

## Good News – Naidheachdan Mhath

- **Opening of GMU in Thurso**- an official ceilidh to mark the opening of the GMU took place on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Teachers, parents, and community representatives were present including Cllrs John Rosie, Donnie MacKay, Roger Saxon and Willie Mackay.
- **Mr Jim Lyon** - has been appointed Head Teacher of BSGI
- **Royal National Mod** was a success with young people from Trotternish/Staffin, Inverness and Lochaber performing in many of the competitions.
- **The 2014 National Mod** is taking place in the Highland Capital and this was formally welcomed at An Comunn Gàidhealach at the final press conference at the Paisley Mod.
- **The 2017 Mod** will be taking place in Lochaber and the Chair of the Area Committee Councillor Thomas MacLennan welcomed the event.
- **The BT Debate** – the first two rounds have taken place. Ullapool High School entered the competition for the first time and a total of 7 Highland Secondary Schools entered the competition - 4 of the 7 schools are through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round.
- **Creative Writing in Schools Programme** took place during September. Author D S Murray visited and led creative writing session in schools where Gaelic is being taught in both Primary and Secondary from Acharacle in the south to Farr in the north, this was a very successful programme and plans are in place to develop the second phase, which will include a “home-coming” theme.
- **Daily Record Gaelic Awards** – A number of groups have been nominated from the Highland Council area.  
In the Sport category - Ardnamurchan High and Portree Primary School,  
In the Workplace category – Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.  
In the Arts and Culture category – ‘Eun Beag Chanaidh/National Theatre a Blas Production  
In the Learner category - Cròileagan Inbhir Theòrsa (Thurso Play Group)  
In the Innovation in Education category – Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis.
- **FilmG** there are currently running workshops in 11 schools in Highland. A couple of the schools are producing 2 films and other schools are making films without the assistance of FilmG workshops. All entries for the FilmG competition have to be submitted by December 20<sup>th</sup>. The Award Ceremony will take place mid-March 2014.
- Craighill Primary School and the Playgroup are hosting an **Open Day for Gaelic Medium Education** on Nov 15<sup>th</sup>
- **AÀA** Roy Pedersen has been elected as the new Chairperson of Ainmean Àite na h-Alba (Gaelic Place-names of Scotland)

Today at SMO, AÀA are formally announcing the new Chairperson and also launching is a new guide to place-names in Lochaber. **The bilingual booklet, Gaelic in the Landscape: The Rough Bounds of Lochaber**, was co-ordinated by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and AÀA with support for the Council. The booklet has been produced as part of the Year of Natural Scotland 2013 celebrations and received additional funding from Soillse.

- **Taigh na Gàidhlig Mhealanais**, We are supporting the Gaelic promotion group, Taigh na Gàidhlig Mhealanais, centred on Melness, in marking the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the bard of Durness, Rob Donn Mackay. This entails a special show of his songs and associated music.
- **Fèisgoil** A number of schools in the Ft William and Thurso will be participating in Fèisgoil pilots commencing in January 2014.
- **Glencanisp, Lochinver Area** – Adult Learner Weekend, Comhlan Gàidhlig Asainte, in partnership with the Council are organising an adult learning weekend at Glencanisp Lodge, Lochinver on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November.  
**3 Adult Learners Courses are being offered** – beginners to advanced levels. An informal ceilidh and finger buffet is being held on the 17<sup>th</sup> between 18.00hrs – 19.00hrs.
- **Tutor Training Course** – This was delivered by Ruairidh MacLean for tutors of Adult Gaelic Classes, 13 Tutors attended.
- **Christmas Fun Day Fort William**, to promote Gaelic Medium Education, this is a community based event
- **Gaelic Learners Weekend in the Badenoch Area** at Badaguish Out-Door Centre in partnership with SINNE.
- **Sgioba Drama Òigridh Inbhir Nis** is again taking part in the National Theatre, Connections Festival which will be held in Eden Court 14th -16th April. They will perform a specially commissioned play for the Festival written in English by Pauline McLynn (of father Ted and Shameless fame) which has been translated into Gaelic by Ruairidh Nicolson.
- **There is a family fun session to be held in the Aquadome**, Inverness during December aimed at giving parents information about Gaelic Medium Education.
- **Pupils from Millburn Academy** visited Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to take part in various workshops while participating in a Gaelic learners residential trip to Skye during September.