

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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VOLUME 5 **2013/2014**

Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Falkirk Council

Volume 14 Issue 8

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Recycling the Right Materials in the Right Container and Are You Ready?

Back in October a weekly food waste service was introduced at schools to meet the requirements of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012. The new service has been a great success with approximately 60 tonnes of food waste collected for recycling. This is a fantastic achievement and Waste Strategy would like to thank schools for their continued support.

The introduction of food waste recycling has encouraged schools to increase their recycling efforts. As a result a number of schools have been asking for clarification on the type of materials they can recycle in the blue bin. Some schools have only been using the blue bins to recycle paper and cardboard, resulting in valuable materials ending up in the landfill bin. Last year the Council spent £1.4 million sending materials to landfill which could have been recycled. As a result it has never been more important for schools to recycle the right materials in the right containers.

You can recycle paper, cardboard, food and drinks cans, plastic bottles and containers, and juice cartons in your blue bin. To help schools a new blue bin guidance poster has been created.

The poster was distributed to schools in January. If your school has not received the new blue bin poster, please contact Waste Strategy by email: zerowaste@falkirk.gov.uk. If you have any queries regarding the blue

bin recycling service, please do not hesitate to contact the Trade Waste Helpline on 01324 504422.

Are you ready? Information about the changes to the household waste collection service

On 12th May, the way we collect waste from households is to change. The new service will involve green bin collections moving from every two weeks to every three weeks in the communities of Larbert, Stenhousemuir, Airth, Carronshore, Carron and Bo'ness. All other recycling collections are to remain the same with food waste being collected every week and the blue bin, brown bin, black box and textile bag every two weeks.

Changes to the collection services will be actively promoted through a comprehensive communications plan starting at the end of March. Schools in the affected areas will be a key part of helping to raise awareness and understanding among the local community. It is important that pupils are able to take home the message by using the existing recycling collection services in the household, particularly the food waste recycling service.

The Waste Strategy team will be contacting schools in the affected areas to ask if they would like an officer to come along and talk to the pupils and staff about the changes to the collection services. If you have any questions you can

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contact the team by calling 01324 504444 or emailing zerowaste@falkirk.gov.uk

Changes to the household waste collections do not affect the trade waste service schools receive.

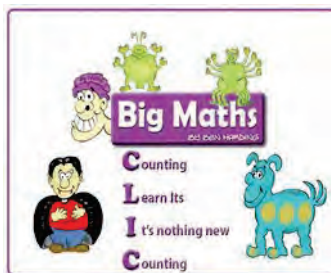
Waste Strategy, Development Services



Airth Primary School News

Big Maths

Over the course of the past 8 months children at Airth Primary School have been working extremely hard to develop their confidence in mental maths through the use of **Big Maths**. During this period of time pupils have been undertaking daily CLIC sessions that have helped them to develop their confidence in: place value; total recall of key number facts; mental math strategies and calculations.



Through these daily mental maths sessions pupils have been challenged to level up their thinking and develop their mental processes. Pupils' progress has been tracked through two challenges on a Friday that tests individual's total recall of key facts as well as their ability to apply mental strategies within calculations. These results have shown a greater engagement with learning leading to a significant improvement in attainment. Ben in P6 said "Our lessons seem to fly by because we are having fun and being challenged."

During the implementation of Big maths parents have been informed of changes and developments to their children's curriculum. In November, a very successful workshop was held for over 50 parents who were led through a series of activities by P5-7 pupils. Mrs. Anderson a P4 and P6 parent said "My children are benefitting from Big maths and it's great to see the school at the forefront of something new."

Most importantly the impact of these changes has been felt within the day to day learning of children across the school. Michael (P7) said "We can all see we are getting better at doing calculations in our heads" whilst Helena (P6) explained that "the activities have made more people confident and as a result we all now look forward to maths." With pupils feeling confident in their own abilities, engaging fully with strategies and attainment improving we are certainly on the right road to success for all of our children.

Airth Primary's Commonwealth Experience

APS Junior Journalists

The whole school special event - a visit from Clyde!!

On Thursday 30th January we met Clyde the 2014 commonwealth mascot. We were very lucky as he

was only going to specific schools and we were one of the lucky ones! Clyde entered our assembly hall from the back and was piped in by Mr Johnstone. Everybody cheered him on as he made his way down to the front of the hall! He was even bigger than we expected! Everybody was so excited to see him. He told us lots of facts about the commonwealth games and he played games with us. We did a whole school quiz and Clyde even raced our head teacher Mrs McKenna. It was a draw! He shared lots of interesting facts about himself and told us about how he travelled the world with famous athletes. We had lots of fun meeting Clyde and we hope he puts in a good word so that the 2018 commonwealth mascot comes here too

Written By APS Journalists, Louise and Johnny



Commonwealth - Trinidad and Tobago

P5 at Airth Primary have been learning all about Trinidad and Tobago this term. Throughout our topic our pupils have been learning to use ICT effectively to enhance their learning. We have used the internet to research important facts about Trinidad and Tobago. We've also used it to track the Commonwealth Baton and for the first time ever we have made our very own Animoto's to share our learning with the whole school! "This was very exciting!" Ryan.

We have embraced the life style of Trinidad and Tobago where we have focussed on food, health and other aspects of HWB. We have learned to make healthy smoothies and snacks associated with Trinidad and Tobago. "We all loved making the carob full moons, I enjoyed making the smoothies too, everyone was involved and it boosted teamwork!" Alex and Eva.

Airth Primary School News Cont'd

Personalisation and choice has shone through where the children have been able to steer their own learning. They displayed a very mature manner when learning about the religions and customs of Trinidad and Tobago. The children have been learning about the history of the famous carnivals and they have decided to host their own 'share the learning carnival' to celebrate their hard work. At the carnival we are going to showcase our very own Trinidad dance and song. We are in the middle of



creating 'show and share boards' full of the work we have been doing in class. We simply can't wait to show everyone all of our hard work! We will be making more of

our healthy snacks and creating other items to sell to our friends and parents. All the money we raise will be going towards our Rota Kids work.

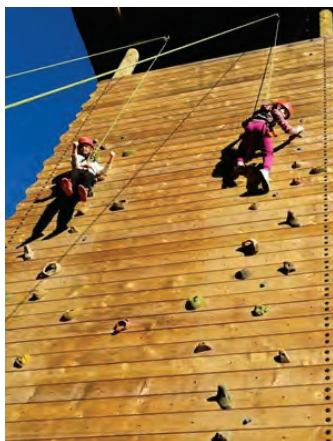
Dalguise 2014

During the week of 3rd-7th March our P6 & P7 children visited Dalguise to engage in many adventure activities and to have a fantastic educational experience.

The most resounding achievements they accomplished were the amazing support they gave each other, life skills they learned, improving their own confidence and achieving and surpassing the targets they set themselves.

The support team also had an amazing time seeing the children do so well and learn many skills that they could take forward both at school and at home.

When hearing feedback from the children about Dalguise, nearly all agreed that conquering and dealing with the fear of height was the biggest reward they gained from the entire experience. Many feedback quotes from the children about the week were '#awesome!' 'Best week of my life!' 'A chance of a lifetime' and one pupil said 'Outstanding' regarding the venue, staff and the



group leaders involved.

There is no doubt that Dalguise is a valuable part of school life and outdoor learning is a vital part of a child's education. To see the children grow in confidence and support each other are rewarding to see as well and a privilege to be part of.



School Grounds Development

Airth Primary School Grounds for Learning team was set up 2 years ago with Mrs McKenna, (Headteacher), Mr Johnstone, (class teacher) and Mrs Davidson, (SfLA). Training days were attended by each member of the team to support outdoor play from Health & Safety issues to imaginative play in the playground, where pupils can access and make use of a wide variety of resources.

The playground at Airth Primary has evolved from a football pitch, painted games and a few toys to a busy active place to play and learn. Our sandpit is very popular with pupils of all ages, as is the train where they can hide and climb. Den building has proved a massive hit with the pupils, especially girls, encouraging great ideas, discussion and teamwork. A huge variety of loose parts were collected that the pupils make good use of within the dens. Benches and an archway with planters were built to create a quiet area. Tyres were the latest to be introduced and pupils of all ages use these in their own innovative ways.



Parents, as well as pupils and staff, have been involved with the creation of our new playground. Pupils collected plastic bottles for our greenhouse that parents helped to build and is sited within our garden area. Lots of parents continue to help us source useful materials for the playground to keep it stimulating and constantly evolving.

Airth Primary School News Cont'd

Improvements will be ongoing as new ideas come to fruition. We are currently considering implementing a mud kitchen in which our playground group has given super ideas for how we can take this forward. We are also looking into the feasibility of building a boat as our next venture.

This week, our new willow structure was planted in our garden which we will encourage to grow in a dome shape for children to play inside.

All children at Airth have the right to play in a fitting environment. They are learning to assess the dangers and risks to be able to play safely and realise their abilities. Our children are benefitting from outdoor play socially and physically encouraging healthier, happier children at Airth.

Sport Your Trainers Day 2014

Airth Primary Health Group planned a fantastic Sport Your Trainers Day for the whole school to take part in on Monday 10th March. Have a read at some of the super things we did!

Healthy Tuck Shop

We ran a healthy tuck shop for the whole school to come and buy tasty healthy snacks.

Our health group members organised and sold on the day. This was so popular that we are planning to implement this once a month.



Bouncathon

Every class took part in a sponsored bouncathon enjoying lots of bouncing activities for half an hour each. Our favourite was the big bouncy castle! We were all very tired after all the hard work.



We raised a magnificent amount for our school. We are going to use the money to give our school more Commonwealth related experiences.

Trainer Parade

Our pupils designed some snazzy Commonwealth themed trainers to celebrate this day. They had lots of fun strutting their



designs in the trainer parade.

Our Health Group chose winners from each class and they received a funky pair of laces as their prize.

In partnership with Larbert Hospital

The teacher from the local hospital, Forth Valley Royal Hospital, came out to visit our P4 class.

The purpose of the visit was to work with the children to give them a better understanding of what went on in the daily routine of a hospital. It was hoped that this would help reassure children if they were visiting someone in hospital or be admitted themselves at any time. We looked at a child



friendly video of a children's ward and the children were able to ask lots of questions.

We were then invited to make a magazine for the children's ward to

help entertain any children who were admitted for any time. We looked at samples of previous magazines and we discussed possible articles that would be suitable for a range of ages and interests. We also gave each group a job such as editors, illustrators and discussed what might be involved for each area of responsibility. Over the next couple of weeks the children worked to produce a variety of articles, including designing their own front covers.

The children were delighted to be invited to spend a morning at the hospital. They were made very welcome and given hot chocolate and a snack. We were shown round the kitchens, children's ward, the robot area and the shopping area. We handed over our magazines knowing they would be welcomed by children on the wards.



This was a very useful activity to be involved in and covered many areas of the curriculum.

Our children have been so engaged in this learning that we have decided to build on the magazine and add more articles, interviews etc. and turn it into a school magazine which we can share with our whole school community.

Airth Primary School News Cont'd

Change through consultation and creativity

Airth's nursery team (consisting of pupils, parents and staff) has been committed to improving the nursery over the past year. The main catalyst for change has come from consultation with pupils and parents. This has resulted in significant changes in relation to three broad themes; the nursery

environment, the learning taking place and the pedagogical approaches used to facilitate the learning. Central to our ambitious improvement



plan has been gathering parents' views (e.g., through focus groups, coffee and cake mornings and 'Sharing the Learning' events) and perhaps more importantly, children's views (e.g., regularly using Talking Mats, mind-mapping techniques and Floor books).

The consultation process has also directly resulted in

building positive partnerships with Airth families. We have used this relationship to take a creative approach to nursery planning and profiling; child and family voice is now at the centre of these approaches, and our new formats allow us to frame children's views and emerging interests within the structure of Curriculum for Excellence.

The impact the changes have had on our nursery are best seen through the children's and parents' comments:

"I love my new nursery" [child]

"Planning with the children is MEANINGFUL! A lot of careful thought is evident in your new approach. The children seem happy and have meaningful choice."

"I love the new nursery layout. There's now a great new learning structure and a wide range of activities" [parent]

"I really love the new profile format. Normally profiles just cover the main things but this captures a real sense of how he is doing and the things we all need to work on" [parent]

"Listening! We have clearly been listened to and improvements are obvious" [parent]

The "new" nursery is 5 star! Staff have clearly worked very hard and the results are excellent – well done!" [parent]

Parents and nursery staff are now working together to support individual children on their journey through their early years and beyond. Although this is an on-going process, there are exciting times ahead for Airth Nursery!

P7 RSPB Project

Over the last few months, P7s at Airth Primary have been working with the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) on a creative project. It has involved them in lots of outdoor learning visiting places such as Letham Woods, Bo'ness mudflats, Skinflats RSPB Reserve and the Forth Foreshore at Airth.

The children have developed lots of skills and have made bird feeders and bird boxes for sparrows and blue tits. By using screws, hammers and tacs they developed woodwork and joinery skills that they will use in the future as adults. Afterwards, the P7s wrote a carefully illustrated set of instructions for anyone else to follow to make a bird box like theirs. The project has involved the children in using stop animation to produce short films about migration and they have had the experience of presenting and filming short documentary style clips which the RSPB will use as a celebration of their learning.

In February, the children planned and prepared a one hour observation to complete the RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch. The children are able to identify lots of different birds such as bar tailed godwits and dunnocks using their bird identification books which were kindly given to them by the RSPB.

Lewis - *"This has been a very enjoyable project and I hope that other children in Airth Primary School get this opportunity too."*

Shaun - *"The project with the RSPB has definitely made the P7 pupils more interested in birds."*

Andrew - *"This project has been really fun, going out to different parts of our local countryside and filming different types of birds and learning about their habitats."*



Carron Primary School News

P4N got to 'get up and sign' and let their true colours shine through

P4N did their showcase on British Sign Language and Deaf awareness last Friday (28th February). They chose to do this as they had become very interested in BSL after taking part in the Sign2Sing event alongside the rest of P4. This event raised £375 for the charity. The showcase was a huge success with many parents and friends being



moved to tears after seeing the children understanding how to communicate in this way. The children feel that they all now have a

much better knowledge of BSL and why it is important to respect and treat fairly all members of the community. They really enjoyed letting their own true colours shine through.

Going For Glasgow

Since the start of this session, we have been focused on the Active Schools based initiative 'Going for Glasgow' in preparation for the Commonwealth Games 2014. Pupils, parents and staff have been involved in taster sessions of sports such as

Rhythmic Gymnastics and Netball.

We have been out visiting other schools to share in the experience of meeting future stars and medal winners.



Some pupils took part in the Commonwealth launch event run by active schools. We have seen the Queen's baton and met Clyde the mascot. We continue the run up to the games this term as pupils study Commonwealth countries through interdisciplinary learning alongside the other Larbert cluster schools. Keep up to date with all the news at our new cluster blog - <http://goingforglasgow.primaryblogger.co.uk/>

Primary 4 pupils wrote about the visit to school by Gary Hand, Commonwealth Road Cycling hopeful.

On Friday 21st February 2014, a cyclist called Gary Hand came in and spoke to us about the cycling he does.



He showed us some photos of his cycling team and when he won a gold medal. He told us that he started cycling when he was just 8 years old and has now been cycling for 23 years. He sometimes trains for 1 hour but his maximum amount is 3 hours and he said that it feels really quick. He normally sleeps for nine hours after cycling and the furthest distance he has cycled is 140 miles, he was on his bike for 8-9 hours!

Garry said that he had raced in about 11 or 12 countries and had only won 1 gold medal. After a cycling race he walks very slowly and he hunches his back over. His legs go really wobbly and floppy so as soon as he gets home, he dives straight into bed!

He has a really, really, really, really healthy meal and he always eats fruit and vegetables. He probably has a little treat about 3 times a month. He can cycle with no hands really easily and that really makes me jealous!

Garry has a few different bikes –

- ★ The summer bike-which is really light
- ★ The training bike-which he uses for training
- ★ The race bike-this is the most valuable bike and it costs about £7,000

He gets his bikes for free from his sponsors! He cycles up and down and all around the hills that are near his house for exercise and strength. He is aiming for a gold medal this year and is cycling in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. We enjoyed the visit loads.

By Grace McArthur and Sophie Blair P4N

Carron Primary School News Cont'd

Grangemouth Science Festival 2014

We have been taking part in the Grangemouth Science festival in the month of March.



Our P7 pupils participated in the David Livingstone K-Nex Challenge. They had to design a hut for David Livingstone to live in and meet the criteria set out in the design brief.

Rachael, Morgan,

Michael and Liam made it through to the finals to be held at the Falkirk Wheel.

Jon from Think Science came to deliver his Science is Magic show to P1-7 pupils. The show featured exciting, interactive and inspirational science looking at electricity, gases and forces. The children saw 100,000 volts crackling through the air! They discovered how is it possible to survive lying on 1000 sharp nails? And wondered why has the science man got a silly voice? An inspiring and exciting experience. The sense of awe and wonderment was felt during each performance by staff and pupils.

Following on from the Think Science shows, the teachers were inspired to take part in 'Love science'. This challenge consists of 50 experiments, investigations and research tasks for you to work through until the end of the Science Festival.

The Beavers are back in Scotland! The Scottish Wildlife Trust, in partnership with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland, released the first beavers to live in Scotland in over 400 years in May 2009. This marks the first formal reintroduction of a native mammal species in the UK. P3/4 and P4 will be finding out more in workshops in school.

P3's and P4's will be learning about SHAPE with a difference. This workshop develops confidence in working with 2D and 3D SHAPE. pupils will be working collaboratively when investigating a particular aspect of geometry and using a variety of



resources in these exciting workshops.

Higgins Neuk Event and Scots Event

In January all our pupils learned an individual Scots language poem to perform and the finalists from P1 – P7 were chosen to go forward to the Higgins Neuk Competition at Carronshore PS. The finalists from each stage were as follows:

- ★ Nursery - Matthew, Ava, Joel, Kyle, Libby, Jack
- ★ P1 - Charlotte
- ★ P2 - Lily
- ★ P3 - Ruari, Katie, Charlie-Anne
- ★ P4 - Euan, Fraser, Sophie
- ★ P5 - Brooke, Marnie, Sara
- ★ P6 - Megan, Lauryn, Abigail
- ★ P7 - Oliver



All the children from both schools performed superbly. We were proud to be part of this competition. Our congratulations went to Carronshore Primary who were the trophy winners for 2014.

Each class also practised a poem and song to entertain pupils and invited guests at our Scots Events on Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th March in school. As well as the poetry and song, the audience were also treated to performances by our Country Dancers and Lauryn Muirhead P6/7 and Sarah Williamson P5/6 showed their expertise in Highland Dancing. This proved to be an excellent showcase of all the hard work going on in school.

Living Literacy!

The children in P7S reading "The Hill of the Red Fox" had a Soviet era morning in March, when Frau Shanks, who is originally from East Germany, came in to share what it was like to live under communist rule in the soviet era. The children heard about the dreaded Stasi and how each class had two pupil spies who would report back to the authorities about the children and their families.

They also made a typical dish of goulash and dumplings which was shared when the children stayed behind after school to enjoy their own work. The Book Club Dinner session ran until 4.30pm and consisted of goulash and dumplings, cola and biscuits for pudding and a very animated discussion about what would happen in the book and why!

Carron Primary School News Cont'd

Oor Rabbie

On January 23rd, Primary 6 and 7 pupils were treated to a performance of 'Oor Rabbie' by MacRobert Theatre Company. The children were taken on a journey through the life of our national bard in a fun and interactive way. The pupils joined in with a performance of 'Tam O'Shanter' and they also learned the traditional Burn's Supper verse 'To a Haggis' and acted it out in preparation for the weekend's Burn's Suppers.

Pupil Voice Groups

The most important people in Carron Primary are the children and it is essential that their voices are heard. The introduction of pupil voice groups involves every child from P1-7 and has allowed pupils to become active participants in key developments for our school. We have 14 groups all working on different aspects of school life.

The Transformers – Self Evaluation

The children work together to identify different ways of gathering all school users' views on the strengths of the school and areas for future development. They will be at our Parent's Evenings to meet the visitors and gather their views on Carron Primary.

The Display Team

The display group in Carron Primary are working on replacing out-dated displays. We have chosen 8 new displays to go around the school - these include a News Board, a Keep Fit Board and a Seasons board. The groups are currently creating the lettering, pictures and styling for their board. Our next step is to get the boards up and ready for the whole school to use.

The Broadcasting Group

The pupils have been working on a broadcast called 'Carron Primary – the best school in the world'. They are learning the skills required to work behind the scenes as well as in front of the cameras. The team look forward to their film premier in the summer term.



Eco Committee

This term our ECO pupil voice group have been very busy preparing for our ECO inspection. For all the latest on what we have been doing and how

ECO is being developed throughout our school please check out the schools 'ECO pages' on the website. <http://www.carron.falkirk.sch.uk/>.

Global Citizenship



After renewing our reading scheme for P3 and P4, the Global Citizenship Group investigated sending our surplus Longman reading books to the Larbert High link school Woodlands in South

Africa. The books will be heading out with LHS pupils in October this year.

Community

The group have researched and discussed what a 'community' is and who the key people in their community are. They decided their first priority was to get the parent community and wider community involved in helping to clear overgrown bushes in the playground.



They made a 'We Need You Poster' to send to parents to ask for volunteers to help trim the bushes in the school.

Mr Ritchie came in and supported us in the school grounds and we were very grateful for his hard work, it has made a real difference.

Pupil Council

The Pupil Council has been thinking about ways we could improve our school. The main tasks included making lists of all the good things we have at Carron and making lists of the areas that we feel could be improved. They are currently making posters to encourage each other to hang up jackets, put library books back, not to waste food at lunch and to put packed lunches in the right bags.

The other groups, all working hard on their priorities are Charity/Fundraising, Enterprise, Health, Playground Development, Publishing, Website and Rights Respecting Schools.

Carronshore Primary School News

Carronshore Primary is Going for Glasgow!



Between January and June 2014 our school is taking part in the Going for Glasgow challenge. Two Junior Journalists from Primary 6 wrote about what this means for pupils at Carronshore Primary School.

The most important part of Going for Glasgow is to do lots of different Commonwealth sports. We are lucky because it keeps us fit and healthy, and it is fun.

Some pupils in our school go to Taekwondo club. They practise for their gradings so they can get to black belt. We also have a Bike Club who like to cycle to the Kelpies. They are getting faster and building stamina. Our Cross Country team are called the Bumblebees and they train every week. This term we have also started doing Boxercise for pupils in P5-7. It's really hard work but also fun! In class Primary 4 have been playing table tennis and Primary 5 have been swimming once a week. Some pupils got to try judo with John Buchanan, who is a Commonwealth champion. They learned a hold down and a few even got to try a hip throw!

We have lots of other sports sessions coming up too like fencing, cricket, gymnastics and rugby 7s. Next term we are looking forward to supporting our second team which is Trinidad and Tobago.

By Stephanie McDonald and Jamie Monteith

Comenius Project – Inclusion

Carronshore Primary has now linked with 3 other Primary Schools from across Europe in an exciting Comenius Project which is firmly focussed on Inclusion.

The Primary Schools in Germany, The Netherlands and Turkey came together in Germany in December 2013 for a planning session and again in February 2014 here in Falkirk to begin the project.

Our visitors enjoyed a traditional Scottish Assembly and were impressed by the Pupils of Carronshore's ability to recite Scottish Poetry, Sing Scottish songs and they even joined in with a few Scottish dances. Our staff were committed to ensuring that our European colleagues had a good flavour of both Scottish education and of Scottish culture and they worked tirelessly throughout the day and into the evenings to ensure this happened.

All schools are 100 percent committed to Inclusion and to discovering new and innovative ways in which full inclusion is achieved.

Our guests had a wonderful time, commenting positively on the inclusive ethos of the school, the behaviour and manners of the pupils and the way in which staff of the school work together. Further visits are now arranged in The Netherlands and Turkey. Staff are very much looking forward to witnessing good (inclusive) practice on their travels.

Carron Primary Nursery News

The Nursery celebrated Chinese New Year – the year of the horse.

They enjoyed making horses in art, role play in a Chinese restaurant, making their own musical shakers for going on a dragon dance around the school and having a Chinese buffet for snack.



The children also took part in a ceilidh with P1 in our school hall. They learned traditional Scottish dances such as The St Bernard's Waltz and The Dashing White Sergeant. The children and teachers really enjoyed the music and fun that being part of a Ceilidh brings.



A Burn's Evening with Higgensneuk at Carronshore Primary

Carronshore and Carron Primaries enjoyed the annual Burns Poetry Competition showcasing the talents of pupils from all stages of the school. The evening was judged by members of the Higgensneuk Burns Club and some of their guests. Both schools presented three poems at each stage. The poems were well rehearsed and confidently presented. The subject matter ranged from the romantic to the ridiculous!

The audience was most appreciative and the judges had difficult task. Every child did very well and all deserve praise. However there had to be a winner, the result was very close with Carronshore declared the winners this year. Stuart and Sophie's novel recitation of My Love is Like a Red Red Rose was voted the best poem of the night.

Congratulations to Ross!

Ross Paton from P7, Carronshore Primary Cross Country Club, took 3rd place in the Falkirk heats of the Forth Valley Primary



Schools Cross Country Championship at Bo'ness on February 7th.

Ross then qualified for the Finals at Alva on March 4th and represented Team Falkirk, running against the fastest runners from Stirling and Clackmannan Primary schools.

Max in the Middle at Carronshore Primary

Pupils at Carronshore Primary School enjoyed taking part in Max in the Middle this term, a week dedicated to health and wellbeing. Two pupils from Primary 6 wrote about their experiences.

On the first day we met Lawrence and Jen, they called it Meeting Monday. We played trust games and came up with special names for the week. Our names were Happy Hayley and Running Ross.

Tuesday was called Tasty Tuesday and we worked in teams to make Salmon Boats, Oatcakes with Cheese and Fruity Crumble Tumbles. They were delicious!

On Workout Wednesday we did a massive workout and practised our dances. We were very tired by the end of the day!

The next day we practised our show. It was Teamwork Thursday and we worked together on our drama and dance routines.

Finally it was Finale Friday. We performed our show for our families and friends. They loved it! Tom from the Max team and Provost Reid were so

impressed they gave us an award. Our school has taken part in Max from 2011-2014, so instead of getting a golden record, we got a gold t-shirt!

It was a marvellous Max week!

By Hayley Yorston and Ross Cowan



Dutch Visitors at Kinnaird Primary

We've had visitors in our school. A group of sixteen Dutch teachers came to Kinnaird Primary to see our school and meet our staff and pupils. The purpose of their visit was to find out how we teach science and enterprise. Some of our P6 pupils were very effective in demonstrating their learning, they even involved our visitors in a few science experiments themselves. Primary 6 were also able to explain their recent learning on stereotypes, prejudice and xenophobia. Our guests, who work close to Amsterdam, thoroughly enjoyed their visit and a few good school links were established.





Inchlair Nursery School XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2014 GOING FOR GOLD



In December 2013 the Nursery Pupils registered for the **GAME ON CHALLENGE 2014**. From January to June our pupils are taking part in weekly sports sessions introducing them to 12 of the Commonwealth Games Activities. Shona Robison MSP replied "The Commonwealth Games coming to Scotland in 2014 provides an exceptional opportunity to learn about the World and Scotland's place within it, and to make our nation healthier and more active." Our young pupils are enjoying a broad and varied curriculum including, Art and Craft, Drama, Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well Being to name but a few. Inchlair pupils are intrigued by the games and are enjoying the challenges they bring. The Larbert Cluster focus on the games has brought many benefits. Parents are thrilled when their youngest children knowledgeably join in the family chat around the tea table about the Games. Nursery pupils often know more than their older siblings.

On UNICEF day for change the children all dressed up in their sports outfits, displayed their skills and raised funds to provide Education for children all across the world.

Local sports clubs have been invited to provide taster sessions in Nursery for our young pupils. Nursery staff are working closely with Chris and Andy from ENJOY-A-BALL to introduce and develop sports skills. The children then have the opportunities to play these games daily in our fantastic outdoor area with their friends. They made their own numbered skittles from recycled bottles as part of our ECO project. John from Laurieston Tennis club has provided Tennis and Badminton lessons. CLYDE, The Commonwealth Mascot, goes home with pupils and is being photographed attending their sports classes. We look forward to the culmination of our Sports extravaganza at our Commonwealth Sports day 2014 in June.



Drover's Storyline at Kinnaird Primary School

P6 have also been learning about Highland Cattle Droving through the Drover's Storyline designed by Sallie Harkness. Pupils discovered what life was like for drovers in the early 19th century, right at the peak of the Falkirk Cattle Tryst. Avidly, the pupils followed the adventures of Rob and Angus on their first ever cattle drove from Correchoillie to Falkirk, learning about Scottish cattle, wildlife, employment, clothes, landscape, houses and food along the way. John Cameron (or Correchoillie as he was known) the greatest Highland Drover also featured in the story as Rob and Angus' boss. The pupils were surprised by how courageous the drovers were, making a journey of over a hundred miles with no



shoes, only a plaid to keep them warm and a likely supper of bannocks and cheese! The pupils really enjoyed listening to the story as well as visualising and bringing the story to life through their artwork and drama. It was especially exciting to be learning about an event that took place over two hundred years ago right under our feet at Kinnaird Primary School.

The Juggling Scientist



The Juggling Scientist (A.K.A. James Soper) is one of the funniest people I have ever met. He did some amazing juggling and balancing, before teaching us some fascinating facts about gravity and magnetism, whilst telling hilarious jokes. It was mind-blowing, fun and educational, all jumbled up together. I'd recommend this for P1-P7, but for the teachers too! He did separate sessions for P1-P3, one for P4-P7, and then one for the Thistle Wing (children with additional support needs), and he acted as though he was enjoying it too. He taught us lots (which I won't spoil for you!) and then surprised us by using it to pull off amazing circus tricks! He even managed to balance a small unicycle on his FOREHEAD! For his finale, he pedalled a massive unicycle while juggling! James the Juggling Scientist really made my day, and I hope he will yours! Evie Hurry, Kinnaird Primary School

Rights Respecting School

At Kinnaird Primary School we are on the journey to becoming a Rights Respecting School with support from UNICEF.

Every class in the school has been discussing and formulating a charter for their class detailing the rights of the pupils and adults in the room which are based on the UN convention on the Rights of the Child. Alongside these rights pupils and staff are identifying responsibilities that go along with the rights. One of our Learning Teams is also compiling charters for the playground, library, dinner hall and gym.

We expect to see an impact around the school in the way pupils and staff behave, in the way people speak and listen to each other in the school and also in pupil attainment which has been shown to improve in other schools who are on the same journey.

This will be a long journey but we are all excited about starting!

Kinnaird Pupils are Global Citizens

Pupils at Kinnaird PS have been learning about global citizenship through a drama-based storyline called 'The Giant of Thistle Mountain'. The story involves creating a village community where all children take on the role of a character and work together to try and win the 'Best Village Competition'. However their plans are thwarted by a troublesome giant who is making a big mess when no one is looking. How do they cope?

Living through the drama as it unfolds, exploring the issues and making decisions enables the children to:

- ★ Value and respect diversity (inclusion, fairness, equality and empathy)
- ★ Work together (cooperation, development of self-esteem, willingness to make a difference)
- ★ Learn about rights and responsibilities (needs and wants, making informed decisions)
- ★ Develop their critical thinking (asking questions, listening to others with respect, expressing opinions, justifying reasons)

This storyline has been adapted for First and Second Level. The Second Level explores stereotypes - racism, immigration and xenophobia through an additional dilemma of a whole community of giants coming to live in the village.

Pupils and teachers alike have enjoyed exploring global issues through the storyline methodology.



Kinnaird Primary - Easter Hat Making Afternoon

Three of our infant classes made Easter hats as part of their RME lessons about how Christians prepare for and celebrate Easter. At Kinnaird we have strong partnership links with parents, carers and our community. Staff and pupils agreed that the Easter Hat making afternoon would be an ideal opportunity to invite parents and carers in to the classroom to share in the learning experiences and help develop creativity. The afternoon was not only an enjoyable one but highly successful due to positive attitudes, supportive parents, enthusiastic and focused children and great team work! The pupils then had an Easter hat parade to share their creations with the rest of the school.



Growbots Greenhouse at Kinnaird Primary School

On Saturday the 1st of March the Growbots finally completed their Greenhouse made from recycled plastic bottles. We'd like to say a huge thank you to the many people who were involved in making this project become a reality:

- ★ Everyone who donated used plastic bottles over the last year.
- ★ Frank Paterson and his team at Barr Construction for building our greenhouse frame and for providing all of the building materials required to finish the greenhouse.
- ★ Growbots who spent most of last winter cutting the bottoms off of the plastic bottles and starting the greenhouse construction.
- ★ Growbots and their parent / grandparent helpers (everyone in the picture and Mrs Evans who isn't in the picture because she was taking the photo) who gave up their Saturday morning to come and help us finish the greenhouse. It's amazing how quickly you can get something done when everyone helps and works together as a team!

The Growbots are so excited that they can now start planting and growing in the greenhouse. Watch this space for lots of exciting fruits, vegetables and flowers that will start their life in the bottle greenhouse.



Up-Helly-Aa

Originating in the 1880s, Up-Helly-Aa takes place on the last Tuesday of January every year in the Shetland town of Lerwick. This year, however, the world famous festival took place in Larbert! As part of our Comenius project, we are focusing on traditional Scottish seasonal festivals and Shetland's celebration of its Norse heritage was met, quite literally, with roars of approval!

Over the course of a week, a large group of children from the Thistle Wing, Nursery and Primary 1 in Kinnaird Primary participated in a variety of activities; learning about Viking life, baking Viking bread and making shields and musical instruments. These were then put to excellent use during a very noisy Up-Helly-Aa procession which snaked its way through the school. In keeping with tradition, a Viking galley was constructed from cardboard and set alight before setting sail on its final voyage from Blackness shore.



Our partners in Turkey, Slovenia, Cyprus and Romania are also celebrating their traditional festivals and we are looking forward to hearing all about them.

Mad Hatters Tea Party

To celebrate World Book Day the pupils from the Thistle Wing at Kinnaird Primary were inspired by Alice in Wonderland and enjoyed an afternoon of tea, cake and silliness. Leading up to the 6th March the pupils engaged in a topic built around the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Activities included a sensory story of the short excerpt, designing and creating a 'mad hat' to wear on the day and of course, lots of baking including fairy cakes and top hats!

On World Book Day, the children and staff donned mad hats, listened and sung along to the Unbirthday Song from Disney's Alice in Wonderland while eating the cakes they'd made together. It was a fantastic afternoon full of fun and laughter and everyone got into the spirit of the day.



FUN & FITNESS AT LADESIDE PRIMARY

Always an active school, Ladeside has continued to build on its 'golden' success in 'Going for Gold' in 2012. Here are just some of the things we have been doing:

Cross Country :- Following our achievement in being chosen as Active Schools' primary 'Team of the Year' in 2013, our Cross Country Club goes from strength to strength with around 60 girls and boys running twice-weekly, and participating very successfully in local, regional and national events. Most recently, on 12 March, in the Falkirk schools' league events, 3 pupils gained individual 'firsts', our P7 boys' team were placed second, and our P6 boys' team and P6 girls' team won their events and brought home 'the silverware'.



Taekwondo :- Led by Master Bailey, our Taekwondo club meets every Tuesday after school and includes pupils from P1-P7. They work hard to follow the Taekwondo discipline 'code' and, to date, 4 of our pupils have achieved black belt status, with many more working their way towards this goal.

Nursery :- Keeping fit starts at an early age! With a focus on Outdoor Learning, our Nursery classes have not only been using the school grounds, but have had an action-packed time in the grounds of Carronvale House! No matter the weather, and clad in their 'waterproof outfits', they love being out and about! Now they can't wait to develop their football skills next term when they work with Stenhousemuir Football Club. It was great that this health and well-being focus was commended by the Care Inspector during her visit in December. Well done, everyone!

'Base' Activities :- Our 'Base' at Ladeside supports 25 children with social and communication difficulties/autism. In addition to weekly swimming lessons, getting out into the local community and farther afield is a priority which includes being as active as possible. According to individual needs, our Base children participate in school events, daily walks, horse-riding at 'Riding for the Disabled' in Bannockburn, Boccia, golf, athletics and multi-sports.

We are grateful to local businesses and to friends of the school for donations which allow us to provide extra experiences for our children. Most recently, we have purchased some new bicycles which our Base children can't wait to try out in the school grounds!

Skipathon :- Ladeside is a 'skipping school'! Our Young Leaders in P6 have worked hard with Lisa from Active Schools, and with Mrs. Sommerville (PT), to develop their skipping skills and are now passing on their knowledge to other classes. During the month of March, families and friends will be invited into school to see these skills and to sponsor their children. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of our 'outdoor' classroom.

What else do we do to keep fit?

- ♦ Whole school 'Big Fit' walks
- ♦ Team marathons in the school grounds
- ♦ Climbing Mount Everest (by climbing the stairs in school!)
- ♦ Fitness clubs for pupils in the Cross Country Club when it's too dark in the winter-time to go outside.
- ♦ Sports' days in school and Cluster/Council events
- ♦ Pupils have had Golf days with a Golf Professional, and have participated in very popular Judo 'taster' sessions.
- ♦ We have offered Swimming, Yoga, Boxercise, cont'd next page,





Hockey, Table Tennis, Handball, Netball, Dance and Multi-sports in school, or, as after-school clubs.

- ◆ We participate in local football tournaments and pupils in all year groups are encouraged to attend clubs at LHS and in the local community
- ◆ And, of course, P7 pupils participate in 10 activities during their residential weekend at Dalguise.

What next?

Hoping for good weather in the summer term, we are ready to 'Go for Glasgow' and focus on the Commonwealth Games. Our plans include rugby, fencing, squash, orienteering, and our first-ever **TRIATHLON** ~ we are working with LHS to hold this ambitious event for P7 in May, 2014.

Footnotes

Our staff also keep fit! Every Monday, in our Assembly Hall, they 'enjoy'(!) fitness sessions led by Master Bailey. Well done Ladeside staff!

A different kind of exercise takes place at Ladeside which requires lots of effort, practice and stamina – our School Choir! 46 pupils from P5, P6 and P7 continue to work hard with Mrs. Shepherd, our Music teacher, to make a fabulous 'sound'! Our performances include singing for Age Concern in Larbert, a Christmas Saturday concert at Callendar House, singing in the Howgate Shopping Centre in Falkirk and, together with other local schools, singing at the Primary Schools' Choir Concert.

Earlier this session, one of our teachers, Miss Pascall, certainly had to be fit when she walked to Everest Base Camp! Accompanied by our mascot, Dale, she kept in regular contact with the school and the pupils were able to follow her 'adventure' from Lukla airport to Everest Base Camp. A fabulous achievement ~ well done Miss Pascall!

Finally, we couldn't do all of the things we do at Ladeside without the help of school staff, Lisa from Active Schools, parental help & input from Larbert High. Thanks to everyone! We want our pupils to continue with the active lifestyle we are promoting – that's the legacy and our hope for their future.



Larbert Village Primary has Fish in the Classroom!

Primary 4 have been working closely with Christine Bell from Communities Along the Carron on a local 'fish' project.

The class took delivery of 250 brown trout fish eggs on Monday 10th February. They were given lots of information on how to look after their eggs which were kept in a tank in the sprinkler room where it was nice and cool. Every day the pupils had to change the water bottles in the tank to keep it nice and cool and remove any dead eggs. They had to record the information on a chart.

Within a few days the eggs began to change into 'alvins' which is the first stage of their development.

On Monday 10th March the 'alvins' were ready to be released into the river. The pupils took their little fish to the River Carron just under the viaduct and with help from Christine released their fish into their

new home. The pupils were very sad to say goodbye to their fish which they had taken such good care of.

Members of the River Carron team were on hand to show the pupils what lived in the river that the fish would like to eat! They investigated bugs and plants that lived in the River Carron using microscopes.

It was a lovely sunny day and the pupils enjoyed their time learning more about life in the River Carron.



Larbert Day Nursery News

Early years Collaborative – Test of Change

In June 2013 the Busy Bears Pre-School Children invited their dad's/carer's along to nursery for the day in celebration of Father's Day. Our dad's participated in various activities with their child, including a football session with Stenhousemuir Football Club, gardening and working on the woodwork bench.

This idea was part of our nursery 'Test of Change' and with its success we have decided to follow on this idea with a Mothers Days event being held on 28th March. Children in Busy Bears and Hungry Hippos have already sent invitations to their mum's/carers inviting them along to be treated like a Queen for the day where the children will serve their mums's 'tea' and cake, they will participate in planting and jewellery making.

Grandparents day will be in April where children will be inviting grandparents to spend some time in nursery with their grandchildren reading stories and playing games.

Larbert prepares for The Commonwealth Games

The children in Larbert Day Nursery are well underway with their preparations in celebration of the Commonwealth Games coming to Scotland.

Children have been sharing and developing their knowledge of the Commonwealth Games. This has included floor book planning, developing their visual planning wall and joint planning with the Larbert cluster.

'Clyde', the Scottish mascot, was initially introduced to children and their families through 'Captain Thistle Bristles' story and from then on the children have been eager to find out more. We have a home/nursery link where 'Clyde' goes home with individual children and participate in shared exercise or healthy activities.

Children have been learning more about Scotland; Looking at the Scottish flag, maps, tasting traditional Scottish foods and we had a visit from 'Artie's Tartan Tales', before moving onto learning about Bahamas.

Children have accessed YouTube to watch various sports events and then have drawn their own adaptations of these sporting events.

Children's interest in Individual sporting events such as badminton, cycling and swimming are being introduced. Our pre-school children are currently accessing swimming sessions at the local sports centre. We look forward to holding our very own sports day in June with 'Enjoy-a-ball' where children will receive a certificate and medal for participating.



Sign 2 Sing at Larbert Village Primary

On Wednesday 5th February all Primary and Nursery pupils and staff at LVPS participated in an attempt to break the World Record for the most people 'signing and singing a song'. This was a charity event to raise money for people with hearing difficulties.

The pupils had been preparing for this event by learning to sing and sign two new songs. The main song for the World Record Attempt – Get Up And Sign and an extra 'favourite' – Go Go Bananas!

On the day of the big event everyone brought in £1 to donate to the charity, wore a scarf like the sign2sing mascot Ollie the monkey and brought their own cuddly monkey!! A few of the pupils even

dressed up in their monkey onsies to support Ollie the mascot.

The total raised was £230. Sign2sing are still collating all the figure and we are waiting to see if we have broken the World Record attempt.



Larbert Village Primary News

Cleaning up our Community



Larbert Village Primary has worked really hard alongside the "Green Dog Walkers" team and "Keep Scotland Beautiful" to raise awareness about dog fouling in their local community. They were nominated for an award at the recent Litter Strategy awards and they won – first prize!

Primary 3E and their teacher Mrs Elliott have been working alongside the local ranger, Gordon Harper and Michelle Miller Allan, the Community Litter Officer on this campaign.

They went along to their local woods to count how many dog poops they could find! Alarming they counted 120! They have been very busy trying to encourage people to pick up after their dogs! They then had a lovely evening at the Award Ceremony and they even got to meet Scooper the dog!

Higginsneuk Poetry Event

On Wednesday 26th February Larbert Village Primary pupils took part in a Higginsneuk Poetry event.

Three children from each stage prepared and recited their poetry to parents and friends of the school.



They were then judged by the Higginsneuk and the event sponsors Mr and Miss Cockburn from Cockburn's garage. Overall, three children were selected as winners of the infant, middle and upper categories. Edgar from P3 won the infant category with his rendition of To a Brussel Sprout followed by Jennah in P5 reciting To a Bacon Roll.

Finally John Joseph in P7 won the upper category with a Winter's Night by Robert Burns.

Jennah and John were then selected to go through to the District final at Denny High School. Both pupils put in an excellent effort securing a third and second place respectively. John will now go through to the National Finals in May which will be held at Prestwick Academy.



Bahamas Day

On Thursday 6th of March we took part in a Bahamas day as part of our Commonwealth Topic. Our nursery boys and girls had the opportunity to sample fruit from the Bahamas at the snack table.

During lunch our two lunch halls offered different Bahamas experiences. In the dinner hall children could select a Bahamas style dinner. Whereas in the packed lunch hall the room was decorated like a tropical island and children took part in their own Junkaroo.

Even the staff took part by sporting Bahamas style costumes and sampling fruit cocktails and traditional foods in the staff room over break and lunch.

Everyone had lots of fun and we look forward to our next themed day!

Book Day

All our staff and pupils enjoyed taking part in World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. Every child came dressed as a story and brought their favourite book to share with their class.

The nursery officially launched its book swap zone to encourage parents to bring in unwanted books and pick a new one!



Both the nursery and our infant classes had a book day parade so that they could try and guess the book characters. Our older classes took part in book themed activities in their classes.

Stenhousemuir Primary School News

Primary 7 pupils teaching Primary 1

Primary 1 have been consolidating their sounds with the help of Primary 7. P7 visited P1 to observe phonics being taught. They chatted to P1 children about their learning, listened to P1 teachers giving praise and encouragement and took notes on the many different games and activities offered.

To help P1 consolidate the sounds sh, th and ch,



P7 planned and organised a range of different activities for the children to enjoy. The children were then invited up to the P7 class to take part in the activities that had

been planned. There were board games, shaving foam, sand, playdough and many more activities for the children to enjoy.

P7 did a fantastic job and the children in P1 thoroughly enjoyed the activities. P7 were very impressed with how much the children in P1 knew and how well they could write their letters and words. All children demonstrated what confident individuals and successful learners they are!

Primary 2 and the Health Bus

P2 at Stenhousemuir Primary recently enjoyed a visit by the Lidl Health Factor Bus. Once aboard the bus the children entered the Smoothie Deck and created their very own smoothie, choosing from a selection of healthy fruit ingredients and following a simple recipe. Every pupil was given a super smoothie cup and a recipe card to take away detailing the simple smoothie recipe so they could continue to make their own fruit smoothies at home.

When the children finished creating the smoothies they moved on into the gym hall where they learned about the importance of exercise and the effect on their hearts. Everyone was given a heart rate monitor watch to keep for the duration of the session. They were asked to read what their heart rate was and to keep an eye on it throughout a game. The class were split into three teams and



had to solve clues about types of fruit and vegetables and race to the basket to collect the correct item of fruit or vegetable before returning to read the next clue.

At the end of the game, all the pupils were asked again to look at their heart rate and the Health Factor Team explained why their heart rate had increased and the importance of exercise. Everyone joined in the game enthusiastically and understood why their heart rate had increased and now know that taking regular exercise is an important part of leading a healthy lifestyle.

All the children loved the experience and we are now hoping to encourage more children in our school to enjoy fruit and vegetables as part of their daily healthy diet.

Primary 3

P3H and P3S have had an introduction to fencing. Tom Hodges came to the school and gave the children a safety talk about fencing and then explained the different types of swords. He also told the children about the rules and procedures for fencing. The children were put into groups of three and had a go at fencing. What fun the children had. They can't wait to have another lesson.



Fencing Lesson by

Grace McBride, P3H, Stenhousemuir Primary

Last Friday we got our first fencing lesson. Mrs Hodges's little boy Tom Hodges taught us fencing in the big hall.

Before we started the lesson Tom talked to us about safety. I brought three swords. Kayla did not have a sword so I gave her one of mine. The three swords were epee, foil and sabre. Sabre was the one we did.

We were in groups of three. Kayla and Cara were in my group. There was a president in each group. The president will be responsible for all of the fighting. My president was Kayla.

We learned the first triangle of defence. You had to point your sword where the person was going to hit. To be a real fencer you need knees bent and feet in the L shape.

Stenhousemuir Primary School News Cont'd

The president would say en garde, ready, fence and you would salute at the beginning to be polite.

I loved the fencing and I would love to do it again.

P3 tackling Dog fouling!

P3S had a talk from Michelle Miller Allan the Community Litter Officer. She told the children about the scheme, Green Dog Walker. As we have people walking through our school grounds with dogs, there can be dog poo left on the grass and children get it on their shoes and clothes.

We are on a mission! We are training to be Green Dog Walkers and asking people to sign up to this scheme by pledging to clean up after their dogs. We will talk about this at our Spring Fayre.

Mary's Meals in P4



Following on from our topic on Mary's Meals, as a class we decided that we need to do what we can to help. So we have made little pots out of clay using

the coil method to collect change at home. The change will then be given as a class donation to feed children that are less fortunate than ourselves.

Grace said "we are going to help them by raising money, this is great because we are helping children to get more food". Amber added "it was very easy to make our pots. You have to be careful not touching them too much because they dry out".

P4B – Show Racism The Red Card work

Pupils in P4B worked in writing to produce some creative poetry for the 'Show Racism The Red Card' competition. After looking at some examples of poetry by Benjamin Zephaniah, we watched film clips and dramatisations of pupils being left out due to prejudice and racism. We explored how this



made us feel and thought about how we could create the kind of community which would stand up to racism.

Using the word SCOTLAND as

our title, we created acrostic poetry to share our ideas on tackling racism. Pupils then had to illustrate their ideas by choosing symbols and



pictures which helped to get the anti-racism message across.

One of our pupils, Josh Szanyi, has been chosen as a finalist

across the whole of Scotland in the P1-4 category and P4B are going to the awards ceremony at Hampden Park in Glasgow on the 20th March to cheer Josh on. We are looking forward to seeing the other finalists' entries and also to our tour of the stadium!

Here are pupils from P4B sharing our poetry ideas with Assembly.

P5 and The Titanic

P5/4 and P5L have been having some real watery fun this session by exploring information, facts and figures surrounding the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. Supported

by some excellent resources from Learning Unlimited, both classes are completing a series of secret missions to resurrect the



Titanic and bring it to life in the classroom. By exploring the workings of the Titanic and life in this era, the context is giving excellent links to social and science outcomes as well as literacy and numeracy. Pupils from both classes have been highly motivated in their quest to find out more about the mysteries which lie in the depths of the Atlantic Ocean.

We are so proud of our wall sized ship which gave us some super experience in cooperating in large groups and sharing resources and ideas.

We are working so hard to prepare our classroom for the official opening of the Titanic and welcoming everyone aboard.

Larbert Cluster

Commonwealth Games IDL Project 2013 – 2014

All teaching staff across the Larbert Cluster took part in a series of network meetings to develop IDL. Using the Commonwealth countries assigned to Falkirk Council, the Commonwealth focus for each level was:

Early level	Bahamas
First level	Gambia
Second and Third levels	Trinidad and Tobago

Each level divided into sub-groups who took responsibility for planning one of the following IDL topic plans focusing on the identification of a relevant bundle of E's and O's within the appropriate IDL curriculum pairings.

- ★ Social subjects and expressive arts
- ★ Social subjects and technology
- ★ Social subjects and science

Staff produced three complete IDL topic plans for each year group, enabling each Cluster school to have a choice about the topics delivered between January and June 2014.

Teaching staff found the opportunity for dialogue extremely valuable especially in discussing Experiences and Outcomes, Learning Intentions and Success Criteria. Pupils are now benefitting from all the hard work with quality experiences being delivered across the Cluster.

FRANCOPHONIE CHALLENGE AT LARBERT HIGH

Miss Kelly's S3 French class is taking part in a Nationwide Francophonie Challenge over lunch time.

Each team comes together and have to answer as many random questions about France in the quickest time that they can. They will use a wide range of resources including dictionaries, the internet, encyclopaedias and of course their own general knowledge.

It is a fun way of helping them learn to use a wide range of resources while learning about France.



Stenhousemuir Primary Commonwealth Fun Run

Primary 6 have been busy organising the Commonwealth Fun Run. Lisa Male has trained P6 as young leaders and we took on the task of organising a sponsored fun run in school which was held on Monday the 10th of March. We decided on the jobs we would need to take on from writing to ask Mrs Reid for permission to hold the fun run to writing letters to VIPs and the young ambassadors to invite them to come along and support us. We decided to have the theme of the Commonwealth flags and everybody had to dress in the colours of a flag. We also had to organise a route for the pupils to follow, signs to guide them and make Commonwealth flags to decorate the stands. It was a big success and we raised lots of money.



Languages in Larbert

Pupils in the Larbert Cluster love learning languages!

Staff in all our primaries support pupils in a variety of languages including French, German, Spanish and Gaelic!



We are also supported by Jimena Baraina, a Spanish teacher from Larbert High School who works across all primaries and some nurseries in our cluster.



Comments from the nursery pupils at Larbert Day;

“Jimena spoke Spanish”

“Told us about Spanish stuff”

“Hello – Ola”

“Goodbye – Adios”

“I liked the Spanish lady”

For her last session with P7 at Stenhousemuir Primary School, Jimena prepared a tapas lunch with chorizo, manchego cheese, olives, Spanish omelette and two specialities of her region, meatballs and pisto (red and green peppers with pork loin). Pupil all thought the food was delicious!



Comments from pupils at Stenhousemuir Primary

“When I go on holiday I can speak the language”

“German is easier but I prefer Spanish”

“Spanish is the only language for me”

“I’ll visit Spain on holiday. When I was small, I couldn’t understand what people were saying but now I can communicate”

“Learning Spanish is really good because lots of countries speak Spanish”

Ulrike Waldroff is the German assistant from Larbert High School, and she also supports language development across all schools.



Comments from pupils at Carron Primary;

“Easier to learn than French and Gaelic and a lot more interesting and a good change.”

“I think German is good because it gives you a chance to learn a different language from yours in an enjoyable way.”

“I think the German lessons are a lot of fun! We do games and we learn new things! I also think it’s good because it’s good to learn more than one language.”



Following discussion at the cluster meeting and then consultation with teachers in all schools and nurseries, the Larbert Cluster have decided to make Spanish our L2 language. We also consulted pupils in Stenhousemuir and over 52% voted for Spanish, 31% for German and 19% for French.

We will be providing training for all teachers from P1 to P7 and we will introduce Spanish to all classes starting during session 2014/2015. We aim to make the training a real fun day for all staff! We might be dancing flamenco and eating paella!

We have still to finalise our arrangements for the L3 language.

Larbert High School News

Art and Design

Our S3 Art and Design pupils took part in a full day Art Workshop where they focused on developing their painting skills within their final expressive painting.



Some of our S3 pupils were fortunate enough to receive a visit from

past student, Fraser Morrison who is now studying Architecture at Edinburgh College of Art. Fraser spoke to pupils in detail about his course and showed them fantastic examples of the work he is currently doing.

Drama

LHS Drama Society's first public performance '1st Contact'.

The performance was made up of a collection of script extracts and originally devised pieces all based on mobile phones.



Music

Singing with Kieran Brown

A variety of pupils sang with Kieran Brown in the Dobbie Hall at a West End Christmas. This was a great experience for the



pupils to sing with a professional west end star.

Musical Theatre WAO

The Musical Theatre WAO sang at Tesco, The Howgate Shopping Centre and Strathcarron Hospice this



Christmas time. We raised money for the music department, Children's Hospice Association Scotland and Strathcarron Hospice. The group will be singing at Strathcarron Hospice again soon.

African Children's Choir

The Musical Theatre WAO sang with the African's Children Choir and Larbert Village Primary at the Dobbie hall. It was great to perform with them.

London Trip

Music and Drama took a group of pupils to London. We saw Matilda, visited an ice bar, went on the London eye and went



to the British Music Experience in the O2. We also performed at Wembley arena as part of a 6000 piece choir to a huge audience.

Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas concert saw pupils from Larbert High and our cluster primaries performing together. The show ended with 150 primary and secondary pupils singing Rule The World together.

Music Technology Trip

The Music Technology WAO went to the BBC Studios in Glasgow to see how music technology is used there.

School Show – Hairspray

The Expressive Arts Faculty put on



Hairspray. The show was sold out 4 nights in a row. It was a great experience for all pupils and staff involved.



Larbert High School News Cont'd

Geography Department



Advanced Higher Geography students took part in the annual week long residential field trip to Arran in September. They undertook

primary gathering techniques as practice for a field report completed during the rest of the year.

Amnesty

Richenda Rae has been short listed for the Amnesty International Young Reporter of the year competition for the senior age group. She has made the top 10 in the UK out of 2,700 entries. If she makes the shortlist of 3 she will have to attend an awards ceremony in London. This is an annual competition and her article will go to print if she wins.



Advanced Higher Graphic Communication Trip to Queensferry Crossing

With the construction of the new Queensferry Crossing well on its way, the Advanced Higher Graphic Communication class had the opportunity to visit Transport Scotland's Contact & Education Centre.

Pupils watched a presentation about how the bridge is being constructed and what it will look like when it's finished. They were also told about all the considerations that must be taken in to account before, during and after the construction of the bridge.

Euan MacDonnell gave an input about the Construction Drawings that have been created for the Crossing; pupils were astounded to hear that there are, in excess of, 100,000 drawings needed for the bridge!

They then got to have a look around the Crossing Gallery where there were scale models at various scales of the new Crossing and information boards giving more details about the bridge's construction.



After the pupils had learned about how bridges move from concept to reality, it was their turn to work as a team to produce their own... As

you'll see from the photos, they had a lot of fun, and were ultimately successful in building their own version of the Queensferry Crossing!

Visit to Samye Ling Buddhist Centre



A group of Senior Larbert High pupils have visited the Samye Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre near Lockerbie as part of their R.M.P.S. course investigations on Buddhism. This involved a tour of the temple and grounds, meeting and talking

with a Buddhist monk, and some meditation. An enlightening experience was had by all.

Laboratory Science

The Lab Science team have just entered the Bill Bryson Prize competition set by the Royal Society of Chemistry with an entry called "Indicating Pollution" it is a piece of artwork that answers the question set by the competition "Where is the science in art, where is the art in science?"

They have created a collage of indicator paper stained by different concentrations of acids and alkalis showing the contrast of a polluted landscape compared with an unpolluted one, and they are producing a video of the making of this original piece of artwork.

They have also put together a crime scene for forensic investigation as part of science and engineering week.

Both activities have been designed, created and led by the pupils!



Larbert High School News Cont'd

Captains' Challenge

The pupil Captains' Team at Larbert High have been active in leading a new initiative to mark the Commonwealth Games this year. The Captains' Challenge, entirely conceived and implemented by our school Captains, has set out to inspire and encourage all of our pupils to become more active in their everyday life in 2014. In recognition of the fact that Scotland and Glasgow will be hosting the Commonwealth Games in July, our school Captains



are encouraging everyone to create a legacy for the games and for themselves, through taking up a new sport or cultural

activity, or challenging themselves in an existing one. It is hoped that by achieving a challenge, our pupils will be more motivated in all aspects of their life.

It is intended that this initiative will provide a lasting legacy within the school, with the Captains' Challenge itself becoming an annual event, and our pupils continuing to strive for success. This year's theme is built around celebrating Scotland's sporting history and the school has had several athlete visits to mark this. So far, Lachie Stewart, Mimi Anderson and Shona Thomson have visited the school. More big name stars are in the pipeline and the school is excited about unveiling these very soon!

Carron Dams

17th May 2013—Official Opening of the Carron Dams Local Nature Reserve.

Falkirk Council Development & Environmental Services—Landowners of the Carron Dams site and Scottish Wildlife Trust who manage it, joined forces to co-host the opening of the Carron Dams as a Local Nature Reserve.

The site was granted LNR status after a year long intense effort



by the staff and Pupils of Larbert High School, Communities Along the Carron Association and volunteers who dedicated 100s of hours towards achieving this fantastic goal. With the full support of SWT and Falkirk Council, the Carron Dams will serve as an extension to LHS for outdoor learning across all faculties of the curriculum and will be an area for the local people to enjoy and be proud of. LHS conducted over 300 John Muir Awards in the Dams area in both 2012 and 2013. It is intended that this activity will not only continue on an annual basis but will expand throughout the curriculum and P7 transition programme.

Literacy at Larbert

On Friday 14th March Larbert High School celebrated its second annual Literacy Day. At LHS we want every child to be the best reader, writer, speaker and listener they can be. Last year we concentrated on a celebration of reading with various author visits, a *Dress Up as Your Favourite Character* day and the making of our *Big Books* video which currently has almost 6000 views on YouTube! This year our focus is *Literacy for Life*.

Pupils and staff were to think about their dream jobs and come dressed up accordingly; we had everything from pilots to princesses and Batman to Vivienne Westwood! We greatly enjoyed another visit from our Patron of Reading, Nicola Morgan, who gave an engaging talk about reading for enjoyment at our big S2 Spelling Bee and also hosted the book round during our S1 Literacy Across the Curriculum quiz. This year's video puts emphasis on the importance of speaking and listening (as well as a little dancing!)

But we don't just want our pupils to be enthusiastic about literacy, we involve our parents too. Our parents' Book

Group and Creative Writing Group are now well

established. If you have a child at our school you are very welcome to come along for some tea, cakes and informal literary discussion!

Details of all of our literacy endeavours can be found on our website.



Larbert High School News Cont'd

Legal Challenge

In November, pupils from S4-S6 took part in the Legal Challenge competition at Glasgow High Court. Prior to the competition, pupils first had to get to grips with two carefully constructed mock cases and learn all about the Scottish justice system. To help them prepare further, the pupils also had the opportunity to work with a criminal defence advocate. Pupils took on the exciting roles of advocates, witnesses, court clerk, macer and jury and had the fantastic opportunity to present their cases in real court rooms against other schools across Scotland. Overall, Larbert High School had a very successful day at the High Court, winning two out of their three cases.

Shakespeare for Schools Festival

S3-S6 pupils had the opportunity to take part in the 2013 Shakespeare for Schools Festival. The festival runs every year across the whole of the UK and is encourages pupils to learn the language of Shakespeare and also helps to

improve their acting skills! Pupils performed their very own version of 'Romeo and Juliet' to a packed audience at Falkirk Theatre in November 2013. This was a resounding success and the pupils involved really loved the experience.

News from Science

Cloud Chamber Workshop: Glasgow

University's Dr Aidan Robson joins our S4 Higher Physics Pupils for a workshop on Building a Cloud Chamber in October 2014

and lecture on the work he research he carries out in CERN.



CSI Biology: Dr Matheson in our Biology department secured a £3,000 partnership grant from the Royal Society. The Royal Society

Partnership grant funded a project where Higher Biology pupils investigated the use of DNA technologies in the world of forensic science. They were able to gain hands on experience of cutting edge scientific protocols whilst working with Professor Gould, a leading Cell Biology Researcher.

Chemistry Week: Pupils celebrated Chemistry week in November 2013 with demonstrations and experiments set up by the Lab Skills WAO class.



Scottish Space School 2013: Marnie won the Scottish Space School competition and gained a place in the top 10 student in Scotland to

go to NASA in Houston, Texas.

Scottish Space School 2014: Laura Rutland, Jack Fearon and Kirsten Alexander have qualified for the first round of the Scottish Space School competition and they will go to compete with 97 other pupils across Scotland in a week-long residential at University of Strathclyde.

S1 SciFun: University of Edinburgh's SciFun team were visiting our S1 pupils in February with a lorry full of hands on interactive activities. Our senior pupils were trained for this event and they explained the Science behind the activities to the S1 pupils.



S2 Glasgow Science Centre: S2 pupils experienced the world of work by engaging with practising scientists from a variety of backgrounds

Larbert High School News Cont'd

in the health and energy sectors as well as a visit to the Planetarium.

Go4SET

Team 2012 /

2013: Our Go4SET team "Splash n Zap" (the Scottish Young Scientists of the Year) were at the Big Bang Fair in NEC Birmingham attending the UK Young Scientists & Engineer Fair competing for a National Title.



Go4SET

Team 2013 /

2014: Our Go4SET team this year took a trip to their link company Babcock to pitch their water efficiency idea.

Orphan Land Project

Senior pupils taking the John Muir/Eco-schools Wider Achievement Opportunity have been working with local volunteer groups and organisations



to adopt and enhance an area of neglected land in front of The Plough Hotel in Stenhousemuir centre. Pupils have been involved in planning and consulting local stakeholders on the proposal and now look forward to seeing this come to fruition in the next few weeks.

RED Book Awards 2013

On 29th January 2014, Falkirk Council held the 8th Annual RED Book Awards Ceremony.

RED stands for Read, Enjoy, Debate and some of

our S2 pupils became literary critics for a term during their English lessons, reading, discussing and voting for the best book from a shortlist of four books by new and upcoming authors.



The RED Book Awards scheme ended with the ceremony itself where pupils were able to meet all four authors, present a drama interpretation of the books and observe the presentation to the winning author. This year's winning book was Slated by Terri Terry and Larbert High pupils gave a brilliant parody performance of this book on the day.

S1 Numeracy Passport Week

During the week of Monday 20th January, all of S1 were involved in Numeracy Passport week. This was part of their curriculum and Numeracy across Learning at Larbert High School.

In each of their subjects over the course of the week they had to document in their passport the Numeracy they had used.

For example:

The students were awarded stickers for all correct entries and on the 27th January all the S1 students took part in Passport control. Having completed Passport control the students were awarded the following pin badge:

Those students who passed Passport control were entered into a prize draw where they had the chance to win an iPad mini retina.

The draw took place on Friday 7th February and the lucky winner was Owen Lake.



S1 Paired Readers Burns Supper

The Reading Group with the Librarians Mr Smith and Mrs McEllroy, together with the Reading Coordinator Mrs Sharkey, celebrated Robert Burns with poetry and song. The group enjoyed an auspicious setting in the library in the presence of

Larbert High School News Cont'd

the Rector Mr Reid and Principal Teacher Integrated Pupil Support Mrs Disbury.

The guest speaker from the English Faculty, Mr Stephen Wilson, spoke eloquently on Burns poem Address to The Toothache. This is the first time an event of this nature has been hosted at Larbert High and due to its success looks like it will be an annual event in the school calendar.

Emily Ferguson was super as Poosie Nancy delivering the haggis with expertise. The Selkirk Grace was delivered by Liam McCallum. Liam also entertained the company through his musical delivery of The Skye Boat Song and Ally Bally.

Mr Smith was excellent in his brilliant Toast to the Haggis and his wonderful singing of Donald, Whaur's yer Troosers. Mrs McElroy, with Emily, Jack, Hannah, Jessica and Aimee expertly delivered Tae A Moose. Mhairi Sharkey in S4 was excellent with her lovely delivery of Caledonia.

Mrs Sharkey masterminded the proceedings as Master of Ceremonies and sang Auld Lang Syne (in the Eddie Reader genre). Thanks must go to the



excellent catering provided by the team with special thanks to Miss Anderson. Thank you to the Rector Mr Reid for his Vote of Thanks and

to Mrs Disbury for her support with photography and Twitter information.

This was a first class Scottish event for all who participated and looks like the first of many.

S1 World of Work Day

For a third year, the Technologies Faculty of Larbert High, hosted numerous organisations, local, national and international, for what was another highly successful World of Work Day. The Faculty was overwhelmed by the generosity of businesses in giving their time to visit the school to take part in this event which embodies the principles of Curriculum for Excellence, bringing together a platform from which the pupils will participate in activity based, work related learning, experiencing first-hand how organisations operate, the problems they experience and the ways in which these can be overcome. Although at the start of their secondary schooling, this event will allow

pupils to establish firm foundations for lifelong learning, gaining skills which will ultimately serve them well in the future.

The willingness of organisations to support the World of Work Day highlights their desire to increase awareness amongst young people of how the economy works, the careers that may be available to them in the future and the demand which exists for candidates with technological and business

awareness and skills. The Technologies Faculty would like to acknowledge the support of the following organisations and thank them



for their participation in our World of Work Day:

The Royal Bank of Scotland, Microsoft, Adobe, Amazon, Thomson, Reuters, Hewlett Packard, Jarvis, A G Barr, Silent Gig, Delta Digital, Exmos, Wildcat Solutions, Oracle, Leadra Acrow, Insight and Action, Muon Consulting, University of Edinburgh, The Universities of Abertay and Herriot Watt.

As a school, we are always gratified by the support of our parents and the Faculty is delighted to acknowledge the invaluable support given by Mr Euan Robertson who has given so generously of his time and knowledge in helping bring the whole experience together.

School Garden

Earlier last year staff from Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh kindly lent their time and expertise to help erect our new polytunnel greenhouse as part



of our ambitious garden project – called 'Woodlands Garden'.

As well as the greenhouse there are now four outdoor vegetable frames with two

more awaiting construction and a high quality storage shed from AMR sheds in Larbert. Staff and pupils have sourced materials and help from local

Larbert High School News Cont'd

businesses including Walker Homes and Thornbridge Sawmill.

The next phase will see the start of our first season planting programme and involvement of our cluster primaries and day nursery through our Outdoor Learning cluster – eventually using the garden as a vehicle for part of the P7 transition programme.



On Saturday 8th March 2014 a group of staff and local volunteers planted 150 hedgerow plants along the garden boundary. Now for the exciting part – growing vegetables and flowers!

Sponsored walk

On Wednesday 9th October, the whole school took part in our biannual sponsored walk to raise money for the Pupil Fund which is used to support the huge range of activities for our pupils. Our 8km circular route took us along pathways in the local area. The weather was fantastic and it was a wonderful sight to see pupils and staff, in fancy dress, walk the route together and help improve their health and well-being.



Mr Downie's HC2 won the prize for collecting the most money and Miss MacGowan's HC6 won the

prize for the best fancy dress. Our efforts raised over £6,000.

Sportsound Comes to Larbert High

On Monday 24th February a live edition of BBC Scotland's 'Sportsound' was broadcast live from the assembly hall at Larbert High School.

A panel of well-known football personalities - Graeme Spiers (television and radio personality, former chief football writer for The Times and Herald), Kris Boyd (professional player at

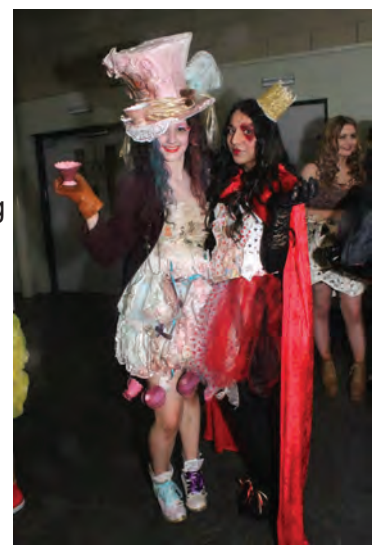
Kilmarnock FC former Rangers, Middlesbrough and Scotland star), Derek Ferguson (former Rangers and Hearts player and youth development coach), Pat Bonner (former Celtic and Republic of Ireland Goalkeeper) - fielded questions from parents of Larbert High students and Larbert high Students themselves.



During the broadcast we took the opportunity to promote our links with Stenhousemuir FC, Tryst Community Sports Hub and our School of Football programme. Earlier in the day our school of football students took part in a coaching session led by Derek Ferguson, Kris Boyd, and Pat Bonner and were given the opportunity to ask them questions about their professional careers.

Trash Fashion

On the 6th of March the fourth Annual Trash Fashion event took place at Larbert High. An audience of over 400 packed the assembly hall for the fourth year running as over 80 senior school pupils strutted their stuff on the catwalk. Backstage over 20 Forth Valley College hair and beauty students put the final touches to their creative and innovative interpretation of this year's Glitz and Glamour theme. TX productions provided the sound to an excellently choreographed and professional night of fashion, magic and song with a special performance from Mrs Buchan (depute rector). All the pupils involved had designed and made their outfits out of rubbish and recycled materials and their hard work was rewarded with a series of prizes and commendations.



Congratulations goes to all staff and pupils involved in making it a real night to remember!

Larbert Cluster News

United in Purpose

There's been much work on-going within the Cluster over the last couple of years and we decided to capture this within a common vision statement. As you'll be aware most individual schools have their own vision statement or set of aims but we wanted to ensure that, no matter what school a young person attends within the Cluster, the message that we're all trying to achieve the same outcome was shared.

United in Purpose was therefore created to exemplify what we're all about in the Larbert Cluster and everything we do is designed to enhance either our lives, our community or as international citizens in the world. It expresses our commitment to lifelong learning and to caring for others as well as ourselves. The vision has been shared with all pupils in all sectors and is displayed in all establishments and classrooms.

It's presented graphically, in a simple to understand and easy to remember way and every stage, including early years, school and curricular area is featured representing the journey from 3 to 18.



Bo'ness Public - Johari News

Bo'ness Public School P3 class recently organised their own Fashion Show Event and raised £651.60 for Johari Foundation a charity which supports children in Kenya by helping with education and basic needs. P3, shared information about Farming in Scotland with the children supported by Johari's projects in Kenya and they, compared animals, crops, machinery and climate. The children also learned how education on farming is helping to support the children in Kenya and their guardians on the road to self sustainability.

Johari Foundation also has a social enterprise which makes clothing and this is the reason Primary 3 decided to hold a fashion show which would enable them to showcase the range of children's t-shirts whilst raising funds for Johari's projects in Kenya. Pupils organised the event and took part in the various roles which included models, readers, choreographers, selling tickets and serving tea and coffee. The event was sponsored by Caledonian Produce who donated all of the tea/coffee and biscuits.

Alan Potters – P3 Teacher said -“This was an educational project lending itself to all areas of Curriculum for Excellence. The children developed many skills including co-operative learning and being an effective contributor. The children enjoyed organising and participating in the Fashion Show and are pleased to hear the money raised is being used to buy goats for milk and fruit trees”.

Ruth Smith – Johari Foundation said - “It was great to see how involved the children were in organising the Fashion Show and helping raise funds for Johari Foundation. They all contributed in making the event a success and should be proud of their efforts. It's encouraging to hear that an event like this not only helps vulnerable kids in Kenya with an education, but that it is supporting learning outcomes for children here in Scotland”.

To find out more about Johari Foundation please visit www.joharifoundation.org



Easter Carmuir Primary School 2014 Celebrating Success

3rd Green Flag Success!

We were visited by Anne Black from Eco Schools Scotland on Monday 3rd February and are pleased to announce we have achieved our 3rd Green Flag. She was very impressed by the whole school approach and commitment to eco work and improvements. She stated that children were enthusiastic and fully involved in developments.



Anne Black (Eco Assessor) with Amber Sinclair, Brooke Avinou and Eddie McLean

Burns Supper – hosted by P5/6 and P6/7

On Thursday 30th January at 1.30pm Primary 5/6 and P6/7 invited around 100 people into school to join them for their Burns Supper. The pupils identified their skills, applied for jobs and planned and organised the whole event. The event was a great success with some very special guests joining us. We welcomed Provost Pat Reid, Tony Bragg, Mary Pitcaithly, Yvonne McBlain, Rev Sharp, Mary Esson, Mrs



McPherson and Mrs McKay. We also had a fantastic number of parents/carers come along.

All of our guests joined in as we sang Shang-a-Lang, Auld Lang Syne and Flower of Scotland. We had lots of guests joining us for ceilidh dances, Canadian Barn Dance, Military Two Step and Dashing White Sergeant.

We were lucky enough to receive donations from Patricks of Camelon, Asda, Tesco and Morrisons and served haggis, neeps and tatties, as well as shortbread and Irn Bru to our guests.



Callum, Kieran, Zanna, Shavanna, Alyssa, Erin and Stacy recited Address to a Haggis while Mrs McKenzie played the bagpipes. A special thank you to her for piping as it hugely added to the positive atmosphere in our hall.

Ben and Jamie wrote a very funny Toast to the Lassies, while Megan and Amy read their very clever reply.

We received some amazing feedback from our guests and we even had the Falkirk Herald photographer come along to take some photographs! Mr Bragg (Quality Improvement Officer) contacted our school to say, "The entertainment was excellent and the food sumptuous. I also enjoyed the company of the



Easter Carmuir Primary News Cont'd

children and other adults at the table.

The atmosphere was lovely, with the children genuinely enjoying the event in an unforced natural way, which helped us all to relax."

We spoke to our classes and got some feedback from the children in P5/6 about their experience organising this event.

Erin stated, "It felt really stressful when we were phoning people to ask for food, because they were not always available. It was very exciting at the Burns Supper."

Robyn said, "It was a huge success! We were all excited at the supper."

Alyssa said, "I felt nervous when I was speaking in front of all the guests and parents but I really enjoyed it."

Callum couldn't believe the response, "We didn't expect that it would be such a great event."

Laura was nervous sending out the invites and stated, "When we were creating the invitations we were unsure whether the guests would be able to come or not."

Emma felt really pleased when her class heard back from local businesses who were very supportive, "We got donations from Patricks, Asda, Tesco and Morrisons for all the food!"

Laura also commented that, "DJ's nana kindly donated some tablet to us."

Jack thought, "It was really awesome fun." A massive thank you to Miss Wilson (P6/7 class teacher) and Miss Welsh (P5/6 class teacher) for helping the children in their classes organise such a wonderful and memorable event.

Scottish Assembly

On Friday 31st January we invited parents/carers into school to enjoy our Scottish Assembly performance. We were overwhelmed by the amount of people who came along to enjoy our show.

Primary 4 performed 'Donald Whaur's Yer Troosers' with flair, style and lots of

enthusiasm too!



Parents/Carers ready for the show to start.



Jamie and Ben performed a Toast to the Lassies.

Nursery Zoo Lab Visit – Chinese New Year

Nursery children have been learning about Chinese New Year and enjoyed a visit from Zoo Lab. We got to see lots of different animals and even got to touch a snake and giant centipede. It was great fun and really interesting.



Calendar of Events

April 2014

Curriculum Support Meeting - CEC - 8.30am	02 Apr
Staff Forum Meeting - Sealock Conference Room - 9.30am	02 Apr
ESMT - Sealock House - 9.00am	03 Apr
Falkirk MAASH/WSA Development Group - Sealock Conference Room, 2.30pm	03 Apr
Spring Term Ends	04 Apr
Easter Holidays	07 - 21 Apr
Education Executive Committee Meeting - 9.30am	08 Apr
Vaisakhi - (Sikh Festival)	13 Apr
Good Friday	18 Apr
Easter Monday	21 Apr
Summer Term Begins	22 Apr
Education Matters - submitting articles deadline date	22 Apr
Provost Reception - Calendar House - 4.30pm	23 Apr
Parents Focus Group - Sealock House - 5.30pm	23 Apr
St George's Day	23 Apr
ESMT - Sealock House - 9.00am	23 Apr

Rotary Club Swimarathon

The Swimarathon 2014 is over for another year and it all went very well and everyone seemed to have a good time.

There was a good turnout from the local secondary schools - Braes High and Graeme High entered the most teams (three each).

31 teams in total took part over the two mornings and a total of 4,083 lengths were completed - 63 miles!!

A team from Graeme High completed the most lengths at an amazing 180 lengths (in 55 mins)

Many thanks for your support for and we look forward to your continuing support for Swimarathon 2015 (Feb 2015).

Reports to the Education Executive

4th February 2014

- ★ Report back on the findings of the consultation on the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare to 600 hours per annum
- ★ Local Improvement Priorities 2014 - 17
- ★ Political Literacy and the Referendum on Independence for Scotland

Please note that all committee reports can now be viewed on the Falkirk Council Website - www.falkirk.gov.uk

Family Decision Making Service

Separation, and the process of separation, can be a difficult time for all members of the family. CHILDREN 1ST, in partnership with One Parent Families Scotland and the Scottish Child Law Centre, provide support and advice for separated or separating families through the Family Making Decision service.

Family Decision Making service aims to reduce family conflict and improve communication and cooperation by helping parents deal with issues such as contact, maintenance and residence. Parents are supported by a helpline, online resources and family group meetings.

Skilled family support practitioners can provide a range of supports tailored to meet the specific needs of the individual family situation such as emotional support, legal and benefits advice.

Ultimately, the service is designed to reduce family conflict, improve communication and cooperation between family members and ensure the child or young person is better cared for within their family.

Find out more at www.familydecisionmaking.org.uk



Parent Council - meeting dates

Please find below Parent Council meeting dates that we currently know. If a school or time is not mentioned we have not been given the information. All meetings are taking place in the school unless otherwise stated.

School Name	Date of Meeting	Time of Meeting
Bankier PS	28 th May 2014 24 th September 2014	
Bonnybridge PS	12 th May 2014 23 rd June 2014	7pm 7pm
Comely Park PS	23 rd April 2014	
Deanburn PS	14 th May 2014	
Grange PS	23 rd April 2014 4 th June 2014	
Hallglen PS	30 th April 2014 18 th June 2014	7pm – 8.30pm 7pm – 8.30pm
Kinneil PS	27 th May 2014	
Ladeside PS	19 th May 2014 16 th June 2014	
Wallacestone PS	20 th May 2014 16 th September 2014 04 th November 2014	7pm 7pm 7pm
Falkirk HS	26 th May 2014	7pm – 9pm

Communications, Quality Improvement Team, Sealock House, Grangemouth FK3 0XB

education.communications@falkirk.gov.uk – tel: 01324 506600

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS UP TO £100,000 IN VALUE –
EXTENSION TO CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF
TREASURY MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN

Date: 14 May 2014

Author: CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 8 March 2011 Members were notified of the appointment of Sector as Treasury Management Advisers to Falkirk Council. Sector subsequently changed its name to Capita Asset Services during 2013.
- 1.2 The contract was for an initial period of 1 year from 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012, with extensions up to 31 March 2014. The value of the initial contract and extensions to 31 March 2014 was £42,500. The projected expenditure for a further 1 year extension to 31 March 2015 is £17,500.

2. CURRENT SUPPLIERS

- 2.1 Capita Asset Services has delivered a good service since the beginning of this contract on 1 October 2011 and has provided value for money in a high value area of Finance's activity.

3. EXTENSION OF CONTRACT

- 3.1 The extension of this contract will result in projected expenditure of £17,500 from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. This will bring the total expenditure over the full term of the contract to £60,000 which will remain within anticipated value of the contract and is considered best value for the Council.
- 3.2 The funding for this project is contained within the Treasury Management budget within Finance.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 In accordance with Standing order 6.2(i) I extended the contract with Capita Asset Services in the sum of approximately £17,500, for the Provision of Treasury Management Services to Falkirk Council from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.**

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Date: 17 April 2014

Ref:

Contact Officer: Amanda Templeman/Carole McGhee Ext: 6340

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. * Tender documents
- * Item not for publication on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in, paragraph 10 of part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: ACCEPTANCE OF QUOTATION UNDER £100,000 IN VALUE –
PROVISION OF DEVELOPMENT DAYS FOR BARRACHD
ABSENCE MANAGEMENT & REPORTING SYSTEM**
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 14th May 2014
**Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In the Information Bulletin dated 6 March 2013, Members were advised of the purchase of Barrachd Absence Management System at a cost of £66,331.62 for a 3 year period. This cost included 10 development days to implement the system and develop a dashboard and specific reports relevant to Falkirk Council which, in turn, would deliver efficiency savings by streamlining the labour intensive report preparation and distribution process relating to absence management. In turn it provides timely management information to all managers to assist them in their job.
- 1.2 Pilot users across all Services were invited to test the system and make recommendations for improvement. Feedback from these users was overwhelmingly positive and resulted in a number of requests for developmental improvements and additions to the system requiring the procurement of additional system development days

2. PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL CONSULTANCY DAYS

- 2.1 To deliver the improvements identified requires the purchase of an additional 16 development days. The contract with Barrachd specified that additional development work will be charged at £850 per day which is the same rate as the 10 development days included within the original contract. Barrachd provided a quote for the delivery of the 16 days ie. 16 days @ £850 per day = £13,600. It was noted, however, that as the system is rolled out to other users and additional efficiency potential identified, there may be the requirement to purchase further services from Barrachd. The rate of £850 per day is in line with current market rates for this type of service and it is considered that this quotation provides best value.

3. ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 Members note that in accordance with Standing Order 6.2(I) I have accepted the quotation from Barrachd to provide the 16 additional development days from Barrachd @ £850 per day plus any additional development days which may be required in the future to maximise the system potential, up to a maximum value of £100k.

PP.....
**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
& NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

Date: 13 March 2014

Contact Name: Anne-Marie Johnstone

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CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER