



Falkirk Council

# Education Matters

*Learning to Achieve*



## Learning Resource Centre News

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MY FUTURE'S IN  
**falkirk**

Black Hound' and 'Bunny vs Monkey' to each class. The pupils read, rated and voted online for their favourite – the winner will be announced on 1st July. [www.excelsiorawardjunior.co.uk/](http://www.excelsiorawardjunior.co.uk/)



The skills used to read a graphic novel can 'help a child gain a deeper understanding of a non-graphic novel'. One teacher reports that introducing pupils to graphic novels has motivated the class to read more as a whole, not just more graphic novels, and can evidence this with pupils' reading logs and increased library borrowing.

**Read on!**

### Open for business!

We have been hearing rumours from schools that we are closed. Please be assured that we are open for business as usual at:

Learning Resource Service  
Camelon Education Centre  
Abercrombie Street  
Falkirk FK1 4HA  
Tel: 01324 501980

[lrs@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:lrs@falkirk.gov.uk)

If you have not been along to see us in our new premises please feel free to visit any time during **opening hours Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm**.

Requests for resources can be made in person, by telephone or email.

Browse the library catalogue at <http://oliver.falkirk.gov.uk/oliver>

To keep up-to-date with what's happening at LRS or find out about new resources follow us on Twitter: @Falkirk\_LRS

### "The dog ate it"

As the end of the school year approaches, please return any borrowed resources you are no longer using. We use the summer break to stock take, weed out old/damaged resources and, most importantly, to make up your requests for the new school year and we need our resources returned to us in order to do this. An email will be sent out soon to anyone with overdue resources. Thank you.

### New Reading Sets

Some exciting new reading sets have recently been added to our collection. Class sets of David

Walliam's books 'Mr Stink', 'Billionaire Boy' and 'The Demon Dentist' are now available to borrow.

We have also purchased group sets of Minecraft manuals, which are already proving popular, and will provide you with another option when introducing pupils to instructional texts. They are a great way to enthuse your more reluctant readers.

### Scottish Children's Book Award – added value from LRS

The last of the author visits as part of the added support for schools from LRS took place on 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May. Shortlisted author and illustrator, Alison Murray, visited Easter Carmuir PS, Hallglen PS, Carrongrange School and St Andrew's Nursery. The children and young people were enthralled as Alison shared her skills and talent for writing and illustrating picture books.

At LRS we have long recognised the importance of graphic novels in improving attainment in literacy and encouraging children to read and this year we have been proud to support primary schools who took part in the Stan Lee Excelsior Award Junior – a book award for graphic novels. Classes from P5 - P7 took part at Larbert Village PS, Victoria PS, Ladeside PS, Carron PS, Grange PS, Westquarter PS and Airth PS.

LRS provided multiple copies of the short-listed titles: 'Itty Bitty Hellboy', 'Melusine: Tales of the Full Moon', 'Long Gone Don', 'Hilda and the

## Carrongrange School News

### S3 Structures



This term S3 pupils have been learning all about structures in the built and natural environment in their DET lessons. They have been working

with a range of building materials and have been investigating how to make structures strong and long lasting.



### Big Planning Event

The very first Carrongrange Big Planning Event



took place at the Inchyra Grange Hotel at the beginning of October. This was facilitated by Alistair Welsh, KEY, and supported by Dory McIntosh, MiEnterprise. Our Big Planners were: Bekka Blackwood,

David Jinks, Jon Eadie and Jordan Kilgour.

Each young person was supported by family and friends to explore new and existing opportunities where each young person can contribute to community life beyond school.

### Art Trip - National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh

The pupils had a fantastic time



exploring the different landscape paintings in the gallery. They then had the opportunity to work in the studio with two artists and create their own landscape art work.

The gallery staff really enjoyed working with our pupils and said it was the best group they have worked with!



### Book Awards

5 classes from S1-S3 in Carrongrange School participated in the Shared Reading Scheme with 5 P2-3 classes in Stenhousemuir Primary as part of the Scottish Book Trust Awards. One S3 class also worked with Glenbervie Nursery.

The Carrongrange pupils read the short-listed books to the Stenhousemuir Primary pupils as well as assisting them in short related activities.

Some lucky pupils also took part in A Celebration of Reading organized by Library Services at Camelon Education Centre and met some of the short-listed authors.

### Film for Schools Summer 2015

End of term screenings at the Hippodrome, Bo'ness have been announced. Tickets are just £2.50 per pupil (accompanying adults free of charge). Make your bookings through the Box Office, tel: 01324 506850.

Thu 28 May	10:00	The Spongebob Movie: Sponge out of Water (U)
Thu 4 Jun	10:00	Cartoon Capers (U): A selection of animation classics including Bugs Bunny and Tom & Jerry
Thu 11 Jun	13:30	Cartoon Capers (U): as above
Wed 17 Jun	10:00	Moomins on the Riviera (U)

Please advise us of any access requirements or coach parking requests when booking.

Refreshments can be pre-ordered, please contact the Box Office for more information.



## **Windsor Park School - Back to School Project**

Deaf History Scotland was commissioned by Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD) to run workshops for deaf and hearing children about the "Back to School" project.

SCoD was awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to produce DVDs containing footage of deaf people telling stories about their school days and run workshops for deaf and hearing school children.

We were thrilled to hear that Windsor Park was to receive one of the workshops and Lilian Young, the former SCoD Director, along with her colleague Margaret Aitken, recently presented the workshop at our secondary department in Falkirk High School.

Our pupils from P6 upwards attended the session. They watched video clips and discussed what they had seen and how the school education in 1940's to 1960's compared with the present education set up.

Our pupils (and staff) were appalled at some of the old fashioned hearing aid equipment and the poor standard of education that was provided for the deaf in the past. Hopefully they now realise how lucky they are today!

Both of the ladies who presented the workshop are profoundly deaf sign language users. They also took the time to visit the younger pupils and were given a tour round the school.

The following day we were delighted to receive an email saying how much they had enjoyed their visit and how impressed they were with the set up in Falkirk and the standard of signing provided by staff.



## **Deaf Learners' Conference**

On 25 February over 70 deaf young people from 19 different local authorities across Scotland took part in a Deaf Learners Conference in Glasgow with the help of education authorities, school, teachers and support workers from across Scotland. This event was the first of its kind, providing deaf young people with a unique opportunity to come together and discuss their school experiences, achievements and challenges.

The objectives of the Conference were to:

- ★ *Create an inclusive forum where young people could share their education experiences and views ;*
- ★ *Inspire deaf young people to achieve their aspirations by providing opportunities to hear about the achievements of their peers, keynote speakers and deaf role models;*
- ★ *Provide an opportunity for deaf young people to meet, build peer relationships and explore their deafness;*
- ★ *Raise awareness more widely of the issues faced by deaf learners.*

The main part of the agenda was the group sessions in which young people were asked to discuss three questions:-

1. *What support do you receive at school?*

2. *What is the biggest challenge you face at school?*

3. *What is your biggest achievement/dream for the future?*

Some pupils felt they were very well supported where others felt they needed more support.

The biggest challenges young people identified were:-

- *Bullying and social exclusion*
- *Lack of deaf awareness*
- *Challenges with technology*

Socialising in general also emerged as a key challenge for the pupils, tying in to both deaf awareness and social isolation.

Overall the day was a huge success and due to the sheer numbers, left the deaf young people feeling less isolated and in the knowledge that they were not alone.



## Callendar House - Windsor Park Pupil Reporters

Last week we went with Mrs Todd and Mrs Williamson to Callendar House to learn about Victorian life. We went in the car. We met Marie at the front door. Marie took us inside to hang our jackets up. Then we got changed into Victorian clothes. Marie took us into the kitchen and we met Isabel the cook.

The kitchen had a big fire and lots of big ovens. Wow! Then we talked about the different whisks and how they were used in Victorian times. We made Rose Marble Cream pudding. First we whipped the cream, then we added the rose water, lemon juice, sugar and raspberries. We whipped the cream and it became thick. Mrs Todd was the winner. Well done Mrs Todd! Then we looked at the Victorian fires. They had four big fires in the kitchen. They had a gas oven too and we looked at the big pans. They were made of



bronze and they were very heavy to lift, and we looked at the utensils. We saw a weird tin opener.

Then we went to the laundry. We looked at all the things to help us to clean old clothes. We washed the old clothes with a wash board. We looked at the hot water bottle and something to cut the wicks off the top of the candles, and a wooden mushroom to darn the socks.

Finally we played hide and seek in the trees. Then we went back to school for lunch. It was an awesome day. Aimee

Last Friday we went to Callendar House, because we learnt about the Victorians last term.

We met Marie outside and then met Isabel in the cloak room. We had to change into Victorian maid's clothes. We wore a hat and an apron.

We followed Marie and Isabel into the kitchen. It was very hot and I saw a big range, and about 4 big ovens, a gas oven, a hot plate and a hot bread oven and a huge fire.

We made Marble Rose Cream with sugar, raspberries, lemon juice, flavoured rose water and cream. We had a race to see who was the quickest at mixing the cream. It tasted like a sweet pudding. In the past it was a very expensive food to make. Only rich people could make it.

We went upstairs to the laundry room. I washed an apron on the wash board. It was hard work. In the past it took 5 hours to wash all the clothes.

I saw a hot water bottle. It looked like a pig's face because it had a bit like a pig's nose on it. It was hard and uncomfortable. I saw something to cut the wick off the top of the candles and a wooden mushroom to darn the socks.

We played hide and seek in the forest. Then we went back to school for lunch. The best bit was making the pudding. Jemma



Last week we went to the Callendar House with Mrs Todd and Mrs Williamson because we wanted to learn more about Victorians. We met Marie at the front door. She took us to the downstairs cloak room to hang up our jackets. Then we went upstairs to the huge Victorian kitchen and we met Isabel. We changed into maid's clothes. I wore a mop cap and an apron. We looked silly. Then we saw a huge fire. We had to stand back from the fire because it could burn us.

Then we made Marble Rose Cream pudding. First we looked at the cream, and then we whipped it. We had a competition to see who could whip the cream the fastest. Mrs Todd won. Then we mixed rose water, cream, lemon juice, sugar and raspberries together. It tasted nice.

Then we went to the laundry. We used the old things to help us to clean the clothes. I washed the mop hat on the wash board. Then we talked about the hot water bottle and we looked at something to cut the wicks off the top of the candles and a wooden mushroom to darn the socks. Finally we played hide and



seek in the trees and after that we went back to the school for lunch. We had an excellent day. Jasmine



## Valuing Outdoor Education in Windsor Park School

Over the past few years, our middle to upper primary pupils have been given opportunities to take part in Outdoor Education sessions led by Steve Coyle, from the Outdoor Education Team within Falkirk Community Trust. These sessions have included indoor climbing, hill walking, bush craft, catacanoing and hill walking.

Staff immediately recognised the benefits and assisted Steve to plan outdoor experiences for the younger pupils.

These sessions have included a day of appreciating the outdoors and orienteering in Muiravonside Country Park, catacanoing at the Helix and a day at Aberdour Beach all of which encompassed keeping safe, sustainability, exploring habitats and exploration of the different environments.



These sessions have been a great success and staff can see how these experiences benefit our pupils as it brings the learning experiences and outcomes from CfE outside in to real life situations which is much more meaningful to our pupils.

Staff recognise the value and relevance of the Outdoor Education programme and the wider opportunities we have to reinforce and teach new

vocabulary, as our learners rely on the concrete and visual to learn. On top of this, Outdoor Education provide us with opportunities to teach specific skills such as mapping, data collection and organisation, observation and attention to detail through drawing and to teach essential life skills such as water safety and sustainability.



Due to our pupil's sensory impairment, we understand how limited their experiences may be of having the freedom to explore different environments. Steve's "risk aware" rather than "risk adverse" methods, ensure all aspects of what's involved with outdoor activities are covered. It has been a wonderful opportunity to watch our pupils support and encourage each other through the variety of activities which expose the children to new experiences, often taking them out of their comfort zone.

These days give our pupils to enjoy the outdoors and build on their self-esteem and confidence. The programme has stretched the pupils mentally, physically and emotionally to get the best from each of them.

We very much look forward to our days out with Steve and the enthusiasm the children have on their return when reflecting on their experience using video and photographs taken on the day is palpable and evident through the follow up tasks back in the school environment. We are very much looking forward to whatever new experiences 2015/16 brings!



## Bantaskin Rainforest – Get Me Out of Here!

To bring their rainforest topic to a close, Primary 7 pupils at Bantaskin and Windsor Park schools invited parents and carers to view their fantastic class rainforest. Pupils prepared guided tours around the classroom, pointing out items of interest in displays and folders. Pupil drawings of jaguars and rainforest plant models drew much attention from the visitors. Painted, life-size Yanomami figures were also admired for their bright, colourful costumes and head dresses.



Visitors were also treated to some Bush Tucker Trial style activities.

Brave parents agreed to be blindfolded to taste rainforest delights such as fish eyeballs (grapes), stick insects (All Bran cereal), tarantula legs (Kiwi fruit) and insect larvae (fusilli pasta). Others rolled up their sleeves to trawl for insects hiding in bowls of beans and to find plastic letters concealed in slimy jelly to spell out the word 'Yanomami'. Those preferring a little less mess joined in with a game of Jungle Bingo and a 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' quiz activity on rainforests tested visitors' knowledge. They had obviously paid close attention during their rainforest tours as there were some high scoring contestants!

Before leaving, visitors left messages about their experience on the graffiti boards provided. The pupils were delighted that everyone had enjoyed the mixture of fun and facts! One parent wrote: "Great to see the hard work of the pupils and staff."



Peter, a Primary 7 pupil from Windsor Park said, "I enjoyed taking my Mum round the rainforest. She thought all our work was very interesting and the activities were fun. I enjoyed getting to try the bush tucker trial activities once the parents had all gone home!"

## St Patrick's RC Primary School - Primary 6 – Debate

Primary 6 have been learning all about the use of persuasive language and how it can impact the thoughts and actions of others. Through researching the advantages and disadvantages of school uniform pupils were able to identify key arguments which could be used to support what they wore to school. Pupils also learned about the rules and roles involved in a debate and used these skills to carry out a debate in a real life context. Pupils

were extremely engaged in their learning through this context and chose to invite parents to observe



a live debate regarding whether or not school uni-

form should be obligatory in schools. The debate was a success as pupils were able to develop a series of strong, justified arguments which they articulated with great confidence. The pupils participated in a question and answer session which challenged many of the arguments further however all were able to provide valid responses. The parents were given the opportunity to vote for the strongest argument

and in the end there was a clear winner – school uniform will remain. Well done Primary 6!



## St Patrick's Primary 1 creates Fairyland

Primary 1 have been extremely busy creating Fairyland in their classrooms. Great excitement erupted when a glitter trail was discovered leading to a singed letter from a Friendly Dragon. Primary 1 set about creating Fairyland in their classrooms as the fairy tale creature's homes had disappeared. Primary 1 used their creative thinking skills to design and create Fairyland in their classes. The Dragon was delighted with the outcome and Primary 1 decided to invite parents to share in the magic of Fairyland.



The children arrived at school dressed as their favourite Fairy tale character ready to fully emerge in the theme of the morning. The event was handed over to the children and they chose to perform their favourite songs and stories from their IDL context. Next the pupils led their parents on a tour of Fairyland discussing their learning for each Fairy tale. Following this, parents participated in a variety of contextualised learning experiences. Parents were amazed with the learning that had taken place through this context.



"Very enjoyable learning experiences ongoing for the children. Well done thank you for sharing."

As part of a homework task the children worked with their families to create a model of their chosen fairy tale. The end results were incredible and we invited the whole school and the nursery to visit our area to witness their efforts. Everyone was extremely impressed with their hard work and therefore we shared this with the wider community via our school twitter page.

## St Patrick's RC Primary - World of Word Week

We had a very successful World of Work week commencing the 9<sup>th</sup> February. The children worked hard identifying the different skills required for a variety of occupations and as always, our committed parents and the local community played a vital role in supporting the staff in making the week such a success.

A number of different vocations were represented from Tattoo Artists to Auctioneers to Publishers and Emergency Services. The children not only learned the skills for each individual occupation but were able to develop a better understanding of how these skills can be transferred to enhance lifelong learning.

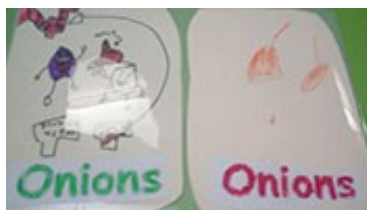
The children had an extremely enjoyable week and demonstrated their interests through their effective questioning of the guests.

## **Seed to Plate – St Patrick's Primary Enhanced Provision Pupils work with Denny Community**

St Patrick's Primary School is working with Peace by Piece in Denny to develop knowledge and skills in the process of where food comes from, how it grows and the final product we see on our plates! Peace by Piece, who work at the community garden within Denny and Dunipace YMCA invited Enhanced Provision pupils along to take part once a month in this exciting Spring/Summer programme. To date, the children have prepared the soil, learned about fertilisation, planted seeds for ten different vegetables and maintained the ground. This has included an extensive weeding session. Surprisingly, all the children enjoyed this process and snacks were well deserved after their hard work and concentration. Plenty more weeding sessions ahead kids – keep up the motivation!

Staff in the Enhanced Provision are building on learning that has taken place at the garden project and extending this further to enhance pupil experiences through Curriculum for Excellence. Children have been involved in a range of activities back at school that have allowed them to make real life connections with the work that has gone on in the community garden. The most exciting part for the pupils involved has been a series of cooking tasks within the school setting. The children have explored food labelling, pricing, geographic locations of produce, safety within the kitchen and been master chefs of the kitchen creating their own food to eat! As well as these real life experiences the children have also had numerous opportunities for making cross curricular links through story writing and expressive art activities.

Outdoor Learning and Health and Well Being have also been addressed through this invaluable community link experience. Gardening and outdoor experience has proven to be beneficial for mental health and wellbeing. Time outdoors has increased opportunities for the children to work as part of a team and has also given them the chance to be responsible for something within their community. The children have 2 sessions left to attend before the Summer break. During this time they will continue to maintain the garden. The children will then further develop their knowledge of food growth after the Summer holidays when it is hoped the produce will be ready to harvest.



### **St Patrick's RC Primary School - P2 Learning Together Morning**

P2 have enjoyed learning all about Scottish Inventors for their Interdisciplinary Learning topic. They explored the inventing process further by becoming inventors themselves!

Pupils generated their own ideas for their inventions and invited their family members into the classroom to become their 'design assistants' for the morning. The children worked with their 'assistant' to draw and label a diagram of their invention, and created a list of materials they would need to collect for building their model. This collaborative approach to learning allowed pupils to share their knowledge with someone from home and offered an opportunity for them to take on the role of the teacher.

Both the pupils and visitors were enthusiastic and commented on how much they enjoyed having the opportunity to learn together!



# Run a

Organised by

# Brake

the road safety charity

Registered charity No. 1071214



## to teach road safety and save lives

**A Beep Beep! Day is a fun, educational event for kids aged 2-7, helping to save their lives.**

Promoted by Brake, the road safety charity, Beep Beep! Days are run by hundreds of nurseries, playgroups, child minders, infant schools and kids' clubs every year. To help you run a fantastic day, Brake provides a pack of fun and safe road safety activity ideas and resources!

Beep Beep! Days are also a fantastic opportunity to fundraise for Brake to help us campaign for road safety and support families affected by crashes. Kids dress up in crazy bright clothes for their Beep Beep! Day and bring a £1 donation.



### Get Beeping!

Beep Beep! Days are happening on  
**18 March 2015, 8 July 2015,  
or 25 November 2015.**

Pick your date and your pack (see below)  
and get in touch to get beeping!

### Pick your pack!

**The Bumper Beep Beep! Pack** contains stickers and certificates for all children taking part, posters to promote your event to parents, a hand print poster for children to learn about holding hands, activity and song cards, a large road map and even balloons! Just **£12.60** (including VAT).

Alternatively, if budgets are tight, we can send you a free e-resource pack, with downloadable certificates and activities for you to photocopy.



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Register to take part and order the pack you want at  
**[brake.org.uk/beepbeepday](http://brake.org.uk/beepbeepday)**, email **[beepbeep@brake.org.uk](mailto:beepbeep@brake.org.uk)**,  
or call the Beep Beep! team on **01484 550 061**

## Calendar of Events June 2015

Global Day of Parents	01 Jun
Vesak - Buddhist	01 Jun
Head Teachers Meeting - St Bernadette's RCPS	03 Jun
International day of innocent children victims of aggression	04 Jun
St Mungo's Cluster Meeting - St Mary's RCPS	04 Jun
World Environment Day	05 Jun
Russian Language Day at the UN	06 Jun
World Oceans Day	08 Jun
Education Executive - 9.30am	09 Jun
Accelerated Incremental Progression - Sealock House, 4pm	10 Jun
Graeme Cluster Meeting - Graeme HS	10 Jun
World Against Child Labour Day	12 Jun
World Blood Donor Day	14 Jun
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	15 Jun
World Day to combat desertification and drought	17 Jun
Ramadan - start of fast - Muslim	18 Jun
World Refugee Day	20 Jun
International Day of Yoga	21 Jun
Father's Day	21 Jun
Summer Solstice	21 Jun
UN Public Service Day	23 Jun
Day of the Seafarer	25 Jun
International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking	26 Jun
UN International Day in support of victims of torture	26 Jun
International Albinism Day	26 Jun
Summer Term Ends	26 Jun

### Voyage of Discovery & Big Lunch Falkirk 2015

**Sunday 7th June 2015**

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Seagull Trust Boathouse,  
Bantaskine Estate FK1 5PT**

**You are cordially invited to ...**

Our Open day to celebrate the life and times of John Muir and participate in our Voyage of a discovery on the Seagull Barges to explore and discover the natural and cultural heritage of the Union Canal In Falkirk.

The event includes talks on

- *The History of the Union Canal*
- *Birds, Beasts and other Creatures*
- *John Muir's Journals* - and more
- *music and entertainment by local artistes*

Stewart Akers, aka the 21<sup>st</sup> Century John Muir, will regale us with stories about the life and adventures of Scotland's father of nature conservation and the family journey to USA.

Members of the public are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch as part of the Big Lunch 2015

Boat trips are available on The Union Canal by donation to Seagull Trust Cruises.

**Join us on this unique experience  
as a voyage of discovery.**

**You'll be amazed at what you  
find!**

**Seagull Trust (registered charity SC027163)**

**Nature-Fest Falkirk Area Wildlife Festival**



local activities, events, workshops, adventures and fun activities, that celebrate our natural heritage

