip to Malawi.

Looking ahead.....

- ❖ We look forward to presenting our annual cheque to Mary's Meals at the whole school assembly on the first day of next term, Tuesday 17th August. We hope to have a special guest who will accept the cheque on behalf of the school's favourite charity
- ❖ Another Sales Table is planned - this time for the special Harley Davidson Day which will be held in Kingussie on Sunday 29th August. Do please come along and give us your support.

May we take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports the Ucan Club and its activities? Pupils, teachers, parents and friends of the school.....you do so much to help us in so many different ways. We couldn't do it all without you. Have a great holiday.

No! It isn't a car boot sale, we really are backpacking!



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S6 INDUCTION

The new S6 started their academic year with a three day Induction Course based at Talla Nan Ros in Kingussie. Over the three days the year group took the opportunity to work together on a range of teambuilding tasks and activities. Thanks go to Barney MacKie from People Postive and the Navy and Royal Marines who added to the in-house expertise to get the young people to "think outside the box". Other programme items included an illustrated talk on Higher Education and Buddy Training.

Congratulations go to all the candidates who stood and spoke very well at the hustings for captaincy of the school and after the vote the results were: Girls' Captain: Fiona Duncan Bailey, Vice Captain: Shona Ross. Boys' Captain: Euan Convery, Vice Captain: Stan Genchev.

NORTH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

This year saw 23 Kingussie High School Athletes make the standard for the North Schools Athletics Championships which was held at Queen's Park running track on the 8th June. The squad of athletes produced some excellent performances bagging a total of 3 golds, 4 silvers and 6 bronze whilst breaking 4 school records in the process. This meant that KHS was one of the highest placed small schools in the final medal table. Lauren Gunning led the way with 2 gold medals in the U14 girls Shot putt and Javelin, managing to break the Javelin school record in the process. She was also chosen to represent the North Schools U15 Athletics Squad at the Scottish Inter Area championships. This is a fantastic achievement considering Lauren is still only 12 and has two years left in the age group. Competing last Thursday, in Grangemouth, she managed a bronze in the Javelin and a 5th place finish in the Shot Putt, a great result. The other gold medal went to Calum Irvine who comfortably won the U17 Boys 3000m. There were silvers for Jess Head in the U14 girls Shot Putt and Jake Cranston in the U17 Boys Shot Putt. Torin Prescott and Scott Dixon also took silvers and managed to break senior school records in the process. Scott ran a time of 4 mins 30secs in the U17 1500m to smash the school record by over 10secs and Torin Prescott jumped 1.65cm in the U17 boys High Jump to sneak past the old mark by 2cm. There was also bronze for Amy McGuigan in the U17 girls Triple Jump, Zoe Reid in the U14 girls Javelin, Jake Cranston in the U17 boys High Jump and Robyn Johnson in the U14 girls Triple Jump. Our relay quartets also competed well taking two bronze and a fourth place finish. The U14 girl's team of Lauren Gunning, Robyn Johnson, Jess Head and Shannin Cooke and the U14 boy's team of Alaisdair Smith, Jamie Munro, Rory MacKeachan and Jack Anderson took bronze in their respective races. Mr Dillon and Miss Alexander would like to congratulate all those who took part, medals or no medals, as they can be extremely proud of their attitudes and effort made throughout the day.

SFA NORTH SUMMER FINALISTS



Our S1/2 girls' team were away competing in the final stages of the above tournament at the Highland Football Academy in Dingwall on Wednesday 16th June. They did remarkably well considering the competition, especially from the Aberdeen teams who are well known for their strong girls' teams. Kingussie won their first game 1-0 against Wick after a great goal from Lauren Gunning. They then lost 1-0 against Mintlaw Academy, however the game could have gone either way with chances for both sides. They were then up against the tournament favourites, Peterhead! The girls were asked to simply give their all and try not to give anything away, giving their all is what they did and then

some! However luck was not on their side and eventually lost 1-0. The girls received a trophy for reaching the final stages from the president of the SFA who was up at the weekend to welcome Inverness Caley Thistle back into the Premier League. All in all, it was a fabulous day for the girls. Pupils involved were Eilidh Anderson, Amy Clark, Shannin Cooke, Chloe Dallas, Lauren Gunning, Jess Head, Robyn Johnson, Hannah Richardson, Rona Stewart

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SPORTS DAY



Sports Day was once again classed as a success. Pupil entries were in excess of 130 pupils, the weather stayed dry and the hungry athletes and spectators were well fed with the Parent Council putting on a BBQ.

Throughout the day the performances were mainly of a high standard with many pupils achieving personal bests in their own particular events. Six school records were broken on the day - not quite up to the 10 at last year's event! Records broken were:

S1 Girls Lauren Gunning - Shot Putt (9m 19)

Rona Stewart - Triple Jump (7m 42)

Anna Buxton - Discus (15m 96)

S2 Girls Jessica Head - Shot Putt (8m 11)

S3 Girls Robyn Macpherson - 300m (51.8)

S2 Boys Drew Dawson - 200m (27.22)

Other notable performances include Zac Brown in S3 Shot Putt (10m 65); Nathan Grant for S3 Boys' High Jump (1m 55); Robyn Johnson for S2 Girls' Triple Jump (8m 10); Liam Mullender for S2 Boys' High Jump (1m 40) and George Goddard who impressed throughout the day.

Once again the behaviour of all the pupils was exceptional and this is a credit to the attitude and effort of everyone involved. Thanks must go to all pupils and spectators for creating such a good atmosphere, all staff for their invaluable help and relay running skills and the janitorial staff for setting up the pitch. A special thanks must also go to the Parent Council for running the BBQ and raising funds to provide after school transport for extra curricular activities.

RESULTS

Below are details of all the champions, runners up and house point standings with the Senior School Sports (taking place at the end of this week) still to be added.

S1 GIRLS 1 Rona Stewart (34 points)

2 Anna Buxton (33 points)

3 Skye Stewart (32 points)

S2 GIRLS 1 Jessica Head (39 points)

2 Robyn Johnson (37 points)

3 Shona Irvine (28 points)

S3 GIRLS 1 Robyn Macpherson (39 points)

2 Sally Devlin (37 points)

3 Eilidh MacDonald (29 points)

S1 BOYS 1 Rory MacKeachan (36 points)

2 Alaisdair Smith (36 points)

3 Matthew Lawson (31 points)

S2 BOYS 1 Drew Dawson (39 points)

2 Liam Mullender (34 points)

3 John Cheyne (29 points)

S3 BOYS 1 George Goddard (39 points)

2 Callum MacGregor (33 points)

3= Sam Cairns (28 points)

3= Curtis Randall (28 points)

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS (with Senior Sports still to be added on Friday 25th June)

1	GYNACK	929 points
2	FESHIE	604 points
3	SPEY	570 points
4	TROMIE	552 points

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EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORTS TEAM VOLUNTEERS

KHS is always looking for volunteers to take extra curricular sports clubs after school or to take teams to school games and tournaments. At the moment the extra curricular sports teams and clubs deliver a wide range of activities to the pupils throughout the year and pupils get a considerable amount of opportunities to compete against other schools. However, as with all smaller roll secondary schools, there is always a finite number of staff available to do this compared to the schools with bigger rolls and teacher numbers. As a result of this we sometimes struggle to offer as much as we would like to. We are particularly interested in starting up girls Shinty training after school as well as S1 boys' football. However, any help with existing teams or clubs would be most welcome. If any parents are interested in helping out with teams or getting involved with coaching after school please feel free to contact Mr Dillon in the PE dept at any time.

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