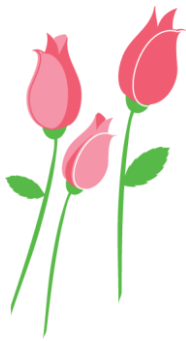


KINGUSSIE HIGH SCHOOL



April Newsletter

April 2010

This is a serious term for many of our pupils and as is always the case, this getting serious happens at the time when the weather improves. Third year tests have nearly been completed with S4 Study Leave starting on Monday 26th and S5/6 Study Leave starting on Monday 10th May. Please support your daughters and sons at this time - it makes a difference.

Inside there are updates on various activities and events. One event coming up I'm looking forward to is the session on the Teenage Brain led by our Educational Psychologist, James McTaggart. Details inside. We also look forward to our Global Week (beginning 10th May), to our Activities Week which includes S1 Residential at Badaguish and the London Trip, to our Sports Day.....wow, isn't this a busy term?

If you have anything for the Newsletter, please let us know. I'm happy to be contacted at the school.

John Tracey
Head Teacher

SPORT RELIEF 2010

Last month KHS pupils and staff raised a grand total of £833 for Sport Relief by participating in various challenges throughout the week. These included a staff v pupils dodgeball match as well as many individual challenges such as press ups and keepie uppies. The culmination of the week was the Sport Relief Mile on Friday. Scott Dixon challenged Mr Wilson and won! The atmosphere was fantastic with some pupils crawling round, some staff doing the mile three legged and everyone simply joining in the atmosphere, making it a very enjoyable day and supporting a very worthwhile cause.



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WORLD BOOK DAY THURSDAY 4 MARCH

S1 pupils were treated to a live broadcast with writer Michael Rosen (Children's Laureate 2007-09). Rosen entertained and inspired the S1's with his stories and poems followed by a question and answer session. His lively and humorous performance was a great way to celebrate World Book Day. Edited highlights of the session available at www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/authorslive. The English Department also handed out £1 book tokens to pupils in S1 and S2.

'IS IT OKAY TO PRAY FOR A SISTER?'

Just one of the questions asked last term at one of the Scripture Union groups at KHS! There are two Scripture Union Groups at KHS to which everyone is welcome - 'Connect' for S1/2 on a Monday lunchtime and 'Revolution' for S3-6 on a Friday lunchtime. Both these groups are run by Gillian Orr (Youth Worker for Abernethy Presbytery) and are a fun and interactive way to explore the Christian faith. 'I really enjoy these lunchtime groups - we always have a good time together and laugh a lot and they always ask challenging questions!' said Gillian. A new SU group has just started at Grantown Grammar called 'Impact' and it's hoped that a link can be set up with 'Connect'. If you would like any more information on the SU groups or SU Holidays which run during the summer holidays contact Gillian at gillianorr.cosyouth@googlemail.com

SAD NEWS

We were saddened to hear of the death of Hector Robertson, Area Education Manager, Hector was a very good listener who supported Kingussie High School well.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of Bill McConachie who was a long-serving member of Kingussie High School Board and his commitment to the school, its pupils and staff was invaluable.

MUSIC EXAM SUCCESS

Congratulations to the following pupils who have recently sat external music exams through ABRSM - all that practice and hard work has paid off!

Anna Buxton - 1 Tromie - Grade 3 piano

Rhona Convery - 2 Gynack - Grade 4 piano
Jennifer Cleworth - 5 Tromie - Grade 4 piano
Jessica Turner - 5 Tromie - Grade 4 theory
Mairianne Young - 5 Tromie - Grade 5 piano
Megan Rugar Gilliatt - 6 Spey - Grade 5 piano



DANISH VISITORS

Last week Kingussie High welcomed a group from Lynghøj Efterskole in the north of Jutland in Denmark. This group of 15 senior pupils (pictured here alongside KHS pipers) were based in Aviemore at the youth hostel and spent a day participating in lessons in KHS. The day included making shortbread and playing shinty as well as the more familiar work. The day was felt to be a huge success as the work done ahead of the visit through the 'etwinning' website allowed the students to exchange information and get to know each other ahead of the visit.

Ken Deans, who coordinated the day, said "it was a pleasure to have the Danish group in school, they conducted themselves very well and took the chance to join in and fully participate with our pupils and staff!"

Rory and Kirsten Blackstock who led the trip are no strangers to the area having lived in Aviemore for many years before moving to Denmark. Rory commented that the day in Kingussie was much appreciated and allowed for genuine contact to be made with the Scots for the rest of our week - which included visits to Edinburgh and Loch Ness. We hope to develop this link further in years to come."

THREE CHEERS FOR CHEERLEADERS!

Sofia Burnett, Rachael Hobson, Kirsty MacKenzie, Paige McCluskey, Chelsea McStay, Joanna Robertson, Rosie Strachan and Laura Wallace were part of the Scottish All Stars who won the National Variety Champions Trophy at the SECC recently. Well done!

LUCKY SKYE!

Skye Stewart, 1 Feshie, filled in a survey form all about the canteen and.....her name was drawn out to receive gift vouchers for spending in a variety of shops.



PARLIAMENT VISIT

Two pupils from KHS, Fallon Sheffield and Toby Mitchell travelled to the Scottish Parliament last month along with their teacher, Mrs Rennie (PT History and Modern Studies) to make a presentation to MSPs about the condition of the fabric of Kingussie High School. Pictured alongside are Fergus Ewing, David Stewart and Dave Thompson who praised the pupils for their first rate presentation.



SCHOOL LUNCH TARRIF

The cost of a secondary school lunch is presently **£1.90.**

The school canteen also offers a variety of other options. These include plated salad at £1.25; hot pasta pot at £1.35; Panini at £1.30; homemade soup at 60p as well as sandwiches, burgers, toasties and so on. Desserts are also available costing up to 60p and ranging from traditional desserts to yoghurt or bagged fruit. Milk, juice and water can also be purchased in cartons and bottles.

Ali Young Retiral

Ali Young, the much-loved janitor at Kingussie Primary School is finally retiring this summer, 2010. Ali has done a wonderful job for years, over and above his contractual work, nursing the school boiler through hard winters, clearing paths through the snow, helping to plant out trees and looking after the raised beds for nursery and P1. He is always ready to help or comfort any child who needs that, and his warmth and kindness have been appreciated by many children, and their parents and teachers. If you or your parents attended Kingussie Primary School and would like to contribute to Ali's retirement gift, please take your money to the office at the High School by Monday 17th May.

The Teenage Brain

Wednesday 12th May

6pm

Kingussie High School library

*This is a talk by James McTaggart
Educational Psychologist*

Teenage years can be a time of both joy and trouble for young people (and their families), with much to explore and much to find out. This session will look at some of the ways in which our brains mature during adolescence, and what this might mean for how teenagers experience the world, and how we can help them get the best out of these special years. Both current and former teenagers are welcome!

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE GUIDE

It is parents and carers who are responsible for making sure their children are educated. Information to explain responsibilities and to describe the support parents, carers and children can expect is available at www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk

SCOTTISH BIKEATHON

Improve your health & wellbeing while helping the health and wellbeing of others. Enter the Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research Scottish Bikeathon taking place on Sunday 20th June starting in Ardvonie Car Park, Kingussie. Entry forms are available from Mrs Nield or Mr Reid, or from local shops and post offices.

Don't delay - Enter Today!



BADENOCH AND STRATHSPEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

This took place last month in KHS alongside various other venues. Many High School pupils took part and their results are listed below:

Fiddles: Slow Air: Distinction: Seonag Buxton (Winner Whyte Rosebowl and Gynack Shield for Best performance in Festival on a stringed instrument -Non Traditional) & Jennifer Cleworth; Commended: Anna Buxton; Jessica Turner & Ilona Kennedy.

March, Strathspey & Reel: Distinction: Seonag Buxton; Commended: Anna Buxton, Ilona Kennedy and Jessica Turner; Merit: Jennifer Cleworth.

Accordion: Distinction: Mairi Buxton (winner Marjory Cameron Cooper Memorial Trophy); Merit: Thomas Cox

Piano: Distinction: Erin Crombie; Torin Prescott; Mairianne Young; Commended: Jennifer Cleworth, Rhona Convery; Eilidh Prescott; Merit: Sally Devlin; Siobhan Keegan; Lachlan Macgregor; Joanne Pringle

Pianoforte Duet: Distinction: Catriona Michie and Rona Stewart; Commended: Rhona Convery and Eilidh Prescott; Lachlan Macgregor (+ tutor)

Electronic keyboard: Commended: Mark Howe; Merit: Nicole Brandrick

Guitar Solo: Commended: Neil Convery; Merit: Jessica Convery

Violin Solo (Non Traditional): Distinction: Seonag Buxton; Commended: Anna Buxton; Jamie Homyer; Merit: Eilidh Anderson; Rona Stewart; Jessica Turner; Mairianne Young

Winners Badenoch Shield: Kingussie High School Girls Choir- commended

Vocal Trio: Merit: Erin Crombie, Paige McCluskey and Ashley Mabon

Voice and Guitar: Commended: Seoras Orr; Merit: Jordan Orr

Woodwind Solo: Commended: Katie Homyer

Instrumental Duet: Commended: Jennifer Cleworth & Jessica Turner; Merit: Erin Crombie & Fallon Sheffield

Vocal Solo-Girls: Commended: Fallon Sheffield (Winner Balavil Trophy); Jessica Turner; Ella Willies; Merit: Robyn Gunning; Cara Johnson; Karen Macrae.

Vocal Solo Boys: Merit: Robert Sircus (Winner Herbert Victor Trophy)

Vocal Solo (Open): Commended: Mark Howe; Merit: Karen Macrae; Christina Sheffield; Robert Sircus; Maisy Thompson; Jessica Turner

Vocal Duet: Merit: Cara Johnson and Joanne Pringle

Group Music Making: Kingussie High School S2

Instrumental Ensemble: Kingussie High School - Commended

Piping: Solo Novice Pipes: Distinction: Alasdair Courts (Winner of Strathspey Royal British Legion Shield); Commended: Anna Buxton; Ilona Kennedy

Solo Pipes 15 & Under: Distinction: Finlay Strivens (Winner of Royal British Legion Trophy); Commended: Robert Sircus; Merit: Rhona Convery; Eilidh Prescott

Solo Pipes 16 & Under: Outstanding: Jordan Neil (Winner of Strathspey Branch Royal British Legion Trophy); Distinction: Neil Convery; Commended: Ashley Newman Harvie

Piobaireachd Ground and First Variation: Commended: Rhona Convery and Eilidh Prescott- (Joint winners Northern Constabulary Shield)

Piobaireachd-U16: Distinction: Jordan Neil (Winner Dr MacKay Rosebowl); Neil Convery Kingussie High School Piping Quartet-Distinction

Drumming: Novice: Commended: Chelsey Campbell; Merit: Richard Wallace

Drumming: Intermediate: Distinction: Mairi Buxton (Winner Moneagle Shield)

Drumming: Advanced: Distinction: Cameron McClure

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

The Ucan Club's Mary's Meals Quiz has raised another £200 to boost support for the school's favourite charity.

We are pleased to announce the results of the General Knowledge/Mary's Meals Quiz sheet. A number of correct entries were received, so winners were 'picked out of a hat' and the first prize of £30 goes to Mrs V Dawson of Kingussie. Second prize of wine and chocolates goes to Mrs L Gorman of Newtonmore. Congratulations to our two winners - and thank you to every one who gave their support.

Thank you also to everyone who helped make the recent K Factor Talent Show such a successful event. Thanks to the combined efforts of the Malawi Group and the Ucan Club, plus lots of support from school staff, the evening was both enjoyable and entertaining. Over £800 was raised which has been shared equally between the Muloza School link and Mary's Meals.

Well done to our volunteers



Hayley Hamilton, Emma Mitchell, Paige Munro and Sarah Holland volunteered their services last week to help send material aid overseas with the charity Mary's Meals. Over 200 backpacks and a dozen bicycles were unloaded from their temporary storage point (kindly provided by John Russell, of Russwood Newtonmore) and loaded into the Mary's Meals van. From there the backpacks, which were donated by schools, individuals and other groups from all over the Highlands, started their journey south. The first stop is the charity's Glasgow warehouse, from which they will then be shipped to Africa.

The backpacks, which are filled with useful items such as stationery, toiletries and clothes, will then be handed out to children who benefit from the charity's school feeding programme. Mary's Meals works around the world, in places where poverty and hunger prevent children from attending school. By providing a free school meal, the need to work in order to survive is removed. Not only does the meal combat the immediate hunger of the child, it has long-term benefits too, as it allows those children to receive an education that can provide an escape from poverty for

themselves and their communities. The charity is now feeding over 400,000 children worldwide, on average for just £9 per child, per year.

The backpacks are given out to children who eat Mary's Meals in Africa to further assist their education. For many families, a notebook or a pair of flip-flops, is simply more than they can afford. The bicycles will be serviced and then sent out to Malawi and Liberia, where volunteer helpers will use them as they travel from school to school.

Kingussie High School has worked hard over the past six years to fundraise to help Mary's Meals. They also



continue to organise a backpack collection for the school.

It is great for the pupils to extend that volunteering to become involved with the efforts of other schools and organisations in Highland.

Kingussie High School pupils will soon be having another backpacking session, using all the goods which have been donated over the past few months. If you would like to send along any more backpack items they would be most welcome. We are likely to run short of empty schoolbags to fill, towels and tennis balls. Goods can be left at the School Office at any time. Thank you for your continued support.

Why not come along and give your support to the Ucan Club at their Sales Table to raise funds for Mary's Meals



At an Open Garden Day

*on Saturday 1st May
from 10am to 4pm at Braeside
in Calvine*

*The venue is in the village of
Calvine just one mile north of*



the House of Bruar on the old A9

*Morning coffees, light lunches
and afternoon teas will be served*





MALAWI PROJECT 2010

AUCTION/COMEDY NIGHT

Over 100 people sat down to enjoy an evening of good food, laughter and an auction followed by a swinging disco. The hall at Alvie was transformed into an African jungle for the evening by Caitlin Donaghy and Cathy Wang with a lot of help from their parents Dot and Mike.

The guests were served a two course meal by the students and then settled down to be entertained by the comedian Bruce Fumey. This was followed by an entertaining auction at which the compère Jim Coyle encouraged everyone to be extremely generous in their bidding! Thanks to all the hard work of parents, students and those who donated prizes for the auction and raffle, a grand sum in excess of £4,000 was raised. A very big thank you to all who supported the 2010 Malawi Project.

SPONSORED CLIMB

SUNDAY 25 APRIL

The group going to Malawi in the summer will climb the equivalent of Mount Mulanje (10,000 feet)



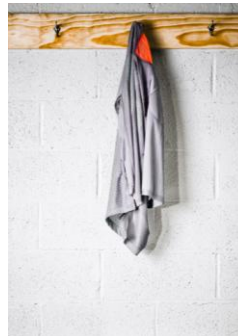
COME ALONG AND SUPPORT AT
KINGUSSIE CRAGS
OR
SPONSOR THE GROUP

WANTED

SHIRTS



Do you have **white school shirts** or **blouses** at home that your young people no longer wear?



TIN WHISTLES



Do you have a tin whistle in a drawer doing nothing? If so we can use them in in Muloza to teach some traditional Scottish tunes.

Send them to school as soon as possible for Mrs Hobson, Mrs Mossman, Mr Mackintosh or Mrs Duthie. They will be packed up and taken to Malawi for the students at Muloza Community Day School. They will be much appreciated in Muloza.

Dress-down Day

A Dress-Down Day was organised on the first Friday of the term to raise funds for the Malawi Link Project. A big thank-you to all the pupils who participated in the event especially those who arrived at school wearing some very colourful costumes which helped to add to the African theme. Also many thanks to Mr Dziennik who organised the S6 to collect the money at morning registration which in total raised £627.

Car Boot Sale

The Malawi Project Group are taking part in a car boot sale at Myrtlefield car park in Aviemore on Sunday 2nd May from 9.00 onwards. Thank you to everyone who has donated goods so far and if you want to buy some good-quality items, come along on the day and the money raised will go towards the Malawi Project.

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K FACTOR TALENT SHOW



The K Factor Talent Show has become a highlight of the KHS calendar and this year was no exception! The Ucan Club and the Malawi Project Group combined forces and raised over £800 for Mary's Meals and the Malawi Trip. Many thanks to the participants, whose talents ranged from guitar solos, piping, singing, to drumming and drama. There was a huge turn-out on the night and the audience is to be commended for its behaviour and good manners. Many thanks also to Miss Hashmi who produced the programme, making sure all the performances ran smoothly; also to the sound and light crew; to Mrs Duthie who organised the refreshments and to Mrs Mossman who organised the chocolate hamper as a raffle

prize, won by a very lucky pupil! Amy Conboy and Victoria Hobson were the comperes for the night and did a great job. There were some surprise acts after the interval, with the Ucan club presenting an alternative version of the K Factor with their own Cheryl Cole and Simon Cowell. There was also a guest appearance of the X Factor Jedward and Vanilla Ice with their rendition of 'Ice Ice Baby', who certainly won over the audience! We are very grateful to the 3 judges, Ian Grover, Angela Cox and Sue Palmer who had a very difficult task but who eventually announced Ashley Newman Harvie and Mrs Homyer as the overall winners with their combination of pipes and drums in Queen hit 'We Will Rock You'. The Malawi Group finished the evening off with a sing-along version of Glee's 'Don't Stop Believing' performed by the Malawi Group (pictured above). Mrs Rimell was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the Ucan Club/Malawi Group in appreciation of all the K Factor Talent Shows she has organised over the years.



YOUNG ENGINEERS HIGHLAND EVENT

Pictured alongside left to right Calum Irvine, Josh Goodhill, Harry Grant, Kern Tynan (helmet), Connor Grant, Dave Randall, Timothy Fraser, Dave Stewart and our STEM ambassador Gus Carnegie. The group travelled to Inverness to take part in the Young Engineers Highland event at The Centre for Health in Raigmore Hospital. The pupils took part in several challenges organised by various companies such as Rio Tinto and Lifescan. Kingussie were pipped at the post and lost by one point. This was the first time the Young Engineers had organised a final in the Highlands. Well done to all.

MUSIC AT EDEN COURT



Our Advanced Higher music class ventured up to Eden Court on Tuesday night to see the Scottish Ensemble whose programme consisted of Vivaldi and Piazzolla 'Four Seasons'. Vivaldi was a Baroque composer and Piazzolla was 20th century. The pieces were very contrasting. We thought Piazzolla was more interesting to listen to as the ensemble used lots of different string techniques which made it more

exciting! We all enjoyed our wee trip and learned more about the different styles of music.

HONOUR FOR FORMER PUPIL

Congratulations go to Major Eldon Millar who was recently awarded an MBE for his role as Officer commanding the Joint Force Explosive Operations in Afghanistan.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April

Friday 23 S4 Study Leave begins
(pupils in school until
3.30pm)
Monday 26 SQA week 1

May

Monday 3 May Day holiday
Friday 7 S5/6 Study Leave begins
(pupils in school until
3.30pm)
Monday 10 Global week
Monday 17 S3 reports issued this week
Wednesday 26 S1 reports issued this week
Monday 31 S1-3 Activities Week

June

Monday 7 Final KHS SQA exam
In-Service Day
Tuesday 8 New timetable S2-4
Friday 11 School Sports Day
Monday 14 New timetable S5/6
Thursday 17 Leavers' Graduation
Tuesday 22/
Wednesday 23 Primary 7 visiting days
Thursday 24 Primary 7 Parents' visit
Sports Dinner Awards

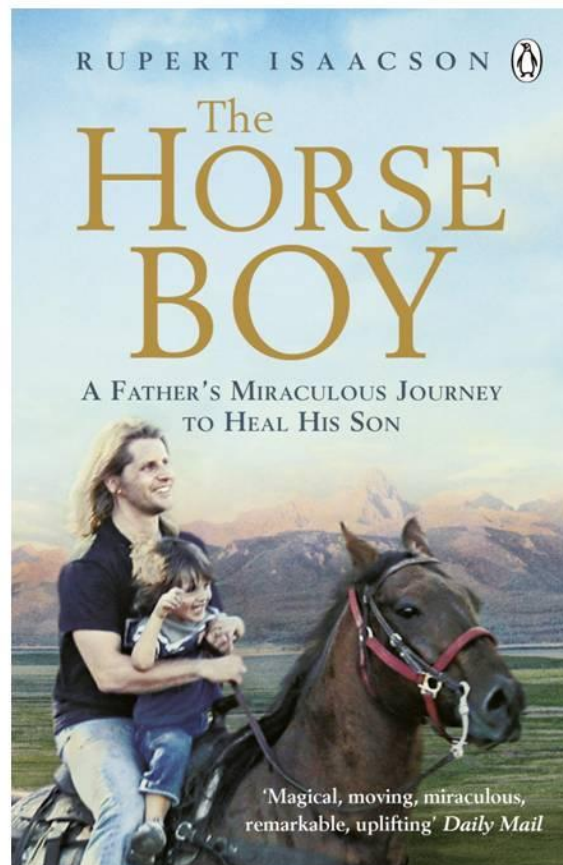
July

Friday 2 Prizegiving Ceremony
School closes 12.30.

**SCREENING AT The Duke of Gordon Hotel,
Kingussie on Saturday 29th May at 7pm. Tickets
£5.50 – available by contacting me at
horseboy@gilliannaysmith.com. You can also
call me on 07934628326. Screening will be
followed by a Q&A Session and books will be
on sale.**

ABOUT THE FILM

When his son Rowan was diagnosed with autism, Rupert Isaacson was devastated, afraid he might never be able to communicate with his child. But when Isaacson, a lifelong horseman, rode their neighbour's horse with Rowan, Rowan improved immeasurably. He was struck with a crazy idea: why not take Rowan to Mongolia, the one place in the world where horses and shamanic healing intersected? The Horse Boy is the dramatic and heartwarming story of that impossible adventure. In Mongolia, the family found undreamed of landscapes and people, unbearable setbacks, and advances beyond their wildest dreams. This is a deeply moving, truly one-of-a-kind story—of a family willing to go to the ends of the earth to help their son, and of a boy learning to connect with the world for the first time.



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