

## **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ACHIEVEMENTS 9 APRIL 2008**

### **BUCKIE HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **1. A Curriculum for Excellence – the Global Dimension**

The school's 21 year link with Mawenzi Secondary School has been further enhanced through the Tanzania Action Group's (TAG) successful bid for a grant from the Department for International Development (DFID) which will fund teacher / pupil exchanges and establish joint curricular projects.

Following a visit to Buckie by Tanzanian teachers in June 2007, four BHS staff members visited Moshi in October 2007 and worked with students and staff at Mawenzi Secondary School on projects in technical / Art, Science, History and Music. Within these projects, global issues of diversity, sustainability and social justice, along with differing values and perceptions are explored.

"Africa Week" was celebrated within Buckie High in November 2007. All students attended an assembly where they saw images of Tanzania; local supermarkets donated fruit and other Fair Trade goods for a food tasting session; an energy comparison exercise was completed at Tutor Time and a quiz answered.

Further assemblies and events are planned to raise awareness amongst staff, departments, parents and the wider community of our partnership. A Junior TAG has been established, and this involves pupils in collating ideas, devising initiatives and organising fund raising activities for future exchange visits. We are looking forward to another visit from Tanzanian staff in June, with teachers from Buckie visiting Tanzania in October. A particular feature this year is that pupils will accompany both trips.

The Tanzanian perspective can help our pupils look again at how they can, as responsible citizens, participate in the political, economic, social and cultural life of Scotland and their own community. As pupils become aware of the resilience, self-reliance and enterprising attitude of counterparts in Tanzania, they can reflect on their own attitudes and values and what they need to do to become effective contributors.

#### **2. Solar Panels**

Whilst Tanzania provides one focus for global awareness, we plan also to work very hard in the area of environmental sustainability. To this end, we were very fortunate to be one of only 100 schools in the United Kingdom to receive free solar panels, courtesy of the Cooperative Group's £1 million national Green Energy for Schools scheme, with match funding from the Governments Low Carbon Building

Programme. The solar panels will be complemented by an electronic display in the school, which will assist in cross-curricular learning and teaching in the school.

### **3. A Curriculum for Excellence – Maths Project**

Our maths department is currently involved in an ongoing arts-based project to help bring maths alive for pupils. This is a joint project with Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray, and is funded by the Scottish Arts Council. Before Christmas, we had the services of a drama specialist, we currently have the services of a music specialist, and, after Easter, we will have the services of a dance specialist. Each of these specialists has been able to use their areas of expertise to complement normal maths teaching. For example, our music specialist has enabled pupils to learn about number sequencing and fractions through rhythm. Our hope is that our maths teachers will be able to learn from the specialists and add some new strategies and methods to their existing range. This project has led to Buckie High School receiving very positive coverage in the local and national press.

## **CABRACH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

On January 25, a Burns' Lunch was held in school for friends and family. Entertainment was provided by pupils, Lily and Aaron - they recited Doric poems, sang Scottish songs and played percussion instruments. Alison Gillies, the music teacher, accompanied the children on the piano. Everyone enjoyed the lunch and entertainment.

The school has applied for its Second Green Flag. A lot of work has been put in to continuing with environmental issues as well as adding new ones. We hope to hear soon as to when the assessment visit will be.

## **CRAIGELLACHIE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

In August parents of pupils at Craigellachie told us that they were looking for flexible, reasonably priced childcare that would enable them to extend their own working day.

In September we launched our after school care club for Primary 1-3 pupils who can stay at school and take part in a variety of play, art and craft activities until their siblings finish at the end of the day. This has rapidly become a social hot spot for P1-3 pupils who enjoy the extra curricular activities and frequently attend the club even when parents have no need for them to do so! We also extended the provision of after school clubs between 3.15 and 4.15 to include badminton, web club, silk painting, country dancing and a craft club, as well as the sporting clubs on offer from Active schools. This provided further after school care for busy parents.

March 10th saw the launch of our breakfast club. Grants from Moray Council and the Moray Childcare Partnership, as well as generous support from local resident Mr Strathdee, allowed us to install and equip a large kitchen and dining area and to brighten up the remainder of the room. The breakfast club was launched with a whole school breakfast to which all pupils, staff, parents, friends and supporters of

Craigellachie Primary were invited. Almost 100 people enjoyed breakfast together keeping chef parent, Addy, hard at work in the kitchen.

Pupils are now welcome in school from 8.00am and have breakfast together, enjoying cereal, toast, fruit and drinks while they chat. There are a few quiet activities on offer too, for those who enjoy something to do after breakfast and before school begins.

Parents like the fact that the care is flexible with no need to book and pay in advance; pupils seem to really enjoy the extra social time it gives them with their friends. We know we are still a way from providing the 'extended after school care' that some parents need but we are pleased to have met the needs of many and very happy to see how much the pupils enjoy their extended days!

## **ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL**

### Litter and the Community

The Pupil Representative Council at Elgin High School, along with members of the Greenwards Primary Eco School sGroup, decided to respond to criticisms within the community about litter. Senior members of the PRC met with community representatives and a positive initiative was developed. Members of the local community were approached to act as monitors. Acting anonymously, these monitors agreed to complete a score sheet every week rating the school on the amount of litter and the general behaviour of the pupils. To encourage pupils to act considerately, the Elgin South Forum agreed to put up £500 on the understanding that the money would either be used to provide more litter bins, or if a consistent improvement was noted, the pupils could themselves decide how the money could be spent. At the start of January the challenge was given to all pupils to earn the money by not dropping litter and by showing respect to members of the public.

After a campaign running for 8 weeks the monitors in the community have noted a significant improvement week on week. While recognising that there will always be work to encourage pupils to use litter bins, the PRC are confident that, with the support of the local community, there has been a positive difference.

## **GLENLIVET PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### Burns Supper at Glenlivet Primary School by Forest Lawson, P7

On Thursday 31 January, Glenlivet Primary School held a Burns Supper. This event was organised by the pupils in P4-P7; we did all the work ourselves with some help from Mrs Hay and Mrs Hogg. It was very good fun to organise but also very gruelling at times.

Jack Wheeldon and I were in charge of greeting people at the door. More people turned up than we expected and we were kept busy taking their coats and showing them towards the hall where Emma Durno took the tickets and Emily West, Miles Thomas, Ythan Johnson and Christopher Terry showed them to their seats.

When everyone was seated Heather Swan, Daniel Balfour, Jack and myself sat at the top table where Jack, the Chairman, rang his bell to get everyone's attention. Once Jack had everyone's attention he said a few words before Sandy Milne piped in the Haggis. Katie and Millie followed the piper round the hall carrying the Haggis very carefully. Archie Duncan, Campbell Adamson, Michael Swan and Christopher Terry addressed the Haggis. Following the address to the Haggis, Katie and Millie said Grace. It was a glorious meal of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties followed by Clottie Dumpling and custard. All cooked by the best cook in the world - Mrs Milne!

Then the time had come for the immortal memory, this was read by Daniel Balfour, Heather Swan and myself. I was very nervous to start with but once I got started I was more confident and the audience seemed to find it quite amusing. Then we all toasted Robbie Burns with, believe it or not, IrnBru, a fine Scottish dram. For the teetotallers there was some Glenlivet water which was kindly donated by Mr Wheeldon.

Mr Alan Dunsire made a toast to Education which was short because, as he said, we stole his thunder as half his speech had already been said in the immortal memory. Lucky Mr Dunsire! After Mr Dunsire's "half a speech" the P5 recorder group played for us, the poetry winners read out their poems and Jenny Duncan played her violin along with her Granda and Mrs Lock. I think Jenny did very well because I know she gets stage fright.

Miles and Ythan toasted the lassies; thought they did it very well, pointing out some bad girly habits, but the lassies didn't take it lying down. Emma and Emily had some brutal words of their own in response. All in good fun so we didn't need to call for security.

P1-P4 were not left out of our Burns Supper, they sang the very silly Scottish song, "The Three Crows". They were very good.

Luke Middleton, Lauren McHardy and Lucinda Lock thanked everyone who had taken part in our event. Luke thanked Mr Dunsire and told him he was very brave being the only adult to talk during the entire evening.

The dancing! I thoroughly enjoyed the Scottish Country Dancing. I was never a big fan of it when I was younger but now I really like it and think I do it quite well - I should after seven years of practice with Mrs Hogg. My favourite is the Flying Scotsman. Everyone joined in and had a good time. The raffle was a success; there were many prizes to be won. Unfortunately I did not win any prizes but we all had fun taking turns in handing out prizes to the winners.

We ended the evening with Auld Lang Syne, which was quite stressful for me because I was standing between two teachers! - it wasn't the teachers that bothered me, it was the fact that I am rather short and when it came to crossing our hands I was nearly lifted off the ground!

I am very proud to have been part of such a successful event. It was amazing to see how many people came to support us. It was really good to see so many people who weren't Mums and Dads, just members of the community. I am proud of all my

friends. I think everyone did really well from organising their speeches to reading their poems. I am also proud to have been the only boy wearing a kilt.

## **LOGIE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **HEALTH COMMENDED**

At Logie we have worked hard as a team in partnership with the local community to receive 'Commended' status in Health.

Areas of good practice high-lighted have been the promotion of positive mental health for pupils, staff and the wider community, through use of Chill and Spill sessions, Circle Time, Parental Workshops and the provision of Complementary therapists. The school's work on Gardening and our Eco-Silver Award were also seen to promote Health and Well-Being. All pupils are involved in Gardening once a week, throughout all the seasons and weather! Logie's After School Club, run by parents and organised by the PTA, also encourages pupils to be healthy and active, participating in a wide range of activities ranging from Arts and Crafts, to Sport and Board Games. Our Logie Points Positive Behaviour system has also been highlighted as an area of good practice. Pupils devised their own school Houses and work as teams where possible. All children enjoy having their own scoring card to accumulate Logie Points and Certificates for good behaviour and hard work. All staff are involved in awarding these points to pupils and feel that the system is effective.

### **ECO-GLOBAL LOGIE OSPREYS PROJECT**

All pupils have been involved in this exciting project which has received media coverage from television, radio and the newspapers. We have worked with Professor Roy Dennis, conservationist, for some time tracking the progress of local Ospreys and investigating their migration to Africa. We are now waiting for the female Osprey, named Logie by the pupils, to make her return trip during the coming weeks to our local woodland. BBC Radio 4 will continue to report on her progress.

## **MILLBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### Moray Music Festival

The Scottish Country Dance teams from Millbank performed very well in the Scottish Country and Ceilidh Dance classes of the Moray Music Festival. A team of pupils from P4 to P7 gained a Commended certificate in the class for schools with 500 pupils or less; also the school gained a second place merit certificate in the class for under 7 year olds; a third place merit certificate in the class in the 12 and under class; a first place and commended certificate for the Ceilidh dance class for 9 years and under, and a second place and merit certificate in the Ceilidh dance class for 12 years and under. The accumulation of points gained from these places means that the school has won, for the third successive time, the Banffshire WRI Cup, awarded by the Banffshire Scottish Country Dance Association to the school which gained the most points in the Scottish Country Dance section of the Moray Music Festival.

### Inter-House Competitions

In order to elevate the profile of the three Houses in the school to which pupils are allocated, the two House Captains from each House, Archibald, Douglas and Shearer, have organized inter-house competitions this session as follows: A Building Challenge; a Talent Show; a Children's Toy sale; a Handwriting Competition, and an Easter Bunny Hunt (during the last week of the term); next term they will organize inter-house sports competitions. All pupils in the school have thoroughly enjoyed these activities and events and they now feel that they belong more effectively to their Houses.

### Book Week

The author, Graham Winkle, who writes the Loch of Mey Monster books, visited the school during our Book Week and read his work to all pupils. This visit stimulated further activities: story writing about the Monster; junk modelling, posters and a selection of competitions. The Scholastic Book Fair also visited the school and all pupils, staff and parents supported this event very well.

### RNIB Book Mark Competition

P4 pupil, Shannon Barrie, was one of four winners in Moray in the competition to design a book mark, organised by the Elgin Inner Wheel Club and the Enterprise Officer of Moray Council Education Department.

### Estheme—World War II

In connection with their ES theme this term on World War II, The Home Front, the pupils of P6(2), visited the Aberdeen Environmental Education Centre for a World War II day, where the pupils viewed artefacts, visited an air raid shelter, and took part in a number of related activities.

Mr Ray Owen, 'The Highlander', visited the class in school to talk to the pupils about life during this period.

### Personal and Social Development - P7 Residential Trip

23 P7 pupils enjoyed a four day skiing trip to the Abernethy Trust at Nethybridge. The pupils really enjoyed the skiing and other activities during the week, and benefited from this opportunity to live and work together.

### Badminton Sporthall Challenge

A team of 10 pupils from, P3, P4 and P5 took part in this competition, which involved all the primary schools in the Buckie ASG. The team enjoyed all the games which were based on badminton-type skills, and the pupils worked well together as a team.

### Moray Science Festival

Pupils in P4, P4/5 and P7, visited the Moray Science Festival and enjoyed the various workshops on offer. They benefited from the hands-on experiences and watching the experts carry out a number of experiments.

### Grampian Fire Training

All P6 pupils experienced two workshops lead by a Grampian Fire Brigade officer.

### Safe Food and Healthy Eating For All Programme/SRU

All pupils in P5/6, P6 and P7, experienced a 6-week programme of rugby training delivered by the Active Schools' Coordinator; and pupils in P6 took part in the Safe Food and Healthy Eating for All Programme, as part of an initiative sponsored by the Scottish Rugby Union.

### National Youth Choir of Scotland

All pupils in P4 took part in the workshop lead by a member of the National Youth Choir of Scotland, along with all the P4 pupils from the other primary schools in the Buckie ASG. The children will practice for a public performance in June.

## **WEST END PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### The Outside Classroom

Various classes have really enjoyed getting out of the classroom and exploring the bigger world.

As part of their theme work, Primary 4/5/6 arranged a fantastic trip to the Moray Council buildings. The children were given the opportunity to sit in the Council Chamber and enjoyed taking part in a debate using the electronic voting system.

Primary 6, as part of Religious and Moral Education, have visited Birnie Church and Pluscarden Abbey. The class was getting first hand experience of the differences that exist between various buildings and also to gain knowledge and understanding of the design and furnishings of Christian places of worship. While at Birnie Churchyard the Moray Burial Ground Research Group gave the children a talk about what they do and let the children assist them with their work.

Primary 7 visited our local distillery, Glen Moray, to see how whisky is made and find out more about marketing and exporting.

Primary 1 went on a trip to the hospital to see the Children's Ward and met the nurses and staff who work there. They have also visited a local superstore to find out more about healthy food.

The school has also been involved in putting up bird boxes in the Oak Wood with a local bird enthusiast, Mr Gervaise. P4/5/6 were the lucky class who accompanied Mr Gervaise to the woods and were investigating the species inhabiting the area and how to protect the habitat. We have also put up bird boxes around the school playground so all the children can watch the bird life.

A group of children from various classes has been working hard with one of our ASN teachers to plant potatoes. They are also making hanging baskets to hang around the school and planting bulbs in our flower beds. Next term they plan to plant more vegetables and flowers in the garden.

## **LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS**

### **Forres High Street History Project**

Have you ever wondered what the High Street in Forres looked like in years gone by? Do you have memories to share of the shops and people who worked there?

These questions attracted an audience of over 70 on 18 February to Forres Library for an afternoon of historical reminiscence with Local Heritage Officer Graeme Wilson, Community Librarian Rebecca Bolton and Friends of the Falconer Museum.

Photographs, maps and artefacts were displayed for the two weeks after, with people adding their thoughts and memories to the project scrapbook.

A further day on 3 March attracted even greater numbers to discuss what had been learnt about the High Street in the previous 2 weeks.

Apart from the 150 participants on the 2 days, an additional 500 people than usual visited the library during the fortnight.

Staff have been stopped in the street to be told how much people enjoyed the initiative, press coverage was excellent and the Friends attracted new members.

In addition, library staff and Friends of the Falconer were invited to talk to the residents of Cameron Court who in turn are now planning a visit to the Falconer Museum.

A most successful event involving the community, libraries and museums staff and the Friends of the Falconer Museum. The Friends are already planning an exhibition on this theme for the summer.

### **Buckie Library FISH'N'CHIPS Open Days and Family Learning Days**

Running for 3 days from Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March Buckie Library hosted a variety of fun learning activities for people of all ages, interests and abilities. Funding for events was supported by Buckie area Local Community Network. Millbank Primary learned about healthy eating with tasters of salads, fruit and smoothies by NHS Grampian Healthpoints while older people and carers enjoyed therapeutic massage to aid circulation led by Maureen Jappy of the British Red Cross. Other activities included baby massage and play and learn by the Buckie area Health Visitors and CREW (Communities Reducing Excess Waste) provided a bring and swap stall. A unique Butterfly Music and Crafts Storytime, with Fiona Kyle on Clarsach, led by Charlotte Campbell and Elaine Clark, was enjoyed by local and visiting families. Other individuals and organisations represented included Donnie Macdonald on the use of social networking internet sites, Buckie Heritage Centre, Fochabers Heritage, Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group, Careers Scotland, Essential Skills, The Green Home and Buckie Library Staff who ran free family IT sessions.



## **Bookstart Rhymetimes**

Bookstart Rhymetimes have been introduced in Elgin, Buckie, Keith, Forres and Lossiemouth Libraries.

Bookstart Rhymetimes are fun, free sessions for babies, toddlers and their parents and carers where they can share rhymes and songs with each other and the library staff. During the sessions rhymes in all shapes and formats are being sung – nursery rhymes, action rhymes, rhymes using props and puppets. Favourite rhymes are shared and new ones that may become future favourites are being learned. There are Bookstart Rhymetime sheets which are taken away at the end of each session for sharing at home with the rest of the family, singing on car journeys and when out shopping!

The sessions are also providing opportunities for parents to look through the selection of picture and board books in the library and to talk with the library staff about the best ones to share at home. These fun activities, rhymes and books are a wonderful way to encourage an early love of language and help to provide a firm foundation to learning to read, setting babies and toddlers up for a great start in their learning.

The sessions are proving increasingly popular with up to 50 parents, carers and babies coming along to join in. The feedback from the parents has been extremely positive with the following comments being shared with staff:

“ Lots of fun and interactive for children”

“It was nice for myself as a parent to be involved”

“Good opportunity for starting to introduce children to groups”

“Very good learning and entertainment for kids”

Existing partnerships within the communities such as with health visitors and playgroups are being strengthened.

## **Celebrating Books & Reading**

Elgin Library held a very successful open day - Celebrating Books and Reading - on 1st March to launch the National Year of Reading and the partnership with the Scottish Poetry Library.

Poet Partner Colin Will gave readings from Scottish poets while author Maggie Craig gave an insight to her writing and research.

Partnership working underpinned the day with involvement from Community Learning and Development, Essential Skills, MALP, Sports Development, Health Information Point and the Parental Involvement Strategy Group. Feedback from the partners was particularly positive.

There were 1,466 visitors on the day, with the most popular activities being Bookmark Bonanza, Book Bag and T-Shirt Making, and Rhyme Time.