

Wallacestone Primary School Nursery

Scottish Week

As part of our Scottish week we; listened to familiar stories in Scots, discussing the different sounding names and words we came across. Sang songs and recited poems in Scots and danced to the music. Learned what the flag looked like and tried to make our own.

We tasted a variety of Scottish food at our "Tasting table". This was fun even though some of us weren't too keen on the haggis! We also enjoyed having some of the older children from the school to visit to share their Scots poems and read to us in Scots.

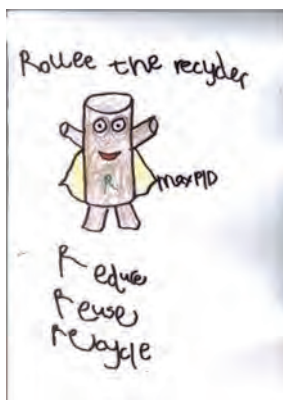
It was a good week where we learned and experienced more about the culture we live in.



Wallacestone Primary Eco Super Hero Mascot and Slogan Winners!

Our Eco Committee ran a special competition to design a new Eco Mascot for our Eco Group! The Eco Committee found it very tricky to pick their winners! We are very proud of our three chosen mascots and their slogans.

Designed by Max Jardine Buchannan



Class P1D who says, "My mascot is for waste minimisation.

His super powers are: that he can crush metal, squash plastic, shred paper and re-charge batteries.

My slogan is Rollee the recycler says "Give rubbish a second chance!"

Designed by Fia McLean, Class 4B

"My mascot is for Litter. Her super powers are to collect all the litter using her magic sucky bunches.

My slogan is "Keep our school nice or you'll pay the price!"



Our mascots and slogans are now displayed around the school to remind everyone of the need to recycle, walk to schools and put our litter where it should be.

Designed by Ben Perry, Class P1D

"My mascot is for Transport. His super powers are zapping cars and lorries to turn them into electric cars- no more petrol or diesel.

Zap helps people who walk and cycle and scoot by zapping them to make them faster"

Slogan by Aaron Ali in P5E

"Don't park in the wrong place, that's someone else's space!"



Primary 2H – Fitness Fanatics

Primary 2 classes have found that staying fit can be lots of fun.



Wallacestone 50th anniversary celebrations

October 2014 marked Wallacestone Primary's fiftieth year on its current site in Braemar Gardens, Brightons and the school organised a series of events to mark the occasion. A whole school photograph was organised with all 640 pupils and staff present. Janitor Kenny Cochrane gave everyone a laugh by dressing up as "Where's Wally" and later reappeared as a hidden feature in

a display featuring every pupil in the school.

Music teacher Audrey Mackay organised a fantastic



celebratory concert with pupils past and present performing to an audience of former staff and parents.

The show featured talented pupils from the choir, dancers as well as pupils playing piano, woodwind



instruments and the clàrsach.

Highlights were the P7 ukulele band who showcased the school's latest instrument and there wasn't a

recorder in sight! P4 pupils reprised their incredible performance of the theme from the Nutcracker with nothing more than plastic plates.



Members of the local community joined current pupils, former pupils and staff for an open morning to look back at the fifty years of the school. Displays in the hall featured classes from years gone by along with items from the school's history. The school were very grateful to donations of photographs and memorabilia. Around the hall, memories and stories were exchanged by those who attended.



Breakfast Week at Wallacestone



P1D have had lots of fun learning about what makes a healthy breakfast during Breakfast week. We are now much more aware of how much sugar is in a variety of cereals and can choose the cereals which have smaller amounts of sugar in them. We have also experimented with a variety of healthy ingredients including fruit, Greek yogurt and honey to make our own healthy breakfast in class.

Wallacestone Burns Supper

Wallacestone Primary School Primary 7 classes held a Burns Supper with ceilidh dancing on Tuesday 27th January at Braes High School. Our preparation for the Burns Supper/Ceilidh included:

- Studying Robert Burns in class and learning about his life.
- Making the placemats for us and our guests.
- Making name cards so our guests knew where to sit.
- In ICT making tickets for the event.
- Learning some Robbie Burns songs.

At the Burns Supper/Ceilidh we had different roles, here they are:

- ★ Welcome - Holly Fletcher.
- ★ Host - Chrissie Riach.
- ★ Poosie Nancy - Abigail Mann.
- ★ Our poem 'Address To A Haggis' was read out by- Kirsty McKay, Zander Thomson and Holly Jarvie.
- ★ Selkirk Grace - Harry Hunter.
- ★ Immortal Memory - Katie Berry and Sophie Riddell.

- ★ Toast to the Lassies - Aidan Wansbrough.
- ★ Reply to the Laddies - Emma Christie.
- ★ Appreciation - Katie Haddifon stood in at the last minute and did a fantastic job of it

We all sang songs which were, 'The Deils awa wi' the Exciseman' and 'Auld Lang Syne'.

We did the 'Gay Gordons' dance and the 'Canadian Barn Dance'.

Also the food was amazing! We had Vegetable Broth and Haggis, Neaps and Tatties.

Everyone, including Angus, had a fantastic time. It was such good fun! We want to do it all over again!

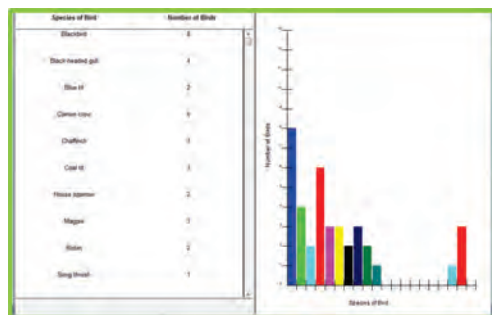
By Mia Beveridge, P7D



Wallacestone Big School Birdwatch!

Primary 3M have been taking part in the Big School Birdwatch organised by our school Eco Committee to support the work of the RSPB. The RSPB are trying to gain an understanding of which birds are using school grounds across the UK as this allows them to understand bird populations and how healthy an ecosystem is. P3M wanted to show that they were trying hard to be responsible citizens and also effective contributors as they worked in small groups alongside P7D to identify the species and number of birds that could be seen in our school grounds. They spotted many different types of birds using a special counting chart and upon

graph to show the types and numbers of birds that they had spotted.



returning to the classroom used their skills in information handling to create a chart and a



Standing quietly at the edge of the garden area spotting wood pigeons and blackbirds.



“Christmas 2014 was the year that Primary 3B saved Christmas!”

On December the 8th 2014 3B received a letter from Santa informing the children that Christmas would unfortunately be postponed due to a mechanical fault with his sleigh. The letter went on to explain that Santa's elves were not trained Mechanics therefore Santa was waiting on someone else offering their services to help save Christmas.

3B were extremely disappointed with this news. However, whilst discussing possible solutions to the situation one of the children quickly suggested that 3B could use their knowledge and skills, developed through their electricity topic, to help Santa. Using this idea we then brainstormed several ideas of what 3B could do to help and eventually agreed on building a new sleigh for Santa to use on Christmas Eve.

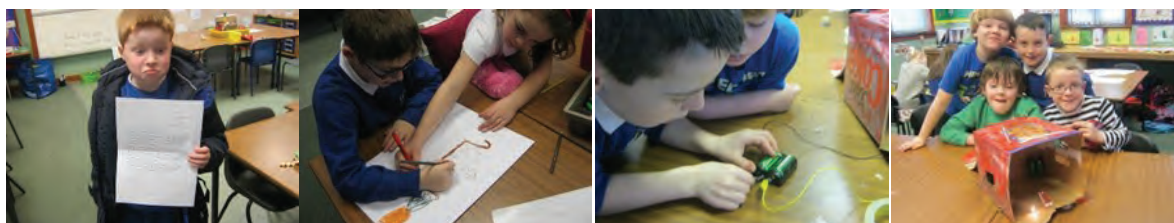
3B then split into elf teams (co-operative groups) and decided on elf roles for each member. Each team then wrote a letter to Santa explaining how they were going to help him and sketched

numerous sleigh designs. It was then up to each team to discuss and decide which design they would build.

Once all the sleighs had been built 3B then used their electrical skills to fit circuits into the sleigh so that the headlights would work. This involved trialling a variety of short, series and parallel circuits.

Each elf team then presented their sleigh to the class, explaining why Santa should use their sleigh on Christmas Eve. Once the presentations were complete the class then debated each sleigh with their team members and placed a vote for the winner.

3B are proud to announce that “The killer minecraft elves” sleigh was collected by magic dust, enlarged and used by Santa himself on Christmas Eve, delivering millions to presents to children all over the world!



Wallacestone Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas jumper day was to raise money for Save the Children. Beforehand, we had a lot of thinking to do.

First, we had to think about how we would raise money. We had a lot of ideas but then Mrs Thomson thought we could have a raffle and each make about 10 crispy cakes and sell a raffle ticket to each child. This would cost 50p for a crispy cake and £1 for wearing your jumper, and another 50p for a raffle ticket. We rehearsed for our assembly that was to be performed on the day of Save the Children jumper day, which was



on Wednesday the 17th of December. We are very thankful for all the donations we received. We raised over £800.

P3/2 Open Afternoon

We had a super open afternoon when parents visited our classroom to see what their children had been learning. They observed an exciting range of activities related to topic, literacy and maths and presented them with the opportunity to see the interactive methods we use to teach the children in the classroom. They could experience for themselves visualisation, maths games, creating the Northern Lights and sorting countries into hot and cold places.

The children were very proud of their work and enjoyed showing off their classroom.



Sponsored Silence at Wallacestone Primary School

Primary 4B and Angus, our school mascot, recently organised a whole school sponsored silence to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support. The event was enjoyed by pupils and teachers and raised £3148.

Primary 4 children enjoyed organising this event and counting and keeping a record of the money raised. They also learned about cancer and were able to dispel many myths that they had. They are now better informed about how cancer can be prevented through healthy lifestyle and they designed poster to inform the other classes.



Our Crop, our Land Global Citizenship Storyline

All four P1 classes at Wallacestone Primary shared and celebrated their 'Our crop, Our land' storyline. The classes each worked on designing their village farming community. Looking at farming in Scotland as well as in other countries. A frieze was created by the children in each class during their Global Citizenship Storyline, including their family home and other key features of a mountain village. Each child decided on a role within the farm and created a profile of their villager in the farming community.

Each class looked at crops and things that grow in the ground and with the help of discussion and activities they created a new crop. We had some wonderful ideas and our final four crops were the Super Berry Tree, The chocolate tomatoes, the Kindness Berries and. We learned all about the processes and stages involved in growing, harvesting and selling it.

We visited Tesco for a 'Farm to Fork' workshop and children got hands on experience of where their food came from and the different ways our food is used. We also enjoyed a trip to the Milk Barn and their Dairy Farm. We looked at the cows and found out how the farm worked. We really enjoyed tasting the Ice Cream after all our learning experiences. The RHET also worked with us to deliver a class talk about sheep farming and cattle

farming. These learning experiences combined with the storyline approach at early level, allowed the children 'real life' learning experiences with a positive impact



on the pupils of fair trade and global commerce.

The children then shared their learning with parents and guests who came along to their open afternoon. We showcased our crop and set up market stalls for children to talk about their crop and what made it so special. Along with having examples of the activities the children have experienced throughout the topic. The storyline approach has allowed for interdisciplinary work with a combination of the drama, social studies, science/HWB and literacy seems particularly engaging for pupils when taught through the storyline approach. We had a great time learning all about our topic and the comments received from parents and were all very positive!



Wallacestone P5 Library Project

Primary five pupils have been working on a library enterprise project, providing them with a range of interdisciplinary learning experiences, to transform their "quiet room" into a calming and inspiring place to relax and read. The project, which has been wholly led by the pupils, has incorporated learning across a variety of curricular areas, while providing opportunities for pupils to transfer and apply their knowledge and skills learned in class during a real life scenario.

Some of the skills that the children have developed are the use of online sources to identify items to be purchased, whilst



comparing costs and managing money within a budget.

They have learned how to develop and communicate their ideas, demonstrating imagination and presenting solutions to a design brief. By contributing their views, time and talents, they have participated in bringing about a positive change in their school, also gaining support and encouragement from their peers.

This project has culminated in the children planning an event, a grand opening of the library that they have designed and developed involving their parents, special guests and the wider school.

Class 4M Wallacestone Primary School

Enterprise – In order to improve healthy eating within our school, P4M decided to set up a Healthy Tuck Shop as their enterprising project. First, we needed to decide which products we would offer. Every class completed a survey and we collated the results using tally charts and bar graphs. Before the Healthy Tuck Shop opened we needed to advertise it. We made posters, presented the Tuck shop during assembly and created a song too! When we opened the tuck shop, our class were responsible for collating the orders and collecting the money. We learned how to place food orders using online shopping. Now the Healthy Tuck Shop is up and running every Thursday. Our class continue to be responsible for delivering the orders, collating orders and counting money. We are also very grateful for the time and effort provided by our fantastic parent helpers!



P4 Comprehension Skills

Primary 4 really enjoyed working together and developing their comprehension skills by comparing and contrasting Christmas past and present.

First, we talked about our own knowledge of Christmas and what it means to us. Then we watched video clips from Scotland on Screen and talked about them in groups. We looked at the differences between traditions now and then and we used our inference skills to work out which toy was popular during each decade.

Finally, having looked at the changes in toys over the last 60 years, we made predictions about what we thought toys would be like in 2100 and we worked in groups to design a toy for 2100.



Wallacestone Primary School News

Literacy Skills

P7D have been working hard on their literacy skills using "Daily 5" and "CAFÉ". Each day the children choose from Read to Self, Read to Someone, Word Work, Work on Writing and Listen to Reading. As they are hard at work, the teacher works with individuals and groups, recording information online to help with next steps. Katie says, "I like the freedom that you get with the Daily 5 because we can choose for ourselves." Abigail says, "I like the range of choice you get and you don't always have to do one thing all the time." This is an enjoyable and successful way to set up literacy lessons.



Personal Safety

P1S at Wallacestone school had a visit from the Fire Service as part of their learning about



Personal Safety. The pupils heard important safety messages and were able to see a working fire appliance

first hand. They asked questions about the role of a firefighter. Their learning was assessed through a personal writing task... "If I was a firefighter I would..." Dressing up helped pupils get in to the role – and was great fun!



World War I

P7 worked hard on World War 1 as we marked the centenary of the Great War starting. The children looked at the many factors that led to war and made a decision diamond out of them.

Amongst many other things they looked at what war meant to them, researched the flags of countries in 1914 and found out about the different empires and how the world map looked quite different back then.

Primary 7 also used their 6 reading strategies to look at the Sainsbury's Christmas advert and the meaning behind it.



Larbert High School : Music Faculty

LHS PERFORMANCE OF FAME THE MUSICAL!

LHS performed 4 sell out performances of Fame the musical this year in June. The show involved over 100 pupils on stage and working back stage.



SINGING AT STRATHCARRON HOSPICE



The Musical Theatre class spent an afternoon at Strathcarron Hospice entertaining patients and staff.

MUSIC AND MUSIC TECHNOLOGY VIDEO

The higher music and music technology classes combined to make a Christmas video for the Falkirk Herald website.



LARBERT CLUSTER CHRISTMAS CONCERT



The annual Christmas concert saw 250 pupils from across the cluster perform together. The concert ended with an amazing performance of Never Forget with all 250 pupils performing together.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY TRIP

The Music Technology class went to Forth Valley College to find out about what courses they offer and check studio in action.



ST CECILIA MUSIC COMPETITION

The annual cluster St Cecilia Music Competition saw 100 pupils from Larbert high and cluster primaries take part. The day was a great success.

Calendar of Events March 2015

Langlees Primary School Christmas Charity Appeal

St David's Day	01 Mar	At Langlees Primary, it is a tradition for the Pupil Council to organise and run a Christmas Charity Appeal in the lead up to the festive period.
Climate Week	02 - 08 Mar	
World Book Day	05 Mar	In years gone by, the school have chosen to help other children who live in more deprived areas of the world, with all appeals proving very successful. However this year, the children at Langlees P.S. decided they would like to help people a bit closer to home.
St Mungo's Cluster Meeting - St Joseph's PS	05 Mar	
Euroquiz 2015 - Denny HS - 9.30am	06 Mar	They decided that they would like to support vulnerable elderly people within their local community. The children felt that Christmas can be a lonely time of year for many elderly people, and can also be difficult for them to access shops to get food in the cold Winter months. With these points in mind, the children decided to run a 'Christmas Hamper Appeal for the Elderly'.
International Women's Day	08 Mar	
Commonwealth Day	09 Mar	The Pupil Council contacted the Salvation Army and offered to support their Christmas Assistance Appeal, by providing food hampers to be distributed to those who are most in need within the local area.
Braes cluster - Drumbowie PS	10 Mar	
Parents Information Evening (Budget) - Falkirk High - 7pm	10 Mar	Langlees Pupil Council were overwhelmed by the amount of food donations they received from children in the school.
Accelerated Incremental Progression - Sealock House - 4pm	11 Mar	
Mothers Day	15 Mar	The pupil council members spent a full morning packing the hampers with the food donations and there was enough to make ten, very full and generous hampers.
St Patrick's Day	17 Mar	
Falkirk Cluster Meeting - Carmuir PS	17 Mar	They were then delivered to the Salvation Army who were very appreciative of the support that Langlees Primary had given them. The Salvation Army went on to distribute the hampers to elderly people within the local area just in time for Christmas.
Spring Equinox	20 Mar	
World Water Day	22 Mar	Langlees Pupil Council did a fantastic job of organising the Christmas Hamper Appeal and we hope that the hampers brought a bit of joy to many elderly people at Christmas.
Denny cluster - Denny HS	24 Mar	
Larbert cluster meeting - Carronshore PS	25 Mar	
Graeme Cluster Meeting - Graeme HS	25 Mar	





Falkirk Council

Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Good News Round Up

Volume 15 Issue 08

March 2015

Deanburn Primary Shows Racism the Red Card

Congratulations to Class 7K from Deanburn Primary School in Bo'ness, who made it to the finals of the Show Racism the Red Card creative competition for schools across the country.

The team did a short video news clip to highlight the issue of racism in the community and the impact on individuals. The judging panel voted their effort the winner in their category!



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Denny Primary Music Success

Denny Primary has been lucky enough to be one of the 4 Scottish winners of the BBC 10 Pieces competition. This was a study of 10 pieces of classical music followed by the class composing their own. Denny PS was one of those schools selected win the prize. The prize consists of the BBC symphony Orchestra taking over the school for the day, doing workshops with all classes and finishing with a performance to be filmed at the end. During the day pupils and staff will also be interviewed about the 10 Pieces which will then be aired in a BBC programme and possibly also on the news!

This will be a great experience for the pupils and Don McPherson, the head teacher, is very proud of them, their teacher Mrs Cybulska, Susan the YMI tutor and of the whole school.



The BBC Symphony Orchestra are coming on the 27th of March so no doubt it will be an exciting day.

MY FUTURE'S IN
falkirk

New Director

Robert Naylor has been offered the post of Director of Children's Services; he is currently Director of Education & Leisure at Renfrewshire Council.

Robert is looking forward to joining us shortly.

Micro-Tyco Success for Grange Primary School

This year Micro-Tyco had over 300 schools taking part across the world – including a school in Afghanistan! The top three schools however, were as follows...

- ★ 1st: Tong High School, £5,030.74 (Coached by Deloitte)
- ★ 2nd: **Grange Primary School, Bo'ness £4,317**
- ★ 3rd: Chelmsford County High School For Girls, £2,750

Now in its fifth year, Micro-Tyco is still FREE and still growing from strength to strength. They will shortly be improving the pack of learning resources provided for schools and expanding the Micro-Tyco Coaching programme – giving pupils the opportunity to engage with big businesses from around the country.

For more information - email:
charlie@wildheartsinaction.org

Literacy and Numeracy Update - Sharon Wallace - Curriculum Support Officer

Literacy Strategy

Following the success of the Literacy Strategy Celebration in January, Falkirk Council have met with other neighbouring authorities to share good practice in literacy. Sharon Wallace, along with Yvonne Manning (Principal Librarian) presented Falkirk Council's 'Approach to Raising Attainment through our Literacy Strategy' at the National Literacy Network on 5th March. The presentation was well received and colleagues from across Scotland have been in touch to find out more. Glasgow University have also requested an active literacy overview to their primary and secondary I.T.E. and post-graduate students.

POLAAR

Karen Thomson (Curriculum Support Team) and Fiona Beaton (Nethermains Primary and Nursery Class) attended a training session on the use of POLAAR (Primary One Literacy Action and Assessment Resource). Bonnybridge Primary have volunteered as a pilot school and will be trialling the POLAAR materials. For further information on POLAAR, please visit <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/LiteracyStrategy/literacy-strategy-document/>

Sharing with Parents and Carers

Parent and carer sessions have recently been supported by Sharon at Moray Primary – Active Literacy, St. Bernadette's – the Thinking Reader and at Carronshore – Big Maths. Positive feedback was received at all events and pupils were all fabulous at sharing strategies – a real credit to Falkirk Council.



National Numeracy Hub Update

Falkirk Council's Numeracy Hub champion has now attended 5 training days and exciting things are already happening in relation to raising attainment and closing the gap in numeracy and mathematics. If you would like to be involved in the work of our hub – please contact susan.thomson@falkirk.gov.uk – Susan is our numeracy hub champion and is PT Maths and

Numeracy at Larbert High. Susan is also working closely with C.L.D. training tutors to enable parents and carers to support their children with homework.

Sharing Good Practice

Camelon Education Centre has been busy with colleagues sharing good practice. Thanks to Mary Jalland and Gillian Downie (Westquarter Primary) for sharing wonderful, creative learning experiences relating to active literacy in P1.

St. Francis Xavier's Primary and Nursery Class impressed a full seminar room with pupils leading the learning and sharing their fabulous Thinking Reader work and floor books.

Several schools and nurseries including Stenhousemuir, Larbert Day Nursery and Denny Primary shared amazingly creative ideas relating to numeracy at a recent network meeting. Also at this meeting we were lucky to have input from Susanna Hastilow

from Museum on the Mound, Edinburgh, who shared the museum's resources and distributed goody bags



for all who attended. Museum on the Mound is a free resource – for further information, please visit: <http://www.museumonthemound.com/> Thanks to Ladeside Primary for sharing their literacy learning and contributing to Falkirk Council's Literacy Strategy support tool blog.

Professional Learning Resources

CPD sessions for significant aspects of learning in literacy have been delivered in relation to listening and talking, reading and writing. Many thanks to Marianne Savage (St. Bernadette's R.C.P.S.) and Laura Baird (Stenhousemuir Primary School) for facilitating and supporting these training sessions. Significant aspects of learning are part of the professional Learning Resource which also includes: the overarching paper, curriculum papers, progression grids, annotated exemplars and the tracking and monitoring paper. For further information, please visit:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningandteaching/assessment/progressandachievement/professionallearningresource/index.asp>

Work Placement News

Work Placements are now becoming more flexible to meet the needs of both young people and employers.

The Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce was established by the Scottish Government in January 2013. Independent of Government, it was tasked with bringing forward a range of recommendations designed to improve young people's transition into employment.

39 Recommendations were made and Recommendation 3 below relates to work experience.

'Recommendation 3: *A modern standard should be established for the acceptable content and quality of work experience, and guidelines should be made available to employers. This should be developed by Education Scotland in partnership with employer bodies and Skills Development Scotland. This should involve input from young people. Work experience should feature in the Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool and in Education Scotland school inspections.'*

The commission also said that:

'The current approach to work experience needs to be developed to allow young people to have a richer experience of the workplace. For those young people who have already formed a clear set of career aspirations, a meaningful exposure to the requirements of their chosen field related to their studies will better prepare them for success. For those who are less certain about their future career, a range of experiences will help provide them with a good basis on which to make decisions.'



Last year, with involvement from every secondary school, we developed new policy and procedures to accommodate a more flexible approach to work placements and most of our secondary schools have already adopted this. Young people can therefore experience placements any time during their senior phase (S4 – S6) and can now vary in length from the traditional 1 week placement to an extended placement of maybe 2 or 3 afternoons/days per week for a whole term.

Lorraine Hamilton, Work Experience Administrator and Health & Safety Assessor, was at a national network meeting recently where Education Scotland support officers outlined the 1st draft of what is likely to be in the new standard for "Work Placements". They were keen for us to share this with key staff in schools, samples of young people and selected employers for comment. These comments were collated and passed on to Education Scotland, and they are now looking for us to work with their team to further develop the standard and the toolkit that will be used. The completed documents will become part of the final draft of the national work placement standard due for release later in the year and will also feature on the Developing Young Workforce section of the Education Scotland website. Lorraine is looking forward to sharing that with colleagues in schools - some of whom have already been involved and given their feedback.



This is an exciting piece of work that both Steve Dougan, Opportunities for All Co-ordinator, and Lorraine Hamilton are looking forward to rolling out across Falkirk schools.

In total, during session 2013-14, 1,058 work placements took place and 493 companies supported these placements.

1+2 Languages - When does this all start? The time is now.....

As we move towards the *1+2 Languages* implementation date of 2020, by which time all children in P1 to P7 must be learning a second language in addition to their educating language, it's great to report that a number of exciting things are already happening in Falkirk Council schools.

We're keen to share the good news, resources, knowledge and expertise that are out there, and have set up a Glow group which contains a range of support materials. We are keen to continue to add to the material that's already there, so if your school has something to offer, or if you are looking for advice about accessing the group, please contact Malcolm Wilson, ICT Support Officer at malcolm.wilson@falkirk.gov.uk or Laura McEwan, Support Teacher for 1+2 Languages at laura.mcewan@falkirk.gov.uk.



Laura is an experienced Modern Languages teacher in Graeme HS, who, in addition to her regular teaching commitment, is supporting the development of *1+2 Languages* across the authority.

On Friday, 13 March, Laura and her DHT colleague, Kristy Rennie, ably represented Graeme cluster and Falkirk Council by making a presentation about effective cluster working to senior leaders from across Scotland at a conference hosted by Scottish Government and the Association of Directors of Education (ADES).

What are we doing in Falkirk Council?

Falkirk Council is working in partnership with Stirling/Clackmannanshire Councils to develop language learning. Fiona Moffat, Development Officer for *1+2 Languages*, has developed a language learning programme (*Foreign Language as a Medium for Education - FLAME*) that is now being offered to Falkirk Council teachers. The *FLAME* approach involves embedding the foreign language into the daily life of the classroom and weaving language through contexts for learning. So far this

Session, there have been five opportunities for Falkirk teachers to undertake this programme in French, and the Spanish version of the



programme is now running too.

A number of colleagues are currently undertaking training, to enable them to become FLAME trainers- this will provide us with a pool of staff who will be able to provide support for school-based staff. Laura

McEwan is maintaining contact with a small number of P1 teachers who have already completed the programme.

This will enable us as an

authority to evaluate the level of success of the programme in terms of its impact on pupils.

Feedback from course participants has been hugely positive, and has provided some constructive feedback, to support us in further improving the experience for our colleagues. See what our teachers have told us on the opposite page...

This Session, we've offered a number of professional language learning opportunities for our staff that relate to other areas of language learning....

It's been good to welcome back Katrina Lucas, Development Officer for Scots Language with Education Scotland. Katrina is an experienced teacher from Comely Park PS who is currently on secondment, and who is working with a number of local authorities around Scotland.



The series of events that Katrina has been leading in Camelon Education Centre has been enjoyed by the participants. Very positive feedback from the group explains the way in which those teachers are now using their knowledge and skills with pupils. The series will culminate on 29 April, when course participants will share their learning. We are anticipating a visit from Dr. Alasdair Allan, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages, at that event. The teachers will have an opportunity to discuss with Dr. Allan a range of issues relating to Scots Language in schools. Dr. Allan will also visit Nethermains PS on 25th March, for a celebration of the use of Scots Language in schools.



1+2 Languages - When does this all start? The time is now.....

This year's Gaelic Language in the Primary School (GLPS) programme of full-day sessions has come to an end for session 2014-15, and Falkirk's cohort of teachers from Bainsford, Kinnaird, Larbert Village and St. Francis Primary Schools will complete the programme by participating in a week-long immersion programme at the Gaelic College on Skye during the Summer holidays.

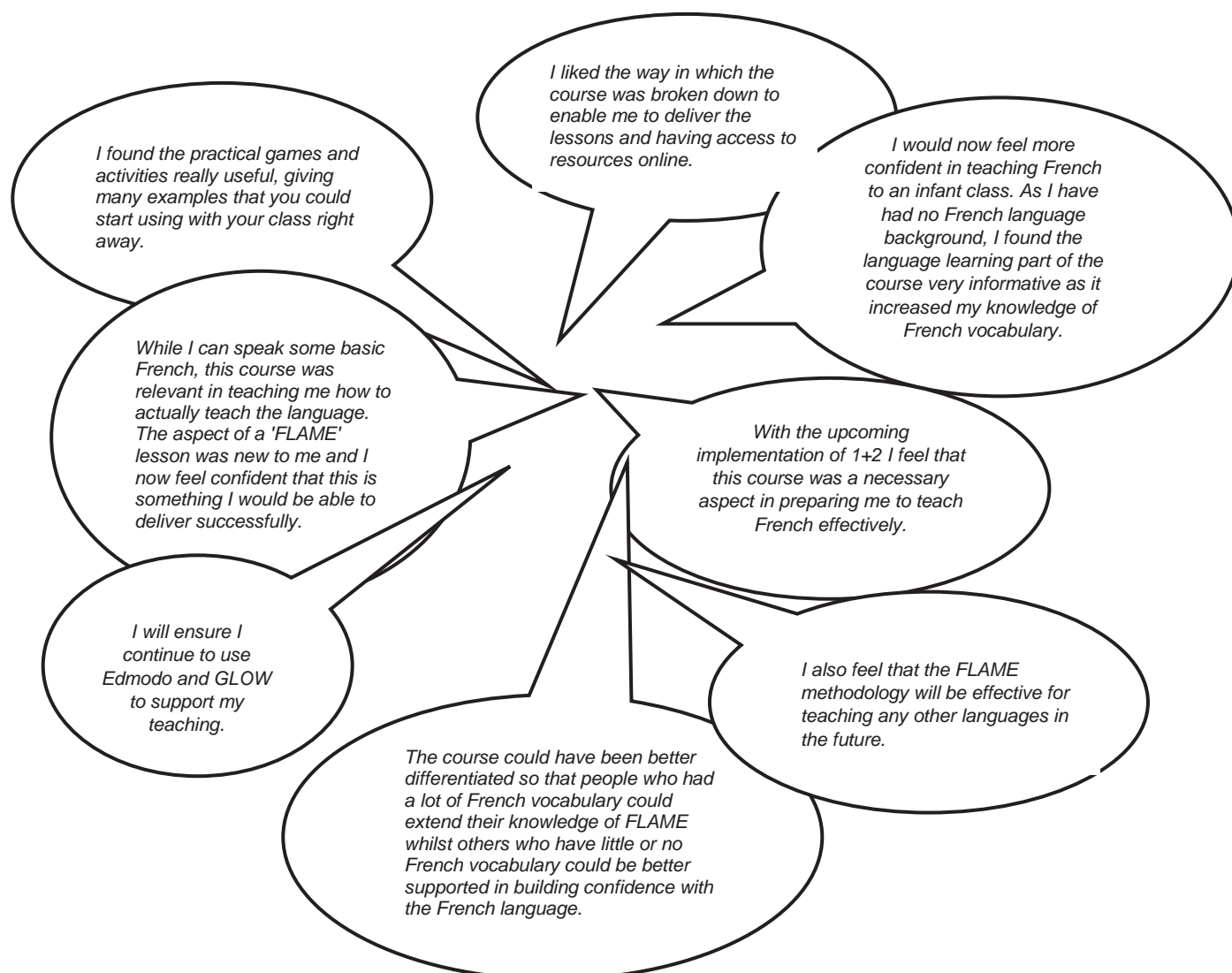
A meeting to explain the philosophy behind the FLAME approach was offered to Headteachers, prior to the programmes starting in September, 2014.

Next Session, it is our intention to provide further opportunities for language learning. Dates for programmes and events to be held during Session 2015-16 will be advertised on CPD Manager following the Easter break.

What informs Falkirk Council's 1+ 2 Languages Strategy?

- The Scottish Government Languages Working Group Report and Recommendations, which can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00393435.pdf>
- 'One Council, One Plan' Falkirk Council's Corporate Plan 2012-17, specifically the aspiration to *further develop a thriving, sustainable and vibrant economy.*
- Falkirk Council's *1+2 Languages Strategy*, which is located on the Primary Language Learning (PLL) Glow group.

For further information about any aspect of *1+2 Languages*, please contact Laura McEwan at laura.mcewan@falkirk.gov.uk or Anne Hutchison, Support Officer for Professional Development at anne.hutchison@falkirk.gov.uk



Progress with our Teaching for Deep Learning Programme

Our Falkirk Teaching for Deep Learning programme (TfDL) continues to develop as a powerful tool for moving Falkirk schools from good to great. Yvonne McBlain, is accountable for its implementation and ongoing management supported by a strong mobilisation team consisting of: Susan Dyer, head teacher at Bankier PS; Jane Jackson, support teacher for outdoor learning; Iain Farrington, class teacher at Antonine PS; Charlene Simpson, principal teacher at Grangemouth HS, and Lynda McDonald, depute head teacher at Moray PS.

Teachers from establishments across the authority elected to use a significant proportion of their own professional learning time to be trained as facilitators for the programme. This training is now in its second year, and there are 30 facilitators operating in 23 schools.

All facilitators were asked to link their facilitation work to their school improvement priorities, and to the professional learning needs expressed by colleagues. This model of professional learning builds on earlier Tapestry TLC initiatives by providing new content for teacher learning communities and encouraging peer observation practices. It has added to our authority menu of professional learning opportunities – particularly developing distributed leadership, teacher autonomy and creative and flexible use of the programme to make a real difference to everyday classroom practice. The mobilisation team and facilitators will make every effort to ensure that the programme continues to impact on teaching and learning in our schools and help us fulfil multiple recommendations from Teaching Scotland's Future.

Facts and Impact Evidenced to date:

- ✓ All facilitators reported significant positive impact on their work and their learning through participating in the training programme
- ✓ Teacher feedback for their facilitators and programme content has been almost exclusively positive so far.
- ✓ Some "voluntary" TLCs have formed and use the programme as part of their self-directed professional learning.
- ✓ Some schools were supported in recruiting and training their own set of facilitators. These included: Falkirk HS, Larbert HS, Bo'ness Academy, Denny HS (for literacy), Carron PS, and Carmuir PS.

- ✓ By June 2014, 29 schools had accessed one or more sessions, 17 facilitators had delivered 30 TfDL sessions & 9 TfDL training meetings took place.



The average evaluation ratings for these sessions were as follows:

- ★ Overall Rating – 3.1 out of 4
- ★ Level of knowledge prior to the session – 3.1 out of 6
- ★ Level of knowledge after the sessions – 4.4 out of 6
- ★ Rating for training and info sessions – 3.6 out of 4
- ★ Level of knowledge prior to training and info session – 3.4 out of 6
- ★ Level of knowledge after training and info session – 5.0 out of 6

Qualitative evaluation also leads to the conclusion that the programme and our implementation methods have contributed to a wider ethos of focused, semi-structured professional collaboration opportunities which focus on aspects of pedagogy identified through a symbiosis of school improvement agenda and teacher self-evaluation and choice. This was evidenced at a recent numeracy network meeting where staff cited their TLCs as central (and embedded) methods to develop their teaching and learning in their schools.

Session 2014-15 has also seen the introduction of centrally delivered sessions within the programme. This ensures that practitioners from any Falkirk



Progress with our Teaching for Deep Learning Programme

establishment (even if they have no TLC in their own school), can engage with the programme if they want to.

Sessions 1, 2 & 3 were very positively evaluated by participants. Session 1 was attended by 6 people, session 2 by 16 people, and session 3 by 21 people. Yvonne McBlain will deliver these sessions supported by cohort 1 facilitator colleagues, in order to develop a sustainable ongoing method of delivery for the service in the future. This adds to the range of distributed leadership and differentiated professional learning opportunities which our authority can offer its practitioners.

NEXT STEPS:

- Review and update the task brief with the mob team to identify how to develop and maintain

the programme.

- Continue to develop administration process which ensures effective evaluation of the programme as part of our ERD processes.
- Support establishments in “bespoking” the programme where required
- Promote awareness of how the programme fits with other professional learning across our service

Above all though, our mission is to raise awareness of how the Teaching for Deep Learning programme can help teachers improve their practice in order to raise attainment and achievement for pupils across our authority.

Slow as you Glow!

The new version of Glow launched back in October. And very quietly, slowly but surely, in the following months half of Falkirk’s high schools and primary schools have already, at their request, had all class or subject sites set up.

Staff using this new version of Glow have commented on the huge improvements in this version – unlimited storage space for every user, live real-time editing facility for Word, Powerpoint or Excel documents online, multiple uploads of documents, enormous email capacity, video-conferencing tool choices, newsfeed messaging, ease of resetting passwords for a whole class (and facility for setting a recovery email address when we forget our password!!) and a range of apps for mobile devices.

Pupils have found Office 365 tools in the new version of Glow to be very easy to use – even squeals of excitement when collaborating on a Word Online document at the same time as others in the class! Four of Falkirk’s primary schools (Nethermain, St Bernadette’s, Ladeside and Bankier) used Word Online as part of a national collaborative book started off by two of Scottish children’s authors – everyone taking part watching the story unfold before their eyes from classrooms around the country, as they too contributed. Some teachers in Braes, St Mungo’s and Graeme high schools have been exploring the use of OneNote Class Notebook Creator – one of the tools available via Glow.

And likewise a number of staff in a few early years

establishments (and primary and secondary schools) have been exploring the uses of the choice of video-conferencing tools to connect learners with others outwith their own centre. There are already 38 authority-wide resource & information sharing sites created for dissemination of resources to all Falkirk Council Education Services staff to support learning and teaching. Several schools have been provided with in-school staff development for all staff on the use of Glow. Support has been provided to many staff



individually to help them use specific tools in Glow such as video-conferencing with the new Lync or Adobe Connect, OneNote or OneNote Class Notebook Creator and the new version of Wordpress blogs.

There’s a comprehensive support site at <http://connect.glowscotland.org.uk/> and if you’d like support in any aspect of using Glow then get in touch with Malcolm Wilson malcolm.wilson@falkirk.gov.uk

LEARNING RESOURCE SERVICE (LRS)

Staff News

In February the LRS team said 'farewell' to Jill



Frost (ASfL Librarian) who left us to seek pastures new. Jill started work with the service in 1996, building up the collection to its current high standards by working closely with the ASfL team. Jill's knowledge and experience will be missed but she leaves the service in the capable hands of her job-share partner Roslyn Bruce.

Training

Susan Campbell visited Bothkennar Primary to complete the library monitor training with the P5-7s. The library looked great and they were doing an excellent job keeping the infant library tidy. Well done – keep up the good work!

World Book Day Celebrations!

Monday 2nd March

The week began with a library re-organisation at St. Francis on the 2nd March. The school wanted to redesign the library space to encourage a 'love of reading'. We began by removing all the old and damaged stock, followed by dismantling some of the shelving to create the 'new look'.



Wednesday 3rd March

Bowhouse Primary celebrated 'World Book Day' early with a visit from LRS librarians (Donna Grant & Susan Campbell) who spent the morning storytelling to P1 – 7s. The children enjoyed working out the riddles, listening to book tasters and predicting how stories developed.



Wednesday/Thursday

LRS team put the finishing touches to the refurbished library at Langlees Primary ready for the 'official opening' on World Book Day (thanks to the library assistants Rowena and Raymond)! The project began when the library moved to the old community library space to allow the old room to be used as a classroom.

LRS team removed old/damaged stock, erected the shelving to create distinct areas in the library and provide flexibility for other uses.



The library was re-opened on the 5th March when Provost Reid cut the ribbon. All the children dressed up as their favourite book character, all classroom doors were turned into

book jackets and each class visited the new library for a storytelling session with their LRS Librarian (Susan Campbell). They also had a special visit from 'Where's Wally' who left stickers for all the children.

Thursday 5th March

Scottish Book Trust announce the winners of their children's Book Award!

LRS Librarians (Donna Grant, Roslyn Bruce & Carolyn Sharp) visited Ladeside Primary, Hallglen Primary and Rannoch Nursery to celebrate World Book Day storytelling to the children.

Friday

Another round of storytelling for LRS Librarians (Donna Grant & Susan Campbell) this time at Carron and Denny Primary. All sessions were to celebrate World Book Day but also to celebrate the re-launch of Denny's library and their new electronic catalogue OLIVER. The P5-7s enjoyed a visit from author Keith Charters and got an opportunity to have books signed.

'Learn to love books'

LRS Librarian Maggie Burns spent time in schools encouraging a love/enthusiasm for books and reading. Pupils from Grange and Blackness Primary schools visited LRS, to select resources for their class libraries and also their topics. They had a fantastic time and were unable to fit all the boxes

LEARNING RESOURCE SERVICE (LRS)

in their car! The children were thrilled when our driver Colin delivered them the next day!

The team are busy with planned 'learning to love books' and storytelling sessions until the end of term.

Work experience pupil

LRS staff said thank you, 'goodbye & good luck' to Grace Mitchell (a work experience pupil from

Larbert High) who started work with us last year. Grace fitted into the team really well and made a huge contribution with wonderful artwork for the Scottish Children's Book Award event.



Learning for Sustainability in Falkirk – Let's Show and Share!

Falkirk schools and establishments have a good reputation for their development and delivery of global citizenship, international education, outdoor learning, sustainable education and pupil rights and responsibilities. These aspects of the curriculum now belong under the banner of Learning for Sustainability, and Yvonne McBlain, Jane Jackson, Tony Bragg and Megan Farr of the Service Support and Improvement team will collaborate to help co-ordinate development of these cross-cutting themes across learning.

The 2014-15 national implementation plan requires that staff across our authority work together to build on what we already do. We need to build our capacity to meet the recommendations below from the Learning for Sustainability Report, 2012:

- **All learners should have an entitlement to learning for sustainability**
- **In line with the new GTCS Professional Standards, every practitioner, school and education leader should demonstrate learning for sustainability in their practice**
- **Every school should have a whole school approach to learning for sustainability that is robust, demonstrable, evaluated and supported by leadership at all levels**
- **School buildings, grounds and policies should support learning for sustainability**
- **A strategic national approach to supporting learning for sustainability should be established**

All schools have been made aware that practitioners are welcome to help us form a mobilisation team for Learning for Sustainability and/or a network for its support and development. Yvonne, Jane and Megan are looking forward to working with interested colleagues from schools at an initial network meeting on 30th March 2015 at Camelon Education Centre – course code YMc32

4pm – 5.30pm . We would love to welcome the many practitioners who have been developing these themes in their schools as well as interested colleagues with no previous involvement, to help us shape our future practice.

Anthony Hutcheson, the new education officer for Learning for Sustainability at Education Scotland, met with the team and has already shared current Falkirk teaching and learning for sustainability in his blog - the most recent link is <http://bit.ly/bloglfs> to some excellent work by primary 5 & 6 pupils at Kinnaird PS.

We would also like to build on and showcase good practice in this cross-cutting theme by holding our Learning for Sustainability Showcase at Camelon Education centre on 4th June 2015. We need Falkirk schools to step forward and be willing to share work they have done in global citizenship, international education, outdoor learning, sustainable education and pupil rights and responsibilities. Please contact yvonne.mcblain@falkirk.gov.uk to take part. You could have a stall in our good practice "market place", you or your pupils might prefer to deliver a short presentation, or you might want to host a small, short discussion group about your work. It would be great to have pupils perform at the event as well – do you have any Learning for Sustainability songs, drama, or art work which show just how much your pupils have learned about these areas of the curriculum? If so, please let Yvonne know.

LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY
The report of the One Planet Schools Working Group

