

**BALLOCH SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER**

May 2009



Dear Parent/Guardian,

SCHOOL ROLL

We have completed enrolment for Nursery and P1 for August 2009. Our Nursery numbers have dropped considerably and we expect to run morning sessions only from August. P1-7 roll remains much the same. Therefore, we expect to have 10 classes again next session.

CLUBS

Athletics (Mrs. Scott) and Relaxation Clubs (Mrs. Walker) have started again this term. Rugby, Chess and Scripture Union continue and we also have Capoeira training this term, organised by Miles Fuller our Active Schools Co-ordinator.

SPORTS

- ❖ Primary 4/5 and P5 are enjoying Golf lessons organised by Miles Fuller.
- ❖ Since our last Newsletter the cross country teams have had success in events at Bught Park McRobert Cup and at the Cross Country Championships at Kirkaldy. At the McRobert Cup the teams managed to secure 2 out of 4 trophies. P4/5 girls team came second, P4/5 boys first, P6/7 girls second and P6/7 boys first. Individually we had great results with Niamh MacCulloch coming first in the P4/5 girls race, Steven Dey 3rd and Scott Lisle 5th in the boys P6/7 race. Jack Murray 2nd and Lewis MacGowan 5th in the P4/5 boys race.

At Kirkaldy, both teams did very well against stiff competition, Scott Lisle achieving a top 20 place. The girls team came 9th and the boys 11th - a great result.

Well done to everyone and a huge thanks to parents for their support over the year especially Angela Simpson who has accompanied the teams to all events. Thanks also to Roy for helping Mrs. Petrie with the training.

SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY

Another pupil, Finlay MacNeill, has had his piece published in the 'My Little Piece of Scotland' in Scotland on Sunday - well done Finlay.

ART COMPETITION

Congratulations to Kai Fraser who won the Highland heat of an Art competition about Hopes and Dreams for Scotland in Europe. His poster will be on display in the Scottish Parliament and will go forward to the national final of the competition. Kai was also responsible for his class

enjoying a cruise on Loch Ness on March 20th - a prize he won in a writing competition.

FFAB GROUP

- ❖ FFAB members would like to remind you that every Friday is now a 'Fruity Friday!' All pupils are encouraged to bring fruit for snack and as part of packed lunches. Teachers have been asked to award house points to all those who remember and take part.
- ❖ Our school cooks will be organising an Italian Taster Day on May 7th for school lunch. The menu will be:
 - Vegetable Lasagne
 - Spaghetti Bolognese
 - Various ice creams
- ❖ May 18th - 22nd is 'Walk to School' week. Please try to walk at least part of the way to school - it's healthy!
- ❖ Look out for the FFAB competition which will be coming your way soon.

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

The BEST group have recently organised a 'litter pick' on the pitch. We hope you all notice how clean it is. The pitch is frequently used by others after school and at weekends and unfortunately a lot of litter is often left. We hope that the Council will be supplying a bin soon which they will empty regularly and hopefully this will help to improve the appearance of the pitch for everyone.

CLIMBING WALL

Unfortunately the climbing wall is currently out of action. The wall has been taken down and is being repainted by the company as it appears more paint is on children's shoes than on the wall! The company did repaint the wall but as this did not work they have decided to re-do the whole wall and will return it to us in the near future.

BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair will be in school (GP room 2) the week beginning 18th May. The Fair will be open to parents/carers from 2.30 - 3.30pm on Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st May. Please come along and support the Fair as the commission we receive provides lots of books for the children to use in school.

P4/5 TRIP TO AIGAS FIELD CENTRE

P4/5 visited the Aigas Field Centre on Thursday 23rd April this is what they had to say about their trip:

'On Thursday the 23rd of April, our class went to Aigas Field Centre for a school trip. It took about forty minutes to get to Aigas on the bus. When we got there we walked up a small hill to an eco-lodge. The eco-lodge had a turf roof and the lodge was insulated with nine inches of recycled plastic bottles!

There were two leaders called Sue and Jen. They told us a bit about Lifecycles. Then we were put into two groups. One group went with Sue and the other group went with Jen.

Both groups did the same activities but at different times.

First Sue's group played a game about red kites which are birds of prey. Then they played a game called Freeze, Flood and Camouflage. After that they did an activity about salmon and found out about its life cycle. They were very hungry so they had lunch outside the eco-lodge. After lunch, Sue's group went up to a loch to see some beaver lodges and dams.

They saw some trees that had been chewed by beavers and a slide that the beavers had made by sliding down a small hill on their bellies. After that they went pond-dipping and found pond-skaters and dragonfly larvae. They also went bug hunting with big nets.

First Jen's group went pond dipping and bug catching. They saw where the beavers had eaten trees. After that they had lunch outside the lodge. After their lunch they played the Red Kite game. Next they played the salmon game and finally they went to the gift shop.

At the end both groups met up and got on the bus and went back to school. The Aigas trip was great. '

By Andrew Gray, Jason Muir and Andrew Rollo P4/5

RAINBOWS

1st Cawdor Rainbows have asked us to mention that they are there for girls aged 5-7. If you are interested in your daughter joining you should contact Denise on 01667 404726 or e-mail dez.mac@tiscali.co.uk.

ROSS COUNTY FOOTBALL

Martin Rae has asked us to let you know that Ross County Soccer Centres will be going ahead as previous with courses and interested parents should contact him on 01349 860862.

REMINDERS

- ❖ May 19th - 21st May - Book Fair
- ❖ May 27th - Sports Day at 10.00am for P1-7. All together this year - hopefully parents with children at different stages will find this more convenient.
- ❖ June 3rd + 4th - Parents consultation meetings - appointments will be issued soon.
- ❖ June 8th - extra Teachers In-service Training Day - school will be closed to pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher