

INTRODUCTION

This Information Bulletin is divided into two parts. Part 1 (all pages with the exception of the section coloured green, which relates only to tenders and which is found at the end of the Bulletin) presents a number of papers, which are designed to update Members, Officers and the citizens of the area of ongoing issues of interest which would not be expected to be dealt with through the Council's formal decision-making processes. These papers are relatively informal in terms of style and format and are an additional and important reporting mechanism for the Council which is easily accessible and which it is hoped will be a useful reference document.

In terms of its Contract Standing Orders, the Council has a requirement to report all Contracts referred to in Standing Order 6.2. The Information Bulletin is considered to be ideal for this purpose and any such papers can be found in Part 2 (the section coloured green) of the document.

Any general enquiries regarding the Information Bulletin should be directed to Chief Executive Office (Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager Ext 6110).

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Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Falkirk Council
Education Services

Volume 10 Issue 11

June 2011



Castles Topic Celebrated in Style at Bothkennar Primary

"All they've talked about for weeks".

All pupils at Bothkennar Primary recently completed cross curricular projects on the topic of Castles and they couldn't wait to share it with parents and the community at the recent celebration event held in the community hall behind the school.

Pupils had visited Stirling Castle, studied art, drama, literacy, science and technology as part of their project work and the results were impressive. Pupils and staff dressed the part as medieval knights and ladies, Mary Queen of Scots and Queen Elizabeth the 1st. Guests at the event included all parents, who had contributed magnificently to the 'banquet, visiting teachers who had worked at the school and the previous head teacher Ms McFadyen.

The enormous banquet of roast meats, including spit roast pig, jam tarts and bread was all washed down by ginger beer. This spectacular banquet was followed by performances of medieval dance, music and singing. Historical portraits and story boards adorned the walls of the castle keep and model castles were displayed around the room. Medieval dancing and sketches told the history of the Scottish monarchy including the beheading of Mary Queen of Scots. Singing was rounded off by - what else but Flower of Scotland?



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MY FUTURE'S IN
falkirk

To all staff, pupils and parents - I hope you have a great summer break and can relax and recharge your batteries during the holidays - ready for the new session in August!

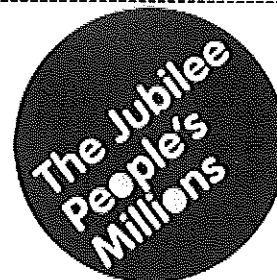
Julia Swan

Vote Bainsford's Back Garden!

Bainsford Primary is through to the final of The Jubilee People's Millions!

We are developing a Nature Fun Trail at the back of our school which will promote active healthy lifestyles, eco awareness and sensory development. The Trail will also be used by the young adults from Bainsford Day Centre who have additional needs and seating is being included for our more senior neighbours of Harley Court. This is a wonderful opportunity for our community!

Please vote for us on **28th June**, the phone number will be available in the Daily Mirror and on STV 6pm news. If we win we will be awarded £60,000!!! It's all down to the public vote!



Oxgang School News

Our Easter Family Fun Day Organised by the Pupil Council

Oxgang School Pupil Council have organised a number of events this session including Health Week, the Christmas Fayre, Easter Event and Oxgang's Got Talent as well as the end of term religious observances.

The most recent was our Spring Event. Every child on the Pupil Council organised an enterprising fund raiser and took responsibility for finding resources and managing their event. This included: a lucky dip, guess the bunny's birthday, raffle, café and a treasure hunt.

Parents, community, staff and pupils all took part in a bunny drive and a co-operative learning activity producing Easter bonnets.



Everyone enjoyed tea and coffee and cakes provided at the café by the Pupil Council.

Our chair person addressed the audience and confirmed we were raising money for toiletries for our school loos, a school bell and a donation to Cancer Research UK.

Enterprise Education

For Enterprise this year, the pupils in class 3 split up into groups in order to set up their own businesses. Their aim was to work together to raise money for a class trip. We have established 3 companies over the course of the year.

- ★ Redeem - who collect old ink cartridges and phones for recycling
- ★ The Dog Training Company made dog themed calendars which they sold at the School Xmas Fayre, and
- ★ Wewashanycar.com - a car washing venture which recently got off the ground, thanks in part to the better weather.

All 3 companies have recorded a modest profit so far and the pupils have decided that their aim is to make enough money to pay for themselves to go on a trip to M&D's theme park.

Can they do it? Fingers crossed!

Oxgang P6 and P7 go on tour

During May both P6 and P7 ventured forth on their residential experiences. P6 went to Whiston Lodge, near Biggar and P7 to Nethy Bridge Station near Grantown on Spey. Both experiences were great fun with plenty of mud, rain, football and mountain biking. Both classes should be very proud of their hillwalking

exploits in such horrendous conditions. P7 did most of the planning for their time away and the experience wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of Mike from Outdoor Education. So a word to next year's senior pupils in Oxgang. You have a great deal to live up to!



Oxgang Outreach Service - Improving our impact on pupil participation in mainstream education

This year our Outreach service has supported 27 primary schools to effectively meet the needs of young people experiencing social, emotional and behavioral difficulties. Our new assessment and evidence based approaches to setting targets based on pupils development needs have been successful in giving the team working for the child a clearer understanding of the individual child's needs and effective strategies to support them.

As a result pupils are able to access more learning in school. In a recent survey about Outreach, all respondents stated that the outreach support they received this session has had a good or excellent impact on relationships within the school and pupil's ability to sustain their mainstream placement.

People Who Help Us

The Police

Class 1 in Oxgang School have been working hard this term on their topic People Who Help Us.

On 25th May, PC Sharon Lawson-Tennyson and PC Sarah Whelan visited Oxgang School. They came to tell us about their job and to help us understand that they do a lot in the community to help people.



Sharon and Sarah let us try on some of their uniform and to use their handcuffs.

Sharon let us have a look around the Police van and put on the siren. We prepared questions to ask them and found out lots of information about the Police. We really enjoyed their visit.

The Post Office

Class 1 have also been busy setting up two role-play stations in their classroom. Karen Chapman, our

Oxgang School News cont'd

Dental nurse, helped us to set up a dental surgery.

We also set up our own Post Office. The grand opening of the Post Office was 24th March 2011. We thought it would be interesting to visit a real Post Office, so on 3rd June we went to visit the Post Office at



Garrison Place, Falkirk. Our new friend Gail, the Post Office manager, took us on a tour and answered all of our questions. We had a look around the sorting office and enjoyed finding out about the machine, which takes the parcels upstairs. Gail very kindly gave us some Postman Pat badges to take away and she has promised to come to our Christmas Concert.

The Scouts

Class 1 also invited their parents/carers to come in to class to tell us about their jobs. Declan's mum, Dawn, very kindly came in to talk to us about being a Scout

Leader. Dawn told us the type of fun things the Scouts are involved in; camping, challenges, hill walking and much more. She had lots of photos from camps she had been on with her Scouts and she told us that she has travelled all over the world to be involved in Scout camps. We also saw a photo of Declan being invested into the Beavers.

Dawn brought lots of things for us to look at and try on. We all got a neckerchief and woggle to put on.

Dawn had a large collection of badges, which she has collected over the years. She let us all pick a badge to keep. Thanks Dawn!



Class 1 are still busy until the end of term with their topic and are looking forward to a visit to the Fire Station, Police Station and a Dental Surgery.

Windsor Park News

The Gruffalo

P3, P4 and P5 had a fabulous time when they visited Callendar House to meet Julia Donaldson, the author of The Gruffalo. We learned some new songs, listened to Julia's stories and acted out the story. Lucy played the fox and got to wear a funny costume! Julia took us round a special exhibition of illustrations from her books and she even signed a copy of The Gruffalo for Windsor Park to keep. Julia is a hearing aid user herself so she was an excellent role model for our children.

KIDS OUT

Children from the Visual Impairment Service joined the Windsor Park pupils for a brilliant time on the annual Kids Out trip. The children (and staff!) enjoyed all of the activities and even got to go for a ride in a limo at the end of the day. The thunder storm didn't dampen any spirits and a fantastic day was had by all.

Orienteering

P5 and P6 enjoyed a trip to Muiravonside Park where they learned about orienteering. They used their new skills to play games and navigate their way around.

Health and Wellbeing

The P5 topic this term has been "Keeping me Safe" and the children have enjoyed listening and watching lots of different visitors who have helped them learn more about the topic. They were visited by British Waterways to learn about canal safety, the Fire Brigade came to talk about fire safety and they participated in a self defence workshop organised by Active Schools to learn about personal safety. They are looking forward to visits from Scottish Power and Children 1st in the next couple of weeks.

Dynamic Earth

As part of the P5 Science topic, "Interdependence and Adaption", the children went on an exciting trip to Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. They were lucky enough to participate in a workshop about how different animals adapt to their environment. We got to look at some creepy-crawlies too! The children watched a dome film, a 4D film and even touched a real iceberg!

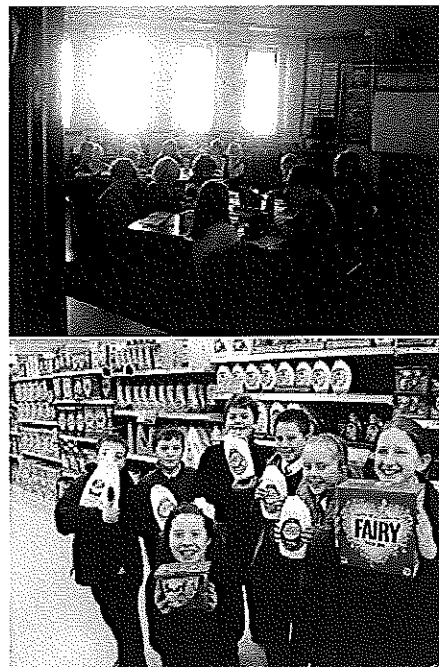


Comely Park Goes Extra Eco! Earth Hour!

Over the last couple of months we have been working for extra hard to renew our Green Flag for the 2nd time. In March we held our own Comely Park Earth Hour where all classes worked for an hour without electrical equipment like lights, computers and SMARTBoards.

On this day we raised awareness in our classes about Global Warming and how we can help to reduce our carbon footprint. All the children wore brightly coloured clothes to brighten up our school without electricity.

To highlight this outside of school our P5 reps wrote to local businesses and Falkirk Council to encourage others to participate in Earth Hour. From this we were invited to visit Tesco Central Retail Park during their own Climate Week to find out about the steps they are taking to be eco friendly. We got to scan items and enjoyed visiting the cafeteria!



Bankier Primary News

Bankier Primary School raised a whopping £144 for Strathcarron Hospice on Go Yellow day when they also had their Beach Party in blistering hot weather.



Two Bankier PS Primary 6 pupils, Dean Sutherland and Annalise McNicol won the regional finals of the K'nex Challenge competition and will go to London for the UK finals in September.



A FRUITFUL LESSON AT CALIFORNIA PRIMARY

Pupils can expect to be harvesting the fruits of their labours from next year onwards with an exciting sustainability project to establish small orchards at 10 primary schools.

In January this year pupils, with the help of parent & grandparent volunteers, planted ten fruit trees and five fruit bushes - eating and cooking apples, pear, plum, blackcurrant, blueberry and bramble, including some Scottish varieties.

The project will involve the children learning about the history of orchards in the Forth Valley area, local fruit varieties, cultivation and pruning, how to use the fruit and its health benefits.

The primary schools taking part are Kinneil, Oxbang, Denny, Carronshore, Antonine, St Andrew's, Bantaskin, St Margaret's, California and Whitecross.



River Carron Regeneration Project – Phase 1 (2011)

The River Carron Regeneration Project will begin in June 2011 after Communities Along the Carron Association (CATCA) secured £57k to enable the first phase of the river clean between Fankerton to Larbert Viaduct to begin.

This iconic and historical environmental river regeneration project has received invaluable technical / engineering and environmental expertise from the River Carron Fisheries Management Group.

The project will be conducted in two phases – Fankerton to Larbert in 2011, and Larbert to Grangemouth in 2012. It will benefit all 16 communities along the river from Carron Valley to Grangemouth. It is an environmental, wildlife conservation, biodiversity project and brings many public, social and economic benefits to the area.

The majority of the funding to enable this work to proceed was secured from Falkirk Environment Trust (FET) with additional funding received from Falkirk Council, The River Carron Fisheries Management Group (RCFMG), Callander Estate Trustees and CATCA.

FCE Consultants have been appointed Project Manager and Walker Landscapes have been awarded the contract to professionally clean up the river and Creative Management Solutions carried out the land-owners consents work.

The project will cover the entire river system (including its tributaries) and will include the assistance of voluntary litter picking groups working in conjunction with Falkirk Council's Litter Strategy Team.

By removing industrial, commercial, social and domestic waste from the river system, there will be an immediate improvement on pollution and water quality. The visual impact for local communities will also be noticeable. The project will hopefully increase public environmental awareness and respect for the river. In addition, Log Jams in certain tributaries will be removed to allow Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout to migrate into spawning areas that are currently unavailable due to these blockages.

For more information please view the CATCA website: www.catca.org.uk and the RCFMG website www.rcfm.co.uk

Scottish Cup victory tastes sweet

Congratulations to the girls of the senior football team who won the Scottish Senior Shield on Friday 20th May at Falkirk Stadium. The girls are the first of any school in Falkirk to lift the title.



The girls' team defeated Falkirk High 1:0 in a thrilling final. Shelby Cairney scored the only goal of the game which came after a well worked move down the right hand wing. Shelby also hit the post with a superb shot from the eighteen yard line.

Winning coach Nicola Bell commented "it was a great final and a great achievement for the girls. They played so well and thoroughly deserved the victory".

As part of the celebrations the girls have been presented with a "winning fleece" and have permission from the Headteacher to wear this instead of their blazer.



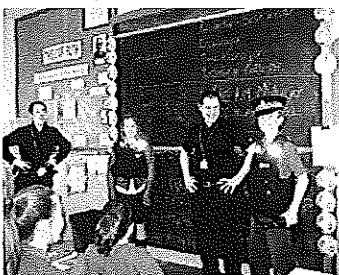
St. Francis Xavier's Primary School News



'Keep on Running' is an annual event held for Langlees, Bainsford and St. Francis Xavier's Primary Schools. Pupils competed for silverware cups in Football (Bainsford), Hockey (Langlees) and Basketball (Langlees). All children gathered in a huge circle to release a balloon in their school colour before parading to the starting line for the main running event. St. Francis pupils took 1st and 2nd place. All pupils received a healthy treats bag to take home after a fun filled afternoon.

P2 made a new friend in Grandad Scott who visited their classroom before setting off around the world. He sent postcards and e-mails from Pakistan and Australia to keep in touch and then on his return, he gave us his diary to read. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed his adventures and being able to e-mail to ask questions along the way.

St. Francis Primary and Nursery pupils all signed up to sport their trainers on Commonwealth Day, March 14th to highlight the forthcoming Commonwealth Games to Glasgow in 2014. We held our own games with Miss Franco our P.E. specialist. The weather did not dampen our spirits and everyone enjoyed a fun filled day.



P7 are working with the Community Police on an Anti-social Behaviour Project. We had lots of issues to discuss enjoyed acting out real life situations that the Police face.

P7 raised £5352.38 for S.C.I.A.F. this year. Pupils were responsible for organising and running all events, workshops and presentations. Parents enjoyed being invited to the coffee morning and being served by the pupils.



A group of pupils from P2, P3, P4 and P5 were present on May 10th at the turf cutting ceremony for the new denominational school that is being built in the Antonshill area. They returned to St. Francis very excited and reported back to their classmates at assembly.

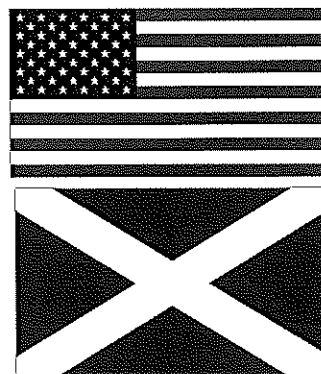


St Patrick's Flies the Flag for their 150th Anniversary

St Patrick's RCPS in Denny will shortly be celebrating its 150th Anniversary. The school's founding coincided with the start of the American Civil War. The link to the US has been marked by a US flag being flown over the White House, the flag having been dedicated to the founding of St Patrick's RCPS, Denny, Scotland!

Next Friday (17th June), the flag is being presented to the school, along with a commemorative plaque. The school wanted to fly the flag from the Eco Schools flagpole but they think it will be too big!

The original school building is now the church hall at St Alexander's RC Church, just across the road from the school. It was to here that most of the classes were decanted during the emergency when the school's boilers failed last December.



St Mary's RC Primary - Active Literacy

Active Literacy in Primary 1-3 and Big Writing throughout the school have been major developments in St Mary's this session.

Active Literacy

Active Literacy is being implemented in P1-3. Teachers have evaluated the results to date and report a significant improvement in spelling and phonics. Next session the Active Literacy will be carried forward into P4 and 5.

Big Writing

Big Writing has been very successful in all classes. Pupils and staff completed a questionnaire. The feedback was very positive with 100% of pupils agreeing that Big Writing has improved their understanding of the writing process and has enhanced their knowledge of grammar using VCOP.

Pupil Comments:

"I always used to begin sentences with a boring start."

"It's awesome. I love using the highlighters."

"I enjoy looking for good vocabulary."

Parental Involvement

Along with the annual Meet the Teacher Evening and Reporting to Parents evenings this session, all classes have been encouraged to invite parents into classes to share in their child's learning experiences across a variety of topics. This has been very successful with a majority of parents attending. School class assemblies have also been very well attended. Parents joined us during our "Shake up Wake Breakfast Week" by coming in for coffee and croissants after taking part in a Walk to School event.

Everyone enjoyed their healthy breakfast day thanks to all the helpers who served breakfast each morning.

End of Session Glow Update

Over the past session we've been encouraging Staff to take their initial steps into Glow, Scotland's National Schools Intranet. We thought that this would be a good time to reflect on what we have achieved this session and outline our plans for next session. Since January this year, there has been a push to ensure all pupils are provided with their Glow account in order to access the huge range of nationally provided resources within Glow.

The Falkirk End of Session Report Card - see right for some usage statistics.

Glow in practice

Throughout the session there have been many great examples of teachers using Glow with pupils and adapting existing practice to provide additional value to their outcomes. We've seen National Glow Meets take place with International Speakers, transition projects with a Creative Writing focus, homework and support sessions move online, blogging of personal achievement and much, much more!

Case studies of classes making use of Glow in Falkirk Council, along with other inspirational Glow lesson activities from around the country, can be found at: <http://cookbooks.glowscotland.org.uk>

To the future- Glow 2

The existing contract for Glow is due to expire in August of 2012, but the procurement for Glow 2 is already well underway. This contract award will run until September 2017. One of the key messages being communicated to us from Scottish Government is the promise that all work currently produced in Glow will be transferred to Glow 2. As part of the existing contract there is an obligation on the current supplier (RM) to provide additional support to the transition process between the two versions. For more information, please visit: <http://glowfutur.es>

If you plan to use Glow over the summer months, please check the following link in order to avoid any planned maintenance on the service: <http://status.glowscotland.org.uk>

	August 2010	June 2011
Falkirk School-Based Glow Groups		
Falkirk Council-wide Glow Groups	45	143
Falkirk Glow Accounts Active and Used	8.76%	43.8%

Sacred Heart Primary ~A Rights Respecting School

We are working towards achieving UNICEF'S Rights Respecting School Award Level 1.

This is an update of what's been happening in school so far this session.

The Idea in a Nutshell

Children and young people can raise their achievement at school and improve the quality of their own and their families' lives if they learn exactly what their rights and responsibilities are according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child **and** how to use this understanding as a guide to living.

Children and young people will know how to go about making informed choices and become confident, active citizens if this rights/responsibilities guide to living is introduced at an early age and is reinforced throughout school life.

UNICEF'S Rights Respecting School Award is an effective way of inspiring and supporting schools, like Sacred Heart, who want to provide children with a rights-respecting guide to living.

If you would like to offer your support to this initiative in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us here at school.

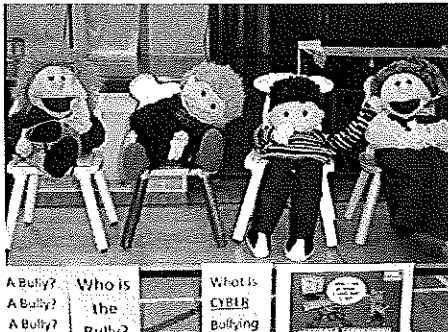
Thank you ~Anne McCallum

Learning to Achieve Week

At the beginning of the session in **September** we held our awareness raising week. This took the form of a "Mini Topic" across the whole school/Nursery on the subject of Rights /Responsibilities. This was a successful Week and the children participated in a range of activities.

Anti bullying Week

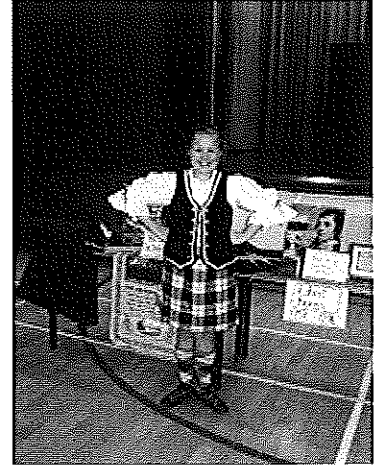
In **November** we had a week when we raised the profile of this issue. There was an assembly at the end of the week where the children played an active part and really thought about the meaning and effect of bullying. Photos were taken of the



assembly. The Nursery took part in this week too through stories.

Burns Day

On **25th January** we had our Burn's Day when we had a very successful non uniform day, January Sale and a Burn's Assembly where the children performed for each other in a variety of Scottish themed activities. Photos were also taken here. The children had a good day!



Right of the Week ~ We are now introducing "**Right of the Week**", at the **Friday** Assembly. We hope this idea will further develop a greater knowledge and understanding of child rights as stated by Unicef. The "Right of the Week" will be displayed in each class and around the school throughout the session.

Class Lead Assemblies ~ From **February** each class will lead an assembly which will focus on the articles of Unicef's Convention on child rights.

Other Assemblies will continue throughout the year on different issues appropriate to learning and teaching.



"**Guest Pupils**" will be invited to the Pupil Council/Eco Group meetings in school from February also.

February to March

We hope to involve Canon Leo in our Assemblies, with a focus on The Missions, Charity and Global awareness and have our second RRS Steering Group meeting. We will be recording the childrens' views on what is happening in school also.

Use of portable/removable devices - Guidance for Staff

Threats to Information Security are becoming more widespread, ambitious and increasingly sophisticated. In the light of this, ICT Corporate Services has produced an Information Security Policy to provide the guidelines and framework for ensuring that the confidentiality, security and integrity of information held by the Council is maintained. The full policy document will be found on the Council's Intranet. In response to this development Education Services has produced this guidance on appropriate use of portable/removable devices which may require changes in current practice.

It can be common practice to move information or files from school/work to home either on a laptop or on removable media such as a USB pen. In the light of the new council policy, you will need to consider carefully security issues including retaining the safe possession of the equipment itself, the possibility of exposing the equipment to viruses and the security of the information content contained on it.

Information content can include: text, images, audio files, email or anything else which can be held in electronic form.

Portable/Removable devices includes:

- USB pen drives, memory sticks, FlashDrives etc.
- CDs / DVDs.
- External Hard disks.
- Flash memory cards including SD cards, memory sticks and compact flash.
- Laptops
- Any other medium, equipment or device capable of holding / transferring material in a computer readable format.

Within the context of education, the presumption is made that there is a distinction between data that is of a curricular nature (e.g. worksheets) and that which contains personal data (e.g. pupils' personal information, test results, etc.) **Any data which is personal information about staff or pupils will need to be held securely on removable media or laptops which are encrypted**

Encrypted USB Flash Drive

- ICT Corporate Services have identified a hardware encrypted USB Flash Drive and one has been purchased for every education establishment and will be distributed soon. Further drives can be purchased through the ICT Service Desk at an approximate cost of £20 per unit.

Encryption Software for Laptops

- For any laptop holding personal data, encryption software must be on it and active. BeCrypt is the software being used by ICT Corporate Services and can be ordered through the ICT Service Desk at an approximate cost of £50 to £55 depending upon the quantity ordered.

Your responsibilities:

- Only use removable media if really necessary and they **MUST** be capable of holding encrypted data if any type of sensitive data is to be stored on them.
Better still,
 - Do not store personal information on a removable device.
 - Do not transfer other people's personal information on to removable media without their consent.
 - A virus check must be the first task performed after inserting a removable device into a computer and **before** opening any information held on the device.
 - Mention any concerns about virus contamination to your ICT Technician/Coordinator who should place a Service Desk call
 - If you suspect that a home computer may have a virus, do not connect or link removable media to it which you then intend to bring to work/school.
 - Report any loss or theft of removable media to your line manager/ICT Coordinator.

Calendar of Events**July/August 2011**

Alzheimer's Awareness Week (www.alzscot.org)	4 Jul
Falkirk Integrated Framework Meeting	11 Jul
ESMT Meeting - 9.15am	28 Jul
GIRFEC Training Group	29 Jul
Ramadan Begins (Islam)	1 Aug
Falkirk Integrated Framework Meeting	8 Aug
Policy & Resources Committee Meeting - 9.30am	9 Aug
ESMT Meeting (extended) - 9.15am	10 Aug
Admin Team Meeting - Sealock House	10 Aug
Implementation Team Meeting - 9.30am	11 Aug
International Youth Day (www.un.org/youth)	12 Aug
Raksha Bandan (Hindu)	13 Aug
Autumn Term Begins (Staff only)	22 Aug
Autumn Term Begins (Pupils)	23 Aug
International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade & its Abolition	23 Aug
Education Committee Meeting - 9.30am	23 Aug
ESMT Meeting - 9.15am	25 Aug
Falkirk Children's Commission Meeting	25 Aug
Education Matters - article deadline date for August edition	26 Aug
Eid al Fitr - Festival to mark end of Ramadan (Islam)	30 Aug
Education Matters - Delivery Date	31 Aug

Awards for All! - Kinnaird PS

Kinnaird PS has been awarded £10,000 by 'Awards for All' to purchase and install an Adventure Trail in the playground. Not only do we have the grant.....The Adventure Trail is already in place and the children love it.

SQA Star Awards 2011

The Annual SQA Star Awards are a unique way to celebrate the Success, Triumph, Achievement and Recognition of the best in education and training. The awards ceremony will take place on Friday 4th November 2011 in Glasgow.

At the ceremony will also be announced the winner of the Academic Excellence Award and the two Pride O'Worths, which are chosen from the winners of the individual and centre award categories.

- ★ The SQA Star Award for School Candidate of the Year
 - ★ The SQA Star Award for Skills Competitor of the Year
 - ★ The SQA Star Award for College Candidate of the Year
 - ★ The Star Award for SQA Champion
 - ★ The SQA Star Award for Training Organisation Candidate of the Year
 - ★ The SQA Star Award for Innovation
 - ★ The SQA Star Award for Lifelong Learning (Candidates)
 - ★ The SQA Star Award for Lifelong Learning (Centres)
 - ★ The SQA Star Award for Academic Excellence
 - ★ The SQA Star Award for Partnership of the Year
 - ★ The SQA Star Award for Appointee of the Year
 - ★ The International SQA Star Award
- Nominations can be submitted online via the SQA website - www.sqa.org.uk/star

Error in previous newsletter

Please note Caroline McKay is not Depute Headteacher at Deanburn PS it is Lois Cassidy. Congratulations to Lois Cassidy.

Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Falkirk Council

Education Services

Volume 11 Issue 1

August 2011



Education Services Welcomes Community Learning and Development

Education Services has recently welcomed the Community Learning and Development Service (CLD) into the fold. Community Learning and Development Service (CLD) joins Education Service against a backdrop of massive inequality in income, and as a result spending power, significant cuts to public sector spending, rising unemployment, the increasing costs of living and ever rising financial barriers to social progression and development.

Investment in community learning and development can be one of the best means of combating poverty, improving overall health, and eliminating social exclusion. Although learning often takes place within formal settings, a great deal of valuable learning also takes place either deliberately or informally in everyday life. It is the learning that the CLD Service facilitates with children, young people, adults and communities.

In these very challenging times we have more reason to continue with and expand our positive policies and programmes, such as Curriculum for Excellence, Early Years Framework and Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), 16+ Activity Agreements, More Choices, More Chances (MCMC), the Skills for Scotland Strategy, Community Empowerment Action Plan and local community planning.

This means that we should be embedding community learning and development opportunities for

children, young people, adults and communities and giving them maximum exposure to activities that are positive, exciting, progressive and relevant to them. Learning is and should be a transformational experience for those "learners" involved with the CLD Service.

Since the CLD Service transferred to Education Services, many "new" colleagues have asked "What does CLD do and how can we work together?" The first question can sometimes be difficult to explain, but here goes.

CLD Service seeks to address the learning needs of the Falkirk Council area through partnership. It uses the strengths of institutions, public, private and voluntary services, and community groups to enable children, young people and adults to achieve to their full potential. CLD Service uses learning and development as a way to build community capacity, and to promote social cohesion, social inclusion, regeneration and economic development.

In practical terms, therefore, the CLD Service works with its partners to support learning and development of children, young people, adults and communities across the Council area. The CLD Service has a number of specific delivery objectives:

- We will work with schools and other partners to improve the outcomes of children and young people. (Cont'd on page 2)

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MY FUTURE'S IN
falkirk

Welcome back to all our employees after the summer break and I hope you are feeling refreshed and ready to tackle the new school session.

Welcome also to our colleagues from Community Learning and Development, Community Halls and Library Support for schools, many of whom we have worked closely with for many years.

I look forward to getting to know you and working with you before I leave the service.

Julia

Welcome to Community Learning and Development

- We will improve the outcomes for young people and adults with core skills needs (literacy / numeracy & ICT etc.) and health and well being needs.
- We will improve the delivery of support to inward migrants & the BME community in order to deliver better outcomes with/for them.
- We will deliver family learning & parenting work to improve outcomes for children & families/ carers.
- We will support the delivery of income maximisation initiatives such as credit unions.
- We will support community groups through the delivery of effective community capacity building that enable them to deliver or co-produce services.

CLD Service staff already have positive and productive relationships with colleagues within Education Services and they are actively seeking to exploit new opportunities that will deliver better outcomes for children, young people, adults and communities.

The CLD Service is organised around school cluster areas called "learning communities". In each learning community, the Service manages a range of community facilities and resources. Falkirk East Team (Grangemouth, Bo'ness, Braes and Graeme) and Falkirk West Team (Larbert, Denny and Falkirk) is led by a CLD Principal Officer who is supported by learning community based CLD Development Officers, CLD Workers, CLD Support Workers/Assistants, Administrative Assistants, Clerical Assistants, Centre Coordinators and Caretakers.

The Service also has a Support for Learning Communities Team that leads on the delivery literacy, ESOL, BME, Falkirk Young Scot, Training and Staff Development / CLD upskilling, capacity building support to Youth Organisations (Youth Scotland), Rock The Talk, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Youth Achievement Awards, youth participation and engagement (MSYP's), disability work, international work, targeted employability / core skills delivery, marketing and publicity.

The Services' local community planning function is taken forward by two Local Community Planning Officers who are based at Sealock House, along with the CLD Manager.

CLD Service is a vitally important part of the jigsaw in the learning landscape of the Falkirk Council area and we look forward to continuing to make a positive contribution to the work of Education Services.

If you would like more information on the work of the CLD Service contact Mark Meechan, Community Learning and Development Manager at Sealock House on 01324 506692 (ext. 6692) or email mark.meechan@falkirk.gov.uk.

Did You Know?.....

- 868 young people participated in the summer programme of events in 2010 and this went up to 949 in 2011.
- 4000+ young people engaged with Rock the Talk.
- 497 people took part in literacy projects.
- 2434 adult learning opportunities were delivered during 2009-2010.
- 160,000+ people attended community education centres in 2009-2010.

Parents and Families Workshop Event

Getting it right for your child

Saturday, 1st October 2011, Denny High School, 10.30am to 2.15pm.

Special guest – Author Sandra Brown OBE, Scotswoman of the Year 2005

Our special guest, Sandra Brown OBE, will speak about her work with the Moira Anderson Foundation, a charity that promotes child protection and supports children and adults across Scotland. This will be followed by a choice of interesting and fun workshops on a variety of issues.

This is your chance to find out how partner agencies, such as the Police, the NHS, the voluntary sector and Falkirk Council services work together to support your child. Come along and help us get it right for every child and young person.

Free childcare and fun activities available up to 16yrs. Free lunch provided. Free raffle to win a prize for your child's school / nursery.

Please tell us if you would like to come along by e-mailing education.communications@falkirk.gov.uk or phone (01324) 506603 / 506602.



getting
it right
for every child

Film for Schools Screenings and Workshops - Autumn 2011

Date	Time	Description	venue	Booking
Mon 10 Sep	11:00	The Lavender Hill Mob (U)	Hippodrome	01324 500850
Wed 21 Sep	10:00	Project Nim (12A) + talk	FTH	01324 500850
Thu 6 Oct	10:00	Workshop: 'The Singing Street: A Celebration of	Hippodrome	01324 500850
Fri 7 Oct	10:00	WWII Workshop (10 places remaining)	Hippodrome	01324 500850
Mon 10 Oct	11:00	Jane Eyre (PG)	Hippodrome	01324 500850
Thu 13 Oct	10:00	Jane Eyre (PG)	FTH	01324 500850
Fri 28 Oct	10:00	Shorts for Wee Ones (3+)	Hippodrome	01324 500850
Fri 28 Oct	13:00	Shorts for Wee Ones (3+)	Hippodrome	01324 500850
Wed 2 Nov	10:00	NSFW / Primary title / tbc	FTH	www.nationalschoolsfilmweek.org
Wed 2 Nov	13:00	NSFW / Secondary title / The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (12A) tbc	FTH	www.nationalschoolsfilmweek.org
Fri 4 Nov	10:00	NSFW / Primary / Arrietty	Hippodrome	www.nationalschoolsfilmweek.org
Mon 21 Nov	11:00	Porn Wonderful Presents	Hippodrome	01324 506850
Wed 23 Nov	10:00	Inside Hannah's Suitcase (8+)	Hippodrome	01324 506850

Booking and further info: Steeple Box Office, Phone: 01324 506850, Email: boxoffice@falkirk.gov.uk
 Tickets for screenings and workshops £2:25 per pupil (with free accompanying adult/teacher) unless stated. National Schools Film Week screenings are free of charge and should be booked directly at www.nationalschoolsfilmweek.org

All screenings or workshops should be booked in advance from the Steeple Box Office (except for NSFW). Please advise of any access requirements when booking. Tickets will not be exchanged or money refunded after purchase except in the event of cancellation of screening/activity by Falkirk Community Trust. For a copy of the programme with full details of films, workshop content and learning resources please email alison.strauss@falkirk.gov.uk

TES Teaching Resources

Over 86,000 teaching resources have been uploaded to the TES website - <http://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resources>

All resources have been reviewed by teachers. They are free and will allow teachers to access lesson plans, revision guides, classroom activities, whiteboard resources and all 3,500 videos from Teachers TV. The resources are for both teachers and pupils of all ages and cover all areas of the curriculum.

US Flag Presentation at St Patrick's PS

St Patrick's PS celebrated its 150th anniversary with the presentation of a US flag to Anne O'Donnell, Head Teacher, at a special assembly.

This flag had been flown over the Capitol Building and it is huge - 10ft by 8ft! It was presented, folded military style, in a triangular wooden case. It was presented by a former pupil who emigrated to Canada, whose husband has connections with a senator and arranged for the flag to be given to St Patrick's.



Sealock House Eco Garden Project

In the summer of 2010 several Education Services teams amalgamated and moved to new premises at Sealock House, Grangemouth. Open Plan Working Sessions were held to give staff an opportunity to suggest ways of improving the working environment. Approximately 100 staff had been moved from various premises and teams to one open plan office where the surrounding area was industrial. Many people did not know each other or the role they played within Education Services.

One suggestion was to investigate the possibility of transforming an outdoor space into an Eco Garden for staff use.

Questionnaires were sent out to gauge the interest in such a project as well as what staff would like in the garden. Subsequently a working party was formed late January 2011 to undertake the task of transforming a piece of land adjoining the office building, that was derelict and full of litter, into an eco garden.

The Working Party enthusiastically set out to organise fundraisers to cover the costs of materials required, seek advice in preparing a design plan and encourage all staff to get behind the project.

Working together on this project has had three main positive effects:

- Allowing people to get to know each other really well in a short space of time and improving staff morale which in turn improved working and social relationships.

- Improving the environment by cultivating derelict ground and improving our knowledge of creating a garden from scratch. Project included litter clear up, turf being laid, planting potatoes in old recycling bags, planting flowers, researching re-using wooden pallets to make garden benches and acquiring composters.
- Providing a pleasant environment for staff to enjoy a break and meet with others outwith the office environment.

The project created many team building opportunities. The sum of £2,200 had to be raised to cover the basic costs of getting the garden into shape so there were many events held to achieve this. The events ranged from 'buttery' day, coffee, scones, pancake and cake days, photo competition, sunflower growing competition, sponsored Zumba class with Head of Service Gary Greenhorn 'dressed to kill' to name a few.

Plans had to be revised as we went along. The ground was infested by a troublesome weed and the soil was solid clay. We were extremely grateful to Estates Management for advice and their wonderful Modern Apprentices who used our garden as a project and did the majority of the hard manual labour. This allowed us to get the garden into shape for late summer and let staff see something tangible for all the hard work they had put in fundraising.

All that is now left is - LATE SUNSHINE!



City and Guilds Employability and Personal Development Awards

Positive Qualities Ltd are a local training company who work closely with local schools to deliver training to young people from Graeme High, Falkirk High, Grangemouth High and St Mungo's High Schools.

They also deliver WOW Programmes which involve customer service training to the 5* hotel market and prestige car brands - techniques which are included in the training which the young people receive.

Employability and Personal Development is a new qualification which was introduced by City and Guilds in 2008. To date 112 young people have successfully achieved the award.



Pictured are some of the graduates receiving their award at Falkirk Town Hall from Provost Pat Reid.

Deanburn Primary School News

Heather's Hut Challenge

P6 pupils at Deanburn were awarded first prize in the National Engineering and Science final held in the Glasgow Science Centre in June. Heather's Hut is a renewable energy challenge organised by the Young Engineers and Science Clubs Scotland. It is backed by a variety of companies including Scotland and Tomorrow's Engineers and the Scottish Council for Development in Industry. Heather is 'Heather the Weather', Meteorologist and former senior forecaster with BBC Scotland.

The children spent a week investigating various forms of renewable energy, culminating in building a model hut that incorporated as many elements as possible. The finished hut has lights and a door buzzer / burglar alarm powered by a working wind turbine; solar panels providing energy for lighting and a fan; a water turbine; a solar water heater and cooker; and a clock run by lemons!



Support was gratefully received from BP, Bo'ness Academy, Heriott Watt University, BT and Hugh Stewart from Falkirk Council.

Over the week the investigation was filmed and entered into a national competition. Seventy Scottish schools took part and the Deanburn pupils' hut was short listed in the final eleven. It will be showcased at the Science Centre in Glasgow where the pupils will present their project to a panel of judges including Heather the Weather and also to Fergus Ewing, minister for the environment.

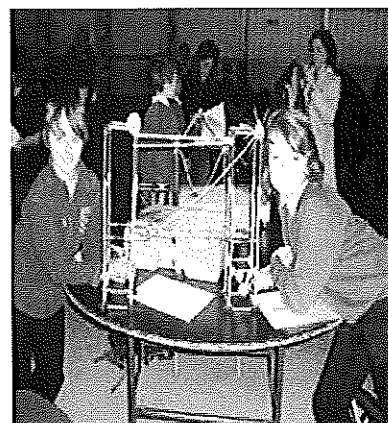
Everyone at Deanburn was delighted with the final result as it followed a highly successful Climate Change Focus Week held in school involving partner agencies including Global Science, BP, Oran Recycling and Polimeri Europa. The Focus Week ended with a very well attended Open Afternoon for parents.

P6 K'NEX cluster and regional challenge

Well done to pupils from Deanburn Primary School who won the class challenges and went on to represent Deanburn at the K'NEX Cluster Challenge competition in May.

Pupils had to design a bridge with a span of at least 30cm and a buggy to cross the bridge with could hold a can. The judging criteria included categories such as communication, design, problem solving and visual appeal and all pupils performed very well and enjoyed the challenge.

The Regional Final, held at East Fortune in the Museum of Flight was another success for Deanburn pupils with the teams coming 2nd overall in the competition which included 54 teams from schools all the way from Fife to the Borders. Everyone worked hard to build a drawbridge or bascule bridge which included a pulley system.



Rotary Young Photographer Competition 2011

Deanburn Primary Pupils in P6 and P7 took part in the Rotary Young Photographer Competition again this year, on the theme of 'Have Some Pride - Keep Scotland Tidy!' We had many entries for this competition, with pupils showing creativity and imagination as well as great photographic skills.

We were very pleased that Rowan Petrie in P7 won the competition in the Linlithgow and Bo'ness Under 12 Section as well as the Falkirk Council Area section for the second year in a row and went on to be awarded first prize in the Scottish final of the national competition.

Carrongrange School News

S3 PALS Group

The S3 PALS group visited Kinneil and Kerse recycling centre. They gained first hand knowledge of where bikes, paints, mattresses, tyres and electrical items are recycled. The group were amazed at how many items Falkirk Council are now recycling. Jen Barrett our Education Recycling Officer kindly took us around the site and explained how important it is to use the recycling bins and boxes that we all have at home to reduce the land fill in our local area.



Artist in Residence Project

Carla Scott Fullarton

An Open Evening exhibiting the results on was held on Tuesday 31st May.



The work revolved

around introducing pupils to Resin Casting and 'Jesmonite' casting. The work resulted in a lot of cosmetic jewellery being developed and the production of a water feature for the school social area. Moulds were taken of pupils' hands which were made into silly/scary hands, display hands for rings and they were also used to 'catch' the water in the water feature.



Generation Science

On Friday 29th May, Generation Science came to the school. A number of pupils across the school had a chance to participate in a joint technology/science curricular challenge. The challenge was to programme and move a Wall-E type robot around a course. All the pupils involved rose to the challenge and showed superb programming skills. The last challenge was to programme the robots to disco dance!

They all had great fun and were suitably challenged.



On 25th May we had 34 pupils representing the school at the Regional Track and Field Athletics Championships held at Grangemouth Stadium.

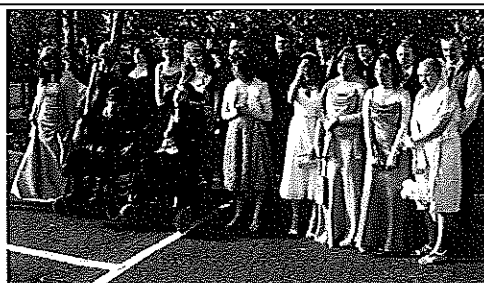


All pupils tried their very best in their events and there were some amazing performances - particularly in the 100 metres, 200 metres and high jump. We returned to school with an impressive array of medals. We also won the Denis Shovelin Trophy for the team with the most points overall.



As a 'spin off' from these events some pupils will be joining Falkirk Flyers Club to train with the Regional Athletics Squad. We have several ex-pupils who still train on with this club and compete in several athletics events throughout the year.

On Thursday 2nd June, our Seniors attended a Prom at The Shawlands Hotel, Larkhall. This Prom is a collaboration between Special Educational Needs schools in North and South Lanarkshire.. Everyone looked amazing and a good time was had by all.



Early Years Graduates

Congratulations to all who gained a BA in Childhood Practice. Shown below from left to right - Marion Dixon, SEYO Bo'ness Public; Gill Torrance, Manager Denny Nursery; Cathy Brennan, Manager Camelon Nursery; Donna Green, SEYO Kinnaird PS; Valerie Harrow, Manager Woodburn Nursery; Dawn Cartwright, SEYO Heathrigg Nursery; Karen Thompson, SEYO Nethermains PS.



Bainsford Primary is delighted to report that they won the £60,000 award from the Jubilee Millions.

Thank you to everyone who voted for us!

The River Carron Fisheries Management Group in Falkirk Council wins Spring Clean competition

The River Carron Fisheries Management Group (RCFMG) has scooped a prize for their hard efforts during a litter clean which was part of Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) National Spring Clean 2011.

The group won £100 of gardening vouchers which were kindly donated by Greggs.

R.C.F.M.G held two litter picking events this spring on the River Carron at Denny and Larbert.

On Saturday 26th February at Larbert Viaduct, over 25 people turned up to volunteer and help clean the river. 130 bags of litter and debris, 1 ton of metals and one big yellow mini-bus were removed from the river. The mini bus had been sitting at the old road bridge for over 30 years.

On Saturday 26th March at Dunipace Gala Park, 40-50 people of the local community helped out on the day, with about 1 ton of metal being removed plus 100 bags of litter and debris.

Tony Harris, Secretary of the R.C.F.M.G said "The events were a great success for the benefit of the River Carron and everyone who enjoys the river, and I would like to thank everyone who supported the events and for being part of an important chapter of the history of the River Carron and its environment".

The National Spring Clean took place between March 14 and May 16 with nearly **100,000** public-spirited community members – including **76,481 school children** – joining in to help clear up litter left

behind by others.

Keep Scotland Beautiful, which organised the clear-up operation, said more than 1,000 tonnes of litter had been removed by an army of community cleaners.

Many groups take part in voluntary clean ups or litter picks throughout the year, but National Spring Clean enabled them to unite in a common cause and make a concerted effort to clean up the whole of Scotland as part of a bigger, co-ordinated campaign. National Spring Clean 2011 may be over but people can still organise and take part in clean up events throughout the rest of the year. Clean Up Kits can be ordered on line at www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/cleanupkit

SEAGULL TRUST FALKIRK FUNDAY 2011 – SUNDAY 25TH SEPT

Get more than a big surprise, at Seagull Trust Cruise's charity funday and live teddy bear parachute jump at the Falkirk Wheel on Sunday 25th September 2011

Teddy bears will be parachuting from the Falkirk Wheel at a charity event & funday organised by Seagull Trust Cruises, Falkirk.

The aim of the event is to showcase the services provided by Seagull Trust Cruises in Falkirk for people with special needs of all ages and raise much needed funds to extend the boathouse in Bantaskine on the banks of the Union Canal.

The chairman of the Seagull Trust Cruises' Falkirk Branch – Sandy Milroy said: *"The bears will be taken up the wheel and dropped over the side, a total height of 115 feet, but I can reassure you that the bears will be treated with the utmost care at all times. We've got a medic onsite and the Dunedin Harley Owners Group will be on hand to stretcher the toys off when they land. It's all bit of fun and we are hoping that everybody will join in with the spirit of things."*

Anyone who is interested in taking part can enter their own teddy bears. They can also design their own parachutes and harnesses and watch as their cuddly toy 'jumps' from the Falkirk Wheel.

There will also be prizes awarded for the following categories:

- ★ 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
- ★ Best dressed bear
- ★ Best parachute
- ★ Bravest Teddy
- ★ Best dressed owner

In addition each entry that registers before Friday 9th September will be eligible for the grand prize draw to win a day out on a Seagull Trust Cruises boat for up to 12 people.

Double Trouble, Clanadonia and Edward Reid – a semi finalist in Britain's Got Talent will be performing live at the event and there will also be a boats display, tombola, raffle, games & more to entertain the family.

Other stalls and activities include

- ★ A re-enactment by The Antoinine Guard
- ★ Fit Kids Sports Club
- ★ Profierce Dancers
- ★ & Fireman Sam

The event will take place at the Falkirk Wheel on Sunday 25th September 2011 from 11.30 – 4.00 p.m. The teddy bear parachute jump will take place at 2.30 p.m.

For more information please visit our website www.stcruises-falkirk.org.uk or email events@stcruises-falkirk.org.uk

You can also make a donation online at www.charitygiving.org.uk/teddyjump2011



Royal Patron HRH The Princess Royal

Calendar of Events September 2011

Migraine Awareness Week (www.migraine.org.uk)	04 Sep
Policy & Resources Committee Meeting	06 Sep
EYPIP - Conference Room - Sealock House	06 Sep
ESMT Meeting	08 Sep
International Literacy Day	08 Sep
Falkirk Children's Commission Implementation Team	08 Sep
SSIP - Conference Room - Sealock House	09 Sep
Education Matters - Sept. Edition submitting articles deadline date	09 Sep
Walking Together Day	11 Sep
National Blood Pressure Testing Awareness Week (www.bpassoc.org.uk/kyn)	12 Sep
Term Time Public Holiday	12 Sep
Roald Dahl Day	13 Sep
Headteachers Meeting - Grangemouth HS	14 Sep
Meningitis Awareness Week (www.meningitis.org)	19 Sep
SSIP Behaviour Group - Grangemouth HS	21 Sep
International Day of Peace	21 Sep
Scottish Learning Festival - SECC Glasgow	21/22 Sep
ESMT Meeting (extended)	22 Sep
World Heart Day (www.worldheart.org)	25 Sep
European Day of Languages	26 Sep
Self Evaluation Group - Sealock House	26 Sep
AM ONLY - Masterclass - Co-op. Working for Practitioner Learning Communities - Venue TBC - Head teachers will be invited to attend	27 Sep
Learning to Achieve Awards - Grangemouth HS	29 Sep
Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year	29 Sep
Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning (www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee)	30 Sep
GIRFEC Training Group - Sealock House	30 Sep

Green Flag Awards

Well done to Grange PS who have achieved their 1st Green flag and to the following schools for their 2nd Green flag - Comely Park PS, Langlees PS, Slamannan PS and St Patrick's PS.

Getting it right for every child – new web pages

New GIRFEC web pages have developed over the summer holidays to raise awareness and inform everyone about 'Getting it right for every child' (GIRFEC) in the Falkirk area.

Sections are aimed at parents, practitioners and children and young people and we would like to have everyone's feedback on the information shown on the pages, including links, and especially to receive requests for any more information you would like to see or would find useful.

Follow this link to see the GIRFEC pages - <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/specialist/girfec/girfec.aspx> - and please feedback any comments you may have to diane.cherry@falkirk.gov.uk.

We will use your views to develop the web pages further to make sure they contain the information you want to see.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Anne Cunningham who was presented with her ILM Certificate in Team Leading, Ian Storrar who was awarded the ILM Diploma and Wendy Taylor who gained the ILM Certificate in First Line Management and won Project of the Year!

Congratulations to Julie Makarewicz who has fully completed her HNC in Computing along with her Microsoft certifications. Julie is off to University in September to further this qualification. During a busy summer she also managed to pass her Customer Service Professional Certificate!

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: PARTICIPATION IN SCOTLAND EXCEL CONTRACTS
 Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
 Date: 5 October 2011
 Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Falkirk Council as a Member of Scotland Excel, the local government centre of expertise for procurement (Excel) has access to a range of national local government framework contracts.
- 1.2 The Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services has delegated authority to determine which contracts the Council should procure through Excel and which should be procured directly by the Council.
- 1.3 The purpose of this Bulletin Report is to advise Members of the Council's commitment to participate in an Excel contract for Washroom Solutions.

2. PARTICIPATION AND BENEFITS

Washroom Solutions

- 2.1 The Council, in partnership with Stirling and Clackmannan Councils, has two contracts in place for washroom solutions. The first is for the vending of sanitary products (PHS Ltd based at Caerphilly, Wales) and the second is for collection and disposal (Cannon Hygiene based at Morecambe, England). These two contracting arrangements have now concluded.
- 2.2 Excel has a national framework agreement, see table below, which ends 30th September 2013 with a possible 12 month extension to 30th September 2014.

Company	Postal Town
Healthcare Environmental Services	Shotts
PHS Ltd	Caerphilly
Cannon Hygiene	Morecambe
Initial Washroom Solutions	Berkshire

- 2.3 This framework offers the Council the opportunity to contract with a single provider (Canon Hygiene based at Morecambe). The single provider will offer opportunities to streamline contract management and will also deliver savings of approximately £16,000 per annum.
- 2.4 Considering the benefits and savings to be realised best value would be achieved by Falkirk Council procuring washroom solutions from the Excel Framework from the 1st September 2011.

3. ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 As best value would be achieved I agreed to Falkirk Council's participation in the Scotland Excel contract for Washroom Solutions from the 1st September 2011 to the 30th September 2013 with an estimated annual expenditure of £36,500.

.....
 DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 24th August 2011
 Ref: AAD1011
 Contact Name: Allan Currie

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: PARTICIPATION IN SCOTLAND EXCEL CONTRACT
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 5 October 2011
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Falkirk Council as a Member of Scotland Excel, the local government centre of expertise for procurement (Excel) has access to a range of national local government framework contracts.
- 1.2 The Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services has delegated authority to determine which contracts the Council should procure through Excel and which should be procured directly by the Council.

2. PARTICIPATION AND BENEFITS**Refuse Containers**

- 2.1 The Council's current Framework Contract, with a number of national providers has ended and the suppliers are noted below:

Company	Postal Town	Company	Postal Town
Egbert H Taylor & Company Ltd	Droitwich	Spider UK Ltd	Sudbury
MGB Plastics Ltd	Rotherham	SSI Schaefer Ltd	Andover
Otto (UK) Ltd	Glastonbury	Straight plc	Leeds
Sellers Engineering Ltd	Oldham	Weir & Carmichael Ltd	Liverpool

- 2.2 Excel has in place a national framework agreement for the supply of Waste Containers and the suppliers are noted below. With extension periods this national contract has the potential to run through to 31st October 2013.

Company	Postal Town	Company	Postal Town
Egbert H Taylor & Company Ltd	Droitwich	Helesi UK Ltd	Rotherham
MGB Plastics Ltd	Rotherham	Craemer UK Ltd	Telford
Otto (UK) Ltd	Glastonbury	AMCS UK Ltd	Redditch
Container Components Europe Ltd	Chesterfield	JFC Manufacturing Co. Ltd	Tuam, Republic of Ireland
Contenur UK Ltd	Nelson	Linpac Environmental Ltd	Corsham
SSI Schaefer Ltd	Andover	Peter Ridley Waste Systems (Ridley Recycling Ltd)	Framlingham
Straight plc	Leeds	Scotplay Ltd	Glasgow
Weir & Carmichael Ltd	Liverpool	Wybone Ltd	Hoyland

- 2.3 A benchmarking exercise was conducted with Excel across the range of refuse containers currently purchased. This exercise was to determine what benefits could be realised from formal participation in the national contract for Refuse Containers.
- 2.4 From the pricing information available it is estimated that participation in the Excel contract would secure a saving of approximately 2% per annum across the range of containers purchased. On an estimated annual spend of £120,000 the Council will secure savings of approximately £7,000 over the full term of the Excel contract.
- 2.5 Considering the savings to be realised, best value would be achieved by Falkirk Council procuring refuse containers from the Excel Framework.
- 2.6 The funding for this project is contained within the Waste Management and Waste Strategy Budgets.
- 2.7 In accordance with Standing Order 6.2(ii) relating to contracts, the approval of the Chief Governance Officer to enter into contracts was sought and received.

3. ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 As best value would be achieved I agreed to Falkirk Council's participation in the Scotland Excel contract, for Refuse Containers with an estimated annual expenditure of £120,000.

.....
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 30th August 2011
 Ref: AAD1011
 Contact Name: Allan Currie Ext: 0818

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS UP TO £100,000 IN VALUE – FOR THE PROVISION OF A FLAIL MOWING SERVICE – RURAL HIGHWAY VERGES AS PART OF A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT (C/N : CNS/205/11)

Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN

Date: 5 October 2011

Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A tender for the Provision of a Flail Mowing Service– Rural Highway Verges as part of a Framework Agreement was advertised through the Public Contracts Scotland Portal as an open tender. Subsequently seventeen companies expressed an interest in tendering.
- 1.2 The framework start date is 11th July 2011 and will run for two years until 10th July 2013 with an option to extend for a further 12 months from 11th July 2013 to 10th July 2014.

2. TENDERS RECEIVED

- 2.1 One tender was received by the due date of Monday 20th June 2011 and opened in accordance with Standing Order 11.2 relating to contracts.
- 2.2 Following evaluation, the tender received from George Steel Contract Services in the sum of £30.00 per hour, was considered to offer best value for the Council.
- 2.3 The funding for this project is contained within the Ground Maintenance Miscellaneous Works budget, the budget being approximately £50,000 over the next two financial years.

3. ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 In accordance with Standing Order 6.2(i), I accepted the tender submitted by George Steel Contract Services, Falkirk, in the sum of £30.00 per hour in respect of the Provision of a Flail Mowing Service – Rural Highway Verges to Falkirk Council.

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 5 July 2011
 Ref: AAD1011
 Contact Name: Allan Currie Ext: 0818

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. * Tender documents

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

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS OVER £100,000 AND UNDER £350,000 IN VALUE – EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF A RENT DEPOSIT GUARANTEE SCHEME (C/N: CNS/181/09)

Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN

Date: 5 October 2011

Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council currently has in place a contract for the Provision of a Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme with Edinburgh Cyrenians Trust.
- 1.2 The contract period is from 1st November 2009 to 31st October 2010, with the option of two possible annual extensions.
- 1.3 The estimated value for the contract including both annual extensions is £270,000. The spend for the first year of the contract was £86,400.
- 1.4 The contract was previously extended from 1st November 2010 to 31st October 2011, the estimated value for the 12 month extension was approximately £90,000.
- 1.5 The purpose of this report is to take up a second extension which would commence on 1st November 2011 and expire on 30th April 2012. The estimated value for the six month extension is approximately £48,000.
- 1.6 The current contract anticipates the creation of 43 tenancies for the six months extension. Thus far the Cyrenians have created 122 tenancies since November 2009. It is proposed to extend the contract with the Cyrenians for an additional six months to allow the Council to consider alternative ways of providing assistance to people trying to access accommodation in the private rented market. The major reason for this is the significant reforms to the welfare benefit system which are being implemented from April 2012 – fewer people will qualify for Local Housing Allowance and this has implications for the long term viability of the scheme. In particular, the increase of the age threshold for single people from 25 to 35 years means that there will be an increased number of single people who will be unable to afford a single tenancy on their own and may need to consider the option of sharing accommodation. At present, the contract for the Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme does not make provision for those who wish to share accommodation. Extending the current contract for the Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme allows the Council time to assess the best way forward in the light of these new constraints.

2. CONTRACT EXTENSION

2.1 It is considered best value for Falkirk Council to extend the contract with Edinburgh Cyrenians for a further six months for the following reasons:

- a) No need for the Council to incur further tendering or advertising costs.
- b) Current contract continues to provide best value and spend will remain within budget.
- c) Current provider is meeting contract performance and quality standards.

2.2 The funding for this project is contained within the General Fund Housing Budget.

2.3 In accordance with Standing Order 6.2(i) relating to contracts, the approval of the Director of Law and Administration Services to enter into a six months extension of contract with that party was sought and received.

3. ACTION TAKEN

3.1 In accordance with Standing Order 6.2(i), I entered into a six month extension of contract with Edinburgh Cyrenians Trust, with an approximate contract value of £48000 in respect of the Provision of a Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme to Falkirk Council.

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 2nd August 2011

Ref: AAD1011

Contact Name: Allan Currie

Ext: 0818

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. * Tender documents

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