

Bonnybridge Primary News Cont'd

about other cultures in a very natural way. Pupils all had childhood and school in common and used this as a basis for each new challenge they were set.

Hands across the Commonwealth Uganda 2013

Bonnybridge Primary has been working in partnership with Spire Junior School since August 2012. Pupils in Primary 6 have enjoyed exchanging letters and photographs with pupils at Spire Junior School. On the 11th October 2013 Jill Stocks, Head Teacher, and Sarah Ritchie, Principal Teacher, set off to Uganda to visit Spire Junior School in Uganda. Fourteen hours, three flights and over 6000 miles later they arrived in Entebbe, Uganda where they were warmly greeted by Principal Teacher, Mr Basoga, and class teacher, Mr Muyodi. From there they made the short journey to the city of Kampala. Sarah Ritchie shares her memories of their adventure.

The road to Kampala



'The first thing that struck me about Uganda was its vibrancy. The road to Kampala took us through various townships that were bustling with life, even though it was after 11pm. Fires

burned brightly while music rang in the streets thronged with people. The roads themselves were also lively. Road signs may be identical to those in the UK but the highway code was clearly very different. Drivers in Uganda drive at speed on either side of the road swerving to avoid oncoming traffic, Boda Boda, cyclists, pedestrians and the odd cow. Coming face to face with an HGV lorry coming round a roundabout in the wrong direction is something that I won't forget in a hurry!'

Bwasie Kazo Nakimero

Spire Junior School is situated in Bwasie Kazo Nakimero, a slum district in the city of Kampala. The village bustles



with life. There are shops, banana plantations, schools, houses and a visiting market. Cows, goats and chickens wander freely around the village. Chickens regularly wander into the school playground after playtime to feed on any crumbs they can find.

Spire Junior School

During our visit we spent 4 wonderful days in Spire Junior School getting to know the pupils, teachers and community. It was here that I felt most at home. Spire Junior School and Bonnybridge Primary School have a lot in common. Spire Junior School regularly join together for assembly. Pupils and teachers gather in the playground to share learning and celebrate the school through song and prayer.

Prefects help to organise assembly and support teachers with aspects of school life.

Lessons take place 6 days a week, although attendance on a Saturday is optional and pupils do not have to wear uniform. Spire Junior School has a tuck shop which is available to pupils every day of the week. Pupils can buy fruit and

popcorn to keep them going through the day. Lessons start at 7am and continue until 9pm for pupils in Primary 7. Pupils study literacy, numeracy, science and social subjects similar to pupils at Bonnybridge Primary School. However, there are no textbooks or technology to support the delivery of the curriculum. I had a lot of admiration for my colleagues in Uganda who spent 14 hours a day at work with no more than a blackboard and a stalk of chalk. Pupils sit an exam at the end of each academic year and must achieve a passmark of 40% and above to move on. Jill and I arrived in Uganda to meet with colleagues and left as friends.

The Future

The trip generated huge enthusiasm for Global Citizenship and pupils were keen to know more



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about their friends in Uganda. To date the schools have completed two collaborative topics; Through my Window and a Scotland/Uganda comparative study. In October 2014 class teacher, Sarah Burns, will join Sarah Ritchie for a return visit, Everyone at Bonnybridge Primary School is looking forward to welcoming teachers from Uganda to Bonnybridge. If they enjoy themselves even half as much as I did then they will have had an excellent time.

Fair Trade with Traid Craft

As part of a whole school focus fortnight on Fairtrade, Louise Blair, Linda Murning and P4 took an enterprising approach to promote the cause. The pupils established their own Fair Trade Company in partnership with charity Traid Craft. Pupils advertised their cause by designing and displaying posters, lettering their community and even writing a promotional song. On completion of the advertising campaign pupils set up a shop and took turns for running the shop over the course of the fortnight. The project efficiently delivered the message that Fair Trade and the issues surrounding it are important in an unthreatening and unchallenging matter. Shopping for every day produce is familiar to everyone and introducing the concept of Fair Trade was a natural progression. The project improved services by allowing pupils to approach the issue of Fair Trade in an enterprising manner. The project allowed pupils to showcase their knowledge of issues and produce to parents and the community whilst running their shop. Not only were pupils more aware of the issues surrounding Fair Trade but parents were too. The project improved the immediate working environment of the school by allowing pupils ownership of a large project. It also gave the school community easy access to Fair Trade Products. The profit generated from Traid Craft shop would improve the working environment for people far beyond the village of Bonnybridge by providing them with a living wage.

Poo! The Musical

Bonnybridge Primary Eco-group, Community Council and Drama club collaborated to tackle a growing problem in the local area; Dog Poo. Helen Bang, community activist, wrote a comedy musical to highlight the problem. The school drama club developed the script and performed the musical in the school and the Litter Strategy Award

Ceremony. The Eco-group supported the cause by manning a Green Dog Walkers Stall and running a poster competition. The project improved education services by allowing pupils to participate in after school learning. It also gave pupils the opportunity to perform to a local audience. The project also improved relationships between the school and the local community. The project was a more effective way of raising awareness of a local issue. The musical was very funny and when performed by children, had a really hard hitting message. The project was an efficient way of working because it united local organisations to tackle an issue together.

Commonwealth Games

In June 2014 Bonnybridge Primary was a finalist in the Education Scotland Awards 2014 in the category of Commonwealth Legacy. Bonnybridge Primary had used the Commonwealth Games as a context to develop excellence in learning and teaching by delivering lessons on the values underpinning the games, in an interdisciplinary manner and by embedding whole school projects. As part of the school self evaluation process an audit of Global Citizenship is carried out annually. The audit tool is used in two ways; to track progress in education for Global Citizenship and to advise future planning. The Commonwealth Games was identified as a context that would motivate and inspire staff and pupils alike. RACI tasks were included in the School Development plan to ensure maximum impact on pupil learning.

The Commonwealth Games provided an opportunity for the whole school to come together and learn together and the school registered with Game On Scotland. Pupils from the nursery to Primary 7 planned an in depth study of an aspect of the Commonwealth. Collegiate working opportunities



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were facilitated for staff and pupils. Pupils in the Nursery and Primary 1 collaborated to study the games through the story of Captain Bristles Thistle. Primary 2 pupils took forward a Global Storyline project. Pupils from Primary 3 and 4 studied countries and were introduced to the Gaelic Language. Pupils in P6 worked in Partnership with pupils at Spire Junior School by exchanging letters and cards. Pupils completed a comparative study of one another's countries.

The school registered with BBC world class and pupils began participating in monthly school debates. During these debates pupils were able to develop literacy and critical thinking skills by blogging with pupils from across the Commonwealth. The school was identified by a model of good practice and the BBC came to film Primary 6/7 in action.

P7 represented the school in a Commonwealth Class Teams project. The project was run by the British Council Online. Schools from across the globe were arranged into teams to share their experiences in the Commonwealth Year. Teams were set a challenge on a monthly basis. Each school in the team carried out the task and uploaded the results to an online space. The

project generated a natural way for pupils to work together. Strong relationships have been established between pupils and schools with the Commonwealth Games as the link.

Bonnybridge Primary was proud of being part of the Commonwealth Games and the legacy. For the remainder of this year the school will take every opportunity to share their practice with the school community and the world beyond. The school made their pledge on the Game On website. Primary 6 pupils took responsibility for contributing to the school newsletter and keeping parents informed of everything that was happening in the school. The school website has been redesigned with an entire section being created to share the work that was going on within the context of the games.

Pupils individual hard work and effort is rewarded through the Going for Glasgow Initiative and celebrated in newsletters, the school website and twitter account. The hard work of all in the school was rewarded by gaining further recognition from the local authority and British Council. In June 2014 the school will applied for Falkirk Council's International Education Award, Level 2 and the British Council Intermediate Level Award.

Dunipace P3 visit the National Galleries of Scotland

Each year some classes have the opportunity of working with the art specialist, Mrs O'Donnell. This year, with her support and guidance, P3 entered the Tesco Bank Art competition for Schools 2014. The aim of this competition is to encourage school children to interact with and be inspired by art works in the National Galleries' Collection.

The theme this year was 'Drumming Soldiers and Fluttering Fairies' and each child worked with Mrs O'Donnell to create a picture of a fairy, a soldier or both together which might be dancing, marching or playing music. The entries were judged on; originality and creativity, confident handling of materials and boldness and impact.

We are delighted to report that one of the pupils, Ailee Templeton was successful in achieving 2nd place in her category. This resulted in her work being showcased at a special exhibition in the National galleries and her piece being included in a calendar which will be sold in the gallery shops.

In addition P3 was rewarded with a fantastic opportunity to visit the National Galleries in Edinburgh to view some of the works on display and take part in a fantastic workshop with some professional artists to hone their skills.

Bainsford PS teachers visit to China

Over the summer Vicki France, class teacher at Bainsford Primary School was fortunate enough to visit Beijing for two weeks as part of a Chinese Immersion Course run by the University of Strathclyde and its partners. She attended with 25 other teachers from across Scotland who teach in both primary and secondary sectors. Here is a piece about her visit.

Whilst in Beijing I learned a lot about Chinese culture and got to learn about many traditional Chinese arts first hand including the art of Chinese Calligraphy, Chinese Tea Making and Tai Chi. I got to visit first hand some amazing locations including the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. I also was also taught some basics in mandarin at the Beijing Language and Culture University which I hope to continue to develop.

This truly was an experience of a lifetime which I was lucky to share with some really fantastic people. I am looking forward to using my new skills and knowledge to develop an accurate IDL topic in relation to China which I am sure my class will love.



Grant Award Scheme and Community Challenge Scheme

Update as at 16 October 2014

Background

Community groups across the Falkirk Council area are benefitting financially from a charity scheme set up across our four NPDO (Not for Profit Distributing Organisation) schools.

As a result of the way the construction of the four new high schools was funded, monies are generated each year for distribution to the local community via a Charity Board.

Charity Objectives

The Charity's objectives are:

To advance education within the catchment areas of each of the schools To provide or assist with the provision of recreational facilities

Some examples of applications include creation of school eco-gardens, equipment for school clubs, local art clubs, local sports clubs and historical societies.

Small Grant Application (up to £1,000)

Grant applications are invited from local schools, wider community groups and associations from across the whole of the Falkirk area and can be

valued up to £1,000.

Community Challenge Fund Grant (Up to £10,000)

The Community Schools Charity Board has recently agreed to provide funding for a "Community Challenge Scheme". Up to £10,000 will be available for local groups to develop innovative plans/projects to improve the local community.

How to Apply for Funding

Applications can be received from any group/organisations within the community. The only proviso is that that initiative must have a positive impact on the local area and benefit a wide range of the local community.

If you are interested in applying for either of these grants, please e-mail CommunitySchoolsCharityBoard@falkirk.gov.uk for an application form. Grant applications will be considered by the Board on 9 December 2014.

Closing date for receipt of applications:

1 December 2014

STOP PRESS!



Community Learning and Development

New CLD column starts here next month!

There are many exciting learning opportunities in the Denny area including Work Clubs, IT Skills, Youth Clubs, Parent's and Children's Groups, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and much, much more! For further information contact the centres direct.



Bankier Education Wing
Babkier Avenue, Banknock, FK4 1TF
01324 841419



Bonnybridge Education Centre
Bridge Street, Bonnybridge, FK4 1AA
01324 503290



Denny Education Centre
40 Duke Street, Denny, FK6 6NW
01324 504260



Archibald Russell Centre
Haypark Road, Dennyloanhead, FK6 5JZ
01324 882642



**Wider Access to School Project
(WASP)**
Denny High School, Denny, FK6 6EE
01324 822895

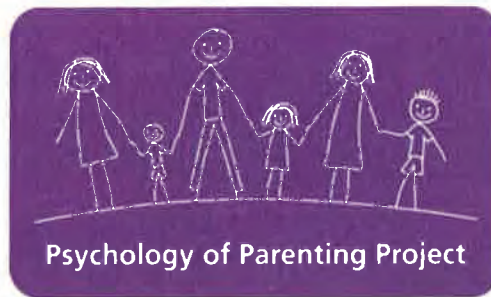


Denny Community Flat
26-28 Bridge Crescent, Denny, FK6 6PD
01324 824623



Falkirk Council
Education Services





Workshop Notice!

Engaging Parents in Discussing Their Child's Needs

Lyn McLafferty & Elaine Beck (Educational Psychologists) are offering a workshop to build on the training provided last session for early years practitioners. This is in response to significant consultation with practitioners in session 2013-14 that highlighted the need for further strategies to engage with parents in discussing their child's needs and where appropriate their eligibility for the Psychology of Parenting Project.

- ⇒ **What?** Increase practitioner skills & techniques in assessing and responding to their role in engaging parents in dialogue about their child's needs.
- ⇒ **Who?** Practitioners working with children 3-5years (inclusive). Practitioners who have previously attended a workshop on engaging parents and those who have not attended a previous workshop.
- ⇒ **Where?** Thursday 20 November 3.30-4.30pm or 5.00-6.00pm at Camelon Education Centre (there will be capacity for 40 practitioners to attend at each time slot).
- ⇒ **How?** Bookings made through CPD Manager (<http://falkirk.cpdservice.net/>) and the closing date for registration is Friday 7 November 2014.



Raise awareness of this workshop to increase access to the Psychology of Parenting Project.



International Education at Bo'ness Public School

GOING FOR GLASGOW – GAINING A GOLD!!

Throughout this year the full school have been involved in numerous events organised to promote both the Commonwealth Games and International Education. We have been awarded a Gold Award for Going for Glasgow as a result of this. Each and every class in the school has had the opportunity to take part in a Commonwealth sport during class time, lunchtime or after school. The children have all engaged positively and parents have commented on the experience it has given their child. We have involved the local community. For example P4 enjoyed afternoon sessions in Bo'ness bowling club where they were not only taught the skills, but engaged in conversation with older community members. This has promoted the sport with the children.

Selected P6 and P7 pupils took part in taster sessions in Canoeing which were delivered using the outdoor centre at Grange, encouraging teamwork and peer support.

A judo specialist came into school to develop skills with P3.

P6 and P7 pupils were able to develop their leadership skills by planning and supporting some of the activities that they had expertise in; for example supporting the P2 gymnastics club.

P6 attended the Authority athletics event and P7 the Commonwealth Games event at Grangemouth Stadium.

In addition to Gaining a Gold for the Going for Glasgow Initiative the children in Bo'ness Public have been fully involved in learning through activities to mark Commonwealth day and International day. Children rotated around a number of activities organised by teachers, including Commonwealth music, bagpipe playing, tennis tasters, creative dance and a modern language workshop. In the afternoon children performed their new skills/knowledge and had a quiz about the countries they had studied. This was documented in the Bo'ness Journal.

During Commonwealth day the children took part in tasks related to the Games itself. We had a session to nominate baton carriers for our school Commonwealth Games, engagement in a comparison session between a child in Kenya and here, a visitor through our strong link with the

Johari foundation, design the school baton and flag creation. In the morning our future star who is an ex-pupil came to deliver a presentation at assembly and this also coincided with Sport your Trainers Day. The children were able to see the links to previous learning and to celebrate when it came to the Commonwealth Week.



The Game On Scotland website has provided many opportunities for deeper learning. We held an in-house art competition where the 12 winners work was on display in the athlete's village. The children were really excited to receive their postcards from the stars of the Commonwealth.

During the final term and Commonwealth week each class had a chosen country. Three classes created links to Gambia, Northern Ireland and Pakistan. Work in class was delivered to learn about the culture and religion of the country and practises started for the concert. During the opening ceremony each nominated child from a class ran the baton alongside a piper! Different music groups from the school performed and even the rain didn't stop the celebrations and fun! Across the week we had a whole school sports Commonwealth competition, "Queen's Speech" and then a closing ceremony where race winners were congratulated. On the final day the whole school performed to 440 people at the Old Kirk. The Commonwealth Concert was a huge success and allowed the children to share their new learning to parents, carers and community members. Throughout this year monthly information has been shared in the newsletter, on our school blog and through twitter. Within the school the Junior Journalist has ensured that the noticeboard is regularly updated and shows our journey to Glasgow.

To summarise our Going for Glasgow initiative I would say that each and every child has had a good grounding of the Commonwealth and what it means to them. It allowed our children to engage in one way or another with the Games in Glasgow in

International Education at Bo'ness Public School Cont'd

July. The enthusiasm and the buzz around the school as a result of this was second to none. Children have been sharing many stories and memories from the Commonwealth in class and we have loved hearing about them all!

In November two of our pupils will present our final "Legacy" to the cluster at the Active Schools Legacy Launch. We are continuing with several afterschool clubs, cluster competitions and ensuring our link with the community remains strong. We also have a Commonwealth Scotland player for table tennis coming to school to demonstrate their skills and give pupils a coaching session. Alongside our links to International Education we are going to ensure that the Legacy of the games is very much alive in Bo'ness Public School.

Going for Glasgow – My View (Pierre Lardet, P7 pupil and Junior Journalist)

This year our school went for the Going Glasgow Gold Award. We achieved this by promoting awareness of the Commonwealth and the games in a range of activities and outings.

My role in this was the Junior Journalist. I had to interview the children in my school to report back to the parents. I did this on the school blog and twitter. It was really good to be able to see what other children thought of the activities and I enjoyed creating the questions for interviews. When asking Primary Four about their weekly trips to Bo'ness

Bowling Club one pupil said "I loved being able to go out and try a new sport". The children in P4 said that the members of the bowling club were "really friendly and helped us to learn a lot".

My favourite part in

Commonwealth Week was the concert. Every class had been learning about a different country which they created a performance based on. We had a rendition of "canny shuv yir granny oaf a bus", Bollywood J-Ho dancing and the Jamaican Farewell played on the tin whistles, to name a few. My favourite part was playing with the school band, I had a solo on the tin whistle in front of the 440 strong audience.

It was a great year and one to remember! With all this going on it kept everyone thinking about Glasgow 2014. Overall it was an amazing experience for everyone and a great way to learn about and promote awareness of the Commonwealth Games throughout the school. Roll on more learning for the Gold Coast 2018!!



The Community Action News Website

The Community Action News website <http://localcommunityaction.net/> has been set up to give local residents, community groups, support services and agencies the opportunity to view 'what's going on where' and be able to promote and advertise their own groups, appeal for membership and have any up and coming events within the local community publicised within the website's on-line calendar.

The website will also be used to advertise and review Falkirk East and Falkirk West Local Community Action Plans where local communities and services collaborate and work jointly on solutions to the issues the local communities have raised.

Children's Charity - suggestions wanted!

I met up with Joan Armatrading last Monday at Perth Concert Hall and she signed a Falkirk Catering Services chefs jacket for me. Together with a Maw Broons cook book. I will be auctioning them off to raise money for charity.

I would like it to go to an Education /children's charity ... any suggestions?

Annette Walcynska, x6626



SCOTTISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS COMPETITION: Stories of WWI's Families

Legion Scotland has launched a Primary Schools Competition for P5, P6 and P7 pupils across Scotland. Schools will investigate, capture, record and illustrate with photographs and stories the memories of the First World War from members of your local community.

Legion Scotland has the important role as guardians of remembrance. We believe that educating children and young people about the history of their community and the impact of war and remembrance is a vital part of their heritage.

As well as a trophy for the winning school and medals for the pupils, the ten winning pupils will be awarded a 'money-can't-buy' VIP trip to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in August 2015. Selected schools will also see their work included in a travelling exhibition around Scotland.

In short schools are asked to:

- * Identify and interview people in their local community who have memories, personal or passed down of life during WWI.
- * Gather evidence from interviews and research into their local community.
- * Investigate the life of one person or a family who lived during WWI and how the outbreak of the war impacted on their local communities and families.

- * Use photography to capture and compliment stories gathered as part of the project.
- * Submit three pictures accompanied by 500 words summarising the interview and ideas behind the photographs.

There may be a local Legion Scotland branch (we have branches in almost 170 locations across Scotland) that may be able to help schools in their research.

A shortlist of entries will be selected to go forward to an online voting stage where the public will select their top three. From these a winner will be chosen by a panel of celebrity judges.

All information that head teachers require is available on <http://www.legionscotland.org.uk/schools/legion-scotland-primary-schools-competition-2014-15/>. Here you can find a copy of the attached leaflet, full competition entry details, terms and conditions and teaching resources.

Schools are required to register their interest to enter by the 19th of December and submit their entries by the 6th of March 2015.

Yours sincerely, Legion Scotland



Films for Schools and Nurseries - Christmas Bulletin

Tickets £2.50 per pupil (with £free accompanying adult / teacher) unless otherwise stated.

All screenings should be booked in advance from the Steeple Box Office - (01324) 506850. Please note - Into Film Festival screenings (formerly known as National Schools Film Week) are free of charge and must be booked directly online at <http://www.intofilm.org/festival>.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Falkirk Community Trust'. Please let us know of any access requirements or coach parking. Tickets cannot be exchanged or money refunded except if the screening is cancelled. Refreshments can be pre-ordered, ask the Steeple Box Office.

The CPD is free of charge. Places for this professional learning can be booked in the usual way using course reference YMc22.

Wed 5 Nov, 10am, **A Grand Day Out / The Wrong Trousers**, FTH, www.intofilm.org

Thu 6 Nov, 10am, **Zip & Zap**, Hippodrome, www.intofilm.org

Thu 13 Nov, 10am, **Joyeux Noel (12A)**, FTH, www.intofilm.org

Fri 14 Nov, 10am, **Lessons of a Dream (12A)**, Hippodrome, www.intofilm.org

Thu 27 Nov, 4pm—6pm, **CPD: A Scottish Christmas**, Camelon Education Centre, CPD Manager YMc22

Fri 28 Nov, 10am, **Miracle on 34th Street (U)**, Hippodrome, 01324 506850

Fri 28 Nov, 1pm, **The Polar Express (U)**, Hippodrome, 01324 506850

Mon 1 Dec, 11am, **Public Screening: The Imitation Game (WWII)**, Hippodrome, 01324 506850 £3.20

Wed 3 Dec, 10.15am, **Workshop: A Very Scottish Christmas**, Hippodrome, 01324 506850

Thu 4 Dec, 10am, **Windstorm**, Hippodrome, 01324 506850

Mon 8 Dec, 11am, **Public Screening: The Imitation Game (WWII)**, Hippodrome, 01324 506850 £3.20

Thu 11 Dec, 10am, **The Polar Express (U)**, Hippodrome, 01324 506850

Fri 6 Feb, 9.30am, **NT: Treasure Island (encore)**, Hippodrome, 01324 506850

Calendar of Events November 2014

Falkirk EYC Away Team - 12.30pm	05 Nov
National Stress Awareness Day	05 Nov
Falkirk EYC Leadership Group - 3pm	05 Nov
EESMT - Sealock House - 9am	06 Nov
Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikh)	06 Nov
Remembrance Sunday	09 Nov
Education Executive Committee Meeting	11 Nov
ESMT - Sealock House - 1.30pm	12 Nov
NGT - Sealock House - 9.30pm	14 Nov
World Diabetes Day (www.worlddiabetesday.org)	14 Nov
Celebrating Success Event - FTH - 2pm	17 Nov
National Anti-Bullying Week (www.antibullyingweek.co.uk)	17-21 Nov
International Education Week begins	17 Nov
Head Teachers' Meeting - 8.45am	19 Nov
EYPIP - 1pm	19 Nov
Performance Scrutiny Panel (Education) - 9am	20 Nov
Universal Children's Day	20 Nov
ESMT - Sealock House - 9am	21 Nov
Falkirk Early Years "Home" Team - St Bernadette's PS - 3pm	25 Nov
Falkirk Childrens Commission - Municipal Buildings - 2pm	26 Nov
ESMT - Sealock House - 9am	27 Nov
Falkirk MAASH/WSA Development Group - Sealock House - 2.30pm	27 Nov
St Andrews Day (Christian)	30 Nov

Young Community Team



Everyone has heard of anti-social behaviour but what does it mean exactly? We know it's bad and that it needs to stop but how do we end it? The Young Community Team is our solution! Our Community Safety Team deal with anti-social behaviour on a daily basis and have decided that it's time to recruit a new enthusiastic team to help them tackle this problem.

The project consists of at least 4 school visits programmed into your school curriculum. The visits will include an interactive presentation and role playing as well as foot patrols with our own Community Safety Team. There will also be visits from other departments and services which deal with anti-social behaviour such as The Police and Fire Department.

Our Community Safety Team are looking forward to this project kicking off and can't wait to share their experiences with the pupils! If this is something you feel that would be useful to your school then get in touch with us on the contact information below.

community.safety@falkirk.gov.uk





Falkirk Council

Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Celebrating Success

10th Anniversary Celebrations

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Winner

- ★ Active Starts Breakfast Club at Grangemouth High School



Thanks went to the Graduate Interns who compered the event and introduced the nominees.

Thank you also goes to Grangemouth High pupils - Ultraviolet, Vocal Group and Soul Band who provided the excellent entertainment at the start and interval.

The 10th annual Celebrating Success awards were held on 17th November at Falkirk Town Hall. Again this year, Education Services had a large number of short listed entries - both as the lead service and in collaboration with other Council services. Well done to all staff who submitted entries, made the shortlist and, of course, those who won!

Individual Achievement

There were many commended and highly commended staff in this category –

Commended

- ★ John Martindale, Larbert High School
- ★ Diane O'Neil, Bo'ness Academy
- ★ Susan McKelvie, Grange Primary School
- ★ Barbara Bennett, Educational Psychology Service

Highly Commended

- ★ Kenny Young, Westquarter Primary School
- ★ Brian Kelly, St Mungo's High School

Provost's Special Award

Winners

- ★ Airth Primary School Citizenship Groups



- ★ Rannoch Nursery's Litter Police



Community Involvement

Commended

- ★ Bo'ness Community Café, Bo'ness Academy

Highly Commended

- ★ 1940's Activity Agreements, Community Learning and Development

Economy and Employment

Winner

- ★ Schools/College Partnership



Health Initiative

Commended

- ★ Denny High School Senior Girls Football Team

Highly Commended

- ★ Feel Good Friday Wellbeing Group, Grangemouth High School

Falkirk High School News

The Den

Falkirk High School's Nurture Base 'The Den' opened in August this year and has already had a considerable impact for both the pupils involved and their peers.

The pupils who attend the Den have been assessed by Boxall Profile and as a result have been identified as having considerable attachment needs which can be supported through their inclusion in the Den.

The time that the pupils spend in the Den and in their mainstream classes is monitored closely and varies according to individual requirements.

Currently we have 7 S1 boys attending the Den daily and a further two S2 boys also attend each day.

Timetabling a group to be in the Den 1st period every day allows time for them to meet, talk over any issues and mentally prepare for the day ahead. In some cases medication is given time to take effect allowing the pupil to go to class better prepared to learn and allow their classmates to work without potential disruption. Social skills are also being developed through play and sharing. The group are timetabled every last period to allow them to reflect on their day.

The opportunity for the boys to develop trusting relationships with a small number of adults, which is a basic premise of nurture, has already enabled staff to diffuse situations which have had the potential to cause major disruption.

The homely atmosphere has enabled our pupils to take time out to calm down after an event which they have found difficult or traumatic and to discuss the incident in a non-threatening atmosphere with an adult they trust. Pupils have also talked about stresses they are having outside school. Homework at the kitchen table in the Den helps to relieve potential tensions at home.

Partnership working has been crucial and with support from the Family Support Service, home visits have been made, ensuring that the home/school link is strong. Communication is frequent between school and home with parents/carers now feeling able to contact the Den staff with their questions and concerns.

As we move forward the intention will be for staff training to be rolled out through our link with Educational Psychology. It is hoped that Nurture Champions will be developed in each department,

with staff gaining a greater understanding of nurturing communication.

Some quotes from the pupils involved:

"I can do my homework on time"

"Doing jigsaws – it calms me down"

"It is a place where you can talk to people"

"It's away from annoying people."

"It makes the days shorter"

Transition Programme

As part of the continued enhancement of the transition process, P7 pupils from Comely Park Primary School have visited Falkirk High School recently. Each class spent 3 days in Falkirk High School, with their P7 teacher in a designated classroom. During the visit the pupils experienced lessons in French, Spanish, Home Economics and Social Studies, as well as learning library skills. In addition, the pupils worked with staff to learn about the school's Values. During their visit, the pupils demonstrated very positive attitudes with teachers commenting on the hard work and enthusiasm shown, along with their polite and courteous manner.

The purpose of the visit was to help P7 pupils feel more comfortable about making the move to high school. Encouragingly, all P7 pupils said that the visit had made them more confident about coming to Falkirk High School. Pupils stated that they now had a better understanding of how to get around the school, who the teachers are and what happens in classrooms. Among the comments received from pupils were:

"I got to know some teachers and it made me feel more confident".

"It has been nice and everyone is kind".

"It helped me because I was taking the lessons that a high school pupil would".

"I was nervous before but now I am not".

We look forward to seeing P7 pupils from our other associated primary schools later in the session and the Comely Park pupils again at other transition events and in August 2015.

Torwood Garden Centre

My name is Ruby Summers, I am an S2 Ambassador and in the school band. Recently I

Falkirk High School News cont'd

took part in the excursion to the Torwood Garden Centre. This was an immensely enjoyable experience as it really helped me develop my confidence by playing in front of an audience. It gave me a boost as many people had really positive things to say about our school and the performance. It was also a great feeling to get out of school for a short while and help out with the charity Macmillan. We helped raise money by being involved in a Coffee morning and we developed our musical performance at the same time. It was a great experience for everyone involved!

By Ruby Summers

Spooky Songs For Our S3!

In music we have created our own 'spooky songs' for Halloween and learned new vocabulary to help create our musical masterpieces.

We studied the 'Chariots of Fire' and learned new music techniques such as diminuendo, how many beats in a bar and reading notes.

As we lead up to Christmas, we will be taking these skills forward for the festive spirit. We are learning to play 'Winter Wonderland' on various types of instruments, including keyboard, guitar and drums. We have been practising individually and at the end collectively as a class. Being in music recently has been a great learning experience especially with the chance to learn new instruments,

By Leah Angus and Laura MacCuish

S2 Theatre Trip

My name is Claire Crease, I am currently one of Falkirk High's Young Ambassadors and I am in S2. I recently took part in the Falkirk Town Hall theatre trip. It was a very enjoyable experience and gave us a good insight into life within a theatre. The START project was beneficial as we were given the opportunity to see one of the many ways in which our local arts centre is used to educate the children of our community. A big thank you to our music teachers and the people at Falkirk Town Hall for having us.

By Claire Crease

Girls rugby at FHS – "Early days but bags of promise!"

We are part of the Young Ambassadors and the rugby team along with other pupils ranging from S2 to S4. We enjoy rugby because it's fun and it keeps us fit. We have taken part in many games and tournaments. We have succeeded in some games but are really looking forward to training

hard, putting in the effort and hope to achieve a good Scottish Cup run in years to come. We have many opportunities to practice and learn more skills as we have training on Wednesdays and Fridays. Overall it has been a really enjoyable and fun experience to be part of the girls' rugby team. Please watch out for our games in the near future. Our fixtures and how we are doing will be posted



on twitter @FHSPHysicalEducation

By Karla Mallis and Neve Reynolds

Shakespeare Schools Festival

We were one of four local schools that participated in the Shakespeare Schools Festival recently culminating in a performance at Falkirk Town Hall. Our performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream was described as 'outstanding'. This is what some of the pupils involved had to say about their experience:

Being a part of the Shakespeare show was amazing. Being a technician was scary. I was the sound technician and to see all the big equipment and controls in the theatre was frightening. It was a really fun and amazing experience to see the actors from the back of the theatre and seeing our massive standing ovation! It was overwhelming but amazing! I look forward to doing more Shakespeare shows in the future.

(Sound Technician – Sasha Chatburn S3)

Shakespeare Schools Festival provided joyous weeks of rehearsals leading up to a wonderful final performance. It felt good knowing we were part of something bigger than just our school drama group, and that other schools felt this way too. The professional environment was calming and a change from the hectic atmosphere of everything else. It was interesting to learn and understand Shakespeare, and more than fun to put our own twist on it and perform to a full scale, actual paying audience. Shakespeare for Schools allowed me to

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be in my favourite place in the world - the stage - and I'm always grateful for that.

(Puck –Kenzie Wright S6)

This show really boosted my confidence. I feel I made lots of new friends and it was a great experience.

(Flute - Catherine Murdoch Burt S3)

Doing the show really boosted my self-esteem and was a lot of fun to take part in. I made new friends and had a fantastic time, acting with different people and learning new techniques for performing.

(Fairy - Erin McDougal S3)

The school show was a great experience for all involved. Everyone tried really hard learning their lines. I enjoyed basically all of it but the bit I enjoyed the most was the final performance, it really was touching that we got a standing ovation. It was really cool being behind the scenes of it all. We had a few problems along the way but we did really well to overcome them. Overall it was really fun and I can't wait to do it again.

(Bottom - Shaun Ramsey S1)



Fairies – great make up and costumes



Tech Team with Miss Logie

Holocaust Memorial Day screening for schools at the Hippodrome Bo'ness

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS
(12A)

Tue 27th January 2015

£2.50 (accompanying adults free of charge)

Pre-booking essential Box office: 01324 506850

Information about changes to household waste collection service

Falkirk Council is changing the way it collects household waste to help increase recycling. The new service involves green bin collections moving from every two weeks to every three weeks. The communities of Bo'ness, Lionthorn, Upper Braes, Denny, Bonnybridge and Banknock are the next areas to receive the change of service.

All other recycling collections remain the same with food waste being collected every week and the blue bin, brown bin, black box and textile bag every two weeks.

Changes to the collection service will be actively promoted through a comprehensive communications campaign running from 22 September to 28 November. Schools in the affected areas will play a key role in helping to raise awareness among the local community.

The Waste Strategy team hope to attend parents' evenings and other appropriate school events with their road show. Please contact the team by calling 01324 504444 or emailing zerowaste@falkirk.gov.uk to arrange a road show event or if you have any questions.

Changes to household waste collections do not affect the trade waste service schools receive.

Waste Strategy, Development Services

Limerigg and Slamannan Learning Community News



Follow us on facebook at 'Limerigg and Slamannan Learning Community'

Our new learning community, now into its second year, have had a busy start to this session. We have come together as a full staff team to agree on the values that we want to drive our community forward. We aim to be a child centred and inclusive learning community basing our work with children on respect, trust and equality. Our parents had the opportunity to comment on these at Parent's Night and were very positive about our choices.



We attended the 'Going for Glasgow' Legacy event together and created a

poster showing the activities we are doing to keep the legacy alive across our learning community.

With the fantastic support of our active schools co-ordinator, Chris Rose, we have been successful in gaining 2 grants to support our transition to Falkirk High School. We were awarded a whopping £1980 from the Big Lottery to support transport to the after school clubs held in Falkirk High School. This brings our 2 schools together and also allows the children to become familiar with the secondary school. The Primary 7 children from Limerigg join with Slamannan every Thursday morning to have Art with our specialist Mrs Henderson. Mrs Young from Falkirk High School also joins us at this time.



Heathrigg Nursery School pupils visit Slamannan Primary School

It has been exciting times as we have developed our links as a Learning Community between

Heathrigg Nursery School and Slamannan Primary School. Firstly, the nursery children have been



visiting the school on a regular basis to make good use of the gym hall. They are enjoying their visits,

and it will help to support the all important transition to P.1 next August.

We also have all the boys and girls from the 3-5 room from Heathrigg, along with P.1/2 and P.2/3 children for our Assemblies.



This has been a great time for the boys and girls to share things that they have been learning and investigating. During one Assembly P.1/2 shared their alphabet song with everyone, and the nursery boys and girls sang their Welcome song. It was lovely to hear!

P.1/2 have also been learning all about shapes,



and they invited the Pre-school children to join them find out about 2D shapes. All the boys and girls listened well, and shared their

knowledge of 2D shapes with each other. Then they enjoyed various activities and games together, using shapes as they learned through their play. Some of the Pre-school children also played some number games. We look forward to having P.1/2 and our nursery friends together on a regular basis!

[illegible]

Falkirk Teaching for Deep Learning Programme



Yvonne McBlain is working with a range of colleagues to continue the development of the Falkirk Teaching for Deep Learning programme professional

learning resource. The whole programme aims to move Falkirk classrooms from good to great by shifting focus from shallow “knowing” to deep “understanding” – teachers are given the opportunity to explore what this really means for their practice.

The programme is designed for learning by sharing, reflecting together, trying out, observing and coaching each other.

Facilitator training for the first cohort of 17 practitioners finished in June 2014, and they have used their training in a range of ways to support colleagues in their schools and centres. Often, they have facilitated a professional learning process where their teacher learning community chooses its focus and then uses the programme content to explore this in depth. This resulted in a range of adaptations to teaching practice in schools, which, in turn has improved learning for pupils. This model has been adopted and adapted by more than a quarter of our primary and secondary establishments. Facilitators playing a lead role in the professional learning of colleagues has enhanced relationships within establishments. Development of teacher learning communities helps meet recommendations from Teaching Scotland's Future by offering a structure for professional learning for practitioners. Facilitators have developed their confidence and skills, while contributing to a sharing, reflective ethos with their schools. Teachers taking part in sessions value this collaborative learning and are developing their peer support networks. School leadership teams have been able to link professional learning in their establishments more effectively to improvement priorities enabling greater coherence.

Yvonne McBlain is now training a second cohort of 20 facilitators in the use of the programme. The programme has also proven to be a great catalyst for distributed leadership for the facilitators, who are now fulfilling various roles in its ongoing development – including acting as members of the mobilisation team. Next steps include:

- ★ Gathering feedback from HTs of schools with facilitators
- ★ Exploring GTCS Accreditation and professional recognition
- ★ Sharing actual and potential impact

- ★ Continuing to extend content in a sustainable way (using facilitators and other expertise)

Responding to the Recommendation of the Learning for Sustainability Report November 2012

Jane Jackson, Megan Farr and Yvonne McBlain have consulted with senior managers and practitioners across our establishments to explore how to take forward the recommendations of the Learning for Sustainability report. These were accepted by the Scottish government in March 2013 and are defined in this year's National Implementation Plan as local authority tasks:

- *In line with the recommendations of the Learning for Sustainability Report, schools will adopt coherent whole school/community approaches to global citizenship, sustainable development education, outdoor learning, children's rights and play*
- *Key partner organisations have the opportunity to contribute their expertise and participate effectively in the developing strategies to meet the recommendations of the Learning for Sustainability Report.*

Jane, Yvonne and Megan initially met with existing outdoor learning, global citizenship, international education, and sustainable education groups to explore their thoughts on how these elements of the curriculum will now sit within the title of Learning for Sustainability. They then scheduled a Coffee, Croissant, Controversy session for senior managers, and a twilight session for practitioners to explore how we could support schools in working towards these tasks. Although few people were able to attend these meetings, they were very productive and have allowed us to start a task brief and identify initial tasks. The first of these is to raise awareness of this report and explore how it cuts across and impacts on education and other services. Another essential task is to communicate the message that we already have coherent approaches and strong partnerships and now need to find ways to capture, share and develop these. Then we can identify gaps and address any areas for development – please contact yvonne.mcblain@falkirk.gov.uk, jane.jackson@falkirk.gov.uk, or megan.farr@falkirk.gov.uk if you are interested in being part of the mobilisation team for this work.

LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The report of the One Planet Schools Working Group

