

## Achievements over session 2008-9

At Laurieston PS we are constantly working to raise **standards** and improve the **quality** of the service we provide. In this report we consider our achievements last session and outline plans for the coming session.

The major initiative this year has been the creation of our **'Eco Garden'** at the rear of the school. Pupils, parents and the wider community have been fully engaged in this project and it has raised the awareness and heightened the profile of Eco issues amongst the whole school community.

Working in collaboration with Graeme High School, pupils have recorded an Eco song which was written by a group of pupils. All children have sung the song in class and at assembly and have learned it as their Eco code.



During the spring term we launched our tremendously successful **Art Exhibition**.

We displayed works by every child in the school, including the Nursery alongside pieces by staff, parents, former pupils and artists within the community. The Parent Council put up prizes for each class and these were awarded by Provost Pat Reid at a special ceremony for artists and their families. The displays offered excellent opportunities for all children to participate in appreciation and evaluation and has raised general interest levels in Art. It has been a valued community event and we are already being asked for a repeated event in the not to distant future.



The **school website** has continued to grow and now has over 2700 hits showing regular and repeated use by parents, staff, children and others. A comments page was added for the school community to evaluate our Art Exhibition and a “contact us” page provides parents with an additional means of communication with the school. Parent have made use of a subscription service alerting them to updates and forthcoming events.

[www.laurieston.falkirk.sch.uk](http://www.laurieston.falkirk.sch.uk)

**Eleanor Hogan** taught at Laurieston PS for 35 of her 40 years in the teaching profession and retired at the end of this session. Eleanor was an excellent teacher who always got the very best from the children in her charge. She was well known for her artistic ability and many former pupils had fond recollections of her stylish dress sense.



**Literacy Strategy:** To prepare our children to be **life long learners**, we need to give them confidence in the core skills of **communication**. In consideration of Falkirk Council's Literacy Strategy staff undertook training on Literature Circles which were introduced throughout the school. 'HearSay,' a new listening and talking scheme adopted in Falkirk Council schools, is now being implemented in each class. In May we arranged for pupils from Nursery to P6 to visit the new Meadowbank Library in Polmont.

**Technologies:** Throughout the year SMT have observed through monitoring examples of teachers planning the use of technological skills and resources across the curriculum. e.g. Designing and making Barges as part of a Canals study, Eiffel Tower models in EU topic, Pupils creating a video diary to evaluate our Art Exhibition and P1 accessing technologies through active learning. To recognise and encourage pupil involvement in ICT a trophy is awarded at the end of the session: the Douglas Robertson Trophy.

Working closely with **Nursery** pupils and their parents we have taken major steps to improve the Nursery **outdoor learning area**. New fencing has been supplied, extending the area and making it totally secure. The area has been resurfaced, the garden has been redesigned and we have been able to add a variety of play equipment. The next step is to paint the new tarmac and buy more play equipment. Thanks to Finn Forest for donating the planters and sandpit.



## 2009 – 2010

Last session we asked parents and pupils for their views on **Homework**. Using the information gathered, a working party will now review policy and practice in homework and decide on the necessary changes. Children will benefit from variety, relevance and enjoyment in their homework tasks.

Following last year's achievements with the Eco Garden and Eco Song we will focus the whole school community on progress towards Green Flag. To achieve this we will need to develop a whole school anti litter strategy, introduce some energy saving strategies and continue our recycling.

We will update you on **Eco-Schools** progress through newsletters and our website.

We will continue to address Falkirk's **Literacy Strategy** by undertaking developments in Reading, Writing and Talking and Listening.

The school Library is central to encouraging children to become Readers.

With the help of parent volunteers working in tandem with the School Library Service we will make our Library attractive and easy to use.

To improve performance in Writing we will review the Target spelling scheme, making sure that learning in spelling is reflected in pupil's written work.

The implementation of Hearsay throughout the school will result in increased confidence and enjoyment in Talking and Listening.

In nursery we will continue to improve the outdoor area with the development of the garden and purchase of large play equipment, linking with the **Eco School** initiative.

Over the last 3 years children in nursery have planned and developed a **Global Citizenship** topic using the Watoto pack. We have developed studies about Kenya, Bolivia and Honduras. This year we would like to focus on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child (UNCRC), linking children's rights in Scotland with those in other countries.

We will continue to take forward the **Curriculum for Excellence** both within our planning and with the children's Early Years Profiles which have been adapted for new children to include the CfE experiences and outcomes.

### **Attainment**

Our Attainment figures continue to reflect the hard work of our pupils in attaining the levels expected in Reading (83%), Writing (83%), Maths (88%), Listening (88%) and Talking (86%). The numbers do not convey the full story of well over a third of our pupils attaining beyond the expected levels and of pupils requiring support who have not managed to achieve their levels with the rest of the class but have nonetheless made notable progress towards their own personal targets.

It takes a great deal of hard work to attain these levels and we commend both staff and pupils for their achievements.





*“I love the way the garden has been done, so thanks a lot. I love all the flower beds and the sun house.” Pupil P5*

*“The Art Exhibition has been a great success. The talent in Laurieston is fabulous, many thanks to all the great teachers and Laurieston School encouraging the talent in the school and in the village.” Parent*

*“Great that the children are able to view a range of Artwork from people they know and also have a chance to ‘show off’ themselves.” Parent*

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## Standards and Quality Report 2009

