

G'mouth	Glenbervie Road, Grangemouth	Urban	80	1.1	1	88	U	5.5
L Braes	Taymouth Road, Polmont	Urban	80	1.1	1	88	U	16
Denny & Bk	Gangrew Road, Haggis	Urban	80	1.1	1	88	U	13.5
Cs, Kin, Try	Church Street, Stenhousemuir	Urban	80	1.1	1	88	U	27.5
Bbr & Lar	St David's Court, Larbert	Urban	80	1.1	1	88	U	7
Cs, Kin, Try	Elizabeth Avenue/Philip Drive, Stenhousemuir	Urban	80	1.1	1	88	U	17
Bbr & Lar	Glenbervie Drive, Larbert	Urban	80	1.1	1	88	U	12
Fk (N)	Napier Place, Falkirk	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	9
Fk(N)	Alma Street, Falkirk	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	10
Fk (S)	Dumyat Drive, Falkirk	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	11
Upper Br	Blackmount Terrace, Maddiston	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	7.5
Bo'n & Bl	Cairns Lane/Victoria Place, Bo'ness	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	4.5
Bo'n & Bl	Clydesdale Street, Bo'ness	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	14.5
Upper Br	Culloch Road, Slamannan	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	7
Bo'n & Bl	Deanfield Drive, Bo'ness	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	13.5
Bo'n & Bl	Panbrae Road, Bo'ness	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	19
L Braes	James Street, Laurieston	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	15.5
L Braes	Kenilworth Drive, Laurieston	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	8
L Braes	Old Redding Road, Laurieston	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	9.5
Denny & Bk	Bonnywood Avenue, Bonnybridge	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	22
Denny & Bk	Annet Road, Head of Muir	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	10
Denny & Bk	Dickburn Crescent, Bonnybridge	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	5
Cs, Kin, Try	Gerald Terrace, Stenhousemuir	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	13
Denny & Bk	Milton Row, Dunipace	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	28
Denny & Bk	Soullac Drive, Denny	Urban	75	1.1	1	82.5	U	13
Fk(N)	Hendry Street, Falkirk	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	13
Fk(N)	Cross Street, Falkirk	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	9
Fk (S)	Burnbrae Gardens, Falkirk	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	7
Fk (S)	Garthill Lane, Falkirk	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	15
Fk (S)	Telford Square, Camelon	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	5
Fk (S)	Bantaskine Road, Falkirk	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	6
Fk (S)	Blairdennon Crescent, Falkirk	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	16
Fk(N)	Braemar Drive, Falkirk	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	20
Fk (S)	Culvain Place/Garry Place, Hallglen	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	11
Fk (S)	Fairlie Street, Falkirk	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	20
Fk(N)	Forbes Road, Falkirk	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	5
Fk (S)	Glenbank, Glen Village	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	6
Fk (S)	Oliver Road, Falkirk	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	15
U Braes	Crawford Dr & Elderslie Dr, Shieldhill	urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	12
Upper Br	Battock Road, Brightons	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	12
Bo'n & Bl	Cuffabouts, Bo'ness	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	7
Bo'n & Bl	Douglas Road, Bo'ness	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	N/A
G'mouth	Montgomery Street, Grangemouth	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	17.5
G'mouth	Smallburn Place, Grangemouth	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	3
L Braes	Dundas Road, Laurieston	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	7.4
L Braes	Grahamsdyke Street, Laurieston	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	11.5
Denny & Bk	Braes View, Denny	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	17
Denny & Bk	Castle Terrace, Denny	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	10
Bbr & Lar	Park Street, High Bonnybridge	Urban	70	1.1	1	77	U	17
Fk (S)	Cochrane Street, Falkirk	Urban	65	1.1	1	71.5	U	4.5
Fk (S)	The Hedges, Camelon	Urban	65	1.1	1	71.5	U	5
Fk (S)	Hamilton Street	Urban	65	1.1	1	71.5	U	8
Bo'n & Bl	School Brae, Bo'ness	Urban	65	1.1	1	71.5	U	N/A
Upper Br	Roselea Drive, Brightons	Urban	65	1.1	1	71.5	U	10
G'mouth	Thistle Avenue, Grangemouth	Urban	65	1.1	1	71.5	U	N/A
Cs, Kin, Try	Elphinstone Crescent, Airth	Urban	65	1.1	1	71.5	U	—
Fk(N)	Cobblebrae Crescent, Falkirk	Urban	60	1.1	1	66	U	17
Fk (S)	Elizabeth Crescent/St Giles Square/St Giles Way, Falkirk	Urban	60	1.1	1	66	U	31
Cs, Kin, Try	Cortachy Avenue/Craigievar Avenue, Carron	Urban	60	1.1	1	66	U	N/A
Fk (S)	Mansionhouse Road, Falkirk	Urban	50	1.1	1	55	U	N/A

2015-16 Footway Minor Improvement Programme						
AREA	ROUTE/STREET	Town	Hierarchy	Score	Ranking	Estimate
A	Bank Street (no.7 to no.27) south side only	Falkirk	1.5	75	112.5	£15,000
A	Princes St., from Park St to Vicar St.	Falkirk	1.4	80	112	£12,000
D	Linlithgow Place Phase 2 2015/16	Stenhousemuir	1.1	100	110	£20,000
A	Eastburn Drive	Falkirk	1.1	95	104.5	£27,000
A	Finistere Avenue, from Parkfoot	Falkirk	1.1	95	104.5	£16,000
C	Ronaldshay Crescent (no.1 to 11a and Park road to rear church door)	Grangemouth	1.1	85	102.85	£47,000
A	Abercrombie Street (2m wide footway)	Falkirk	1.2	85	102	£9,000
B	Main Street	Shieldhill	1.2	85	102	£9,000
C	Torwood Avenue	Grangemouth	1.2	85	102	£22,000
	Teviot Street	Falkirk	1.2	85	102	£15,000
A	Derwent Avenue	Falkirk	1.1	90	99	£30,000
A	Glenfuir Road (Lock 16 to Westburn Avenue - both sides)	Tamfourhill	1.1	90	99	£55,000
C	Jasper Avenue, Polmont steps/link footpath from A803	Polmont	1.1	90	99	£5,000
A	Carmuir Drive (St Giles Sq to Wilson Road inc cul-de-sacs)	Camelon	1.2	80	96	£6,000
A	Main Street (north side from Stirling Rd Roundabout) Phase 1	Camelon	1.2	80	96	£40,000
	***** CUT OFF POINT *****					£328,000
A	Weir Street (Garden Street to Kerse Lane - both sides)	Falkirk	1.2	80	96	£34,000
C	South Lumley Street (Forth House side)	Grangemouth	1.2	80	96	£17,000
B	Drumacre Road (no.1 to no.75)	Bo'ness	1.1	85	93.5	£6,500
A	Stewart Road, from Alexander Ho. to Nos 16/18	Falkirk	1.1	85	93.5	£10,000
A	Avon Court, Hallglen	Falkirk	1.1	85	93.5	£10,000
C	Kenmuir Street (Glencairn Street to start of laybys - both sides)	Grangemouth	1.1	83	91.3	£27,000
C	Bo'ness Road	Grangemouth	1.2	75	90	£45,000
B	Borrowstoun Mains (Remote Footpaths)	Bo'ness	1.1	80	88	£82,000
B	Ladywell View	Bo'ness	1.1	80	88	£5,000
B	2 to 14 Hadrian Way	Bo'ness	1.1	80	88	£3,000
A	Wilson Drive (both sides)	Falkirk	1.1	80	88	£19,500
A	Watling Gardens	Camelon	1.1	80	88	£11,000
A	Rennie Street (Major's Loan to no.36 Woodlands)	Falkirk	1.1	80	88	£46,000
A	Calder Place, Hallglen	Falkirk	1.1	80	88	£9,000
C	Westerton	Grangemouth	1.1	80	88	£33,000
B	18/19 Culloch Road	Slamannan	1.1	80	88	£5,000
B	B8022, Station Road	Slamannan	1.1	80	88	£12,000
A	Bantaskine Drive	Falkirk	1.2	72	86.4	£63,000
B	Hadrian Way (no.2 to no.14)	Bo'ness	1.1	78	85.8	£14,000
C	Drummond Place	Grangemouth	1.2	70	84	£60,000
D	B816 Allandale (from motorway slip to football pitch)	Allandale	1.1	75	82.5	£17,000
B	Memorial Drive	Bo'ness	1.1	75	82.5	£3,000
B	Kinneil Road	Bo'ness	1.1	75	82.5	£30,000
A	Wall Gardens	Camelon	1.1	75	82.5	£16,000
A	Seaton Place in conjunction with flats	Falkirk	1.1	75	82.5	£15,000
A	Kenmuir Street (Glencairn Street to start of laybys - both sides)	Falkirk	1.1	75	82.5	£27,000
A	Garthill Gardens	Falkirk	1.1	75	82.5	£30,000
A	Windsor Avenue	Falkirk	1.1	75	82.5	£95,000
A	Brown Street (full length, both sides)	Camelon	1.1	74	81.4	£140,000
A	Hawley Road (Moncks Road to Wolfe road)	Falkirk	1.1	70	77	£55,000
C	Thistle Avenue	Grangemouth	1.1	70	77	£30,000
C	Claret Road (f/w between no.37 & no.107 and f/w between no.109 & no.161)	Grangemouth	1.1	70	77	£23,000
B	Grassland, Main Rd and Cairnetmount	Maddiston	1.1	70	77	£35,000
B	Braehead	Bo'ness	1.1	68	74.8	£20,000
A	Lochgreen Road (Stanalane to Lochgreen Roundabout - south side)	Falkirk	1.1	65	71.5	£81,000
A	Slamannan Road to Lionthorn footpath	Falkirk	1.1	50	55	
C	Roughlands Drive	Carronshore	1.1	0	0	£50,000
A	Slamannan Road at Railway Bridge	Falkirk		82	0	£7,500
D	Philip Drive	Larbert/Stenhousemuir	1.1	0	0	£7,000

	2015-16 Footway Slurry Programme					
AREA	ROUTE/STREET		Hierarchy	Score	Ranking	Estimate
C	Thistle Avenue	Grangemouth	1.1	85	94	£20,500
A	Davids Loan between Abbotsford St. and Bainsford X	Bainsford, Falkirk	1.2	75	90	£11,500
A	Dawson Street, Bainsford	Falkirk	1.1	75	88	£4,600
A	Kenmuir Street, from Glencairn St. to laybys	Falkirk	1.1	80	88	£9,300
B	Greencraig Avenue	Shieldhill	1.1	80	88	£12,500
B	Chestnut Grove	Bo'ness	1.1	80	88	£14,000
C	Polmont Road	Laurieston	1.1	80	88	£5,500
C	Polmont Road	Polmont	1.1	80	88	£6,200
B	Snab Brae	Bo'ness	1.1	80	88	£14,000
B	Main Street	Redding	1.1	80	88	£7,275
B	Bantaskine Drive	Falkirk	1.1	80	88	£15,500
	***** CUT OFF POINT *****					
						£120,875
B	Woodlands Drive	Brightons	1.1	80	88	£11,100
C	Grange Road	Polmont	1.1	80	88	£10,000
D	Footpath between Fairfield & Wellpark	Bonnybridge	1.1	80	88	£3,190
D	Annet Road Area	Head of Muir	1.1	80	88	£15,000
D	Alloway Crescent Area	Bonnybridge	1.1	80	88	£32,000
D	Bonnywood Avenue	Bonnybridge	1.1	80	88	£17,700
A	Alexander Avenue	Falkirk	1.1	75	82.5	£5,500
B	Redding Road	Redding	1.1	75	82.5	£4,400
B	Borrowstoun Place	Bo'ness	1.1	75	82.5	£9,000
B	Herdshill Avenue (both sides)	Shieldhill	1.1	75	82.5	£4,000
B	Heather Avenue	Shieldhill	1.1	75	82.5	£4,000
B	Borrowstoun Crescent	Bo'ness	1.1	75	82.5	£9,500
B	Overton Crescent	Redding	1.1	75	82.5	£9,500
B	Main Street	Standburn	1.1	75	82.5	£12,800
B	Standrigg Road	Wallacestone	1.1	75	82.5	£10,000
B	B8022, Station Rd.	Slamannan	1.1	75	82.5	£4,500
C	A88, Bellsdyke Road	by Stenhousemuir	1.1	75	82.5	£8,000
C	Hertiage Drive	Carron	1.1	75	82.5	£6,100
C	Zetland Place and Newton Avenue	Skinflats	1.1	75	82.5	£14,700
D	Cluny Drive Area	Stenhousemuir	1.1	75	82.5	£13,000
D	B816, Allandale - Dundas Cott. to Thorndale Gdns.	Allandale	1.1	75	82.5	£9,000
B	Hadrian Way Nos 1 to 13	Bo'ness	1.1	80	80	£9,500
A	Tamfourhill Rd At Industrial Estate	Tamfourhill	1.1	70	77	£7,500
B	Anderson Crescent No 52-66	Shieldhill	1.1	70	77	£700
B	Mamre Drive & Princess Street	California	1.1	70	77	£5,840
B	Stewart Avenue from School to No60	Bo'ness	1.1	70	77	£1,050
B	Mavisbank Avenue	Shieldhill	1.1	65	71.5	£4,275
A	Harley Court, Bainsford	Falkirk	1.1	60	66	£1,500
C	Graham Terrace between Shore Rd and Netherby Rd	Airth	1.1	60	66	£2,250



Falkirk Council

Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Celebration of Reading Day **11th February 2015**

Volume 15 Issue 07

February 2015

Learning Resource Service (LRS) hosted the Celebration of Reading Day in Camelon Education Centre (CEC) on 11th February. This day was the culmination of an enhanced support pilot scheme offered by LRS throughout the session to schools and nurseries participating in Scottish Children's Book Award (SCBA).

Schools and nurseries who participated in the enhanced support for SCBA throughout the session were provided with copies of the nominated picture books and also copies of the novels for young readers. After reading the books in class, the children produced lots of written work and also art work.

For the Celebration Day, examples of work from the schools and nurseries were sent to CEC for display. Groups of children from each participating institution were invited to attend one of the two events planned for the celebration.

The Bookbug event for young children was hosted in the crèche at CEC, 55 children attended and heard input from two of the nominated author / illustrators and also were entertained by special guest Mr Malcolm Cowie. The children saw their work displayed and performed presentations to the assembled group of children and adults.

The Novels for Young Readers

event was held in the seminar room, hosted by Yvonne Manning, and 80 children attended, hearing input from four of the nominated authors and illustrators. The pupils saw their work displayed, performed their own presentations and took part in a lively question and answer sessions with the authors.

After the celebration day the work produced by the children was displayed in the community hub in the Howgate shopping centre giving an opportunity for families to see the children's work.

The Celebration day was enjoyed by all participants!

"Thank you so much for organising such an AMAZING event for all those wonderful children!! It was a great day and I really hope everyone appreciates how complex and difficult it is to co-ordinate so many different groups and to have it all run so well. I take my hat off to you!!" Natalie Russell, author

"Thank you so much for organising such a fantastic event! The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came back to school bursting with excitement!! This has been a very worthwhile project to have been involved in and we have used the novels within our literacy in every

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MY FUTURE'S IN
falkirk

possible way which has been fantastic." St Patrick's PS

The winning books for SCBA will be announced by the Scottish Book Trust on March 4th.



Extension of Free School Meals to P1-P3



General

Just over 4400 of primary 1-3 pupils are taking a free school meal. This averages out at 80% of the school roll.

Before the new free school meal

entitlement came into force, 54% of pupils in this age group took a school meal (free and paid).

The initiative has resulted in an additional 2200 meals having to be produced on a daily basis. Scottish Government has provided revenue funding to cover the additional costs associated with this increase.

All schools were assessed individually to make sure they were equipped to handle the free meals service. Scottish Government Capital funding (£200K) has been fully allocated to a refurbishment programme across the school estate. Additional work (£70k) will be done over the summer to further enhance production.

Implementation

All head teachers were sent a proforma to record their assessment on how well implementation had gone in their school.

Results

33 schools responded

- ★ 31 (94%) rated good to very good
- ★ 2 schools rated fair to good

Comments /observations from individual schools

"All going very well so far – no issues"

"Positive impact in the office"

"Process has been implemented with ease and extra tables have made a huge impact"

"Increase in numbers have been well managed by staff within kitchen"

"Suggest reviewing menus as some choices not attractive to children"

Where any issues have been raised, Education and Catering Services have contacted the school to give suggestions on a way forward.

Impact on P4-P7

Analysis of first months uptake numbers indicate that the additional numbers served in P1-P3 have had no adverse impact on the numbers served in the P4-P7 cohort either free or paid.

Systems Support News

Bandwidth

On Thursday 6th February the Internet connection to Education Services was moved from the Joint Academic Network (JANET) to the Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN).

This change will, over time, offer a greater range of online services to the Council- all delivered through SWAN: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Economy/digital/digitalservices/strategy>

One immediate benefit for education establishments in Falkirk is that our available bandwidth to the Council has been increased, providing us with additional capacity to respond to the increasing demands for digital content.

For more information, please contact Stuart Lennie stuart.lennie@falkirk.gov.uk

Digital communication

A Mobilisation Team has been formed with the purpose of implementing a new SEEMiS digital messaging provision. The system, powered by Groupcall, will provide education establishments with a single suite of digital communication tools (for email, texts, newsletters, and surveys) for engagement with parents and staff.

The Mobilisation Team, made of up Early Years, Primary, Secondary and central staff, will also work to create a unified digital communications strategy- supporting establishments with ways to reduce their printing and administration costs.

For more information, please contact Stuart Lennie stuart.lennie@falkirk.gov.uk





Communities in Action

In the Braes Locality, Community Learning and Development staff have been working alongside Partners and members of the local Communities to develop and deliver a range of opportunities for children, young people, families and the wider Community. In an area which covers the whole of the Upper Braes from Slamannan in the west to Avonbridge in the east, staff have been heavily involved in developing and promoting lifelong learning and specialised support where needed.

In Maddiston, an exciting Project which works to encourage cross-generational understanding and reduce social isolation is underway where senior citizens from the local Community meet monthly for lunch and entertainment at the local Community Centre. Children from Maddiston Primary School came and sang Carols at Christmas and plans are underway to develop this partnership with the school by involving the children and elderly residents in a 'Silent Film' Project in March 2015.

In addition to existing Youth Work delivery, a new senior Youth Club has started in California Community Hall on Thursday evening and new Junior provision will start in Maddiston on Wednesday evening from 4th March 2015.



CLD Staff in Slamannan Centre are working alongside teachers at the local Primary School and parents on the 'Closing the Gap' project – an action research project based on Literacy interventions at small group and individual level. While targeted support is available for the children in school, CLD workers support the extended family providing a holistic approach to assist with the development of Literacy skills.

Work is also underway with a Youth Steering Group in Slamannan who are supported by a final year University student on placement to engage with young people in the local area. The purpose of this piece of work is to encourage local youngsters to have a voice and express their concerns and issues tying in with local Community Planning. A Youth Conference is planned for March 2015 where young people will have the opportunity to present their plans for the future.

To find out more about Youth Work and the range of wider opportunities available across the Braes Locality area, including pre-school activities, Job Clubs, Community Cafes and IT provision, please contact your local Centre or pick up the latest copy of the CLearning Newsletter.



Shieldhill Community Wing
01324 508546



Slamannan Community Centre
01324 851548



Grange Community Education Centre
01324 503830



Maddiston Community Centre
01324 720960

ECO WARRIORS AT AVONBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Wildlife Bus Visit



As part of our eco topic – Biodiversity, we invited Edinburgh Zoo's Wildlife Bus to come along to the school allowing the children to learn more about

insects, their habitats and the important role they have in our eco system. The children collected insects and bugs in jars and studied them under a microscope. They collated the information into bar charts. A most enjoyable day was had by all!

Picktober

A group of 10 pupils accompanied by staff and parent helpers participated in 'Picktober' which is a council initiative to clean up the John Muir Way. Our pupils and the adults helped to collect litter from along the canal at Muiravonside.



Eco Celebration Day

We had a very successful Eco Celebration Day on the 12th November. The children thoroughly enjoyed making insect hotels with Simon Bower, Ranger from Muiravonside Country Park. They planted spring bulbs and helped to make soup and apple and raspberry crumble using the fruit and vegetables from the school garden. A number of parents joined us for lunch and enjoyed the soup and crumble.

Tree Planting at Muiravonside

In November our P4-7 class travelled to Muiravonside Country Park to help with some tree planting. Even though it was a bitterly cold day, they managed to plant over a hundred trees.

Community Project

Our Eco Committee have been working hard with members of the local community and church to develop a Community Garden in the grounds of the local church. Our janitor built the planter boxes and the children then helped to fill these boxes with soil and plants. The children and staff also



designed and painted a beautiful mural for the church.

Our New Orchard

We managed to secure a grant from the Central Scotland green Network to purchase 10 fruit trees for our school garden. With help from the Ranger from Muiravonside Country Park, we planted apple, pear and plum trees and even managed to do it with snow on the ground!! We are a hardy lot here in Avonbridge.



Radio Superstars

During October we had a Dress Loud day to raise money for *Globals Make Some Noise* who are supporting a number of charities including C.H.A.S., Teenage Cancer Trust and DEBRA. We had an unexpected visit from Paul Harper and Alison MacDonald of Heart Radio. They interviewed some of our pupils and Mrs Sweeney and thanked us for helping to support the charities. The interviews were broadcast on Heart Radio that evening.



Look What's Been Happening At Drumbowie Primary School

Our Fruit Barra

Last year, Drumbowie Primary successfully developed and set up a monthly Fruit and Vegetable Barra to serve the needs of the local rural community of Standburn. The pupils were involved in designing the logo for the business, chose how to market the produce, serve the customers, and were involved with the planning and decision making of the business all in cooperation with the local community.



This is a whole school approach to develop education and learning whilst providing a very welcome service to the local rural

community. Local business pledged their support, staff pupils and parents were fully committed to the project and as such Education Scotland provided funding of £3000 in support and recognition. The success of the Fruit Barra was recognised at this year's Learning to Achieve Awards.

As a result of our success, we have been nominated for an Education Scotland



Award and had a visit from one of the sponsors – The Daily Record. We were delighted with the photos and article that was published.



Local residents waiting to be served at our Fruit Barra.

Around the World in 80 Days

During the first term P1-7 pupils travelled around the world in 80 days as the theme for our Interdisciplinary Learning. They visited a number of



different countries, learning about the culture, religion, art etc. One of the countries they chose to 'visit' was Canada. They learned all about



Niagara Falls and then conducted their own experiments in regard to waterfalls.

When the pupils were 'visiting' Italy, parents were invited to an Open Afternoon. They helped the children to make healthy pizzas and to design their own pizza boxes. They also designed their own 'gondolas'

and then conducted tests to find out which one's floated best.

The Unsinkable Ship

This term, Primary 4 – 7 at Drumbowie have been learning about the Titanic. They have researched the cost of tickets, the food that would have been eaten and the standards of the living quarters and compared them with life today. They have also been looking at the layout of the ship and how it was built.

As part of the homework activities children have been given a choice of tasks to complete and the results have been spectacular.

We have some very creative children at Drumbowie Primary School.



Braes High School News

Orchard planting

Our Eco group planted 10 fruit trees in December in an area given to us by Falkirk Council. Diggers prepared the ground for planting. These fruit trees and fruit bushes will provide fruit for Home Economics, who will be using the produce to make jam and pies, will act as a stimulus for the Art Department and will be used as a Science resource. Braes High was successful in applying to be part of the Forth Valley Orchard Project – see link for more details.

Miss Patterson from the Eco Group was trained in planting and care of fruit trees over the October week and we booked our planting day for December. Teachers and pupils from the Eco group and the Science club volunteered to help. As part of the project we had some help preparing the ground and the trees and stakes were supplied. Margaret Miller from the project was booked to come and help with planting on the day.

Unfortunately the weather deteriorated in early December and it got wet, wild and windy. The 10th of December was the day of the notorious “weather bomb” - everyone thought that we’d have to cancel. The Eco and Science club however knew that the trees needed to be planted and undeterred they put on hats, boots and coats and headed out. Despite the weather, or perhaps because of it, the work was done in record time! Wet and windswept we returned to school where an apple based feast of scones, jam made by the HE department, apple cake made by Mrs Morton’s mother in law, and warming mulled apple juice were waiting.

The team have 10 trees planted, a mixture of cooking and eating apples, pears and plums. Since planting, time has been spent researching the types of fruit trees and how to care for them. Teachers have had further training giving us ideas on how different departments can use the orchard in their lessons. The trees are thriving and have grown already, despite the cold and being the

highest school orchard in Falkirk.

Working hard in pouring rain!



Making sure the young trees are well planted in.

Wet, cold but happy with the orchard!



Debating Success

The Braes High debating teams continue to enjoy considerable success. Andrew Buchan and Ross Heenan have secured a place in the semi-final of the Law Society’s Donald Dewar Memorial Tournament after beating teams from Falkirk High, Stuart Melville’s and Whitburn Academy. Eilidh Marshall and Louisa Mann are awaiting the draw for the next round of the ESU Senior Debating Competition while the Junior heats of that competition will see two teams from Braes – S3 Josh Heggie and Niamh Waddell, and S3 Luke Kerby and Evan Rowles – competing.

S5 Andrew Buchan also represented Braes High at the Scottish Parliament when he took part in the ESU St. Andrew’s Debating Competition. He finished the day in the top 10 pupil debaters. S6 Gregor Monro was selected to act as a pupil judge.



Andrew (R) with his debating partner at the Scottish Parliament



Gregor (L) judging at Scottish Parliament

Braes High School News cont'd

Literacy Leadership Award

Braes High became the first school in the country to run the Literacy Leadership Award. This involved a group of senior pupils working together



to engage junior pupils in lessons and activities that would not only improve their literacy skills but highlights the significant role that literacy plays across the curriculum. This culminated in the senior pupils hosting a whole day literacy event for every S1 pupil. The junior pupils became superheroes to stop a super villain using their literacy skills. All the literacy leaders – Hayley Hutchison, Holly Riach, Ross Allison, Ross Binnie and Sophie Wallace - have now gained their leadership qualification and have set a high standard for future literacy leaders!

A Trip to the BBC

Senior pupil and school captain Mark Scott was joined by Ms Crowe and Mr Gilmour from the English Department on a behind the scenes visit to BBC Scotland in Glasgow. As an aspiring journalist, Mark went behind the scenes of Reporting Scotland and watched the transmission from the gallery with the director and producers. He even got a tour of the famous set and got to



Mark at the BBC

speak to Jackie Bird about his future career in journalism. Mark is studying Advanced Higher English and has unconditional offers to study journalism at three Scottish universities.

STEM Challenge

In early December teams of S1 pupils from each house worked together to design an innovative solution to a real life problem using their skills from science, DET and maths on this Stem challenge. Pupils representing their houses were: Ochil :Amy Angus, Star Appleton, Brad Gair, Ruari Johnston, Kieran Kenny and Donelsa McNeil Campsie: Jack Calvert, Neil Campbell, Sarah Heron, Emily Lawson, Liam McDonald and Natasha Watson Lomond: Katie McEwan, Kirstie McLellan, Arran Short, Joshua Tait, Barry Trotter and Zoe Young Pentland: Morgan Graham, Emily Jinks, Aiden Jordaan, Sara McDonald, Peter McKenzie and Nicky McRae.

Teams of 6 were set a challenge to design a code and an electronic prototype to carry the code over a mountain range. All teams successfully produce a working prototype and it was a very close competition with Lomond winning and Campsie just behind in second.

Ruari Johnston commented 'The challenge was very competitive as some of my friends were in the other groups. It was difficult to get all the group working together at first but by the end we all pulled our weight. We had to make a signalling beacon to signal to another village and make up a code which was great fun'



The winning team

Skills for Life Award (15-19)

This is a 3-week programme which runs during the summer holidays and aims to challenge young people through adventurous activities and multi-day expeditions. The course is open to individuals and develops the skills and confidence they need

Braes High School News Cont'd

to face the future as they prepare for the world of work. Last summer, Rebecca Craig completed this course and Jordan Stewart was successful in his application for the summer 2015 programme and has been awarded funding for this.

Geobus and Geography Workshops

S3 Geography pupils recently welcomed St Andrews University Geobus. Pupils put their classroom based learning to the test by building river models and observing river erosion,



transportation and deposition in action.

Pupils had great (and messy!) fun problem solving siting their settlements, designing flood

defenses and testing whose house survived during flood conditions.

Braes High Creative Crew 2014

S3 Art & Design pupils from Braes High have been exploring the Helix to gain inspiration for their expressive art work based on their community. The work produced this year will be shared with students in China, as part of a link project that aims for pupils to develop language & communication skills through exploration of culture.

Well done to all pupils that had an opportunity to participate; judges were impressed by the inventive work and hope that the challenge will become an annual event. Mrs Macleod (Art & Design Teacher Braes High) stated 'It is important that pupils of the Expressive Arts can explore learning out with the confines of the classroom, this exercise has proved

extremely fruitful for all pupils involved and I wish to congratulate them on their successes.'



Eoghan's winning design

Partnership with Outward Bound Trust

Braes High School continues to develop their partnership with Outward Bound who provide a range of opportunities for young people to develop their personal, social and emotional skills. Pupils at a range of stages have taken up the challenge by participating in one of the many courses on offer.

S2 Residential



This is the fourth year that we have run a 5-day residential course at Loch Eil, Fort William, for S2 pupils. Laura Eckles, Drama teacher, led this initiative and has given personal commitment to the Trust by running the London marathon to raise funds to support their work.

Last year's group of pupils gave a presentation to 'First Group' who provided the bursary funding for their course. They spoke of how they had grown in confidence and taken on leadership opportunities within the school and are about to lead assemblies for our present S1 group in order to inspire them to take part. We are in no doubt of the benefits that young people get through this experience and hope that it will allow them to further develop their skills as they move through school and beyond.

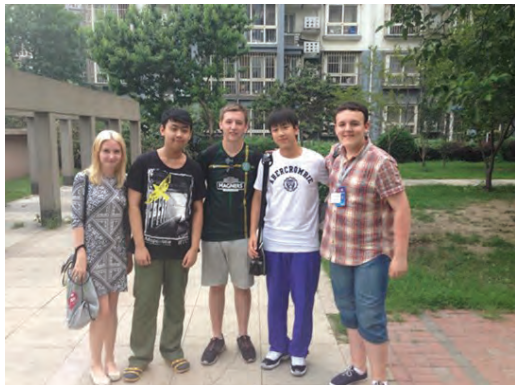
Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award

This is the second year pupils from Braes High have taken up the challenge of this course which brings together S6 pupils from across Central Scotland. The participants are from different social, economic, religious and cultural backgrounds, to work together to deliver a project to benefit their local community. The innovative combination of an outdoor learning residential and urban community-based project breaks down barriers within our communities, supports young people to develop their confidence and provides them with the skills and attributes needed in transition to further education, training and employment. This year, Chloe Penman, Rebecca Read and Emma Cassidy participated and are now working alongside pupils from St Mungo's to deliver a Health and Wellbeing programme to local primary pupils.

Braes High School News cont'd

China Language Immersion trip

In July last year three senior students, S6 Caitlin Allan, Jack Leiper and Andrew Angus, were chosen to take part in a three week Immersion course to Tianjin in China, where we have our partner school. As well as cultural visits, they spent time with a Chinese family and improved their Mandarin in lessons and in social situations.



Football trip

At the end of January, fourteen pupils from S2 and S3 went on a day trip to Manchester for a fantastic footballing experience. Having left Braes at 6.30am our first stop was Old Trafford, home of Manchester United. We entered the Sir Alex Ferguson stand to the Museum and Tour Area. After a brief look in the museum we had a private educational presentation in the museum's learning zone. Here we learned about the business and marketing side of the club as well as finding out details on the players' diet and fitness plans. Both pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and were stunned by the enormity of the club. The pupils were engaged throughout and asked a variety of interesting questions as they were keen to learn more about one of the world's biggest clubs. After the educational presentation we were given a private tour of the stadium, visiting key areas as well as learning about the history of the club and hearing stories of players past and present. The pupils were lucky enough to spend time in the home dressing room as well as walking down the players' tunnel out onto the pitch. Following the tour the pupils had a quick visit to the club shop before we set off across Manchester to the Etihad Stadium to watch the FA Cup match between Manchester City and Middlesbrough. The game was an excellent cup tie and there was a shock as Middlesbrough won 2-0. Following the match there was a visit to the Manchester City superstore before we headed back to the bus to make our way home. Despite the early start and

late arrival home it was a memorable day for pupils and staff. Comments by pupils included **Kirsty McLeod, S3** – "It was a really fun and interesting day. We learned a lot as well as enjoying an FA Cup game".

Derek Taylor, S3 – "It was a really good day. I was really pleased to have the opportunity to go on the trip".



**Pupils
at Old
Trafford**

Internet Safety Day

For Internet Safety day, the 17th of February 2015, The UK Safer Internet Centre selected Braes High School to be part of a new Internet Safety film involving young people from all over the UK. The film aims to inspire young people to do something kind online and help to make the internet a safer place.

To see this film go to:
www.saferinternet.org.uk/Safer-internet-day/2015/up-2-us

All pupils involved were a credit to the school, not only "being part of it" in the school but part of a national project.

In PSE classes at Braes junior pupils have discussed what makes a good internet friend and have then created songs and raps within their IT classes. The best songs/raps will be posted on the school website and entered into a national competition.



California Primary School - Braes High Science Day

On Wednesday 4th February, P7 attended the Braes Cluster Transition Science Day at Braes High School. The children were split into two groups and went to science rooms to do experiments on Mass, Volume and Weight. In the afternoon they made fire extinguisher foam and got to spray it in the sink ! This was the best part !

" I liked doing experiments and I made a new friend from another school"

"I learned what mass is – another form of weight"

" I learned how to handle chemicals carefully"

All in all a successful day !



California Primary School Burns Supper

California PS annual Burns Supper was held with great success on the afternoon of Friday 23 January.

P7 led the proceedings from a top table and entertained the whole school, staff and parents (well over a hundred people in our hall!) with renditions from Burns and a hilarious Toast to the Lassies and Reply from the Laddies which they had written themselves. Each class recited a poem which they had been practising and sang songs accompanied by our music Specialist Mrs Smith. The country dance club had everyone clapping and tapping along to the Scottish tunes as they performed the Virginia Reel and Gay Gordons. Mrs Cunningham even danced a Highland Fling for us ! A former pupil, Emma Eaton, piped in the Haggis for the third year to a rapturous applause then Haggis, Neeps and Tatties were served up for all by our support staff with Irn Bru and shortbread to follow for the toasts.

After a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining afternoon, everyone joined together for Auld Lang Syne to complete our tribute to the bard.



California Primary Eco Committee

Our newly elected Eco Committee have made a great start towards their silver award. They have been recycling paper around the classes, established a litter picking rota and completed an Environmental Review to see what needs done around the school. P6/7 have established an energy monitors rota to shut down the computers at night and everyone has been trying to switch off the lights in their classroom when they are not needed. They have elected a parent representative and have devised their action plan for the session. An action plan tree can be seen in the foyer with the actions they have started on amber leaves, not yet started on red leaves and completed actions on green leaves – this is so our younger pupils and nursery can understand what we are doing. We have made signs to go around the school to remind everyone to switch off the lights and shut down their computers and are hoping to apply for their Silver Award before Easter.



Maddiston Primary School News

Africa Week

Our whole school including the nursery and the



A Zimbabwe Dance led by P5

Timezone enjoyed learning about different African countries during our Africa focus week. We collected donations from the children to send to our link school in Niger which a family in our school visits annually. We learned about the variety of cultures, landscapes, languages and schools in many African countries. Pupils in the Timezone



P2/1 Learned about Madagascar

learned about African animals and created fabulous art work. The children presented their learning at whole school assembly led by Miss Black who has created the link with the Niger school and supported staff and children in preparing for this very successful week.

P7 Young Leaders

Our P7 pupils enjoyed young leadership training with our Active Schools Coordinator, Stuart Raeburn. This equipped them with the skills to take lunchtime and playtime clubs for our younger children. Pupils in P1, P2, P3 and P4 have been

given the opportunity to attend Gymnastics, Football, Yoga, Storytime and Art clubs organised and led by some of our P7 pupils. They have been a huge success and has encouraged more of our P7 pupils to take clubs in the summer term.

P7 Burn's Supper

Our P7 pupils worked extremely hard in preparing for their Burn's supper this year. We have a very talented bunch who entertained staff and parents while they all enjoyed a traditional Scottish meal. Elliot wrote and narrated a play script all about Robert Burn's life. The boys toasted the lassies and the girls returned the toast to the laddies. We had Euan, Gregor and Jack playing the chanter and Rebecca playing her guitar and singing solo. We watched a group of Highland dancers and some very talented gymnasts performing to Scottish music. There were many familiar Scottish poems recited and songs which everyone was able to join in with. All in all a great Scottish evening was had by everyone there!!



Wallacestone P7 Kilts for Kids Day

This year, as usual, Primary 7 at Wallacestone Primary organised a Kilts for Kids Day on 28th January 2015. We made posters and encouraged the whole school to wear tartan and bring £1 to raise money for the Scottish charity, Children First. This charity helps children nationwide so we thought it a great charity to support. With most of the school showing up in tartan that day, the event was a roaring success. It was fantastic how everyone in the school showed their support for this great Scottish charity and wore tartan for a day. It was lots of fun too.

Aidan Wansbrough, P7M



Maddiston Primary News Cont'd

Primary 3 Fashion Show

Our pupils in P3 have been learning all about life in 20th century Britain. They have looked at different events that have taken place and how fashion and music has changed over the many years. To culminate their topic the pupils invited their parents in to a fashion show and to see all the work they have been doing. The afternoon was a great success!



Extended Learning Groups

Children in P4-7 classes have enjoyed a 7 week block learning something new and a little different.

The pupils were able to choose an area to focus on and learn new skills or knowledge. This year the options available to our pupils were: Photography, Enterprise, Gardening, Creative Craft, Spanish, Computer Coding, Art, School Show and Commonwealth Sports. The pupils were also set the task to create new banners for display in our school which depicted their learning in their groups. It was a successful 7 weeks for all involved with lots of fun and new learning experiences.



Our new school banners!



Commonwealth Sports Group

Shieldhill Primary School News

From Dinosaurs to Minecraft, smelly cheeses to erupting volcanoes, the learning taking place at Shieldhill this year is fuelling the imagination and the motivation of the children at every stage as they experience active learning in context.

The Orchard @ Shieldhill

What a busy start to the New Year we have had in the Orchard!

We started off with our Special Smiles project and learned all about going to the dentist and how to make sure the children know how to look after their teeth. The children were able to dress up as dentists, dental nurses and surgeons and took it in turns to examine their patient's mouth – looking out for signs of decay. Obviously they had to put a mask on and use their dental mirror to do this, all with the sounds of the dentist drill and suction machine circulating in the background and the smell of oil of cloves wafting through the room.



Fortunately the children brush their teeth every day in class so there weren't any cavities to be found! Altogether it has been a very

successful project making the children much less afraid of going to the dentist.

Orchard Cafe Closed Down

There was disappointing news when we came back from the Christmas holidays in January and Jannie Jim told us our Orchard Cafe had to be closed down

due to lack of hygiene. The children were not allowed to use it until it had been



thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. But they got to work straight away to deep clean everything in and around their cafe and make sure all of their

plates and cups were sterilised. Fortunately when Jannie Jim came in to re inspect it he gave it the "all clear" and we are back in business. What a thoroughly enjoyable Health and Wellbeing topic the children had with this and learned the importance of cleanliness in all things in a way they could easily relate to.

Skating on Ice

Our outdoor learning has continued each week



despite the really cold weather we have been having. We just got wrapped up warmer and went out to investigate what the freezing

weather had done to our hill walk and woods. What the children discovered was that all the puddles had frozen over and when we stepped on the ice and cracked it, it broke into huge, thick slices. They also discovered that the water on the hill had frozen solid but broke into crystals when they dug their heels into it yet the water in the stream was still running freely. Lots of good investigation and science outdoors **especially** on a really cold day!

Primary 1 made a very interesting find in the woods behind the school!!!! While they were out exploring they found some bones. They also found some interesting tracks around the area where the bones were found. The children spent a long time examining the bones and discussing what they might be. Some children thought they were animal bones, some thought they were bones left by a dog and some thought they were human bones. Some children even had the idea that they may have been dinosaur bones even although dinosaurs are now extinct.



Shieldhill Primary School News Cont'd

They couldn't believe it when it was confirmed that some of the bones were in fact dinosaur bones!!!! As a result they were eager to find out as much as they could about life in dinosaur times and had such a lot of fun as they went about it.



Meanwhile **Primary 2** have been learning all about materials. They have had great fun learning about the Three Little Pigs and

what materials they made their houses out of. One day they had a burglar who stole their teacher's pens! The police had four suspects – The Big Bad Wolf and the three little pigs, but no one was saying who did it. Each suspect was found with a black pen and the burglar left a note in our classroom. The children were asked to help with the forensic science to find the culprit. It was great fun. They tested the pens to see which one matched. This is called chromatography and the children had lots of fun saying this word!

Eventually they discovered that the burglar was the Big Bad Wolf – no surprise there.

Lots of the children would like to learn more about forensics now.

Primary 3/2 have been learning about Edinburgh and exploring the many tourist attractions Edinburgh has to offer. They were amazed to learn

that both Edinburgh Castle and Arthur's Seat were once active volcanoes! Thankfully both now are extinct. As part of their learning the children wanted to find out how volcanoes erupt and how this happened 350

million years ago in Edinburgh. Here is a picture of the volcano experiment. It was great fun making a



chemical reaction and imagining this happening millions of years ago. You can see there was lots of lava flowing out our volcano. It was very exciting!

Pupils in **Primary 4** loved their Viking IDL topic.



They used what they had learned to create Viking weapons, Viking ships and created their own Hnefatafl Viking game. The children celebrated the end of their IDL topic by inviting parents and family members in to school. They had a great afternoon and would like to thank everyone who came along.

Primary 5 have gone very European and been in contact with a Scottish teacher who is currently teaching in France. They have been finding out all



about primary school life in France through email. Pupils from both primaries have discovered how their

schools are alike, as well as how different they are. Before Christmas, P5 wanted to have a French cheese tasting session to discover if they would enjoy some new cheeses and everyone was brave and tried them. As you can see from the photographs, it was a big success and got the thumbs up from everyone.

Primary 5 have also been showing their musical talents in class during music lessons, finding out



Shieldhill Primary School News Cont'd

about different types of musical instruments. Some pupils have also demonstrated their personal skills with their own instruments. All agree it is good to hear music created by classmates.

The **Primary 6** class has been developing their non-fiction reading skills. They created information leaflets about a subject that interested them and used non-fiction texts to research and extract information from. A primary 1 class was to be their audience. So they made their leaflets colourful, with illustrations and used simple language. Once the leaflets were completed, they shared them with



the primary ones. They read their leaflets and asked questions about information shared, thus ensuring the primary 1 had understood.

The primary 1 children evaluated the leaflets, sharing with each other facts they had discovered.

Primary 7 Celebrate Burns Night



P7 have been busy planning and hosting their annual Burns Supper. This year as well as learning about Robert Burns' life they have been creating costumes for characters featured in his poetry, designing business cards for Robert Burns and surveying the class on the most popular Scottish foods. As well as showcasing their entertainment for their parents and the Provost the previous evening, the class hosted a successful Burns Supper on Friday 23rd January for invited guests

where they not only entertained but took on waiting duties as well. The entertainment featured traditional items such as the Address to a Haggis and the Toast to the Lassies and reply to the Laddies but in a move away from the norm this year the class decided to tell the tale of when Robbie Burns and the well known Irish matriarch Agnes Brown met through an online dating website!

P7 are also excited to be working on their new IDL/ topic and are even asking for extra homework this term which is a first! Their keenness to learn is all down to the fact that the stimulus for their work is the popular game Minecraft. They will be undertaking a variety of tasks linked to different areas of the curriculum and have been keen to input their own ideas for the project.

50th Anniversary Celebration For Shieldhill

On October 31st Shieldhill Primary celebrated 50 years on its present site. Former pupils and staff were invited along to join in our celebrations. Each class had worked hard to contribute to the day with a variety of events. Primary 7 hosted a sixties fashion show while Primary 6 sang and danced to music of the decade. Other events included playground games and a film show describing big news stories of the sixties.

The children made and sold badges and key rings as mementoes of the occasion. These proved so popular they sold out before the end of the afternoon and had to start taking orders.

Our visitors were able to add any special memories they had to our memory wall. The stories were great fun to read as people recalled their favourite teachers, special events or trips out of school and friendships which had been made often still continuing to this day. There was even the occasional 'confession'!

The day truly was a celebration of the last 50 years. Here's to the next 50!

