



# Education, Culture & Sport Committee

## Comataidh Foghlaim, Cultair is Spors

Thursday 21 May 2009



## Eco School Status

- Holm School has achieved their Green Flag.
- Broadford Primary School has achieved their Eco Schools second Green Flag.
- Croy Primary School has achieved the Silver Award for Eco Schools this month. The award was presented by Danny Alexander MP during which he played cricket with P6/7 and answered questions on the role of the Houses of Parliament and how he represents the community.



## **Mobile phone technology as a curriculum learning and teaching tool**

The Cauldeen Primary 6 Project 'Digital Diary Dialogues', has achieved 'Outstanding' status for Creativity and Innovation as part of the EU year of Innovation and Creativity. This project, which has involved Nokia sponsored mobile phones and schools in Finland, England and Afghanistan, will represent the UK eTwinning at a joint prestigious exhibition hosted by Ecotec and the British Council in Birmingham on the 14th July.



## **Art Residential Weekend oversubscribed**

A recent, newly developed, Art Residential Weekend for senior pupils from throughout the Highlands was oversubscribed. In February 23 young people gave up 4 days of their own time to work with professional artists in a range of art mediums at Badaguish Outdoor Centre. It is hoped to provide this opportunity annually, as a pathway to assist young people striving towards excellence and perhaps hoping to secure a place at an art school.

## P5 & Under National First Shinty Competition

- Tomnacross Primary, representing the Aird District, won the National First Shinty P5 & Under competition at the Nevis Centre, Fort William on Saturday 21st March.
- John Williamson (Captain) was presented with the Trophy by Mr. Duncan Cameron, President of the Camanachd Association.



## Curriculum for Excellence Launch

- The Cabinet Secretary launched the final Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes on 2<sup>nd</sup> April from Raploch Community Centre in Stirling. As part of her official announcement she asked to use the footage ‘Charleston News’, a DVD made by pupils of Charleston Academy giving their views on the Curriculum for Excellence!



## UK Winners of the Charlemagne Youth Prize 2009

The UK national winner of the Charlemagne Youth Prize for 2009 is the Talita Kum project, entered by Lewis Ross from Inverness. The other team members are Phi Macdonald, Mhairi McGowan, Kayleigh Berg, Daniel McWilliams, Fraser Kane and Sarah-Jane Savage - all from Millburn Academy.

In a project organised with assistance from Romanian organisations and citizens, a group of senior school pupil volunteers from Millburn Academy take children from some of the poorest families in the Jimbolia region of Romania for a two week summer holiday. The camp offers a rare opportunity for the Romanian children to escape often difficult circumstances and to engage in entertainment and education with the aim of helping them to reach their full potential.

The volunteers are responsible for raising the necessary funds, partly by organising events that themselves contribute to educating Scottish people about Romania.

The UK national winners now go forward to the European level. The Charlemagne Youth Prize for people aged between 16 and 30 who have been involved with projects helping to promote understanding between different European countries is being awarded in Aachen on 19 May. Judges look for projects that serve as role models for young people living in Europe. They want to see practical examples of Europeans living together, whether through the organisation of youth events, youth exchanges or internet projects with a European dimension.

“The European Charlemagne Youth Prize” is awarded jointly and annually by the European Parliament and the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen



## Young Scot Awards 2009

Fort William's Fusion Youth Committee led by Leah Burns, 15, reached the final round of the Sunday Mail Lloyds TSB Young Scot Awards in the Democracy and Citizenship Category. The Committee's efforts have secured almost £59,000 of Big Lottery funding to build a multipurpose sports court in the town.

Unfortunately the project did not win the Award, but to reach the final three in this particular category was a great achievement in itself.

Leah and the committee, supported by the youth work staff in the Council's Education, Culture and Sport Service, have been striving to ensure young people take an active part in a Highland Community- the A82 campaign, the annual Stars in your eyes event and the recent STV People's Millions funding success.



## Balloch School's Cross Country Successes

- On March 14th the boys cross country team won the North of Scotland Cross Country Championships Shield at Grant Park in Forres.
- The P6/7 boys team won the MacRobert Cup Competition trophy for the fifth time in six years. Steven Dey won an individual bronze medal.
- The P 4/5 boys team won first place for the third year running with Jack Murray winning an individual silver medal.
- Both girls teams came second in the competition and Niamh Macculloch won an individual gold medal.



## Blaze Of Glory

- Two Highland teams, Eclipse from Nairn Academy and Blaze, from Glen Urquhart High School, attended the Stratford Trade Fair in March.
- Blaze, won one of the four 'commended' awards from the judges out of around 60 Young Enterprise companies from across the UK with their business enterprise 'EcoBrix' - a renewable, recycled eco friendly fuel for open fires.

## National Galleries Of Scotland Creative Writing Competition

- The 2009 *Inspired? Get Writing!* creative writing competition attracted prose or poetry submissions from 927 people all inspired by works in the collection of the National Galleries of Scotland.
- Jessamy Cowie, a P7 pupil at Cawdor Primary School, won the under 12 section for her poem (following page) about the artwork 'Neil Gow' by Sir Henry Raeburn.
- Emily Kerr from Rosebank Primary School came 4<sup>th</sup> in the under 12 group and received a Special Merit for her creative story about a hare being snared and then freed inspired by a woodcarving entitled Snow and Hare.
- Sigi Campbell Whittle of S1 was chosen as one of the best 10 entrants in the age 12-15 category. His poem was inspired by the drawing “Ghost of a Genius” by Paul Klee which is in the National Galleries Collection.
- Part of the prize included a trip to Edinburgh on May 7<sup>th</sup> to have their poems read out.



## Poem by Jessamy Cowie

Neil Gow (1727 – 1807)

A wise, travelled face. Frozen in time.

I stare from my frame, at all

the busy people, passing me with  
hardly a backwards glance.

Their eyes pass over me, looking at  
me but seeing only a common

painting despite the master who  
portrayed me. Perhaps if they took

some time to look at me properly,  
they would see my life story etched

on my ruddy face and hear the music  
in my heart. I hold my fiddle in

my hand, the bow paused mid note.  
It is my most treasured possession.

Its jaunty reels and sad laments are  
but a memory now. The

Strathspeys I wrote have seen 200  
years. The last ghostly tendrils

of fiddle music weave through my  
head as I watch you admire me

fleetingly before moving on to my  
neighbour.

Please stay a while.



## **SSFA U15 National Trophy Final**

### **North of Scotland Squad Makes History**

- After an excellent final from which both teams emerged with great credit, the North of Scotland team had a first-ever U15 National Trophy triumph beating Glasgow on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> May at Links Park, Montrose.

## North of Scotland Under 15 Team





## Euroquiz Competition

Balloch Primary were victorious against 11 other Highland primary schools in the Highland heat of the Standard Life Euroquiz competition held in Millburn Academy.

They took part in the competition for the final round for the Trophy on Monday 11 May in the debating chamber of The Scottish Parliament against 31 other local authority teams and, though not successful, they had a brilliant day.



## Burns' 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Competition

This year, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, over fifty schools entered a competition with prizes sponsored by Tesco, Malcolm Allan Butchers, Quality Meat Scotland, Lifescan and Landmark. The winners were:

**Secondary - CULLODEN ACADEMY** winning 100 portions of haggis

**Primary - first prize CAOL PRIMARY** winning £75 and a Technica music Micro System

**second prize HILTON PRIMARY** winning £25 and a Technica music Micro System

**third equal**, each winning a family pass to Landmark Forest Adventure Park, are Sasha Mackinnon and Eilidh Macleod of **UPPER ACHINTORE PRIMARY**, Ceitlin, Kelsey and Jess of **REAY PRIMARY**, Ross Strachan of **BISHOP EDEN'S PS**, Euan Macdonald of **STAFFIN PRIMARY**, Ally Rankin of **PLOCKTON PRIMARY**, Duncan Foxley of **FORT WILLIAM RC PRIMARY** **LE ROINN-SGOILE GAIDHLIG A' GHEARASDAIN**, and Megan Soden and Stefanie Macleannan of **RAIGMORE PS**.

The prizes (apart from the haggis!) will be presented at our Highland Burns Evening in Millburn Academy at 7.30 pm on Monday 15th June where winners will be present to read their poems



## Young Musicians Shine

Over 350 people attended Saturday's showcase performance by young Highland musicians at the Black Isle Leisure Centre in Fortrose on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. Taking part were:

- The Highland Youth Pipe Band, accompanied by special guests from 4 Scots (The Highlanders) Pipes and Drums
- The Highland Youth String Orchestra under the conductorship of Strings Instructor Rick Lusher.
- Còisir G, the recently formed Regional Gaelic choir, under the guidance of their leader, former MOD gold medallist, Elidh Mackenzie.
- 'Snas, the Regional Ceilidh band featuring young musicians playing fiddles, whistles, pipes, guitars and voice.



## Lochyside RC Primary School

Artwork from pupils was displayed during a month-long exhibition at The National Galleries of Scotland in Edinburgh in March/April.

The pupils who had previously taken part in a short residency created art inspired by pieces already in the National Galleries.

Two pupils Natalie Brayshaw and Stephanie MacLennan (both Primary 7) from Lochyside Primary School along with former pupil Mark Faulkner (S1 Lochaber High School) gave a lunch time lecture on Tuesday 31st March about their project and the work of their Room 13 innovative arts-based initiative.

The lecture was well-attended and the pupils have received positive feedback from around the world.

Articles about the pupils' art project have been published in the local press and The Herald.



## **The Scottish Association of Pre-school Home Visiting Teachers**

Highland Psychological Service hosted the 15th annual Conference of at the New Drumossie Hotel in Inverness on Friday 8th May 2009. The conference was opened by Hugh Fraser, the Director of Education, Culture and Sport, and welcomed delegates from all over Scotland.

The main speaker of the day was Bernadette Cairns Principal Educational Psychologist, Highland Council Psychological Service. This was the 3rd time Highland have hosted the Conference and it was seen as a great opportunity to share the good practice developed in Highland with other colleagues across Scotland.



## **Inverness Leisure & HM Revenue and Customs**

Inverness Leisure has now been told it will not have to pay £250,000 in backdated VAT on memberships.

The above had been addressed by way of a reservation in the company's accounts, which will not now need to be taken up, rather than representing a back payment or windfall.

The Board of Inverness Leisure has requested that the Chairman of Education, Culture & Sport pass on its appreciation to ECS Committee Members for their support.



## Highland Youth Voice

- On 17 March young people from Highland Youth Voice (HYV) played the “Apprentice” by shadowing senior officials within The Highland Council and partner organisations, Northern Constabulary, Highland and Islands Fire and Rescue Service and NHS Highland.
- Highland Youth Voice members hope the day will help raise awareness of Highland Youth Voice and local youth forums; to explore the relevance of services to young people, and to inform senior managers on young people’s perceptions of the services they provide.
- Nine members of Highland Youth Voice, the Highland’s youth parliament took part in this year’s Highland Senior Citizen’s Network Conference, at the Lochardil Hotel on the 14<sup>th</sup> April. The young people used mobile phones, ipods and laptops to give on-line demonstrations on down-loading music, accessing websites and setting up e-mail as well as passing on helpful tips and advice on getting the most out of new ways of communicating.
- Health and wellbeing issues affecting young people now and in the future were discussed and debated by The Highland Council’s Youth Voice members and Director and policy makers in the NHS and council at a specially created one off event on Saturday 25 April.

## Shadowing the Convener

Magnus Monahan, 6<sup>th</sup> year pupil from Dornoch Academy, spent a day shadowing the Convener at the Full Council meeting and in the Chief Executive's office.

Magnus missed the Apprentice Day in March as he was involved in the HMIE inspection of Dornoch Academy on the same day.



He is pictured here with Sandy Park and Catriona Burns, Youth Convener.



## 'The Highland Environment' Pupil Photography Competition

Winners of the Pupil Photography Competition were

Prize 1: Primary School Category Winner

*Marc Logie, Rosebank Primary School!*

Prize 2: Secondary School Category

*Catherine Welsh, Millburn Academy*

A selection of photographs submitted for the competition will also be displayed at the Eastgate Centre, Inverness for two weeks from 15 June 2009.



## Ethco Schools Project

Pupils at Dalwhinnie Primary School were invited down to the City Halls in Glasgow to attend the launch of the Ethco Schools Project which was organised by Strathclyde University, to raise an awareness of Ethco and the Millennium Development Goals.

The challenge the pupils undertook was to write and record a song which incorporated at least three of the millennium goals with the idea that you are never too small to make a difference and the importance of acting ethically at home and at work. The pupils received a special commendation for their song “Put your arms around the world”.

## Sports Achievements

- Jamie Wilson from Glenurquhart High School has been selected for Scottish U16 Basketball Squad.
- Seth Jones also from GUHS has been selected for Scotland U17 Shinty/Hurling International in Dublin.
- Rachel MacMillan - P6 pupil, Rosebank Primary School, came 7th in the Scottish Primary Schools Cross Country Championship in Kirkcaldy.



## Artists Rooms Exhibition

A prestigious 'Artists Rooms' exhibition is on show at Inverness Museum & Art Gallery until the end of June. Artist Rooms is a national initiative, arising from the Anthony d'Offay bequest - one of the largest and most valuable bequests ever made to the nation. The Council is undertaking it in partnership with the National Galleries of Scotland and the Tate, London and Highland is one of just four venues in Scotland participating this year .

A series of exhibitions will be shown over a three year period. A Highland wide education programme, for 15-26 year olds, will run in parallel. Travel bursaries are available for every secondary school in Highland to enable them to visit the exhibition and a detailed education pack has been prepared, including interpretive material and worksheets and lesson plans linked to the Standard and Higher Grade art curriculum.



## Lochaber High School – Achievements

Michelle Wardlaw, S6 – Young Quality Scot Award for supporting *Breast Cancer Care*

Mairi MacRae, S2 – Under 14 North of Scotland Schools Cross Country Champion

Under 14 Boys' Football Team – Highland Champions

Catriona Rowantree, S5 – 'New Faces, New Voices' winner in the Gaelic Film Competition, *Film G*

Mountain Festival Art Competition Winners:

**1st** Nick Shepherd, S5

**2nd** Gillian Ness, S5

**3rd** Carly Childs, S6

There were 'Highly Commended' certificates for Jamie Bryden (1L), Jamie Harley (1LN), Rachel MacGillivray (1N), Ruaridh MacPhee (5N), Lewis Smith (1RS), Isobel Urwin (5R) and Cameron Young (1RS).

## Lochaber High School Achievements

- The 'Class Prize Winner' was the LHS Support for Learning Group.
- Kate Blanchard and Natasha Earnshaw, both S2 have gained places in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland
- Ruth Earnshaw, S4 was invited to play in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland *Repertoire* course at Easter and Kirsty Harrower, S2 was invited to play with the NYOS training orchestra.
- Natalie Rosie, S3 has been selected to represent Scotland in an international dance festival in Paris (15th – 18th May).
- Mrs Antoinette Luckhoff, Home Economics teacher received the Carol Dunigan Memorial Award 2009 at this years HE conference on the 9th of May (best HE Student). She also spoke at the conference about her first year as a newly qualified teacher.

## FutureChef Finalist

- For the second year running Lyndsay Michie, 16, a pupil at Kinlochleven High School, was among the finalists competing in the Springboard Future Chef on the 23rd March 2009 at Westminster Kingsway College.
- FutureChef is a four staged nationwide culinary programme helping young people aged 12-16 to learn to cook. It inspires them to explore food and cooking as a life skill, helps to develop their culinary talent and informs them about entry routes into the hospitality industry.

## Fortrose Pupil Award Success

Fraser Thomson, 15, a pupil at Fortrose Academy, who volunteers 15 hours of his spare time each week to help improve life for young people where he lives, has been nominated for a Buchanan's of Scotland Young People of the Year (YOPEY) award.

Four years ago Fraser helped set up a youth café in Cromarty at The Victoria Hall along with youth worker Wanda Mackay.

The youth café now offers young people a place to go with different sessions held throughout the week.

This is the first time the YOPEY awards have been held in Scotland.



## Charleston Academy Cluster

- After successfully completing their introduction to Golf sessions, Kinmylies and Muirtown Primary Schools P5's Visit to Torvean Golf Course.

The visits have been picked up by the National Governing Body for Golf as a Good Practice example and will be featured in the FirstClubGolf 1/4 magazine.

- Funding from the Road Safety Unit has been secured for Dochgarroch PS for Cycle proficiency markings in the school's car park.



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