



October Newsletter

October 2009

A longer than normal October holiday for the pupils with staff in for three days of activities linked to Curriculum for Excellence.

Curriculum for Excellence is a major national initiative which will see some of the most radical changes in Scottish Education for generations. Over the coming months there will be updates for parents as well as for pupils and staff. Your opinions and ideas will be welcome.

More immediate change has seen the main building of the school being given a facelift with new windows being installed. Much work was done before and during the October break but there is still much to be done. Please remind your daughters and sons to be extra careful about the school.

Included in this Newsletter is the annual Standards and Quality Report for session 2008-2009. It updates on the development work we are engaged in and gives a flavour of the pupil successes last session.

I am happy to discuss issues from the Report or any other issue of interest to you. Just contact me at the school.

J G Tracey
Head Teacher

LOGO WINNER



Congratulations to Roma Mc Cook (5 Feshie) who designed the winning logo for the recent Badenoch & Strathspey Music Festival Association's competition.

Roma's winning entry will be featured on the 'Friends of Badenoch & Strathspey Music Festival' leaflet as well as on the 2010 syllabus. Roma won a £20 Waterstones' Voucher and will be presented with her prize at the Friends/Syllabus Launch at Iona Gallery on 12th November. Well Done Roma!

ADVERSE WEATHER/EMERGENCY CLOSURE LEAFLET

Included with this newsletter is our information leaflet and contact information (contact and pin number for Kingussie High School) in the event of adverse weather or emergency closure. Please retain this for future use.

ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY



Senior students and parents have been invited to Eden Court Theatre by Robert Gordon University for an open evening on 17th November 2009 from 6.00 - 8.30pm. Sessions included are "a day in the life of a student", "money matters", "supporting the student experience" and "accommodation".

Simply log on to www.rgu.ac.uk/information evening or call 01224 262 204 by the 10th November for information and to book places.

UCAS Deadlines approach for S5/6 pupils applying for University

Following Open Day visits by pupils, the visit here from Strathclyde University representatives and the subsequent input from Guidance Staff, all senior pupils considering applying for university should now have registered online and be well on their way with applications.

The internal deadline of the 6th November is set to allow Subject Staff within the school to help the Guidance Team produce the references required for each application. Students should have distributed their requests for references already! The Guidance Teachers are happy to discuss any issues regarding the application process at any time.

REGIONAL MUSIC GROUPS



Congratulations to all the pupils who auditioned and were successful in gaining a place in the Highland Regional Music Groups. This is a fantastic achievement and a great representation for the school. We look forward to seeing you playing a concert very soon. You should be very proud of yourselves!

HG (Highland Regional Gaelic Choir)

Anna Buxton (S1)

HG (Highland Youth Pipe Band)

Mairi Buxton (S3) - Snare Drum

Seonag Buxton (S5) - Pipes

SNAS (Highland Traditional Folk Group)

Euan Convery (S5) - Whistle

Neil Convery (S3) - Guitar

Scott Duncan (S5) - Whistle/Small Pipes

HSWB (Highland Schools Wind Band)

Rhona Convery (S2) - Flute

Katy Homyer (S5) - Flute

Michael Tait (S5) - Cornet

HYSO (Highland Youth Strings Orchestra)

Megan Rugar Gilliatt (S6) - Violin

Jessica Turner (S5) - Violin

HRYO (Highland Region Youth Orchestra)

Jessica Turner (S5) - Violin

POPPY COLLECTION

There will be a Poppy Collection for the national appeal held in the school on Tuesday and Wednesday next week during registration.



S1 PSE

S1 PSE classes have been visited by "animators" from the Ucan Club and after a lively and engaging presentation, have all agreed to support the Backpack Appeal. All S1's have noted in their diaries their involvement and have a sheet listing the key items for the backpacks. Thanks to all the youngsters who have already brought items in. We are hoping everyone will contribute something over the final weeks of collection.

ROLLERSKIING

Please note that this after school club is run by Mr and Mrs Homyer and not Mr Dixon as previously stated in the Clubs and Activities leaflet.

What's new with the UCAN CLUB.....?

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

We meet during lunchtimes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in Stanners Bank.

At present we are:

- ▲ Coordinating the S1 Backpack Appeal
- ▲ Planning and making items to sell at our Christmas Stall at the Kingussie Christmas Shopping day on the first Sunday in December
- ▲ Making plans for our Sales Table at the Parent Council Christmas Market at Talla nan Ros, in Kingussie, in December
- ▲ Deciding which charities/organisations we wish to support this year alongside our favourite charity, Mary's Meals

Some special ways in which you might like to support the Ucan Club efforts:



- ★ Support our World Porridge Assembly in November 2009 - more details soon
- ★ Donate items for the ongoing Backpack Collection
- ★ Bake cakes or make sweets for our Christmas Sales Tables

For further information please phone the school on 01540 661475 or contact any member of the Ucan Club.

PARENT COUNCIL



QUIZ NIGHT AND AGM

There was a 'keen' sense of competition in the air at the Parent Council Quiz Night held on 30th September. Twelve teams took part in a very



enjoyable evening. Wine, soft drinks and nibbles helped the teams along through 6 rounds of questions.

Competition was fierce, but friendly. The eventual winners were "Bib and Tucker" (featuring Mrs Patsy Rimell), 2nd place went to "Latecomers", (Congratulations

to Mr Wink, Mr Dziennik and their team members) and just behind in 3rd place were Drumguish Draftees (ably assisted by Mrs Mairi Rossi). "Head Start" fought valiantly throughout, but just slipped back during the final couple of rounds. Thanks to them, Mr Tracey, Mr Ross, Mr Reid and Mrs Duthie. Top Honours for the young people went to "Eggheads" - Euan Convery, Toby Mitchell, Roma Mc Cook and Jessica Turner (S5).



The Parent Council AGM was held during the interval and Mike Donaghy, Chairman of the Parent Council was pleased to report how successful the after school transport being arranged through the Parent Council and Tina Gibson is proving to be. This provision is enabling our youngsters to stay for the after school clubs on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week, in greater numbers. He was also able to assure those present that the Parent Council will continue to take a strong position with Highland Council regarding the new modular buildings agreed to be necessary and planned for 2010. Mr Tracey thanked the Parent Council for their £2000 contribution towards Prize Giving this year and stressed to those present how important the Parent Council is to the school. Mrs Kristin Duncan agreed to be Secretary for a further year and Mrs Kate Convery will continue as Treasurer. As a Parent Council we are still looking to welcome new parents to join us. If you would like to know more about what is involved, Mike Donaghy can be contacted at ampglasgow@aol.com or Carolyn Turner (Parent member) can be contacted at carolyn_turner01@btinternet.com. If you prefer you can leave a message at school and we can contact you. We would urge you to come forward. We are a very friendly group!

Thanks go to all of those who came along on the night and made it such a fun evening. Special thanks of course to Mr Bill Cook of Kingussie for setting the questions and being such an excellent Quiz Master - and for keeping order!. Trophies were provided for the winners by the Technology Department - thank you very much. £160.00 was raised on the night for Parent Council Funds. THANK YOU ALL

PARENT COUNCIL ARE ORGANISING

INDOOR CHRISTMAS MARKET

TALLA NAN ROS

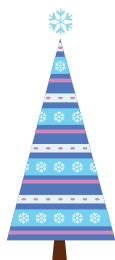
FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER

Tables available for businesses and local groups to rent for the day.

Cost is £10 per table per day if booked prior to 17th November,
£15 after that date.

If you would like further information or to book a table
please phone

01540 662 294 or
01540 662 423



SCIPD Visit to Nova Scotia

By Miss Edes

I was extremely fortunate to be selected by Learning and Teaching Scotland to go on a week long study visit during the October holidays to Nova Scotia, Canada. In total there were 16 in the group, a mixture of primary and secondary teachers (of various subjects), as well as Head Teachers and a QIO from different regions within Scotland.



The objective of our visit was to investigate the role of culture and heritage and how this is used to develop a sense of belonging

and identity in the Canadian curriculum. We also examined strategies used within education to embed and celebrate culture and heritage, and the use of professional learning communities to enable partnership working. Whilst finding this out in relation to the curriculum in Nova Scotia, we discussed and reflected these points within our new framework - Curriculum for Excellence and shared this with Canadian educators.

The trip was action packed with visits to 8 different educational establishments - Elementary, Junior, High School and a University; as well as meetings with the Halifax Regional School Board, the CEO of Gaelic Affairs for the region and of course not forgetting the Government of Nova Scotia. Other than school visits, we were also given the opportunity to visit the Highland Village in Iona, the Celtic Music Interpretive Centre in Mabou, the Maritime Museum in Halifax and the replica of the Ship Hector in Pictou. The Ship Hector exhibition was excellent but did feel rather familiar and I soon discovered why - many of the pictures and information were attributed to our very own Highland Folk Museum and the Landmark Visitor Centre!



One of the highlights of the trip (difficult to just pick one to be honest) was the opportunity to visit several schools and, more specifically, develop a link with several Canadian music teachers which I hope to strengthen in years to come. I was able to discuss common themes and

differences between the two music curricula as well as share good teaching practice. I had the privilege to teach in two different schools during my visit.



The first was Dr John Hugh Gillis High School where I team taught Year 11/12 (S5/6) Band improvisation skills. The second was at

Bayview Junior School where Liz Harris (acting DHT, Castlehead High, Paisley) and I taught Year 3 (P3) and Year 6 (P6) some basics about Scottish traditional music as well as some Scottish Ceilidh Dancing. This was after they had taught us some basic Step Dancing. Needless to say the pupils picked it up a lot quicker than we did!



Overall the trip was a fantastic experience, not only because I have made lots of connections in Canada but throughout Scotland too. I learnt a lot about



another Education system and can take some of the positive ideas and implement them into my own teaching as well as share these ideas with others.

If you'd like to learn more about my time in Nova Scotia, please log on to <http://homecomingnovascotia.edublogs.org/> where you will find a daily diary (with lots more photos), links to the schools visited in Canada as well as links to all the Scottish Schools involved in the study visit.

