

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The children continue to enjoy a wide range of extra activities both in and out of school. Our Expressive Arts week this term was particularly successful and enjoyed by all.

- ❖ Kodaly music with Margaret Rae.
- ❖ Capoeira with Mr. Macdonald.
- ❖ Pancake making with Mrs. Scott and Mrs. MacGowan.
- ❖ Traverse Wall with Extreme Dream.
- ❖ Drum Fun with Chris as arranged by Dougie Hudson.
- ❖ Drama with staff from Eden Court.

- *KODALY MUSIC - Monday the 23rd February was the beginning of our Expressive Arts week. Our activity was Kodaly music taught by Mrs. Rae. We learned a Polish song about bananas and we also learned another song about white horses which we sang in groups of four. We tapped and clapped our hands to the beat of the music as we sang. It was great fun but we had to be careful and listen very carefully as it was fairly complicated but it was still really fun. Thanks Mrs. Rae!*

by Andrew Rollo and Ruairidh Sharp P4/5

- *CAPOEIRA – On Tuesday 24th Februry a man called Fraser came and taught all the classes CAPOEIRA. This is an energetic way of keeping fit which includes martial arts, music and dance and originates from Africa. We learned escape and attack moves and a technique called JINGA. We moved along while Fraser played a wooden instrument which looked like a bow and arrow. Capoeira was great fun, very enjoyable and we hope Fraser can come back again.*

by P5

- **TRAVERSE WALL** – The school was very pleased when they heard they were going to get a Traverse Wall. The wall is very colourful and is great to brighten up the playground. The wall is a fab idea and is a good way to keep fit and strong. It is also very challenging – it really isn't as easy as it looks! We all really like the purple hand holds because they are shaped as planes, trains and many other fun things. The only bad things are – sometimes the paint comes off and onto your shoes (this will be fixed) and also in cold weather you need to wear gloves because if it is cold your hands get even colder holding onto the hand holds. Over all, the wall is a lot of fun and a clever idea.

By Daisy MacGowan P6/7

- **DRUM FUN** – On Thursday 26th February a man called Chris came in to do some drumming with P4. First he told us how our body can be an instrument. Then he gave us some drums and shouted base or slap. If he shouted base, we would hit the middle of the drum. If he shouted slap, we would hit the side of the drum. We learned a lot of different rhythms. The whole school got a turn and most people enjoyed it. I felt so glad he had come and taught us some rhythms on African Bongo Drums.

by Jordan Taylor P4

- **DRAMA** – Friday was the last day of the Expressive Arts week. Judith from Eden Court came to teach us some drama. Judith showed us how to show emotion through facial expressions and body language. We also learnt how to do some miming for example we did climbing a ladder which Judith made look easy and we also did some other miming. At the end of our session, we did some stage fighting. We did a fake slap, pulling someone's hair and pulling someone's ears. The whole school enjoyed the Expressive Arts week. It was a great experience for everyone.

by Anya and Jenni P7

CURRICULUM

- ❖ P5 walked through the woods to the 'Prisoner's Stone' with John Orr, the local Ranger. They found out about local wildlife and the

history surrounding the stone. They have also visited Culloden Battle Field + Visitors Centre.

- ❖ On March 13th P7 pupils had a talk from Peter Taylor from Highland Council about environmental issues such as responsible disposal of litter and fly tipping. The school is currently taking part in a Tidy Playground Competition.
- ❖ Nursery Children have started their session of Safe Strong + Free workshops as well as continuing their Forest School activities with Ranger, Shona Amos.
- ❖ P6 are studying Europe and invited Ian Hudghton MEP to their classroom.

'On Friday 20th February, Ian Hudghton, MEP, came to visit P6. He told us what his job was about and about the EU (European Union). He told us he goes to lots of meetings in a year. We learned a lot and he answered all our questions very well. There are only 7 MEP's in Scotland and he is very important. The place where they have their meetings is the Parliament in Brussels. When they talk in front of the EU Parliament they only have one minute to talk and then their microphones get turned off. He told us lots of information that will help us with our Euro Quiz. At the end of the talk he gave us little calendars and a few days later we received some books, maps and pens from him. We all really enjoyed the talk.'

by Susie Hay and Chloe Innes P6

- ❖ *'On 11th March some people from the Energy Saving Efficiency came to talk to us about energy saving. They gave us some information about saving and looking after energy and about how we can look after the world. They said that Microwaves are more energy saving than ovens. They also said that there are energy ratings from A all the way down to G and A is the best you can get. Close to the end they gave us some jokes about energy saving. One of the jokes were - What did the solar panels say to the clouds? - We need a rays! Then they put on a DVD about Energy Aunt. She helped people with energy saving problems. She was like a Superhero. At the end they gave us some freebies. We enjoyed it and we hope we will do what they told us.*

by Nayeem and Chloe P4

WORLD BOOK DAY

'On Thursday 5th March, Richard Hastings an Inverness Caley Thistle player, came into our class to read us a book for World Book Day. He

read us a story called 'See you at the Match'. He also gave out autographs and answered questions. Some of the girls were asking personal questions like - when is your birthday? etc. Lewis and Nayeem got a photograph taken with him and Isla nearly fainted. We all enjoyed the visit and thought it was Fab!

by Jack and Calum P4

ROTARY QUIZ

A P7 team consisting of Stephen Crawshaw, Jamie Rodgers, Ian Crush, Scott MacLennan and Jenni Wood, took part in the annual Schools Quiz. Although we did not win this year, the children did very well and the scores were very close.

PRIMARY SCHOOL'S EURO QUIZ (Sponsored by Standard Life)

Our Balloch team of Megan McColm, Kieran Dowling, Reuben Green, Robbie Gaynor and Finlay MacNeil won the Highland heat of this very challenging competition and will go on to the final to be held in the Debating Chamber of the Scottish Parliament building on May 11th. This is a very prestigious competition and the children have done exceptionally well to get to the finals - well done to the team and thanks to their P6 classmates who supported them to the event at Millburn Academy.

SPORT

- ❖ The Soccer Sixes team won their local round of this competition. They are going to Perth for the next round on March 19th.
- ❖ Our Badminton players were very successful at a recent tournament. Andrew Young and Callum Wilkinson won the boys doubles. Callum, Andrew, Dani, and Keith went on to the next stage of the competition and reached the semi finals - well done boys!
- ❖ The cross country team had a great day out at Forres on Saturday March 14th when they took part in The North of Scotland Championships. Out of a very big field of runners the girls just missed out on a top three team placing while the boys came first, carrying off the winner's trophy - congratulations and well done everyone! Thanks to Mrs. Petrie, Mrs. Simpson and Roy who went along with the children and to all the parents who came to support.

We wish the team the best of luck for the McRobert Cup Competition on Friday 20th March.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

P6/7 and the school choir performed at the festival on March 16th and 18th. P6/7 gained a Distinction for their Singing Game and received the Donna Campbell Trophy. The choir performed very well against a very high standard of entries. They gained a Commendation for the Scottish Song class and narrowly missed winning the Hymn Section by only 1 point. A great result!

RED NOSE DAY

P5 organised this in school as their class enterprise. They raised £376.12. Well done P5 and thank you for a great day which was good fun for everyone whilst raising money for charity.

VOUCHERS

- ❖ Tesco have again launched their Vouchers for Schools collection. We always manage to get useful items for school from this so please remember to collect vouchers from your family and friends and bring them to school.
- ❖ Gardening vouchers can also be collected when you make any purchases at Klondyke Garden Centres (Howdens). We can redeem them for cash vouchers to spend on plants, gardening equipment etc for the school grounds work.

EXTRA TEACHERS INSERVICE TRAINING DAY

We have recently been informed that there is to be an extra day this session which will be on June 8th so there will be no school for children on that day.

PARENT COUNCIL AND B.F.G. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

These will be held jointly in the school on April 27th at 7.00pm. Please come along and offer your support to one of these parent organisations. Both are very valuable to the school, offering a range of support which benefits your children.

EASTER SERVICE

The Easter Service will be on Friday 27th March at 1.30pm. As space in the hall is limited, this year we are inviting the parents of children in classes P3/4, P4, P4/5 + P5.

REMINDER

School will close for the Easter holidays on Friday 27th March at the usual time. School will re-open on Tuesday 14th April.

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher