

INTRODUCTION

This Information Bulletin is divided into two parts. Part 1 (all pages with the exception of the section coloured green, which relates only to tenders and which is found at the end of the Bulletin) presents a number of papers, which are designed to update Members, Officers and the citizens of the area of ongoing issues of interest which would not be expected to be dealt with through the Council's formal decision-making processes. These papers are relatively informal in terms of style and format and are an additional and important reporting mechanism for the Council which is easily accessible and which it is hoped will be a useful reference document.

In terms of its Contract Standing Orders, the Council has a requirement to report all Contracts referred to in Standing Order 6.2. The Information Bulletin is considered to be ideal for this purpose and any such papers can be found in Part 2 (the section coloured green) of the document.

Any general enquiries regarding the Information Bulletin should be directed to Chief Executive Office (Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager Ext 6110).

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VOLUME 3 2014/2015



Falkirk Council

Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Falkirk Primary Schools Cross Country League

Volume 15 Issue 03

October 2014

The Falkirk Primary Schools Cross Country League, organised by Falkirk Victoria Harriers, entered its 13th year when the first event of the new season recently took place on a glorious day in Callendar Park.

The league has grown each year from its initial pilot supported by Evelyn Williamson at Carronshore PS, through New

Opportunities funding sourced by Gillian Thomson to becoming a standalone event for the last few years. Support is provided by numerous

volunteers, many taking holidays and time off work to assist, along with Frances Miller of St Andrews Ambulance Association and ActiveSchools arranging for sports development pupils from Graeme HS to come along and help too. In most schools teachers, janitors or school helpers organise training and after school clubs to prepare the pupils for the challenging one mile courses which are set out to championship standards.

Over the years the number of participating Schools has steadily increased as word has got out on what a great event this is for pupils' education and self esteem. The first match this year was an extra special occasion as 'Go Run for Fun'

attended for the first time and arranged for the attendance of Eilidh Child, Scotland's current European 400m hurdles Champion and Commonwealth Games Silver medallist. She spoke to and encouraged pupils who had each received a T-shirt to mark the occasion. A record 34 out of 51 of

the authorities' primary schools were greeted by the BBC's Bryan Burnett who announced each school to loud cheers from the pupils proud be representing their school. All the children

wear given tee-shirts to wear and so the park was a sea of pink! Ineos sponsor this campaign and for Falkirk to be the first in Scotland to sign up to it, it was a real triumph for Caroline, the Harriers and our pupils.

In a new feature of the event, schools were allocated to assembly points in front of Callendar House which allowed them to easily re-group and meet up after races. This also kept everyone close by the start line where a mass warm up took place.

In front of a large crowd of proud parents and grandparents the P5 girls lined up behind



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MY FUTURE'S IN
falkirk

their school sign before being called forward to the start line by Bryan. Eilidh gave some final encouragement before starting the race. This was repeated for each of the six races which all followed the same course and included hills as well as part of the Antonine wall before finishing in front of cheering school mates and parents back in front of Callendar House.

The first three pupils and schools are noted below

Falkirk Primary Schools Cross Country League cont'd

however the event is not just about the winners. Every pupil benefits from exercise in the fresh air, learns about team work and gains a sense of achievement for completing the course and



improving their performance which in turn increases their self esteem. Each pupils needs individual application, commitment, discipline and dedication. All part of a great education, this event is all-inclusive encouraging as many pupils as possible to take part.

Our very own, Caroline Lawless from the ASL Team, is instrumental in the success of the league providing all of the admin and the crucial link between Falkirk Victoria Harriers and the schools. It's a massive task as Caroline books the park, liaises with Lynsey Wallace from the Community Trust regarding all of the activity that will take place on the day, advises the various bus companies of access and drop off points as well as parking arrangements, organises all of the volunteers, communicates with the schools advising of arrangements and obtaining names of all the pupils taking part who are then each provided with an individual race number for the season. When the event is over Caroline goes home and enters all of the pupils numbers and times against their finishing position and finalises the results which are then sent to the schools.

Each pupil receives points based upon their finishing position and the first three boys and girls at each of the P5, 6 and 7 stages with the lowest points having completed all three matches receives a trophy at the end of the season. There are also team prizes based upon schools totals. All prizes are presented after the final match in Camelon Education centre with the winning schools receiving a trophy to keep for the year and individuals receiving plaques to keep.

Any school not already involved and who would like to take part in the next match at Callendar Park

on Tuesday 18th November should contact **Caroline Lawless on 506627** who will be delighted to hear from you. Falkirk Victoria Harriers coaches are also available for taster sessions and training / coaching advice.

Results from the first match are:-

P5 Girls - St Francis RCPS currently in lead

- 1st - Sophie McLeod, St Francis RCPS
- 2nd - Emma Kinghorn, St Francis RCPS
- 3rd - Kerys Boggan, Head of Muir PS

P5 Boys - Carronshore PS currently in lead

- 1st - Christopher Ewart, Larbert Village PS
- 2nd - Aaron Alves, Whitecross PS
- 3rd - Thomas Fulton, St Bernadette's RCPS

P6 Girls - Ladeside PS currently in lead

- 1st - Summer Christie, Ladeside PS
- 2nd - Joanne Lumsden, Victoria PS
- 3rd - Cara Robertson, Maddiston PS

P6 Boys - Denny PS currently in lead

- 1st - Nathan Campbell, Carronshore PS
- 2nd - Jonathon Faulkes, Kinnauld PS
- 3rd - Connor Boyle, Maddiston PS

P7 Girls - Stenhousemuir PS currently in lead

- 1st - Katey Allen, Nethermains PS
- 2nd - Inez McIntosh, Bantaskin PS
- 3rd - Paige Miller, Victoria PS

P7 Boys - Wallacestone PS currently in lead

- 1st - Murray Brown, Ladeside PS
- 2nd - Ben Sutherland, Victoria PS
- 3rd - Daniel Bruce, Head of Muir PS

A comment from Aileen McFeat, HT at St Joseph's RCPS -

'I want to highlight the great work of Caroline Lawless as many pupils, staff, parents and the wider community had a wonderful experience yesterday due to her hard work and efforts.

My school, like many of others within Falkirk, attended the first Cross Country Running Race of the 3 Match League at Callendar Park yesterday. It was a resounding success and showcased Falkirk in all its glory. The sun shone on the grounds and with Callendar House as a backdrop, it was a magnificent setting.

Caroline Lawless really has to be commended for the superb work that she does pulling off events like yesterday, with help from the sponsors, and assisting schools with health and well being, through the promotion of running.'

Learning to Achieve Awards 2014

The fifth annual Learning to Achieve Awards ceremony took place on Thursday the 25th September at Falkirk High School who were our hosts for this year's glittering event.

We had so many entries this year that we couldn't invite all nominees. The top three nominations in each category were invited along to hear about the best practice and most dedicated staff in our service and find out if they had won.

Four of the nine awards were sponsored and received a bigger trophy from our sponsors who were there to present them on the night. The winners and shortlisted projects were as follows -

Category - Science and Technology

Winner - Kinnaird Nursery Nativity Performance - Led by Donna Green, Lynette Wilson, Judith Walker, Linda Robertson, Susan Hughes, Caroline Patterson and Alice Davidson.



This project stood out because of the innovative use of IT to enhance something as traditional as the annual nativity play. 100 children were involved in choosing which part they wanted to play, what music and songs they would sing and helping to make the props. The children also used a web camera and movie maker software to record and edit their rehearsals - clips of which were incorporated into the final show in front of a large audience of parents and friends. Some children become quite shy performing in front of a large group - and remember these children are all aged under 5 years - so parents were delighted to see them performing for the camera and using the software confidently when the footage was projected on the big screen in the school hall last December.

Commended - Digital Commonwealth at Grangemouth High School - Led by Steve Duffy.

Commended - National Science and Engineering Week 2014 at Larbert High School - Led by the Faculty of Science.

Environment, Heritage and International Education - sponsored by the Helix.



Winner - Laurieston School First World War Project - Led by Carol Fraser, Laura MacDonald and Louise Tierney.



P6 worked with their class teacher Carol Fraser and Laura MacDonald and Louise Tierney from Falkirk Community Trust to turn history detectives to research the impact of the First World War on eight former Laurieston Primary Pupils. From 1914 -1918 Mr James Mather, the headmaster at the time, compiled an album of photographs and stories of pupils who served in the war. This rich historical log was the basis of a project which engaged the children enthusiastically in this 100th anniversary year of the start of the war and made it relevant to the children's lives today. A local artist and storyteller worked with the children, an exhibition was created which will go on the road later this year and BBC Alba and STV are making a programme on the Scottish / Serbian links and the Scottish Women's Hospitals - which will feature Laurieston Primary because of the story of a former pupil, Nurse Crowe, which was uncovered during this project. The school is proud to honour ex pupils who served in the war and publicise their stories.

Highly Commended - Connecting Classrooms in Bonnybridge and Uganda - Bonnybridge Primary School - Led by Jill Stocks, Sarah Ritchie and Sarah Burns.

Commended - I'm Not a Celebrity Outdoor Learning Project at Shieldhill Primary School - Led by Gill Melvin, Linda Bell and Lorna Eaglesham.

Learning to Achieve Awards 2014 cont'd

Star Performer – non-teaching

Winner - Ashlee Colquhoun, Science Technician, Larbert High.

Ashlee has made an incredibly positive impact on the team since joining the school – always going that

extra mile to make sure that resources are prepared well and delivered on time. As well as her day to day tasks, Ashlee has led several pupil projects and supported other groups such as the school Science Club and Saltire Awards Group as well as contributing to the Science and Technology Careers fair. Her interest in the pupils as individuals shines through and her enthusiastic and engaging personality plus sheer hard work has made a really positive impact on the learning of the young people.

Highly Commended - Calum Smith, School Librarian, Larbert High School.

Commended - Yasmin Miller, Clerical Assistant, Finance Team, Sealock House.

Star Performer – teaching

Winner - John Millar, PE Teacher, Denny High Rugby Squads.

Since John's appointment at Denny High in 2011, rugby at the school has blossomed and developed. They now have three very competitive boys squads and a girls S1-S3 squad has recently been set up too. Between 2011 and June 2014, 32 players from



the school are on development contracts with Falkirk RFC, 5 of those pupils also qualified for a selection trial with Caledonian Crusaders. Amazingly,

rugby has now overtaken football as the leading sport in the school in terms of participation numbers. The press has covered the progress of the school in their rugby development and the SRU has awarded the school with the top level gold award for 2 years running. John's contribution to this has been enormous and he modestly says, 'There is nothing better than being thanked by your pupils for the great times you have created'.

Highly Commended - Karen McCabe, Teacher, Westquarter Primary School.

Commended - Eileen Keenan, RE Teacher, St Mungo's High School.

Cluster Award for Joint Project

Winner - SCOTS Course at Forth Valley College – Led by Steve Dougan, Fiona Brown and Ernie Romer – involving all secondary schools.



The SCOTS Course – which stands for Schools / College Opportunities to Succeed Course – is aimed at young people at the start of the senior phase who have not thought about College as an option when they leave school. The young people take part in an 8 week taster session at the Forth Valley College covering a range of subjects whilst still working hard in school to gain SQA accredited units and the Falkirk Employability Award. Of the 120 young people that started the course over 90% have either opted to continue at Forth Valley College part time as part of their Senior Phase or have opted to start a full time course at College. This course has reduced the number of young people not going on to positive destinations as well as giving them opportunities for their long term future. Education Scotland has identified this course as good practice and other local authorities are interested to see if it would work in their area. The whole secondary 'cluster' of schools can take advantage of the innovative course for the benefit of their pupils.

Learning to Achieve Awards 2014 cont'd

Commended - Grangemouth Award Group in the Grangemouth Cluster – Led by Lesley Gibb, PC Steven Cooper and Jody Cannon.

Commended - Graeme Positive Families in the Graeme Cluster – Led by Lisa Sturrock, Karen Rennie and Dot Brown.

After this award was presented, the audience was treated to an entertainment interval provided by the pupils from Falkirk



High School followed by some light refreshments.



**Falkirk
Community
Trust**

**Arts, Culture and
Sport – sponsored
by Falkirk
Community Trust.**

Winner - Breaking Boundaries, Dreaming Big and Succeeding S6 Dance Academy at Denny High - Led by Anne McEwan.

Denny High was the first secondary school in Scotland to deliver an HNC Dance Artist qualification. Pupils used Dance for independent work experience in all feeder primary schools as well as leading dance clubs in S1 to S4 in Denny High. Parents have spoken of the positive impact that this whole learning experience has had on pupils. Parents supported the programme by fundraising to increase the opportunities on offer. Pupils were able to visit New York and take dance classes on Broadway as well as working with the world's best choreographers from a Broadway musical. The school has also achieved national recognition for this programme in TESS. Pupils



have now gone on to higher education – some of them have been accepted into dance colleges in London – some straight into year two. The pupils have left behind a legacy with this programme so other pupils in feeder primaries can benefit from this in years to come.

Highly Commended - Captain's Challenge at Larbert High School – Led by too many to mention!

Commended - Young Ambassadors and Young Leaders Project at Grangemouth High - Led by Pauline Dundas and the Young Ambassadors and Young Leaders pupil groups.

**Social Responsibility, Community Involvement
and Citizenship – Early Years and Primary –
Sponsored by the EIS**

This year we had so many entries that it was decided to split this award into two sections – this next one for Early Years and Primary and an additional award for the secondary sector together with Community Learning and Development. Thank you again to the EIS for agreeing to do that.

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Winner - Fruit and Vegetable Barrow at Drumbowie Primary – led by Miss Marshall, Miss Grant, Mrs Doherty, Ms Johnson and all pupils.



The plan was to establish a monthly fruit barrow in

Learning to Achieve Awards 2014 cont'd

Standburn village to promote healthy eating and stage monthly events around the barrow with food related themes. Pupils, parents, businesses and professionals in the food and health sectors were all active and involved in this multi-disciplinary creative learning project. The school had great press coverage and also praise from Education Scotland. The children even hatched their own chickens, found them new homes and started egg production in the community too!

Commended - Rannoch Nursery Litter Police – Led by Vikki White and the Eco Group.

Commended - Food for Thought at Drumbowie Primary - Led by Alison Marshall and all pupils.

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**Social Responsibility,
Community Involvement and
Citizenship – Secondary Sector
and Community Learning and
Development – again -
Sponsored by the EIS**

Winner - Graeme High Cycle Academy – Led by Stephen Beath.



The school has set up a Cycle Technician Academy to serve the pupil population and wider community by offering cycle repair and cycling qualifications. This includes a cycle workshop where pupils undergo training and certification in bike repair. This has allowed the school to offer recycled cycles to local families to increase their activity and fitness and cycling has become more popular as a leisure activity for pupils in the school. Pupils offer bike clinics in local primary schools and the school is now offering a range of cycling qualifications including off-road and stunt riding. The school has now been awarded Cycle Friendly School status and gained an award from Bike Club Scotland.

Commended - 1940's 'Dig for Glory' Garden Community Learning and Development - Led by

Andrew Graham (CLD) and Evelyn Downie (Oakbank Care Home)

Commended - Youth and Philanthropy Initiative at Falkirk High – Led by Ashley Wilson.

Outstanding Service Delivery

Winner - Implementation of CPD Manager and the ERD process – Led by Anne Hutchison, Stuart Lennie, Claudia Flynn, Lynne Lauder, Diane Cherry, Carol Ann Morrison, Gayle Martin and Anna Rodden.



The Curriculum Support Team were given the accountability for implementing CPD Manager and the Employee Review and Development process. CPD Manager is a simple online system which staff can use to book and record training sessions as well as keep track of their own development and, in the case of teaching staff, maintain their professional update with the General Teaching Council of Scotland. It reduces bureaucracy and saves time. A series of information and training sessions for staff were delivered on how to use the system and manage the employee development process. The major benefit coming from this project is that the service can make sure we offer the right training at the right time so all staff have the skills they need to ensure they make a difference to every single learner in Falkirk.

Highly Commended - Psychology of Parenting Project (PoPP) - Led by Beverley Isdale, David Fernie and Margaret Stewart.

Commended - Falkirk Teaching for Deep Learning Programme - Led by Yvonne McBlain, Sharon Wallace, Susan Dyer, Gillian Campbell and Anne Pearson.

Well done to all our worthy winners!

Note from Editor - Readers - next year it could be you so plan your nominations for May!

BANKIER PRIMARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY



This session, Bankier Primary celebrates its 50th anniversary. As part of the celebrations we have been organising a range of events. So far these have included our 50th anniversary mural, new uniform and new school motto surveys, time capsule, balloon launch and staff reunion dinner at The Cotton House – owned by a former pupil and where we were served by former pupils. The food was delicious and the company was great. Malcolm Cowie, former HT at Laurieston PS and former member of staff at Bankier, has been helping us organise a range of events and raise funds. We'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to Malcolm and to our former pupils for their very generous donations.

countdown to the balloon release. Every child in the school and nursery released a red, helium balloon. It was a fabulous spectacle.

We held a competition for our children to design ideas for the big outdoor mural. A winning entry was chosen from each class. The artist tried to include as many of the pupils' ideas as he could and the class winners helped to paint the mural. The overall winner had his mural idea replicated inside the school and he helped to paint this too. Eldon Tayag was the overall winner - well done Eldon on your fabulous space design. You can see the artist,



John Penman, also a former pupil, built the housing for our time capsule. Malcolm and John managed to locate a stone from the old Banknock school and the old Longcroft school to incorporate into housing for the time capsule. We thought that was a lovely touch. We incorporated lots of photographs, a DVD (assuming anyone will be able to work one in another 50 years!) pictures of the latest crazes like loom bands and snake boards. The children requested that the Provost wear his full regalia for the unveiling of the time capsule and he happily obliged. Some children

Scott Gilbert, and the pupils working on the murals in the youtube video clips.

Here is the link to the youtube video of our murals:

<http://youtu.be/MR4abP9GEfU>

<http://youtu.be/4hHP-VTUIJZo>

We still have lots of events in the pipeline such as:

- ★ Writing a song
- ★ Photography competition
- ★ Photographic display of Bankier over the last 50 years. If anyone out there has any old photos or stories about Bankier we'd be grateful if you would let us know.
- ★ Family quiz night
- ★ Fancy dress competition
- ★ A special concert
- ★ 50th anniversary Burns' ceilidh
- ★ Former pupils reunion disco
- ★ 50th anniversary sporting events
- ★ Our anniversary year will finish on a final big street party and fun day.

I'd like to thank all the staff and pupils and everyone involved in the 50th anniversary celebrations – too many to mention.

Please let us know if you have any other ideas to help us celebrate or if you have any photographs or memorabilia we could borrow or copy. Thank you.

told their parents the king had been in the school!

Councillor Jim Blackwood, who was a former pupil of the old school (he'll love me telling you that!) also came along to help us launch our celebrations. Councillor Blackwood and Provost Reid led the



Antonine Primary School & Nursery Class

We are well into the throes of our building development. It is easy to confuse our campus with a building site just now but we know we will have a great building resource eventually!

'The Games'

Like many schools in Falkirk, we enjoyed a fabulous Commonwealth Games experience. Engaging fully with Falkirk's 'Going for Glasgow' programme with our colleagues from Active Schools and pupils, we had great sporting experiences, both in school and across the Denny cluster and from Nursery to Primary 7. Now, we are well into the Legacy period, enjoying the development of different experiences. At the start of October we had our first broadcast from Radio Antonine, our new medium for updating on Sports, as well as other school news.



Jamaican Link

One of our Commonwealth Games Global Citizenship targets was to develop a link to another Commonwealth country – we now have a partnership with Denham School in Kingston, Jamaica. Pupils have skyped with the children and exchanged letters. We are enjoying this new partnership and hope to do a lot more with our link school.



Antonine Radio team visited BBC Scotland – with Bill Whiteford



ECO



In June, Antonine Primary achieved its third green ECO flag. We are all very proud of this award, coming after much hard work throughout the school community, including pupils, staff and parents. Our large and hardworking ECO team managed to ensure everyone was on board.

We are currently investigating how we can manage our energy output more effectively.



First Aid

Antonine teachers are now trained in first aid. Not sure, looking at this photograph, just how safe everyone is... We are grateful to Jim from *Macsafe* for our training. He is a very patient man...

**Gold 2 Enterprise in Education**

We worked hard last session to achieve our Enterprise in Education Gold 2 award, presented at Grangemouth High School.

**Max Gold Award**

Our pupils have benefitted from the 'Max in the Middle' programme for a number of years now. This earned us a special visit from a familiar face – Julia Swan – to present the award.

**Let's Cook @ Antonine!**

Antonine pupils were very fortunate to be included in the Let's Cook programme. As a result, P7 pupils left in June with a recipe book and a set of cooking and kitchen skills which will be of use at home and elsewhere. This year's P7s hope to continue with the programme in our new kitchen area!

Basketball

We continue to take pride in our basketball achievements – our team got through to the final of the Jump2It programme at The Emirates. It was a bit of a thrill to watch 'The Rocks' play a professional match.



Johnny Bunyan from Falkirk Fury joined us in school for some skills demonstration.



The Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games united people from all over the world through sport, citizenship and the arts. Recognising that Global Citizenship has its roots in strong local communities, schools within the Denny locality sought to replicate the values within the games by working collaboratively alongside Active Schools and Youth Music Initiative.



Supported by funding from Celebrate - 9 schools - Bankier PS, St. Joseph's PS, Antonine PS, Bonnybridge PS, Head of Muir PS, Nethermain PS, Denny PS, St. Patrick's PS and Dunipace PS - worked together to use the games as a context for improving health and wellbeing for pupils through sport and the arts. The project improved working relationships between all schools in the local area; denominational and non-denominational, by creating the perfect balance of co-operation and competition. It also enhanced the working environment by creating opportunities for pupils living in the same community to come together regardless of faith and strengthened inter-school partnerships by fostering better working relationships.

The project was launched with a baton relay.



Pupils from across the 9 schools designed a baton and Chiara Pennock from

St. Joseph's Primary produced the winning design. The baton was then made by Craft and Design Students at Denny High. On Thursday 29th May pupils from each school carried the baton across the cluster. Bankier Primary started

the party in style when the whole school made a guard of honour to send the baton on

the first leg of its journey to St Joseph's Primary. The baton was then passed from school to school. Every school planned their own celebration to welcome the baton with Dunipace Primary hosting the final party of the day. Communities across the Denny locality were brought together to celebrate and this was only the beginning!



Pupils were united to participate in Sports taster Sessions, including a sailing session at Bardowie Loch. Cluster sporting tournaments were organised and pupils had the opportunity to



participate in friendly local competition. The funding from Celebrate ensured that no cost was passed on to pupils. Positive feedback for all events was attracted through school newsletters, websites, Twitter, Facebook, local press and You Tube. Schools all linked with Active Schools through #FalkirksGoingForGlasgow. Schools also retweeted information on the project shared by schools involved.

A special choir was assembled to commemorate the Games. The choir consisted of two pupils from each school. The choir was tasked with writing a song to commemorate the arrival of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Supported by peripatetic music specialist, Daniel Walsh, and

The Commonwealth Games continued

YMI tutor, Suzanne Bell, the choir wrote Our Commonwealth Song. To ensure pupils' creativity was recognised the song was entered into several competitions. The song was so successful it was selected to be sung at Creativity Matters and Festival 2014, the arts



festival running parallel to the Commonwealth Games. The choir performed at the Live Zone on Glasgow Green alongside performers from all over the world. They entertained an international audience with their song and selection of popular classics. The performance attracted a very special fan, none other than Clyde himself. The mascot had enjoyed hearing the pupils' song so much that he joined them on stage for their final performance. Clyde added some unique thistle dance moves which only

served to enhance the performance and create lasting memories for the pupils. Pupils were able to apply creative thinking skills and musical ability to a very real context whilst experiencing success with the song becoming so popular in the local area. This unique arts project united pupils, staff and the global community through music

To date the project has improved the quality of learning experiences being offered to pupils in all the schools. It has allowed pupils and staff opportunity to work together by creating a natural opportunity for collaboration regardless of faith, school community or social background. The collegiate working arrangements between staff ensured effective delivery of the project. The project has created strong links between local schools and has helped to shape a legacy of partnership working. Schools involved are already planning to build on the success of the project in session 14/15 by establishing further sporting tournaments.

While the population of Scotland was happy to welcome the world by offering *Support as their sport*, the pupils and communities within the Denny locality were proud to participate.

Farewell to Janis O'Donnell from Dunipace Primary School Colleagues

Janis took up her first post as an Art Specialist in 1991 following training at Art College in Edinburgh, going on to deliver almost 23 years service, and inspiring the creativity of many Falkirk youngsters.



She can recount many stories of teaching the children over the years and they have clearly been the highlight of her career, and she will miss them.

Future plans include producing paintings for a charity calendar, supporting her husband with his printing business and continuing her painting for exhibit at RSA on the mound in Edinburgh.

We take this opportunity to thank Janis for her considerable contribution to education in Falkirk, and wish her every happiness for the future.

Going for Glasgow at Nethermains Primary

The Going for Glasgow project, set by Active schools, was an excellent opportunity for us at Nethermains to develop some of the work we had begun during the Going for Gold, Olympic Games project.

Staff and pupils embraced the challenges set within the project. This focussed our pupils in developing an understanding of some of the Commonwealth Countries around the world as well as experiencing over 20 sports. We planned a whole school project based around the Commonwealth Games. This involved the development of Global Citizenship across all stages in the school, inspiring and engaging pupils with different sports, making links and visiting sports clubs, working jointly with local

cluster schools and working closely with the high school and the Active Schools team, engaging with future stars/role models. Our main aim was to provide children with learning experiences

which would enhance and extend learning, as well as inspiring and encouraging them to make healthy choices, while developing a positive mental attitude.

As part of the theme links were made to Literacy and Numeracy where pupils developed their talking and listening skills through group work and reading skills in research. Pupils wrote reports and created presentations to share with their peers and parents in our open afternoon. In maths, handling data skills were developed through the investigation and comparison of weather in different countries. At first level the children worked together to create their own expressive dance for our opening ceremony and to welcome the baton at our cluster baton relay.

Links were made with many local clubs within our community, such as: Falkirk School of Gymnastics, Stenhousemuir Football club, Falkirk Tennis Club, our local basketball team and Active Schools co-ordinators. We planned lunchtime clubs in conjunction with active schools – badminton, table tennis, basketball and tennis. Several of our newly formed teams took part in festivals.

Each of our teachers planned an eight week block of after school clubs for the summer term which

allowed our children to experience a range of different sports. Over 140 children took part these clubs, including:

rugby, gymnastics, cricket, cycling, netball, kickboxing, athletics/cross country, commonwealth team games and junior journalists. Our junior journalists took a lead role in recording, taking photos and reporting on our project. They displayed information in school and created a newsletter to share with everyone.

Pupils also had the opportunity to experience sports that they had never tried before, such as sailing, water polo and synchronised swimming. This allowed pupils to develop many new skills.

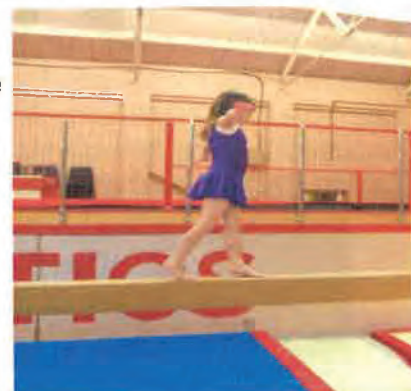
Throughout the project our Pupils were engaged with learning and were inspired to take part in our clubs, with over 80% of our children taking part. One of our P6 pupils,

Katy Allen, who was a member of our cross country team and won the P6 girls cross country league has now joined the Falkirk Harriers Athletics Club, we are extremely proud of her achievement.

Mrs Fawkes our DHT shared her enthusiasm and passion for the games by organising many of the events and experiences for our pupils. She also took part as a cast member in the opening and closing ceremony, which sounded very exciting and really captured the interest of us all.

We now look onwards towards building on this fantastic project and our staff and pupils are busy working on our Legacy plan, where we will try to hold onto the enthusiasm the Games has created for sports as well as continuing to build on our link with a school in Australia.

Thank You Glasgow for a year we will never forget!!



Visit to Falkirk School of Gymnastics



Denny Cluster baton relay leaving NPS



4 week taster of synchronised swimming

Dunipace Primary Outdoor Learning News

The brief of the Outdoor Learning group was firstly, to undertake an audit of the school grounds and secondly, to access training opportunities and produce initial guidance for staff in the areas of outdoor numeracy and literacy.

An audit of the school grounds was undertaken by members of the staff group. Feedback from pupils was also gathered from class questionnaires (Pupil Council) and also from an audit carried out by the Eco Crew. Parental views were also sought through the Parent Council.

The results showed mutual thinking amongst pupils, parents and staff: more seating in outdoor spaces, a covered area to provide shelter when working/ playing outdoors, bat and bird boxes, bird feeders and baths, attractive signs and litter bins of appropriate heights in each playground.

In addition, pupils felt the outdoor space could be made more interesting by having boulders/rocks and tree trunks on which to sit, climb and jump from. Large play equipment featured greatly in their responses such as a school trim trail. Staff on the other hand, liked the idea of a greenhouse and weather station as well as having benches for outdoor class work and lunches. This feedback will inform future projects in our school grounds.

The group made good progress in terms of providing staff with initial guidance by adopting numeracy and literacy guidelines already in use in a number of schools. We hope to add to these guidelines and in the future, make them more specific to our own school, grounds and surrounding area.

A staff session led by Jane Jackson (Outdoor Education Support Teacher) inspired everyone and focused our thinking on what could be achieved by taking learning outdoors. Jane also provided information about internet resources such as Nature Detectives which would support outdoor learning and teaching across the school.

Teacher- "It's reassuring to have guidance notes as a starting point. They give ideas and help you to feel confident that what you already do is valid."

Teacher- "Curricular links to outdoor learning are more evident after taking part in the outdoor training session."

Classes have been busy learning outdoors through a variety of fun contexts and activities:

The Nursery carried out a traffic survey using our clipboards and pencils. We looked for 4 different forms of transport. We had to watch the road carefully so we did not miss any vehicles driving by.

We also helped Captain Bristles to mend his ship by gathering Y-shaped branches and branches shorter than / longer than a given length.

P1 took a walk around Dunipace and learned lots of interesting facts including the Dunipace shield and about the artwork in the old railway tunnel which was by the same artist who painted our Nursery mural.

"Going through the tunnel was the best." - Jack

As part of 'The Street' topic, Primary 2 have been learning about Road Safety and safe ways to cross the road. We even had a practice outside! Finally P2 made a Road Safety guide by ordering instructions for crossing the road and drawing road signs. Primary 2 also braved the cold weather and went for a walk around the village to try and find different features of the streets. Each of us had a clip board and pencil to tick everything we could find on our 'Street' check list.

Primary 5 have been taking spelling practise outdoors and playing team games to improve our knowledge of phonemes and spelling patterns.

"We like working outdoors as you are more active and moving around. It's a fun way to do spelling and you don't have to sit at your desk!" Jonathan and Martin

"Being outdoors makes you feel good and it's fun to do things like spelling in the fresh air instead of sitting in the classroom." Lauren and Melissa

Primary 6 planted fruit bushes in the school garden.

"It's amazing to see the fruit bushes grow and to think about the lovely fruit we'll be able to eat. We planted a tayberry bush which nobody had heard of before! It's a cross between a raspberry and a blackberry." Jake

"We had to be very careful removing the pots from the fruit bushes so as not to damage the roots. We also had to dig deep holes to allow the roots to spread." Aaron

Fiona, the wildlife ranger came to help the Eco Crew add some wildlife- friendly touches to the school grounds. She was so impressed with the enthusiasm of the pupils in the group.

"Fiona's visit was very educational." Ellie

"We had to make sure the bug hotel was facing inwards as the bugs might burn in the sun." Cara

"Hedgehogs don't like to be disturbed especially when they have babies to look after." Sam

"I liked putting up the bat box." Karis

Bonnybridge Primary News

Get on Yer Bike!

Pupils at Bonnybridge Primary have been getting on their bikes. The school Eco-group had identified transport as a focus. To encourage people to take to 2 wheels rather than 4, the school launched an ambitious cycling programme. Led by Principal Teacher, Sarah Ritchie, the project involved the delivery of the Bikeability programme across P5 to P7, mini cycling clubs being set up for junior pupils, mountain biking being introduced at Golden Time and cycle fun sessions being introduced to the nursery.

The school received a grant from cycling Scotland to purchase a set of bikes to allow all pupils to participate. All pupils in P5 upwards have now achieved Bikeability Level 1 and the school has embedded the programme into its PE curriculum next session. Pupils are now cycling to school which improves their health and fitness levels. They have also achieved an award from a recognised body. More bikes around the school means less cars which improves the immediate environment by reducing pollution and the global environment by reducing the school's carbon footprint. Pupils are now equipped with a life skill essential for sustainable living.

Clyde, the Commonwealth and Beyond.....

Miss Stanners and P6S wanted to explore the Commonwealth in the year that the games came to Glasgow. The class set themselves a challenge of sending Clyde, the Commonwealth mascot, to as



many countries as possible in the year 2014. To date Clyde has been as far afield as Australia and Africa. P6 pupils shared Clyde's adventures on a special blog

embedded on the school website. The blog linked with a whole school approach to learning about the Commonwealth Games. Partnership working was facilitated between pupils. Any pupil in the school could request to take Clyde and could work alongside P6 pupils to tell his story. The blog gave pupils the opportunity to develop skills in digital leadership. These skills were embedded into the curriculum in a very natural way. The blog was

hugely popular and pupils responsible experienced success through a real project. Pupils were highly motivated to promote their blog; by encouraging people to take Clyde and to upload pictures and share his story. Pupils also learned to use social media safely through a real project.

BBC comes to Bonnybridge

Class teacher Michelle Cairns was keen to improve pupils' skills in critical literacy using a real and relevant context. She joined BBC World Class and registered her class to take part in the debates. Every two weeks the class join pupils from across the Commonwealth to debate issues affecting children. The BBC was so impressed by the contributions being made by the children they came to film them in action. Using a Commonwealth themed resource added purpose as the games have arrived in Scotland whilst blogging gives pupils a real context in which to develop critical thinking. The project attracted positive feedback from the BBC when they came to film P6/7 in action. The film was featured on the Scottish News. The project also attracted positive feedback from Education Scotland who featured the video clip and interview with Michelle on the Education for Global Citizenship section of their website.

Commonwealth Class Teams Project

Diane Russell, class teacher, and P7 pupils at Bonnybridge Primary School joined a Commonwealth Class Team project focussing on the Commonwealth games. The project was organised by the British Council and the school was placed in team with 7 other schools from across the Commonwealth to compete against each other in a series of challenges. Over 6 months the children completed 6 challenges collaboratively and uploaded them to an online space. The project directly improved Education for Global Citizenship within the curriculum by embedding projects. It also gave pupils opportunity to work in partnership with children from across the Commonwealth and learn

