

**BALLOCH SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER**

November 2008



Dear Parent/Guardian,

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our team took part in this event on October 8th. The boys team came second with only 5 points separating the top 3 teams. The girls performed very well just missing a top 3 placing. Well done to Steven Dey who achieved a 3rd place medal and Mollie Lisle who came 9th overall in the girls race. Thank you to Roy and Mrs. Petrie for training the group and to Mrs. Petrie and Mrs. Simpson for accompanying them to the event.

DRAMA

P1, P1/2 and P2/3 pupils are enjoying sessions with Jessie Paul from Out of Eden Drama Project.

FEIS ROIS

P4/5 and P5 pupils are looking forward to the Feis Rois sessions. Over the next few weeks, the children will be working in groups learning about traditional Scottish songs and music.

KODALY

P2/3 and P3/4 will begin their block of work with Margaret Rae. Kodaly Music has been a great success over the past few years and I am sure the children will enjoy the fun and music games over the coming weeks.

BFG HALLOWEEN DISCO

This event was enjoyed by all. Thanks to the BFG for organising the disco, staff who attended and Roy for taking all the wonderful photographs which will be on display at Parents Evenings.

PANTOMIME

We have arranged for P1-7 to go to the pantomime at Eden Court on the afternoon of Wednesday December 17th to see 'Aladdin. This outing has been very successful and enjoyable in the past but clearly is a very expensive undertaking. We are looking forward to seeing one of our own pupils - Frazer Gibb on our visit. He is one of the dancers. The BFG have generously agreed to cover the cost of transport which will be £570.

The tickets cost £8.00 per child and we would ask that parents contribute £5.00. The remaining £3.00 per child 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 12th November**. Further details about times will follow.

INVERNESS FLOWER SHOW

As intimated previously, Balloch School came joint first in the school garden competition. We have now received our prize of £50 of garden vouchers donated by Simpsons Garden Centre.

ECO SCHOOL GREEN FLAG

As you will have noticed we have our Green Flag flying at last! We are grateful to the Scottish School of Forestry who made and erected the flag pole.

'RAG BAG' COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who donated to this collection. As well as the textiles being recycled or passed on for use, the school received a payment for the weight collected. We have received a cheque for £199.50 which will help towards pantomime costs.

WRITING COMPETITION

Congratulations to Kai Fraser who was a finalist in a recent writing competition sponsored by Jacobite Cruises. Kai wrote a great story featuring the adventures of Jacobite Jess, Nessie's cousin. As part of his prize, Kai has won a trip on Loch Ness aboard the Jacobite Queen for his whole class. Well done Kai!

VANDALISM

I am disappointed to have to report that we suffered a spate of vandalism in the school grounds at the beginning of the October break. Playground signs were torn down and broken and some windows were damaged. The Police were involved. However, could I ask that if any of you notice anything going on in the grounds at weekends or holidays which cause you concern at all, please do not hesitate to contact the Police. Roy the janitor is frequently in school during holiday periods so you may also be able to speak to him. The children are working hard to improve the playground for everyone and it is very disappointing when damage occurs.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

This is a new annual report which primary schools must draw up and make available to parents as of this term. I already informed you in the August Newsletter about the main improvement priorities which we will be working on in school during this session. The Standard + Quality Report gives some information about how we have progressed in last sessions developments as well as information about other significant events/achievements. A copy is available in the school office.

In the interests of reducing paper used, we will not be sending out paper copies to all but if you would like your own copy, please request this by contacting the school office.

In future years we hope that documents such as this can be put on the Balloch School Parents Council website which is currently under construction.

SENIOR CITIZENS COFFEE MORNING

Primary 7 pupils are organising this event to be held on December 9th and will be sending out further information soon.

BOOK FAIR

There will be a Scholastic Book Fair on November 18th + 19th - open to parents from 2.30 - 3.30pm. Please note that this will be held in GP room 2 - the smaller of the old school buildings in the playground. As usual there will be a great selection of books - so think about Christmas shopping!

PARENTS EVENINGS

- ❖ Mrs. Vernal our school nurse will be attending and offering BMI checks. You will also have an opportunity to see how she teaches our P4 pupils about handwashing and perhaps see how effective/or not your own method is!
- ❖ The new Curriculum for Excellence puts emphasis on listening and talking, group discussions and collaborative working. Therefore, you may notice some differences when looking through your child's work in the classrooms. For example, much of the language work may be related to the current topic/project but will be filed with language work rather than in a topic/project folder. Children now frequently work in pairs or small groups so each child may not have a finished piece of work in their jotter/folder. Instead the group work may be

displayed on walls, recorded on a computer file, as photographs, or have been presented orally in class. If you are interested in finding out more about the Curriculum for Excellence, I suggest you go to www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone.

FOUND ITEM

We have a watch which was found in the playground following the Open Afternoon. It is a small Sekonda ladies watch. Please contact the school office if you think you might be the owner.

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher

REMINDERS + DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November	18 th + 19 th 19 th + 20 th	Book Fair. Parents Evenings.
December	3 rd 4 th 5 th 9 th 10 th 11 th 16 th 17 th 19 th	Drama Club - afternoon performance. Drama Club - evening performance. (they will send out information) FAB - 'Fruity Friday'. Senior Citizens Coffee Morning. Christmas Lunch. BFG Christmas Fayre - details to follow. 9.30am - Nursery Christmas Party in hall. 11.30am - Choir singing in Eastgate. 10.00am - Nursery Nativity in hall. P1-7 to 'Aladdin'. Christmas Service (Parents of pupils in P1, P1/2 + P2/3 are welcome to attend).

PANTOMIME - 'ALADDIN' - EDEN COURT

17th December 2008

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 _____