

Dear Parent/Guardian,

STAFFING

- ❖ Unfortunately Stephen McKeand our recently appointed Janitor has left to take up a new post elsewhere. During his relatively short time at Balloch School, Stephen proved to be a great asset and will be missed by staff and pupils. Going by past experience, it will no doubt take many weeks for the appointment procedures for a new Janitor to come about. In the meantime, we are fortunate to have help from Mr. Raymond Stewart for a few hours a week.
- ❖ As you know Mrs. Morton has now retired. Her job share at P5 is currently being covered by Miss Kirkwood.
- ❖ A new school cook in charge has been appointed. Mrs. Halls started on Monday. Mrs. Carson, kitchen assistant, has left and is replaced by Mrs. Brown.

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 Taylor, Miss Baird and Mrs. Card who gave up their time to allow this activity to take place.

'On the 24th September P7 were going to Nethybridge and we were all mad! It was going to be a holiday of a lifetime and we were going to be doing lots of amazing activities. I was looking forward to doing the zip wire and abseiling because they sounded really cool! At 8.30 we had Time Out. We sang songs, played games and chatted about funny things that happened during our day. There was also a shop, swimming pool and games room. At tea time we had some delicious food and we slept at night in our own rooms. My room was called Stewart and we slept in bunk beds. During the day we did lots of fantastic activities and my leader was called Waljir. He was from Brazil and we was so cool! One night we watched a movie and another night we had a BBQ. Nethybridge was a breathtaking experience and a hilarious holiday!'

by Rachel Mackay - P7T

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our team took part in this event on October 3rd. The results were fantastic once again. The boys team came first overall and brought the trophy back to Balloch for the 8th time. The girls came second. Special congratulations to Jade Fraser who came first out of all the girls. Well done everyone! Thank you to Stephen for training the group and to Stephen and Mrs. Naismith for accompanying them to the event.

CALEY THISTLE FREE FOOTBALL COACHING

Some P3-7 took part in this after school activity last term and enjoyed the extra coaching input.

KODALY MUSIC

P2/3 + P3 pupils are enjoying sessions with Margaret Rae of the Youth Music Initiative, learning about rhythm and pitch and generally having great fun with music.

FEIS ROIS

P5/6 and P6 pupils are looking forward to the Feis Rois sessions. Over the next four weeks, the children will learn and basics of playing the tin whistle.

CULLODEN STONE

The school has sponsored a stone for the pathway leading to the new Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre. So when you visit remember to look out for the 'Balloch School' stone.

'LOO OF THE YEAR'

Once again we have gained a 4 star award thanks to pupils care and the hard work of the cleaning staff.

DRAMA PRODUCTION - 'ROBIN HOOD'

'On Friday 26th October we got a visit from M + M Productions. They presented a wonderful play of Robin Hood. There were 8 characters and 5 actors/actresses and together they had an energetic and fun play. The characters were Little John, Mrs. Bounty, the Sheriff of Nottingham, Maid Marion, Robin Hood, Wholenut, Don Shoot the Messenger and Tarquin the Wizard. The Sheriff kept teasing Don Shoot by saying "Don't shoot the messenger".

There were also lots of songs such as We're all in this Together, YMCA, The Bear Necessities, Times like These, What I've been looking For and more from High School Musical and Disney.

There were funny bits like when the Wizard screamed every time he came to the front at the start and one of the actors chucked a (plastic) club away and amazingly got it stuck in the basketball net.

We all really enjoyed the play and we hope that Mrs. Scott asks them to come back again.

by Shannon MacArthur and Megan Sutherland - P5/6

PTA HALLOWEEN DISCO

This event was enjoyed by all. Thanks to the PTA for organising the disco.

PANTOMIME

We have arranged for the whole school to go to the pantomime at Eden Court on the afternoon of Wednesday December 19th to see 'Peter Pan'. This outing has been very successful and enjoyable in the past but clearly is a very expensive undertaking. The PTA have generously agreed to cover the cost of transport.

The tickets cost £8.00 per child and we would ask that parents contribute £5.00. The remaining £3.00 will come from School Fund.

We very much hope that all pupils can be included. Please return the permission slip along with the money due to class teachers by 9th November. Further details about times will follow.

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.

SCOTTISH POPPY APPEAL

If you wish your child to donate to this charity, poppies will be available in school on the 5th and 6th November. Pupils may have a poppy in exchange for a donation. (P1-7 only).

REMINDERS

- ❖ Parent's Evenings 14th and 15th November .
- ❖ Scholastic Book Fair Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd November from 2.30 - 3.30pm.
- ❖ Please remember that the school will be closed on November 26th and 27th November for Teachers In-Service Training Days.

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher

PANTOMIME - 'PETER PAN' - EDEN COURT

19th December 2007

I DO / DO NOT give permission for my child to attend the pantomime and include £5.00 towards the cost. (cheques should be made payable to Balloch School).

Name of Pupil(s) _____

Class(es) P _____ p _____

Signature Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____