

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ACHIEVEMENTS  
14 FEBRUARY 2007**

**BURGHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Around 75 Senior Citizens were invited to come to the school for tea and mince pies after the Nativity Play performance in Burghead Church of Scotland on 20th December. Each guest received a small Christmas gift from the children. The collection at the church raised £200 for the Elgin Branch of the North East Society for the Deaf.

Concern has been expressed at some of the snacks children are bringing to eat at break. The Pupil Council is helping to organise a 'Healthy Snack Diary' for three weeks to encourage healthier snacks. Certificates will be awarded to those who try hard to eat sensibly.

P7 are having a 12 week coaching programme delivered by Ross County Football Club. One problem has been the amount of dog mess on the playing field. The children are planning a poster campaign to target the irresponsible dog owners responsible for this.

**CRAIGELLACHIE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Craigellachie Primary School took part in the annual SCARF (Save Cash And Reduce Fuel) calendar competition in June 2006. The theme for the competition was global warming. One of our pupils, Kirstie Spark (P6), won with her poster. As part of her prize she was invited to the Scottish Parliament for the day.

So on 17th January 2007 we journeyed down to Edinburgh. Part of her prize included a tour of the building, a goodie bag and a presentation by the MSP Hugh Henry (Minister for Education and Young People).

It was a memorable and very well organised day and her design is featured in this year's calendar.

**KEITH GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

**Debating and Public Speaking**

So far this session, our senior teams have qualified for 3 finals. Hannah Gould and Ami Duncan, our novice class 5 debaters, made it through to the final of the North of Scotland Schools Debating Competition which was held here at Keith Grammar before Christmas. A large home support contingent ensured the floor debate was

sustained during the fifty minutes the 5 judges, including Angus Robertson, MSP, took to come to a decision. Unfortunately there were no prizes for the girls this time but they both did outstandingly well.

Hannah and Ami, along with Alex Bell, represented Keith Grammar School in the North of Scotland Schools' Public Speaking Competition at Charleston Academy, where they won through to the final of this competition to be held in Aberdeen in March.

The Public Speaking team also won the Scottish final of the B.P.W competition in Stirling, with Hannah collecting Best Chairman's Award and Alex best Voter of Thanks, receiving £50 each of WH Smith vouchers. The team will be travelling to England for the UK final which will be held on the first Saturday of the Easter holidays.

The tremendous home support from the school has helped make all the difference, as has the new inter-house competition in which an outstanding 72 pupils from years 1-6 took part.

## **Fundraising**

Over the past session, pupils have been astounding us at Keith Grammar with their fundraising efforts, both for causes within the school and for national charities. The charities committee, who meet twice a week and work endlessly to fight the corner of many worthy causes, have outdone themselves recently with some hugely successful charity events. So far they have raised £275.89 for Jeans 4 Genes Day, £62.05 for the poppy appeal, £3319.79 for school funds with a sponsored walk, and 67 charity boxes for the international shoe box appeal. They have also raised money for Childline Scotland with a "wear to scare day" on Halloween and a "Tartan Day" to celebrate St Andrews Day, and raised £128.80 for a sponsored child. With the Badaguish Challenge coming soon the school hopes to further the unbelievable support pupils gave last year, as Keith Grammar proudly dominated the event and raised an overwhelming amount for the charity.

Also, six senior girls have boldly undertaken the challenge of embarking on "an opportunity of a lifetime" whilst amidst gruelling Higher course work. The students will be taking part in a month long expedition to Malawi, Africa to complete voluntary programmes, work with impoverished communities and carry out aid projects. Though this has proved to be a very exciting prospect it is also a very expensive one, with each individual having to raise £3000. This task could never be accomplished without the team's fundraising efforts. They kick-started their campaign with a fundraising event with a slightly different edge to it - the leg wax of a very brave male accomplice in front of an entire school. This brave bid raised over £500 and two succeeding bake sales raised over £250 for the group. Another bake sale is due to be held during the following month and a raffle has been planned. The team have done well so far with their fundraising efforts, but still have a long way to go, and have many more elaborate fundraising ideas in the making.

After the great success with the Rock Challenge last year, the group has put everything into exceeding last year's performance. As well as the demands from dance routines, the funds needed for costuming, setting and music cannot be forgotten. The group of performers, though, decided to raise all required funds themselves and started with a Wellie Walk last term. The team's interesting approach to fundraising involved being creative with a number of squidgy substances and, of

course, a pair of wellies. The team set off in their grungy boots and rampaged Keith raising £150. As well as this, a raffle was organised before Christmas and a very generous donation from the Community Safety Partnership of £1500 and donations of £400 from local councillors really has been greatly appreciated.

### **Space School**

Christina Samson, a 5<sup>th</sup> year student, recently took time out from her busy and demanding schedule of Higher/Advanced Higher courses to take part in a once in a lifetime experience at the NASA Space Camp, Johnston Space Centre in Houston, Texas at the end of January.

This fantastic trip was part of Careers Scotland Space School, a world-leading programme managed by Careers Scotland, the Scottish Executive and NASA. The trip is designed to increase participation and motivation of school students in science and technology and to help young people to understand how the subjects apply to real career choices.

Christina was one of 50 pupils from schools across Scotland to be chosen to participate in the event and followed in the influential footsteps of William McLeman who visited Texas last year with the same programme.

The young students spent 10 days involved in a full timetable of space related learning activities, including lectures and group work with NASA space cadets, astronauts and scientists. They were given the extraordinary opportunity to visit the space shuttle, NASA laboratories, and were given a behind the scenes view of the world of space exploration. It wasn't all hard work for Christina, though, with time spent at pool parties, barbeques, shopping and meeting with the likes of Gene Kranz, the former flight director of the well known Apollo 13, and Nick Patrick, an astronaut only days back from a mission launch. In hindsight of it all, "the Bagpiper" (as Christina was known by her peers), could only describe her time at NASA as "unbelievably brilliant"; she made some incredible friends and has brought back with her many fantastic memories. Most importantly, though, she now has a better idea of future career choices and has discovered her desire and aptitude for science. It is inevitable that this young girl will go far.

Ewan Roberts also successfully completed a programme of distance learning and workshop and will attend a week long residential place at Scottish Space School to be held in June 2007 at Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities. This will also include lectures and group work with NASA space cadets, astronauts and scientists.

### **Burns Day in Holyrood**

Three of our pupils, Amy Adamson, Grant Morrison and Jasmine Dey, were invited to meet First Minister Jack McConnell, view First Minister's Questions and have a VIP tour of Holyrood on January 25. In the evening Jasmine sang at the Burns Supper held in the members' dining room at Holyrood. Mr McConnell was very interested in the vocational courses at Keith Grammar School and said he would very much like to visit sometime in the future.

The pupils were accompanied by Pat McLennan, Depute Head Teacher, and had been invited because of their previous excellent performances at national Burns Federation competitions whilst pupils at Keith Primary School. All three pupils enjoyed their day enormously.

## **ROTHIEMAY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Global Education and Friendship Week November 2006**

In order to continue to build on the Global education programme which we introduced last session with the "Chembakolli" Tea Party, we invited Catherine Moeran from "Jubilee Scotland" into school talk to p6/7 pupils about the importance of Fairtrade.

We also had a visit from a local lady, Val Whyte, who spoke to the children about the work she does with Tsunami victims and the problems they face on a daily basis.

"Friendship Week" began on Monday 13th November to further develop our understanding of the needs of children around the world and how we might help them. During Friendship week P6&7 pupils raised £75 for "Save the Children" by selling wristbands at £1 each, they recited poems which they had written, and organised various whole school activities including an Assembly to encourage friendship at home and abroad.

### **St Andrew's Day Celebrations**

On Thursday 30th November we held a "Bannocks & Ballads" afternoon to celebrate Scotland's Patron Saint's Day. The children came to school wearing something tartan and anyone who wanted to perform was encouraged to entertain their peers with Scottish poems, songs or dancing. We were very grateful to our adult helpers who came into school to make "Bannocks" with P1-7 children that morning and to the Parent helpers who served up the food in the afternoon.

### **Rothiemay Christmas Fayre**

The Christmas Fayre organised by the P.T.A. was an opportunity for primary 6/7 pupils to sell the Christmas Enterprise items they had made as part of their theme. The children were involved in designing, advertising, pricing and selling their products and were delighted to raise £8.60 for charity.

### **Burns Day**

The pupils came to school dressed in tartan and celebrated Burns Day with traditional singing, dancing and poetry. We were very grateful to the P1, 2 & 3 pupils for baking such lovely shortbread and to the P7 pupils who organised the Burns Concert in the afternoon.

## **ST GERARDINE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Burns Day Celebrations**

St Gerardine Nursery celebrated Burns Day in a traditional manner! Snack consisted of haggis and oatcakes which the children enjoyed while listening to pipe music. In the hall they danced to Scottish music. They practiced taking a bow and dancing a Highland Fling. They marched around the hall pretending to be in a pipe band. Primary 7 were invited to recite Scottish poems they had been learning and two of our Primary 7 boys played the Dashing White Sergeant on the fiddle. At the end of the session our Primary 7 piper played the bagpipes as the children left for home.

## **LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS**

### **Libraries and Information Services' Staff Complete New Award**

April Copeland and Sandra Cullen of Elgin Access Point, Kim Nicolson (Forres Library), Charlotte Campbell (Buckie Library) and Karen Reid (Keith Library) are amongst the first staff to complete their assessments and gain their awards from the Institute of Customer Service.

### **Learning Uptake**

The total number of learners registered for accredited courses at Library Learning Centres at 31 December was 638. Of these, 464 (73%) are using ILAs (Individual Learning Accounts).

In early January the Learning Centres were promoted at the St Giles Centre, with a further 44 registering by the middle of the month.