

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 Law and Administration Services (Brian Pirie, Ext 6110).

CONTENTS

	Page
Education (yellow)	
• Education Matters Volume 10 Issue 10	1 – 20
Tenders (green)	
Corporate and Neighbourhood Services	
Acceptance of Tenders up to £100,000 in value	
• For the Maintenance of Community Alarm Systems (C/N: CNS/190/11)	21
• For the Supply and Fitting of Windscreens (C/N: CNS/109/11)	22
• For the Supply of Retro-Reflective Traffic Sign Facing Materials (C/N: CNS/081/11)	23
• Framework Agreement for the Supply of Pesticides (C/N: CNS/016/11)	24 – 25
Development Services	
Acceptance of Tenders under £10,000 in value	
• Contract for Consulting Mechanical & Electrical Engineering services for the Proposed Lift Replacement at Marshall and Eastburn Towers, Parkfoot Court, Falkirk (FAL-6904M&E)	26
Acceptance of Tenders under £100,000 in value	
• Appointment of a Rating Specialist (C/N: Dev/035/11)	27
• Avonpark Development, Slamannan Road, Avonbridge – Completion of Road	28
• B803 Safety Fence	29
Acceptance of Tenders over £100,000 and under £350,000 in value	
• Contract for Dorrator Court, Camelon, Proposed New Gas Central Heating (CAM-6629)	30
• Contract for External Fabric Repairs at Arnotdale House, Falkirk (FAL-6720)	31

Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Falkirk Council
Education Services

Volume 10 Issue 10

May 2011



Accent on Schools Concert 11th May 2011 - FTH

The annual Accent on Schools Concert, part of the Tryst Festival, was ably compered by Brian Majoribanks, and as in previous years, showcased the talents of pupils from schools around the area.

The fun began with 21 pirates from Kinnaird Primary drama club singing and dancing along to sea shanties such as "A Pirate's Life for Me!" Congratulations to John Cloherty, Kathleen Flynn, Jacqueline Dignan for supporting the pupils.

20 pupils from the P4 – P7 Bowhouse Primary girls after schools group performed a 70s tribute medley, with solo performances of Beatles and Abba numbers among others. Paula Marshall, a P1 teacher at the school had supported pupils.

Bo'ness PS Accordion Band – 11 children who had been together for under a year provided a change of tempo with accordion favourites such as "When the Saints go Marching in". This talented group had the audience tapping their feet and were supported by teacher Alan Potters.

Deanburn Primary pupils used their Enterprise scrapbook dramatisation to enact scenes from World War II with sketches involving singing and acting out scenes written as part of their school topic. Teachers Holly Cruikshank and Joy Furnage supported the pupils with their performance.

Denny Primary showcased their work with Youth Music Scotland when 20 P4 - P7 pupils sang a medley of songs from Snow Patrol to songs they wrote themselves. Their great

performance also showed their understanding of health and wellbeing issues in the school. Thanks go to Suzanne Bell, music coordinator at the school.

The excellent Falkirk Traditional band made up of P4 – S6 pupils playing traditional instruments bodhran, mandoline, drums and other traditional instruments. It was a fabulous professional quality performance with tunes from Brittany and traditional Scottish tunes. Pupils were supported by professional musicians, Marc Duff and John Somerville.

The evening was rounded off by secondary pupils from Graeme HS giving the audience a taster of their school show "Our House" based on the music of Madness. 30 pupils from S1 to S6 told the story of good / bad

Joe Casey with lively dancing, singing and acting. The show in full runs at Graeme High from the 13th to the 15th of June. Thanks to Adrienne Gelletly, Kelly Whittington and Jill Duffy who supported the pupils.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

St Mungo's Cluster 2-14

Active Schools 16-18

Calendar of Events/News 20



The Provost, Pat Reid, thanked all performers at the end of the show and congratulated Brian and Keith for their technical expertise in producing the show and Gayle Martin in her first year as producer.

Turf Cutting Ceremony at new Antonshill Primary School

St Francis RC Primary pupils assisted with cutting the turf at a ceremony recently to mark the work beginning on the new Antonshill Primary School. Elected members, Education officials, Church reps and Kier Scotland managers also joined in.



St Mungo's High School News

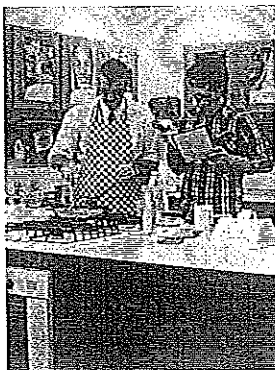
Lights camera action

St Mungo's launched SMTV, our very own television station, during the month of December. Our first live outside broadcast in the form of Christmas Ready Steady Cook.

Christopher and Lloyd bravely took on the challenge of broadcasting live across the school, with Cara tackling filming. Chris also shared the role of directing and producing with Miss McNamee.



Members of staff volunteered (were forced) into taking part in the show, and were given the task of cooking a two course meal from a mystery bag of ingredients. The teachers taking part had no prior warning of the contents of the bag, although they were given access to supplies from the food technology department and two hours to cook a two course meal.



The cooks were Mr Phee, Miss Love, Miss Kelly and Mrs Binnie all they had the pressure of cooking live on TV as it was broadcast across the whole school. Some coped better with the pressure than others. Unfortunately Mr Phee burnt his hand, dropped his food on the floor and had to deal with a small fire which

threatened to burn the school down! All of this was captured on film and there is a rumour that it can be viewed on youtube.

The judges, Mr Mill, Mrs Silbergh and Miss McNamee were then given the tough job of tasting the food before pupils voted for their favourite cook.

The judges tasted all the food from all the competitors (and lived to tell the tale), which was a tough job but someone had to do it to allow the pupils to vote.

The winners were announced at the Carol Concert. Despite all the problems on the day, Mr Phee narrowly lost out to Miss Love from the Food Technology department who won with her two course meal.

The format of St Mungo's High Schools Got Talent competition was changes this year with a broadcast every morning and pupils then voting on their favourite. First, second and third place winners can be seen on the school website.

The TV station is used every week and is used to broadcast pupil news, important news from the Headteacher and to present pupils with certificates and awards.

Enterprise in Education Report St Mungo's High School

This year at St Mungo's High School there have been a wide variety of enterprise events involving many pupils from many different year groups.

Eco Enterprise Day

Our First Year pupils were involved in an Eco Enterprise Day in October. Marshalls, the landscaping design company, supported pupils as they designed our new Eco Garden. All First Year pupils visited Marshalls and were given the opportunity to use garden design software to begin to design their new garden.

Pupils also learned about the many different projects that Marshalls have been involved in, including Disneyland Japan and the Chelsea Flower Show. Marshalls also highlighted how they design landscapes and manufacture materials for sustainability.

The photo shows St Mungo's pupils involved in an activity at the Marshalls Display centre. Marshalls works manager John Baxter and Human Resources Manager Mr McGarry also came into school to judge the garden design competition that was run by the school. The competition was won by Morgan Meldrum. Second place went to Kai McGuirk.



Eco Awareness

During the Eco Enterprise Day pupils also had the opportunity to take part in an Eco Schools workshop which was run by Mr Drummond and the Eco group. This activity focussed on how pupils could save and conserve resources and how to promote Eco Schools to the whole of S1. Pupils completed a range of eco activities showing that

St Mungo's High School News cont'd

they can 'Be more than a Green Blazer', The Eco group motto.

Lost

Fifth Year pupils got to grips with trying to survive in a LOST style situation in which their plane had crashed somewhere very cold and they had to pick a list of items they would save from the plane crash. After much debate from many of the groups, and some surprising choices, a number of pupils made it to the next activity.

Fifth Year pupils were given this task to help them work together and negotiate with others for the best possible solution for all pupils.

Poppy Appeal

All the House Captains and Vice Captains led the Poppy Scotland Appeal. All Sixth Year pupils were given the task of launching the appeal and planning and delivering an assembly for pupils. All Houses selected materials from the Poppy Scotland Website and planned their house assemblies. Pupils then went round different form classes to further promote the Poppy Scotland Appeal.

Food Parcels

In the run up to Christmas staff and pupils began to collect food and Christmas goodies for the Elderly and vulnerable of the Falkirk area. The goods are parcelled up and given out to those in need by members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society who come into every Christmas for our of term carol concert.

Mrs Norrie's Faith in Action and ASDAN classes led the way in the collecting food. The pupils involved in these classes wrote to different local businesses seeking support. They were delighted with the support they received from a number of local businesses. Pupils from Ninian House collected charity money every morning during Advent to donate to the food parcels appeal. The money raised by Ninian house was doubled by Mr Phee due to the excellent fund raising efforts of the pupils.

Therefore, on the last day of term St Mungo's donated 75 food parcels to SVP. Thanks to all pupils and parents that helped with the fundraising and donating food.



Engineering Challenging Day

The Enterprise Day for Second Year had an Engineering theme with a Engineering Technology challenge day. The Jiant Jaffa Cake Company Ltd set up its factory in the food technology department and Mrs Dall helped pupils in setting up their factory and how to complete quality control. The company managed to produce over 80 Jiant Jaffa Cakes and they all passed quality control. The chocolate consistency was just right and really yummy.

The Design Technology department got in on the act by designing crash helmets for eggs. Mr McGee and Mr Muir reached new heights with S2 classes as they dropped many different 'styled' crash helmets. Some eggs even survived the drop and were recycled. Also, in the design technology department pupils set about designing a pulley system that would stop farmers in Peru from ending up with squashed tomatoes. Thankfully no tomatoes were harmed in the exercise and all S2 pupils managed to successfully design a working system in which the tomatoes were picked and safely transported down the mountain.

The institute of civil engineers came into school to lend their support to pupils. They helped pupils discover the real life applications of civil engineering and launched the schools entry into the WestPoint bridge competition. We have a number of budding civil engineers who very quickly grasped the principle of designing the best structure at the smallest possible cost, so watch out for them in the future with the new forth crossing.

Second Year pupils also got the opportunity to use the computer software SCRATCH. This allowed them to see the variation of the different applications of computing as a subject. All pupils involved in Engineering Challenge Day were awarded a CREST in a Day Award. These will be awarded to pupils at an assembly before the end of the school year.

Work Experience

FourthYear pupils will be going on work experience in June. This year pupils will be going out to a range of interesting placements including the BBC, BAA at Edinburgh Airport, 3D Reid Architects in Edinburgh and many of our local primary schools. Pupils involved in the work experience program appreciate the opportunities given to them in the current economic climate and realise the continued importance in this area of the curriculum.

St Mungo's High School News cont'd

Stone Carving

As part of our school links with 'My Future's In Falkirk' Gardner Molloy came into St Mungo's HS for two days in March. He is doing the restoration work on the Old Parish church on Falkirk High Street. Gardner came into school and explained the project to groups of pupils from S1 to S6.

Pupils were then given instruction and appropriate safety equipment before being given the chance to take part in shaping a small part of the future of Falkirk.

The two stones which were carved by the pupils will be inserted into the church before it is completed.



Gardner also brought along examples of his work and spent a long time answering different questions from pupils. All pupils that took part in the activity were surprised at how much concentration they had to apply and how slowly the process went. Gardner was delighted with the quality of work produced by pupils. Mr Phee and some of the Design Technology staff also had a go at carving.

REDESIGN

A group of 5th and 6th year pupils who are completing the Higher Product Design Course took part in a REDESIGN workshop in the Glasgow Science Centre hosted by the Ellen McArthur Foundation. The focus of the workshop was to look at how to reduce and improve the sustainability of the UK and how these pupils as the future of our country are going to address this topic. The pupils were all given a certificate which Mr Phee awarded to them when they returned to school.

Inter-disciplinary Project

Part of the Faculty of Technology inter-disciplinary unit in S2 this year has seen pupils design and making their own spicy noodle snacks. Pupils were given the task of designing the packaging, developing the recipe and advertising campaign for their spicy noodle product.

Pupils worked in groups to collaborate on different campaigns and flavours.



Pupils then involved the rest of the class by delivering a range of advertising campaigns – some focussed on nutritional information and pricing strategies. Other groups found sponsorship.

Gale Force

The Gale Force Project gave all S2 pupils the opportunity to learn more about renewable energy. There was a particular focus on wind energy.

Terry Hog from Scottish Enterprise Renewable energy division came into school to launch the project and explained to pupils how the focus on energy development in Scotland was moving away from Fossil Fuels towards renewable sources of energy.



Science Centre Trip

Pupils took part in a trip to the science centre which allowed them to test out different designs for their wind turbines. When pupils got back to St Mungo's they manufactured their own mini windmill/turbine. Pupils also looked at the energy calculations that they needed to carry out to design a successful wind turbine.

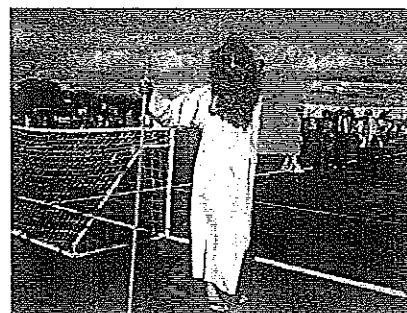
All pupils won a GREEN CREST AWARD for this project and these will be presented at a school assembly later in the term. The project that S2 pupils were involved in has also made the short list of CREST Green awards which will be judged in June at the Glasgow Science Centre.

Annual Fun Run

Our annual school fun run was held in September this year. All staff and pupils were given the opportunity to dress to impress for the occasion. Moses came with his tablet of commandments (aka Mr Phee) and led staff and pupils on their journey.

All pupils were also dressed for the occasion and a huge variety of outfits and ideas were on show.

Some pupils worked in teams and came in a variety of different costumes. Thousands of pounds were raised for the Pupil Council.



St Mungo's High School News cont'd

Highland Spring Water very kindly donated bottled water for the event and the school provided funds for the pupils to enjoy a BBQ at the end. The BBQ was run by the faculty of technology staff.

GLOW the Titanic!!

This year a group of St Mungo's HS pupils found themselves studying the same topic as some primary 4 pupils from St Andrew's. The topic? The sinking of the Titanic. By sheer co-incidence one of the pupils, Dominic Pollock, is the son of Mrs Pollock who is a teacher for the St Mungo's class studying the topic. One further co-incidence – Mrs Pollock's grandfather worked on the Titanic prior to completion in Harland and Wolff's in 1912.

A joint project evolved including a conference and visit. Information was shared and interviews conducted via Glow. Staff and pupils were impressed by how well this worked, and all teachers especially, learned a lot about Glow and its potential. Through it, St Mungo's pupils were able to share research information which we hope the P4's benefited from. Picture quality was good and sound quality, not too bad. ICT support was excellent and we would certainly encourage others to try this if they have not already done so.

On our visit to St Andrew's we could not fail to be impressed by how Miss Sloan, the P4 teacher, had reproduced the Titanic in her own class room – right down to the port holes. Really all that was missing was water pouring in! We were also able to look at some excellent work that the P4s had done and they were able to share much of what they had learned with the senior pupils. It is no cliché to say that it improved both sets of pupils learning and enhanced the learning process, with pupils enjoying the experience of using their knowledge for a clear purpose and in relevant circumstances.

Stations of the Cross

Father Simon, a group of pupils and staff from the Art Department undertook a project this session to design stations of the cross for the school oratory. The stations are based on photos and the colours chosen to fit in with the stained glass window which was also designed by pupils. Each station is printed onto canvas and will be hung in the Oratory.

Pupil Council

Pupils have been active in the school this year and have helped make major decisions. Each House has a Pupil Council and there is a School Pupil Council, with members drawn from the six Houses.

This session the voice of the pupils has been heard loud and clear. Some of the decisions taken by the Pupil Council include changing the school uniform

policy, which charity each House should support, the design and layout of the pupil planner and the name of school library and the conference room.

The Pupil Council controls a budget of £10,000 and decided to

make a number of purchases. These included outside picnic benches, bins and a flatscreen TV.

Most recently, the Pupil

Council has advised the Headteacher on what pupils think should be in the new School Improvement Plan.

Charity begins at school.

Staff and pupils have reached deep into their pockets to support those in need. Over £25,000 has been raised, a fantastic amount. Those to benefit from this money include SCIAF, Mary's Meals, CHAS and the homeless. Our first appeal was for the victims of the Pakistan earthquake and over £1,000 was raised.

A large number of events were held during the session to help raise money. During Lent pupils had the opportunity to buy a brick to build a "wonder wall" to support SCIAF. In one day alone during Lent £2,000 was raised.

As well as raising money, pupils also collected food parcels. Staff and pupils were able to bring in tins, packets and bottles. Over seventy parcels were made up – a new record for the school. The parcels were collected for distribution in the community.

Papal Visit 2010

Pope Benedict XVI visited Scotland in September 2010 and celebrated mass at Bellahouston Park, Glasgow. Over 120 senior pupils from St Mungo's travelled to Glasgow for the Mass.

The Mass was a very moving experience and is something that pupils will never forget.

The message to our pupils was clear, "look into your heart, think of all the love that your heart was made to receive, and also love it is meant to give, after all we were made for love".

Some of the staff who attended were at the first papal mass in 1982.



St Mungo's High School News cont'd

Duke of Edinburgh

There have been many events and trips involving "dukey" staff and pupils this session. The new Bronze Group, which consists of 21 S3 pupils, has just come back from a successful training weekend in Crianlarich.

Plans are well in place for what will be the busiest June ever. The Silver Group of 20 S4 pupils will be out training in the Lammermuirs followed by their three day assessment weekend around Killin.



The Gold Group of 23 S6 pupils head to Glencoe for their final assessment, where they meet the "devil" on a climb on the famous Devils Staircase.

July will also be a busy time with 18 of the Gold Group who head to Lourdes with the Youth for Lourdes Group. It has been a busy year planning, organising and fund raising for this special event.

Staff too, deserve a special mention with two members of staff completing WGL Training and another two completing WGL Assessment. Let's call it "staffing for excellence".

In July four pupils will be presented with the Gold award by HRH Prince Philip at Holyrood House.

A Question of Sport

St Mungo's has had a busy year with sport. Many pupils have had the opportunity to get involved in clubs and competitions. These clubs include badminton, basketball, table tennis, hockey, rugby, mountain biking, swimming, boy's football and girl's football. New clubs include rugby and hockey.

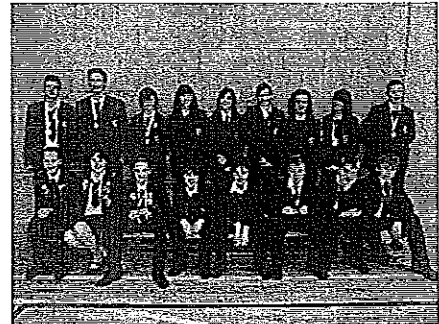
Girls have taken a keen interest in the walking/jogging club. We have encouraged this club to tackle the Fit for Girls Action Plan and also to develop a healthier outlook with the addition of raising funds for a worthwhile charity, Cancer Research. Pupils will take part in the Race for Life..

So far there have been 3 inter-house events held. After these events, Ninian House were in top spot with 180 points. Columba and Andrew came next with 160 and 150 points respectively. It is all still to play for though in the up-and-coming National Sports Week which will be held between the 6th and 10th June. Certificates (designed and created by senior pupils) are given to the pupils who participated in each of the inter-house events.

Active Schools Competitions

The first competition of the year was for swimming.

This was held at Grangemouth on Friday 22nd October and we had around 20 pupils participating. Our pupils won 3 golds, 1 silver and 5 bronze medals.



The Falkirk Cross Country Championships took place in February at Bo'ness. St Mungo's did very well with plenty of individual medals (1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze) and were the overall S1-S2 winners for boys and girls. Our S3/S4 boys were also the overall winners. A great achievement!

17 of these pupils made it through to the Forth Valley Finals held at West End Park, Alloa.



The Falkirk Giant Heptathlon was held on 23rd February at Grangemouth Stadium with 14 of our pupils representing the school.



Our pupils entered the Falkirk Secondary Schools Badminton Championships.

This year saw the first water polo competition with a number of schools represented. It was held at St Mungo's with our pupils coming 2nd overall.

During April a number of pupils participated in the Forth Valley Schools Golf Championships. Andrew Wood won a bronze individual medal and Andrew and Ben Craggs won bronze for the team. The boys made it to the Scottish Championships where they will be representing Falkirk District on Monday 6th June.

We recently had 23 pupils participate in the Falkirk Secondary Schools Athletics Championships at Grangemouth Stadium. All pupils were a credit to themselves and the school and brought back 11 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze medal.

St Mungo's High School News cont'd

Football News

St. Mungo's has always had a strong tradition of football and has seen its fair share of success in competitions. The efforts this year have coincided with unprecedented successes across our teams.

Our school was represented in the Forth Valley League competitions at Under 13, 14, 15 and Senior boys, and U15 and Senior girls. The opportunities for participation at our school have been increased thanks to a programme of regular training sessions and team meetings aimed at educating the pupils in tactics and performance. The rewards of this extra input have been clear and many of our teams have reached the latter stages of the competitions.

Our Under 13, 14 and 15

boys' teams all reached the final of their leagues. While the 14's were unfortunate to lose their final on penalties, the 13's and 15's earned fantastic victories. The under 14 team went on to compete in the final of the East Stirlingshire cup and were again unfortunate to lose this game. Our boys' teams also gave a good account of themselves in the national Scottish Cup competition, but the greatest success in that tournament goes to our Senior Girls team.

The Senior Girls team have consistently performed to a very high standard this year and have fully deserved their place in the final of the Scottish Cup. The team have played some fantastic football and earned a number of great victories on the road to the final.

On the back of these achievements we have organised an amazing football development tour with Inspire Sports that will see 48 pupils and 5 staff travel to Villarreal FC in Spain in Easter 2012. The hope is to give further motivation for our pupils as they look to improve themselves both personally and in sporting terms.

Staff Health and Wellbeing

Health and well-being opportunities for staff were a priority this session. Staff have had the opportunity to take part in a number of activities including Zumba, Body Balance, Wii fitness, Table Tennis, Badminton, Football, Swimming, Mountain Biking. There is also a timetable for staff to use the pool and fitness suite. Staff have also had the opportunity to receive a beauty treatment which included the

choice of back, neck or shoulder massage, an Indian head massage, a file and polish or an arm and hand massage. Others have been involved in making hand creams using aromatherapy oils.

Biophotonic Scanner

Staff were given the opportunity to have their anti-oxidant levels checked through a biophotonic scanner. Susan Mollison, director of Sumo therapy clinic came into school on 12th May and scanned 16 of St Mungo's staff. Susan also discussed some of the ways in which staff can improve their level of anti-oxidants, for example, by eating more fruit and vegetables, drinking more water, exercising more or reducing stress levels.

Susan will re-scan the same people in approximately 3 months time to see if they have been able to increase their level of anti-oxidants by making changes in their lifestyles.

St Mungo's Music Festival

This year sees the fourth consecutive year of St Mungo's Annual PTA music festival. The event begun back in 2008 in the old St Mungo's building. It was so successful we decided to make it an annual event. The festival provides a platform from which instrumental players can showcase their musical talents. The difficult and honourable position of adjudicator goes out to a different person each year who provides each player with feedback on their performance to encourage and challenge the young musicians towards their musical goals.

Our associate primaries were invited to join in the musical celebration. Young players from the local primary schools give their own performances for the adjudicator. They are able to spend the morning soaking up the musical atmosphere, and exploring the music department which they themselves, very soon, would be a part of.

As the Music festival moves into its fourth year, we look ahead to another exciting development; the advanced instrumental class. This class has been created to allow those pupils who have attained musical success beyond their years to perform competitively and excel. As the musical successes of the school build we anticipate many more years of rich musical culture and exciting performances.



A Busy Year at St Joseph's

At this time of the year the PTA and Parent Council are busy getting ready for the Connell Cup. This event involves the whole community of Bonnybridge, including local businesses. The Connell cup is centred on a football tournament that includes all the local primary schools.

There is something for everyone, the football, stalls with all sorts of goodies to buy, a bottle stall, small raffles, plant stall, the stocks and coconut stall and many more. If you want to sit down and relax you can enjoy a cream tea, a hamburger or a hot dog.

The younger members of the family can have a turn on the bouncy castle or have their face painted.

There is also a craft stall that displays for sale items made by the children. If you want there is also an opportunity to make something to take home.

All the children who take part in the football receive a medal.

Towards the end of the tournament we draw the Big Raffle. There are super prizes donated by local business. Top prize is £100,



worth coming along for. Last year's tournament raised over £3,000. This was handed over to the school to upgrade our sound system. £500 was given towards the P7's visit to Inverclyde and to add to our computer resources.

This year's Connell Cup takes place on the 12th of June so if you are looking for a good day out for the whole family with the chance of winning £100. Then come a long and join us, gates open at 12 o'clock.

Adventure Trail

Thanks to The Parent Council we now have an Adventure Trail within the school grounds. Over the last few years the children, staff and parents of St Joseph's have been involved in looking at ways to improve the school grounds.

We have a very active Eco and Pupil Council who have consulted with their peers, using questionnaires, and the idea box to get their views on what would make their playground more exciting, and would also get everyone more active.

This has resulted in the school having a large range of Playground games purchased by the pupils, and thanks to the Parent Council applying for a £10,000 grant from Awards from All a fantastic Adventure Trail. This ensures that all children take part in high energy activities that are fun but also develop their fitness levels.

The adventure trail is phase 1 in the plan to improve our school grounds. We are hopeful that the PTA will be successful in their second bid for money to install a soft play area in the senior yard.



St Joseph's Primary Eco News

We achieved our third Eco Flag in October, and the children were praised for their knowledge and enthusiasm in the inspectors report. They were also very impressed with the sense of ownership that the children demonstrated in relation to the monitoring of our Eco projects. We were also praised for the development in our vegetable patch, commitment to supporting a Walking Bus and promoting Fair-trade as these were noted as being excellent examples of how the programme



has stimulated the whole school to take action to improve the environment. The monitoring of Carbon Footprint at school and home was later praised by Learning and Teaching Scotland who phoned the school to find out how we had done this. With the recent changes to the Eco School Programme the children will now focus on Litter and three other topics. We hope with the creation of our orchard we will be well on our way to achieving more Eco awards.

St Joseph's Primary School News

Charity

This year the pupils and parents of St. Joseph's have given very generously to our charity fund raising events and campaigns. Our annual toy sale was a huge success and raised £208 for The Falkirk Herald 7 Up Challenge. We had a non uniform day in February in support of UNICEF and raised over £100 to help children in Guyana adapt to climate change. During Lent we campaigned to help two worthy causes. Firstly we participated in the 'Change Challenge' in support of Mary's Meals. The pupils filled plastic bottles with change. We also had a bottle in school and many pupils did without their 'tuck' at playtime, giving their money to Mary's Meals. We learned that it costs £9.40 to feed school meals to a child in Africa for a whole year. We realised we had raised enough money to help about 30 children. That's a whole class! Alongside Mary's Meals campaign P7 organised to help the 'Children Helping Children' charity. They collected money by visiting each class every day during Lent to collect money. They raised £200. This was sent to a school in Kenya run by the Ceesian Sisters. P7 had been communicating with this school via e-mail as part of their Social Studies topic on The Third World. The



money will help to improve the conditions for the children in this school. On the 19th March, the feast of St. Joseph, we had a talent competition and a 'crazy hair' day which raised

£247 for Comic Relief. This term we auctioned a signed, framed Celtic picture to raise money for CLIC Sargent. The highest bidder donated £250 which we will present to the charity during our assembly in June. Well done St. Joseph's!

Health Week

The children and staff had a fun packed time during their annual Health Week. Each class was given an aspect of the Health and Wellbeing framework to research, taking ownership and deciding on the best way to present their learning in an interesting and informative way to the rest of the school.

P1 worked hard learning how to deal with changing emotions. The children presented their work to the rest of the school by discussing a time they felt happy, sad, angry and worried. They sang *If You are Happy and You Know It* and a song called *Feelings*.

P2/1 were learning about staying safe and mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing. They

created a role play which showed the other children how to keep themselves safe when travelling on the school bus. They even made up their own song!

P3/2 taught us all about the human body. We learned what we need to maintain and improve our wellbeing and health. The class split into groups and each group researched a different bit of the body and presented it to us through posters and songs.

P4 focused on friendships from the relationships, sexual health and parenthood aspect. They discussed positive things about friendships and relationships, that there are a wide range of different kinds of friendships and most importantly that we are all unique and special.

P5 enjoyed learning about nutrition from the Food and Health section of Health and Wellbeing. They discovered that our nutritional needs change throughout our life. Through giant fruit, vegetables, carbohydrates and meat posters the class presented to us the different range of foods available and how they contribute to a healthy diet.

P6 also focused on food and health on the journey the food makes, seasonality, local availability and sustainability. They studied food labels to understand how to use them to make healthy food choices. P6 entertained us with the raps that they had created!

P7 studied substance misuse and interested and shocked us with their facts on the effects of tobacco and alcohol on our body. They told us about the impact that substance misuse can have. P7 detailed the actions we should take if we feel forced into substance misuse and who to contact in an emergency.

Not only did we work hard in class to research and work together in order to learn this information but we also took part in several physical activities including a session with a dance teacher, mini Olympics, playing on our new adventure trail each day and Top Sport.

We had a fantastic time during our food tasting sessions and discovered new foods that are not only very healthy but also very tasty too!

We completed our Health Week with a long healthy walk to Jenny's Park and played there for the morning as a celebration. In the afternoon each class

presented their learning to the rest of the school, showing off their expertise in that area.

We can't wait for next year!



ST. PATRICK'S QUEST FOR THIRD GREEN FLAG

St. Patrick's Primary pupils have been busy again this year, with lots of eco activities. We hope to achieve our third green flag for the school. We received our first green flag in June 2007.

In the last few years we have achieved many excellent awards and improvements in our school playground. We hope to continue this fabulous work by extending our eco knowledge in the future.

70 young trees were planted last year in the school grounds and we have been looking after them sensibly and they have really sprouted since they were planted. We have also planted 200 bulbs amongst the trees to encourage insects.

The school staff and pupils have also been busy with a wild flower garden to promote 'Save the Wee Bees!'. We had many species of bees and various insects in our flower garden last year.

St. Patrick's is one of ten schools in Scotland selected to be part of the School's Orchard Project and are being supported by an Advisor from Grounds for Learning, the national school grounds charity.

We are researching, designing and even planting the orchard.

Two years ago a lady came into the school and told us the bad points of dog fouling. She gave our teachers slips about Green Dog Walkers to hand out at parents' night. It was a huge success! We have been awarded a Green Dog Walkers Award.

Also last year we voted for what we wanted new in our school. The choices were: an all weather

football pitch, an outdoor classroom or more equipment for the school playground - we all decided on the outdoor classroom which we will have built before the end of this session. The PTA will kindly pay for this.

We have also received lots of compost and seeds with the help of Morrison's vouchers. We have now planted these.

We have been learning about the infamous Japanese Knotweed project, which is very local, especially around the River Carron. It is 7 metres wide and 3 metres long, when the wind blows it blows the Knotweed seeds and they scatter all around the Carron and kill other plants.

Work has started on our willow structure funded by a grant from Earlsburn Windfarms and arranged by the PTA. We should all be willow experts soon!

The school orchard project is being supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and is part financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER 2007-2013 Programme.



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St Andrew's Primary Health Weeks and Health Days

Throughout the session, we plan a number of Health focus days and weeks. We are fortunate to be able to call on help from a range of health professionals who help make keeping fit and healthy a pleasurable experience; our Active Schools Coordinator, our school nurse, dental nurse, road safety officer, our cook and catering services and several sports coaches who enjoy working with our pupils.



This session the children were involved in a variety of new experiences; zumba, tae kwon do, orienteering, canoeing and mountain biking. We

also held a fancy dress fun run which helped raised over £4,000. The money is being sent to SCIAF to help victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami. Some of the money will also go towards purchasing high quality, recycled plastic picnic benches to improve our outside space.

St Andrew's Primary News

Max in the Middle

Both our P6 classes participated in the week long

'Max in the Middle' health topic. For a whole week pupils learned about keeping well in its widest sense; physical health, mental and social / emotional



health. Their week long experience culminated in a show for parents. It was a memorable experience.

Bank of Scotland School Sport Week

Our final health week of the term will coincide with the Bank of Scotland School Sport Week. The exciting initiative, delivered in partnership with Scotland's national agency for sport, SportScotland, uses the power of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to inspire hundreds of thousands of young people to take part in sport and physical activity.

Pupils, staff and parents will be involved a range of events. We are looking forward to the evening planned for parents; cheerleading for mums and daughters and tag rugby for dads and lads!

Outdoor Learning

Throughout the session all classes have been making the most of opportunities to take learning outdoors. Some members of staff have attended national training courses and are keen to use the school grounds and local area for enterprising learning and teaching. All classes have used the school grounds for maths, writing poetry, making dens, science, eco initiatives and of course, sport!

Some of our P7 pupils have trained as Garden Guides for the walled garden in Callendar Park. The children are now confident in taking round small groups of pupils or adults and teaching them about the plants there. All P7 pupils also went walking, mountain biking, canoeing and kayaking locally. It was a real challenge and helped build their confidence for leaving us and starting high school. Next month P7 will be going on a week long residential course to the National Sport Training facility at Inverclyde to further develop their sporting skills and self esteem!

Our P6 pupils also enjoyed a day packed with outdoor activities at Muiravonside Country Park and enjoyed mountain biking, canoeing and a farm visit. The children (and teachers) reported it was the best school trip they'd ever been on! It was helped by the fact that the sun shone!



Callendar Park

P5 have been learning about Global Warming and they visited Callendar Park with the ranger. He showed them the effects of global warming.

All classes have made use of Callendar Park to enhance their work; walks, Roman workshops, WW I workshop, Victorians workshop. Our P3 pupils visited the Helix project while they were learning about Falkirk and the canals. The children helped come up with ideas and about how to make the park interesting



and accessible to the public. They also made some environmental art pictures and sculptures.

Eco Initiatives and Sustainability

Our Eco Group planted a small school orchard with apple and pear trees and some gooseberry and raspberry bushes. We will need to wait for another year for apples and pears but we should enjoy a small crop of soft fruit late summer!

Potatoes, onions, carrots and strawberries are also planted in the raised beds in the main garden. Last session our cook, Linda, kindly cooked the potatoes. The children enjoyed eating something they'd grown. Let's hope for a good crop this year!

Our Eco group have continued their efforts to make the school litter free. P2-P5 classes allocate a litter picker person everyday and P1-5 classes also allocate an Energy Buster. Their job is to be vigilant to staff or pupils wasting electricity, water or paper.

St Andrew's Primary News continued

Book Week 21st-25th March

The eagerly anticipated Book Week took place from the 21st-25th of March. It was a great opportunity for the children to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction books and allowed them to discuss and evaluate the merits of different texts.

During Book Week the children had the opportunity to buy books, enter competitions, meet an author and create a book based on their own writing! There was a great sense of excitement throughout the school and books were available to children of all ages.

A total £1736 was raised for additional school

books and preparations for next year's Book Week are already under way!



Health Promoting Schools

The pupils, parents and staff at St. Andrew's have been very busy this session with a wide range of health related activities, there has been something for everyone.

Lunch and After School Clubs

There are several lunch and after school clubs running for pupils. Staff and parents help to organise the clubs. Pupils can enjoy Table Tennis, Badminton, Cross Country, Football, Chess and Tag Rugby every week.

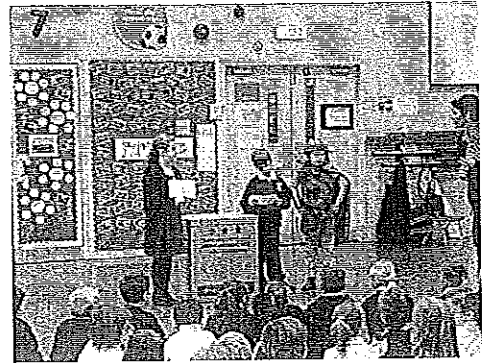


We are very proud of our Cross Country Team who has enjoyed huge successes over the last couple of months. Throughout the trials for

the Forth Valley Championships and in the finals held in March the team proved how talented they are achieving second, sixth, seventh, eighth and nineteenth places. Well done!

Michael Recycle

One of our P3 topics is 'Recycling' and this session a huge range of initiatives have been operating to help us change our wasteful ways! A superhero friend called 'Michael Recycle' sent P3 pupils a range of challenges inspired to teach the children the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle message.



Our P3 teachers made use of Falkirk staff to help the topic come alive. Jennifer Terris, Litter Education Officer taught the children about King Wastelot. Hania Smith, a local artist and Litter Education officer, helped the children transform household rubbish into beautiful flower garden sculptures. Jen Barrett and Johnny Bannerman also helped push the recycling message. Pupils even did a recycling orienteering game!

In order to take the recycling message to the whole school P3 staff and pupils helped organise a 'Go Green Day' for all classes. The children initiated the 'wrapper free Friday' message, the Energy Buster rotas and a Recyclool mobile phone/ink cartridge scheme that day. These initiatives are now part school life at St. Andrew's.

P3 also organised a 'Swap It Day' for our P1-3 classes. All pupils were invited to bring in a good quality toy or game they had outgrown or finished with. P3 then sorted the toys and games and all children could choose one toy/game to take home. There were many happy smiling faces that day and not one penny was spent!



St Andrew's Primary News continued

Rich Tasks

Throughout the 3rd term all pupils across the school participated in a Rich Task. The tasks were designed to be engaging, motivating, relevant, challenging and fun. They allowed pupils to make connections across the curriculum and apply their skills and knowledge in different contexts. Teachers and pupils jointly planned the learning outcomes and learning experiences to be focused on throughout the topic.

Expectations of pupils were high throughout the task and only quality work was displayed and accepted. Pupils had the opportunity to work in a variety of groupings to build relationships and develop team work.

Our P1 pupil's tasks were based around Fairyland. They received dragon letters throughout the term asking for help with some problems e.g. the seven dwarfs need a new blanket for their beds, can you help design and make a blanket with a pattern for your favourite dwarf?

P2 became our resident experts on Ancient Egypt and transformed their classroom into a museum which included artefacts, descriptions and information.



P3 established themselves as citizens of Ancient Rome, setting up families with servants etc. They received various challenges from Emperor Caesar to which they

responded most enthusiastically.

P4 were our Titanic experts transforming their classroom into a Titanic exhibition. They became passengers on the Titanic researching their characters and facts about the ship using archive material.



P5 built a ship and set sail exploring new lands. Each group within the class researched a different explorer and presented their research through individual fact files and group presentations.

P6 re- built the great Victorian Exhibition of 1851 to hold their ingenious inventions. They researched famous Victorians creating interesting folios. They

completed their Rich Task with a wonderful play demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of life during the Victorian period.

P7 researched all aspects of life on the home front during WW1. The pupils created and designed typical features of a WW1 home including; fireplaces, grandfather clocks and kitchen appliances.

Homework grids were developed for each task providing pupils with a variety of written and creative activities to choose from.

The Rich Tasks finished with an Open Evening Showcase event, giving pupils the opportunity to celebrate their success with parents and families.

Our parents were extremely enthusiastic about this approach and provided us with very positive feedback



"As a family, we found the topic to be a rich and rewarding experience, as we explored together, worked together and learned together".

"We liked the structure of the homework done over 6 weeks where we could choose when to complete the work in that time frame".

"The homework grid involved the whole family even her cousins, she was very enthusiastic to complete the tasks".

Fairtrade School Status

St Andrew's received the Fairtrade School status this term. This award is given to schools in appreciation of their hard work and achievements in terms of promoting fairtrade products and developing pupils understanding of wider global issues.

Our recent activities during 'Fairtrade Fortnight' involved pupils collecting and displaying fairtrade labels and participating in the organisation's attempt to break the world record for the longest continual piece of bunting.



St Andrew's Primary News continued

Active Learning & Outdoor Learning

Development of Interdisciplinary Learning was greatly enhanced last term by accessing the Educational Activities on offer at Callendar House. P3, P6 and P7

children enjoyed an interactive approach to learning by dressing up in period costumes and studying artefacts from the Roman, Victorian and World War II periods of history.



The development of the garden area, at



Callendar House, has also inspired many of our pupils to take learning outdoors: P7 became Garden Guides, P6 pupils learned

about planting herbs and the unequal distribution of wealth in the world for their Fairtrade topic. P3 and P4 children will be finding out about minibeasts and habitats in the garden and the lake.

Values for Life

This year the children and staff have been promoting gospel values and virtues in an active way. Each month, a value or virtue is studied and, through assemblies and RME teaching, our young people develop their awareness and understanding of the named value on a religious, global and school level. For example, the children learned about 'Dignity and Compassion' through bible stories, the work of Mother Theresa in India and this knowledge helped the children to be more proactive in their fundraising efforts with SCIAF and Kids4Kids. At the end of the month, winners from each class are chosen, usually by

their peers, and a 'values lunch', in their honour, is shared with some members of staff, parents and our school chaplain, Fr Simon Hughes.

Gospel values require nurturing and practice so that individuals come to live by them and the fostering of values and virtues also

enables natural cross curricular links to be made with the social, emotional and mental health aspects of Health and Wellbeing.



Sanam Welcomes P5 Explorers

On Thursday 24th February, Primary 5 children from St Andrew's Primary School in Falkirk explored the Sanam Tandoori Restaurant.

They walked to the restaurant and were amazed at how lovely, gleaming and bright it was.



The helpers and teachers were amazed too!

All the children sat down at a table with a drink and enjoyed learning about lots of different spices. The spices were the things they came to learn about because their topic was the Age of Exploration. Everyone learned about turmeric, red chilli, fenugreek, coriander and cardamom.

They even got to try pakora and fritters!

Their teacher, Mr Burnett said, "That was the best school trip I have ever been on and the children learned a great deal from it."