



Education, Culture & Sport Committee

Comataidh Foghlaim, Cultair is Spors

Thursday 12 March 2009



E-success

- Cauldeen Primary School early stages early stages project titled '1,2 Buckle my Shoe' based on infant Mathematics and ICT with our ten European partner schools were announced runners up at the eTwinning European Finals for 2009 in the Maths & Science category. This was announced at the European Awards Conference in Prague in February. Only two projects, including the Cauldeen entry, were selected from the many entries across Europe for the finalists in this category.

The Gathering Place

- Carrbridge Primary School now have full funding in place for their outdoor classroom and plan to officially open this in May. Many local groups have made a commitment to use this including the local church, RSPB, local musicians and local arts group.

Eco School Status

- Congratulations to Newtonmore Primary School who have achieved their first Green Flag Eco-school status.

Snow Starts Play

- All pre-school centres in Highland have now received all in one suits and wellies as a result of the successful bid to the People's Millions fund ensuring all children will be able to access outdoor play regardless of weather conditions.



Croy Anniversary

- In February, pupils, parents and members of the Community met for lunch at Croy to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the new school, with over 100 being catered for instead of the usual 30. This was followed by an open afternoon when guests were able to join in classes throughout the years with a Victorian Classroom, World War 2 class and a modern day room. Pupils rounded off the day with an evening disco.

Charleston Academy Cluster events

- 140 cluster primary 7 pupils came together for the 4th cluster ceilidh at Charleston Academy prior to moving up to the Academy in August.
- Ex Commonwealth athlete Kenny Riddle is passing on his cycling skills at Muirtown Primary School where he is volunteering to train children in cycle proficiency. The first group of 10 P7 children have passed their test.
- Active Schools have secured funding from the Road Safety Department for two cycle training markings at Kinmylies and Muirtown Primary Schools.



Kingussie Food on Film Festival 2009

- Kingussie High School played host to a successful 2nd Food on Film Festival in early February. Visitors from all over the Highlands battled difficult conditions to attend the two day event which began with an “Oscar” night at which seven schools from Highland submitted entries for the Highland Youth Award for Short Food Films, with Grantown Grammar School’s “The Golden Spurtle”, a documentary recording the 15th World Porridge Making Championships held in Carrbridge in 2008. The Festival concluded on Saturday evening with the screening of five short films from Scotland followed by the feature film “Chocolat”

High Life

- The Council's High Life project has taken a step forward with the completion of an electronic link of all 21 High Life facilities to a central membership database. Amongst many benefits, difficulties customers experienced with smart cards presented at facilities they use less frequently have been ironed out.

Crocodile's Party in Wick Library

In late February Wick Library held a 100th Birthday party for its oldest resident – a 100 year old Gharra. Many local children and parents attended the event with stories being told by ex members of staff and Councillor Bill Fernie and a special 100th Birthday Party cake was made in honour of the occasion. The event increased the awareness of Children's Library Services in Wick and in the Highland area.





Gypsy/Traveller Cookery Course

- Seven Gypsy/Travellers completed their first ever course at Inverness College. The 7 week Introduction to Cooking course ran at the request of the women and with additional consultation it was organised to run on a weekly basis in the evenings from October to December 2008, where they gained skills in cooking dishes such as soups, scones, lasagnes etc. The course was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and has resulted in them requesting further evening courses from the College.

Karen MacMaster Education Development Officer for Interrupted Learning is now liaising with the Vice Principal of the College on taking their enthusiasm for further learning forward and what further courses/options they can offer to the Gypsy/Travellers.



Vocational Pathways Programme (VPP) Taster Evening

- A VPP Taster Evening was held on Thursday 5th February at Inverness College. Around 70 plus pupils and parents/guardians attended, which was an excellent turnout considering the snow that day.
- A joint taster evening was hosted by Inverness College and Lochaber College on Thursday 19th February with around 80 pupils and parents/guardians attending.

Feedback from pupils and parents was very positive on how informative the Taster Evenings were and enjoyed the opportunity to see the Colleges, take part in “hands on” activities and learn more about what the courses involved.

Work Experience

- Positive feedback has been received from employers in relation to changes implemented for work experience. Employers are seeing the benefits for young people on either weekly or extended placements, how enthusiastic some pupils are when on their premises and in some instances they have been offered either part time jobs or apprenticeships.
- Employers have also been contacting the Work Experience Co-ordinator where apprenticeships are available and they would like to offer the opportunity to a pupil – details are passed onto schools who gather names of pupils interested, which are then passed onto the company. 2008 saw an apprenticeships go to a couple of young pupils who were on a Vocational Pathways Programme at College and had had a weekly placement with the firm.
- McGregor Construction have approached us in relation to the role of an Trainee Building Technician apprenticeship they would like to offer to a school leaver and interested pupils details are being gathered together.

Pupils Raise Funds For Motor Cycling Charity's Work In Africa

- Boys from a Black Isle School have swung into action to give support of an international organisations work to provide safe and reliable 2 and 4 wheeled transport to health workers in Africa. Last year pupils from the Black Isle Education Centre started chopping firewood and then sold it locally to raise funds for Riders For Health, an international non-governmental organisation born out of the world of motorcycle racing. The charity, whose patron is the Princess Royal, works to provide health workers in Africa with reliable transportation so they can reach the most isolated and vulnerable people to provide regular and emergency health care. Thanks to the work of the young wood choppers, over £200 has been raised to date.
- Gavin Sked, the Head of the Black Isle Education Centre, is a keen motorcyclist and as motorcycles play a big part in the life of the school, he is delighted that the pupils have been so enthusiastic about raising money to donate to Riders For Health. He said: "I share my enthusiasm with the boys and to find such a good cause so close to their interest in motor bikes is a bonus. At our school we have a workshop where the boys learn how to maintain the bikes and every Thursday afternoon some of the lads get the chance to ride the motorcycles around the school course. Who gets to ride depends on how well they have done the rest of the week. It is a good incentive. I'm certain it would have helped me pay more attention in school."

The Janny's Hoose

- The Janny's Hoose is featured as a case study in a report produced by Eurohealthnet on "Innovative and Promising Practice by Health Promotion Bodies in Europe to Counteract Obesity and Improve Health Equity". The report includes 70 examples of projects at European, national and local level in 19 different European countries.
- The report will be launched at a meeting in Edinburgh later this month.

Active Schools

- The Active Schools team have recently started an initiative to work ever more closely with Inverness College. Over recent months, College sports coaching students have gained invaluable coaching experience in some primary schools, under the supervision of the Active Schools Co-ordinators, leading to the students running an athletics festival at the College for those children that they coached. This initiative continued earlier this month as the South Highland Primary Badminton Championships were held at the College, run by Active Schools, but with sports coaching students officiating. At a recent HMIE inspection the inspectors described the relationship as “sector leading”



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