

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ACHIEVEMENTS
AS AT 31 MAY 2006**

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONALISTS WORK WITH STAFF IN MORAY

'International Thought Leaders' is an exchange programme run by the Scottish Executive Education Department which aims to bring the best educational thinkers and practitioners from around the world to Scotland, both to share their expertise and to learn from the best that Scotland has to offer. Earlier this month, Ellen Moir and Janet Gless from the New Teacher Centre of the University of California, Santa Cruz, visited Scotland for two weeks. Ellen Moir is the founder and Executive Director of the New Teacher Centre where Janet Gless is one of the Associate Directors. Both are recognised throughout the USA for their work in new teacher development.

During their time in Scotland, the vast bulk of their work was with universities and at national events. The only local authority they visited was Moray, on Monday 15 May 2006. In the morning they worked with a group of our teachers and headteachers plus some colleagues from Highland. Our contingent included a number who are being trained in coaching techniques as part of Moray's involvement in a Leadership Project funded by the Scottish Executive Education Department. In the afternoon they worked with all of our headteachers.

We are extremely grateful to all who supported our efforts to bring Ellen Moir and Janet Gless to this area. However, our success in securing their services is also an acknowledgement that Educational Services in Moray is at the forefront of coaching and mentoring developments in Scotland.

From the work of Ellen Moir and Janet Gless with our staff there is now no doubt that our work in coaching and mentoring has great potential for our staff and therefore for the children and young people of Moray.

CABRACH PRIMARY SCHOOL

During this term pupils in P5 and 6 are taking part in the Safe Cycling scheme. Once a week they receive instruction from Sheila Cumming, children's supervisor.

On Wednesday 26 April the children, along with Robin Vasey Project Officer for the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Trust, released the salmon fry they had been caring for in to the Burn Treble which runs by the school.

The school was visited on May 10 by an assessor for Eco Schools. Kath Hamper from Buchan Countryside Group and Tracey Lloyd were here to judge whether the school would be granted a Green Flag Award. The children had prepared a power point presentation on their work. Kath and Tracey asked questions and were then taken on a tour of the school by the children to be shown their work. Kath contacted us that afternoon to inform us that we had been successful - the first Green Flag to be awarded in Moray.

On May 12 the children visited the Northern Scot offices in Elgin to get an insight into how a newspaper is put together. The children are in the process of producing their own newspaper, '*Cabrach Cairry Ons*', which should be ready for distribution during June.

On the evening of 17 May the children performed a play entitled 'How rabbit got long ears and a short tail'. The children wrote the play themselves and it featured Mr and Mrs Rabbit, Mr Mole and Mr Eagle - a starring part for each child. A lot of hard work went into the costumes, the set and learning the words.

CLUNY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Determined to Succeed

As part of our continuing efforts to address Determined to Succeed we held our annual Enterprise Week, this year with a particular focus on Citizenship. The whole school participated in a range of activities related to 'Me...a citizen'. In Primary 1 and 2 the focus was 'Me a citizen in my class.' The children organised a Teddy Bear Tea Party for one another and made invitations for their teddies and friends. They invited friends and family to the party and helpers participated in Teddy Story Telling Sessions. In Primary 3 and 4 the theme was 'Me a citizen in my school.' The children organised fun board game sessions in the hall and exchanged designed citizenship badges on key themes. Primary 5 considered 'Me a citizen in my town.' The children held a Concert for their relatives and visited local old people's homes. The theme for Primary 6 was 'Me a citizen in my country.' These classes organised a Parent-Pupil Ceilidh which was greatly successful and enjoyed by all. The chosen theme for Primary 7 was 'Me a citizen in my world' with the children being visited by the Grampian Racial Equality Council, and conducting their own anti-racism campaign.

Eco-School

We have been accredited with our Silver Award following a range of Eco-School related activities. An Eco-School Conference is scheduled to be held at the end of May with a range of workshops planned and delivered by local agencies including the Forestry Commission, SEPA and Waste Watchers. Children from all the Buckie ASG Schools have been invited to attend and it is hoped the event will be a fun-filled and interesting session for all concerned.

Health Promoting School Activities

Health activities have again been prominent this year. We held a themed 'Sunrise to Sunset' Evening for Parents and Pupils to enjoy. Children in Primary 6 and 7 organised Breakfast Buffet Bars, Design your own Toastie Stalls and Healthy Snack Treats were served. Health Promotions assisted in helping to deliver an information session for parents on healthy packed lunches and a range of active workshops were planned.

Our annual health week addressed the range of health priorities including water safety, oral care and accident prevention. Workshops across the primary stages were organised and delivered. The RNLI Regional Officer presented an excellent session for our infant children on water safety and the lifeboat crew – complete with costumes. The Red Cross carried out some first aid sessions and new playground games were purchased for the children to enjoy. It is anticipated that the Primary 7 Buddies will help use these new materials in the playground with the younger children.

We have also had a very successful Parent to Play Night, with a focus on physical health. A range of sports sessions were planned, with visitors from local golf courses, sport development officers and our local football and rugby clubs. Parents were invited to come along and have some fun with their children. The School Council led and organised a very successful Bring and Buy Sale which helped raise funds to provide parents and family with fruit juice and fruit kebabs as refreshments for the evening! This was a most enjoyable evening which we hope to repeat in subsequent years.

ELGIN STRATHSPEY AND REEL SOCIETY FESTIVAL

Under the guidance of our visiting Violin Teacher, our school orchestra participated in the Elgin Strathspey and Reel Society Festival gaining first place in the Ensemble Section.

CRAIGELLACHIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Residential Trip

Primary 6/7 pupils went to Loch Insh for a week's outdoor activities. The activities were varied including kayaking, archery and problem solving. They had a superb hands-on learning experience complete with team building activities.

Rotary Quiz

The children competed in the Rotary Quiz on the 28th March. After a nail biting last round Craigellachie Primary School won and represented us at the semi finals in Fraserburgh. They came 5th in this round. Well done to the children for competing.

CULLEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nursery Integrated Inspection by the Care Commission & HM Inspectorate of Education

The school is delighted with the Inspection Report published on 8th March. It outlines five very desirable key strengths and one recommendation i.e. 'The Nursery should continue to maintain the high standard of provision.' The report reflects the dedication of a very hard working nursery team; the support of parents; and the willingness of the children to learn.

Enterprise Development

Primary 3 children planned, organised, advertised and presented an alternative 'Beetle Drive' called 'The Fruit Salad Game'. A fun filled evening was enjoyed by staff, parents, children and friends of the school; and in keeping with the title, the refreshments included fresh fruit, yoghurt dips and fruit juice drinks. This linked nicely with our Health Promoting School developments and also raised £340.

Healthy Fun Night

The Health Group organised a very successful Healthy Fun Night which was supported by Health Promotions, Healing Elements, Susan Herbert (Aerobics Instructor) and Hein, our Active Schools Co-ordinator. Parents and children took part in a variety of activities which included advice on Healthy Packed Lunches; promoting our Healthy Tuck Shop; information on alternative therapies; and a twenty minute aerobic session for the adults and physical activity for children.

Cross Country Success

Thirty two children attended the Moray Cross Country Event and all teams came in second place for our section.

Three runners went on to take part in the Scottish Cross Country Championships in Kirkcaldy on Saturday, 22nd April.

Hockey Festival

Two hockey teams represented the school at a mini festival in Buckie organised by Cluny P.S. and visiting PE specialists. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children who took part.

Healthy Staff

The staff at Cullen P.S. are endeavouring to live healthier lifestyles in keeping with the new aim 'Learning to Live and Living to Learn' and also as a Health Promoting School. Different members of staff have taken part in the following:-

- ❖ Presentation by the Health Promotions team at Baxters
- ❖ Reflexology Talk and Taster Session
- ❖ The Six Harbour Walk from Portsoy to Buckie
- ❖ Running Events - three members of staff have been running in half marathons or 10K races at Elgin, Inverness and Balmoral. One runner is in training for the marathon in Edinburgh.

Rotary Primary School Quiz

After winning the Buckie heat of the Primary School Quiz, the team went on to represent the Buckie Rotary Club at Fraserburgh with Milne's P.S. The Cullen P.S. team was third in the Zone 2 final and the children were great ambassadors of the school. Congratulations to Keith P.S. who won the event. It was great to see two Moray Schools in the top three.

Bibleworld & The Journey

Primary 6 children took part in an interactive visit to Bibleworld at Keith Grammar School. The cost of this event was sponsored by Moray Presbytery and transport by the school. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They also took part in an interactive drama production called 'The Journey' which was organised by the Road Safety Officer.

ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL

Mock Election

Elgin High School was the only place when all five candidates in the recent Moray by-election for the Holyrood Parliament were together in the same place. Third year Modern Studies classes organised a mock election amongst their peers. The pupil candidates had the opportunity to meet the real candidates and be briefed on policies, etc. Not only did they meet the candidates and their agents, but they also saw what it was like to be part of a media event when television cameras from the BBC and Grampian, radio journalists from Moray Firth Radio and BBC Radio Scotland and press photographers from some of the national newspapers descended on the school. The pupil candidates did themselves proud and coped well with the attention and the opportunities. Like the real election, the SNP, represented by Jody Clayton, won. Jody was subsequently interviewed by BBC Radio Scotland and described her victory on the 10.00pm news. While the S.3 pupils did all

the work and preparation, David Allan and Alison McIver, Principal Teachers of Modern Studies, co-ordinated the event.

Litter Clearing

As part of the ongoing efforts to encourage responsible citizenship, all S.1 pupils took part in litter sweeps. Working with staff from Environmental Services as well as the community police and wardens, S.1 classes donned gloves and protective tabards over several days the pupils filled several black bags. They collected litter not only from the school grounds, but also the neighbouring streets. The plan is to repeat this with next year's new intake. Anne Duncan, Depute Head Teacher, co-ordinated the sessions on behalf of the school.

INVERAVON PRIMARY

Determined to Succeed - Garden Club

Our horticultural activities have extended to asking families to 'foster' a container, window box or hanging basket of summer flowering plants which they will look after over the summer. One fine afternoon 2 weeks ago parents and pupils rolled their sleeves up and got going with the "Plantathon" which resulted in some impressive arrays of flowers to be enjoyed over the next few months. This spring the children in p1-3 concentrated on growing only Sweet Pea plants from seed. Success in previous years encouraged them to increase their numbers and over 150 healthy, bushy plants went on sale. Within half an hour they had all been bought by parents and members of the community.

Primary Secondary Liaison -Scottish Opera

Over the past few weeks under the guidance of Mrs Ledingham our P7 pupils have been in fine voice practising various songs from "The Big Bang." On Monday May 22nd they will join P7 pupils from other schools in the ASG at Speyside High School where four members of the Scottish Opera will lead them through a whole day workshop. They are looking forward to being taught dances, stage moves, dressing up in costumes and finally putting on a performance for parents in the afternoon.

KEITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Burns Federation - the team representing Keith Primary School did very well at the Burns Federation Festival in Aberdeen on Saturday 25th March. Results were as follows:

Singing

P.4 1st Megan Winchester 2nd Megan Buchan 3rd Natasha Jamieson, HC Holly Strathdee.

P.5 1st and trophy Craig Green, 1st Louise Cameron, 2nd Grace Gordon, 2nd Ewen Brindle, HC Shannon Webster.

P.6 2nd= Rachel Goodison.

P.7 1st and trophy April MacDonald, 2nd Jennifer Bunch, 3rd Danielle Mearns, HC Jo Strathdee.

Instrumental Section

1st and trophy Amy Adamson (bagpipes)

Recorder Group section

1st Allanah Stewart

Poetry Recitation

P.4 1st Reece Martin, 2nd Rachel Stewart HC Holly Strathdee and Michael Hutcheon.

P.5 2= Ellie Beaton, 3= Louise Cameron.

P.6 HC Stephanie Main

P.7 1st and trophy Grant Morrison, 2nd Sarah Greenup, 2nd= Kayleigh Marshall

3rd Rebecca Cameron, HC Jack Simmers.

Five pupils from Keith Primary School represented Grampian at the **Robert Burns Association National Finals in Dumfries** on 22nd April.

Craig Green came second in the singing competition, whilst Amy Adamson and Grant Morrison were placed third in the instrumental and poetry recitation sections. Louise Cameron and April MacDonald sang beautifully too with the result that Grampian won the two team trophies. Thank you to Mrs. Dawson for accompanying the singers on piano, and to all the parents for their support. Amy and Craig have been invited to perform at a Burns Supper in the Marcliffe at Pitfodels Hotel, Aberdeen, on 19th January.

Craig Green won a talent contest at Portknockie on Saturday 6th May.

The school quiz team - Grant Morrison, Andrew Banks, Harriet Duncan and Jordan Green plus reserve Caitlin Gould won the second round of the Rotary Club Quiz at Fraserburgh on Monday 24th April. The team will compete in the semi-finals in Stirling on Saturday 3rd June.

Two quiz teams competed in the **Library Book Quiz** on Wednesday 3rd May. Keith Primary School's team A was first and team B was second equal with Crossroads School. Team A members were Caitlin Gould, Rebecca Cameron, Harriet Duncan and Grant Morrison. Team B members were Andrew Banks, Ryan Innes, Michaela Pirie and Rachel Goodison. Reserves were Jordan Green and Annabelle Grant. Team A were placed third in the second round of the competition.

Primary 4 pupils presented a **concert** to parents on Monday 8th May. 'Sea Thunder' was a musical on the theme of the Vikings. It was tremendous to watch and listen to such talented children.

In order to share the many talents at KPS there is to be a variety concert on **Wednesday 17th May**, with two performances, one at 11a.m. and another at 1.30p.m. Tickets, priced £2, are on sale at the school.

The school held a very successful **book fair** at the beginning of May. Sales were so good that the school received £1137 commission, which was used to purchase books for the school libraries and the classrooms.

Hockey - a school team competed in the Allarburn Tournament at Elgin on Saturday. This was a very enjoyable day.

Trip - the majority of pupils in P.7 enjoyed a week away at Nethybridge Outdoor Centre.

Football - two teams competed in the 'Fun Fours' tournament at Inverurie Academy on Wednesday 10th May. The A team played and won 8 matches and are now through to the national finals. Primary 5 pupils participated in the football festival at Lossiemouth on 10th May.

LOSSIEMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Scholarship

Congratulations to Calum Sloan of S6 who has been awarded a Heriot-Watt scholarship for Scottish Domiciled Students for the duration of his course there. Only 30 of these awards are available in any year and it is magnificent that a Lossiemouth student has won this. Calum will take up his place at Heriot-Watt after the summer. In addition to the scholarship Calum has also managed to secure a £100 book bursary for his first year.

Eco-Day

On the afternoon of Tuesday 16th May S1-S3 pupils participated in a variety of activities arranged by the Eco-Schools committee which included a beach clean in Lossiemouth and also poster and photo competitions, the results of which we hope to display to the local community. The aim of the afternoon was to highlight awareness of and promote responsibility towards our local environment. Our Eco-Committee has already achieved Bronze level status and is currently working towards a Silver Award.

Health Day

Health Day took place on Tuesday 16th May between 9am and 12.30pm where S1-S3 pupils participated in various workshops including on drugs, alcohol, tobacco, nutrition, mental health, self defence and disability awareness. This is the fourth year that the school has run such a programme which is designed to support and promote the health promoting school. The day proved to be a huge success and we are very grateful to our partner agencies for giving their time and energy to make the day possible.

Burgman Youth Action

Congratulations to Leigh Shanks, Jodie Owen, Tessa Main, Laura Ramsay, Laura Hubbard, Katie Lyons and Nicola Sutherland of Burgman Youth Action who were awarded first prize of £1000 at the Spotlight Awards in London on Thursday 11th May. This is a magnificent achievement as they were the only Scottish Finalists. The girls were unfortunately unable to attend the ceremony due to exams but plan to use the prize money to help stage a concert in the Summer. Well done.

Talent Show

A school talent show took place on the evening of Wednesday 29th March. Mrs Strong and her S5 PSE class made all the arrangements and carried the event off in style on the night. The acts were judged by Heather Scott, Pete Thoms and Josie Mouser. The judges had a hard decision but came out in favour of Amber Hayward and her professionally executed song and dance routine to "When You Look at Me". The audience voted for Social Chameleon, a band in the style of Oasis, and their rendition of "Live Forever". This was an excellent evening of entertainment which raised over £300 for Lossiemouth High School Association Funds.

Netball Tour

On Monday 3rd April, 25 pupils and 3 members of staff left a cold Lossiemouth High School for the sunny netball courts of Malta. The tour proved to be a great success with both teams competing well against players of all ages and abilities. The girls all had a chance to socialise with the opposing teams and also use the leisure facilities which Malta has to offer. A great time was had by all and the girls were a credit to the school and were highly praised by fellow holiday makers. Well done!

Columba 1400 Activities

On the 29th and 30th March the Columba 1400 leadership programme was rolled out to a further 31 pupils in S2. The pupils who attended the course in Skye in November acted as leaders for a morning of school based activities on Wednesday 29th March. This was followed by lunch and a Values Walk along the West Beach in the afternoon. The following day was spent at the Low Ropes facility and the PE hall at RAF Kinloss where pupils developed team working and leadership skills. The new participants were presented with certificates at a short graduation ceremony at the end of the second day. The plans are to involve all these pupils in a fund raising project and a community development project. In addition some S1 pupils will be trained in leadership activities before the end of this session.

Musical Success

Congratulations to the Lossiemouth High School Clarinet Group who won the Wind Ensemble class with distinction and to the Lossiemouth High Flute Group who gained a commended certificate in their class at the Moray Music Festival in Elgin Town Hall on Monday 13th March. Congratulations also go to sisters Anna and Elizabeth Patterson who won the woodwind duo class with an outstanding award. Elizabeth also won the solo clarinet class, category C with distinction, with Anna in coming in second place. Rory Lambert was awarded a merit certificate in the Category D solo clarinet class. Rory has also been given the fantastic opportunity to take part in a Woodwind Masterclass given by Emma Johnson at the Deveron Festival at Duff House in June.

MILLBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Millbank Primary School is developing an International Link with a school in Ghana called the Juliet Johnston School. Mrs Basil Johnston who founded this school, visited the school to talk to pupils about the school and life in Ghana in January, 2006. She loved the school, and the pupils loved her!

We are excited that she is returning to talk to the pupils again on Wednesday, 17th May, and this time she is bringing with her the Head Teacher of the school Juliet Osafo and the Primary 1 teacher, Charity Kankan. These ladies will be showing more photographs of the school to all the pupils, and they will be telling the children a Ghanaian tale.

The pupils will be donating half of our current fund-raising monies, £300 approximately, to the Tafo Trust, to buy essential equipment for the school.

33 P5 pupils participated in the SFA McDonald's Football Coaching Programme Regional Festival which took place at the Grant Park, Lossiemouth on Wednesday, 10th May. The children had a very enjoyable day, improving their football skills and mixing with pupils from other schools. Luckily, Millbank School was chosen to participate in the National Final which will take place at Hampden

Park stadium on Tuesday, 23rd May. 10 pupils' names were drawn 'out of the hat' to make up the school team, with 23 very sad faces of those who were not picked looking on!

18 Primary 7 pupils have just returned safely from a week's residential stay at the Abernethy Trust, Ardeonaig Centre, in Perthshire. They participated in a variety of outdoor pursuits such as archery, canoeing and hill-walking. The weather was really warm all week and we were thankful we had packed the sun-block. The children mixed very well with each other and with the other children from Bervie Primary School. We look forward to their presentation of all their photographs of the trip.

The pupils of P6/7 and of P7 have been involved in an Anti-bullying Project this session. The aim of this project was to highlight for pupils the consequences of bullying, and also to provide for them an enterprise activity in which all pupils would be involved. This project has been managed by the staff of Springboard Musical Theatre Company, who have visited the school every fortnight to work with the pupils.

The musical theatre production is nearing to fruition now, and it will be performed to staff, pupils and parents at the end of June. All P6 pupils from the Buckie ASG schools will be invited to attend a special performance.

Education packs, DVDs and CDs will be produced for purchase.

This project was funded by the Determined to Succeed Innovation Fund, the LCN, and by a grant from PC Taylor, Schools' Liaison Officer.

MILNE'S HIGH SCHOOL

Poetry Competition: Two pupils from Milne's recently had success in a poetry competition organised by Ottakar's and Faber to celebrate National Poetry Day. Jamie Lyall (1F2) won the local branch 9-12 years competition with his poem 'The Lean Mean Welsh Machine' and 2nd Year pupil Robyn Haufe was runner-up in the 13-16 years competition with the poem 'The Nameless Portrait'.

Reviewers Published: A group of pupils in first year who took part in the Barrington Stoke consultancy scheme have now received a copy of the title – with their names published in the back of the book. The book called 'Until Proven Guilty' was written by Nigel Hinton. The book and a commemorative certificate were given to the pupils in the library on Wednesday.

Young Enterprise: This year's company 'Insomnia' will represent Moray at the national finals in Glasgow in June – the third year in a row Milne's High School teams have done so. They were winner in all categories in the local competition. Company members have also just received their results in the Young Enterprise examination. All passed with five of the company members going a pass with credit.

MOSSTODLOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the end of last term, the P7 pupils who have been studying WWII enjoyed a day of activities relating to that era. They dressed in 1940 style clothes, learned to create hair fashions from that time, simulated work activities which took place during the war, learned dance routines and tasted samples of typical food.

Our Hockey Team took part in a recent competition and won The Allarburn Trophy. This is the seventh time that a team from the school has won this since 1997.

P5 pupils who have taken part in football training were participants in a Football Festival on Wed 10th May at Lossiemouth, along with other Moray Primary schools.

2 teams from P7 are entering the Moray Primary School Book Quiz, which is held in the Elgin Library on 15th and 16th May - one team is through to the semi-finals and the second team were 1st equal in their heats, but were knocked out in the tie-break.

The school was asked to take part in PIRLS assessment and SSA assessment with pupils from P3, P5 and P7. This is currently being carried out in school. For the PIRLS assessment, independent assessors administered the test to P5 pupils. The data gathered is used for international comparison.

A team from school is currently practising to take part in the Kwik Cricket heats which take place at the end of this month. Another team are being trained for their participation in Gordonstoun's Highland Games, which will be later this term.

Recent visitors to school have included a company who performed a road safety Play which actively involved the P6 pupils, in preparation for when they travel to the High School. Ray Owens, The Highlander, who instructed the pupils in 4 classes on the lifestyles of The Romans, a soldier in WWII, an 18th century Highlander and a Viking. Most recently, we were given the chance to have a science show in school, called Noise Works, which taught the pupils from P4 - P7 about sound in a very entertaining and participative way.

In June, P7 pupils are going to a conference entitled "Choices for Life" in Aberdeen. This was attended by pupils last year and was a great success.

ROTHIEMAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rotary Quiz

On Monday 24th April, four P6/7 pupils represented Rothiemay School in the area final of the Rotary Quiz at Fraserburgh. The children did very well and came 4th out of 15 teams.

Golden Granny visits Rothiemay Primary School

On Tuesday 25th April we welcomed double Commonwealth Gold Medalist Mrs Sheena Sharp to school. Mrs Sharp who has grandchildren at the school was happy to share her experiences of the Melbourne Commonwealth Games with individual classes. The medals Mrs Sharp won at Melbourne and Manchester Games were passed around as Mrs Sharp spoke enthusiastically to the children and answered their many interesting questions. Mrs Sharp advised the children of the importance of patience, hard work and setting manageable targets on the way to achieving goals.

ECO-GROUP

On Thursday 27th April members of the recently established ECO-GROUP gave a powerpoint presentation to the Rothiemay PTA on developing our school grounds. The PTA is going to work closely with the children in order to purchase play equipment for the school park.

Chembakolli Tea Party

Rothiemay Primary School held a Chembakolli Tea Party as part of our whole school enterprise project on Tuesday 9th May. The event was inspired by Action Aid and its aim was to encourage pupils and visitors to think globally, and recognise the importance of fair trade to support third world countries.

All pupils were involved with the organising and running of the tea party event. P1-3 pupils served up their own tea loaf which they had baked in class and sang songs.

P4-5 designed and published invitations and posters which were distributed throughout the local community, and on the day performed a puppet show. P6-7 pupils produced a video and a powerpoint presentation to highlight the poor conditions in Chembakolli. They also prepared a quiz, treasure hunt and guess the number of tea bags in the jar. P6 girls presented a tea dance which they choreographed themselves.

The Tea Party was very well supported by parents, grandparents and members of the community. The visitors to the school remarked on how enjoyable the fair trade tea was which resulted in the fair trade goods being completely sold out.

SPEYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Running Champion

Third Year pupil, Robbie Cammack has become the Scottish Under 16 Hill Running Champion, at a recent event at Ben Lomond. This follows Robbie's achievement of being placed second at an international event in Northern Ireland last month.

Determined to Succeed

Speyside High recently hosted a lunch for representatives of local business as part of its enterprise strategy under the Determined to Succeed programme. A number of students gave presentations about the ways in which business links had contributed to activities which they had found valuable, such as Young Enterprise, The Engineering Education Scheme, Mock Interviews, Design Projects and Work Experience.

The lunch is being followed up by giving local businesses the opportunity to suggest ways in which they can be more involved in providing opportunities for pupils and enriching the curriculum.

Drama Award

Earlier in May the Drama Department hosted an evening of performance excerpts by students studying Higher Drama. This included the opportunity for a panel to adjudicate to whom a new school Award for Performance in Higher Drama should be made. This award, gifted by Mr. Alexander Turner was won by Sixth Year student, Laura Wood.

Music Successes

Speyside High pupils Calum and Kirsty Duncan recently won first place for piano and violin respectively at the Oban Music Festival. Calum was also recently reselected to join the National Youth Choir of Scotland.

ST GERARDINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Citizenship and Enterprise

At the end of last term P1-7 took part in a sponsored workout for LEPROSA. Not only did the children all enjoy the physical activity of the workout but they also learned about people from another part of the world and the terrible disease of leprosy. Parents and friends of St Gerardine School supported the children in their endeavour to help the LEPROSA charity – we raised £2354.

Primary 4's theme last term was about Scotland. At the end of their study the class was divided into groups, each of which visited the other classes to describe an aspect of Scotland in song, verse, jingle and dance. They also entertained the folks in Whinneybank Residential Home. One day was set apart for everyone in school to wear something Scottish for 50p. The total raised was £80 which was donated to Children 1st making sure that P4 in St Gerardine School helped children in Scotland.

At the beginning of this term P2G sang at a local coffee morning. The proceeds from this event went to the Autism Society. This visit linked with our R&ME theme this term. The children were well received and felt very much welcomed into the community outside the school environment.

A Classroom Assistant with responsibility for the library and a group of children organised an event for World Book Day. Everyone was given the opportunity to dress as a Book Character for 50p on the last day of term. We raised £114.50 for World Book global.

ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

St. Thomas recently hosted Mrs. Farhat Junaid, the head teacher of The Lahore Lyceum - Rachna Campus. This was the return part of the Reciprocal Exchange programme organised by the British Council. Mrs. Junaid stayed with Ms. Cathy Francis, our HTR who went out to Pakistan in January. The two week visit was extremely successful and as well as working in St. Thomas', Mrs. Junaid visited most of the schools in the Keith ASG, as well community groups such the Church, the scouts and the elderly. She also spent an afternoon meeting with members of Educational Services including the Director. Our visitor was overwhelmed by her welcome and the friendliness and warmth shown to her during her stay. The highlight of which was our Pakistan Presentation, which was a blend of art, music, fashion and dance produced and performed by the children from P1-P7. The use of I.C.T was a major element and it included short presentations by Farhat and Cathy. The whole project was a prime example of the cross curricular work which is envisaged by the Curriculum for Excellence programme. We are currently making a DVD of the presentation as part of our Enterprise in Education work.

WEST END PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cosmic Crew

We welcomed back the Cosmic Crew who entertained the whole school with a production of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. All staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the first class performance and are looking forward to their return in December.

Entertainment

P1-3 had the lovely experience of meeting one of the clowns from the circus that was in Elgin. While P1-3 were enjoying this P4, P5 and P6 were being entertained by Ray Owen who dressed as a Roman, a Jacobite and then an Astronaut to enhance their learning experience.

Mobile Farm

P6 are studying Land Use and had an enjoyable time when the Mobile Farm came to school. They got first hand experience of farm animals and their young and also gained a valuable insight in to farming in the local area by talking with Mr Newlands, a local farmer, who accompanied the Mobile Farm.

Interactivity

The school has now installed projectors and audio systems into every classroom. Three out of the eight classrooms have also an interactive whiteboard. The children are very enthusiastic and motivated by this new technology. Our school association have contributed money to help pay for these and are working hard to fund raise more money to help us purchase more interactive boards for every classroom.

Exploring the Environment

All P4 pupils have been enjoying regular visits to The Quarrelwood where they are exploring the woodland environment. The children are working towards achieving a John Muir Trust Award.

Sport

Our Netball team has been doing really well. They recently won a competition at Lossiemouth where 22 other teams took part. The girls also look as though they are going to win the League title too.

Student Council

Our Student Council held a 'Come As You Please Day' at the end of last term to raise money for After School Clubs. They successfully raised over £150.

WESA

Our School Association have been working hard. At the beginning of last term they held a family Beetle Drive and just after Easter had a family Bingo Night. Both nights were enjoyed by all who attended.

ARTS DEVELOPMENT

National Theatre of Scotland/TAG Theatre 'The Crucible'

Since Christmas The National Theatre of Scotland has been working in partnership with Moray Council on 'The Crucible' project. The project involved working in schools and the wider community to interpret themes in Arthur Miller's play using a multi-media approach. This resulted in a number of 'companion pieces' involving performance, music, video and visual arts installations. Drama classes in both Elgin and Lossiemouth High Schools presented pieces to an invited audience and the video, music and visual arts installations were displayed around Moray before becoming part of the whole performance experience when 'The Crucible' was performed to packed houses in the Universal Hall, Findhorn at the end of April.

The performances featured a cast of professional actors from TAG theatre alongside a community cast of local people who had been rehearsing the play since Christmas. One of the community cast, Glynis Newberry, suddenly found herself in the spotlight when one of the TAG actors playing a main part was taken ill. In the true spirit of 'the show must go on', Glynis stepped in. Below is an account of the evening from a member of staff of the National Theatre of Scotland who had come up to see the show.....

"Gillian and I enter Universal Hall set within the grounds of the Findhorn Foundation. Universal Hall is an unusual shaped stone building with carved doors and stained glass. As soon as we walk in we are met with a bank of Plasma Screens flashing NTS logo which then goes on to show the work that NTS Moray Team have been devising with groups in Lossiemouth, Burghead, Elgin and other areas around Moray.

As you reach the top of the staircase to enter auditorium there is an NTS notice describing the metal slabs that cover the walls that have been produced through the NTS Teams work with the schools which all relate to themes from the Crucible. There is a black leather Tituba which Geoff and pupils made. There is a plasma screen with confessions which you can listen to through headphones.

Sitting in hall, Ali the production manager steps on stage and announces that due to sudden illness the part of Mary Warren (Sally Reid) will be played by an NTS Community Cast member and thanks us in advance for our patience as the cast haven't had time to do a run through without Sally.

The Community Cast member is playing the part of Mrs Puttnam, so there she is as Mrs Puttnam, goes off stage and re-appears as Mary Warren with script in hand. Holding the script you can see her hands tremble, whether adrenaline, fear, I don't know.

She stole the show. She was fantastic as Mary Warren, absolutely pulled it off, she delivered all the lines and didn't falter once and managed to act the part whilst reading the lines from her script. Chris who is the Community Cast Director and part of Moray Team said that it was either cancel the performance or use a community cast member and this girl jumped at the chance. She must be delighted with her performance, playing one of the leads in NTS/TAG Crucible production.

After the performance we went outside to be met with the pathways lit up by fire, smoke coming from the trees, music, handmade dolls hanging from the Findhorn Foundation trees, a girl dancing with fire, dancers in the woods and an Iron Maiden which is burning in flames. (Iron Maiden – was used as a form of torture where a person would be put in the maiden which is lined with spikes on the inside, the maiden would be set on fire and rolled down a hill - lovely I know!)"

SUPPORT SERVICES - ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Thursday 18th May 2006, two Essential Skills learners from Moray, accompanied by the Essential Skills Development Officer, presented a practice workshop at the Community Learning & Development Managers conference in Glasgow. The aim of the workshop was to share good practice about the development and progress of the Moray Adult Learners Forum. The forum provides learners with a voice to influence and change the shape of literacies learning throughout Moray as well providing learners with the opportunity to come together, share experiences and learn together. The focus of the workshop was to provide an insight into the success of the forum and provide direction for areas which would like to develop a forum but have yet to do so.