

**BALLOCH SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER**

**October 2008**



Dear Parent/Guardian,

### **SCHOOL GROUPS**

All class representatives have now been elected and are as follows. From time to time you may receive a Newsletter from some of the groups.

#### **School Council**

P1	Finlay Geddes	P4/5	Ross MacLean
P1/2	Laura MacLennan	P5	Nina Robertson
P2/3	Zara Redpath	P6	Megan Sutherland
P3/4	Elle Fraser	P6/7	Frazer Gibb
P4	Jamie Carson	P7	Jack Kennedy

The Council discusses a wide range of issues of importance to the pupils and has influenced a range of improvements in school and in the playground. The Minutes of the School Council meetings are posted on the notice board outside.

#### **FAB (Food at Balloch)**

P1	Calum Ross	P4/5	Neil Crawshaw
P1/2	Caitlin Mutch	P5	Ewan MacLean
P2/3	Lauren McKenzie	P6	Rory Fraser
P3/4	Fraser Finlayson	P6/7	Ian MacLeod
P4	Chloe Failes	P7	Sarah Stuart

Mrs. Halls (school cook)

Mrs. Vernal (school nurse)

Mrs. Macdonald, Mrs. McKenzie + Mrs. MacGowan (parents)

The group suggest ideas and organise health promoting events in the school.

#### **Eco School (B.E.S.T)**

P1	Mia Shepherd	P4/5	Ainsley Macdonald
P1/2	Kyle McDermott	P5	Craig Robertson
P2/3	Kirsty Vickerman	P6	Reuben Green
P3/4	Alasdair Prott	P6/7	Aidan MacDonald
P4	James Macleod	P7	Rebecca Bryden

Mrs. Green and Ms Spalding (parents)

Roy Cameron (Janitor)

Miss Campbell will be organising and supporting the group this year, they will be encouraging everyone to continue our excellent Eco School initiatives.

### House Captains

<b>BIRCH</b>	<b>FIR</b>	<b>LARCH</b>	<b>OAK</b>
Iain Crush - C Jenni Wood - VC	Callum Wilkinson - C Aidan MacDonald - VC	Shannon Cowie - C Sean Notman - VC	Anya Fraser - C Andrew Young - VC

### JRSO's (Junior Road Safety Officers

Jemma Buchanan P7

Keith Nicolson P7

Congratulations to you all and good luck with your jobs!  
Your contribution to improving the school is much appreciated.

### SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

Mrs. Van der Vlies has recently given up this post to take on another job, although she will continue to work part time in the school office. Mrs. Naismith has agreed to take over the post of 'lollipop lady'. Many thanks to Mrs. Van der Vlies for the years of service she has given in helping to ensure that the children reach school safely.

### ECO BAGS

P7 are now selling their Eco Bags very successfully. Many thanks to all of you who have already purchased bags for yourselves or as gifts - we have already seen them out and about the town! We still have stock so if you wish to place a further order, please use the slip attached. The bags will also be on sale soon at the local shop.

### MORRISON + HOWDENS VOUCHERS

Both of these stores are currently giving vouchers to shoppers which can be exchanged for gardening equipment, seeds, compost etc. Please send any spare to school where we will make good use of them.

### CYCLE TRAINING

P7 pupils are currently undergoing training for their Cycling Proficiency test. This is an important aspect of independence and a good understanding of personal safety and being a considerate road user.

Many thanks to Mrs. Van der Vlies, Roy, Mr. and Mrs. McCormack and Ms. Spalding who have made this experience possible for the pupils.

### SPORT

- ❖ P1/2, P2/3 and the Nursery pupils enjoyed a Footworxs session with Caley Thistle trainers.
- ❖ Our new Cross Country team have begun training and will attend their first event of the season at the Bught Park on Wednesday October 8<sup>th</sup>.

### CHARITY

Last session the School Council raised £64 through their 'small change' classroom charity collections. Vicky MacRae and Jemma Buchanan went with Mrs. Petrie to Raigmore Hospital to donate the money to the Children's Ward.

### P7 TRIP

Once again P7 pupils have had a wonderful time at their residential trip to Abernethy Outdoor Centre at Nethybridge. The children were great fun to be with and their behaviour was a credit to the school and their parents. Thanks to - Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Petrie, Miss Campbell, Miss Craigie and Mrs. Card who gave up their time to allow this activity to take place.

*'On 22<sup>nd</sup> September P7 went to Nethybridge for our school trip. Nethybridge is a Christian Outdoor Activity Centre run by Abernethy Trust. We did 10 activities throughout 4 days, they were all brilliant. We enjoyed the dry slope ski-ing, zip wire and adventure course the most. We all got divided into 4 groups and in those groups you did your activities. We all had at least one teacher with us. It was very funny seeing the teachers do some of the activities. The instructors were all friendly and gave us loads of information about all the activities.*

*The food was really tasty and we had something different every night and in the morning we had to make our own packed lunch. In the evening there was an activity called 'Super Hero Time Out' when the instructors sang songs, played games and told stories from the Bible to us. There was also a games room, sports hall and a swimming pool. We shared the activities this week with Dunnottar Primary School from Stonehaven.*

*We all really enjoyed Nethybridge and would love to go back.*

*by Nicola and Caris P7*

### **HEALTHY START TO THE SCHOOL DAY**

We have noticed lately that lots of children are eating sweets or chocolate and having fizzy drinks before coming into school in the morning. It seems that quite a few pupils visit the shop on the way to school. Staff have commented that they noticed that some pupils are not settling quickly in class and not concentrating very well - we wonder if the two things could be connected.

As a health promoting school we want to bring this to your attention so that you can decide whether you think having sweets/drinks before school is in your child's best interests - it may be that you are not even aware that this is happening.

### **PHOTOGRAPHER**

The Photographer from 'Cathclite' will visit the school on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October to take individual and family photographs of pupils from P1-7 only. The proof photographs should be available soon after the October break and photographs ordered will be back in school in plenty time to send off for Christmas gifts. If you would like your child/children to have photographs taken, please complete the slip attached and return it to your child's class teacher.

### **PARENT HELPERS**

There has been an excellent response this session to our request for a list of parent helpers. Thanks to all those who have volunteered and we hope to be able to make use of your offers during the session. Some volunteers are already involved in supervising the borrowing of reading books, in running the chess, rugby, drama club and Scripture Union and in playing the piano for us at Assemblies and looking after the school grounds.

### **CLUBS**

If your child has signed up to an after school club, please let us know in writing or by calling the school if they intend leaving the club or if they do not intend to go to the club on a certain day. Our volunteer leaders need to know who is attending and who is not.

This term children are able to attend the following after school Clubs:

- ❖ Monday - Chess Club                      P4-7
- ❖ Monday - Drama Club                      P1-7
- ❖ Tuesday - Choir                              P6-7
- ❖ Wednesday - Scripture Union P5-7

- ❖ Thursday - Relaxation Club P5-7
- ❖ Thursday - Tag Rugby P4-7

### **WET WEATHER**

A reminder once again about wet weather jackets. The children will be expected to be outside for breaks unless the weather is very bad, so please ensure your child brings a suitable jacket to school every day.

### **ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS**

Attached is a copy of Highland Council Guidelines relating to attendance and travel to school during bad weather. Please keep this information for future reference.

### **CONTACT WITH SCHOOL**

Formal parent's nights are coming up on November 19<sup>th</sup> + 20<sup>th</sup> when you will all have an opportunity to talk with class teachers about your child's progress. Appointments will be issued before the October break. However, I would remind you that you are welcome to contact the school at any time should you have a query or concern.

Also, if you have any ideas about improvements to any aspect of school life, we are keen to hear your views. Just send a brief note to me and we will certainly take your opinion into account in any future planning and decision making.

### **PARKING IN CHERRY PARK**

Can I remind parents/carers that the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school gate indicate that you should not park there. Although it may be slightly inconvenient for you to park a little further away, I would ask you all to put the safety of all the children first.

### **REMINDERS**

- ❖ Open Afternoon - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 1.30-2.30pm.
- ❖ October holidays - school closes on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October at the usual time and re-opens on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October.
- ❖ Teacher's In-Service Training Days - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> + Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher



**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS**

I WOULD / WOULD NOT like my child/children to have photographs taken on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Individual

Family

Both Individual + Family

Name of Pupil(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Class P \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_