

BALLOCH SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

June 2007



Dear Parent/Guardian,

As usual we are having a very busy summer term with lots going on and lots still to do.

SPORTS DAY

Unfortunately we had to cancel due to continual rain! This was disappointing for everyone but we hope to try again on June 6th, P1-3 at 9.30am and P4-7 at 1.30pm. If the weather seems in doubt, please check the school messaging service where we will leave information for you.

Nursery Sports day is on June 26th in the school hall.

CYCLING TRAINING

Primary 7 pupils are working hard on this at present and are due to sit their test later in June. Many thanks to all the volunteers and good luck to P7 with the test!

EDINBURGH TRIP

Primary 7 pupils had a great day out visiting Dynamic Earth, the Scottish Parliament and enjoying a performance at Kings Theatre as part of the International Children's Theatre Festival. This year they also took a bus tour around the sights of Edinburgh. Many thanks to staff and helpers for making this trip possible.

'CHOICES FOR LIFE'

P7 pupils attended this event at Inverness Leisure Centre where they learned more about the dangers of drug abuse, alcohol, smoking and how to have the confidence to make good choices. This was a very worth while activity, presented in a way which the children responded to well and thoroughly enjoyed.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Congratulations to all who took part in the Primary Schools Cross Country Championship events in Kirkaldy. Top ten places in the P6 race went to Jade Fraser (6th), Susan Smith (7th). In the P7 race Ailie Rodgers claimed an excellent 19th position and Fraser Robertson 57th. Well done everyone!
- ❖ P6 pupils have had cricket coaching this term. Mrs. Asher and Mr. Hodgman have been working with the children which will culminate in a

KwikCricket Festival involving many Highland schools. Good luck to the team.

- ❖ Mrs. Asher has been coaching P5's in basic gold skills -
'The golf was great fun and we learnt a lot. We learnt how to drive, chip and putt'

by Aidan MacDonald - P4/5

- ❖ Fitness testing will continue for P7 in early June. Mrs. Asher will retest the children and compare results from the first test earlier in the session.
- ❖ Nursery are looking forward to another fun filled football session with Caley Thistle on June 5th.
- ❖ A team of children from P7 will be competing in the Junior Highland Games on June 15th which forms part of the Highland 2007 celebrations. Good luck to all involved.
- ❖ Good luck also to the team selected for the North of Scotland Schools Track + Field Championships which takes place on Tuesday June 5th at Queens Park.
- ❖ **Highland + Scottish Disability Sports Competition** - Becky and Jack Nicholson took part in these competitions and did very well indeed. At the Highland event both won 3 gold medals each. Jack won a silver and 2 gold medals at the Scottish event in standing long-jump and running. Congratulations to you both on this excellent result.

CHESS CLUB

A group from Chess Club took part in a competition from Grangemouth on May 20th. The children enjoyed the experience, played well and would like to take part again. Many thanks to Mr. Sharma and Mr. Crush for organising this trip.

AIGAS FIELD CENTRE

P4/5, P5 and P6 pupils visited Aigas Field Centre on May 14th and 17th. Both groups learned more about the environment and how to protect it.

FOREST SCHOOL + FLORAL HALL

Nursery pupils continue to have a wonderful time at their outdoor activities during the term and had a great day at Abriachan on May 22nd. They visited the Floral Hall on May 30th.

HIGHLAND 2007

- ❖ **Science Festival** - As part of our Highland 2007 activities children from various stages took part in sessions organised by The Edinburgh Science Festival. These proved to be really interesting and exciting.

On Thursday 17th May 2007 Primary 4, 4/5 and half of P5 were taken to see Noise Works Science Festival. It was really good and lots of children got to volunteer to go up and have a shot. The show let pupils learn and laugh at the same time.

There were many interesting instruments that made different sounds. The people who were doing the show taught us fun poems. At the beginning of the show the man welcomed us by doing a funny dance and the people had on funny clothes.

The poems that the people taught us were:

*Wiggles are Vibrations,
And Vibrations make sound.*

*Liquid carries sound,
You can hear it swimming around.*

*Solid helps you hear,
Both far away and near.*

*More Bigger vibrations,
The louder the sound.*

We enjoyed it and we would like to see the show again.

by Douglas Traynor and Kyle Laing - P4

- ❖ **Storytelling / Drama / Art** - P5 pupils are currently working with a Storyteller and an artist to produce a collage banner depicting an aspect of the Battle of Culloden. We hope that the finished work will be displayed at the opening of the new centre at Culloden Battlefield.

Our Highland 2007 P7 representatives will be meeting again with their partners from the other local primaries to create another piece of art work some time in June.

- ❖ **Primary 7 Walk and BBQ** - All P7 pupils from the local primaries will be joining together on June 8th to enjoy a nature walk followed by a BBQ. This will be a great opportunity for all the new S1 pupils to meet together and make some new friends before moving on to Culloden Academy.

YOUTH MUIISC INITIATIVE

Primaries P4/5 - P6/7 pupils will have further input this term in singing and music making and drumming. P3 are enjoying sessions with Kodaly Music this term.

TESCO VOUCHERS

Many thanks to everyone who helped collect the Tesco Computers for Schools Vouchers. We have already passed the amazing total of 40,000 vouchers - so well done everyone. As the scheme is now closed, we would ask that you pass on any outstanding vouchers to the school as soon as possible as we will be choosing which new equipment we wish to purchase. Many thanks to P7 for collecting and counting all the vouchers.

FAB (FOOD AT BALLOCH)

Our health promoting group have had their final meeting of the session. Many thanks to the class representatives and adult volunteers who have supported this group. Among the activities they have organised or supported this session are:

- ❖ A French taster day.
- ❖ A fruit tasting day.
- ❖ 'Chicken Tuesday'.
- ❖ Hand Washing instructions.
- ❖ Highland Health Week activities.
- ❖ Walk to School week
- ❖ Input from School Nurses at parents evening.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thank you to all school council reps for an excellent year. The team worked well addressing concerns and issues raised by their peers.

Matthew Mackay P6, who is the School Council Treasurer, has arranged for a £100 cheque to be sent to Mr. Bamfield for his Malawi fund raising. The £100 was collected from the coins the children put in the School Council Charity boxes.

B.E.S.T - (Balloch Eco School Today)

The BEST representatives have worked well together this session to ensure that we have our Silver Award and are now working towards our Green Flag status which we hope to attain next session.

Our Silver Award birch tree has been planted in the grounds. I am sure you have all noticed the huge improvement in the school grounds and the group have more plans for the future. Again, many thanks to Mrs. Morton, Ms Spalding and Mrs. Green for their invaluable support to the group and to all our 'gardeners'.

HIGHLAND FOOD BANK

Thanks to everyone who sent contributions.

CLOSING SERVICE

This will be held in the school hall on June 28th at 10.00am. As usual space in the hall is very limited so on this occasion parents of pupils in P5 and P7 are invited to attend. If possible please leave prams/buggies outside.

PRIMARY 7

Our very best wishes to all our P7 pupils who are leaving Balloch Primary at the end of term. Good luck for the future - we will miss you!

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

School will close at 12.15pm on Thursday June 28th and open again on Tuesday August 14th 2007.

Finally, many thanks to all those parents and friends who have supported the school this session, through the School Board, PTA, school groups, sporting activities, clubs, helping with school trips etc. Your contributions and continuing support is much appreciated by staff and pupils.

Enjoy the summer break!

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher