

# BALLOCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2009



*Dear Parent/Guardian,*

*The festive season is approaching fast and we are looking forward to all the activities this will bring in school.*

## **PARENTS NIGHTS**

*I am pleased to report that as usual we had an excellent turnout of parents for these consultation evenings. Thank you all for taking the time to attend and help the teachers support your child's learning.*

## MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE IN SCHOOL

*There will be some changes to this after the Christmas holidays. I will be working a 3 day week, Clare Petrie will be working a 4 day week – 2 days as HT and 2 days as DHT. We will have a new DHT for 3 days per week.*

*These arrangements have been fully discussed with the Area Education Office and the Staffing Unit and also with the Parent Council and BFG.*

*Parents are well used to talking with either me or Clare Petrie should they need to and there will always be one of us available as usual.*

*We can assure you that the high standards already set for all aspects of school operation will be maintained.*

## VISITS / VISITORS

❖ *P4 have had 3 speakers who have come to give talks about the class topic – The Moray Firth:*

- *Mr. Gwyn Tanner, the Harbour Master at Avoch talked about his job and the sealife he has seen in the Moray Firth. He brought a sea chart to show the different depths of water in the Moray Firth.*
- *Mr. Juan Warshawsky who did a charity swim from Channory Point to Inverness Marina talked to the class about his training and the swim. He showed video film of dolphin swimming and leaping beside him. He has asked*

*the class to design a swimming cap for his next charity swim along Loch Ness.*

- *Alison Jordan from the Whale and Dolphin Preservation Society was the last speaker to come. She gave a presentation about the differences between sharks and dolphins and showed interesting artefacts from the sea. She talked about the identification of dolphins and encouraged the children to think about how they could help protect dolphins and whales.*

*The class prepared lots of interesting questions to ask the speakers and the speakers were very impressed by their interest in the Moray Firth. Sophie and Katie gave short thank speeches.*

- ❖ *Christopher Falkingham and Ross MacLean our Junior Road Safety Officers took part in a training session at Cradlehall Primary.*
- ❖ *Nursery pupils attended the Nessie Tooth Fayre on November 20<sup>th</sup>.*
- ❖ *On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November P4 and P5 enjoyed an unusual and thought provoking drama presentation by Drama Outreach workers from Eden Court.*
- ❖ *On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December Nursery pupils will attend Eden Court to see a performance of 'Under a Starry Sky'.*

## SPORT

- ❖ North of Scotland Schools Competition – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Well done to the team of footballers who took part in this event. The team played well against stiff competition winning one game, losing a game and a draw in another. Well done to the P7 team.
- ❖ Basketball – All P7's took part in the Jump2it Basketball competition in Inverness on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. Two teams won through to the finals in Glasgow on Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup>. Both teams played really well with Team 1 winning the overall competition. Everyone had a great day and as usual the pupils were a credit to the school. Thanks to Miss Campbell, Mrs. Dowling and Garth for accompanying the children and making the trip possible.
- ❖ Rugby – Thanks to Arun Sharma for organising the rugby trip to Edinburgh to watch Scotland play Fiji. A great day was had by all.

## 'MY LITTLE BIT OF SCOTLAND'

Congratulations to Jake Hutchison from P6/7 who had his article on Mellon Udrigle published in Scotland on Sunday.

## LOST PROPERTY

Once again we seem to have amassed lots of unclaimed items. These were all on display at parents evenings in the hope that you might spot things belonging to your children. Many of you did but we still have a fair amount of lost

property. Any unclaimed items will be disposed of by December 11<sup>th</sup> – so if your child has lost anything they should check with Roy the Janitor before that date.

### CHRISTMAS POST BOX

Children will be able to post their Christmas cards to each other via the school post box from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December until Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. The box will be in the corridor outside the GP room and will be emptied daily on a rota basis by pupils from P4 to P7. Please remember to address all cards with full name and class. Nursery pupils will have their own post box.

### CHRISTMAS SCHOOL LUNCH

This will be served on Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### CHRISTMAS PARTIES

December 17<sup>th</sup> pm - P1, P1/2 and P2

December 18<sup>th</sup> pm – P3, P4, P5, P5/6, P6, P6/7 and P7

December 21<sup>st</sup> am – Nursery

(Class teachers will contact you about food contributions)

### PANTOMIME – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Please note that we do not expect to arrive back at school until approximately 4.30pm. However, there is frequently congestion at Eden Court and possible traffic hold ups on the way home so please be patient if we are late! As the car park will be busy, buses will arrive at the back gate. Please collect your child from his/her classroom on return.

*If we are late and the weather is bad parents may wait in the school hall before going to classrooms when the children return.*

*Pupils who usually use school transport will need to have alternative means of getting home on that day.*

*Children may bring some sweets to have during the show but no drinks or crisps please.*

*As you know we pay £4 per child for tickets from School Fund. Part of this has been covered by a generous donation from our local Council Ward Budget.*

### **CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT**

*As you will have heard through correspondence from Parent Council members, P5, P5/6 + P6 and P6/7 + P7 are performing two short plays in the afternoon and evening of December 15<sup>th</sup>. Details for parents in these classes will follow later. I understand from the ticket sellers that the evening performance is now sold out. There are still tickets left for the afternoon.*

### **CHRISTMAS CAROL CD**

*Many of you have already purchased your copies of the CD featuring delightful singing from all classes from Nursery to P7. We still have copies available – a perfect Christmas present or pre Christmas treat for friends and family. Contact BFG members or the school office for orders.*

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE

*The Christmas Service will be on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 1.30pm. As space in the hall is limited, this year we are inviting the parents of children in classes P1, P1/2, P4 and P6.*

## SCHOOL CLOSURE

*School will close for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday December 23<sup>rd</sup> at the usual time. School will re-open on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Head Teacher*



*'A Very Merry Christmas to Everyone!'*