

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).

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2014/2015



Falkirk Council

Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Woodburn Nursery

What have we been learning?



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April 2014

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MY FUTURE'S IN
falkirk

Bonnybridge Primary

Bonnybridge Primary School has been shortlisted for an Education Scotland award in the category "2014 Commonwealth Games/Games Legacy".

They are one on three schools who have made the final stages and while they are delighted to have got this far they hope to impress the judges on their visit to the school on the morning of 1st May

On this day they are being visited by Klaus Mayer and two co-judges who will be looking at and discussing the work that is going on in the school around the commonwealth games.

Good Luck!

Busy Bee Room:-

The children have been weighing and measuring, following instructions and learning new information, preparing and tasting foods and talking about what they have been making and what they have learned in the process. The children are also going to learn how to use the camera and make their own recipe cards to follow using photographs as a guide.

Butterfly Room:-

The children have been discovering and exploring sounds and music and have made video recordings of their performances. They have also been exploring road safety, in particular, how to cross the road safely. They have been choosing books with a purpose and sharing likes and dislikes about their selected book.

Dragonfly Room:-

The children have been exploring outdoors including experimenting with water and making puddles. They have been using a variety of transport and exploring all different kinds of vehicles including sorting them into same set categories e.g. planes, vans, cars, boats etc.

Goodbyes and best wishes

We would like to wish Ann Sandilands all the best for her retirement and say a huge thank you for all her hard work and support over the many years that she has worked here.

We would also like we wish both our modern apprentices Lauren Wright and Rebecca McPhee all the best in their new placement and thank them for their hard work also.

Scottish Parent Teacher Conference - Edinburgh

A huge well done to Clare Malcolm, Parent Council Chair at St Patrick's RC Primary School and Anne O'Donnell, Head Teacher at the school for their presentation at the recent SPTC Conference.

Clare and Anne talked about the increased involvement of dads at the school - largely due to their fun learning event - 'Boy's Night Out'.

The audience of Parent Council and PTA reps from across Scotland were very impressed and many were planning to go back to their schools and organise a similar event to the one at St Patrick's!



Graeme High School News

Apprentice, You're Hired!

Last term we invited interested S3 pupils to apply to be part of our "Apprentice" leadership development programme. All interested pupils took part in a group task and 10 were selected.

The programme will not only develop skills such as leadership, communication and problem solving, but will allow the pupils to positively influence the school community through working towards gaining our first Eco Schools Green Flag.

To help achieve this, the candidates will be mentored, once again, by CALA Homes (West) Ltd Managing Director, Alastair White, a long-term supporter and business partner of the school. They will also be supported in school by a range of staff.

The Apprentice 2014 was formally launched at a reception in

Callendar House on Thursday 20th March where the candidates and their

parents learned more about the background to the programme and our expectations of the candidates as they move forward with the project for the remainder of S3 and into S4.

This is the second Apprentice group to work on a real-life task, the first having produced our S1-3 Awards Scheme in which all our S1 and S2 pupils participate.

Literacy Support, Tweets and Blogs

Mrs. MacLennan compiled the Literacy Support Packages (available on our school website) for S1/2 pupils and their parents to use.

She also set up a new tweet called [tweetaread_GHS](#) for parents and pupils to follow and to share reading. This tweet provides a channel for parents to ask questions such as 'What books would be suitable for a 14 years old boy who loves playing sports?' Mrs. MacLennan or our Librarian Ms. Cross would tweet back with book suggestion.

Besides [tweetaread](#), Ms. Cross set up a new tweet for our school library [GHS Library@ghslibrary2014](#). Pupils can tweet what they are currently reading and recommend any books in our school library to other pupils.



A new Library Blog

<http://ghslibrary2014.blogspot.co.uk/> is also available for getting all up-to-date news about our library.

So, what are you waiting for? Start tweeting and blogging!!!

Musical Project for Helix

On Thursday 27th March, Brian McNeil and his wife visited the Music Department at Graeme High School and delivered a workshop to some of the musicians from S3-S6. This year he celebrates his 43rd year of a career that established him as one of the most acclaimed forces in Scottish Music, he has been described as Scotland's most meaningful contemporary songwriter.

Brian is visiting all the schools within the council and is currently writing a "Suite for The Kelpies" which will be performed on the 24th June as part of a celebration of the Commonwealth Baton arriving in Falkirk, this will be held at the Helix Park. Brian listened to some of our pupils perform and the pupils had the delight of listening to him on various instruments and were able to have a good insight into life as a musician and the experiences that come with this.

Graeme High Music Department will be part of this celebration and pupils will be asked to perform as a large ensemble on this piece that Brian is currently writing. He is very enthused by this project and was impressed with The Falkirk Council Concert held last night displaying the local talent in the area.

In preparation for this event, Brian will send the music to the Graeme High School Music Department and the teachers will be responsible for teaching the pupils their parts which will come together as large ensemble incorporating young musicians from the area, there will be a rehearsal the week before the event to allow pupils to see how their part fits within the ensemble.

Brian said last night "I want to involve every pupil in the Falkirk area who can hold an instrument regardless of their level of talent and the music will be written in this accessible manner."



Fish in the Classroom at Hallglen

P5 have taken part in the fish in the classroom project. They have looked after the eggs and learned lots about the fish. They also went out to release them in the local burn.



Commonwealth Games at Hallglen

As part of a whole school topic on the Commonwealth Games the children have been experiencing taster sessions of various sports linked to Glasgow 2014.



The children have had a variety of sports including bowling at the Adrian Bowling Club in Falkirk and gymnastics at Falkirk School of Gymnastics. Many have had soft ball, boccia, rugby, cricket, tennis, hockey, basketball, cross country,

swimming, tae-kwon-do, netball and badminton already. We also have arranged for sessions in cycling, archery, judo, squash, water polo, athletics and boxercise to take place during the coming term. The whole school will have a Commonwealth Day on 3rd June and Commonwealth Concerts on 10th and 12th June. We are also having a Commonwealth themed Sports Day on Wednesday 18th June.

2 children from our school also attended the Launch Day at Grangemouth Stadium.



Susan McKelvie who will be Hammer throwing at the Commonwealth Games visited the school to speak to the children.

Hallglen Primary School News

John Muir Week



To coincide with the activities linked to the John Muir Way, Hallglen are having a John Muir Week in school where the children will be learning all about the life of John Muir and his legacy. We had an artist, Kitty Falzon, in the school on Wednesday 23rd April and she worked on art activities with some of the

children entitled 'Leave No Footprints'. The children have also helped to design posters for the John Muir Bioblitz which is happening in



Lionthorn Woods on Sunday 4th May between 10-4pm. P1 to P5/6 classes walked part of the John Muir Trail on the afternoon of Thursday 24th May and carried flags and the P6/7 and P7 classes attended the Hotspot Event taking place at Callendar Park and the Woods that afternoon as well

Scots Language

As part of our work to commemorate 700 years since the Battle of Bannockburn the children have taken part in a Scots Language fortnight in March. Each class learned a poem and song and we had a special assembly on the 27th March with Andrew from Graeme High piping for us and our own Highland Dancers.

The P1-3 children had Mousetail Puppets in to school to retell the story of Robert the Bruce and the Spider. They really enjoyed it and it helped make the story more meaningful for the younger children.



The P4-7 children all visited the new Bannockburn Visitor Centre and learned about the battle in a fun and interactive way. The pupils and staff thought that the centre was excellent.

Outdoor Learning at Hallglen Primary

Over the past 2 years Hallglen School



Community has worked hard to improve Outdoor Learning for Hallglen. With the help

of local businesses, grants, volunteers from the community and fund raising events we have transformed our playground into a stimulating



environment for everyone.

At the Celebrating Success Awards 2013 the project was Commended for community involvement.

GHS Library Assistants Saltire Award Scheme

All our library assistants are encouraged to take part in the Saltire Award scheme. They record their volunteering hours and when they reached 10 hours of volunteering in the library, they'll receive a certificate and Young Scot Card voucher to recognise their hard works. Two girls – Abbey (S1) and Katie (S1) from the Team have already exceeded 10 hours volunteering.

Well done to the girls!



St. Margaret's Primary and Nursery Class News

Cross Country

One of our teachers, Miss Wilson, trained and escorted four pupils to the Cross Country Championships at Cochrane & Johnston Park in Alva. The following pupils achieved the following times: Liam Fagan came 33rd out of 53 and ran in 7



mins and 19 secs; Lauren Sandland came 11th out of 53 and ran in 7 mins and 37 secs; Alexander Smith came 20th out of 61 and ran in 7 mins and 1 sec and Brodie Findlay came 19th out of 61 and ran in 6 mins and 59 secs. Well done to our four champions and we are delighted they represented our school.

Polmont in the Past

One of our members of staff has lived in Polmont for 45 years. Mrs Bell has been talking about Polmont in the Past to the P3 children. She brought in pictures from a collection her own Dad had kept of the Polmont High Street. There have been many changes over the past 45 years and Mrs Bell spoke to the children about where the old school was adjacent the church, a hotel that is no longer here and stories about milk tokens too! P3 have also been walking round the local area to identify where old buildings have been and looked at new housing developments that are now in place. There used to be an Orchard in Polmont which is no longer there but where it was, is now called Orchard Grove!

Literacy Event

The RACI Literacy Team led a session with parents/carers about the delivery of Active Literacy. Sharon Wallace (Curriculum Support Officer) delivered the presentation. The Event was exceptionally well received by all who were in attendance. The comments made through the self evaluation process could not have been more positive and appreciative. Parents/carers did feel included; more informed and were able to experience first hand, the activities undertaken by the children on a daily basis. Some of the children presented at the session and as always were expert ambassadors for our school! Thank you to Sharon Wallace and the staff who attended the evening.

Stuart Reid

Stuart Reid, an author from our local area, has been working with P5 & P6 to inspire them with story writing. The children were dazzled with Stuart's enthusiasm and wrote some exciting short stories using their VCOP strategies to engage the reader. Thank you to Stuart for his time and inspirational sessions.

Laurieston School Makes a Difference

At school assemblies in Laurieston Primary, children often sing *"I can make a difference, you can make a difference, we can make a difference in this world of ours!"*

A project which is currently being undertaken in school is allowing the children to research, remember and commemorate the impact of Laurieston pupils from one hundred years ago.

1914 marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and P6 pupils have been learning about the war and its impact on former pupils of the school through a joint project led by Laura McDonald and Louise Tierney from the heritage learning team at Callendar House.

From 1914-18, Mr James Mather, the headmaster of Laurieston School, compiled an album of photos of some former pupils who served in the war. He recorded whether these former pupils returned home safely or whether they sadly lost their lives. This album is held by Falkirk Archives at Callendar House. In Laurieston School, we currently hold the original school logbooks* beginning in 1896. The entries covering the war years were written by Mr Mather and include references to a number of these former pupils who visited the school during this period and were presented with gifts in recognition of their achievements. Mr Mather's legacy has left a rich historical resource and this has been the basis for the project with Laura and Louise.

Children have worked in co-operative groups to be history detectives and use resources to research the impact of the First World War on eight former pupils, (including a family of three brothers). The children have also worked with a storyteller and artist to create 'memory box' exhibits of their findings. Later in the year these will go on display as part of a travelling exhibition around a number of community venues including the Hippodrome Cinema, Forth Valley Hospital and local libraries.

The stories of the former pupils include that of James Fitz Morris. He joined the army as a dispatch rider, but by 1917, aged just 20, was a Captain in the Royal Flying Corps. He was awarded the Military Cross with bar and was mentioned in dispatches. He also received the Belgian Croix de Guerre. In May 1918 he returned to Laurieston School and was presented with gifts in recognition of his achievements. *"I am very proud to be a former pupil of this school and shall carry your gifts with me wherever I go"*, he said.

Sadly James died in a flying accident in the Cincinnati in August 1918. He was on a tour around American cities with the British Aviation Mission.

However one of the most inspiring stories was not of a soldier but of a nurse, Margaret Crowe. Margaret attended Laurieston School as a child and in 1897 was employed as a pupil teacher at the school. She later trained to be a nurse and in 1915 joined Dr Elsie Inglis who established the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Overseas Service. Margaret travelled with Elsie as part of a team of nurses to work in Serbia. For her work there Margaret was awarded the Serbian Cross of Mercy. She also took part in the Great Serbian Retreat and in Feb 1916 returned to Laurieston School to talk to pupils about her experiences. She later served with the SWH in Russia returning to Laurieston School at the end of the war to talk to pupils.



Today the SWH and its doctors and nurses are still remembered in Serbia, but most people in Scotland know little about them. P6 children were amazed to learn about what this Laurieston former pupil had done and had questions about what happened to her after the war. The answers to their questions came in a very exciting way!

A TV researcher who was filming a documentary about the SWH and Scottish / Serbian links, contacted Mrs Jane Smith, the great niece of Nurse Crowe! Mrs Smith came to Laurieston School with many photos of her great aunt in Serbia and Russia, which she has kindly gifted to the school. She was also able to talk with the children about her own memories of her great aunt.

Mrs Smith said that she felt her great aunt would have been "tickled pink" that after 100 years this former Laurieston pupil was being remembered and her achievements recognised at her old school. Over 400 former pupils of Laurieston School served in the First World War and over 160 are recorded in Mr Mather's album, each with a story to tell. Thanks to Laura and Louise this project is allowing Laurieston pupils of today to discover them.

**Thanks to a grant from Falkirk Community Schools 2008 Charity, and support from Capture All, these logbooks have been digitised and the originals will be presented to Falkirk Council Archivist at the end of this project."*

Engaging Everyone Whitecross Community



At Whitecross Primary and Nursery we are working with our whole community to enhance the educational experiences for our children. The Community Learning Teams initiative promotes environmental

awareness in a way that not only links to many curricular areas but also involves the whole community - staff, pupils, parents, people and businesses in the local area.

When we started this project the aim was to encourage teamwork, develop enterprising attitudes and skills, provide more opportunities for choice and participation in decision making to help create a shared understanding of what it takes to run a school - respecting and enhancing our physical and learning environment.

Every child from Nursery to P7 is involved: 'Children's leadership and entrepreneurial skills are well developed through their involvement in Learning Teams. Commendably, nursery children are also involved in the school's learning teams.' HMle.

What do our teams do?

The **Outdoor Education Team** leads the development of our playground and outdoor areas for learning. The outdoors and local area are very well used to enhance learning experiences for children" HMle. ... and we won the Helix sponsored Learning to Achieve Award in the Environment, Heritage and International Education category.

Working with parents they secured funding of £1,000 to provide a storage shed for equipment and a supply of wellies!

Their latest project involves exploring how to use the wider local area including Muiravonside Country Park to provide further learning opportunities in the 'outdoor classroom'.



Our **Eco Team** works hard to ensure that our Eco Action Plan continues to have a high impact in school to meet all our Eco targets. As well as

recycling and keeping the school community aware of environmental issues they encourage children and adults to walk whenever possible and organise our annual Big Fit Walk for the whole school along the Canal to Muiravonside Park. They have also 'Switch off and Save' policy in school and at home to save energy including a mass switch off for Earth Hour. They have their own 'garden' in the playground and grow fruit and vegetables which they harvest and cook. This year they have made



apple crumble, leek and potato soup and vegetable soup. Their creative ideas are supported by everyone and we have just been awarded our second Green Flag!

To promote good health the **Healthy Eating Team** encourages our community to eat healthy snacks

and drink plenty of water instead of fizzy drinks. They cook healthy snacks and share their recipes. They organise and run a 'Healthy Food Bar' supported by parents, often selling the healthy snacks they have just made! They promote Waste Free



Lunches and give advice about healthy packed lunches at assemblies.

At present they are consulting with all stakeholders to develop a healthy snack policy for the whole school and have just been awarded £2,500 to run a healthy breakfast club next year.

Fun United organises events for the whole community with a focus on Reading and Literacy. So far this year they have organised a very successful Literacy Day which saw the school packed with parents and friends all trying out activities with a Roald Dahl theme! They organised a Book Launch where every child presented their own book to their guests and a Come and Read

Engaging Everyone Whitecross Community

event and book swap for World Book Day. They have negotiated with Scholastic Books to donate a free book for every book purchased at the Book Fair and earlier in the year they managed to talk the head teacher into providing funds to invite two authors into school, one who was also a graphic artist, to run workshops for every class which everyone loved.

They have also been involved in re-designing our Library and enjoyed choosing to spend a 'budget' on more comfortable seating!



The **Community Links Team** visit our local Care



Home to spend time with the residents and have been involved in designing and building a garden for them. The team members wrote to everyone they could think of and

got donations towards the garden project from many local businesses – and larger firms too including Homebase, Sainsbury's and IKEA! One of our grand parents, who has his own taxi firm, provided the transport to and from the care home, the Lowport Centre in Linlithgow donated canoes which the children turned into planters and another parent who works for the Co-op got them to donate a special bench so that the residents could sit out, watch the birds and enjoy the garden. A special plaque was 'commissioned' for the garden and everyone is delighted with the results.

A new Learning Team has been created this session to co-ordinate the school's approach to the Commonwealth Games Project, our **Going for Glasgow Team!**

The **Team Managers** encourage and motivate, feedback to the whole school at Assembly, and

evaluate each activity.

The **Events Managers** consult with other teams, carry out surveys on the types of events we would like, handle information and decide on events.

The **Marketing Team** design posters for advertising including in local businesses, send out invitations to the wider community, make/order badges, labels and tickets and contact the local press for publicity.

The **Finance Team** research any costs involved and write to sponsors for funding. The Stewards plan, including risk assessments, organise and implement the actual events.

This year they have raised awareness of the Commonwealth Games through a 'Sport Your Trainers' day and recently launched our 'Going For Glasgow' project to parents and friends by organising a sponsored obstacle/circuit course. Although many parents attended – no one actually tried the course! They did give lots of encouragement to all the children who took part from Nursery to P7 and contributed towards raising a massive £641.65 for Sports relief – which was an amazing effort for our 'wee school'.

The team were also busy making flags and banners to wave our 'baton bearers' off on Friday 25th April to start the Graeme Cluster Baton relay round the cluster schools.



Our Community Learning Teams have become a popular whole school approach to community projects involving many parents and grandparents. A notice board and regular newsletter help to keep everyone up to date with what is happening and why and to get suggestions for new activities. The aims of the Community Learning Teams were always laudable but the amount of community involvement and support has been a huge bonus and a major factor in their success.

Learning Games on a Commonwealth Exchange

When Westquarter Primary teacher Karen Bell approached her head teacher with the news that she would like to take part in the Commonwealth Exchange Programme neither of them knew exactly what lay ahead but both agreed that it would be an invaluable experience for both Karen professionally and for the school culturally. Once the decision was made and the necessary permission granted by Falkirk Council, the wheels were put in motion and the process begun. A candidate from Bowral, Australia, Mrs. Lynette Williams, registered interest and was put in touch with both Karen and the school. Game on!

In January 2013, Lynette Williams and Karen Bell swapped lives (but not husbands!) for a year. They exchanged houses, cars, jobs and colleagues and so began their great adventure.

Senior members of the Pupil Council, Alecia, Cameron and Stella, interviewed Mrs. Williams at the end of her time at Westquarter and Mrs. Bell on her return. Here is what they found out....

Mrs. Williams chose to take part in the exchange for a number of reasons: she likes to travel, enjoys a challenge and her daughter is living in Edinburgh at the moment so it was a fantastic opportunity to combine the things she loves to do and take up the

position at Westquarter Primary for a year.

This her third exchange and each experience has been different, once to a high school, once to a junior high (both in England) and now to a primary in Scotland. She would absolutely recommend it to anyone thinking of taking part in the exchange programme as you have a chance to live someone else's life – in their house, their job and with their

friends. It can be the highlight of your life and you don't have to be young to do it; it's great at any time in your career. You travel, you see the



world and it's a big adventure.

When asked what she had learned here Mrs. Williams told the Pupil Council that she really liked the way the citizenships groups are run and the sense of belonging that this and the house system gives children. They can work together and everyone has something to aim for. She enjoyed

St Margaret's Primary and Nursery Class News Cont'd

Falkirk Wheel

P6M wrote letters in support of the Falkirk Wheel's Bid for funding for Phase 2 of the Water Park they plan to extend and build. Steven Cole from Waterways Trust personally visited the class to thank them for their support and invited the children to visit the Falkirk Wheel talk more about the proposed project. Feedback from the general public is that the Falkirk Wheel can be an uneventful visit so the children have been asked to offer their opinions and suggestions in how to make the public attraction more interactive.



Plant a Tree Day

In partnership with Falkirk Council & Polmont Community Council and St. Andrew's Primary School, we were invited to plant the new trees in Gray Buchanan Park. Miss Johnson planned a 'Plant a Tree Day' for the whole school. This took place on Wednesday 2nd April 2014 in Gray Buchanans Park in Polmont. All children from the nursery to P7 were involved in planting a tree in the woods with support from our parent helpers too. The school are delighted to contribute to their local woods and support the community.



the developmental work she has been involved in, both in literacy and self-evaluation. Her own experience in teaching meant she could share valuable insights, especially in the use of poetry to develop higher order skills. As you can imagine, "The Wee Malkies" was an altogether new experience, one which she is taking back to Bowral with her.

Mrs. Williams was generous in her praise of Westquarter. She told Cameron, Stella and Alicia that she wouldn't change a thing about Westquarter School, they have a caring head teacher, dedicated staff, lovely children and a building with facilities which were much nicer than those of her own school. She would have changed the weather if she could (wouldn't we all!) but recognised that although we had a lot of rain it was better than the huge droughts she had experienced in Australia. At the time of her interview Mrs. Williams was excited to be going home as she missed her friends and family. She also missed being able to eat outdoors, go swimming at her local outdoor pool and just have her own things around her.

What of Mrs. Bell? How did she find the exchange experience? On her return here is what she shared with the Pupil Council...

Mrs. Bell wanted to experience learning in a different country, comparing similarities and differences with those in Scotland. She felt she had arrived in Bowral at just the right time as the Australian Government was putting a new curriculum in place. Up until last year each state had its own education system and curriculum. When Mrs. Bell arrived it was at the beginning of a new National Curriculum. The new curriculum shared the rationale of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence but whereas the Curriculum for Excellence presented teachers with the experiences and outcomes for all areas of the curriculum, Australia favours introducing subjects annually:



this year English, next year Maths. Mrs. Bell felt the curriculum is also more prescriptive than in Scotland.

Mrs. Bell had a P6 class of well-mannered, hardworking children. She introduced them to the use of flip cameras and blogging (no one there had a blog). She also informed the children that in Bowral the pupils had to pay for all the resources they used – pens, pencils, jotters, textbooks etc. She felt that as a result this encouraged better care and use of materials. Good handwriting was a focus and children worked towards gaining their pen licence. The pen licence was only granted when your written work reached a set standard and once reached all work was then completed in pen.

If she could have changed anything Mrs. Bell would have introduced central resources for the school as each staff member had to have their own materials and she arrived with nothing to start her off! Whilst the other teachers helped with what they could Mrs. Bell thought that would help everyone.

Mrs. Bell felt that the children at Bowral were very fortunate and had many opportunities to do extra-curricular activities. One of her school highlights was seeing children from her class singing in Sydney Opera House!

Away from school it had been strange at first to be in someone else's house and only two suitcases for the year! She printed off family photos to put around the house. Mrs. Williams had a big garden and Mrs. Bell had no gardening skills. She had taken up more outdoor activities but felt the garden was too much and hired a gardener! Above all the weather was great and lots of sunshine made you feel good.

Stella asked Mrs. Bell if she would do it again. Mrs. Bell did not hesitate and said yes, it was a great professional and personal experience. She had stepped out of her comfort zone and realised that she could do it. She is also looking forward to bringing some of her new found knowledge of another culture back to share with her classes at Westquarter.

The Pupil Council would like to thank both ladies for their time and their willingness to share their experiences. Should anyone be considering a similar adventure we are sure Karen would be happy to share her experiences.

Bantaskin Primary School News

Science Show

We invited Jon from 'Think Science' to Bantaskin for the Falkirk Science Festival. Jon brought along some interesting equipment and showed all of our pupils the different things that science is responsible for. The children loved watching his show, which for some of the younger ones almost seemed like magic. The pupils in P3L, P3/4Mc and P4R used this as a base for some further investigation in their homework and tried out some of the experiments with parents showing them what



they had learned. A great day was had by all pupils and staff involved and hopefully it has encouraged some of our budding scientists of

the future. Thank you to Jon for sharing his enthusiasm for science and making this such a success.

Cross Country

Bantaskin children value the opportunities they are given to keep fit and healthy. 38 children from the upper school participated in this year's cross country events and all their dedication and hard work paid off. Many of the children improved their fitness levels and their scores as the season progressed. This attributed to our P5 girls coming second place overall and Inez McIntosh, P6 gaining an individual award for second place overall.



Bantaskin Primary School Show 2014

In February 2014, the talented P4-P7 pupils of Bantaskin Primary put on a spectacular production of the musical comedy show, 'Pirates of the Currybean.' The three shows: two evening and one matinee were the culmination of 4 months of hard work. As well as rehearsals this included; costume, set and prop making, marketing and publicity. The efforts of pupils and staff paid off on the nights as show-goers were hugely impressed by the acting and singing talent displayed on stage. Stunning

stage sets and professional lighting and sound provided the icing on the cake to showcase the acting and singing of the pupils. A P6

pupil said, 'Everybody put their all into it and without them it wouldn't have been possible.' Head Teacher, Elaine Gallagher said, 'I am so proud of everybody. The show looked so professional'.



RHET topic visit to Bantaskin, February 2014

Farmer John showed the children how to 'milk' Valleri by hand. We all had great fun milking Valleri – it was hard work though!

P1B, P1MW and P1/2D have been learning all about farms. Although the children have enjoyed some super classroom based activities, having a school visit from two real farmers who volunteer with the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) helped to consolidate their learning and allowed them to ask lots of questions. The volunteers, Lynne Reid and John Owen, farm locally, with Lynne having a dairy farm and John raising beef cattle and various poultry.

RHET Forth Valley coordinator, Christine Struthers, worked with teachers to organise a visit to Bantaskin PS by the farmers and their special fibreglass dairy cow, Valleri. The children were able to see and touch different items of farming equipment, hear talks from both farmers, ask questions of experts and get hands on with Valleri to see how easy it was to milk a cow by hand. They were all surprisingly able!

Placing learning in a real life context allows children to evaluate their learning and comprehend their experiences in a new and valuable way. Hearing the children talk excitedly about farming, consider carefully the needs of livestock and discuss the ethics of food production was a delight. The RHET visit has been a highlight this term and emphasises the importance of linking classroom activities to the community.



Marion Deuchars at the Park Gallery

**Marion Deuchars, Let's Make ART, Park Gallery, Callendar House, Callendar Park, Falkirk
May 3 to July 20 2014**

Free Admission

The Park Gallery, Falkirk is delighted to be hosting Marion Deuchars', Let's Make ART.

As part of Homecoming 2014, Let's Make ART will be Marion Deuchars first exhibition in her home town. Marion is an internationally acclaimed, award winning Illustrator who was born in Grangemouth, near Falkirk. She now lives with her husband and two sons in North London.

Her clients are varied from: Penguin Books, Formula One, The Guardian, New York Magazine to Jamie Oliver. Marion is on a campaign to get everyone involved in Art.

"My exhibition at the Park Gallery will be a chance to see some of my working methods and will also allow children and adults to get involved in the creative process themselves. Much of the exhibition will be interactive, but not in the digital sense! So roll up your sleeves and come and get your hands messy: let's get drawing, painting, sticking and cutting. Let's Make Art!"

Part of the exhibition will show her working process through sketchbooks, notes and films and the centrepiece of the show will

have specially designed work tables that will encourage the public to participate and make their own artwork from printed activity sheets. ART activities will include:

- Make your own artwork within the gallery space and hang it on the wall to become part of the exhibition.
- Art Activity sheets, paper, pencils, coloured pens, inkpads, rubber stamps and stencils will be available to play with.
- Kids and their parents can get messy. Pick up a sheet and get creative!
- Draw the Mona Lisa's smile.
- Make a Surrealist Drawing.
- Fingerprint a dog pattern.
- Rubber stamp art your own postcard to take home.

Interactive Drawing

Specially designed web apps to draw on.

- Draw with a digital pencil to change a handprint into an elephant
- Turn a fingerprint into an alien
- Colour in a grid to create robots, patterns or lettering.
- Save all your digital images as part of the online gallery that will act as a catalogue for the work produced throughout the

exhibition.

Marion will host special workshops for children and adults within the gallery space.

In this exhibition, as well as including her own work, Marion will be giving the public the opportunity to make their own artwork and hang it on the walls of the gallery.

Artist Talk

All Children are artists. And why you should never grow up.

Wednesday 11 June 2pm – 3pm

Callendar House, Green Room

Family Workshops

Monday 5 May 11am – 12pm and 2pm – 3pm

Saturday 19 July 11am – 12pm and 2pm – 3pm

The Park Gallery, Callendar House

All materials supplied, please reserve a space and wear old clothes.

(Suitable for adults and children age 6 year olds and over)

These events are free but please call 01324 506850 to book a place

For further information, please check our website:

<http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org>

Congratulations!



One of our pupils at Stenhousemuir Primary was a finalist in Show Racism the Red Card - anti-racism and anti-sectarianism competition. Getting to the final was not easy with 4,500 young people submitting 1,600 individual and group entries from across 21 local authorities in Scotland. Josh Szanyi from Stenhousemuir Primary was highly commended in the P1-P4 category. Here is Josh, being presented with his award with (L-R) Eileen Dinning from Unison Scotland, Sanjeev Kohli, Liam Craig from Hibernian FC and Yvonne Donald from Education Scotland.

Calendar of Events

May 2014

Falkirk MAASH/WSA Dev. Group - Conf. Room, Sealock House - 2.30pm	01 May
Staff Development Day	02 May
Term Time Public Holiday	05 May
World Asthma Day	06 May
ESMT - Sealock House - 1.30pm	06 May
Larbert Cluster Meeting - Ladeside PS - 9.30am	07 May
SSIP - Sealock House - 9.30am	09 May
Children's Book Week begins	13 May
Falkirk Council Committee Meeting - 9.30am	14 May
Performance Scrutiny Panel (Education) 9.30am	15 May
Admin Team Meeting - Sealock House - 10am	15 May
ESMT - Sealock House - 1.30pm	15 May
NGT - Sealock House - 9.30am	15 May
Education Matters – Submitting articles deadline date	16 May
Primary Head Teachers Association - Venue: TBC - 2pm	20 May
ESMT - Sealock House - 9am	21 May
Falkirk Children's Commission - Municipal Buildings - 2pm	21 May
ESBF - Sealock House - 10am	22 May
EESMT - Sealock House - 9am	27 May
Larbert Cluster Meeting - Larbert Village PS - 9.30am	28 May
Falkirk EYC Away Team - CEC - 12.30pm	28 May
Falkirk EYC Leadership Group - 3pm	28 May
Secondary Head Teachers Business Meeting - Sealock House - 9am	29 May
Falkirk MAASH/WSA Development Group - Sealock House - 2.30pm	29 May
Secondary Head Teachers Association - 2pm	30 May
World 'No Tobacco' Day	31 May

Science News

"Create an Alien Competition " as part of the recent Science Festival was won by Morgan Nimmo, age 9, from California Primary School. The runner up was Struan Henderson, age 12, from Denny Primary.

The Final of the Falkirk District Knex Challenge will take place on 13th May at St Bernadette's Primary where 31 schools will take part.

Johari News

Hi Diane,

Thanks for forwarding the latest issue of Education Matters. It was great to see the Seedlings Competition featured and also to see what's going on with the schools in Bo'ness.

Regina Wambui, our Social Development Manger in Kenya came to Scotland in March and visited Graeme High on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th and also visited Bo'ness Public on the afternoon of the 11th of March.

Also, Graeme High are doing some fundraising for us through their enterprise group 'Cute as a button' and their recycabike group.

P3 at Bo'ness Public also did some fundraising for us at the end of last year with which we are purchasing fruit trees and goats for our farming project in rural Kenya. This will be featured in our forthcoming Johari eMag.

It's really fantastic the support we have received from Bo'ness Public and Graeme High. We have developed really strong bonds with these schools which have been strengthened by the trip that Vickie, Joanne and Alan made to Kenya last year and will be further enhanced by Regina's trip next week which has been made possible by funding from the British Council which Vickie and Joanne managed to secure.

Kind regards,

Ruth

www.joharifoundation.org

 **Johari Foundation**



Falkirk Council

Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Teaching in Forth Valley Royal Hospital gets a boost from SERCO

Volume 14 Issue 10

May 2014

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Learning To Achieve Awards 2014

You can now start making nominations for this year's Learning to Achieve Awards!

The categories for the awards are shown on the nomination form which you can get by e-mailing education.communications@falkirk.gov.uk. You can also get some information about the categories and ideas of what the judges are looking for.

Closing date for nominations is the 27th of June 2014.

Shortlisted nominees will be invited to the Learning to Achieve Awards ceremony at Falkirk High School on Thursday the 25th of September.

Good luck!

Each quarter there is a different fundraising opportunity for SERCO staff in the main restaurant at Forth Valley Royal Hospital. This has been used for various local and national charities.

Recently, following some work with Lissie Faulks, the teacher on the Children's Ward, the focus was on raising money to provide technology for her pupils.

The cheque was presented on Tuesday 6th May by Lorraine Beattie, Serco General Manager, to Lissie. The plans are to purchase a light tray and to put the remainder towards a tablet.

Lissie and Lorraine were joined at the presentation, in the playroom, by Lisa Ross and two patients from the ward Abbiegail and John.

Lissie says, "I have been working with Serco to support them when schools bring classes in to visit the hospital, and to develop technology and the visual environment on the children's ward. I also work with schools and play staff on the children's ward so that when a child is admitted to hospital we can minimise anxiety and support education if they are going to be off school for a while. A lot of our work is based around Health and Wellbeing.

In return Serco collected money for us over the Christmas period to be spent on ICT resources on the ward.

We are extremely grateful to Serco and customers for collecting this money. We will be able to spend the money on ICT resources to support education in the children's ward.

To me it is an example of positive partnership between Serco, NHS and Falkirk Education Services.

This kind of partnership allows us to develop positive outcomes for children and young people."



St. Andrew's Primary School News

Eco Group Activities

This session our Eco Group have been working hard on a variety of projects. Early next session there will be an Eco



inspection for our third green flag. This term we held an Eco Week during which all classes have been involved in different Eco themed activities. There have been litter picks in the school grounds, Callendar Park, the Clean Zone (near the nursery) and Bellsmeadow. Jennifer Terris, Litter Education Officer, visited classes and told the story of King Wastealot to help understand how important it is to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Biannually the Eco Group also organises a Rag Bag Collection and funds raised are used to improve our playground and garden.



In class the children have been learning about looking after our environment. The Eco Group prepared and presented an assembly to

the rest of the school. Several surveys have been carried out to gather information in a range of areas we are trying to improve: snacks, use of blue bags and transport. 'Walk to School Wednesday' was a great success and pupils who were unable to walk to school completed a walking circuit during break time. P4, P5 and P7 helped out in our school garden and potatoes, carrots, onions and flowers were planted.

The Eco Group prepared and sold plastic



tubs to encourage pupils to bring a wrapper free, healthy snack. Lots of classes had an information session about 'Milk' and even got the chance to milk a life size model cow! A 'Bling a Bottle' competition was held to see how creative our pupils can be, making something pretty out of rubbish. The week ended with a visit from 'Silly Billy' who presented an Eco themed show for our P1-P3 pupils and the children loved every minute of it.

Before Christmas the Eco Group organised a 'Swap It Day' for our P1-P5 classes. Pupils were invited to bring in a good quality toy or game they had 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!

Health Promoting Activities

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, parents and even some of our senior pupils help to organise the clubs. Pupils can enjoy Table Tennis, Badminton, Cross Country, Football, Dance and Netball. These clubs are well attended and run weekly.

This session our P6-P7 pupils have also enjoyed attending a 'Glee Club' run by Miss Ross. The children have been learning and performing a range of contemporary songs. The Glee Club has also been singing in the Howgate and raising funds for three charities; MacMillan Cancer, Mary's Meals and SCIAF.

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 were. Well done!



Four of our P6 pupils attended a Dance training session with The Active Schools Team. These pupils now organise a weekly Lunchtime Dance

St. Andrew's Primary School News Cont'd

club for our P2, P3 and P4 pupils. Two of our P6 pupils also run a Lego Heroes Club twice weekly and they help the P2 and P3 pupils build interesting Lego models. Lunchtime can be quite long for younger pupils and these clubs keep our pupils busy and happy.

'The Big Scoot About'

This session we started raising funds and saving for a MUGA (multi-use games area). Our grassy pitch is out of bounds from late autumn to late spring due to being water-logged. The MUGA pitch would provide a year round area for play, learning and teaching for all.

At the end of March Mrs Jamieson organised a fun, healthy fundraising event entitled 'The Big Scoot About'. Pupils chose one of three activities to participate in; scooting, cycling or running. The children brought their bikes and scooters to school and completed a course within the school grounds. Our runners completed a cross country course in Callendar Park which was exciting and different.

The children LOVED the event and were exhausted afterwards. Over £3,000 was raised and the money is being used to kick start the MUGA pitch fund and some is also being sent to The Scottish International Aid Fund.

Scottish Concerts

During November our pupils in P4-P7 took part in mini topics with a Scottish theme. Two concerts were also held for our parents and carers celebrating all things Scottish on the 29th and 30th of November. Our pupils excelled themselves by performing a range of traditional and contemporary Scottish songs, poetry and dance. Several pupils performed individually, showcasing the learning they do out of school as well: playing the clarsach, Highland dancing, electric guitar and so on. James Bundy, a pupil at St. Mungo's, kindly played the bagpipes for two, wonderful afternoons.

Opening of our Games Hall Extension

At the end of November, Archbishop Leo Cushley visited the school to celebrate our St. Andrew's Day Mass and also to open the extension



to our new Games Hall. Archbishop Cushley is the newly appointed archbishop of the diocese of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh. Former headteachers, parent reps, pupils and staff attended the event and all were impressed with the improved space for learning and teaching.

Outdoor Learning

Throughout the session all classes have been making the most of opportunities to learn outdoors. A team of four staff have been working together and great progress has been made.

Firstly, an audit was constructed and completed by all staff. Key areas were highlighted by the audit and the RACI team planned their work following the results of the audit. A whole day inservice was held with support from Jane Jackson. St Mary's staff joined those at St. Andrew's and they were outdoors for most of the day learning about what a rich and stimulating environment there is on site and off site using Callendar Park. Staff have attended local and national courses and staff confidence has improved. The team also found a range of teaching materials online and they have been added to our Staff Shared area giving our teachers further inspiration for interesting lessons.

Staff worked together at a CAT session writing risk assessments which could be used for off site visits. A database of parent helpers for outdoor learning was established as well as an 'Outdoor Learning Contacts' database. Two rucksacks were filled for use off site as well as an Outdoor Learning Resource Box for staff to access with spotter sheets, binoculars, resource cards and so on.

Outdoor Learning is the responsibility of all staff and the team was keen for pupils to make better use of their break times. One member of the group researched the use of 'loose materials' for pupils to play with

creatively at break time. Eighteen large tyres were fitted together in groups and pupils happily play on these at every break. The RACI team

successfully submitted an application for a Community Grant and the money is will be used to buy a storage shed for the loose play materials.



St. Andrew's Primary School News

Finally, the team was keen to involve our parents and an Outdoor Learning Parent and Child Workshop was held at the end of April. Our parents and pupils tried out a variety of activities with each group being led by a member of the RACI team. The event finished with toasting marshmallows on an open fire in our school grounds!

Planning procedures

Last year we made significant improvements to our planning approaches. We increased focus on learning intentions and success criteria, generating these effectively at the planning stages and ensuring they are embedded in the daily practice of class teachers. This proved to be a very successful development within our school priorities and so was extended for another year. We looked more carefully at the skills progression within and across the levels and considered how we ensure breadth across the curriculum. We decided it was important to streamline our attention so focused on science as this was one of the core areas in our interdisciplinary learning topics. The RACI team shared skills based learning intentions they created for each of the science learning outcomes from every area and level within science.

With the guidance of our RACI team and Yvonne McBlain from the Curriculum Support Team, we also began to explore the link between success criteria and evidence gathering and assessment within a lesson or series of lessons. This tied in with our developing understanding of the NAR planning flowchart and how this can be utilized to ensure coherence in our planning. We explored product and process success criteria and which method is clearer and easier for children to access in both summative and formative assessment within the classroom. Our children have benefitted greatly from this increased attention given to success criteria. This was evident when the children spoke about assessment in a pupil focus group led by the RACI team. The children identified that knowing how to be successful aided their self and peer assessment and helped them to generate success criteria for future lessons.

Science Rich Task

During our 'Science Rich Task' we established a 'Science Board' that consisted of an elected rep from each class and some experts in various scientific fields. The board looked at the plans the different year groups had produced and offered advice on experiments and the recording of results. Each class bundled together E's & O's from across

science and literacy. The contexts for learning were as follows:

- ★ Primary 1- The Circus
- ★ Primary 2 – The Weather
- ★ Primary 3 – Ready, Steady, Grow
- ★ Primary 4 – The Human Body
- ★ Primary 5 – Earth and Space
- ★ Primary 6 – Eco-Systems
- ★ Primary 7 – Bright Sparks

The Science board helped the children to enlist the help of companies and individuals in Scotland that could assist with specific scientific topics.



The children and staff were delighted with the visitors who came to the school and their expertise was greatly appreciated.

P1 managed to convince members of the Circus to come and visit St Andrew's! P2, who studied Weather, really enjoyed the visit from 'Bear Scotland' and they learned about the use of salt and grit in icy conditions. They also had a visit from TV weatherman Alex Hill, who conducted a weather workshop in the classroom! Much to the delight of the children!

P3 visited the Park Ranger at Callander Park and also organised a trip to the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh.

P4 arranged for the 'Bodyworks Science Centre' to visit the school and P5 had a visit from the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh!

P6 visited the Botanic Gardens and P7 arranged a visit from Generation Science, who conducted a workshop called 'Power from the People'. P7 also spoke to representatives from Griffin Windfarm.



St. Andrew's Primary School News Cont'd

All of the visitors contributed to the teaching and learning within our school and offered the children a chance to transfer their skills.

During the Rich Task we held an Open Night that allowed the children's relatives and friends to come along and see the work that had been produced. The Open Night was a celebration of the different scientific topics that had been studied throughout the school. The children were given the role of tour guides who explained the learning associated with the relevant displays and the teachers dressed up as scientists to mark the occasion!

St Andrew's Nursery Class

Parental Partnership

Within St Andrew's Nursery we have been working hard to encourage our parents to become more involved in the day to day activities within the nursery and working with us to take forward the Learning Journeys. We now have a healthy list of parents who support us with our lending library and accompany us on our weekly outdoor sessions.

Feedback from them continues to be extremely positive.

"I look forward to going to Callander Park with the nursery, it's great for the children" "It's good to see the children in another setting".

Engaging parents with the Learning Journeys and encouraging them to add to their child's Journey is crucial. We have successfully built in 'sharing sessions' into the nursery day to give the parents quality time to look at their Learning Journeys with their child and their key worker. We periodically send home 'Star Moments' sheets for children and parents to discuss and fill in.

As a team we enjoy sharing successes of the children. Star moments have ranged from learning to ride a bike, helping with a new baby, moving up a level in swimming and counting to ten without help. The Star Moment wall is a prominent feature in the nursery and the children are also featured on the nursery website.

Our parents also got involved in November by sponsoring children to take part in our Wacky Day fundraiser. The children (and staff) attended the nursery in wacky clothes and had crazy hair for the day. Some even wore odd shoes to complete their outfits. We managed to raise £818

French lessons

Our children have been learning French, thanks to our weekly lessons from Mme Liz and Mme Gio. The lessons include learning about colours,

numbers and songs. Some of the parents have also purchased the CD to play at home. In June the children will perform in a small concert to demonstrate their skills to their parents and carers. Last year's performance was a great success and we hope this year's will be too.

Es and Os

During our planning sessions this year, we have identified and focused on the Es & Os, developing a wide range of knowledge and skills - following the children's' interests. Pupils' voice is gathered from our floorbooks and the Learning Journeys.

Recently the children have learned about their senses. On Walking Wednesday, we walked through the school grounds looking all around us. We closed our eyes and listened to the sounds. We touched different surfaces and described how they felt. We smelled the flowers in the garden.



In the nursery we played listening games. We made 'moonsand' from flour and oil and discussed how it felt. We used the feely box, played a memory game and smelled different containers to guess what was in them. All our activities were supported by fact books and internet clips.

The Yellow group learned more about their senses during their session in Callendar Park. The children used magnifying glasses to explore the environment, used their hands to feel and sorted them into groups soft, hard, bumpy and smooth. We then used blindfolds to heighten our listening skills, we could hear the birds singing, an aeroplane, a dog, twigs snapping and leaves rustling. At the end of the session the children had gained trust in each other and guided their blindfolded partner around the woods.



Our parent helpers even got involved trusting the children to guide them blindfolded.

St. Joseph's is Going for Glasgow!

Since the launch in January this year, St. Joseph's Primary School has been aiming for Gold as part of the Going for Glasgow programme; providing children of all ages with an opportunity to engage with an array of sporting activities and promoting the need for a fit and healthy lifestyle.

Primary 3 and 4 received a visit from Commonwealth Archer, Moira Taylor. Moira, from MRM Archery, brought her competition bow to school and regaled the children with stories of her time at the Commonwealth Games in Australia and later managing Team GB at the Olympics in Atlanta, USA.

The children welcomed the opportunity to strike an arrow and 'Go for Gold'.



Master David Bailey of Central TKD, was joined by Clyde the Mascot as he took P1- P4 through their

paces.

Dean Carmichael of Primary 3 said, "I enjoyed Taekwondo. It was the first time I had tried this sport and I think I improved my kicking skills! I would do it again because it was really fun and it will keep me fit."

Falkirk School of Gymnastics welcomed Primary 5 for a taster session in their gymnasium. "It was a fun sport! My favourite was the trampoline!"



Children in P5 and P6 learned how to play tennis with Miss McGuire in her after school club. They

participated in the Denny Cluster Tennis Tournament and won 2nd place. Well done!

The children in P4 were given the opportunity to learn some badminton skills in an after school club with Mrs Comrie and Miss McFeat.



Charity McArdle who is the Art specialist at St. Joseph's holds a Commonwealth Gold medal in fencing. Mrs. McArdle gave a fencing demonstration to P1-3 and P4-7 enjoyed a taster session in this sport.

Outdoor Learning in Our Nursery Class

Since the start of the New Year we have been making use of our fantastic wooded area within the grounds of our school. We have had fun building dens, climbing trees and hunting for eggs. We have been out in all weathers and we like to listen to the wind and rain as it howls through our dens. Lucky for us some kind parents come along and help us on the day and they have even given us a tent. The PTA is going to buy us some wet weather clothes for next session to keep us dry when it rains!



Here we are enjoying our snack in our den!

St. Joseph's is Going for Glasgow! cont'd

Primary 5 Visit to The Scottish Parliament

P5 visited the Scottish Parliament as part of a Law and Order IDL topic. The class were welcomed and



shown round the debating chamber and committee rooms. They then took part in a lesson on the history of the parliament. An educational and fun day was had by all!

Primary 6 and 7 Theatre Trip

Primary 6 and 7 attended the Theatre Royal in Glasgow to see a performance of Butterfly Lion, a

novel that the children had been reading in class. Miss Russell arranged a short question and answer session



with the cast after the performance and the children impressed with the quality of their questions. Well done!

Primary 2/1 Rainforest Celebration

The children from Primary 2/1 invited their parents to come to a celebration of their work about the Rainforest. The children shared their



knowledge and were very confident as they spoke about their learning. Parents enjoyed looking at the wall displays and talking to their child as each shared their work.

Primary 7 Fundraise for New Maggie's Centre

P7 decided to take fundraising for the Maggie Cancer Care Centre into their own hands! The children raised the magnificent sum of £506.00 by

holding a very successful coffee morning with home-baking and a raffle. They also created their own Power Point presentation and used this to raise awareness of the



project. We are very proud of our contribution and the ownership the children took of this event. The funds raised by the school community will go towards the annual running cost of the new Maggie's which will support cancer patients and their families at Forth Valley Hospital.

Team Work

Children from the Nursery and from the school are working together to plant vegetables in our Outdoor Garden. We have left one plot fallow and know to plant different crops from last year so that the same nutrients are not always being taken out from the soil. This year we are growing tomatoes, peppers, runner beans, beetroot, shamrock and courgettes.

Sam and Erin reported,

"It was hard work pulling out all the weeds but it will be worth it when our vegetables grow."

"We visit the vegetable plot every day to water the plants and check that the birds have not eaten any!"



Going For Glasgow - A Message from P7 at St Patrick's

St. Patrick's Primary is taking part in a project called 'Going for Glasgow' which is about preparing for this year's Commonwealth Games. The whole school is taking part in this project and our P7 class has undertaken a lot of important tasks. This project is helping the children to learn more about the Commonwealth Games and its legacy.

When we first found out about this project in January we all felt very privileged to be part of it. We have been working hard ever since. As part of this project the whole school has to take part in After School Clubs, Taster Sessions and sporting activities which feature in the Commonwealth Games.

The pupils who have taken part in these taster sessions and clubs have all said that they have enjoyed trying out a new sport. So far we have enjoyed: judo, taekwondo, badminton, netball, table tennis, athletics, gymnastics, bowls, basketball and rugby. This term we are looking forward to wrestling, cricket, cycling, tennis, squash and hockey.

Lots of parents have supported this project by helping out at clubs or by signing up to help out at different events. There was an open night for parents to find out about what the school was doing and how they could get involved. Our Young Leaders – Caitlin Gillespie and Rowan Fraser - shared their experiences of the Launch Day with parents. We are so pleased that there is so much parental involvement in this project.

Another part of this project is to inform our school community about what we have been doing. We have a team of "Young Journalists" from our P7 class. Their job is to produce a newsletter at the end

of every month which tells the parents about what the pupils have been doing for the project. They also update the school's Twitter account daily and the school website. There is a notice board team made up of pupils from P7. Their job is to keep our progress on events up to date so visitors can see what has been happening.



Even though it's a whole school project our P7 class have their own personal project which is based on Trinidad and Tobago. The class need to create a fact-file with information about Trinidad and Tobago.

Another part of the Going for Glasgow project is to link up with a school in another Commonwealth country. P7 are linking up with St Francis Xavier School in Ashbury, Australia. We have sent an email and are waiting for a reply. We are also going to send a video email of our class. P6 have also created links with Melton Primary in Uganda which they hope will continue long after the Commonwealth Games are over.

We attended the Active Schools Athletics event on 16 May and will go to the mini Commonwealth Games on 5 June. We hope not only to do well in these games but also to enjoy them in the proper spirit of good sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Finally, we hope to achieve our gold medal by the end of the session so we will continue to work hard!

By Rachel Clark, Leo Weldon and Jake Stewart.

WAKEY WAKEY BREAKFAST CLUB

In February the children from St Patrick's joined the Wakey Wakey Breakfast club which is run by volunteers from Denny Old Parish Church.

This club has been running for over a year and has provided healthy breakfasts for the children of Denny Primary. We saw it as a great opportunity, not only to support our children by ensuring they have a good breakfast, but also to bring the two schools together in a positive and productive way.

The parish of St Alexander's has provided additional volunteers to cope with the extra children and financial donations from the two schools and the St Vincent de Paul society have ensured the club has the additional equipment it requires.

The club, based in the Community Learning Development Centre within the grounds of Denny Primary, runs two mornings a week, but we are hoping to increase this in the new session.

We are delighted with the success of this venture so far and we hope it will bring about even stronger bonds with our two schools and our two churches for the benefit of the community of Denny.

