

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).

CONTENTS

Page

Education

(yellow)

- Acceptance of Exception from Competition Under Clause 5.6 1 – 7
- Education Matters Volume 12 Issue 7 8 – 17
- Education Matters Volume 12 Issue 8 18 – 41

Housing and Social Care

- Study Tour by representatives of child agencies from Tajikistan, Local Service shortlisted for Care Accolade Award (pink) 42 – 46
- Redesigning the Community Justice System A Consultation on Proposals 47 – 65

Policy and Resources

- Council HQ Accommodation – Options Appraisal 66

Tenders

(green)

Corporate and Neighbourhood Services

Acceptance of Tenders under £100,000 in value

- For An Asset Survey of Falkirk Council's Housing Open Space (C/N: CNS/242/13) 67
- For a Survey of Trees on Falkirk Council's Housing Open Space (C/N: CNS/243/13) 68
- For the Supply & Delivery of Litter & Dog Waste Letter Bins (C/N:PS1472) 69

Acceptance of Tenders over £100,000 and under £350,000 in value

- For the Provision of Mobile Solutions – (C/N: RM1498/L6 – Mobile Voice and Data Services 70 – 71
- For the Supply of Aluminium Sheeting & Extruded Aluminium Sections (Channel) (C/N: CNS/009/13) 72 – 73

Development Services

- Public Contracts Scotland – Quick Quote Agreement for the Supply and Erection of a Building at Kinneil Kerse Household Waste Recycling Centre 74

- Scotland Excel – Framework Agreement for the Supply and Delivery of Waste Disposal Equipment (Schedule Ref: 13/11) Mini-Competition for the Provision of Lot 1 – Skip Containers 75

Acceptance of Quotation under £50,000 in value

- Contract for Internal Alterations to Form New Window at Kinglass Centre, Bo'ness (BNS-7175) 76
- Contract for Proposed Lockers & Benched Seating at Grangemouth Golf Club (GRA-7073A) 77

Acceptance of Quotations under £100,000 in value

- Contract for Proposed Internal Alterations at Grangemouth Golf Club (GRA-7073) 78

VOLUME 5 2012/2013

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: ACCEPTANCE OF EXCEPTION FROM COMPETITION UNDER
 CLAUSE 5.6
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 24 April 2013
Author: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 17 March 2011, the Scottish Parliament approved the Public Services Reform (General Teaching Council for Scotland) Order 2011 which set out the Government's plan for the granting of independent status to GTC Scotland from April 2012. As part of this legislation the **Government placed the GTC Scotland under a duty to introduce a scheme of re-accreditation for teachers.**
- 1.2 The Government recognised that a, *"supportive but rigorous system of professional review and development"* would help to confirm that teachers have maintained high standards to ensure the future quality of professional teaching skills across Scotland's schools.
- 1.3 GTC Scotland adopted the title **"Professional Update"** for the process described by the Government as re-accreditation.
- 1.4 In addition Falkirk Council Education Services are currently implementing a revised Employee Review and Development (ERD) scheme; full implementation target is for session 2014-15.
- 1.6 The Professional Update will ensure that teachers have:
 - A responsibility to consider their development needs.
 - An entitlement to a system of supportive Professional Review and Development (ERD) that can.
 - Assist them to identify constructive ways to update their skills.
 - Provide access to opportunities which can address those areas identified as requiring support.
 - Help them to manage change.
 - Offer a focus on ways in which they can enhance their careers.
- 1.7 As part of the national roll out a selection of Falkirk schools will pilot the Professional Update process during session 2013-14.
- 1.8 All Falkirk teachers (approximately 1700 FTE) will be involved in the national roll out during session 2014-15.

- 1.9 The team working on the implementation of Falkirk Council Education Services' revised Employee Review and Development scheme (ERD) undertook an extensive evaluation of the system currently used for booking professional learning courses and found that it lacked the functionality to support the processes associated with Professional Update. Education Services have always maintained a separate professional learning course booking system due to the volume and complexity of courses, venues, and support.
- 1.10 A teacher data management and tracking system is 'mission critical' to the Falkirk Council Education Services fulfilling its responsibilities with regard to Professional Update.
- 1.11 In order to meet our responsibilities as a Professional Update pilot authority a data management system is required to be in place by August 2013.
- 1.12 In addition, the data management system needs to improve access to CPD opportunities and increase ownership of the ERD process, which will in turn support the modernisation of the workforce.
- 1.13 This approach will allow us to support Goal 1 of "*One Council-One Plan*" the Corporate Plan for Falkirk Council 2012-17.

2. RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN

- 2.1 The ERD Implementation team met with the Human Resources and Customer First Corporate team to discuss the potential of the Corporate CPD Management system - ResourceLink. It was discovered that ResourceLink falls significantly short of the required specification.
- 2.2 The ERD Implementation team consulted with providers of data management solutions. The quotes provided for a bespoke system to be developed to our specification ranged from £15,000 to £25,000 with ongoing annual costs in the range of £5,000 to £10,000. A bespoke system would also require design and implementation time in excess of 12 months.
- 2.3 The team engaged with other Local Authorities to discuss a) how they addressed the reporting needs of GTC Scotland and b) the evaluation of their data management systems. During this engagement it was discovered that 40% of Local Authorities are already using Gateway Shared Systems CPD Manager.
- 2.4 Gateway Shared Systems have successfully provided Education Services with Career Planning support via PlanIT plus and are contracted to deliver WorkIT to support the schools work experience programme. The team met with representatives of Gateway Shared Systems to discuss functionality and level of service provided by the CPD Manager product.

The CPD Manager system:

- meets the requirements of *all* employees of Education Services;
- supports cross authority co-operation and joint expansion;
- provides an easy to use and widely accessible web interface;

- stores relevant documents which can be customised ;
- provides a range of standard reports;
- offers direct reporting to the GTCS Professional Update;
- provides automatic notifications that support our communications channels.

The database holds information about:

- the establishments;
- staff located in these establishments;
- ERD conversations, planning and reviews;
- CPD training opportunities;
- course applications;
- course waiting lists;
- attendance and evaluations;
- staff CPD plans;
- course running costs;
- course venue locations.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Based on 3000-3500 staff accounts, the entire Gateway CPD Manager will cost £12,000 per year. Given our embedded use of Gateway products (PlanIT Plus and WorkIT) this has been reduced to £10,000 per year.
- 3.2 The added value achieved through contracting Gateway is the benefits gained from working in conjunction with 12 other Local Authorities. The collegiate approach to the development of the system will support any unforeseen changes to the specification requirements.

4. RATIONALE FOR REQUEST TO INVOKE CLAUSE 5.6

- 4.1 The contract is deemed to be for specialised work and is considered to be in the best interests of the Council for the following reasons.
- 4.2 The CPD Manager meets the requirements of the Professional Update process.
- 4.3 It will increase access to staff development opportunities.
- 4.4 Represents value for money.
- 4.5 Is ready for immediate use with no additional customisation.
- 4.6 Will reduces staff admin time and printing costs.
- 4.7 Meets the specification for an effective data management system for the PRD and PLP process.
- 4.8 Is currently employed by 40% of Scottish Local Authorities and therefore supports cross authority working and ongoing software development.

5. ACTION TAKEN

- 5.1 In accordance with Standing Order 5.6 I accepted the exemption request submitted by Anne Pearson, Curriculum Support Manager, Education Services for Gateway Shared Services in the sum of £10k in respect of the provision of an Online CPD/Professional Update/PRD Management System for Falkirk Council from April 2013. The contract will expire on 30 June 2014.

.....

Director of Education

Date: 10 April 2013

Contact Officer: Lynne Lauder/Steve Dougan, ext 1975/6697.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Contract with Gateway Shared Services for the provision of "CPD Manager" data management system to support the ERD process, Professional Update reporting and CPD booking and management within Education Services.

Request to invoke CSO 5.6

5. EXCEPTIONS TO COMPETITION

Nothing in the Orders shall require competitive tenders to be invited in any of the following situations provided the Chief Officer ensures that Best Value is obtained and the use of an exception is made in the best interests of the Council. The Chief Officer must clearly document in an auditable form their reasons for using a particular exception and how they can nonetheless demonstrate Best Value (e.g. through benchmarking). These exceptions do not apply where the European Rules regime requires competition.

5.6: The contract is one for specialised work or the supply and installation of specialised equipment, where the Chief Officer of the Contracting Service in respect of contracts up to £100,000, or the Policy and Resources Committee in cases above that amount, considers it in the best interests of the Council.

1. Background

1.1 On 17th March 2011, the Scottish Parliament approved the Public Services Reform (General Teaching Council for Scotland) Order 2011 which set out the Government's plan for the granting of independent status to GTC Scotland from April 2012. As part of this legislation the **Government placed the GTC Scotland under a duty to introduce a scheme of re-accreditation for teachers.**

1.2 The Government recognised that a, *"supportive but rigorous system of professional review and development"* would help to confirm that teachers have maintained high standards to ensure the future quality of professional teaching skills across Scotland's schools.

1.3 GTC Scotland has now adopted the title **"Professional Update"** for the process described by the Government as re-accreditation.

1.4 In addition Falkirk Council Education Services are currently implementing a revised Employee Review and Development (ERD) scheme; full implementation target is for session 2014-15.

1.5 The Professional Update will ensure that teachers have:

- A responsibility to consider their development needs
- An entitlement to a system of supportive Professional Review and Development (ERD) that can
- Assist them to identify constructive ways to update their skills
- Provide access to opportunities which can address those areas identified as requiring support
- Help them to manage change
- Offer a focus on ways in which they can enhance their careers.

1.6 As part of the national roll out a selection of Falkirk schools will pilot the Professional Update process during session 2013-14.

1.7 All Falkirk teachers (approximately 1700 fte) will be involved in the national roll out during session 2014-15.

- 1.8 The team working on the implementation of Falkirk Council Education Services' revised Employee Review and Development scheme (ERD) undertook an extensive evaluation of the system currently used for booking professional learning courses and found that it lacked the functionality to support the processes associated with Professional Update. Education Services have always maintained a separate professional learning course booking system due to the volume and complexity of courses, venues, and support.
- 1.9 A teacher data management and tracking system is 'mission critical' to the Falkirk Council Education Services fulfilling its responsibilities with regard to Professional Update.
- 1.10 In order to meet our responsibilities as a Professional Update pilot authority **a data management system is required to be in place by August 2013.**
- 1.11 In addition, the data management system needs to improve access to CPD opportunities and increase ownership of the ERD process, which will in turn support the modernisation of the workforce.
- 1.12 This approach will allow us to support Goal 1 of the, *"One Council-One Plan"* Corporate Plan for Falkirk Council 2012-17.

2. Process

- 2.1 The ERD Implementation team met with the Human Resources and Customer First Corporate team to discuss the potential of the Corporate CPD Management system- ResourceLink. It was discovered that ResourceLink falls significantly short of the required specification.
- 2.2 The ERD Implementation team consulted with providers of data management solutions. The quotes provided for a bespoke system to be developed to our specification ranged from £15,000 to £25,000 with ongoing annual costs in the range of £5,000 to £10,000. A bespoke system would also require design and implementation time in excess of 12 months.
- 2.3 The team engaged with other Local Authorities to discuss a) how they addressed the reporting needs of GTC Scotland and b) the evaluation of their data management systems. During this engagement it was discovered that 40% of Local Authorities are already using Gateway Shared Systems CPD Manager.
- 2.4 Gateway Shared Systems have successfully provided Education Services with Career Planning support via PlanIT plus and are contracted to deliver WorkIT to support the schools work experience programme. The team met with representatives of Gateway Shared Systems to discuss functionality and level of service provided by the CPD Manager product.

The CPD Manager system:

- meets the requirements of *all* employees of Education Services
- supports cross authority co-operation and joint expansion
- provides an easy to use and widely accessible web interface
- stores relevant documents which can be customised
- provides a range of standard reports
- offers direct reporting to the GTCS Professional Update

- provides automatic notifications that support our communications channels

The database holds information about:

- The establishments
- Staff located in these establishments
- ERD conversations, planning and reviews
- CPD training opportunities
- Course applications
- Course waiting lists
- Attendance and evaluations
- Staff CPD Plans
- Course running costs
- Course venue locations

3. Cost Implication

3.1 Based on 3000-3500 staff accounts, the entire Gateway CPD Manager will cost £12,000 per year. Given our embedded use of Gateway products (PlanIT Plus and WorkIT) this has been reduced to £10,000 per year.

3.2 The added value achieved through contracting Gateway is the benefits gained from working in conjunction with 12 other Local Authorities. The collegiate approach to the development of the system will support any unforeseen changes to the specification requirements.

4. Proposal

4.1 The CPD Manager service from Gateway:

- Meets the requirements of the Professional Update process
- Increases access to staff development opportunities
- Represents value for money
- Is ready for immediate use with no additional customisation
- Reduces staff admin time and printing costs
- Meets the specification for an effective data management system for the PRD and PLP process
- Is currently employed by 40% of Scottish Local Authorities and therefore supports cross authority working and ongoing software development

4.2 We request permission to contract with Gateway for the delivery of the CPD Manager system. Costs are to be met through the CPD Budget.

Request to invoke CSQ 5.6 approved

Director of Education

10 April 2013 Date

Information Bulletin to Education Committee on 10 April 2013 Date

Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Falkirk Council



It's all good news from Library Support for Schools

Volume 12 Issue 7

February 2013

November 2012

Awards for All project

Library Support for Schools successfully bid to Awards for All to set up a project working with vulnerable young people who have experienced the trauma of loss and are mostly drawn from families who live in areas of disadvantage.

The young people from Tremanna and Wallace Crescent come together each week at Meadowbank Library to work with professional storytellers and animators to create a story and to animate it. The first session was in November last year.

The film will be launched in the Studio at Falkirk Town Hall in March this year and it is hoped that the goal of producing and showing a film to tell their story will offer an opportunity to give this group of young people a voice.

Russian Visit

In November, as part of their best practice study tour to Scotland a group of 12 Russian directors of library services visited Library Support for Schools in Falkirk to find out about the RED Book Award. Four pupils from Braes HS and Larbert HS joined the delegation to share their experiences of being part of the Book Award.

"Please thank your colleagues at Falkirk for such a warm welcome. The young people were really great too and I will get letters of gratitude written to them as soon as I can. Everything was excellent."

Reading 'Flash Mob'

Also in November, as part of Book Week Scotland, Library Support for Schools organised a Reading 'flash mob' with pupils from Windsor Park School and Bantaskin PS. It seems to have been the only one of its kind in Scotland, so Scottish Book Trust joined the event to film it. Over 50 children and staff met at the Steeple in Falkirk with a book of their choice and at 11am the reading out loud began, starting with one person, then another and building up to everyone reading. At the signal (a whistle) the reading suddenly stopped and everyone put their book under their arm and walked slowly off as if nothing had happened!

January 2013

RED Book Awards

RED stands for Read, Enjoy, Debate and the young people have read the shortlisted books, talked about them, wrote reviews and voted for their favourite title. This process culminates in the award ceremony where the winner is announced.

The RED Book Award ceremony was held in Falkirk Town Hall in January. Around 300 young people were joined by invited guests and the shortlisted authors. The day involved the young people presenting a creative interpretation of each of the shortlisted titles, there were senior pupils acting as reporters for the day and guided by the Press Office, pupils from St Mungo's FM (school radio) were there to record the event. There were also welcome introductions to the authors by the

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Bo'ness Cluster 2-4
Schools

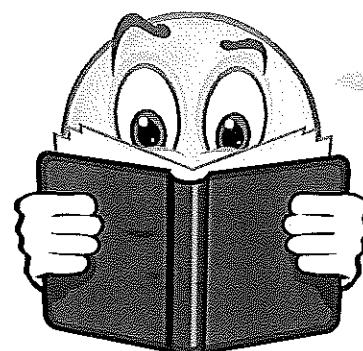
School/Staff 5-9
News

Calendar of 10
Events/News



pupils and six acts from schools across Falkirk Council entertaining us with song, dance and drama.

"Just a brief note to thank you, your fellow organisers and the students for inviting me to such a fantastic event – best day out I have had in a long time! I was really impressed by the seamless efficiency of it all and the enthusiasm of all involved."



Blackness Primary School - Micro Tyco

Pupils at Blackness Primary School took part in Micro Tyco during the month of November. The 31 pupils split into 6 teams of mixed ages and were each given a £1 micro-loan. They then had to use all their entrepreneurial skills and flair to turn the £1 into as much money as possible. The groups had to decide upon a company name, logo and create badges. It called upon creative thinking skills alongside core skills and gave the children an insight into enterprise and employment.

The Moneymakers teamed up with the Golden gates to do car washes after buying cloths and cleaning liquid. They later went on to run a tuck shop and a Pudsey Hunt respectively.

The Right Choice bought sweets and ran a competition to guess how many sweets were in the jar. They went on to make and sell biscuits, make and sell origami cats and dogs and finally face painting.

The Hals bought some compost and planted bulbs, which we had in school along with pots, after decorating the pots. They then ran doughnut hanging and "dookin" for apples followed by LEGO challenge.

The Pineapples bought fruit, then more fruit ... then more fruit and kept the school supplied with fabulous fruit salads. They also ran a quiz competition and bought After Eights for the adult winner and Haribo sweets for the child winner.

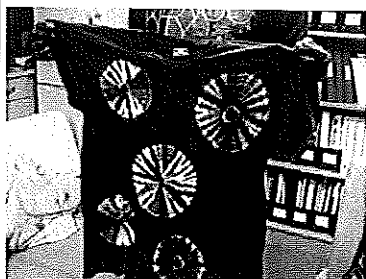
Finally, the Best Bits organised a pin the sting on the bumble bee, a tuck shop and a drawing competition.

Everyone had great fun and the competition to see which group had made the most money was keenly contested with the Hals coming out as marginal winners. Overall we made £160 from our £6 investment.



Gambian Visitor at Blackness Primary

Blackness pupils entertained Muhammed, who was visiting from the Gambia. He had met, made friends and forged links with pupils from Boness Academy when visiting last summer.



As part of the P7 transition project, he came to talk to our pupils about his culture and country. Our pupils asked lots of questions followed by a lively but thoughtful discussion comparing Scottish and Gambian life.

Muhammed led a fun workshop with the P7 pupils in the art of tie dying which is one of his family's traditional skills and which he learned to do as a child. Our pupils had a great time and each created a stunning t shirt.

He returns to the Gambia with pupils from Bo'ness Academy who are going there to visit and to help build toilet blocks and work on other projects.



Johari News at Bo'ness Public Primary School

I am a P3 teacher at Bo'ness Public Primary School. The children have been working so hard this year on our topic of Fairtrade and are currently working towards regaining our school Fairtrade Status for 2013/14. I am over whelmed with how these young children have worked so hard with such enthusiasm to help children who are less fortunate at them. All money raised from our Fairtrade efforts will be donated to the Johari Foundation, so not only are we helping to promote Fairtrade products but were also promoting education and training in other countries too.

The children so far have raised almost £400 and with a Johari Fashion Show to take place on Friday 1st March (as part of Fairtrade Fortnight) and a Fairtrade Coffee afternoon to be held in our community on the 11th March. It is likely we will raise around £1,000 after all these events. All these events are being run by the pupils. They have been organising the events, and will stage the events too. For example, some children are modelling the clothes at our Fashion show alongside our staff, while others will be reading out descriptions of the clothes or serving tea/coffee and selling raffle tickets. All children have a role to play. I am sure you will agree, this is a great achievement for children of such a young age.

To celebrate the children's success to maintain our school as a Fairtrade School and helping such a worthwhile cause (Johari) we held a press release event at the school on Thursday 21st March. The children ran this event and it gave them the opportunity to experience what a press release would be like, in a very educational, but fun way and a great way to see the children get recognition for their hard work in the media. It also helped the children develop their team-work skills, planning skills, literacy skills and presentation skills. We presented the following information

- ★ How we turned £1 into £94 (with the help of lolly pops) in aid of Johari.
- ★ We talked about the Johari T-Shirt Competition the children are currently taking part in.
- ★ We talked about what makes a Fairtrade School / the fun they have had working towards this.
- ★ We talked about how they have raised money for Johari and why they have chosen Johari as their charity.
- ★ The amount of money they have raised for Johari and we handed over a cheque.
- ★ The chance for reporters to ask the children questions.

Johari Foundation is a registered charity in Scotland. They help those who are less fortunate in Kenya by running various programmes such as training to trailer clothes. The clothes the children will be modelling at our Fashion Show are examples of their work. Also, three teachers from Falkirk Council (including myself) will be going out to Kenya this summer to help at a summer school. We are going to be passing on our musical, art and language talents.

Alan Potters, Teacher, Bo'ness Public School



Johari Foundation

EMPOWERMENT *through* OPPORTUNITY

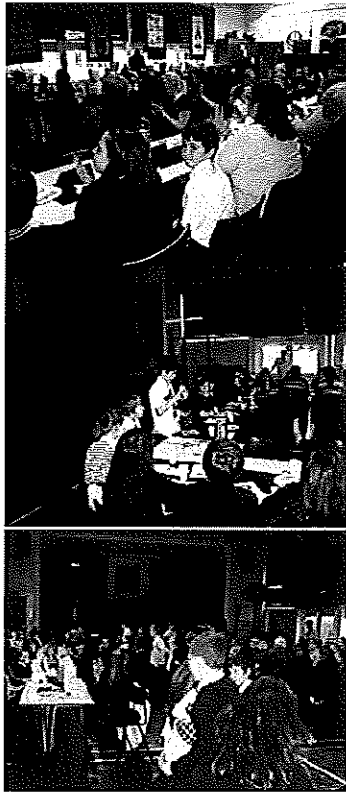
Celebrating the Bard at Kinneil Primary School

Parents, families and friends were all invited to Kinneil Primary School on the 1st of February to belatedly celebrate the birthday of Scotland's national bard - Robert Burns.

All the traditional elements of a Burns Supper were laid on by the pupils for the entertainment and enjoyment of the guests.

The haggis was piped in and ceremonially addressed before the Selkirk Grace was read and guests tucked in to haggis, neeps and tatties washed down with Scotland's national drink - no, not whisky, Irn Bru of course!

Highlights from the entertainment, provided by pupils from all year groups within the school, were the 'Immortal Memory' and two very funny and confident speakers, Owen and Kathryn, who proposed the toast to



the lassies and the subsequent reply.

A selection of Scottish Poetry followed including favourites such as, Twa Leggit Mice, Sair Finger, the Auld Troot and some new poems such as Pedro Puddock.

Dancers from among the pupils demonstrated the Virginia Reel and Flying Scotsman and the audience joined in with singing 'The Haggis Season' before finishing off with 'Auld Lang Syne'.

All in all it was a great afternoon and it was clear that the whole audience loved it!

'I really enjoyed it - the poems were very funny especially when the children got to show off their acting talents too. I remembered some of the poems from my time at school! This celebration was a great way to bring the community together.'

BO'NESS SCHOOLS REACH FOR THE STARS

Over 150 P5 pupils from all six primary schools in Bo'ness have been trying a wide range of art forms under the expert guidance of artist and sculptor Susheila Jamieson. For nine weeks the pupils have been experimenting with 3-D structures, photography, print-making, graphics and sculpture, to create a staggering array of work inspired by their local cinema: the Hippodrome.

The initiative has concluded the year-long Hippodrome 100 celebrations, marking the centenary of the opening of Scotland's first purpose-built cinema, and was devised as a way to engage young people for ideas on future public art for the town.

Susheila Jamieson said,

"The project has been a mini public art project in itself. All the pupils had to work together as a team, discuss argue and agree a lot of things like design, making and displaying banners. They have had

to consider things like texture, colour, materials, scale and context, all of which will make them really informed contributors to any future developments involving their town. Along the way the children have learnt such a lot of essential life skills - they did very well!"

Susheila led weekly sessions with the support of teachers at Blackness, Bo'ness Public, Deanburn, Grange, Kinneil and St Mary's RC Primary Schools. As well as rolling their sleeves up for art creations, the pupils had sessions in the Hippodrome itself, 'virtually' exploring the town using Google Earth, and also undertaking a special visit to Jupiter Artland, the privately owned land near Ratho where the owners have commissioned and installed works by some of today's leading artists, sculptors and land artists.

Alison Strauss, Arts Development Officer (Film and Media), Falkirk Community Trust who oversaw the project said,

"With the support of the dedicated teaching staff the pupils have worked brilliantly on this project - throwing themselves into every new learning experience that Susheila presented them with. It's been great to see them developing their ideas in different contexts and working closely not only with their own classmates but also with pupils from neighbouring schools. The results are genuinely impressive and I'm really glad that the wider community and visitors to Bo'ness will get a chance to see some of the work that has been produced at this exhibition."

Selected work from The Hippodrome 100 Public Art Legacy project will be displayed at Bo'ness Library, Scotland's Close from Monday 11 February to Tuesday 19 March (admission: free) and the exhibition is included in the programme for the Hippodrome Festival of Silent Cinema 2013 (Wed 13 to Sun 17 March).

Walking Bus 2013

On Wednesday 12 June 2013 thousands of kids will march for road safety from their school gates in the annual Giant Walking Bus. This brilliant event raises awareness of the dangers of traffic and how cool it is to walk, and raises funds for Brake's work to improve road safety and care for road crash victims.

Every year we try to beat our own record for the biggest walking bus!

Kids take part in this giant march for a giant reason: to say no to driving fast, and yes to walking! The UK has a poor record for protecting children on foot compared to many of our European neighbours. Half our kids are driven to school, increasing pollution and danger, and affecting health. It doesn't matter if your march has five kids or 500, you can make a difference.

All schools taking part get a free resource pack to help them promote road safety.

Many thanks for your help and support, Brake.

10am on Wednesday 12 June 2013

Join the giant march for road safety!

Giant Walking BUS

At 10am on Wed 12 June 2013 thousands of kids will march for road safety from their school gates, raising awareness of the dangers of traffic, how cool it is to walk, and how drivers can help to make communities safer by slowing down around schools, homes and shops.

Brake
the road safety charity


Register NOW for a FREE pack including banner and stickers!
Online www.giantwalkingbus.org
Phone 01484 559909
Email walkingbus@brake.org.uk
(Provide your name and contact number)

Why get involved?

- 1 Run creative, educational activities on the day and in the run-up, helping the children understand the dangers of traffic and benefits of walking. It's a great way to meet safety, citizenship and healthy living goals.
- 2 Promote life-saving messages to parents and the community, campaign for safer roads, and tell on drivers to slow down to protect children - as part of Brake's 0020 campaign.
- 3 Raise funds for Brake's work to improve road safety and care for families devastated by road crashes.
- 4 Register NOW and we can give you advice and information, and a FREE resource pack. We can also help you get publicity for your event.

Our school is proud to be educating pupils and marching for road safety as a bid to stop the deaths.

kindly sponsored by
churchill



WWF Earth Hour 2013

Last year over 3500 schools in the UK took part in WWF's Earth Hour and this year we want to make sure as many Falkirk Council Schools join in as possible!

Earth Hour 2013 will be held on Saturday the 23rd of March from 8.30pm to 9.30pm. Because the event takes place on a Saturday most schools decide to have their own 'Earth Hour' in the days or weeks before the big switch off.

Earth Hour gives pupils a chance to show they care about issues like climate change while providing a great opportunity to explore some of the ways they can help reduce its effect on the planet.

There are lots of different ways to take part in Earth Hour and we want schools to be creative as possible! Previous years have seen schools switch off all non-essential lights and equipment, 'Wear it Bright' days with pupils and teachers dressed in their brightest clothes, Earth Hour quizzes and energy meter readings.

To take part in Earth Hour all you need to do is sign your school up and you will receive a free support pack with facts and figures, activity ideas and links to more free content that will keep pupils engaged and excited about the campaign.

<http://register.education.co.uk/wwfearthhour>

**WE'RE TAKING
PART IN
WWF'S
EARTH HOUR
23 MARCH
2013
8.30PM
ARE YOU?**

60+

Whitecross Pupils make friends with Haining Care Home Residents

The Citizenship Group had discussions about making friends in the community and could they make links to visit a local care home. As the Haining Care Home is near school, we contacted them and asked if we could become regular friends. We now enjoy visiting the home once every two months.

The residents eagerly look forward to the children visiting. Children have entertained the residents by singing and dancing and also regularly read books and play board games with them. The children also enjoy the "tales of the olden days" relayed to them by the residents.

In school we had a lunch time knitting club where pupils learned to knit. They knitted squares which were then sewn together to make two blankets. The pupils then gave the blankets to the residents at their Christmas visit.

Unfortunately, the residents were unable to come to our nativity as there was a problem with



transport but hopefully, they will visit us in school the next time we have a "special" assembly.

Whitecross Primary School - Buckets of Love

The Community Learning Team, Family Fun Club, talked about how they could help make a difference to children living in poverty. Mrs Field, who supports that group, told them about the Buckets of Love supported by Blythswood Care which she had learned about through her church. The Learning Team was keen to take part and organise this.

The Buckets of Love project involves filling a plastic bucket, supplied by Blythswood Care, with 26 items which are listed on the shopping list and any one of these items can make a big difference to the lives of the recipient families who unfortunately are living in extreme poverty.

We distributed 5 buckets – one per class and each class then filled their bucket from the Bucket of Love shopping list.



Tube of toothpaste, 4 Toothbrushes, Comb, Pack of hair bobbles, Bar of soap, 4 Face flannels, Hand towel, Pack of disposable razors, Pack of boiled sweets, Skipping rope, Small ball, small toy car, Frisbee, Pack of ballpoint pens, Pack of pencils, Small notebook, Pair of scissors, Roll of duct tape, Ball of string, Box of first aid plasters, Needle and thread kit, Packet of 4 plastic cups and plates, Plastic mug (with handle), Oven glove, Bar of clothes soap, plastic cup with handle.

Every class added their photograph to the bucket and signed their names in permanent marker. We thought that would be a nice touch to have a link and to let the people see us. We managed to complete a further two buckets and had three buckets with mixed items which they will be able to use at the distribution centre to help fill more buckets.

Mrs Field delivered our buckets to the co-ordinator for Blythswood Care for distribution.

The Family Fun Team gave a presentation at assembly to the whole school about how the Buckets of Love will help families abroad and they thanked everyone for their help.

All members of the Learning Team were presented with a certificate for Global Citizenship at assembly.

"Grow Forth is back for seconds" - Saturday 16th March at Alloa Town Hall - 10am to 2pm

Feedback from last year's local food summit in February stated that there should be an annual local food summit, so here we are back for seconds. This year we are on the move - the event will be held at Alloa Town Hall in Alloa from 10pm to 2pm. On the menu for this summit we have

- ★ Laura Stewart Director of the Soil Association Scotland as our keynote speaker
- ★ Opportunity for networking
- ★ Interactive stalls to visit
- ★ Opportunity to be instrumental in the development of the Grow Forth Network and online community map
- ★ We will be encouraging folks to sign up to our free Grow Forth membership to create a collective voice for the local food movement in the Forth Valley
- ★ Topping off this buffet of local food activity there will be a tasty local lunch provided.

The event is being organised by Forth Environment Link, with sponsorship from the Co-operative Membership Community Fund. Grow Forth is hosted by Forth Environment Link and is supported by Stirling Council and NHS Forth Valley. An advisory group helps to shape our work.

If you are interested in coming along we advise to book now as places are limited especially if you wish to have an informational/interactive stall. To book please complete this online form, if you have any problems with completing the form or wish to speak to us about the event please contact Emily Harvey event co-ordinator on emily@forthenvironmentlink.org or call 01786 449215 or mobile at 07545247489.

Open this link for the registration form - <http://www.jotformeui.com/emilyruth3/GrowForthRegistration>

In advance of the event we are collating information from our Grow Forth Local Food survey, if you could take two minutes to complete this will help inform the network development.

Open this link and take the Grow Forth Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BQY6RK8>

Litter Strategy Team update FEB 2013

Jennifer Terris, Litter Education Support Officer, had a baby boy in November, only a couple of weeks after handing the reins over to me as her maternity cover until the summer. Jennifer has a great relationship with many schools, which has culminated in a fantastic new teaching resource, the "Kaptain Kleen Action Pack". Designed in collaboration with Ann Easton of Bantaskin Primary, the pack contains fun facts about litter as well as quizzes, games and challenges. It provides a timeline of litter, starting with cavemen and travelling right through Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece and Medieval Britain all the way up to present day Falkirk. The pack will shortly be issued to every school in the district, so keep a look-out!

The project which has been keeping me the busiest since I started in November has been a study into litter prevention and recycling in schools, part-funded by Zero Waste Scotland. Three schools were selected to take part, based on the variety of bin infrastructure present in each school. St Bernadette's, being a brand-new school, was fitted with colour-coded, dual-purpose litter and recycling bins in all areas including the playground and dining-hall. St Mary's in Bo'ness and Carmuir's Primary haven't got the same level of equipment, but we have been running an intensive education programme in all 3 schools to see whether it's super bins or super education that really gets pupils recycling! We went into all 3 schools for a week in November, weighing and measuring every scrap of waste and recycling, including playground litter and school dinner waste. For several weeks afterwards we were back in the schools doing anti-litter talks, litter orienteering, and paper-making sessions to highlight the

importance of recycling. Then we returned last week to weigh and measure everything all over again, and were delighted to see how the recycling rates had improved. We will go back for a final week of weighing and measuring in March so watch this space as we discover what really works!

We did some fun things to promote the study, including sending the P1's and P2's from the participating schools to see "Wombling Free" at the Bo'ness Hippodrome, and running a poetry competition to produce "Poems For Bins". A professional poet came into the schools to help the children write poems that will appear on vinyl stickers on the local litter bins nearest to each school. You can see some of the poems on the right. We are extending the poetry scheme to Grangemouth schools this month, and budget permitting, we are very keen to roll it out even further as it helps the children to gain "ownership" of their local bins and encourages some civic pride! Do get in touch if you think that your school would benefit from this scheme.

Looking ahead, we are planning a big anti-dog-fouling campaign in Bonnybridge, working with St Joseph's, Antonine and Bonnybridge Primary as well as local groups and concerned residents.

Finally, hundreds of primary pupils have taken part in our annual "Spring Clean" litter pick events over the last few years, and it's almost time to don our gloves and litter-pickers again! This year the campaign is called "Clean Up Scotland", but the drill is the same – register online with Keep Scotland Beautiful, then get in touch with me to book your equipment. I'll bring you everything you need, including litter pickers, hoops and gloves. I will also arrange to have your bags of rubbish uplifted, and the details of your event will be entered into our league table of school litter-picks...with results to be published in an upcoming edition of Education Matters.

Happy litter-picking, and don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions / requests!

Jessica Paterson, Litter Education Support Officer

**NO MESS
IN BO'NESS
(St Mary's
Bo'ness)**

**NO BAGS
NO FAGS
BUT GREEN
FLAGS
(Carmuir's
Primary)**

**LET'S
LEAVE
LESS
LITTER
IN THE
LIDO
(St Bernadette's
Primary)**

December Days at Drumbowie

The arrival and decoration of the Christmas tree by pupils kicked off the excitement for month. The fun started early in the month when pupils showcased an Otago workshop to parents and members of the community. Otago is a series of gentle exercises for the elderly or less mobile. Drumbowie Primary had been asked to be a pilot for this and they planned to roll out their new found skills to the community. Staff led the pupils for half an hour a week during active start for six weeks until all were confident. Pupils created and distributed leaflets inviting members of the community into school to take part in a workshop.



They produced a video presentation to run alongside them demonstrating the moves and then delivered this. Unfortunately, the chosen day was snowy in Standburn and was not as well attended as usual due to the conditions underfoot. However, everyone attending enjoyed themselves and hopefully are now continuing with the exercises – “age proofing their bodies and keeping moving for health!”

The whole school took part in a fun interactive Scottish Power workshop. Everyone had a hands-on experience which raised awareness of electrical safety thanks to Mr Sparky the Scottish Power puppet and his adult friend!

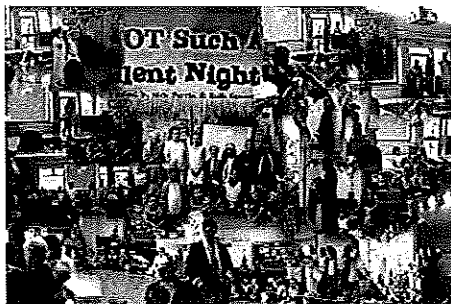
Pupils in P1-4 went to Callendar House for a “winter warmer” as part of their “light” science project. The children made lanterns from recycled plastic bottles which they then decorated and lit with small torches then enjoyed an exhibition on light before watching a puppet show which was about lanterns in a forest. As an added bonus the pupils had a tour of the kitchens and were given an insight in to life long ago although the shortbread they tasted was very definitely made fresh that day and was enjoyed by all!

Being a rural school, we are fortunate to enjoy many outdoor learning experiences. Pupils collected sticks from the neighbouring Drumbowie Park. They each measured them to ensure they were the same length and thickness and then brought them back to school to bind them together to form a star. They were very effective and we then used them to decorate the hall.

Everyone had a laugh at the “Christmas Jumpers” which we wore to school. There were some very colourful and imaginative creations. Pupils made a donation for the privilege and we raised £8 which was sent to Save the Children.



Our annual nativity “Not such a Silent Night” was performed to a packed audience. Our pupil council suggested this year that we charge an entrance fee and as a result we



sent off £58 to Shelter from our sales. The cast, choir and crew were all stars and everyone gave the performance rave reviews. At the end of the show there was a presentation made to Mrs Webster, who has taken up a post in another authority.

Santa managed to make a quick appearance at our annual school party after pupils had played traditional party games and Scottish dancing and enjoyed a very, hearty, party feast.

The McRobert Theatre in Stirling was the venue for our annual visit to the pantomime. This year everyone was entertained watching Cinderella and the antics of her two, very, ugly sisters. It was absolutely hilarious and was so exhausting several pupils slept all the way back to school!

After lunch it was the Drumbowie talent show. Allegedly! The show kicked off with a rendition from the Spice Girls, aka Drumbowie staff. After some dodgy singing and even worse dancing the pupils took over and we were entertained to Gangnam dancing, majorette marching, jui jitsu jumping and some Rita Ora recitals amongst other acts! It was a fun, light hearted afternoon which allowed staff and pupils to shine in ways you will never see the likes again!

Limerigg Primary School News

Limerigg Primary and its surrounding community may be small but it has a very big heart. We raised the amazing sum of £250 for MacMillan nurses through hosting a MacMillan coffee morning and bake off! Some of the cake designs were fabulous and after selecting the winners they offered their cakes for sale too!

In November we had under £20 in our school fund. It was time to put our heads together - when the going gets tough the tough get going!

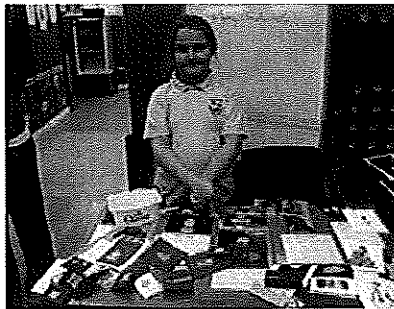
We challenged the children to think of things we could do to raise funds. They didn't disappoint! The children came up with some fantastic ideas.

Our pupils were inspired by the Macmillan coffee morning 'Bake off' and decided to



hold a Christmas craft fair with a variety of stalls and needless to say another 'Bake off!' - this time with a Christmas theme. They had an adult and a pupil section. You could not tell which was entered into which category! The efforts were amazing!

The children made a selection of hand-made crafts and cards and invited some businesses in from Falkirk. Lush came along and the children had a

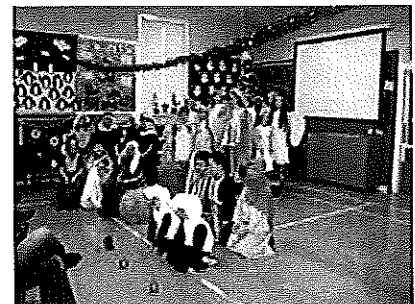


great time making bath bombs! Our hall smelled wonderful from all the aromas of fruit and spices. Julie Johnstone also came along with beautiful hand crafted wine glass

charms and tree decorations, along with purse and mobile phone charms. Visitors had the opportunity to have charms made to their own specification.

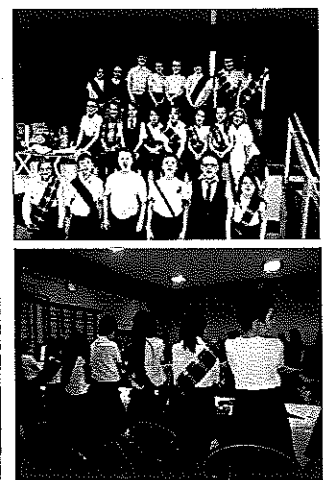
The children also went out into the community and sang Christmas Carols as part of a music enterprise supported by their music tutor Cameron Nisbet who helped the children select songs, learn them, record and produce them. The children designed packaging and helped burn CDs. These were sold in aid of school funds.

The children also took part in a tremendous Christmas Concert and again raised a large amount of money. In total over the course of two weeks the children helped raise an outstanding £800! An amazing effort by 31 children!



Easter Carmuir Primary School Burns Supper

P6 at Easter Carmuir worked together to organise and host a Burns Supper on Friday the 1st of February. The children worked hard to learn traditional Burns poems and write their own speeches and toasts. On the day the class were joined by parents, teachers and invited guests including local councillors Gerry Goldie and John Patrick, MSP Michael Matheson and QIO Tony Bragg. A great time was had by all.



Calendar of Events

March 2013

St David's Day	01 Mar
ESMT - 9am - Conference Room, Sealock House	01 Mar
Secondary HTs Business Meeting - 9.15am	04 Mar
Accelerated Incremental Progression Meeting - Sealock House	05 Mar
World Book Day	07 Mar
International Women's Day	08 Mar
Mother's Day	10 Mar
Commonwealth Day	11 Mar
ESMT - 9am - Conference Room, Sealock House	13 Mar
National Science and Engineering Week	15 Mar
Education Matters - Submitting articles deadline date	15 Mar
PSRG - Early Entry - 9.30am - Sealock House	15 Mar
St Patrick's Day	17 Mar
ESMT - 9am - Sealock House	19 Mar
Admin Team Meeting - staffroom, Sealock House	20 Mar
Euroquiz - Grangemouth HS - 9.30am	21 Mar
Falkirk Children's Commission - Committee Room, Municipal Buildings - 1.30pm	21 Mar
World Water Day	22 Mar
Spring Term Ends	28 Mar
ESMT - extended - 9am - Conference Room, Sealock House	28 Mar
Good Friday	29 Mar
Easter Sunday	31 Mar

Dennis Canavan Scholarship Award 2013

Nominations for the Dennis Canavan Scholarship Award 2013 are now open!

The Scholarship will make an award of £500 to a young person attending school and who lives in the Falkirk Council area who has given notable service to others through e.g. voluntary work, charity sponsorship, sports coaching, caring for others etc. and who is going forward to further or higher education. Anyone from a school or community organisation can nominate a deserving young person.

A small supply of nomination forms have been sent to each secondary school and you can get more forms or an electronic version from education.communications@falkirk.gov.uk

The closing date for scholarship nominations is the 29th of March 2013. Please can you arrange to have your completed nomination forms forwarded to the Law and Admin Service at the Municipal Buildings in Falkirk by the 29th of March.

If you have any further questions about the scholarship please do not hesitate to contact Diane Cherry, Education Communications Officer, for information.

Go Dance at Denny High

Great News!

As a result of our recent performance at Go Dance '13 in the Theatre Royal Glasgow, we have been chosen to be the dance group who will promote the bid for the 2018 Children's Olympics to be held in Glasgow.

On Wednesday 13th February, from 2pm we were performing and getting filmed dancing in Glasgow Central station. (80 pupils in total). The film is to be promoted on television, radio, and in the press and will hopefully secure a journey which has taken us from the Olympics to the Commonwealth Games and finally to the Children's Olympics in Glasgow.

Seb Coe is the ambassador who is driving this legacy forward for Glasgow.

Regards

Anne McEwan

PT Health and Wellbeing / Head of Dance Academy, Denny High School



Falkirk Council

Education Matters

Learning to Achieve



Falkirk foodbank

EMERGENCY FOOD FOR PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Today there are children, young and old people who will not have anything to eat. Their cupboards are empty. They may have been empty for a few days and there is no knowing when or if they will be filled again. This is not a war zone or an area affected by a natural disaster. This is here and now in Falkirk, today!

Recent and proposed changes to the benefits system will see more people slip through. These changes will affect not just those who don't have a job, but also those in low paid jobs who rely on benefits to help them make ends meet.

The Falkirk Foodbank, a registered charity, exists to provide emergency food to individuals and families who, quite simply have nothing. We rely on the support of the general public, churches, groups and businesses in our community to donate food stuffs. With these we make up boxes or packs that are designed to feed people for about three days.

The Foodbank was formed by a group of churches as a response to what was seen as a growing need in the community, it has not only brought together a range of churches, but also other groups and individuals of faith or no faith who can all see the need for the project and

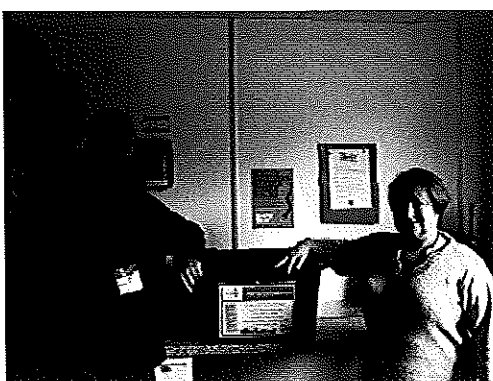
are willing to work together to help others in a very clear and

practical way.

We invite people, groups or companies to support our work in whatever way they can or would like to. Some gift us their time, some their money, some food. We are grateful for all the support we get and all of it goes to help others or sustain the project. The Foodbank is wholly run by volunteers and so we put every donation to maximum use.

There is so much more we could say about the project so if you would like to know more about the Foodbank and how you can support this work please contact the Project Manager Alf Collington alfred.collington@btinternet.com who will be happy to speak to companies, organisations or any interested groups.

Staff in Sealock House are donating to the Foodbank - two crate loads so far. All staff have to remember is to add one item to their shopping basket each week at the supermarket and donate it to the Foodbank. The Foodbank will give you shopping lists for the items they need so you can make sure you are donating things that people will use.



Volume 12 Issue 8

March 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Larbert Cluster 2-21
School News

School/Staff 21-23
News

Calendar of 24
Events/News



As part of the fundraising effort for Falkirk Foodbank, staff in Sealock House are organising a prize bingo on the 10th of May to raise cash for the Foodbank to help pay for their running costs.

Tickets are now on sale and to get some you can call x6602 and ask for Diane, Lorraine or Beverley.



Friday, 10th May 2013
Grangemouth Golf Club
7pm start - Admission £3 adults, £2 children
£1.50 per book - Includes special flyer
tea, coffee and scone at the interval
in aid of the Falkirk Foodbank
Tickets from Diane, Lorraine S and Beverley I
Raffle and Prize Donations gratefully accepted

Larbert High School News

Commonwealth Games

Larbert High School are going to be the 'face' of the 'Game on Scotland' website to promote the Commonwealth Games. The camera crew has been filming and it goes live mid March.

Safe Drive Stay Alive

Safe Drive Stay Alive is a hard hitting educational film aimed at teenagers, encouraging them to think about their actions when driving. The film has been commissioned by the Central Scotland Fire Service who employed a professional film company called Freak Works film to create this drama which would deliver a hard message to teenagers in the Forth Valley and Clackmannanshire areas.



Pupils from Larbert High were approached about taking part in the making of this film and this led to a week of filming in early November.

Hannah Gillies (S4), Joy Saebel (S5), Andrew Gibson (S5) and Harry Risk (S6) as well as former LHS pupil Iona Turnbull were selected to play principal roles in this film which tells the story of a group of friends. A number of other S5/6 pupils and some members of staff also took on supporting roles. Throughout the week, the pupils were on location shooting various scenes including a gruelling night filming a car crash scene in Bo'ness. These pupils worked long hours and took on challenging parts that demanded a lot of emotional investment. Their mature behaviour and professional manner were a credit to the school. Although tough it was a fantastic experience for them to learn how a film is made. Larbert High was also proud to be part of a film which will make a difference – saving the lives of our young drivers.

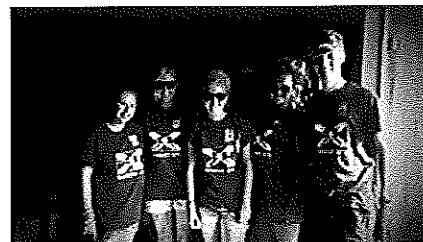
The film was launched on Monday the 28th of January 2013 at the Macrobert Centre in Stirling and ran for a week. During this time pupils from across Forth Valley and Clackmannanshire attended this screening and heard from members of the emergency services as well as individuals who had been involved in road traffic accidents.

All the pupils and staff who participated in the film were invited along to a presentation at the Macrobert following the screening, where they were awarded a plaque, commemorative poster board and other gifts to say thank you.

The Gambia June 2012

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition this year was to the Gambia.

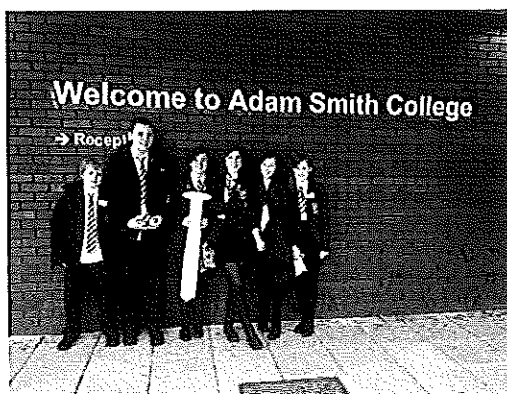
Six S6 Duke of Edinburgh pupils – Stefan Alexander; Lucy Currie; Caitlin Dewar; Rebecca Orr; Megan Risk; Caitlin Simpson went on the trip accompanied by 2 members of staff - Bill Scott and Melissa McIlquham



The two weeks in the Gambia followed a period of training and fund-raising. The trip included a three day expedition with voluntary work helping build a school while the group worked, lived and socialised with young Gambians.



Larbert High School Go4SET team



The picture on the left is a picture of the Larbert High School Go4SET team (left to Right: Euan Stainbank, Gavin

Kane, Kirsty Mitchell, Catriona McDuff, Olivia Rae, Rebecca Ferguson – all S2).

The team were selected to represent the school in a renewable energy competition.

They are in the process of researching renewable energy and methods of making the school more eco-friendly. They must also produce a final product, and model of this, which will be presented at a formal Celebration and Assessment Day (Tuesday 30th of April), to a panel of judges from the Go4SET company.

Larbert High School News Cont'd

Dodgy Guidance Teachers at LHS?!!

Our enhanced transition project had a Murder Mystery/CSI theme. Each primary class gets the terrible news that one of the guidance teachers has been murdered! Pupils have a full week's experience in classes collecting evidence, analysing and evaluating. Theories are created as to the murderer's identity and the motive behind the killing. The whole experience is based on CFE principles with all faculties working in a true inter disciplinary way. Innovative use of ICT stimulated interest to



fever pitch as Es and Os are planned, tracked and evidenced in a music and drama extravaganza for parents.

The suspects are members of the guidance team and a positive side effect of the programme is that pupils get to know the staff who will be fundamental to their wellbeing

in August. The whole experience removes fears and barriers of the "big move" to high school. The security of having their own class mates and teacher in the secondary setting has provided an opportunity for pupils to flourish in a secure and confident way. Step one in producing confident individuals capable of taking the transition process in their stride!

The project builds on work done over the past two years and has created a smoother transition from primary to secondary. Pupils are no longer worried about "the scary secondary teacher", getting lost, being victimised etc. Parents are reassured that teachers are approachable and their child is valued, known and safe within such a large secondary school. Secondary teachers are aware of the skills that primary pupils are capable of and primary staff have an understanding of what awaits their pupils at high school and can develop the individuals further in the remaining time available in P7.

Links with published authors:

Falkirk author Alan Bissett has worked closely with our senior pupils to provide insight as a working writer and to raise the standard of creative writing produced by pupils. In August we launched this partnership in a 200 pupil seminar workshop where Alan managed to inspire all pupils to plan and write interesting short stories.

In order to build on the work Alan completed with the pupils, he also delivered the same



workshop to the entire English + Literacy Faculty and to members of the Literacy SIG from across the school. This built confidence and capacity in the teaching of creative writing to teachers in History, Integrated Pupil Support and English.

In addition, Alan has spent the year liaising with and visiting the Advanced Higher English class to develop their creative writing folios. By providing one-to-one support, each pupil has been able to find their own writing voice.

In January, Larbert also became the first school in Scotland with their own Patron of Reading. Popular author Nicola Morgan will be working closely with every year group at Larbert on various projects and plans. The overall aim of the partnership is to promote a love of reading in young people. The Larbert High space on Nicola's website provides lots of information on how we are going to achieve this: <http://www.nicolamorgan.com/heartsong-blog/larbert-high-school-and-i-have-plans-plans-plans/>

Theatre visits

This year the English Faculty have ensured that pupils in all year groups are given the opportunity to see a live theatre show. So far, pupils from across the school have been to see 'The Woman in Black' at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'The Red Hourglass' at Falkirk Town Hall. This March, a group of S5/6 pupils will be visiting Stratford and watching the RSC's latest performance of 'Hamlet'.

The Red Book Award

30 of our keen readers took part in Falkirk's excellent Red Book Award this year. Culminating in a performance of 'Gladiator' for author Simon Scarrow at the Falkirk Town Hall, every pupil who participated thoroughly enjoyed this experience. Special mention goes to S2 pupil Rebecca Clark for winning the best review.

Scottish Refugee Council

Mrs Clancy's S4 were lucky enough to get a visit from Hafiz and Jamie from the Scottish Refugee Council. The class

were studying the novel 'The Kite Runner', that explores why many people from Afghanistan became refugees, Mrs Clancy realised it would be beneficial for the class

to hear first-hand what this was really like. Hafiz spent an afternoon talking about his own experience as a refugee. We thank him for coming in and sharing his story.



Larbert High School News Cont'd

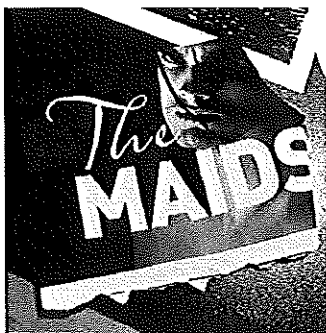
Little Eye

Little Eye, who have appeared with Olly Murs and Alesha Dixon, visited LHS in February to perform in front of a second year then a fourth year audience. As well as performing, they gave a strong anti-drugs message and spent time in a question and answer session with a huge range of questions being put to the band by our pupils.



Advance Higher Drama Trip

TWO MAIDS AND THEIR MISTRESS LOCKED IN AN OBSESSIVE CYCLE OF POWER GAMES



In January, the Advance Higher Drama pupils visited the Citizen's Theatre in Glasgow to watch a performance of *The Maids* by Jean Genet. It was a modern translation of the original French play, and the award winning director and designer Stewart

Laing created a unique interpretation of the masterpiece. Most notably by casting young men as the three female characters and interspersing the script with the actors performing rock songs on electric guitars. The performance was thought provoking and challenged the pupils' concept of theatre.

LARBERT HIGH HOSPITALITY & TOURISM DAY

Tuesday 23rd October 2012

On the 23rd of October 2012, our S3 pupils were given a very generous helping of hospitality magic when they were given the five-star



treatment by Springboard Scotland in partnership with The Gleneagles and Apex Hotels and City of Glasgow College.

Pupils were able to experience how it feels to be both a guest and a hospitality professional in a five-star resort. The event not only showcased the industry at its very best but also linked directly to Curriculum for Excellence and in particular, Skills for Learning, Life and Work.

Every S3 pupil (nearly 300 in total) was able to participate in a series of skills challenges including practical cookery; table setting; table service; spa services; flambéing and marketing and HR sessions, to name but a few!



Throughout the day, there were talent spotters on the lookout for some of our future stars and there were some fantastic prizes on offer! The winners were:

Emma Cameron, Rachel Deans and Emma Hunter who won the Apex Prize for **"Best Team Design"**, -- each of the girls won a voucher for dinner at an Apex Hotel

Rachel Henderson who won the Gleneagles Prize for **"Upcoming Food & Beverage star"**

- Rachel won a voucher for afternoon tea for 4 at Gleneagles

Megan Walker who won the Springboard prize for **"Best Omelette"**

- Megan won an iTunes voucher

Logan Clark who won the **"Food Challenge Quiz"**

- Logan won an Amazon voucher

David Tweedie -- who also stood out for his contribution to various activities thought out the day

- David won a Gleneagles apron

Rachel Cook who won the Larbert High prize for **"Best Photograph"** from the day

- Rachel won an Amazon voucher

Larbert High School News Cont'd

Glasgow University

On Wednesday 13th June, Our S4 Higher Physics pupils took part in an Engineering Taster session at the University of Glasgow. Pupils were given a tour of the campus, including various faculties. One of the highlights was the research carried out in the Biochemical Labs.



LHS Mountain Biking Club

Trips have been running at weekends as well as the new night biking sessions in the evenings. All trips have been very well attended and oversubscribed



in most cases.

The girls' only trips have been particularly enjoyable and very successful.

Full details and dates of all trips and of

course the important pictures and videos can be found on Twitter... please follow us: @LHSCycling

Humanities at Larbert High

In October some of our S6 Advanced Higher Geography students took part in a week long field trip to Arran.

As well as practising Geographical Methods and Techniques in the field, the group successfully managed a self-catering holiday



cottage for the week – high level academic and social skills which will serve them well in the future.

Larbert High gained recognition for work towards improving the local environment with the accolade of Helix Champion School – the first school to be

given such status. The certificate was presented during a 'meet the species' event in The Carron Dam SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) with 'Buglife' and CATCA (Communities Along The Carron Association.)

School pupils have also formed a Junior Management Group for the Carron Dam area and they meet and liaise with the recently formed –

Friends of the Carron Dams. The group have put forward a proposal which will hopefully lead to Local Nature Reserve status for the site this year.



Pupils have been working hard towards the establishment of a school vegetable garden and orchard. Work is about to start on the garden and a 9m long 'Solar Tunnel' indoor growing facility will soon be in place, along with vegetable plots and 8 fruit trees.

Local primary schools and Larbert Day Nursery will be offered the use of the area and it is hoped that local residents with an interest in gardening will be able to join pupils on site, making it another hub for the local community. The school is registered with The Royal Horticultural Society 'Get Your Grown Ups Growing' scheme.

Remembrance Assemblies

Some of our senior pupils were involved in the writing and delivery of this year's Remembrance Assemblies. The pupils decided what to include and selected information that was relevant for their fellow students. We also liaised with the Music and Drama departments who performed a poignant vocal at the Assembly.

*At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning, we will
remember them.*



Larbert High School News Cont'd

Fairtrade News

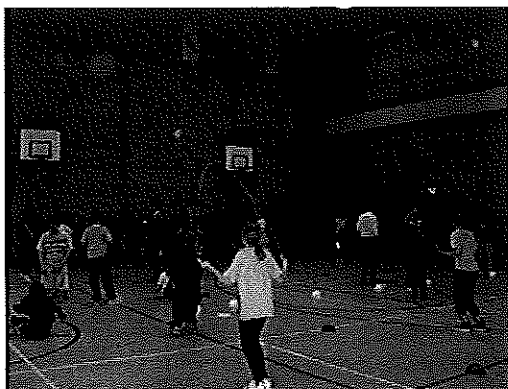
In June, the school's Fairtrade Group sponsored the end of term Funday Football Challenge. Pictured here is the winning team holding some of the fairtrade



footballs that were used on the day. This was one of many events which the Fairtrade Group organised or sponsored over the year as it works towards achieving Fairtrade status for the school.

S1 Skipathon

On Tuesday the 17th of January our S1 pupils took part in a sponsored Skip-a-thon. They were raising money for our link school 'Woodlands' in South



Africa. The money raised will support a number of projects for 11-12 year olds, including a breakfast programme and

classroom equipment. The pupils skipped in small groups for 20 minutes with house points on the line for the house which managed to complete the most skips. Skye house were the clear winners managing to complete a staggering total of over 8000 skips receiving 200 house points, Harris were second receiving 100 points and Lewis got 75 points for finishing third. Everyone put in a fantastic effort on the day however a greater effort in raising sponsor money has meant that the total for the event stands at a fantastic £1,350.

A big well done to all those who took part on the day and donated sponsor money.

Mini Olympics

Larbert High's very own Mini Olympics took place on the 29th of June.

The day started with the Opening Ceremony with all participating pupils seated, the procession began with a lone piper and drummer followed by Olympic torch bearer number 25, from Clydebank. The

pupils were introduced to Team GB athletes, Ewan Burten (Judo) and Martin Cremin (Swimming). Mr Reid and

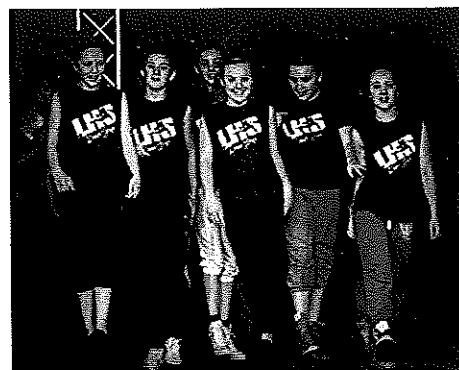
Mr McGuckin explained the Olympic and Paralympic values and officially opened the Larbert High Mini Olympics, the whole time in the presence of an actual Olympic torch. After quickly explaining the BOS Local Heroes competition and how we won it, the pupils split into their different groups and were led away to their chosen sport. There were many sports available such as football, rugby, tennis, handball, golf and table-tennis.

Former PE teacher, Mr Fraser, entered the school in a competition where the school had the opportunity to win £1000 worth of sports equipment. To win, the school had to display their work in endorsing the Olympic values... and we won!

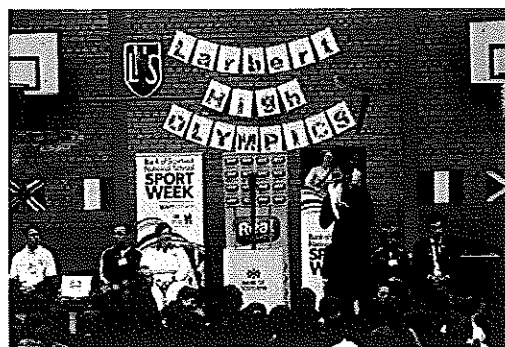
As part of the prize, Real Radio came to Larbert High and really helped to make the whole day a huge success! At the end of the day a closing ceremony took place in the Games Hall where Mr Fraser and the school were presented with the £1,000 cheque by representatives from the Bank Of Scotland plc.

Dance Showcase

In June, Larbert High held its second dance showcase, which was even bigger than the year before with over 100 pupils involved. We had over 30



acts in the show in a variety of styles with pupils from S1-6 and they all blew the audience away.



Larbert High School News Cont'd

The show was opened by the Higher Dance Troupe, made up of senior pupils who study Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Highland dance and Choreography, with a final exam at the end of the year. Some of the class showcased their Choreography pieces from their exam showing off their creative talents. We also had performances from the Dance Clubs, Curricular PE Classes and NRG Performers. The School of Rugby and Coach Mr Simpson even made an appearance! They left us all very scared after performing the Haka.

School Sport Award

In December the school won a very prestigious award for our contribution to sport in the school and community. We were awarded the 'School Sport Award' at the Scottish Sports Awards which was run in partnership with sportscotland and the Sunday Mail. We had a large number of staff and pupils attend this special event and we even got to meet some Olympians, which was a great honour. We are delighted to have won such an important award and our contribution towards sport will blossom in the run up to the Commonwealth Games.

S1 Expedition

In May all of the S1 pupils took part in an Outdoor Expedition, in the glorious sunshine. This event combined all of the life skills that pupils have been taught in Health and Wellbeing this term. They have learned how to cook with Trangia stoves in Food and Consumer Technology, personal safety and how to work as a team in Personal and Social Education and how to read maps, complete a linear orienteering course and put up tents in Physical Education.

Each class started off by watching a 'Mission Video' and then they had to pack all the necessary equipment to be able to complete their mission. This started with them using their map reading skills and having to complete



an orienteering course in the fastest time possible. When the class reached their final point they had to pitch their tents and set up their Trangia stoves. The teachers supervised the pupils boiling water and making soup. One class even brought their own tea and biscuits for the occasion!

Once everyone had enjoyed their soup the classes had to pack everything up and make their way back to the Games Hall. Pupils were then issued with a

certificate for taking part in the event. Everyone had a fantastic afternoon on both days and it was a great way to finish off the block. Well done S1!

Musical Matters

Miss Rennie's Higher Music Class performed Christmas Songs and Carols for residents at Strathcarron Hospice. The pupils presented a cheque to staff for the sum of £400 which was raised at the Christmas Concert. The pupils were an asset to the school and have been asked to come back and perform at the hospice again!



The Higher class also went to the Howgate Shopping centre to sing and raise money for the charity Quarriers.

The Music Department hosted their annual St Cecilia Music Competition in November. Well done to all those who took part and to the winners! Senior Winner: Kyle Sharp. Junior Winner: Kate McLaughlin. S1 Winner: Annette Selwyn Primary Winner: Lewis Blackwood

The Glee Club, made up of pupils from Larbert High and Carrongrange, performed at the Carrongrange Christmas Fayre and Carrongrange's Christmas service.

Miss MacLennan's class aka 'Class Act' performed a selection of songs and an instrumental number at Carrongrange.

The Creative Arts Department hosted their annual Christmas Concert. This included performers from Larbert High, Carrongrange High and some of our associated primaries. There was an array of musical talent as well as an Art Exhibition and some performances from the Drama Club. Here is a photo of all the young people who took part in the concert.

Our special guests Ewen and Cat from Real Radio performed a number with some of our seniors to raise money for CHAS. They even got Mr Reid up dancing!



Carron Primary School News

Higginsneuk Event

On the 20th of February at Carron Primary School the annual Higginsneuk poetry competition took place. This contest celebrates the land that we come from and all of its wonderful poetry and literature. Carron and Carronshore primaries compete with 21 pupils from all stages representing each school.

They recite a Scottish poem of choice. Our team managed to win the trophy for the 4th time in a row.

As well as great performances from both schools there was also fabulous entertainment from the Carron Primary School Choir and our Scottish Country Dancers. The choir sang traditional Scottish songs such as 'Westering Home' and 'Wild Mountain Thyme'. They also added a non-traditional, upbeat song called 'The Haggis Song'. The choir enjoyed singing for all our visitors and our audience certainly enjoyed the variety of songs.

Also at the Higginsneuk we had two kinds of dancing performances. Chloe Morrison, a former pupil of Carron danced, she is a well known and successful Highland Dancer. The country dancers did 2 dances altogether. They were great (as always) and everyone enjoyed the performance. Our team preformed amazingly well and were great ambassadors for our school.

It was a fabulous event, enjoyed by many staff, parents and pupils of both schools. We were very proud of all our competitors.

By Emma McNally & Amma McManus.

Carron Nursery

Carron Nursery have been celebrating Chinese New Year and taking part in many related activities. The children really enjoyed learning about the Year



of the Snake and were involved in many art and craft activities. They made their own musical shakers from re-cycled boxes/cartons and brightly decorated

them before adding a variety of natural collage to create a unique sound. Both morning and afternoon children participated in a dragon dance around the school with their shakers,

to entertain the older pupils and staff. They also created beautiful lanterns, made paper chain snakes and tried to copy some Chinese writing. A Chinese restaurant was arranged in the role-play area which stimulated lots of imaginative play. Not only did we pretend to eat some Chinese food but we had our own buffet for real at snack. The children were able to try some noodles, rice, spring rolls and prawn crackers but it was really tricky to eat using chopsticks! The lychees didn't go down so well but the overwhelming response was that it was 'yummy.' Throughout our banquet we listened to some traditional Chinese music and the children were so enthusiastic whilst learning about the customs and beliefs of others.



Scots Event

We celebrated our Scottish culture by hosting a Scots Event.

We invited special guests and parents to come along and listen to our Scottish poems and songs



that all classes had been learning. I am in primary six and we sang a song about 'The Midge' and recited the poem 'The Magic Pizza'.

Every class did really well performing both a song and a poem. The winners from the Higginsneuk competition received their certificate after reciting their poem. Along with the classes performing, there was also country dancing and Lauren, from our class, did some very impressive Highland Dancing. The P7s recited the poem 'The wee Malkies' and it was really good. Finally at the end of a great afternoon, the piper piped as we all left the hall.

By Andrew Jones P6

Carron Primary School News - Cont'd

World of Work Day 2013

This year the P7s at Carron Primary had visitors who had many different jobs, and who came in and taught us about some careers we could take on in the future.

This event took place over the two days in February. All of the P7s were



split into many different groups and had three sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon.

Some of the people we had in were fire-fighters, nurses, off-shore workers, outdoor



activity leaders, a biomedical scientist, Tesco and business men and women. Every child prepared for the sessions by thinking of questions they would like answers to. All the visitors said that the questions were very good and every single one of them wanted to come back next year!

Each child got something different out of the two days. These are some of the comments from the pupils:

'Every session leader made their talk very fun to listen to and interesting.' -Megan O'Neill. Aged 11

'It was very interesting to find out about some jobs for the future.' -Rowan McKillop. Aged 11

The World of Work day was fun, informative and helpful.

By Hollie Charleston and Kayleigh Shaw.

P5S Global Citizenship – A Fairer World

India Day: as part of our 'A fairer world' topic, we had an India Day where we learnt a little bit extra

about India. We painted a 2 metre Taj Mahal, we did some mendhi hand patterns, spent some time dressing up as Indian nobility and peasants and had our pictures taken at the Taj Mahal!

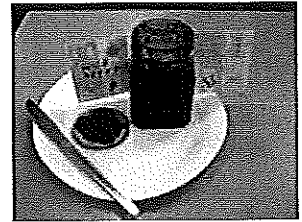
We made posters with lots of facts about India and her people, and also an Indian newspaper. We also had a



group of child labourers who spent one hour sitting on the floor sewing sequins onto fabric. We enjoyed our curry and flatbread late in the afternoon and finished off with some Indian dancing.

Health News for P5S

Jam: we harvested fruit from the school grounds - berries and a few apples, and made Carron's first ever mixed fruit jam! It was really easy to make and very, very tasty. Kyle Hannah won our competition for the best jam jar label.



Soup: we were also lucky enough to harvest a range of vegetables from our school allotments. These we put to good use by making a pot of delicious vegetable soup. Many of us had never tried anything like that and were amazed at how easy it was to make and even more amazed at the great taste - most children had two helpings.

Baking: over the two terms we had the chance to do some baking in class. We baked plain white loaves, some wholemeal loaves and some flat breads on India Day.

Curry: on India Day we made flat breads and curry. The curry was a vegetable curry with lots of onions, potatoes, carrots and cauliflower.

Staff/Pupil House Quiz 2013

The girl captains and vice captains decided to organise a house quiz featuring 3 teachers from each house and the boy captain or vice captain from their house making up the teams. The girls worked co-operatively to make up questions and make a fantastic afternoon for the whole school.

There were 11 rounds with 4 questions in different categories such as Geography, Music, Literature, Pick and Mix and a few more. Everything went great and the girls hosted the quiz with a smile!

The children were excited at the end of each round to hear the scores which we displayed on the whiteboard. They were well behaved and earned extra points for being quiet.

It was a very close competition all the way through with the winners taking the title in the last round. The total scores at the end of the day were Stenhouse in 4th, Kinnauld in 3rd, Tryst in 2nd and Glenbervie finished 1st!! Well done to Glenbervie and of course all the other teams as well.

By Cara Mitchell, Emma McNally, Laura Stirling and McKenzie Cranston.

Carron Primary School News - cont'd

Class P1M Around the World Pirate Adventure - Interdisciplinary Topic.

Shiver Me Timbers! It's a pirates life for me!

We made pirate hats from old newspapers and used the tubes from kitchen rolls to make spyglasses, then we set off around the world on our pirate ship. Using the treasure maps we sailed off to far away islands to dig for buried treasure. We had lots of fun and used our pirate word bank to help us in our role-play and then we wrote a story about our adventures. We worked collaboratively to create a fantastic pirate display in our classroom too.



P3/4 Challenge

Primary 3/4 had an exciting challenge during our recent Scot's Week. The children had to think of a design for the new Forth crossing. They worked in their co-operative teams to design then build it using Knex Construction.

When they had built their bridge they had to quality check the build to see if it was fit for purpose, the test was to see if it would support a toy car.

There were some very clever ideas and good strong bridges built. The children really enjoyed working together and sharing their ideas.



P2/3 and P3 - Science Topic

P2/3 and P3 studied mini beasts as part of their Science topic. They went on their own mini beast hunt armed with shovels, forks, magnifying glasses, clipboards and cameras. They then recorded all the different mini beasts they could see in the schools wild life



garden. They found lots of slimy slugs, wriggly worms and other insects flying around. We captured the mini beasts into jars with a magnifying glass on the top and had a closer

look in class. After that we released them back into the garden so they could return to their natural habitat. Lots of great fun!

P4/5 Max in the Class

Each Thursday the P4/5 class are undertaking the 'Max in the Class' programme. The children are really enjoying the stimulating use of games and drama to develop their health and wellbeing

learning. We have been looking at various situations (e.g. good/ bad days and the issue of bullying) and analysing these from various characters points of views. The children are becoming very skilled at understanding the thoughts, feelings and words which each character might say at different times.



P4N News

P4N have had a very busy start to 2013! On 17th January we invited in all of our parents and grandparents for our Knight's and Castle's Open Afternoon. We really enjoyed this topic and so it was a great opportunity to show off our learning about



castle defences and attack, how to become a knight and some medieval singing and dancing. The parents learned lots and left us some lovely comments on the whiteboard as they left.

In February P4N also had their showcase. In class we had learned about the Jewish Purim Festival during RME. As this is a less well-known festival we decided to put on a play similar to those which Jews would carry out during the festival itself explaining the story of Esther (from the Bible) and use the 'graggers' (shakers) and create masks to help us with the re-telling. We also invited P2T down to our classroom to see the play and to help them develop their skills in questioning and providing feedback.

P4N have also enjoyed linking with Pacific Hills Christian School in Australia. The classes have been emailing back and forth allowing the children to develop their understanding of schools and learning across the world. So far we have enjoyed sharing information about our uniforms, the subjects we learn and prefects and houses in our schools. Hopefully these links will develop and the children will be able to share more topics and keep learning.