

KINGUSSIE HIGH SCHOOL



October Newsletter

September 2010

As our first term comes to an end, we have many things to report ranging from sport to Outdoor Learning with Eden Court visits. Full details inside.

Some important news to give is that there is an extra In-Service Day which will be taken on December 6th. This day has been allocated by the Scottish Government to help teachers in the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence. Included with this Newsletter are the important dates for the coming session.

We are celebrating forty years in the main building. As part of our on-going celebrations we are looking for former pupils and parents to help us record memories of the school over the years. Have you any photographs of the school from years gone by? Would you like to have your stories and memories remembered? We will be working with the Council Archivist and others to record school memories. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

This month there is a reply slip to be returned. A few parents are telling me the Newsletter does not reach home. If we check the reply slips, we'll try to identify the problem and solution. Please return the slip as soon as possible.

I hope that everyone has a relaxing holiday.

John G Tracey
Head Teacher

BLAS CONCERT

On the 7th September, three Canadian musicians visited Kingussie High School. They played us various types of tunes from Cape Breton. There was a fiddler, a guitarist and a Gaelic singer. They told us a bit about each tune they played and where it came from. A few of the tunes played were very lively and got the audience involved by yelling "woo" every so often. They seemed to be enjoying themselves as much as we were.



We got told about some history of Cape Breton and how Scottish music is so popular over there. This was because so many Scottish people emigrated to Canada taking Scottish music with them. This provides a link between Scotland and Canada even to this day. On the whole all pupils enjoyed listening to the musicians and we all hope to see them again.

By Jessica Convery and Ashley Mabon

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KHS DRAMA CLUB

The Club continues to be a popular after-school activity for lots of pupils from S.1 up to S.6. It runs on Tuesdays from 3.30 up until just before 5pm. It meets in Room 14 in English to begin with and then goes down to the Main hall for drama games, exercises and performances. You can sign up for a taxi home at the main school office. Our regular Drama Outreach worker from Eden Court Theatre, Lorraine, is currently rehearsing for a play, so we have had Naomi leading the sessions for the last few weeks. If you would like any further information speak to Mr Mackintosh or Miss Mair in the English Department. We are keen to encourage more First year pupils to come along and see what the Club is like. Don't be shy, come and try it out.

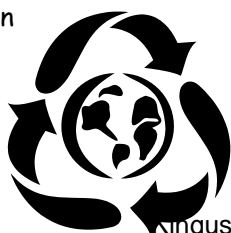


DON'T BIN IT - MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE CAN USE IT!

We all seem to have too much stuff. But having a clear out can help the environment and the school. Did you know that the school tries to recycle as much of our waste material as possible? Not only does it reduce how much goes to landfill, it can also raise money for the school. Pupils play an active part in the day to day management. Here's how we recycle:

Paper: Every classroom has a blue recycling bin for waste paper. Pupils empty them into the main bin which is emptied by Highland Council

Plastic bottles: Red bottle bins in each classroom. Pupils take the empty bottles in a wheelie bin to the recycling centre as part of their ASDAN award.



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Vegetable Waste: We have several compost bins which take fruit peelings, tea bags etc from staff lunches and home Economics lessons. The compost will be used to grow vegetables.

Battery Bank: We have a bucket for used batteries which are taken away for processing.

Ink cartridges: We send off our cartridges for recycling - and get a small amount of money for them.

Textiles: there is a Textile Bank in the school car park. Any textiles (curtains, clothes, shoes) can be put in (in a plastic bag please) and the school gets paid for the contents.

Also...

Books: **Caberfeidh Horizons Bookshop** in Kingussie welcomes any donations of books, hardbacks or paperbacks. They especially need children's books for under-fives and modern paperbacks. Just drop them into the shop.

REGIONAL MUSIC GROUPS

Congratulations to all those who have earned a place in the Highland Regional Musical Groups - it is great to have such representation from every year group spread over 5 of the 8 groups. The groups meet several times a year and their first performance weekend is in November and others are yet to be confirmed. The Highland Schools Pipe Band are also fortunate enough to go on tour to Spain this October. Although auditions have closed for most groups, there are still opportunities to audition for the Highland Youth Choir and the Còisir G - Regional Gaelic Choir - contact Miss Edes if interested.

Highland Regional Youth Orchestra

S6 - Jessica Turner

Highland Schools Wind Band

S3 - Rhona Convery

S6 - Michael Tait

Highland Youth Choir

S1 - Ellie Tait

S2 - Shona Burnett and Kirsty MacKintosh

S6 - Roma McCook

Highland Youth Pipe Band

S2 - Jordan Neil

S3 - Ashley Newman-Harvie

S4 - Mairi Buxton

Snas (Traditional Folk Group)

S5 - Neil Convery

S6 - Euan Convery and Scott Duncan

Twitter

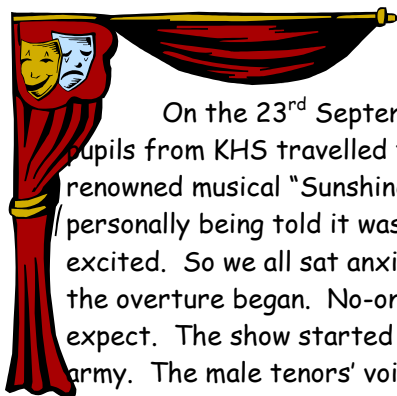
Current information for parents and pupils from the Modern Languages Department is now available via Twitter. This information will be of most interest to senior pupils and their parents regarding important deadlines along with other general language information. However, there may also be items of interest for junior classes from time to time. We would welcome any feedback on the usefulness of this site from parents. If you want to see what is available log on to : www.twitter.com/khsmodlang .

ECDL

Following on from the success of last year's S3 European Computer Driving License (ECDL) classes, S4 pupils have been invited by Inverness College to continue to practice their computer skills using the online course available to all pupils who re-enrol with them this month. To allow them to sit further modules over the coming academic year, all S4 pupils should complete the enrolment form recently sent to their home address and return it to Inverness College as soon as possible. Pupils can then choose which module they would like to attempt next by working through the online interactive tutorials in their own time, at home or in the school library.

Last year approximately 75% passed the demanding first module. For further information, pupils should speak to either Mrs Henderson or Mr Hickey.

SUNSHINE ON LEITH REVIEW



On the 23rd September, forty one staff and pupils from KHS travelled to Inverness to see the renowned musical "Sunshine on Leith". After personally being told it was brilliant, I was pretty excited. So we all sat anxiously in our seats while the overture began. No-one really knew what to expect. The show started with men leaving the army. The male tenors' voices filled the whole theatre. Wow. Not only were the vocals brilliant, but "Sunshine on Leith" had great punch-lines and a terrific story line. Can't wait for the next one.

By Christina Sheffield S3

NEWTONMORE YOUTH CLUB DISCO

Next Disco: 29 October from 9-11pm for S1-S6

Tickets £3 from main school office or at the door



S2 DYNAMIC EARTH TRIP

On September 24th, S2 took a trip down to Edinburgh at 7.30am to go and see Dynamic Earth. When we were on the buses, Gynack and Feshie were on the first bus and Spey and Tromie on the second. The bus journey seemed very long but it was a good laugh and the teachers who went were awesome. When we got into the building itself, we got put into our houses and left 5 minutes after each other. It was like a maze, it just seemed to keep going, never seemed to stop. The beginning started with a global population and had lots of interesting facts followed by the time machine, which was almost like a lift taking us all back in time. At one point we entered a room which, in the middle, stood a massive ice sculpture. This area was cold but it showed us things we never thought could be real. After that we entered a 3D movie which some thought was the best part. The effects were amazing and at the end it started snowing!!

We had lunch at half past twelve and then afterwards we got taken into this kind of classroom and had to do this sort of action thing where there were two people selling in a group and one buying some kind of rock. It was a bit confusing to start with but after the lady explained it, it made more sense. When we had finished in the classroom we got about 10 minutes to go and have a look around the gift shop, not everyone bought something, but the people who did will have a good reminder of our great day out at Dynamic Earth with all of our friends in S2.

By Chloe Grigsby and Stephanie Jones

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

The Ucan Club continues to meet at lunchtimes (usually Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) in Stanners Bank. A notice is put in the Monday circular to confirm the meetings for that week.

What are we busy planning?

- Three members of the Ucan Club will be travelling to Glasgow on Saturday to join in the Mary's Meals Open Day. They will be making a brief presentation about Kingussie High School's involvement with, and support of, the Mary's Meals feeding programme and the Backpack Appeal.
- The school will be supporting World Porridge Day by making and selling "oaty biscuits" during the lunch break on Thursday 7th October
- Ucan Club members are busy preparing to make presentations about the club and its efforts to provide continued support for Mary's Meals. They will be speaking to S1 pupils in SE classes after the holiday. A trip to Fort William Primary School is also planned.
- This year's Backpack Appeal will be launched at the first School Assembly after the October holidays. We will be seeking the help of everyone in the school, and the wider community. Will you please put to one side any items which you could donate to the collection? We will be looking for every day school things and school bags to put them in. A full list of items needed will be printed in the next Parental Newsletter. Many of these items can be second-hand as long as they are clean and in good condition.

Support World Porridge Day

(full details in the local press)

Sunday 10 October is World Porridge Day with porridge fans across the globe invited to join in this international celebration of Scotland's traditional dish by organising a fund raising event in aid of Mary's Meals – a Scottish based charity which daily feeds more than 400,000 of the poorest children across the world.

The 17th annual
World Porridge Making Championships
takes place in Carrbridge on
Sunday 10th October 2010.

The competition is organised by Carrbridge Ahead supporting Carrbridge and Vicinity Community Council. The main sponsor is oatmeal producers, Hamlyns of Scotland

JOURNEYS IN NATURE

Our S2 classes recently took part in a two day event called 'Journeys in Nature'. In our next newsletter we hope to bring you more stories and photos outlining their experiences. The poem below was written in a workshop following one of the walks.

Marshland March (a modern sonnet)

The trail--- a long, bumpy, slippery wet trudge.
It was annoying it was so windy.
The rain came on and the clouds wouldn't budge.
Someone shouted: "midges are biting me."
Our feet got sore and that was a real shame.
Human squeals spoiled the usual calm.
One found a toad, even gave it a name.
The walk was too long but it was awesome.

Out of school! Happy to make this journey.
Saw the Jacobite barracks at Ruthven.
Aspens and animals brighten the day
The tiny toads were beautiful and fun.

The bus was comfy as we homeward crept.
We did all this (and more)... while Darrin* slept!



**our classmate Darrin was ill at home on the day of the walk.*

A class sonnet written the day after the walk by Josie, Chelsea, Lauren, Darrin, Josh, Conner and Lewis, with input from teacher Sheena Duthie and writer Tom Bryan. With special thanks to Claire and Karen who accompanied the walk.

Please detach and return to register teacher by 1 November 2010

KHS October Newsletter received by:

Name of child: _____

Class: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

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