

# **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ACHIEVEMENTS 11 JUNE 2008**

## **HYTHEHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Financial Education**

In today's complex financial world it is becoming increasingly important for all children to begin to develop their money awareness skills at an early age. Over the last three years a local financial adviser has helped us to work with P7 pupils, developing financial awareness. Collaborative exercises involving budgeting, mortgages and saving have enabled these pupils to learn about the effects of finance on their lives. We are now ready to start developing a whole school programme of financial education to ensure a progression of skills from nursery to P7.

### **Creativity and Enterprise**

For a number of years we have held a very successful Creativity and Enterprise week in the school. All classes, including nursery, have been involved in activities that are stimulating, challenging and lively, culminating in class open afternoons, or performances, for family and friends. This year, for example, P6 pupils contributed towards the Health Promoting School agenda and led workshops based on healthy lifestyles for P4 pupils and for their own parents. The nursery pupils made posies of fresh flowers and took them to present at the local nursing home, and charmed the residents by singing their favourite nursery songs. P4 pupils grew plants and flowers from seed and then potted and sold them. The profit they made was presented to the Ladybird Developmental Group. Almost all the pupils in P1 to 3 attended the Spring Disco planned and run by P7 pupils. This is always a popular event in the week's programme of activities, and the profit made supports the activity trip to Inverness for all P7s at the end of session.

In the future our newly revised theme plans will incorporate more of these kinds of activities, as children learn best through active and context based learning, and we are looking forward to piloting them next session.

## **LHANBRYDE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Abernethy Residential Trip**

Forty one P. 6/7 pupils and five members of staff thoroughly enjoyed their four days at Nethybridge. They benefited greatly from this experience and took part in a number of exciting activities including ski-ing, archery and the zip wire as well as a

number of problem solving tasks. Parents and pupils were invited to view all the film footage and photographs as well as chat about their memories at an evening in April.

### **Moray Music Festival**

We are very proud of all our entrants in this bi-annual event. We entered a Recorder Ensemble, two Public Speaking Teams and our Senior Choir, attaining both commended and distinctions for performances. It was with absolute delight that our choir actually came first in the Primary Category and were asked to return to perform in the Winners' Concert. Throughout the festival, the organisers praised all of the children for their excellent behaviour. We are very proud of our pupils for being such good ambassadors of our school.

### **Scots' Night**

Our P.T.A. Scots' Night was again a great success. Children entertained members of the community with singing, poetry, instrumental pieces and dancing. The Urquhart Music Group provided the music for our social dancing and parents kindly made the stovies. We were delighted when both Angus Robertson and Richard Lochhead popped in to join us for this annual social event. A grand total of £395.35 was also raised towards funds.

### **Milk Month**

We were lucky to have local cookery writer Liz Bowie and our very own Moira Anderson for our Milk Month tasting workshops. The children had the opportunity to try different types of milk, yoghurt and ice-cream. Jill-Margaret Clark from Connage Dairy near Ardersier spoke to all classes about making Crowdie Cheese which she brought for us to sample with some oatcakes. The Countryside Classroom on Wheels paid us a visit this week along with Mr George Milne and 'Jewel', the artificial milking cow. We were very grateful to Asda in Elgin who supported us with this initiative.

### **Active Travel Awards**

We were very pleased to receive a 'Community Partnership' award for our work on safe parking which the Active Travel Group started earlier this term. Four pupil members of the group collected the prized trophy and certificate at a ceremony at the Laichmoray Hotel. We very much appreciated the support we had from parents/carers in raising the awareness of safe parking in and around the school. We are looking forward to the 'Walk to School Week' and 'Bike Week' events which we will be running next term.

### **Yoga Day**

On Monday, 24th March we held another Yoga Day, where Mrs Susan Anderson provided pupils, parents and staff with a variety of relaxation techniques. The children particularly enjoyed taking part in the animal yoga sessions.

## **Hungry for Success Workshops**

Our P.4/5 and P.5/6 classes thoroughly enjoyed their experiences with Jenny Curran, the H4S dietician, and members of the Health Promotions Team. They learned how to make a simple, savoury wrap and fruit kebab, had fun while blind tasting a variety of food, learned about the Eat Well Plate and discovered how much sugar there really is in some of our favourite snacks. Kevin Collins, the Active Schools Co-ordinator also provided a physical activity workshop as part of this initiative. The pupils then delivered all the workshops to their peers and finally to their own families at an evening event.

### **P.7 P.A.L.s**

P. 6 has been learning about what important qualities are required to be a P.7 P.A.L. for our new P.1 entrants. These senior pupils will meet their new friends during classroom and playground play sessions in June and are currently planning, recording and producing a C.D. for the new P.1 entrants, that explains what life will be like in P.1.

## **NEW ELGIN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Eco School**

We have been working hard to develop our Eco projects and have recently received our Bronze Level Award.

- **Waste Minimisation**

We are recycling, paper, ink cartridges, textiles, mobile phones and we are also composting any suitable snack waste.

- **Litter**

We are encouraging pupils to be responsible with their litter. Snack is being eaten in class to help reduce litter in the playground. Members of the Pupil Council have been taking turns to do litter duty along with pupils from their classes.

- **Energy**

Pupils are encouraged to turn off monitors, classroom lights and white boards. Each class nominates energy monitors, (E Team) who are responsible for reminding their class to follow the eco rules.

- **Transport**

Our travel plan, Mission Active Travel (M.A.T) continues to encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school. A park and stride initiative has also been very successful. Pupils enjoy collecting stamps and sticky feet on their M.A.T cards, with prizes being awarded to enthusiastic participants.

- **School Grounds**

Pupils have planted a variety of small trees and we hope to develop this area of the playground into a garden.

## **ROTHES PRIMARY SCHOOL**

From the start of term we have all been involved in trialling the science outcomes from the curriculum for excellence. This has involved looking at a new way of working for staff and children. Classes have been working across stages to study the area of planet earth.

Nursery and Primary 1 children have worked together on the early outcomes; this has been very beneficial for staff and children.

They have been learning outdoors for most of the time tending the school garden; we have planted our early tatties and we have made a recycled wind break (from plastic bags) to protect our beans from wind damage. The class have a butterfly garden and are watching butterflies emerging from their chrysalis.

The classes in Primaries 2/3/4 have been studying the water cycle and they have put their understanding into a song.

Primaries 5/6/7 have been working on the effects that global issues such as flooding have on our lives both in Scotland and world communities.

On Friday 2 May, at our parents' assembly, this cross curricular way of working was explained and the children showcased their activities.

## **ST GERARDINE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Sports Relief**

The whole school was actively involved in Sports Relief on Friday 14 March. Apart from being a fun day we raised £332.

### **Moray Music Festival**

The choir received a certificate of commendation.  
Primary 5 (choric verse) received a certificate of distinction.

### **Rotary Club Quiz**

A team of P7 pupils won the local heat of the Rotary Club quiz in Elgin. They will take part in the next round next month in Strathpeffer.

## **Badminton**

A team of pupils from P3, P4 and P5 won the Badminton Sportshall Challenge for our area in Lossiemouth.

## **Enterprise is the Business**

A team of P6 pupils took part in this event at the Eight Acres. Our team, 'The Eight Acres Money Makers', won the trophy for the 'Best Quality Product'.

## **Rainbow Day**

P4/5 organised a Rainbow Day for UNICEF (Day for Change) on 24 April. Everyone was asked to come to school dressed in as many colours as they could for £1. They raised £251 to help provide clean water for the people in Gambia.

## **A Message from P6**

To help St. Gerardine gain 'Green Flag ' status, P6 are starting to recycle even more waste.

We will be collecting unused or broken mobile phones and empty ink cartridges to give to the Red Cross. The Red Cross will get £3 for each mobile phone and £1 for an ink cartridge.

We are also collecting tins, drink cans, jar lids, aluminium foil, aerosols and tea light holders. (These need to be clean!)

All these items can be dropped off at our new recycling point just inside the front door of the school.

## **Eco Schools Award**

P6 pupils are going to be involved in the Rag Bag Recycling Scheme again as our part in the Eco Schools Initiative. We'll be collecting clothes, shoes, hats, bags, belts, curtains, towels and bed linen.

## **COMMUNITY BASED ADULT LEARNING - ELGIN TEAM**

### **Annual Learners Celebration**

The annual Learners Celebration was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008. It was attended by learners who have been supported to attend the wide range of community based adult learning opportunities designed and delivered in Elgin over the past year e.g.

- Confidence to Cook
- Side By Side Project
- Loose Ends Project
- First Aid and Health and Hygiene Certificated courses
- ICT courses
- Reading Together Project

The staff and learners had produced a 10 minute video about their experiences and this was shown for the first time at the event and was well received by all.

"I now feel I can do more for the kids than I thought I could and more for myself. I have a life. I'm not just a mother. I have a lot more abilities than I thought I had " Ann-Marie Andrew

Representatives from the Elgin South Area Forum, Community Council and local Councillors attended. They explained their roles and answered questions from learners.

"The Community Learning & Development Adult Learners Annual Celebration was an excellent example of some of the tremendous work carried out by the Community Learning & Development team. Through their own hard work and the assistance of the team hopefully many of the participants will now be equipped with the confidence to enter into further educational possibilities and make the most of their potential." Councillor Jarvis

The video can be viewed by contacting Susan Leonard or Denise Gormley on 01343 559309.

## **Loose Ends**

Loose Ends is a pilot project developed by the Community Learning and Development (Adult) team in partnership with Learners. It bridges the gap between heavily supported learning opportunities designed and delivered by the CLD team and their partners in Elgin and the wide range of learning and employment opportunities provided by local learning agencies e.g. Moray College, Job Centre.

Learners can attend Loose Ends for up to 6 months, during which time they are supported to identify and prioritise their learning needs as well as develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to address these needs.

Loose Ends will be opening their doors to the public in Adult Learners Week to promote their activities and achievements.

## **ESSENTIAL SKILLS**

### **Youth Literacies**

Youth Literacies Worker, Rose Millett, is now in post. Rose's post is 18 hours per week and her role is to develop innovative literacies projects with young people aged 16-25.

### **ICT Champions**

Two young learners have completed training in using digital voice recorders and the Comic Life programme and are now ready to deliver training to learners and tutors with their first demonstration being to Essential Skills Tutors. This programme is a good example of learners developing their skills to share with others so that everyone has the opportunity to make good use of the ICT resources available to support literacies learning. The ICT Champions will be demonstrating their skills nationally when leading a workshop at ICT & Innovations Conference in June in Stirling.

## **Weel May The Boatie Row**

International Literacies Day in September 2007 brought together a group interested in Doric language and inspired this doric project in Buckie. The group have, since then, been working together to create a book and CD which will be launched in Buckie Library during Adult Learners Week on Wed 21 May, 7pm - 9pm.