

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ACHIEVEMENTS AS AT 5 APRIL 2006**

#### **ANDERSON'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

##### **School Achievements and Activities - March 2006**

###### **Play ground development**

Our recently established Eco committee comprising parents, staff and children are working with the PTA on developing our school grounds. This will involve the purchase of play equipment. Children have drawn plans for the area and a visual artist will work with the group. We have very little space in the play ground and we hope the introduction of this area will improve the range of purposeful activities the children can engage in during their break times. The PTA is funding this development with a range of activities including a Crafts event, a Summer Fair, Discos and Sponsorships.

###### **Health and Enterprise**

Our Healthy Tuck Shop has been re-established after a winter break. Five pupils, the Healthy Tuck Shop Crew, have been instrumental in organising the re-opening. This has involved extensive advertising and a visit to Tesco from whom we purchased a variety of fruits and some healthy snacks. These included low fat savoury snacks; snack-a-jacks, breadsticks, low fat crisps, cheeses, low fat snack bars and yoghurts. Also to reduce the preparation time, the Healthy Tuck Shop Crew has decided to buy some items in bulk from Bookers in Elgin. The work of the group will stand alongside the work of other ASG schools in Forres Library. This will take the form of an exhibition of enterprise activities and will run from 15th May to the 20th June.

A trio of three very enterprising Primary 6 pupils have created a company called Pinc Inc. The girls have designed and made a selection of quality greeting cards, bookmarks and jewellery which they sell in the school on Tuesdays and Fridays. Feedback from pupils in school is that the cards are just as good as the ones they can buy in the shops and a lot cheaper too. Pinc Inc are donating the money they raise to the school playground project.

###### **Sport**

The school badminton team once again won the Moray Quaich and qualified for the national finals where they played against the best teams in Scotland. There were 9 teams in the final. Everyone played a 1st round in groups of 3. The best one in each group proceeded to a second group of three; the 2nd best in each group proceeded to a second group and the 3rd best in each group to a second group. From these second round matches an overall placing is allocated to each team. Anderson's school won the competition in 1997 and 2000. This year Anderson's came 1st in their second group and 4th overall.

###### **Solution Oriented Schools**

The school is committed to solution oriented principles as a means of working with pupils. Teachers have been trained as facilitators to ensure the implementation of this programme.

The Solution Oriented Programme aims to develop high standards of behaviour, teaching and learning by utilising a framework based upon a shared Core Professional Purpose and set of solution oriented principles. In so doing, the Solution Oriented School:

- Creates flexible, cooperative and consistent solution finding;
- Identifies and promotes ability, skill and strength in all;
- Regularly celebrates success and greatness;
- Actively encourages responsibility for actions.

We have trained four staff as facilitators and their role will be to support teachers in finding solutions to some of the problems they may be encountering in classrooms with a minority of our pupils. Our Core Professional Purpose is based on our agreed mission statement, "Success Nourishes Hope" and we feel this statement encapsulates the solution oriented school.

## **BUCKIE HIGH SCHOOL**

### **YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**

Buckie High School has a long tradition of running Enterprise Companies in fifth and sixth year. This session, five successful enterprise companies were set up, each with a Link Teacher to advise and support them. Start up capital for each company was loaned by "Children 1<sup>st</sup>". The companies have marketed a very wide range of products and services within the school and in the community. Company directors and their teams presented these reports to a special meeting of business advisers, parents and teachers on 22 March.

### **CROSS AGE TUTORING**

This is the second year we have used cross-age tutoring in Mathematics. It involves S4 pupils 'teaching' S2 pupils. Having heard a lecture and consequently attended a seminar given by Carol Fitz-Gibbon, Emeritus Professor of Education, University of Durham, we were attracted to her findings which strongly suggested that 'tutors learn by teaching, tutees learn from a personal tutor' and during this exercise, 'teachers are freed to diagnose and prescribe.' Following instruction from their teacher, S4 pupils tutored S2 pupils in Fractions and Decimals, two perennial problem areas for many pupils.

There were clear attainment gains for the majority of the pupils involved, and there was also an increase in self-esteem and sense of efficacy.

### ***RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS***

Students in Buckie High School are encouraged to participate responsibly in the life of the school and wider community.

During the current session, one hundred "Senior Buddies" have been trained to provide academic or social support to younger pupils. Senior Buddies have worked alongside teachers in subjects such as Mathematics, Geography and Home Economics. They have been involved in "Buddy Reading" and running lunchtime activities. Buddies have worked with pupils with profound and

complex needs and to provide social support for vulnerable pupils. Buddies achievements were recognised at a series of assemblies in February.

Senior students are also active members of the Community Councils in the Buckie area. Feedback suggests that the Councils have valued having the perspective and participation of younger members.

Senior students contribute to policy groups in the school, such as the Library Committee, Finance Committee, Homework Club or Charities Committee. All pupils are encouraged to use the interactive notes on the school website to gather and disseminate ideas. From first year to sixth year, pupils are given support to get involved.

Perhaps the greatest responsibilities fall on the shoulders of students who lead their own social committees and yearbook teams. Working with minimal teacher support, they achieve remarkable results.

## **BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**

Two successful business partnerships have been established with local companies. Buckie Shipyard has traditionally recruited apprentices from the school to work in boat construction and maintenance and they have also offered office jobs during the summer to school pupils, with a view to future employment. They have also made groups from the school welcome in the shipyard. In turn, the school has provided facilities to teach English to the increasing number of foreign workers, mainly from Poland, who now work at the Shipyard.

Springfield Properties employs a significant number of workers from Buckie in the construction industry, not only in the building trades, but also in drawing and design areas. Their wish to increase their profile in the Buckie area to improve recruitment to help meet the skills shortage, has led them to develop a special link with Buckie High with the intention of putting something back into the local community. Our fourth year Scottish Group Award class has been generously supported by Springfield Properties in every stage of the building of a real kit “house”, through site visits, plans (which were actually drawn up by two former Buckie High pupils), construction of wall frames, roofing and interior decoration. The “house” will provide two extra music tuition rooms and, perhaps, some future employees for the company.

Buckie Shipyard and Springfield Properties have each contributed to the partnership programme by recognising respectively our third year and fourth year Scottish Group Award “Student of the Month” through the presentation of special plaques. These plaques are awarded, not only for good quality work or high grades, but also for commitment, positive attitudes, effort, improvement, overcoming problems, consideration for others and leadership.

## **P7 LIAISON**

In 2004, the librarians at Buckie High School invited all P7 teachers in the Buckie ASG to bring their classes on a visit to the High School Library during the autumn term. During this first visit pupils were given a general introduction to the Library and took part in a poetry workshop. For the second visit in February / March, they were asked to design a jacket for their favourite book and be prepared to talk about their choice of book for a couple of minutes. Prizes were given for the best design from each school and an overall winner chosen. This liaison project is now in its second year and looks set to continue to be a regular feature of the Library calendar. The librarians have

had very positive feedback from teachers and pupils, who all seem to enjoy their visits to the Library. From the librarians' point of view, these visits provide a useful opportunity for getting to know the future S1 pupils. Last August, the new first years were confident and enthusiastic library users from the beginning, largely as a result of their experience in P7.

P7 pupils are also included in author visits whenever possible. Last year Millbank, Portgordon, Cullen and Portknockie pupils had the opportunity to meet author Alan Temperley. This year, Catherine Macphail visited Cluny Primary and pupils from St Peter's and Findochty joined one of her sessions in the High School.

## **AUTHOR VISITS**

The Librarians at Buckie High School have established an annual programme of author visits. These visits are organised through Scottish Book Trust's Live Literature Scotland scheme and receive generous extra support from the school. This session, two poets - Anne Macleod and Ian Stephen - visited the school to celebrate National Poetry Day, leading workshops and discussing poetry with pupils in S1, S2 and S5. Children's authors Catherine Macphail and Catherine Forde have talked to pupils in P7, S1 and S2 about their books and led lively question and answer sessions. Authors booked for next session include writers Laura Marney, Rodge Glass and Alan Bissett, who will be leading creative writing workshops and talking to senior pupils about their books, and popular author for teenagers, Keith Gray who will be talking to S3 pupils.

Pupils are always well prepared for these visits by both the librarians and the English department, are already familiar with the authors' work and have thought of questions to ask. There is always an opportunity for pupils to buy books and have them signed by the author, and the events receive good coverage in the local press. All our visiting authors have reported favourably on their experience at Buckie to Scottish Book Trust.

These author visits are the highlight of an on going programme of reading promotions in the School Library. The Librarians deliver regular book talks to S1 and S2 pupils on junior fiction, help senior pupils with their choice of text for Higher, both on an individual and class basis, and are currently piloting a reading project with S3 and S4.

These initiatives have led to an increased enthusiasm for reading and writing amongst pupils, as well as helping to promote a reading culture within the school, which is one of the Library's key aims. We are delighted that such high calibre authors continue to accept our invitations to visit Buckie High School, and to help us celebrate books and reading.

## **CABRACH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The school achieved the Eco Schools Silver Award in February. The children and staff have worked hard to gain this award. We have now set our goals to help us gain our Green Flag.

Our Primary 3 pupil, Madelaine Nelson, is taking part in the Royal Northern Countryside Initiative project 'Count and Grow'. Our link farmer, Malcolm Hay, Edinglassie and his gardener, Kenny Hay came to the school to show Madi how to plant and care for the potatoes. Hopefully in June, there will be a bumper crop of potatoes.

During February the children were given salmon eggs to look after by the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Trust. All, bar one egg, hatched out. To date, there have been few casualties. In the summer term, the children, with the help of project manager Robin Vasey, will release the young salmon in to the Burn Treble which runs past the school.

## **CRAIGELLACHIE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

On Monday 20th February 2006 the Education Minister, Mr Peter Peacock visited Craigellachie Primary School to open an 80ft mural which depicts the ecology of the River Spey.

During the visit the children explained that through the project we now have links with schools in Sweden, Norway and Finland. The aim of the project is to learn about the importance of the children's local environment.

It was an exciting day for the pupils and staff at Craigellachie Primary School and we welcomed Mr Duncan, Mr Dunsire, Councillor Urquhart and Councillor Taylor to our school along with representatives from Scottish Natural Heritage and Fiona Jappy, our artist in residence.

## **EAST END PRIMARY SCHOOL**

East End Primary School has provided every teacher and class with a Computer Interactive Whiteboard. This allows cinema-type presentations from film or the World Wide Web together with interactive lessons across the curriculum.

Teachers and pupils, like magicians, can write or paint with a finger in glowing letters of coloured light, produce animations with a tap of the hand or produce cascades of stars or flowers, to emphasise a point. They can utilise exotic or mundane images from "a' the airts." Moving images of the solar system can be manipulated and named whilst they spin in space. Pupils' writing and pictures can be shared with the whole class or posted on the intranet for the whole school. Lessons planned by other teachers all over the world can be downloaded and delivered to the pupils of East End School. We have shared this expertise with a steady stream of interested teachers and extend a warm welcome to any others who wish to visit. This is the technology of science fiction, here and now in Moray Classrooms.

## **ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL**

**Thursday 23 February** – An Alcohol and Drug Awareness Evening was held for parents in Elgin High School. This was a joint venture organised by staff from Greenwards, Mosstowie and New Elgin Primary Schools as well as Elgin High School. About 100 parents attended a series of workshops organised by representatives of various agencies and involving pupils from the four schools. This is now the third major event of the session in which staff from the schools in the ASG have worked together – the November In Service on Assessment is for Learning led by Ian Smith of Learning Unlimited and the High Time concert in the Town Hall at Christmas. In addition to these high profile activities, staff from the different schools have been collaborating on a number of teaching and learning initiatives.

**SoundTown** – The links between Elgin High School and BBC Radio Scotland continue to grow. Twice a week, on average, pupils and members of staff are taking part in broadcasts or other activities. These have included commenting on topics as diverse as teenage magazines, wind farms and mobile phones. Programmes on the proposals for a single secondary school in Elgin as well as Melissa Paterson, an S.4 pupil, interviewing the writer Stuart MacBride for World Book Day were recorded for later transmission. The Gary Robertson shows were broadcast live from the High School on Friday 10 March. Head Teacher Andy Simpson took part in a job shadowing exercise with Jeff Zycinski, Head of BBC Radio Scotland when each spent a day with in the other's workplace. Several more programmes are planned for the future in Elgin High School.

## **INVERAVON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The introduction of the Accelerated Reading programme as part of an ASG wide initiative is proving to both motivate children especially reluctant readers and tests show an overall improvement. We have been lucky to have financial assistance to extend the range of books and quizzes to further enhance reading provision.

## **KEITH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Staff Achievement** - Mrs. Fiona Russell, nursery nurse, passed the Intermediate Food Hygiene course run by Moray College.

**School concerts** - very successful concerts were held for parents as follows:

The junior and senior choirs performed on 22nd November, P.3S performed a nativity 'The Innkeeper's Breakfast,' on 9th December, P.1 and P.2 presented a concert of carols on 12th December, nursery pupils presented a nativity on 15th December and P.3R presented a nativity 'The Grumpy sheep,' on 16th December.

P.7A and the recorder group performed at **Keith Rotary Club Carol Concert** on Sunday 18th December.

On Friday 27th January the winners for each class recited their **Scots poems** at assembly. George Lawrence P.6 and Abbie Hendry P.5 were presented with trophies for the best boy and girl from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Watt.

On Tuesday 31st January the nursery had a successful **joint HMIE / Care Commission** inspection.

On 9th February pupils held a '**Come as You Please**' day. A total of £ 438 was sent off to **Oxfam** to pay for six months education in Uganda and a pack of games for pupils there. Some of that money was raised by pupils not sending Christmas cards but instead giving a donation.

P.3R pupils are participating in a competition to **grow potatoes**. They had a talk from a local farmer Mr. Watson on 20th February.

On 23rd February **primary 7 pupils visited Taylor Court** to interview residents about their experiences of World War 11.

On 27th February Crista Reid of **Grampian Race Equality Council** visited the school to talk to pupils. Later she led in-service training for staff.

On 7th March the school **football team** travelled to St. Johnston Park, Perth for the second round of the 'Soccer 7s' tournament, having won the first round at Inverurie. They had a great day, winning 3 of their 7 matches. The team is doing very well in the Moray Schools League.

We had a large entry in the **Moray Music Festival** and were delighted with the results:

**Group Music Making - class 54**

1st with Distinction - P.5A

distinction - P.5S

**Recorder Solo - Class 164 B**

1st and commended - Andrew Banks.

**Solo Singing - class 23 - girls age 9 and under**

1st with Distinction - Natasha Jamieson

2nd with distinction Meghann Winchester

3rd and commended Louise Cameron

commended - Shannon Webster and Sarah Woolley

**Solo Singing - class 24 - girls age 11 and under**

1st with distinction - Danielle Mearns.

2nd and commended - April MacDonald

commended - Claire Harper.

**Solo Singing - class 28 - boys age 9 and under**

1st with distinction - Craig Green

**Solo Singing - class 29 - boys age 11 and under**

1st and commended - Andrew Banks

**Solo Singing - class 38 - boys age 9 and under - Scots song**

1st and commended - Craig Green

2nd and commended - Ewen Brindle

**Solo Singing - class 39 - boys age 9 and under - Scots song**

1st and commended - Andrew Banks

**Solo Singing - class 33 - girls age 9 and under - Scots song**

1st= with distinction Meghann Winchester and Natasha Jamieson

3rd and commended Louise Cameron

commended Holly Strathdee and Shannon Webster

**Solo Singing - class 34 - girls age 11 and under - Scots song**

1st and commended Jennifer Bunch

2nd and commended April MacDonald

commended Alannah Stewart and Danielle Mearns

**Solo Singing - class 40 - boys age 13 and under - Scots song**

2nd and commended Robert Quinn

**Action Songs - class 3**

2nd and commended - Keith Primary School Senior Choir

**School Choirs - class 7**

1st and commended - Keith Primary School Junior Choir

**Violin Solo - class 73A**

1st with distinction - Andrew Banks

**Verse Speaking - class 250 Primary 6 - solo Scots**

2nd and commended George Lawrence  
commended - Liam Henderson and Sarah McAllister

**Verse Speaking - class 251 Primary 7 - solo Scots**

2nd and commended Rebecca Cameron  
3rd and commended Grant Morrison

**Verse Speaking - class 248 Primary 4 - solo Scots**

1st and commended Rachel Stuart

**Verse Speaking - class 249 Primary 5 - solo Scots**

1st with distinction Abbie Hendry  
2nd and commended Louse Cameron.

**Orchestras - Schools class 63A Primary**

1st with distinction Keith Primary School Music Group

**Piping** - 2nd and commended Amy Adamson.

The following pupils were invited to perform in the Sunday afternoon concert at Elgin Town Hall:  
P.5A, Craig Green, Danielle Mearns, Natasha Jamieson, Meghann Winchester and Abbie Hendry.

## **KINLOSS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We have selected House Captains for our four houses at Kinloss Primary now for many years and have identified candidates for the job based on interview by The Senior Management Team. Over the years we have been expecting them to carry out duties which have an element of leadership qualities which is expected of them. This has been the situation however without much training for the post. We decided to address this and the inclusion and support service along with the Senior Management Team, at the school, is currently offering a leadership training course to The House Captains and Pupil and Student Council members in Primary 7.

This will last over a three week period with three working meetings after school from 15.15 until 16.30.

As part of their understanding themselves better and identifying their own skills in this field we have given each one a learning style analysis questionnaire to ascertain their preferred learning style. This helps them to look fairly critically at their own strengths and areas where they maybe need to be aware of and address.

### **Enterprise in Education**

Springboard Scotland introduced 45 Primary 7 pupils from Kinloss Primary School to the 'Who Wants to be Boardgame' as part of their Enterprise in Education project.

The pupils rose to the challenge and used effective team working to answer most the questions correct. Questions ranged from History, Geography, Hospitality and General Knowledge questions with a Scottish theme. The pupils at Kinloss Primary School impressed us with their level of knowledge on Scottish Tourism and range of job opportunities within the Hospitality, Leisure, Travel and Tourism.

Kinloss Primary School can be undoubtedly proud of their intelligent young students.

## **KNOCKANDO PRIMARY SCHOOL**

At the end of last term, Knockando Church was packed to the doors with friends and family who came along to share in the singing and enjoy our whole-school performance of "**Whoops-a-Daisy Angel**". The generous collection at the door was forwarded to Cornerstone Care in the Community - our chosen charity for Christmas.

At this time too, all pupils enjoyed Christmas Lunch in the company of the Lunch Club - a local senior citizens group which meets in the school dining hall every Wednesday throughout the year.

Following the festivities, we asked the wider school community to help us collect **Christmas cards for recycling** and we were delighted to hear that we had been one of the winners in the Moray Council Recycling competition. As a reward, all children in the school and the partnership playgroup received stationery made from recycled materials and the school was gifted a compost bin and a rowan tree to be planted in the school grounds.

Following the mid-term holiday, the P7s, ably assisted by Dawn Bassett our secretary, had responsibility for running the very successful **Book Fair**. This year, for the first time, friends of the school were invited to donate a book to the school library from a wish-list drawn up by staff.

**Breakfast in School** ran for the week commencing 6th March when an average of 20 pupils per day (and some of their parents) enjoyed breakfast together in the dining hall. While this was never intended to be a money-making event, the profit we did make (around £50) will be used to finance future Healthy Eating initiatives within school.

Mafi Simmonds-Sharkey, a P7 member of **Knockando After-School Athletics Club**, enjoyed sporting success in the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow when he took part in the 60m and Long Jump events. Mafi collected silver and bronze medals and was the only representative from the area in his age group.

The salmon eggs brought along to school by Bob Lawton of the Spey Hatcheries are being carefully tended by the P6 &7 pupils. We have had a far better success rate this year than previously and look forward to releasing them back into the wild hopefully before the Easter break.

## **MILNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Following our HMIE Inspection, the school was put forward as an example of good practice in Modern Languages.

The Moray Council Education Services put Milne's Primary Nursery forward to the Scottish Executive as an example of good practice.

### **Peer Mediation**

15 pupils from P5 and P6 have received training to become Peer Mediators. Peer Mediation is a positive way of helping people to resolve their conflicts in a way that everyone is happy with. We aim to support pupils in resolving low level conflict for themselves.

Mediators are not involved in the conflict, they do not take sides but help pupils find their own solutions.

The pupils who agreed to become mediators had two days of training. A series of meetings were then arranged to organise the service.

The service has had a very positive impact on school life. Pupils throughout the school have made use of the service and a wide range of conflicts have been resolved. Pupils are beginning to talk about mediation as a means of resolving conflicts without turning to mediators.

Teachers and support staff members feel that there has been a reduction in their involvement in dealing with low level conflicts.

## **MOSSTODLOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Junior Road Safety Officer Scheme - 8 pupils involved, Launch for ASG at Mosstodloch. Pupils responsible for Road Safety Activities and maintaining noticeboard. Pupils to be involved in Moray Mini Conference in May.

Number of pupils involved in Moray Music Festival (March) - poetry, choir and musical groups.

Be Fit, Be Healthy Day (March) - finale to enterprise project which will involve the whole school in physical activity and health workshops in school. P7 pupils will go out of school to take part in activities including mountain biking, fencing, indoor bowling, swimming and wall climbing. Class company set up to co-ordinate and plan all events and publicity.

## **MOSSTOWIE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Moray Primary Cross Country competition is scheduled for April 27th and we started out training programme in January. The competition is for P4-7s girls and boys.

On Mondays we train on our football pitch practising drills and doing fast, effort runs. On Thursdays we have the highlight of our week when we take to the woods, behind the school.

We have 3 courses of approximately ½mile, ¾mile, and 1 mile and after a few weeks the children naturally align themselves to the group for their ability.

38 children, 6 parents and 3 members of staff enjoy the delight of fresh air and lovely surroundings even if on occasions it is muddy under foot.

At a time when there is so much publicity about children not participating in exercise, I think it is a great credit to our parents and pupils that 38 out of 39, P4-7 children take part.

## **NEW ELGIN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Cedarwood Enterprise Project 2005/2006**

Primary 5H at New Elgin School have been running a small business making and selling items to raise money for the local charity Cedarwood, which supports adults with learning difficulties. This has been our Enterprise Project for 2005/6 and we have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and experience to research, produce and sell our own items.

We began our Enterprise project by looking into what is needed in order to run a successful business and we even set up and ran our own bank account. We did a lot of work on things people need to survive and different ways of bringing income into a home. We also studied closely the basic business cycle and what is meant by a 'Producer' and 'Consumer'.

After a lot of research and discussion we decided that we were going to build up and run a business making and selling; bookmarks, hair clips, Christmas magnets and calendars.

We had a lot of resources to gather together in order to make the goods to a high quality and after many discussions we put together a list of resources we needed. We then made a list of shops in Elgin that we thought would provide us with the resources at the lowest price.

Once the resources were brought we began making the goods. First we made the book marks and the hair clips. Then we had lots of fun making the Christmas magnets, especially the Snowmen and Christmas pudding characters. After the production of the magnets we went on to organising the calendar. We asked every child in the school to draw a portrait of themselves and the Staff. Then we turned the pictures into a yearly calendar for 2006 and began to sell all of the products. Everyone in Class 5H had the chance to sell the items that we made at dinnertime and during the Christmas Nativity Play at School. It was hard work but it was successful!

Our aim was to make at least £300 for Cedarwood. However, we raised over £450 beating our target by £150. We feel very proud to have raised such a lot of money for such a worthy cause and we are now looking forward to seeing how the money is used to help and support all the people who attend the Cedarwood Centre.

## **PILMUIR PRIMARY SCHOOL**

On Tuesday 21 March 2006 Pilmuir Primary School celebrates its 25 Jubilee. To mark this occasion the Pupil Council suggested we bought a Friendship Bench to put in the school grounds so that at playtime pupils who didn't have a friend to play with could sit on the bench and others would see them and ask them to join in their games. The School Board was approached and they have agreed to fund the bench.

Staff suggested that a tree and roses were planted in the grounds and pupils contacted Christies Elite and Mackenzie Cruickshanks. Christie Elite are donating a silver birch tree and school funds will be used to purchase 25 roses.

The PTA suggested that they run a Jubilee Disco for pupils and the school cook volunteered to make a birthday cake so that each child got a piece of cake.

A special Assembly will be held to mark the occasion. So the whole school community has been involved in this special occasion.

## **SPEYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL**

### **ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING PRESENTATION**

In early March the Speyside High School team of four Sixth Year Students selected by Scottish Engineering to take part in the Engineering Education Scheme made their presentation at the Sensation Science Centre in Dundee. The team had been working with Royal Haskoning, the lead company in the Moray Flood Alleviation scheme, to design aspects of the flood alleviation project for Rothes. The evaluation from the Royal Academy of Engineering commented that “good understanding of the problem was shown, the team achieved their objectives and reported to Royal Haskoning. These have been taken forward”.

### **HEALTH WEEK**

At the time of writing, the penultimate week of the school term, the school is in the middle of a Health Week. Much of the work in preparing for the week has been carried out by pupils as part of their course in Social and Vocational Skills. Presentations and activities have focused on promoting healthy eating and exercise, and the risks associated with smoking, alcohol and drugs. The organisation of events is accredited as a Community Event in the Standard Grade course. Preparation for the event involved local health professionals, Grampian Police and Grampian Health Promotions.

### **SCHOOL MUSIC**

Much of the learning, practice and core of school musicians over the school session has led towards both the recent Moray Music Festival and the second Music Department Concert, held in the second last week of term. Several Speyside pupils and ensembles did well in the Festival.

### **TALENT SHOW**

One whole-school event at the end of March gave the opportunity to all concerned to display their talents, in support of the charity “WATER AID”. A group of Third Year pupils, the group who attend Moray College as part of their studies, organised a Talent Show which took place in two parts. One was a “Battle of the Bands”, among three rock groups in the school, and the second part was other acts.

The first part also took place on a “Dress As You Please” Day to add to the sum raised for Water Aid.

## **ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Sport**

This term all children have participated in either basketball or badminton sessions. Some children took part in a basketball tournament where they came runner up. Children are now aware of the importance of exercise and sport needed for a healthy life.

### **Healthy Tuck Shop**

We have instigated over the last few months fresh fruit into our Tuck Shop. On two days a week children have the choice of two different pieces of fresh fruit and on one day they are offered a "smoothie". On the other two days of the week the Tuck Shop sells other fruit based products. This has all been researched, planned and priced by the Pupil Council. This is proving to be very popular.

### **Shrove Tuesday**

For Shrove Tuesday the Primary 5-7 class organised and planned a Pancake Tea to which the other primary children, their parents, the nursery children and parents were all invited to. The children were supervised while making the pancakes (which tasted delicious). This was very successful with a very high number of parents supporting the event.

### **World Book Day**

To celebrate this day a local poet was invited to the school to read her poetry which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. As well as this all children from nursery and primary came to school dressed as one of their favourite story or nursery characters. The donations from this day have been given to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

### **Medieval Fair**

To end this term we are having a Medieval Fair Day with lots of stalls and games related to their topic of medieval times. The children have designed, priced, bought and made each of their stalls. All parents and children from nursery and primary are invited to come and enjoy the Fair. The children have thoroughly enjoyed it so I'm sure it is going to be a resounding success.

## **ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

My trip was a great success. Pakistan is a fascinating country and Lahore stunning.

I spent two weeks working in our partner school; The Rachna Block of The Lahore Lyceum. I also followed a packed programme of cultural experiences after school and at the weekend.

Mrs Junaid, Rachna Campus Administrator, and her colleagues were perfect hosts. They really made me feel at home.

On arrival at the Rachna campus it became apparent that the ethos of the school mirrored St Thomas exactly, being caring and nurturing and wanting the very best education for their pupils.

In assembly on the first morning I presented the school with pictures, books, leaflets and maps of Keith. I also gave to the school an illustrated children's bible, several scenic Scots calendars, a collection of postcards painted by, a local Grange artist, Tamsin Morrison. I gave the children little furry Haggises made by the children in Keith from tartan off cuts. I gave the school three books of introduction made by our classes in preparation for my visit. I left samples of tartan given to us by Councillor Gorn on behalf of the Keith Tartan Museum.

The staff in Lahore were delighted to receive tartan tote bags donated to our project by Moray Textile Group filled with Baxter's jams and M&S chocolate.

The school teaches entirely through English and the children were very keen to learn all they could about life in Scotland.

I taught several spoken English lessons and coached a team of hand picked children to become a Scottish Country Dance display team.

The school's director and founder Mr Umer Aziz, Head Administrator Miss Nousheen Sarshar, local Head Teacher Mrs Bushra and parents were invited to a Ceilidh Evening.

During the evening the children displayed the partnership activities we have already completed including; a video conference, joint story and poetry writing and illustrating, Basant kites, playground games, Maths questionnaire, visits to churches and local mosques and greeting card exchange. I gave presentations called 'Our Favourite Place in Keith' and 'Jay's Day'. These PowerPoint presentations were developed by P6 and 7 in St Thomas which showed local views of our community and told the story of a day in the life of a typical St Thomas' pupil respectively. I also demonstrated our recently launched school website. The greatest excitement was when Geo-News (Pakistani national TV broadcaster) turned up to film our dancing of a Virginia Reel and The Flying Scotsman. We went out on national TV the next day.

I visited the Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort and the Lahore Museum, all breathtaking. We made a school trip to Khewra Salt mines. These are the second largest rock salt mines in the world. We had a staff outing to the Wagah border with India to see the amazing daily flag lowering and gate closing ceremony. I was also escorted on several shopping trips to buy clothes and music to bring back to St Thomas. These will be used in a dance project planned as part of a cultural evening.

With this DFID grant we have been able to hold curriculum meetings with staff to enable development work in Science and Geography. We have plans to publish an online, parallel, weekly diary written by the children in Pakistan and Scotland.

I will be sharing all the details of my visit with the children, staff and parents of St Thomas School and will then plan the visit of Mrs Junaid to our 'friendly town' of Keith in April.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported this educational exchange. I feel extremely privileged to be part of this exchange and am excited about the future work we have planned. I hope to apply for a further grant to facilitate further links to include other staff in subsequent years.

## **TOMINTOUL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Tomintoul Primary School is continuing its links with Trees for Life and the Crown Estate by planting mixed hedging, donated by the Scottish woodland Trust, around the school playing field, to provide shelter during the winter winds.

A bid for funding to Grounds for Learning was successful, as was a bid to Quality of Life programme, and now a school garden, complete with decking, seating and fencing is nearing completion. The garden will serve as an outdoor classroom and quiet area during break times.

The school has gained silver Eco school status and is now working towards gaining their Green Flag.

## **COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT - ELGIN**

### **Kronach 9<sup>th</sup> July – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2004 Youth Exchange**

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July. The group met at Elgin High School with parents and loads of luggage.....it was explained to the girls that we were only going for one week!

Youth workers were told they wanted to make a good impression so they had packed the hair straighteners! Goodbyes were said and the mini bus with our driver Ian Todd, was stacked and ready for the off. I can't say it was an emotional farewell, in fact, quite the opposite! To say our group of 'Angels' were excited, was an understatement.

Let me introduce our group. Let's start with the 'Angels':- Amy Coull, Shalane MacDougal, Claire Sim, Lhana Macdonald, Leanne Esson, Stacey Edwards. Laura Kissock, Siana MacLeod and Leanne Girvan. All fourth year pupils at Elgin High School and members of the New Elgin Angels. I, your writer, am Wendy Toner, Detached Youth Work C0-Ordinator and I am accompanied by fellow Youth Workers Wendy Swail and Mary Moran.

The mini bus was loaded with excited girls and even more excited Youth Workers. Parents had a look of relief! We were off. We arrived at Aberdeen Airport around 2 hours later to check in. Our senior worker Ian Todd left us with repeated instructions of phoning every day and keeping him and the team in Elgin up to date with our trip. We promised we would. We had an hour or so to kill before our flight so treated ourselves to a hearty breakfast. We left Aberdeen and arrived in Schiphol around 11am. We had 15 minutes to check in and find our departure gate. It was tight but we made it.

We were met at the airport by Youth Workers Lars Hoffman and Katrin Friedrich. Two young people from the Struwelpeters.de youth centre in Kronach were also in attendance. We received a warm welcome and headed for the youth centre where a meal and disco had been prepared for our arrival.

Our girls had never been so quiet! We were amazed at the change in them. Normally they are very confident outgoing young people with much to say! They, however, appeared shy and awkward with this new situation. Let's hope it won't last!

We ate at the centre and spoke to Lars on the week's events that were planned. We then headed for our accommodation. No-One could have prepared us for the beauty of Kronach Castle. It was an amazing site at the top a hill overlooking the old town. Amazing.

Problem was however getting all our cases up that hill! We finally managed and settled into our dorms. We all showered and headed back to the centre for the disco.

It didn't take long for our young people to get to know our German counterparts. Conversations started quickly and friendships began to grow. By the end of the evening we all walked back to our accommodation with new group members and a large pizza!

The following morning Lars and Katrin had planned a rafting excursion in the town. No shoes, log raft, loads of water and jeans up to our knees! Swimsuits would have been advisable. It was wonderful. We met so many townsfolk. They were very welcoming. Once again the girls and the young people from the centre threw themselves into this activity and we all ended up waterlogged, happy and tired. We returned to the centre for food and chill out session. The young people started to exchange more intimate details of themselves to each other. Their family, school life, work and culture. We had not realised that a number of the young people were not only considered to be of German origin but explained that their families were also of Turkish decent. They explained that this can be hard as at times they are not considered to be a local in Kronach. Our young people were sensitive in their questioning of this issue and were empathetic to their peers.

The young people exchanged mobile numbers and we left, tired and happy!

The following day was time out! The girls chose to shop! Need I say more!

Our next day was busy! We all went to school. We took classes in science and math! We had lunch at the school and spoke with the teachers and pupils. Our young people didn't like the early start time but the early finish time appealed to them! No surprise there then! We went for tea at the centre and listened to some traditional German music. This created much laughter with both groups! We felt lasting relationships were being formed and some love was also in the air! Teenage crushes! Would there be tears on departure?

The following day we took a trip along the border of East Germany. Lars was so knowledgeable. He relayed stories of people and families that were known to him and this made it very real for the girls regarding separations of friends and families and lost relationships. It was sad and poignant. Lars was very descriptive and passionate in his story telling. The girls were visibly moved, as were the youth workers!

During our stay we also included a Franconian forest walk, theme park and a visit to Bamberg and a local brewery. What a week.

Our last night was spent in the centre where Lars and Katrin with all the young people from the centre put on a show of music and dance! This was truly wonderful. What a party we had. We were presented with t-shirts and a huge poster with photos and farewell messages. This was so lovely and thoughtful.

This centre and its members have little in the way of money or material possessions. However they make up for it all in their spirit for life and contagious compassion towards others. We felt truly at home!

Whilst farewells were being said and addresses exchanged Lars and myself headed for the local council building where we had a short meeting planned with the local councillor for Kronach. We exchanged our views on the Youth Exchange, was it positive, should it be continued next year, was the experience worthwhile and did our young people learn from it.

How could one reply? This has been one of the most rewarding experiences that a youth worker can be part of. As for our young people, well, to learn of other cultures, to experience that first hand should be available to every young person worldwide. To share activities, school life and learn of others families, goals and traditions is an experience that's gives great understanding and empathy. The personal growth in confidence and self esteem is without doubt in itself insurmountable! Would we do it again! What does the reader think?

We left Kronach on the promise of seeing our friends the following year in Scotland. Roll on 2005!

### **New Elgin/Lossiemouth Detached Project.....April 2005.**

Detached Youth Workers were being made aware of groups of young people leaving there own communities at the weekends to actively seek out other young people in Lossiemouth to cause anti-social behaviour.

Young people were discussing their behaviour with both sets of youth work teams. The detached teams then arranged to meet to look for solutions and discuss the behaviour.

A weekend residential was arranged for April 2005 after seeking funding from the local community network in Elgin. 18 Young people agreed to take part. 9 from Elgin and the same from Lossiemouth. All male aged 15-17. Outfit Moray was arranged as was issue based sessions with the youth workers involved. We deliberately looked at Nethy Bridge as workers felt the need to remove the young people from their comfort zones where active participation could take place and solutions through informed choices were more likely to happen.

The residential gave the young people the opportunity to learn new skills and discuss issues which are affecting them and their communities. The participants have the opportunity to take part in outdoor activities. In addition to the skills the individuals develop they are also encouraged to work as part of a team through activities like abseiling and mountain biking.

We actively encouraged the young people whilst on the trip to work as part of a team and to recognise other strengths and vulnerabilities. However it was also stressed that once they returned home to their own communities then a lot of the continued work and peer educating was up to them.

All the young people took this on board and we had some very encouraging and interesting issue based sessions whilst away. These sessions will continue in streetwork time. The message has to be consistent and continued.

We arranged an evaluation exercise for the last day and sent out questionnaires the week later. Young people also verbally informed us of the lasting friendships they now have with young people they had previously wanted to do harm to. The swapped mobile numbers and arranged football matches. Evidence is more than clear of less reports of anti social behaviour in both towns. This outcome has been more than positive.

The numbers of groups leaving Elgin on a weekend to visit Lossiemouth looking for bother has dramatically decreased in the time the residential took place. This has huge impact on the community as a whole. Less antisocial behaviour in any community is positive and healthy.

In conclusion lasting friendships were formed, understanding of others, and tolerance of each others differences has also been achieved. All this and a huge amount of fun and laughter! What else can a youth worker ask for?

The LCN'S deserve a huge thank you for the funding and support of the first residential like this in this area, the youth workers deserve a huge pay rise for the work they undertook, but most of all we would like to thank the young people, they were energetic, committed and a joy to be with.

Funding has now been secured through our friends at the LCN once again and a residential this time to Badaguish has been organised for May 2006. We have a committed obligation from 24 young females from Lossiemouth and Elgin to take part. This residential will concentrate more on risk behaviour with alcohol at weekends.

The young people must also sign up to four sessions before leaving for the residential. These sessions will include street first aid, self defence, life choices and a session of their choice. All have agreed with hearty enthusiasm. Here we go again!

## **LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS**

### **Museums Service**

Following a successful bid to the Scottish Museums Council Cultural Co-ordinators' Fund, and matching funding by the Friends of the Falconer Museum, a successful workshop day with all the pupils and teachers from Dallas Primary School was held at the Falconer Museum on 20 February. The workshop encouraged children to work together, examining ancient fossils that Hugh Falconer collected in India in the 1830s. Nine fossil stations were set up in the museum, each with a friendly fossil helper to aid them, in the form of volunteer members of the Museum Friends organisation.

The children's work was filmed to be included in the redeveloped Falconer Museum, which is due to reach completion in February 2007. The DVD produced by the workshop will also be included in a future 'fossils' resource kit for schools.

Successes from the project included: bringing together children of different ages; providing financial assistance to allow a rural school to take part; the involvement of volunteers in a safety-checked environment; and contributing to learning outcomes including observation, language, measuring, communication, and problem-solving.

### **Libraries Service**

#### **Buckie Area**

#### **Burns Birthday Celebration**

There was a Burns celebration at Buckie Library on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. The haggis was piped in by Jim Forbes and addressed by Pat Fraser. Children from Cluny Primary contributed to the entertainment with Highland dancing, Scots poetry and Sarah Alexander played the accordion.

Pat and Jim continued with Burns songs and poems and the afternoon finished with the audience and a number of library users singing Auld Lang Syne. Events like this attract people who might never otherwise enter a library and it eases them into our library environment. The aim is then to encourage them to join the library and go on to use the library for lifelong learning and leisure reading.

### **Highlands and Islands Enterprise Promoting Broadband at Buckie Library Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2006**

HIE used Buckie Library computing facilities to demonstrate the benefits of Broadband access to a large number of local business visitors. This event was photographed and reported by The Banffshire Advertiser. Buckie Library hopes to continue supporting local businesses in this way.

### **FISH 'N CHIPS DAY at Buckie Library Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

Over 300 people visited the library between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. The aim of the day was to demonstrate the range of facilities available within the Library to the public. As well as browsing and borrowing from a wide range of books, CDs, DVDs and videos for the whole day the range of high quality on-line facilities were demonstrated to a large number of people of all ages. The theme was chosen to celebrate the traditional fishing heritage of the Buckie area alongside all things modern such as computer chips and electronics. It was a packed day of education and entertainment appealing to all ages, including representatives from the three heritage groups, spinning and weaving, Local, Scottish, African and American music, children's crafts, storytimes and Friends of the Moray Firth Dolphins. Children and Adults enjoyed the quizzes and word searches as well as the lunchtime prawns donated by Moray Seafoods.

### **ECDL Provision**

The recent launch of the ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) at Buckie Library has met with an excellent response, more than 30 signing up for course. The libraries service has currently more than 300 ECDL learners, many assisted by ILAs (Independent Learning Accounts).

## **Elgin Library**

### **Staff Achievements**

Janice Cooper, Jeannie Henderson, Gail Imlach and Nicola Munro, the 4 Learning Centre Advisers from Elgin Library, have successfully achieved the Professional Development Award (PDA) Learning Centre Operations. This is a nationally recognised qualification awarded by SQA and is designed to be achieved online with the support of a work-based mentor and a competent assessor and is offered through Learndirect Scotland to branded learning centres.

### **New Qualifications on Offer at Elgin Library**

A recent application from Elgin Library Learning Centre to become an e-Type accredited test centre has been approved by the British Computer Society. This online course will teach learners to touch-type and award certificates for the skills achieved.

## **Keith Area**

### **Open Day 28 January**

The Keith Library open day was a distinct success with three times as many visitors as normal turning up to this event. Events were geared to meet family needs with in particular, the Narnia Children's event at the Book of the Film event being particularly effective. Also successful was the response to the Computer Taster Sessions.

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT BILL**

### **Seminar for Education Authority Officials Edinburgh Training Centre, Tuesday 28 February 2006**

John Trodden, QIO, and Kathleen Blacklaw, Head Teacher, Bishopmill Primary School attended the above event on behalf of Moray.

The main focus for the day was on sharing good practice in parental involvement. As part of this, 3 workshops were arranged, by Moray Council, Falkirk Council, and Stirling Council.

The Moray presentation was delivered jointly by John Trodden and Kathleen Blacklaw, with a maximum attendance of 15 local authorities. The presentation covered the geographical and demographic context of Moray as well as the structures currently in place to support and promote multi – agency working both at a strategic level and at locality level. Participants were very interested in the Parental Involvement Guidelines which are being developed in Moray by the Parental Involvement Strategy Group, which comprises of a range of professionals who work to support parents and young people, including schools. They found the Moray Strategy for Parental Involvement, which includes running Parent Information Days in all ASG areas, to be very novel and effective. Kathleen Blacklaw described how the Authority's initiatives were impacting at school level. She demonstrated how our parent prompt materials, as well as other resources developed by Bishopmill Primary, were being used to support the involvement of parents in their children's learning. Kathleen outlined her plans for involving the school board, the PTA, and the Parent Partnership Group of parents in discussion and decision making about the implementation of the proposed Parent Councils. There was a high level of interest shown in the display of Moray resources. Our Good Practice Guide and our CD ROM of Parent Prompts were in high demand. Approximately 50 requests were received for these from the representatives of other Scottish local authorities.

## **MORAY CONCERT BRASS**

### BBC Radio Scotland live broadcast - Monday 30 January

Monday 30 January 2006, saw Moray Music Centre's, Moray Concert Brass participate in a live radio broadcast from Elgin High School as part of BBC Radio Scotland's "MacCaulay and Co" programme.

The band which is made up of pupils from various schools around Moray were asked to take part and perform 3 pieces throughout the programme. Although the band consists of 75 players only 30 were required for the event.

During the broadcast the band were all completely committed to their performance and also to the fact that they could be asked to change the performance at any time.

Not only did they perform to their usual high standard, but were also able to provide some sound effects for a feature that was part of the programme that day.

Since the broadcast, the band have received praise not only from staff at Elgin High School, but also from the producer of the programme who has phoned to say how impressed she and the crew of the programme were with the professionalism and skill shown by the members of Moray Concert Brass.

The whole event was able to show that music is not only alive in Moray's schools but is also of a very high standard and suitable to be heard on national radio.

## **A PARENTAL VIEW**

My daughter attends the Moray Youth Choir, and has done for nearly 6 years now. I have attended every concert and festival the choir and orchestras have produced during this period, and although there has never been a concert less than brilliant - I feel compelled to write to you regarding the exceptional concert given on Saturday afternoon.

Saturday's performance was second to none, and thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance, the soloists were outstanding in their own field, the choir were exceptional and deserved an outstanding certificate the previous evening. All instrumentals were magnificent.

As head of instrumental services, you must be extremely proud of the youth in Moray and the quality of entertainment they produce. You and your staff must be congratulated on the service you provide.

I am looking forward to their next performance.