



Dingwall Academy

News

Welcome!

Happy New Year to all staff, parents and pupils. We hope that 2014 will be a good year for all involved with Dingwall Academy. Although Christmas may already seem a distant memory this Newsletter edition features a number of events that took place over the festive period.

Shoe Box Appeal Success



2W1 Super Citizens have been involved in the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal. In total we donated 52 boxes and £18.

Danny Mushcate, Head of Fundraising from Blythswood, came in to Dingwall Academy to speak to all the S2 pupils about the Shoebox Appeal. At the assembly, Danny gave out checklists. Pupils made up shoeboxes at home using the leaflets to check off all the items.

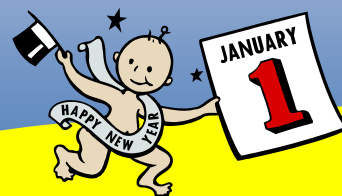
On Thursday, 28th November, Danny came in again to film the pupils of 2W1 for the official Blythswood video. We checked boxes and collected any money donations. We also added items to boxes and we sorted individual items and made them into shoeboxes. Thirteen pupils from 2W1 were interviewed by Danny. We were asked questions like: "What do you enjoy about the Shoebox Appeal? Why did you do the Shoebox Appeal?" I enjoy doing the Shoebox Appeal because I like working in a team and making a difference to people who are less fortunate.

Next year, we aim to get more boxes filled by providing pupils with empty, wrapped shoeboxes.

By Ella Moxon 2W1

The school is grateful to all those who contributed so generously this year.

JANUARY



2014

EDITION

Dates for your diary:

Friday 31st January
S2 Reports Issued

Wednesday 12th February
S2 Contact Evening
5.00 – 7.30

17th – 21st February
February Holiday
(Staff In-service 19–21 Feb)

Thursday 27th February
S3 Contact Evening
5.00 – 7.30

Friday 28th February
Rock Challenge
Performance Eden Court

Thursday 4th March
S4 Contact Evening
5.00 – 7.30



Christmas Cheer



Senior pupils, together with Mrs MacLennan and Mrs Farmer, spent an afternoon at Wyvis House entertaining the residents with a programme of Christmas music and song.



Christmas Socials

During the last week of term the school hall was transformed into a magical venue for the annual Christmas Socials. 3 Socials were held for lower, middle and senior school and the behaviour and attitude of all pupils was quite exceptional. Pupils all demonstrated that teenagers can have tremendous fun and still be responsible. Well done to all pupils involved and thanks also to the many staff who supported the events over the three nights.



Ski Trip

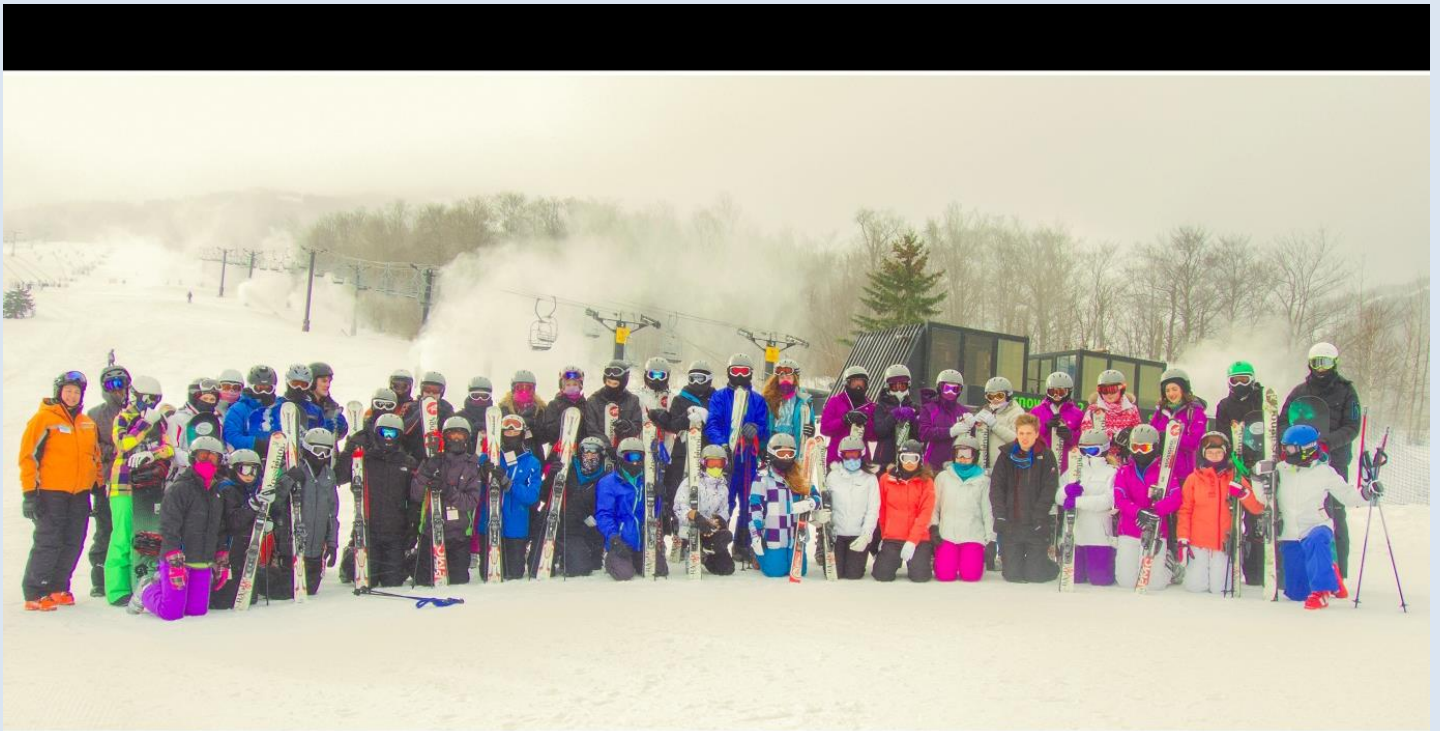


At the start of this year we were lucky enough to experience a ski trip to America! We left on the 2nd of January at 1.40am taking the coach to Glasgow and then flew to London. The plan was to fly to New York late morning but due to a bad snow storm in New York, our flight from London was cancelled. After much organisation the group was split into two, the first of the group leaving London for Newark after 4pm and the remaining 10 on the next flight at 6pm. We arrived 8 hours later, waited for the others to arrive and then drove by coach to our hotel in

Vermont, a journey that usually takes 5 hours, but took 8 hours due to the snowy conditions. At this point most of us were shattered, but kept going because we were all so excited! When we got to our hotel it was half past six in the morning, so there wasn't really much point going to sleep; luckily I didn't feel too tired as I had a few hours' sleep on the plane and coach.

Every day we got a classic yellow school bus up to the ski resort, Killington, which was a 40 minute drive from the hotel. The ski resort was first class! There were over 200 ski runs and 21 lifts, and all the instructors were very nice and easy to talk to. We had a 2 hour lesson in the morning and 2 hour lesson in the afternoon so it was quite a tiring day! After the skiing we would drive back to the hotel and get ready for dinner and activities. The activities we did were tubing, ice-skating, bowling and mall shopping.

(continued next page)

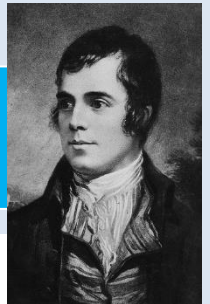


Ski trip 2014 Killington - USA

After a very enjoyable 5 days in Vermont we moved onto New York. We arrived in the afternoon and settled in the hotel. New York was certainly a big difference from the Scottish Highlands as there were skyscrapers everywhere you looked and lots of people! We had dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe on Times Square and then walked to the Empire State Building for a night of sightseeing. The view from the top was unreal! I had to pinch myself to check that I was actually there! It honestly felt like we were on top of the world as you could see for miles. The next day we went on a City-sights Cruise on the Hudson river and saw a lot of New York's famous buildings and landmarks, this was an excellent way to see the city sites in a short space of time. We then went to Central Park for ice-skating! It felt like something out of a film! After that we went off shopping in New York, which was one of my favourite moments!

We flew home to London later that night and got our connecting flight to Glasgow followed by the coach journey home arriving in Dingwall just after 5pm. Many thanks to all the teachers and helpers who made this school trip possible. This trip was one of the best weeks of my life and I'm sure everyone will remember it for a very long time!

Sophie Cushnie 3W2



They requested Robert...

Mr Green's S1 class thought that more of Robert Burns' poetry would be a good addition to the newsletter, since we have just recently celebrated the bard's day. So here is a little bit of Tam O'Shanter:

*When chapmen billies leave the street,
And drouthy neibors, neibors meet,
As market days are wearing late,
An' folk begin to tak the gate;
While we sit bousing at the nappy,
And getting fou and unco happy,
We think na on the lang Scots miles,
The mosses, waters, slaps, and styles,
That lie between us and our hame,
Where sits our sulky sullen dame,
Gathering her brows like gathering storm,
Nursing her wrath to keep it warm.*

*This truth fand honest Tam o' Shanter,
As he frae Ayr ae night did canter,
(Auld Ayr, wham ne'er a town surpasses
For honest men and bonie lasses.)*

*O Tam! had'st thou but been sae wise,
As ta'en thy ain wife Kate's advice!
She tauld thee weel thou was a skellum,
A blethering, blustering, drunken blellum;
That frae November till October,
Ae market-day thou was nae sober;
That ilka melder, wi' the miller,
Thou sat as lang as thou had siller;
That every naig was ca'd a shoe on,
The smith and thee gat roaring fou on;
That at the Lord's house, even on Sunday,*

*Thou drank wi' Kirkton Jean till Monday.
She prophesied that late or soon,
Thou would be found deep drown'd in Doon;
Or catch'd wi' warlocks in the mirk,
By Alloway's auld haunted kirk.*

*Ah, gentle dames! it gars me greet,
To think how mony counsels sweet,
How mony lengthen'd, sage advices,
The husband frae the wife despises!*

*But to our tale:-- Ae market-night,
Tam had got planted unco right;
Fast by an ingle, bleezing finely,
Wi' reaming swats, that drank divinely
And at his elbow, Souter Johnny,
His ancient, trusty, drouthy crony;
Tam lo'ed him like a vera brither--
They had been fou for weeks thegither!
The night drave on wi' sangs and clatter
And ay the ale was growing better:
The landlady and Tam grew gracious,
Wi' favours secret, sweet and precious
The Souter tauld his queerest stories;
The landlord's laugh was ready chorus:
The storm without might rair and rustle,
Tam did na mind the storm a whistle.*

*Care, mad to see a man sae happy,
E'en drown'd himsel' amang the nappy!
As bees flee hame wi' lades o' treasure,
The minutes wing'd their way wi' pleasure:
Kings may be blest, but Tam was glorious.
O'er a' the ills o' life victorious!*

Whole School Notes & News

Sponsored Walk

The total raised from the sponsored walk now stands at **£7119.82**
Prizes have been awarded to those pupils who raised the most money.
Congratulations to
Josh McAllister 3T1 who raised £425
Connor Ross 6T and **Liam Ross 1T2** who raised £165.50



S1 Lunchtimes

S1 pupils are now allowed to go down the street during lunchtime. We would remind all pupils that excellent behaviour is expected both in and out of school. Pupils are reminded that the best lunch option is a balanced meal.

Lost Property

A large number of items have now been received into lost property. If you recognise any items on the list below then please contact the school office. Any items that remain uncollected will be donated to charity.

Medium, Red Herring khaki jacket
13-14 years black Zara windbreaker
12-13 years blue and grey hoody
XS knitted girls zip through cardigan with logo
Baywatch small red t-shirt
New Look black jacket, size 14
Purple Florence and Fred jacket with furry hood, 11-12 years
Small Burtons grey and black check bomber jacket
Navy quilted M & S jacket, 11-12 years
Black Nike trackie bottoms, 12-13 years
Small girls V-neck from Zara
Pink and black rose printed scarf
H & M medium black cardigan
Voi blue wax jacket, size 12
Karrimor black with blue waterproof, age 13
Navy hoody, 11-12 years
BHS marl knit zip through, size 12
White and silver fleck scarf



Nuffield Bursary

The Nuffield Bursary will be of interest to those senior pupils with a particular interest in Science. The closing date for applications will be Sunday 23rd February. Further information and the form should be available on the Nuffield Foundation website at <http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/how-apply-0>

Ross County Mascot

Congratulations to **Matthew Oliver 1B2** who was chosen to be the Ross County Mascot in a game before Christmas. Matthew thoroughly enjoyed the experience and looks great alongside the County Players!



Stone Mason Course

Euan Rait 5N2 and **Michael Zaleski 5B2** both took part in an unusual and interesting course when they travelled to Fife to take part in a Stone Mason Course. The boys learned how to work with and apply traditional mortars and really enjoyed the experience. Thank you to the Dingwall Conservation and Renewal Scheme (CARS) who arranged and funded the course. This is a partnership that we hope to build on in the future.

Dashing Debut

Callum Galloway, second year, has just finished his debut season with Highland Bikes Racing Team, competing in the Scottish Downhill Association mountain bike races. He achieved a 3rd place at his final race in Innerleithen with other highlights including a 6th place at the Scottish Championships in Dunkeld and an 8th place on the World Cup track at Fort William. His points accrued also mean he has qualified for the British Downhill series in 2014.

Bravo, Callum!





BSL Trip: Deaf People's Place in Society

On Wednesday 2th November 2013, nine pupils from the S4BSL class and two Deaf senior pupils travelled to Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. They had received an invitation to join the debate about deaf people's place in the referendum next year. There were four prominent deaf members on the panel: two supporting the 'Yes' campaign and two supporting the 'No' (Better Together) campaign. Over seventy people made up the audience.

The entire debate was in BSL and whilst the Chair reminded the panellists to 'sign slowly' for the benefit of the BSL learners (Dingwall Academy and first year Heriot Watt BSL Interpreter students), the passion each member had soon had them in full flow! This proved exceptionally challenging for the pupils, but later they reflected and viewed the experience as being similar to many experiences deaf people face every day when hearing people ignore helpful hints when there's a deaf person in their company.

Despite the challenges in understanding the points raised in the first half of the debate, two pupils bravely participated in the second half of the debate: open questions from the floor. **Georgia Campbell** asked the question, "Will an independent Scotland give BSL equality in the exam structure? Currently there are no formal SQA exams, only units." Several panel members responded, but **Annie Fraser** was soon on her feet to correct one panel member who said there were new BSL qualifications! (He believed that there were Nationals 4 and 5). Both girls received much applause for the question and their willingness to participate.

Without a doubt, this was one of the most challenging experiences the pupils have faced and this was recognised by the organiser who said "Dingwall Academy pupils showed true grit and determination despite the uphill struggle to always follow the debate (all conducted in BSL). The future for BSL looks more promising as a result of their interest and commitment." Well done!

In Partnership: William Gray Construction

The school has entered into partnership with William Gray Construction. A number of pupils applied to take part in the project; they were asked to submit application forms and to take part in an interview with Mr Gray himself. Pupils will now take part in a programme of activities and site visits. This should provide a valuable insight into the construction industry and we are very grateful to William Gray for the support.

Garden News



Three cheers for... Locally Grown Produce!

On Thursday 16th January, three guests worked with DiGGers on a cooking (and tasting) demonstration session. They were Quintin and Shaun from the Storehouse restaurant and Jo from Knockfarrel farm. They got us busy “prepping” ingredients and

then Jo gave us a talk and slide show about running the farm and why we should choose local produce. Next we helped to cook lots of different dishes. We learned three different ways to cook and serve potatoes (fried, mashed and roasted) and three ways to cook carrots (boiled, steamed and honey roasted). Of course we got to taste all the recipes to see which we liked most. We were using ingredients that will be grown in the school garden this year so we can re-create our favourite dishes next winter with our own produce – potatoes, garlic, kale, carrots and red cabbage.

At the end, Jo made a huge omelette to use up the remaining ingredients and we all tucked in! If you’d like to see more pictures and recipes, visit our blog: www.dingwalldiggers.blogspot.com.



DiGGers news continued...



Christmas Feast

On Thursday 19th December, the DiGGers enjoyed a festive meal in the garden shed. **Danielle Burton** and **Dale Harwood** cooked a full hot meal for ten people during period 5 and club members helped to carry the dishes to the shed for lunch. Much of the produce was home grown including potatoes, garlic, kale and chard. We had Christmas crackers too, along with bad jokes and paper hats! Everybody had seconds and it was a great way to end the term.

Growing Hub Launch Event

Dingwall Academy and partners RoWAN and RHET are proud to announce that we have been awarded “Food For Thought” funding supported by Education Scotland, Scottish Government and Scottish Business in the Community. This will help us to provide CPD training to staff and individually tailored work-shop sessions for primary school pupils to encourage them to grow more and develop their garden spaces whilst cutting down food waste through composting.

To celebrate their composting activities to date and launch our “Growing Hub” project, there will be an event on the morning of Wednesday 12th February. This will provide primary schools with the opportunity to showcase their achievements and for us at the Academy, RoWAN and RHET to present our ideas for the future. If any parents would like to attend the event to see how gardening is literally growing at the Academy, please let the office know – you will be very welcome.

DiGGers Charity Competition

This year’s competition will be raising money for Sense Scotland – a charity that supports deaf-blind children and their families. We are helping them to buy new sensory toys to give the children a better life. Look out for posters advertising the launch of the competition – adopt a sunflower seed for £1 and if yours grows the tallest, win £10!



Back in the day...

1960s



Top: Queen's Visit,
1964

Middle: School
Sports, 1961

Bottom: Mrs Ross'
class waiting to go
into class, 1960



Welcome to our newest feature page,
where we invite you take a trip down
memory lane... are you, or anyone
you know, in these pictures?

Have a picture you'd like to share?

Let us know!

Make contact with your anecdotes
and information via the school office.

In the next issue of the *News...*

- Pupil Achievements
- New 'Back in the Day' photos
- And much more!

Something missing?
Correction? Is there a feature
you'd like to see? Get in touch!

Dingwall Academy
Dingwall
Ross-shire
IV15 9LT
Tel: 01349 869860
Fax: 01349 869886
Web: www.dingwallacademy.com/contact_us.html



Many thanks to English section
4.3 for their help over the past
year.



Dingwall Academy

*A school with a sense of community—a school, where by
taking collective responsibility, pupils and staff have the
opportunity to achieve extraordinary things.*

Headteacher: Mrs K. Cormack

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

HONESTY

DETERMINATION