

information

bulletin **volume three** **2015/2016**



Falkirk Council

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).

CONTENTS

	Page
Education Executive	(yellow)
• Children Matter – Volume 16 Issue 2	5 – 16
• Children Matter – Volume 16 Issue 3	17 – 32
• Parent Council – Meeting Dates	33
Executive	(white)
• Members Attendance at Conferences	34 – 38
Tenders	(green)
Corporate and Housing Services	
Acceptance of Tenders over £10,000	
• Quick Quotes	39 – 40
Acceptance of Tenders under £100,000 in value	
• For the Disposal of Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) (CNS/139/15)	41
Acceptance of Tenders over £350,000 in value	
• Contract Award List	42 – 47
Acceptance of Tenders over £100,000 and under £350,000 in value	
• Contract for the Provision of Server Maintenance under Scottish Procurement Server Maintenance Framework Agreement (No. SP-15-001)	48 – 49
• Framework for Security Services and Equipment (Including Installation, Maintenance and Repair) (C/N: SXL/0814)	50 – 51
• Framework for the Supply of Printing & Specialist Paper (C/N:CCS RM1078)	52 – 53
Development Services	
• Letting Education Bus Transport Contracts	54 – 55
• Letting of Education Taxi Transport Contracts	56 – 57
• Public Contracts Scotland – Quick Quote Agreement for Development Works at Roughmute Household Waste Recycling Centre – Lot 1	58
• Public Contracts Scotland - Quick Quote Agreement for Hire and Installation of a Feeder and Trommel at Roughmute	59

• Public Contracts Scotland - Quick Quote Agreement for the Provision of the Processing of Cardboard from the Council's Recycling Centres	60
• Public Contracts Scotland – Quick Quote Agreement for the Provision of the Processing of Plasterboard from the Council's Recycling Centres	61
• Public Contracts Scotland – Quick Quote Agreement for the Provision of the Processing of Scrap Metal from the Council's Recycling Centres	62
• Public Contracts Scotland – Quick Quote Agreement for the Provision of the Processing of Tyres from the Council's Recycling Centres	63
• Update Report on Flood Risk Management	64 – 69

Acceptance of Tenders under £50,000 in value

• Contract for Conditions Survey of Physical Education Equipment within the Falkirk Council Area (VAR-7655)	70
• Contract for Repairs to Existing Boundary Wall at Denny Town House (DEN-7629)	71 – 72
• IE0402 – Non-Destructive Testing (Street Lighting) 2015/16	73
• IF0474 – Street Lighting Provision of ICP Services 2015/16	74
• Muiravonside Cemetery – Ground Investigation (IA1008)	75

Acceptance of Tenders under £100,000 in value

• Contract for Ad Hoc Central Heating Installations at Various Addresses (VAR-7623C)	76 – 78
• Contract for the Design, Supply & Delivery of Play Equipment (C/N:CNS/250/15)	79 – 80
• Contract for Kinnaird PS – Installation of Out of School Care Club Mobile Unit (LAR-7483)	81
• Falkirk Town Centre Parking Survey 2015	82
• Provision of Consultancy Services to Carry Out a Condition Survey of an Historic Iron Plate Mooring Buoy in Bo'ness	83 – 84
• Proposed Installation of Nursery Mobile Unit at Maddiston Primary School (MAD-7643)	85
• Redding Road, Redding – Pedestrian Refuse Island (IA0187)	86 – 87

Acceptance of Tenders over £100,000 and under £350,000 in value

• C116 Waterslap Road, Carronshore – Accident Reduction Scheme (IH0057)	88 – 89
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Acceptance of Tenders over £350,000 in value

• Contract for Beancross and Nethermain PS –Rewire and Heating Replacement (VAR-7399)	90 – 91
• Contract for Proposed Light Industrial Development at Abbotsford Business Park, Falkirk (FAL-7474)	92 – 93
• Contract for Upgrading Works to Properties in Falkirk (FAL-7595)	94 – 96
• Contract for Upgrading Works to 131 Residential Properties, Denny and Dunipace (VAR-7537)	97 – 99
• Contract for Upgrading Works and Securing of Eco Funding, Brightons, Redding & Reddingmuirhead (GRA-7598)	100 – 102
• For the Supply of the Treatment of Organic Waste	103 – 105

VOLUME 3 2015/2016



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

and to other national and international research and ideas about connecting learning across the curriculum. Yvonne will continue to add to and develop the Glow group – please send any suggestions you have to yvonne.mcblain@falkirk.gov.uk.

Our Falkirk Interdisciplinary Learning Blog

IDL FAQ

Yvonne has built in a Frequently Asked Questions section which has comprehensive answers and supporting resources for the most common queries. In addition, people can respond and contribute to this section as a discussion board. The group links to national guidance from Education Scotland,

School/Staff	9-11
News	

Calendar of Events	12
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★ ★

★ Congratulations to
★ Grangemouth High
★ School who has been
★ awarded STA SWIM
★ ACADEMY status for
★ the Grangemouth High
★ School Swim
★ Academy.

★ They are officially the
★ first school in
★ Scotland to receive
★ this recognition!

★ ★

Road Safety Week



Road Safety Week 2015

Brake is encouraging educators to register for Road Safety Week (23-29 Nov), promoting the 'drive less, live more' theme. Brake will be encouraging families to consider how they use roads, and

if they can switch to walking, cycling or using public transport as much as possible. Educators can teach road safety and active, sustainable travel in their classroom to help to meet goals of compulsory curriculum subjects such as science and geography, and also as part of a citizenship agenda.

Find out more and register online for a free email action pack at www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk

The CARITAS AWARD at St Mungo's High School

The CARITAS AWARD has been established by the Bishops of Scotland one way of keeping alive the legacy of Pope Benedict's historic visit to our country in 2010. It takes 3 elements - **Witness, Learning & Reflection** and provides a structure through which our S6 pupils experience, record and share the impact of these on their faith journey. St Mungo's current S6 are the fourth group of pupils to embark on this worthwhile journey.



Pupils become involved in school activities such as mentoring, helping out at sports clubs and running charity events but they do this with a focus on what it means to be a Christian volunteer. Caritas coordinator Eileen Keenan says that through the programme pupils gain confidence in talking about their faith and are able to reflect on how the words of Pope Benedict helps them see *"Anyone who needs me, and whom I can help, is my neighbour."*

Pupils also get involved in their local community. Geography teacher Lesley McMullen, who has been involved in helping pupils, said that she has seen pupils grow in confidence and more involved in the school community as well as the parishes. Pupils are working in charity shops, helping out in parishes, carrying out duties while attending Mass and taking responsibility of children's liturgy.



All these faith witness activities form a basis for the pupils to reflect on their final year in school and prepare them to go into the world knowing that when they respond to the needs of their community they are responding to Jesus when he said *'so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'*

Digital Leaders At St Bernadette's Primary School

Following the departure of our P7 pupils our remaining Digital Leaders are currently recruiting for five new members to help develop ICT across the school. These pupils are currently accepting applications from children in P6 and P7 to join the team. In the next few weeks they will be interviewing their fellow pupils to determine who would be best for the job.

At St Bernadette's each class has their own dedicated Digital Leader who helps staff and pupils with everyday ICT issues. They also have experience of planning, preparing and delivering whole class lessons to P1-7 based on their specific area of expertise. Over the past few weeks they have been supporting Primary 1 who are getting used to using our school laptops.

Our Digital Leaders will be presenting their amazing work at The Scottish Learning Festival on Wednesday 23rd September 2015.

The children are also leading a course at Camelon Education Centre on 5th October 2015 so if you are interested in developing Digital leaders in your own school please sign up on CPD Manager, course reference – MW099.



St Mungo's Sailing Trip with Trinity Sailing, June 2015

For St Mungo's 5th sailing trip with Trinity Sailing Mr Stirling & Mrs Bell took twelve S4/5 pupils to Oban to spend 6 days sailing aboard 'Leader'.

Leader, built in 1892, is a 100 foot long Brixham sailing trawler hoists 7 sails when sailing at full tilt. The aim of the trip was to raise our pupils' self-confidence and, hence, their life expectations by working within a unique learning environment which provides each pupil with opportunities to learn a whole new set of technical, physical and life skills. Throughout the voyage crew members and teachers aboard the Leader collaborate to create a safe, yet challenging "can-do" environment in which our pupils could learn as we sail from Oban and around Mull and the Western Isles.

The weather was quite mixed throughout our voyage although it was beautifully sunny, yet chilly, as we sailed across the Firth of Lorn and into the Sound of Mull. We berthed at the harbour at the mouth of Loch

Aline and our "Galley Rats" (pupils on kitchen duties) serve up the first of many a fine meal (fish pie and rhubarb crumble for pudding). As we did most evenings, we spent some time playing card games, some fishing for mackerel and generally getting to know each other and enjoying each other's company.

At 7am the morning routine is: The Swashbucklers are up early to prepare and serve breakfast and clean below deck and The Bluebeards scrub the deck and prepare to set sail. We sail into the Sound of Mull and on past Tobermory heading for Tiree. As we go we learn how to operate as a team, raising and setting the sails, navigating and steering as we are directed by Captain Ben, Boson Stan and the rest of the Trinity crew. We sail past the Isles of Coll, Tiree and spot Colonsay and Islay in the

distance, watching gannets dive and searching for whales, dolphins and seals as we go.

Unfortunately, due to a change in the weather,

we have to anchor off the Ross of Mull near the village of Bunessan. In the morning we spend some time in the tiny village of Bunessan where the pupils stock up on "healthy" foodstuffs, which they readily share with everyone in the party.

We continue our voyage, learning all the time (sailing skills, meteorology, knot-tying, cooking, setting lobster pots and more), getting to know the crew, becoming more effective as a team and enjoying have some fantastic experiences together. The boys catch mackerel and we have some pan-fried, for breakfast. Delicious! We spend retail therapy time in the beautiful town of Tobermory (Balamory), using the RIB (Ridged Inflatable Boat) to get ashore, and enjoy well-deserved showers. The weather takes a turn for the worse on the day we decide to go swimming, so swimming is

cancelled. However, we have a delicious barbecue to make amends. Tasty!

Sailing back into Oban was quite a strange experience – glad to be going home, but sad that such a great trip with such a magnificent group of pupils was over. Watching our pupils develop over the week into well-rounded, happy, confident young people with lots of new, unique, positive experiences behind them was, quite simply, a delight. Captain Ben and his crew treat us to a slap up cooked breakfast before we head home – what a great way to finish off our trip. With beautiful Oban in the background we say our thanks and farewells and head home to Falkirk. What a genuinely unforgettable experience, and for all the right reasons! Well done, me hearties!! Haharr!



Family Health & Wellbeing Group

The aim of the Family Health & Wellbeing Group is to develop positive relationships between pupils, parents and the school. The programme aims to build confidence and support families to make healthy choices with regards to nutrition and exercise. It also allowed pupils and parents/carers to develop friendships within the group. The programme focuses on healthy eating and cooking and physical activity and sport.

The programme starts with an afternoon tea followed by everyone in the kitchen to make a meal. There is also a 'Ready, Steady, Cook' style competition where staff, pupils and parents, in mixed teams, create a 2 or 3 course meal from a basket of mystery ingredients.

The physical activities are based on teambuilding activities, fitness challenges and an obstacle course. The group are also introduced to disability sports. All activities were based on fun and inclusion.

The activities challenge parents and pupils to work outwith their comfort zone and highlighted the importance of trust, communication and teamwork. As a result of their attendance in the programme pupil attendance, behaviour and social skills have improved. Relationships between staff, pupils and parents flourished. Parents feel more comfortable in contacting the school now that they have established relationships with staff.

The project significantly improves the working environment for both pupils and staff. It does this by ensuring pupils are much happier about coming to school as they know there are others facing similar challenges. This increased pupil engagement in classes, and in turn meant teachers could devote less time to managing problems and more time to teaching effectively. It also led to a much better working relationship between teachers and parents, with clearer communication and shared goals delivering benefiting both.

Pre and post project evaluation is completed by pupils and parents. The pre-project findings revealed reservations around exercise and knowledge of healthy eating amongst both pupils and parents. The post-project findings demonstrated that all participants not only enjoyed taking part in the activities, but also acquired new knowledge and skills that would benefit their lifestyle choices. Additional positive feedback included an endorsement of the format of the programme and its content.



New Primary 1 at St Bernadette's

New P1s have had magical beginning to their time at St Bernadette's. During the night we received a visit from a Friendly Dragon! He left a letter asking P1 to help him rebuild Fairy Land. The children had lots of good ideas on how they could help the Friendly Dragon and they wrote letters to the Dragon explaining how we could help. The Dragon also sent us some 'Magic Beans' to help Jack rebuild his Bean Stalk. We also planted our own 'Magic Beans' and are excited to watch them Grow! We are learning what plants need to grow and how to look after them. Learning has been supported by wonderful resources from the Learning Resource Centre, based at Camelon Education Centre.



St Mungo's High School 'Freshers Fayre'

St. Mungo's High School held their second annual Freshers Fayre on Friday 4th September. The Fayre has grown in size with almost 40 clubs from the school represented on the day.

All S1 pupils were invited to come along at lunchtime to find out about all the activities on offer and they were able to register and join a club. Pupils were rewarded for their efforts with a free gift!

The Freshers Fayre is the biggest and best opportunity for clubs to promote what they do in school. The range of clubs on offer is vast from sports, music, craft, drama, media to charity. Many clubs brought along equipment they use or items they make to decorate their stall. The level of competition for stall decoration was extremely high with eye-catching displays. Some stalls even gave out freebies!



Many clubs were represented at the Fayre by senior pupils who are already members/mentors of the clubs. Members of the Pupil Council were on hand to help with the administration of the event. It was fantastic to see the communication and working with others skills of our pupils in action!

The follow-up from the Freshers Fayre will be the introduction of our new school community award. Pupils will be recognised for their regular and sustained commitment in a club at different levels ranging from 20 hours at bronze level to 500 hours at diamond level. Pupils will be responsible for completing time and

skills logs. Next year we hope to make the Freshers Fayre even bigger and better by inviting along some community clubs to promote what they do.



St Bernadette's Primary School News

P2/3 have a hoot!

P2/3 have had an exciting year so far! A barn owl named Plop has paid our school a visit, leaving behind some instructions that we have to work hard and learn all about him.

We quickly got to work and thought about what we already know about owls and what we would like to learn about them. The book 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' is helping us along in our journey of learning and is also teaching us about 'Night and Day' and how

this is very important for animals, such as Plop the barn owl.



And P5 go wonka!

In Primary 5 we have been busy changing our classroom into Wonka's Chocolate Room. We have designed and constructed a stunning background and have used a variety of media to create visual textures.

Our Literacy activities have been based on our novel study of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and we have enjoyed engaging with the text to practise our comprehension strategies.



St Mungo's "Holocaust Journey"

"To forget a Holocaust is to kill twice"

(Elie Wiesel, Nobel prize-winning Holocaust survivor)

The Holocaust, and all of the people who lost their lives, is something which the pupils of St Mungo's have always been encouraged to remember, especially around Holocaust Memorial Day every January. Over the past four years, the experience which pupils have had on this topic has evolved, making it an integral part of the S3 curriculum within Social Subjects and RE.

For many people, the word "Holocaust" brings to mind the millions of Jewish victims of Hitler's "final solution", who our pupils recognise and remember.

What they are also encouraged to do is remember the 5 million non-Jews who also lost their lives in the concentration camps – in particular, they learn about the less well known "Porajmos", or Gypsy Holocaust, a group who in percentage terms suffered greater losses than the Jewish population.

In 2012, the Social Subjects and RE faculties volunteered to host an exhibition, which displayed the work of a team from Community Education, led by Charlie Hastie. This exhibition encouraged the pupils to consider all victims, not just of the Holocaust, but of other modern day genocides.

S3 pupils attended the exhibition containing work researched and

created by various community groups, including the Gypsy traveller community. Charlie and his team spent time with the pupils, helping them to discover more about these groups through their interactive exhibition. Local members of the Gypsy traveller community also shared their knowledge of what they had learned about the suffering of their people – for many of our young people, the story of Settela Steinbach is one that they will never forget. The iconic "Girl in the Headress" photograph which is often associated with the Holocaust, and for many years was believed to be a photo of a young Jewish girl on her way to the concentration camp actually shows a young Gypsy girl, Settela.

The feedback from the first group of pupils to learn about this, spurred staff within the school to build upon this experience and ever since, Charlie and his team have spent 3 days in the school during to work with new S3 pupils. The exhibition has now evolved and pupils consider how the lessons which should have been learned from the Holocaust, have not – genocide still happens - but the pupils of St Mungo's are determined not to let memories fade, and to play their part in educating future generations.

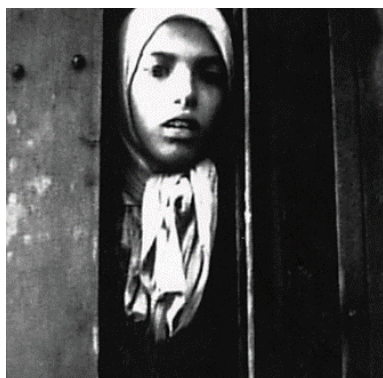
As well as the work with S3 pupils, Miss Keenan of the RE department, and Mrs Doran of the History department, have worked together on interdisciplinary lessons for S1 and S2 pupils. Senior pupils have engaged with the Lessons from Auschwitz programme and each year, two pupils are chosen to be ambassadors for the school, and go to Poland on a day visit with other young people from around the UK, visiting Auschwitz and learn more about the darkest period in modern history. These pupils have then come back to school and have contributed to the exhibition for S3s, telling them

about their experience, why they wanted to get involved and what the lasting thought for them will be.

One of last year's LFA pupils, Carenza Murray was so moved and determined to make a contribution to the school on her return and to leave a lasting legacy. After considering what this should be, Carenza devoted a huge amount of her own time creating a sculpture, "Loss", which has remained in school even though Carenza was one of our summer leavers of 2015. The sculpture now sits outside the school oratory, with pupils passing it every day, being reminded of the loss of so many people through the Holocaust.

Our pupils have also been asked to contribute to Falkirk Council's Holocaust Memorial Day event. In 2014, this saw three of our pupils who had been to Auschwitz speaking of their experience of their visit to Poland – the contribution of the girls on this day brought many of the audience to tears, including some of the girls' parents who had not been able to get any information from the girls following their day visit. In 2015, again, one of our pupils gave a talk to the audience about their experience, along with Miss Keenan who had accompanied pupils in a prior visit - the school choir, led by Miss Kane also sang at the event. This contribution, along with that of other local schools, was used to help form part of Falkirk Council's recent successful bid to host the annual National Holocaust Memorial Day event on 27th January 2016.

The Social Subjects and RE faculties look forward to their continued work with Charlie and his team, who have contributed so much to making the experience of our pupils a positive and lasting one, and we hope to build on this to ensure that our pupils never forget the Holocaust, or any other genocide victim.



St Mungo's High School Community 28 Day Challenge

The St Mungo's Community 28 Day Challenge was based on a book by one of Amazon's top selling authors, Russel Fox. After reading his book, Jo Cleland (Pastoral PT/PE Teacher) contacted Russell Fox and proposed the community project. The initiative aimed to bring pupils, parents and staff together to improve Health and Well-Being (HWB) by making small changes over the 28 Days which could then be continued to lead a more healthy and active life. Everyone involved received a free copy of Russell's book, daily emails providing support, tips and reminders as well as recipe booklets and free exercise sessions.

Although the initiative was launched with a 28 day challenge, the aim is to continue working as a community to improve HWB. By having healthier pupils and staff it is hoped attendance rates will improve thus enhancing learning. Developing positive relationships amongst pupils, parents and staff should also lead to improvements in behaviour. Involving catering staff also improved



healthy choices available to pupils. Developing and establishing links with the local community and businesses also increases opportunities for pupils.

Health and well-being holds huge importance as one of the eight curriculum areas of CfE. However, much work around HWB relates to the wider ethos of the school. This initiative encourages pupils, parents and staff to take responsibility for their own HWB in a supportive way. The long-term aim is to improve levels of attainment, achievement, behaviour, attendance and positive destinations. The feedback has been positive and many have improved in fitness, confidence, relationships and knowledge around HWB.

The project brought the school together as a community. Many pupils and parents gave up time to attend the launch event as well as the fitness sessions. Many staff engaged in the project and increased awareness amongst pupils and their own families. There was real community spirit amongst staff and pupils as they shared experiences of

being part of the 28 Day Challenge. There was also an unquestionable element of peer support in attending the exercise sessions as they didn't want to let others down by not turning up. Those participating also commented on having more energy, an increase in motivation and awareness around healthy choices.

Parents of pupils at St Mungo's were lettered about



the 28 Day Challenge. The associated primary pupils and staff were also invited to take part with a particular focus on P7 pupils to support secondary transition. Teaching, janitorial, cleaning and catering staff were all involved. The event received coverage in the Falkirk Herald prior to the launch and during the 28 days. A local gym also offered free passes to everyone who signed up to the challenge. Russell Fox ran weekly group fitness classes for free and Jo Cleland organised a weekly walk/jog group in Callendar Park.

This was a whole school community project which targeted roughly 1000 Secondary pupils, P7 pupils, 150+ staff and their families. From the initial questionnaires 70% of pupils wanted to increase fitness and 48% wanted to improve diet. 75% of adults wanted to lose weight, 87% wanted to increase fitness and 63% wanted to improve their diet. Therefore there is a need for projects like this to tackle these issues. Parents have volunteered to continue running the jogging group at Callendar Park enabling sustainability of the initiative. The feedback from those involved has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Going out that first week has motivated me to going out myself and already I can feel a difference in how long I can run for, so thank you for starting the group. I'm looking forward to Russell's class tomorrow night." from one parent.

Using Novel Studies in Drama at St Bernadette's Primary

Pupils at St Bernadette's Primary have had a 'dramatic' start to the new term. Mr Cloherty works with five classes in the school developing their drama skills whilst incorporating learning from their current class novel studies.

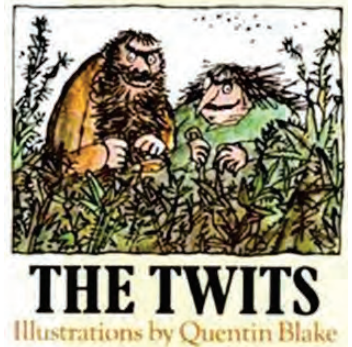


P1 have been learning about different Fairy tales as part of their Interdisciplinary Learning and in drama they have been acting out the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. They have also learned a new song all about the three bears that they love to sing.

In P2 the children have been following Paddington Bear and his adventures and have transferred their knowledge from reading in their drama lessons. The pupils have been learning how to use their facial expressions and movement to become a wide variety of bears. They have also applied their understanding of the short stories when creating plays detailing the key events in the book so far.

P2/3 are currently reading 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' in class and have been working hard to put together an assembly to showcase to the rest of the school. Pupils have been getting into role as the main characters and also using movement to become different types of owls. The children have also been working on their voice projection when narrating the story or reading character parts. They cannot wait to show the rest of the school.

P3 pupils have been reading The Twits with their class teachers and have learned lots about the gruesome twosome and the tricks that they like to play on one another. The children used the drama convention mirroring to perfect their portrayal of the characters of Mr and Mrs Twit. They have also learned a new song about the couple and have enjoyed using accents to develop their character whilst singing. There were many confident individuals who offered to sing solo and perform for the rest of the class.



The novel 'Divided City' is currently being used in P7 to raise awareness about sectarianism, discrimination and bigotry. The pupils have been introduced to characters who come from Glasgow in the story and in drama they developed their abilities to use their voice to portray characters by practising using a Glaswegian accent when reading a monologue. The pupils are currently putting together a play that they can show to their peers at an assembly.

P7 at St Bernadette's are studying electricity as their science topic.



We have been experimenting in science by designing our own electrical circuits and then making them and testing them to see if they work.

We have been successful in creating small electrical circuits. We have designed circuits with working buzzers, lamps and motors.

We worked cooperatively in groups to discuss what we know about electricity. We all know that it is used to run a lot of the objects in school and at home.



FILMS FOR SCHOOLS & NURSERIES

Falkirk Community Trust (Arts) - Autumn bulletin

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

FCT screenings and workshops should be booked in advance from the Steeple Box Office. Please note Into Film screenings must be booked directly at www.intofilm.org/festival or by calling their bookings team on 020 3194 4311.

Cheques should be made payable to: 'Falkirk Community Trust'.

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

Tickets will not be exchanged or money refunded after purchase except in the event of cancellation of screening/activity by Falkirk Community Trust.

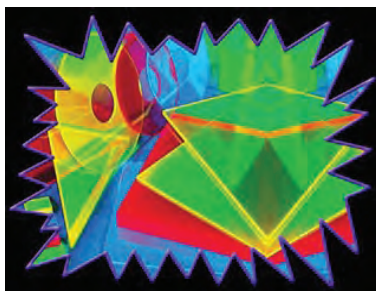
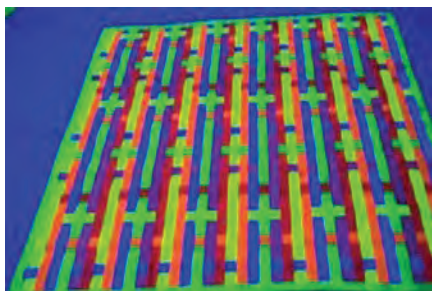
Refreshments can be pre-ordered, please contact the Steeple Box Office for more information.

Summary

Date	Time	Description	venue	Booking	Tickets
Fri 11 Sep	09:15	The Old Vic's 'The Crucible' (captured live)	FTH Cinema	01324 506850	£4
Mon 14 Sep	11:00	Public screening 13 Minutes (15)	Hippodrome	01324 506850	£3.30
Thu 24 Sep	19:00	Public screening NT Live: Coriolanus (Encore) (12A)	Hippodrome	01324 506850	£10.80
Thu 15 Oct	19:00	NT Live: Hamlet (12A)	Hippodrome	01324 506850	£10.80
Wed 21 Oct	19:00	RSC Live: Henry V (12A)	Hippodrome	01324 506850	£10.80
Thu 23 Oct	10:00	2ndary Workshop: Early Cinema in Scotland during WW1	Hippodrome	01324 506850	£2.50
Thu 5 Nov	10:00	Into Film: Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials (12A) + short	Hippodrome	www.intofilm.org/festival 020 3194 4311	£0
Fri 6 Nov	10:00	Into Film: La Famille Belier	Hippodrome	www.intofilm.org/festival 020 3194 4311	£0
Mon 9 Nov	10:00	Into Film: Selma (12A) + short	FTH Cinema	www.intofilm.org/festival 020 3194 4311	£0
Wed 11 Nov	10:00	Heritage Learning Workshop: The Show Must Go On	Hippodrome	01324 506850	£3.50
Thu 12 Nov	10:00	Into Film: Gruffalo/Room on the Broom + animation demonstration	FTH Cinema	www.intofilm.org/festival 020 3194 4311	£0
Fri 27 Nov	10:00	Arthur Christmas (U)	Hippodrome	01324 506850	£2.50
Fri 27 Nov	13:00	Arthur Christmas (U)	Hippodrome	01324 506850	£2.50
Thu 3 Dec	10:00	Arthur Christmas (U)	Hippodrome	01324 506850	£2.50
Fri 4 Dec	10:00	Pan (cert tbc)	Hippodrome	01324 506850	£2.50
Wed 9 Dec	10:00	Pan (cert tbc)	Hippodrome	01324 506850	£2.50

New Sensory toys

LRS purchased some new sensory resources to add to our collection which include a UV rainbow mat and cubes which would enhance your dark rooms.



Other resources which will give children a stimulating sensory experience are our new space projector which can project an image of up to 3ft on to walls or a ceiling.

If you would like to request any of the above items or find out more about our extensive range of sensory resources, please contact the **Learning Resource Service on 01324 501980 or e-mail lrs@falkirk.gov.uk**

New collections

LRS have created three new collections which include Picture Books for older readers, Graphic novels and recreational non-fiction.

New Reading sets

A number of new reading sets have been added to stock which you might be interested in. A number of these are graphic novels.



Overdue/List of loans

Please note that LRS will now be emailing your list of books and not printing out a paper copy. You will also start to receive an email reminder or overdue notice asking for items to be returned. Please contact us if you need to extend the loan or have already sent the items back so we can update your record.

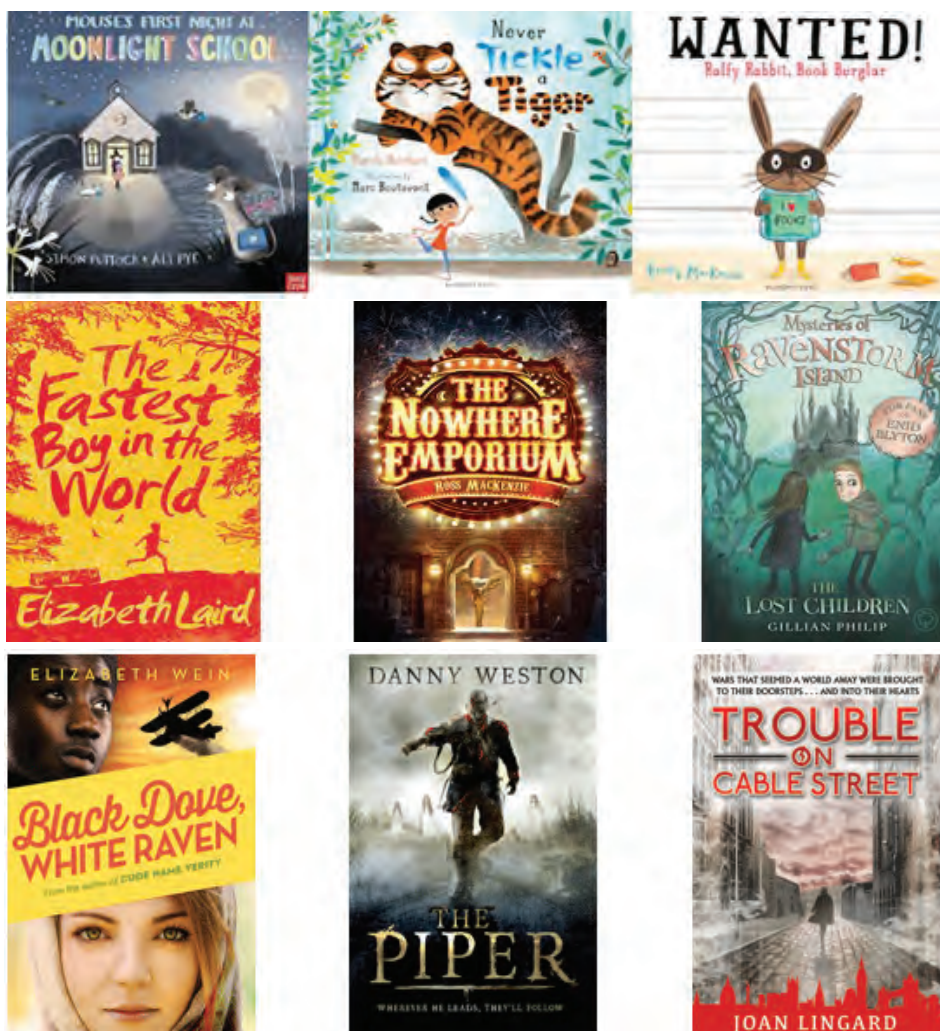
STAFFING

Congratulations to Suzanne Mina who started a new job with Corporate Records on the 17th August especially as this was a promotion! Everyone at LRS are delighted for her.

LRS would like wish Donna Grant (Secondary Librarian) all the best when she retires on the 30th September. Donna started life as a school librarian at Camelon High School, moved to work with Central Region School Library service till local government re-organisation when she became part of the Learning resource Service. Donna will be greatly missed by her colleagues.

SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

The winning titles were announced on 2nd September and registration is now open to schools to take part. Schools can now register to take part in the Book Award and use the excellent resources on the Scottish Book trust website.



P1 BOOKBUG FAMILY PACKS

The Bookbug Family Packs will be delivered to schools after the October Break. Please contact LRS if you require additional packs for new pupils.

Scottish Book Trust Update

Scottish Book Trust announced this year's shortlist on Wednesday the 2nd September. Registration is now open to schools and there are numerous resources on the website for teachers to use.

Votes for your favourite book are to be cast by the 5th February 2016 and the winners will be announced on World Book Day in March.

Schools taking part in the event being run by LRS have been receiving their books. Ladeside Primary P6's got theirs delivered the day the shortlist were announced and can't wait to start reading!

Calendar of Events

October / November 2015

National Poetry Day	1 Oct
Breast Cancer Awareness Month	1-31 Oct
International Day of Non-Violence	2 Oct
World Space Week	4-10 Oct
World Sight Day	8 Oct
Secondary HTs Business Meeting - Sealock House	8 Oct
Autumn Term Ends	9 Oct
Early Years and Primary Business Meeting - Sealock House	9 Oct
October Week School Holiday	12-19 Oct
Al Hijra - New Year (Muslim)	14 Oct
Winter Term Begins (Staff only - Development Day)	19 Oct
Winter Term Begins (Pupils)	20 Oct
Halloween	31 Oct
NGT - Sealock House	05 Nov
Remembrance Sunday	08 Nov
Education Executive - 9.30am	10 Nov
Diwali - Hindu Festival of Lights	11 Nov
World Diabetes Day	14 Nov
Children's Services Meeting - 9.00am - venue TBC	18 Nov
Universal Children's Day	20 Nov
Bo'ness Cluster HT Meeting - 13.30 - Deanburn PS	24 Nov
St Andrews Day	30 Nov

Next Month -

- ★ Results of 'Children Matter' survey
- ★ Winners of this year's Learning to Achieve Awards
- ★ Denny Cluster News
- ★ Calendar of Events - November / December



Keep Scotland Beautiful News

Holding a **One Planet Picnic** is an informal way to think about food and sustainability and taste and share some fabulous food. Open to

all sorts of groups, it provides inspiration for trying sustainable food at work, at school, in communities and at home. You can celebrate local harvests, reduce food waste, and get to know food, friends and your local area.

Good for you and good for the planet, a One Planet Picnic is the perfect way to celebrate Scotland's Year of Food and Drink. Register yours with Keep Scotland Beautiful -

www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org/ - and tell them all about it!

Food & the Environment Citizen Science Activities

Bee Diverse - Keep Scotland Beautiful

Online resources and free seeds to encourage pollinators to visit your school garden. Help us make a buzz about biodiversity!



Polli:Nation - Grounds for Learning

Heritage Lottery funded UK-wide biodiversity project which supports schools in helping to protect the future of our seriously dwindling bee population.

On the Verge

A Stirling based voluntary community project established in 2010 to encourage the sowing of wildflower seeds and the planting of nectar rich plants in and around the town of Stirling

What's Under Your Feet? - POD EDF Energy

Join in with the first large scale study of soil invertebrate abundance across the country, starting in October.

Bugs Count! - OPAL Explore Nature

Take part in Bugs Count and discover the incredible variety of invertebrates that make their home around us. Have a look for the six species quest bugs, including Tree Bumblebees.



Falkirk Council

Children Matter

Learning to Achieve



Learning to Achieve Awards 2015

Volume 16 Issue 03

October 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Learning to Achieve Awards 1-4

Denny Cluster News 6-13

Staff News / Events 13-16

The sixth annual Learning to Achieve Awards ceremony took place on Thursday the 24th September at Graeme High School who were our hosts for this year's glittering event.

We had so many entries again 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.

This is the last year that the awards will feature projects and staff from the former Education Services only. Next year, the whole of Children's Services will be invited to submit nominations and showcase the good work going on across the whole service.

All nine awards were sponsored this year and received a bigger trophy from our sponsors who were there to present the award on the night. In addition, Airth Castle Hotel sponsored

AIRTH CASTLE
HOTEL & SPA

www.airthcastlehotel.com

the event by donating a red carpet, candelabras

and candles and Mrs Tilly's donated individual gifts of tablet and fudge for all guests.



The winners and shortlisted projects were as follows -

Science and Technology - sponsored by Class 98

Class 98 Limited

Winner - Food Technology at Stenhousemuir Primary School - Led by Kathryn Black.

This project has revolutionised the pupils' attitude to food through a wide range of activities.

Pupils learned about healthy eating using the Eatwell plate, where food comes from Farm to Fork, how to cook healthy, low cost dishes safely and hygienically, had chefs@school coming to school to do cookery demonstrations, switched to healthy snacks, produced a leaflet for parents, had visits to the Royal Highland Education Trust Food Show and Scottish Learning Festival. Parents have noticed a change in what their children want to eat, they are more adventurous, much healthier and more budget conscious. Thanks to Mrs Black, who was a secondary home economics teacher before retraining to teach primary, the whole school is excited about food and can't wait to see what they will experience next!



Commended - Forth Valley College and Schools Application Portal - led by Steve Dougan, David Allison, Lyndsay Condie, Pamela Duncan and Liam Friel.

Commended - STEM Pathways to Success at Larbert High - Led by Paul Rodger, Catherine Kay, Neil Scott and Ashifa Naseer.

MY FUTURE'S IN
falkirk

Getting it Right for Every Child - sponsored by MITIE



Winner - Triple P - Peer Assisted Support and Supervision - led by Multi-Agency Triple P Facilitators.

Triple P - the Positive Parenting programme is an intensive programme for families of children with more challenging behaviour. Families attend for 4 weeks then get telephone support and structured plans to help them continue to implement strategies at home. 120 families have attended so far and Triple P has had a significant impact on them - parents



feel more confident, and parents report they no longer feel like 'a bad parent'. Staff who come from a wide variety of backgrounds including the NHS and

voluntary sector have benefitted too with the Triple P facilitation skills instilling a greater degree of self sufficiency in staff. This excellent piece of work has received national recognition so much so that Professor Matt Sanders, creator of Triple P, is coming to Falkirk in October to do a masterclass with Falkirk facilitators.

Commended - Nurture Base 'The Den' at Falkirk High School – led by Stuart Kelly, Anne Ross and Gail Brady.

Commended - Closing the Gap – School Improvement Partnership Programme – led by Catherine McNeil, Amna Nadeem, Michelle Brown, champions and SFLAs from Bowhouse, Beancross, Moray, Bantaskin, Carmuir, Slamannan, Langlees, Falkirk, Grangemouth and CLD workers.

Environment, Heritage and International Education – sponsored by Cala Homes



Winner - Activity Agreements – Eco Garden – Community Learning and Development – led by Carol Bell, Jane Forrester, Malcolm MacDonald, Andrew Graham and Hania Smith.

Activity Agreements is an employability project which supports school leavers and other young people to move into a positive destination. This innovative project, supported by a £500 Grow Wild grant, engaged these young people in adopting an



orphan piece of land to create an eco-garden. Each of the 25 young people involved benefitted from having something positive to do after they left school – some have pursued further training in landscaping or courses at Oatridge Agricultural College as a result. Staff from all services involved enjoyed the project too! The young people should rightly feel very proud of the end result!

Commended - S2 Holocaust Interdisciplinary Project – Graeme High School – led by Lorna Lyon, Becky Crichton and the Creative Arts Faculty.

Commended - Grounds Development – Stenhousemuir Primary School – led by Sharon McArdle, Jennifer Lesko and other members of Woody's Gang.

Star Performer – sponsored by Forth Valley College

Winner - Charlie Hastie, Community Learning and Development.

Charlie has been nominated for this award due to his work in developing a genocide resource for adults and young people that is interactive, interesting and engaging. Working closely with corporate colleagues, schools and the local community, including the Gypsy / Traveller community, Charlie has helped raise awareness about genocide and this work has resulted in Falkirk being nominated to host the National Holocaust Memorial Day in 2016. Charlie's tireless engagement and networking, along with keeping the community as his priority has meant that a typically 'difficult' subject area is being given high importance and is being made accessible to all.

Commended - Anne Ngabia, School Librarian, Grangemouth High School.

Commended - Jackalyn Cowie, Clerical Assistant, Graeme High School.

Cluster Award for Joint Project – sponsored by MITIE

Winner - Grangemouth Cluster Swimming Programme – led by PE staff and Young Lifeguards





The PE department have developed a fantastic, comprehensive cluster swimming programme which also has a large element of fun using new equipment

including an inflatable obstacle course. Over an intense four week block, all P5-P7 learners in the Grangemouth cluster worked with high school staff to improve their swimming capabilities. Senior pupil lifeguards were also crucial to the success of this project as they volunteered their time to support it and some of them are now interested in careers in the Sport and Leisure industry.

Commended - Grupo Espanol, 1+2 Adds Up in Larbert Cluster – Led by – Julie McKenna, Morag Carson, Elaine Maxwell, Karen Kelly, Colin Meikle, Jackie Brown, Lyn Pascal, Donna Melville, Evelyn Williamson, Kerry Girdwood and Isobel Edmond.

Commended - Denny Cluster Fashion Show and Art Exhibition – Led by Karen Macready.

Commended - French in the Falkirk Cluster – Led by Iain Livingstone.



Entertainment and Refreshment Interval – Graeme High School presents ...

Pupils and staff from



Graeme High School then arranged a most enjoyable part of the evening. First, there was the



entertainment - an 'Uptown Funk' Flashmob; a pupil-choreographed dance 'Creepy Doll' and STOMP, a drumming performance requiring some audience participation. The Home economics department then provided some delicious finger food for all the guests.

Arts, Culture and Sport – sponsored by Falkirk Community Trust

Winner - Community Arts Project in conjunction with Forth Valley Royal Hospital -

Larbert High School – Led by the Art and Design Department, especially Mhairi McAinsh.



Much interesting and varied work has been carried out as part of this project with pupils going into the hospital to teach origami, create glass illustrations, project images using digital media, design sculptures for the

gardens and the hospital has also commissioned a large mural to be hung in the entrance foyer. Pupils have been enthused by the project which takes classroom learning into the real world and allows a practical application of art and design. The hospital corridors are now much more welcoming for patients, visitors and staff having a positive impact on their health and wellbeing. The collaboration will continue with the building of the Maggie's Centre.

Commended - Commonwealth Athletes Sporting Success at Denny High School - Led by Bryce Dixon and Denny High School PE Department.

Commended - Cluster After School Art Club at Grangemouth High School - Led by Emma McCallum.

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



Winner – Stuff We Love – Kinnauld Primary School – led by Kinnauld P5D, P5M and P6B.

Three classes collaborated to create an animation video called 'Stuff We Love' which



creatively engages both children and adults alike in the complex issues surrounding palm oil production and land grabs.

Pupils were so

emotionally moved by this issue that they decided to take action and teach as many other people as possible about it and campaign on a global scale using social media to reach people as far away as Honduras, Australia and Zambia. The classes have followed up their campaign by writing to Nicola Sturgeon, Education Scotland, Oxfam, and many other organisations who were impressed by the pupils' passion and energy for action. Their video was shared at the International Storyline Conference in Glasgow as an example of good practice on Global Citizenship Education.

Commended - The Chicken or the Egg Whitecross Style – Led by P7/P6 and P5.

Commended - What is Democracy? at Stenhousemuir Primary School – led by Jemma Burt.

Social Responsibility, Community Involvement and Citizenship – Secondary Sector and Community Learning and Development – sponsored by the EIS

Winner – Communities Along the Carron (CATCA) Climate Challenge Fund Project at Larbert High School - Led by Christine Bell and John Martindale.

Larbert High School and CATCA are working together with other partners to reduce food waste and food miles and promote active travel. The school garden is now fully operational and both curricular and extra-curricular activities are helping to produce



food thereby reducing the carbon footprint of the Larbert area. Work with an i-Bike officer and Sustrans is increasing active travel such as cycling and



walking to work and school, and making more use of the local green path network. Pupils are benefitting by taking more responsibility for their food and travel choices, growing their own produce and exploring the local area using the paths network. The whole community has been involved, including local businesses and the foundations are now in place to build on this - ensuring a lasting and positive environmental impact for all.

Commended - Community 28 Day Challenge at St Mungo's High School – Led by Jo Cleland PT GIRFEC and author Russell Fox.

Commended - Family Health and Wellbeing at St Mungo's High School – Led by staff, parents and pupils.

Outstanding Service Delivery – sponsored by Class 98

Class 98 Limited

Winner - Windsor Park Toddler Group – Led by Cathie Finestone, Amanda Walker, Averil Boyne, E. McCann and A. Tolland.

The Toddler Group welcomes babies and young children with a hearing or / and visual impairment and their families. The group meets weekly to play with toys, play games,



use the sensory room and garden, and meet other sensory impaired children and their families. There is always a familiar, friendly face to welcome parents and children to the group and parents can relax while meeting other parents and being supported by professional staff. This group is a great example of GIRFEC in action and early support and intervention which is enjoyed by parents, children and staff alike.

Commended - Race to Read Project at Stenhousemuir Primary School – led by Audrey Duncan, Gillian Wilson and Linda Grant.

Commended - Job Club at Denny High School - led by Carol Lee, Peter Graham and Ross Kelly.

Everyone greatly enjoyed the event, made very special with the support of our sponsors and the hard work of the staff and pupils at Graeme High School who organised a wonderful evening!