

KINGUSSIE HIGH SCHOOL



March Newsletter

March 2011

Just as we think Spring has arrived and it is time for the clocks to change, we have a heavy snowfall! The snow always has effects on us at school - bus routes affected, access to huts affected, car parking affected - but we keep on doing the best we can to deliver effective learning and teaching.

It has been a busy few weeks with Parents' Evenings for S1, S2 and S5/6. The S1 Evening replaced the one scheduled for earlier in the session which we postponed because of the weather. We have also held Parents' Information Evenings for S2 and for S4/5. These are part of the choice process the pupils in these years are going through. A number of parents and pupils attended to find out what is on offer for next session.

Next session the cuts which we are having to make will start to have effects on what we do and how we do it. Our teaching staff will be cut by at least two full time equivalent with the knock-on effects of bigger class sizes and the phasing out of some subjects. Funding for resources, repairs and the like, will also be cut. These are difficult times but we will face up to the challenges facing us.

Not all is doom and gloom. Inside there are details of many things our pupils have been doing, including international success at the Junior Winter Olympics, national coverage for the Food on Film Festival and much more.

Please remember to let me know if there is any news you want included or if there are any issues you want included or if there are any issues you want to discuss.

John G Tracey
Head Teacher

BBC SCHOOL REPORT

As part of the BBC School report a group of young S2 pupils attended the BBC Brian Taylor Big Debate radio programme recorded at Eden Court Theatre on the 25th February. This was all part of the training for the school report event which will take place on Thursday 24th March. The pupils were able to be part of the audience and indeed they took the opportunity to ask questions during the discussions which featured local MPs and MSPs. At the conclusion of the debate, they had the opportunity to interview Brian Taylor and ask him questions about his life as a Journalist. Later the group were given an extended tour of the BBC Highland buildings by head of media Roy Templeton and some even got to sit in the BBC Alba news chair and use the Autocue. The recording of the event is available on the BBC website, just search for Brian Taylor Big Debate.



Kingussie High School
Ruthven Road, Kingussie PH21 1ES
Tel: 01540 661 475
e-mail: kingussie.high@highland.gov.uk

THE INCREDIBLE ALAN BISSETT

On Monday 7 February the English Department was lucky to be visited by a new star of Scottish fiction. Alan Bissett, author of two excellent teenage novels "Boyracers" and "The Incredible Adam Spark", and with a new adult novel just released, "Death of a Ladies Man" joined us to take a creative writing workshop. Seven fourth year and three sixth year students spent the afternoon gaining valuable hints and tips for writing their own short stories. All the students really enjoyed hearing Alan's ideas and stories about his writing. Thanks to Mrs. Topping for organising the visit and also to the Advanced Higher students for their help.



ABRSM PIANO EXAMS



Congratulations to the following pupils in their recent ABRSM Piano Exams.

S1 - Ellie Tait (Grade 1)

S3 - Siobhan Keegan (Grade 3)

S6 - Jessica Turner (Grade 1)

SCHOOL MEALS

Increase in school meals

will take affect from 26th April
£1.95 in secondary school

GREAT RESULT FOR KATY

In the European Youth Olympic Winter Festival last month Katy Homyer, ranked 65th, achieved 59th place, the highest placing for a British Cross-Country skier and also a personal best in FIS points (256 points). This gives Katy a B qualification for next year's World Junior Nordic Championships. Katy showed great form and steely determination in the race, and at the finish had overtaken 14 higher ranked skiers. Her

drive and skill were recognised by the British Olympic Association team who thought Katy shows great potential for the future. Katy's earlier races gave her 68th in the classic 7.5km and 65th in the sprint races. Katy represents her school and Great Britain extremely proudly and very well.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES AT EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPICS

Fifteen young people represented the UK at this recent event at Liberec. Three of them are pupils at KHS! Scott Dixon, Katy Homyer and Calum Irvine did themselves, their families, their school and the UK proud. All three thoroughly enjoyed their time and are committed to getting even better. Well done to them and all the best for the future.

JUNIOR PARK RANGER SCHEME

Recently Alan Smith, of Cairngorms National Park spoke to our pupils during Assemblies about the Junior Park Ranger Scheme. This gives pupils the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities over a week from 30th May till 3rd June. It also can lead to similar time in Nations Parks in Europe. Pupils can get details and application forms from Mr Tracey.

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

We have been reminding pupils and parents about what should to worn to school: white shirt/blouse with tie and plain black trousers, skirt or joggers and plain black top. A wee reminder that hats and scarves should not be worn indoors.

GIFT TO LIBRARY FROM DOWN UNDER

We recently received a copy of the book "The Long Farewell" which chronicles the migration from the "old world" to the "new world". It was kindly donated by the Grigg family from Victoria in Australia.

EXTRA IN-SERVICE DAY

Please remember that Monday 6th June is an extra IN-SERVICE day with pupils not attending school that day.

Kingussie High School
Ruthven Road, Kingussie PH21 1ES
Tel: 01540 661 475
e-mail: kingussie.high@highland.gov.uk



PHYSICS EXPERIMENTS

Pictured above, beside a sculpture of James Watt, are S6 students who recently travelled to Heriot-Watt University (Edinburgh) to conduct experiments for their Advanced Higher Physics course. Their projects include measuring absolute zero, experimental aerodynamics and investigating properties of light.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFER TO HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS AND STAFF!

You may have seen in the local media recently that two of our pupils, Steven McLean and Ross Inglis, did a cycling fundraiser for Cancer Research. So impressed were the staff at Kildrummy Inn near Alford that they contacted the school to sing their praises. Add to that the Kildrummy Inn are offering parents and staff a 10% discount on their normal prices. Book by e-mail to enquiries@kildrummyinn.co.uk or by telephone at 01975 571 227 quoting Kingussie High School www.kildrummyinn.co.uk

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

The Ucan Club continues to meet at lunchtimes (at the moment three or four days a week) in Stanners Bank.

What is our news?

Calling singers, dancers, musicians, comedians, actors, magicians..... Whatever your talent we need you for the K Factor Talent Show which will be held at school at 7.30pm on Thursday 7th April. Entry Forms are available from Register Teachers, Miss Mair, Mrs Rimell or the School Office. There will be opportunities to practise in school. The 'K Factor' promises to be an evening of fun and

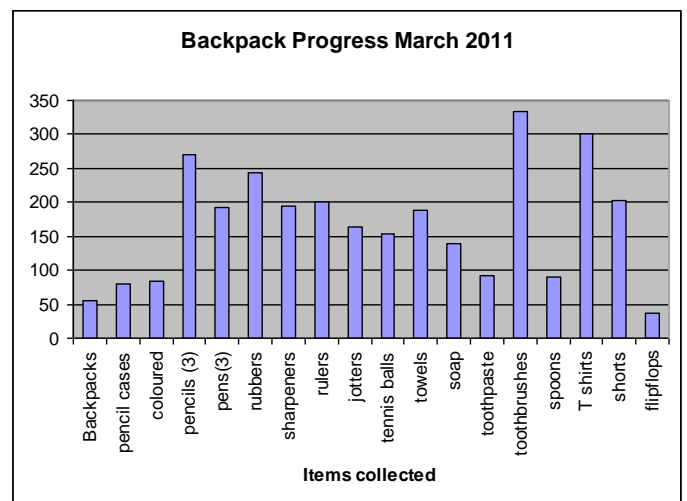
entertainment and we hope you will come and support us on the night. The proceeds will be shared equally between Mary's Meals and Kingussie High School Fund.



A group of Ucan Club members were invited to Newtonmore Primary School, last Wednesday, to talk to the P1 to P4 classes. Vicky Stables, Sarah Holland, Lauren Hendry and Kirsty Turnbull gave an interesting and informative presentation to the children, telling them about the Ucan Club, how it works and all that the school does to help the charity. Two more presentations are planned: one for the P5 - P7s at Newtonmore, and on March 21st Ucan members will be speaking to Grantown Grammar School pupils at their assembly.



The Backpack collection is gathering momentum as more goods are brought into school. The aim is to collect enough items to fill 200 school bags. The progress of the collection can be seen on the chart below. Empty school bags are always the most difficult items to obtain. Please remember that they do not have to be new, as long as they are clean and in reasonable condition. If anyone has any suggestions as to where we might be able to source backpacks, then please do let us know. Donated items can be placed in the boxes on display in most classrooms or handed in to the School Office. Meanwhile we are really grateful for all the support. In the past couple of weeks we have received a big collection of empty school bags, which have been donated by Aviemore Primary School pupils, and the 31st Inverness (Aviemore) Cub Pack have collected lots of items to fill backpacks. This type of community support shows how we can all work together and help to make a real difference.





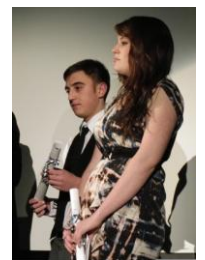
KINGUSSIE FOOD ON FILM FEBRUARY WEEKEND

The High School was once again very much involved in the Kingussie Food on film Festival. Many of you will have enjoyed attending some aspect of this now annual winter festival which took place over an extended weekend period this year. Many of our pupils were again involved in various aspects of this dynamic event from being part of the actual film making process; directing, filming and editing their own movies; assisting with the catering for guests and visitors from all over the UK, to dressing the venue for Friday's Oscar Awards Ceremony.

The Festival opened on the Thursday evening with a well attended exhibition of artworks, all on the theme of food, in the Iona Gallery. Several pupils from our own Art Department had paintings on display there.

On the Friday night the main event was Oscar Night. Earlier that day our Venue Dressing Team, all S5 pupils, under the guidance of Mrs Rossi and Lydie Bocquillon from the Auld Alliance, spent many hours transforming Talla Nan Ros into a suitably glamorous space for the evening's Oscar Awards Ceremony and entertainment. The girls truly succeeded in creating an elegant venue. Once candles were lit, silver snow-angel decorations positioned in the windows and lights dimmed, the hall was resplendent. Pupils from the Home Economics Department also prepared delicious canapés for the evening's snack prior to the entertainment.

The night itself was a feast of food films. Schools from across the Highlands and Moray had entered the competition this year, with Kingussie High entering four films out the twelve. The event was perfectly hosted by our own gracious twosome, Depute Head boy, Stan Genchev, and Head Girl, Fiona Duncan Bailey who were both stylish and competent presenters.



Kingussie High School
Ruthven Road, Kingussie PH21 1ES
Tel: 01540 661 475
e-mail: kingussie.high@highland.gov.uk

Our films were: "Hungry for Detention", a film produced on iPhone by S6 boys. The film, a mix of live footage and animation focused on a group of boys having to attend detention instead of going for lunch. The judges, including Bafta Award winning Marcus DF White, a former Kingussie High School pupil, had some professional criticism for this film, but loved the animation.

Our second film was "Confused". The film starred Ella Willies and Stan Genchev. Its focus was where much of our modern food actually comes from and its star, Ella, was shown trying to come to terms with food E numbers and additives. The script was written by Todd Burton.

A third film, "Revenge of the Haggis" which starred several pupils from S3, was in fact an oldie, which had been made way back in May last year during the school's Activities week. It was the tale of three wayward pupils getting their just desserts after gorging on local butcher George Gow's famous Haggis. This project was initially edited and directed by last year's Oscar winners Duncan Rossi and Lewis Falconer, with Edward Brown later assuming the main directorial and editorial roles. Phoenix Films kindly assisted the team with advice on the sound on this film and later came back to judge the best edited version: both, they decided, had equal but differing merits. This project was a very valuable experience for both the directorial and editing teams. "Revenge of the Haggis" won best fiction on the night.

The Oscar for the food on Film Young Film Maker of the Year went, once again, to a Kingussie High School pupil: this year it was "Big Gingerbread House" a home-made animation by Huw Mitchell, an entertaining send up of the whole Big Brother experience. It featured animated house guests made from biscuits and was set in a Gingerbread and Smartie House. This film was very well received by all the Judges.

Huw and some other pupils from the school also featured in the entries from Phoenix Academy Films. Blood thirsty drama and food animations were the genres of these.

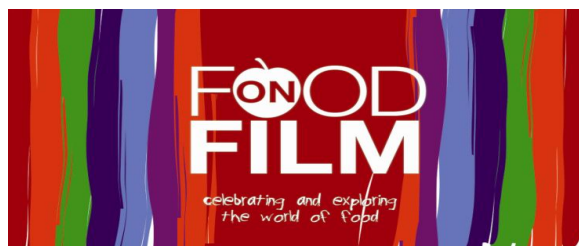
A valuable aspect of the liaison between KHS film makers and Phoenix Film was that pupils worked together in various filmic roles thus gaining a wide experience of working within the cinematographic art form. This indeed augurs well for future KFF projects.

On the Saturday, KHS pupils, accompanied by Mrs Hobson, attended the food Hall in Talla Nan Ros, serving delicious soup to the large number of visitors to this once again successful and highly enjoyable event.

The school additionally supplied various pieces of electronic kit including lights, projectors and PA equipment to help make the Kingussie Food on Film Festival an event to be proud of.



Have a look at the Kingussie Food on Film website for more information.



FUNDRAISING FOR INDONESIA

Recently the school has been playing host to my fundraising efforts to get to Indonesia next year, where I will be involved in volunteering work for eight months. At Parents' evenings I have been selling squares on a treasure map. The winners included Mr and Mrs Goddard, Mr and Mrs Ritchie and Mr Mackintosh and this raised over £100. Thank you to all those parents who came along and donated. On the 1st March I held an auction in the school hall where there were stalls selling jewellery, scarves, perfumes and other accessories for fixed prices, while refreshments were served. Following this Fiona Young and Kate Christie conducted an auction for other pieces. The evening was a great success and very enjoyable - congratulations to Mrs Duthie, who took home the raffle prize. Many thanks to those who donated, those who came along and to those who helped organise and make it possible. This includes Mrs Rimell and three Ucan club members who helped out on the night. £434 was raised and this will definitely help towards my final target.

Fiona Mossman: www.fionainindonesia.blog.com

KHS and KPS PUPILS WORKING TOGETHER!

As part of the Intermediate 2 Sport and Recreation course the 8 pupils in the class have been working on a coaching unit. Work done before Christmas in class has led to the pupils taking the P4/5 and P5/6 classes from Kingussie Primary for extra PE lessons every week. The senior pupils are solely responsible for forward planning, setting out equipment and delivering each lesson. They have to be appropriately dressed in their Sport and Recreation t-shirt and jacket and ensure that each lesson is exciting, active, fun and helps the primary pupils further develop their skills. The progress the senior pupils have made has been astounding as their level of confidence, maturity and responsibility has soared over the past 7 weeks. Coaching younger pupils is without doubt a daunting and scary prospect; however every member of the class has faced the challenge head on and seems to have enjoyed their experience. Below are some comments from both the senior Sport and Recreation pupils and the Primary pupils who were involved in the sessions.

'From my time teaching the Primary school kids I have learnt that you need to have good patience! I have enjoyed it very much and feel I have gained great confidence.' (Antonio Vastano S5)

'I really enjoyed going to the High School, it was so much fun. I loved dodge ball and basketball.' (Taylor Primary 4/5)

'I really enjoyed it, in fact I thought it was phenomenal and I can't say more than that.' (Joe Primary 4/5)

'I really enjoyed teaching the Primary school kids because it was a new and different experience. I will be able to take what I've learned from here into college as my course is similar to Sport and Recreation, and then hopefully into further life.' (Thomas Franks S6)

'I thought the coaching went very well and I have gained a lot of experience and confidence from it. It wasn't as difficult as I thought it was going to be and I look forward to doing coaching at a higher level.' (Jordan Shaw S5)

'To start with I felt quite nervous when taking the primary kids for a lesson. After taking them a couple of times I began to relax and enjoy taking them. I now feel as if I'm more confident in front of people I've never seen before.' (Jordan Wardrope S6)

'My favourite thing was the egg timer circuit. You made me feel welcome and I feel fitter and more athletic. I hope I can come again next year.' (Finlay Primary 4/5)

'When I first started teaching I was not so nervous because I had experience teaching skiing. I really enjoy teaching and I feel that I can change my personality when I teach.' (Jake Cranston S6)

'The primary kids were always really well behaved and listened well so I had no problem teaching them and it became quite enjoyable. I'm glad I have done this and I think it's a great part of the course because it has built my confidence loads.' (Angus Gray S5)

'Thank you for the amazing sessions! How are you? I really liked the games especially the ball ones because they were so much fun.' (Emma Primary 4/5)

'I hope this finds you well and how are you doing? Every Wednesday night I couldn't wait till Thursday. I loved it and the parachute games were awesome.' (Callum Primary 4/5)

'Thank you for the fantastic PE sessions. I loved playing Shark with the parachute and the basketball. I hope to come next year.' (Freya Primary 4/5)

NORTH OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



On Thursday 24th Feb 20 pupils from KHS travelled to Gordonstoun School in Moray to compete in the North Schools X-Country Championships. On what was a fairly pleasant and warm day for February our pupils pitted their X-Country running ability against many other schools, stretching from Thurso in the north, Stornoway in the west, and Fochabers in the east. Each race had well over 60 participants with the competition being very fierce. In the junior races the pupils tried extremely hard and although there were no top 10 finishes all pupils showed an excellent attitude and represented the school very well. A special mention must go out to Alistair Johnson of S1 who sacrificed his race to stop and help a team member who had suffered an asthma attack half way round. Alistair showed the real meaning of team spirit and should be very proud of his act of kindness.

In the senior section we only had a boys' team entered. I say only, but these boys certainly made a huge statement!! The team made up of Scott Dixon, Calum Irvine, Scott Grosdanoff, Alex Henderson and George Goddard managed to win the overall senior boys team championship. There were over 90 competitors in this race with over 17 schools entered in the team event. This is a huge achievement for a school the size of Kingussie and it is the first time a senior boys' team from Kingussie has lifted the team trophy. This was helped by two top ten finishes from Scott Dixon and Calum Irvine finishing 2nd and 5th respectively. Scott Grosdanoff and Alex Henderson also played their part with very pleasing 23rd and 26th place finishes. Scott Dixon was presented with the Lorna Wildman trophy for the individual on the day who demonstrates outstanding determination, team spirit and a commitment to fair play and sportsmanship.

Well done to all pupils involved. It is great to see KHS pupils continue to achieve at all levels in sport.

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

After their success at the North Schools Cross-Country Championships Scott Dixon, Calum Irvine, Scott Grosdanoff and Alex Henderson travelled to Irvine in Ayrshire to compete at the very demanding and challenging Scottish Schools Championships. Leaving on the Friday after school they travelled down with Mr Dillon and stayed in Irvine overnight. After an excellent meal on Friday night and hearty breakfast on Saturday morning the boys were fuelled up and ready to take on the best Scotland had to offer.



Saturday was one of the most miserable days we have had this year! Cold, wet, windy and snowy - perfect cross country weather!! The boys had to run 6km on varying terrain and to say that Mr. Dillon was relieved to be watching would be somewhat of an understatement!! With over 80 boys in the field the competition was a huge step up in class from the North Schools but the boys battled very well for the whole race. Race placings were Scott Dixon 17th, Calum Irvine 25th, Alex Henderson 32nd and Scott Grosdanoff 35th. These were excellent results for all the boys and in the team result their combined score of 109 would have seen them placed in the top three in every other category. However, agonizingly they just missed out on third place in the senior boys section and were placed fourth team overall. The boys should be very proud of their efforts as they were the smallest school competing in the team event and managed to beat many other larger schools from around Scotland. On the whole it was a great trip and hopefully the boys will take away some great experiences and memories from the weekend. Their attitude effort and the way they conducted themselves over the weekend was exceptional and they were a credit to themselves and the school. Well done lads, great effort!

*Kingussie High School
Parent Council*

*celebrates
the success and achievement of*

40 years of KHS

*with an evening of
fun, entertainment,
dinner and auction*

Kincraig Village Hall

Sat 2nd April

£20

*Tickets available
from the School*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

Monday 14 March Music Festival Week
Friday 25 March Festival Concert
Monday 28 March S3 Exams begin

May

Monday 2 May May Day holiday
Tuesday 3 May SQA Exams start

April

Wednesday 6 April S3 Exams end
Friday 8 April School closes for Easter holiday
Tuesday 26 April New term begins
Thursday 28 April S6 Art Practical
Friday 29 April S4 Study Leave begins at 3.30pm

Friday 6 May S5/6 Study Leave begins at 3.30pm
Monday 9 May S1-3 Activities Week

Kingussie High School
Ruthven Road, Kingussie PH21 1ES
Tel: 01540 661 475
e-mail: kingussie.high@highland.gov.uk