

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The busy summer term is passing quickly and the pupils are enjoying a range of extra activities.

### EDINBURGH TRIP

Primary 7 pupils had a great day out visiting Dynamic Earth, the Scottish Parliament, The Palace of Holyrood and enjoying a performance at the Traverse Theatre as part of the International Children's Theatre Festival. Many thanks to staff and helpers for making this trip possible.

*'On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May P7's went for a day trip to Edinburgh. We went to see a Belgian theatrical cartoon at the Traverse Theatre. Next we went to Dynamic Earth for a tour to help us with our rainforest topic. Then we got a tour around Holyrood Palace and the Scottish Parliament. Everyone enjoyed the trip to Edinburgh and most people said Dynamic Earth was the best!'*

*by Nicole Jarvie P7W*

### 'CHOICES FOR LIFE'

P7 pupils attended this event at Inverness Sports 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.

### SAFE HIGHLANDERS

*'On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008 the P7's went to Cameron Barracks to learn how to be safe. The event was called 'Safe Highlanders'. There was seven talks or displays on how to be safe or how to save a life. These were: fire safety; drugs/alcohol; Transport Police (railway); Coastguard; construction site; road safety and the Red Cross. We were put into groups for the activities. So, what were they all about?'*

*First of all, **fire safety** - they had two rooms in a house, a kitchen and a living room. In each room there were various hazards, we had to spot them. For instance, there was an oven glove on the cooker so we had to point it out. In the living room there were some more hazards that we had to point out. After pointing out all the hazards, there was a big*

*booming noise. Suddenly smoke came out of the TV and we had to evacuate the building. Of course it was fake but it was still to warn us about the risks.*

*Next there was the **drugs/alcohol** - in this activity we were asked to wear goggles that made everything look like we were drunk. After we put the goggles on we had to pour water in a cup to a line. Some of us managed it, but there were a few who couldn't!*

*After that there was the **transport police (railway)** - for this activity we were asked to go into a dark room with a data projector. After we all got settled down we started. The man started telling us about the railway lines and why not to play on them. He said that it was really risky. He said that a train weighed the same as 400 elephants and could not stop straight away. He said that if you are on a train track and you hear the train you only have four seconds to get off.*

*Fourth we had the **coastguard** - we learnt how to save a life when someone falls in the water. He said to throw something with air like a ball or throw your jacket and if that was not enough he said to tie your trousers on to your jacket. We also learnt not to pick up or in fact touch a syringe if we saw one.*

*Next was the **constructions site** - there were various things on the site that we should not do. Like climb on scaffolding. We had to point out hazards or hazard signs. Examples of these are: cans, rules, flammable, pallets, machines.*

***Road safety** was next - we had a bit of a talk about using roads safely. With a car going 30mph we had to guess where it would stop. We were all surprised how far it went.*

*After that it was time for the last one of the day **Red Cross** - we learnt about how to save a life and about 'DRS ABC' (Danger, Response, Shout, Airway, Breathing Call 999)'*

*by Jack Miller P7T*

## **CHESS**

Members of the Chess Club recently took part in a tournament in Aberdeen. This was part of the Chess UK Challenge. Congratulations to Garry and Sean Scott-Lodge who came first in their age group and to Ben Rennie who was runner up. All three have qualified to go forward to the UK semi finals in Manchester - well done boys - how impressive! Some Club members are planning a further set of games with Crown School before the end of Term. Many thanks to Arun and all parent helpers who have helped with Chess Club throughout the session and made these competition opportunities available to the children.

## **SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

- ❖ Congratulations to all who took part in the Primary Schools Cross Country Championship events in Kirkaldy. With over 110 competitors in the P6 girls race, Caris Simpson did extremely well to gain 18<sup>th</sup> place. In the boys P6 race with over 150 competitors, Steven Day achieved 31<sup>st</sup> place, Andrew Young 40<sup>th</sup> and Christopher Johnson 50<sup>th</sup> place. A great success. In the P7 girls race which had over 150 competitors Susan Smith sped home to achieve 7<sup>th</sup> place with Lucy Cameron keeping the top 50 rankings by coming 29<sup>th</sup>. Well done everyone! Many thanks to all parents who supported this event and to Mrs. Simpson for organising the children on the day.
- ❖ A team has been selected for the North of Scotland Schools Track + Field Championships which takes place on Wednesday June 4<sup>th</sup> at Queens Park. Good luck to everyone taking part.

## **AIGAS FIELD CENTRE**

P5/6 and P6 pupils visited Aigas Field Centre on May 27<sup>th</sup> - the children had a great day out and learned more about the environment and how to protect it.

## **TESCO VOUCHERS**

Many thanks to everyone who helped collect the Tesco Computers for Schools Vouchers. We have already passed the amazing total of 55,000 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.

## SCIENCE FESTIVAL

P2 and P3 children took part in an Edinburgh Science Festival presentation entitled - Day and Night. We are grateful to Life Scan Scotland for sponsoring this event.

## CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD

*'On the 9<sup>th</sup> May, P5 went to Culloden Battlefield for our school trip. We were happy to have a half day off school. When we arrived we were split into two groups. We were both in the same group and we went outside with our guide Duncan and our teacher, Mrs. Robertson. The other children went inside to look at the exhibition with Mrs. Cowie and Mrs. Cranstoun.*

*First we went to the memorial and we had to be very quiet. Next we went to the old cottage. It looked old but was actually a replica of the original cottage. Our favourite thing was the highland Charge. Duncan told us to shout "Alba gu brath! Gu brath" which means "Scotland Forever!" When we shouted this we had to charge towards Mrs. Robertson. Being outside was fabulous.*

*After that our group went to the exhibition. We saw a short, scary film of the battle. Some people thought it was frightening. We saw loads of different Jacobite weapons like the targe (a round shield), muskets (long guns) and a broad basket sword.*

*We thought the trip was exciting and we would all go again. We had lots of fun and we learned a lot.*

*by Scott Lisle + Robert McCormack P5*

## ECO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- ❖ P6 had an interesting talk by Kia at Dicksons about eco friendly cars.
- ❖ BEST arranged for all pupils to learn more about the advantages of composting through a talk by WRAP - Marina Fraser.
- ❖ *'On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008 Rhona Martin, Calum MacPherson, Iain Crush, Gillian Spalding and Miss Campbell went to the Culduthel Christian Centre for an Eco Forum to discuss some ideas. Two schools gave a very good powerpoint, one was on how they became an Eco school with a green flag and the other one about using too much oil. There were some really fun activities to do like making a smoothie by pedalling as*

*fast as you can on a bike, composting in a bottle and you could look at some other schools folders. It was a great day overall and we hope to go back there next year.'*

*By Rhona, Calum and Iain*

- ❖ The school has entered a gardening competition which is to be judged on June 9<sup>th</sup> - Good Luck to all the gardeners for this!
- ❖ Our inspection for the Eco School Green Flag will take place on June 13<sup>th</sup> - we are all excited about this and hope that all our work will result in Green Flag Status being awarded to the school.

### **NURSERY**

- ❖ Once again Nursery pupils enjoyed a wonderful day out at Abriachan Forest Centre on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ They continued their learning about mini beasts with a fascinating visit from Nick Martin and his creepy crawlies.

### **ART BEATS**

P5/6 pupils are working with this drama group to prepare a short production for the whole school on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **SPORTS DAY**

The P1-3 sports were held successfully on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately the dry weather did not hold out and P4-7 sports were postponed - now to be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am.

### **KATIE MORAG**

P1 children thoroughly enjoyed their outing to see a Katie Morag production at Eden Court. This opportunity came at the perfect time as they have recently been using the Katie Morag stories in their class work.

### **CHARITY / ENTERPRISE**

- ❖ Congratulations to all P7 pupils and all the classes who supported them in finally raising £1456.08 for Marie Curie Cancer Care with their Little Pots of Care enterprise.
- ❖ P4 and P4/5 raised £394.50 from their recent Bring and Buy Sale. They donated the money to help those affected by the cyclone in Burma.

### **FURTHER TRIPS PLANNED FOR THIS TERM**

- ❖ June 9<sup>th</sup> - P4/5 to Aigas Field Centre
- ❖ June 19<sup>th</sup> - P3 to Nairn Beach
- ❖ June 23<sup>rd</sup> - P7's to Culloden Academy
- ❖ June 24<sup>th</sup> - P2 and P2/3 - Black Isle Wildlife Park

### **SCHOOL DAY**

- ❖ Following a change of Council Policy, all P1 pupils will now have to be in school for a full day from the first day of next session.
- ❖ All P1-3 pupils will now start school at 9.00am instead of 9.15am and will finish at 2.30pm as before.

### **REMINDERS**

- ❖ The Parent Council will hold a meeting in school on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm - all parents are welcome to attend.
- ❖ Nursery Information Meeting for parents of children starting Nursery next session will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm in Nursery.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS + HOUSE CAPTAINS**

Many thanks to all pupils and parents who have been part of any school group this session. Your hard work in representing your class and in working towards improvements in the school is much appreciated.

### **CLOSING SERVICE**

This will be held in the school hall on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 9.40am. 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 about to complete their last term at Balloch Primary. The very best of luck to you all for the future and thank you for your contribution to the school over 8 years!

### **SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

School will close at 12.15pm on Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> and open again on Tuesday August 19<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Finally, many thanks to all those parents and friends who have supported the school this session, through the Parent Council, BFG, 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