



Dingwall Academy

News

Welcome to the June edition of Dingwall Academy News. School will close for the Summer Holidays at 12pm on Thursday 3rd July and re-open at 8.50 on Tuesday 19th August.

D&E buses will leave soon after 12pm and service buses at the following times:

Service 25	Evanton & Alness	12:05
Service 22	Easter Kinkell & Culbokie	12:20
Service 28	Maryburgh	12:07
Service 27	Maryburgh	12:25 pick up remainder

Dingwall Academy would like to wish everyone a well-deserved summer break.

Welcome Primary 7 Pupils!

As part of our welcome, this edition of the newsletter is being issued to all Primary 7 pupils in our associated primaries. The newsletter is issued every month and provides important information to pupils and parents. It is also an important way of recognising and celebrating our many pupil successes. The newsletter is sent out via email; parents will be asked to provide an email address at the start of session.

We are looking forward to welcoming the P7s to the Academy on Wednesday 25th June. During the three day visit, the P7s will meet new teachers and start to find their way around the Academy. At 7pm on Thursday 26th June there will be an information evening for parents and at the same time a transition disco for the pupils in the hall. Friday 27th June is the Academy Sports Day, when the P7s will have the opportunity to watch the Academy pupils compete – this will be a chance to cheer on your new house! P7s will also be given a chance to take part in an interhouse tug-o-war. So have plenty of porridge for breakfast on Friday!



JUNE 2014 EDITION

Dates for your diary:

25th – 27th June
P7 Primary Visits

Thursday 26th June
P7 Parent information night
and P7 Disco

Thursday 26th June
WWI Belgium Trip Departs

Thursday 26th June
Maths Trip to Spain Departs

Thursday 26th June
Outlook Expedition to
Romania Departs

Friday 27th June
Sports Day

Monday 30th June
German Trip Departs

30th June – 1st July
Activity Days

Thursday 3rd July
School Closes 12pm

P7 in the spotlight



S1 Visit to Tarradale Primary

On Friday a couple of weeks ago, Jessica Golden, Leah Noble, Seamas MacKinnon, Taylor Sim, Mathew Robertson, Mathew Moir and Eilidh MacKenzie came to visit us at Tarradale Primary. They gave us a short talk about their S1 experience this year.

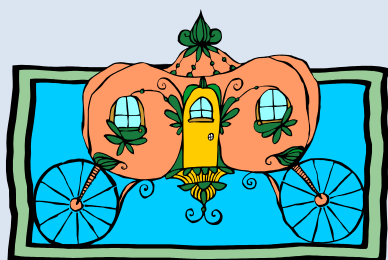
They told us about the classes, bus, school work, uniform and making friends. Then we were allowed to ask many questions and they would answer them.

This really helped us and now we are not so nervous any more. We all really enjoyed just having a wee chat to our old friends.

Thank you for your time and kindness

Sincerely P7 x

(Tarradale Primary School)



English Department *Magical Primary Visits*

Over the past two weeks the teachers in the English Department have vastly enjoyed visiting the primaries to meet the soon-to-be new S1 pupils. On visit days, they really enjoyed leading pupils through a challenge which encouraged them to think about and create their very own fairy tales... with a twist.

How did **you** manage to turn a bucket, pair of odd socks, or pineapple into a major plot element in **your** fairy tale? Watch this space—we're not finished with fairy tales yet!

See you on the 25th!



Alladale Challenge



Day 1: When we got half-way there, we got off the bus and into Land Rovers and drove to Alladale campsite. When we got there we were introduced to our instructors and went through the rules. After that we went off to set up our tents with our instructors, then had dinner. Later on, we were all playing games and just getting to know the place. We also checked what sort of plants were around the area and put measuring poles in the ground to see how deep it was.

Day 2: We got up at 7.30am and had breakfast. After that we packed our rucksacks and took down our tents because we were moving on to camp in a different valley campsite. When we got there, we did the same thing – looked for a good place to set up the tents, cooked our dinner in trangias and just enjoyed the rest of the day.

Day 3: We woke up and had breakfast, then got ready to move to our third valley to camp. One of our team mates didn't feel well so we had to go back to Alladale campsite and waited for Sarah to tell us what we were doing next. We went gorge-walking and some of us had a swim in the icy water which was great fun. We made a fire and toasted marshmallows and told ghost stories – we had an amazing time.

Day 4: Day walk. We walked up a massive hill, had lunch at the top and enjoyed the beautiful view. We returned for a barbeque and spent the rest of the day with each other and played lots of games.

Day 5: Friday, so we packed up, taking the tents down and getting ready to leave Alladale. The Land Rovers took us to the bus and then back to school.

By Victoria Kaczmarek



Forest School News

Forest School Group help with Evanton Woods Project



On Wednesday 4th June, the Forest School Group were hard at work to improve access for wheelchairs at Evanton Woods. It was very hard work, but everyone pitched in to widen a section of path which crosses a river.



Ryan volunteered to be the guinea-pig and test out the new path!

Forest School Sharing Event



On 14th May our Forest School Group (working to achieve a John Muir Award) invited Tarradale Primary School's Eco Group to see a slide show. They were keen to learn about the activities we have been doing at Evanton Woods.



After the show, they accompanied us to the woods to join in. They learned about the community project and then walked down to the "fire circle." Dingwall Academy pupils were put in charge of teams - they were tasked with gathering firewood for the fire...

...sticks as long as the palm of their hands.



After collecting the wood, Mrs Boardman was put in the spotlight: could she light the fire with a single strike of the flint?

Yes! Whilst soup was warming up, the teams were building shelters. They had a maximum of five lengths of string and had to incorporate squares and triangles into their designs.



After eating food, each shelter was show-cased by their team – luckily we didn't have time to test them with buckets of water!

Everyone had a great time and the weather was wonderful. Thanks to Mr Love for driving the mini-bus for Tarradale Primary – you have helped us to achieve the final part of our John Muir Award.

The Friendship Games

The Friendship Games are an afternoon of sporting events which pupils from St Clements and Marybank Primary took part in this year. They were held at Ross County. There were six different stations for the kids to take part in which included things like running, stepping stones, bowling, hockey, beat the goalie, bats and balls. There were about sixteen S3 pupils helping out with the afternoon with two or three at each station.

The children got put into different groups which had the names of countries linked to the commonwealth games and spent the afternoon in them. We thought that it would be difficult if some of the children had difficulty joining in on some of the games but everyone seemed to be willing to take part and really enjoy it. We only spent about ten minutes with each group, but they all seemed like they had fun.

The whole experience was really enjoyable. The afternoon was fun for us as well as the children. We were in charge of the running events so we got to be involved as well. We didn't expect people to be as involved as they were, we expected them not to cooperate or enjoy it because we had never done anything like it before but we really enjoyed it and overall it was a really good experience.

By Takara Daly and Leah Mitchell



First World War Tribute

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of WWI, the Royal British Legion sent packets of poppies into school. We decided to ask S1 pupils to help with the planting. Pupils chosen were those who had shown a particular enthusiasm for History. The poppy seeds have been planted at the side of the new formal garden and it is hoped that they will provide a fitting tribute and a lasting memory.



Notes & News

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!



The timetable changed on 19th May and pupils have already started new courses. Unfortunately a significant number of pupils have still to return books and materials from last session. Can we please ask that *any pupils who still have books belonging to the school return them as soon as possible*. Pupils who have now left school are urged to check and to bring any books into school. Unfortunately some pupils are not yet able to be issued with books until the previous year group have returned them.

Sports Day 2014

This year's Dingwall Academy Sports Day will take place on Friday 27th June. With over 200 pupils entered this year, it is shaping up to be another great day of participation and competition. This year again sees the P7s from the catchment area join us for the event so they can get a taste of things to come for sports in the Academy. We have also included a 100m and 800m race for the primary girls and boys, allowing them to represent their schools on Sports Day. The Parent Council will once again be selling snacks, juice and water throughout the day to keep our hungry competitors and spectators fed and watered.

The school would like to extend an invitation to all parents, friend and relatives to attend sports day to cheer on the competitors who always give their all. The day starts with the opening ceremony at 9am. This will see some of our talented school pipers lead the competitors in their house groups around the field before the competitions start at 9.15am. We look forward seeing as many of you as possible on the day and are keeping our fingers crossed for a beautiful blue sky day!!

Yours Sportingly,

Mr M Dillon (Head of Physical Education, Health and Nutrition)



Sports Day Uniform

On Sports Day, Friday 27th June, all pupils will have the opportunity to compete in a range of activities and all are encouraged to get involved. Friday 27th will also be a dress down day with pupils asked to donate £1 if they choose not to wear school uniform.

More Notes & News

Behaviour on the Ring Road at Lunchtime

A few members of the public have taken the time to phone the school and report concerns about the behaviour of pupils crossing the road at lunchtimes. Some pupils seem to think that because they are crossing in large numbers then they can cross anywhere, this is not the case and pupils are reminded that they should only cross the road at the crossing points. The school would appreciate the co-operation of parents in reinforcing this at home.



Free School Meals 2014-15

Parents are reminded that Application Forms for Free School Meals should be submitted for the start of the new session in August.

Information about this form can be found at
http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/9/school_meals

Activity Days

School Activity Days take place on Monday 30th June and Tuesday 1st July. Pupils have already opted into activities including Kayaking, Mountain Biking, Karting and Alton Towers! Pupils should now all have attended meetings with activity leaders and should know what the arrangements are for each day. If parents still have any queries about any aspect of activity days please do not hesitate to contact the school.



SQA Results

SQA Results are due to be issued to pupils on 5th August. All pupils receive a certificate but if pupils would also like to receive their results via text or email then they can register for this on mysqa.org.uk. Pupils must have registered by 8th July. Pupils and parents are reminded that there is no system for appeal available after results this year. A number of pupils may want to request option changes following the exam results. Principal Teachers Pupil Support will be available to discuss option changes at 11am on Monday 18th August. Many classes in the senior phase are already full and so unfortunately it will not be possible to meet all option change requests.



World Challenge Scottish Run

On Saturday 26th April, five of the World Challenge 2015 team travelled to Perth to take part in the World Challenge Scottish Run. This Challenger Event allows for teams from all over the country to meet up, raise funds and help maintain or improve their fitness levels as they prepare for their expedition. All pupils from Dingwall completed a 5k run in very respectable times. Well done!



Under 14 Football

Congratulations to the Under 14 Football Team who won the North of Scotland Cup this year, defeating Invergordon Academy 8-0 in the final. This is a tremendous achievement as there are over 30 teams in this competition. The boys came back well after their defeat in the final last year. It rounds off an excellent season for the boys who have already won the Highland Schools Cup and finished second in the league. Players' Player of the Year was Kieran Chalmers while the Most Improved Player was Jamie McKay. Well done, boys!



Stone Masons Workshop



Graham Campbell, chief Stone Mason, and colleagues Mark MacKay & Heather Griffith spent the day with us demonstrating tools and techniques of stone carving.

Two workshops involving S4 Art & Design students followed where they had hands on experience of carving into limestone blocks.

The students did an amazing job and the results far exceeded our expectations! The stone carving blocks are now on display in the school foyer.

Heather Griffith, apprentice, donated a wonderful sandstone plaque of the Dingwall Academy school crest, inlaid with gold relief, which is also on display.

Thanks once again to the CDT department for gifting the use of their room for the day and to all our S4 students who took part and worked so hard.

Morning group were :

Katie Urquhart, Honor Unger McGillvray, Scott Robertson, Lewis Taylor, Ben Gillan, Ross Costgane, Fiona Beveridge, Cameron Shepherd, Josh Mc Allister, Chloe Munro & Brogan Locke.

Afternoon group were :

Ellie Souter, Alicia Marcyion. Rachael Turner, Fergus Bryce, Rebecca Denoon, Abbie MacKaskill, Meghan Gwyther, Isla McLean, Sarah Martin, Leah Mitchell & Zara Fraser.





Lord Lieutenant's Cadet

Congratulations to **Ashleigh Davison 6W**. Ashleigh has been selected to serve as the Lord Lieutenant's cadet for this year. This is a tremendous accolade. Ashleigh may be required to assist the Lord Lieutenant during visits by Royalty and on other notable local occasions. She was presented with her award at a ceremony on 19th May.

Army Cadets

Congratulations to **Archie Drennan S5**, who was one of three UK army cadets selected to return as a Staff Cadet for the Expedition Instructors course in New Brunswick, Canada. The seven week course is funded by the Canadian Armed Forces and includes an eighteen day expedition of kayaking, canoeing and walking in the Bay of Fundy National Park.

Downhill Series Mountain Bike – Round 2

Callum Galloway S3, racing for Highland Bikes Racing Team, recently competed in the British Downhill Series Mountain Bike Round 2 race at the Nevis Range track at Fort William. At about 2.6Km long with a vertical fall of about 520m, it's known to be one of the world's hardest and longest tracks.



Saturday was taken up with a day of practice runs with seeding runs on Sunday morning, and one race run on Sunday afternoon - so it's all or nothing! On Saturday Callum's gears gave up so he had to compete in his race run with only three of the bike's eight gears! To make things even more tense, Callum had to restart his race run behind the Senior Men's race because he was stopped by another rider on his initial race run.

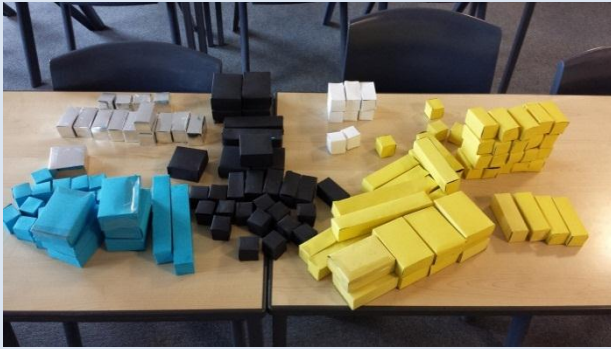
Then, a LONG wait to hear the results because the timing system went down... but the wait was worth it with Callum finishing in 5th, with a place at the podium! Who knows what might have happened if all Callum's gears had been working!? Well done, Callum.

Mini Minions Maths

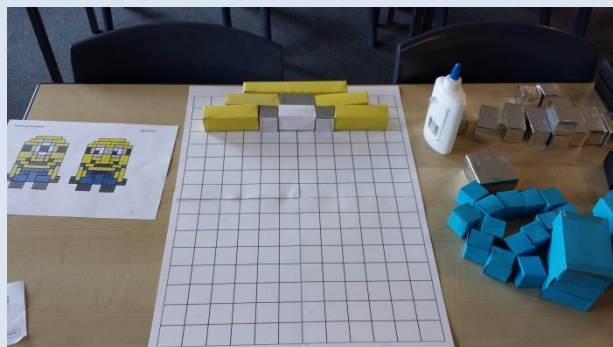
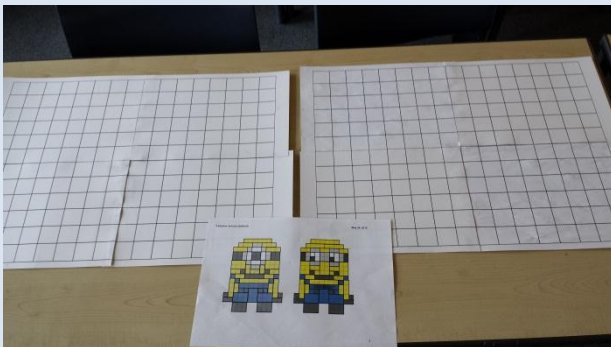
We were doing 3D shapes in Mr Kilpatrick's 2nd year Maths. After doing some investigations, finding out about the properties of 3D shapes and a quiz, we went on to look at the nets of the shapes.

We drew some nets of cubes and cuboids, looked at which sides had to match up and where to put the tabs so we could glue them.

One day when we came in, Mr Kilpatrick had a pile of coloured card with grids and instructions for making cuboids. We had to make more than 100 boxes of different colours. It took us a few periods to get through all the shapes with a few mistakes on the way with the glue sticks or forgetting to add the tabs on. But, we got there in the end.



Mr Kilpatrick told us that we would put them together to make something. We had made minion pictures when we did scale drawing and because of the colour of card some of us had guessed that it would be a minion (sorry Mr Kilpatrick for spoiling the surprise).



When we came in the next day we had not one, but two minions on our jotter cupboard door! We really liked the finished model and it looks great as our cupboard logo.

By **Isobel Moxon and Lauren**



Geology Trip Rocks

We know what you're thinking; just how interesting can rocks be? We went to Knockan Crag to find out. Knockan Crag is a line of cliffs thirteen miles north of Ullapool, to an area where the Moine thrust fault is exposed.



The Moine thrust fault is where, millions of years ago, two of the Earth's tectonic plates crashed into each other and forced older rock on top of younger rock. There is a five million year age difference between the two rock types. What makes Knockan Crag really interesting is that it was the first thrust fault in the world to be discovered and contributed evidence to the theory of plate tectonics. Katie seemed more interested in the moss than the rock, however.

There are several rock faces that have been exposed due to road building, so we decided to have a look at them... and dump hydrochloric acid on them, much to Danielle's delight. If the rock contained a mineral called calcite, it would fizz and smell like rotten eggs. Lovely.

The next location we went to had a strange looking rock that was mostly red with little white polka dots on the top and columns down the side. The polka dots and columns were really old, fossilized worm burrows (pictured right).



We went to a quarry to hunt for fossils. It was mostly full of rocks, but we came across a trilobite – an extinct marine creature that looks like a giant woodlouse (pictured left).

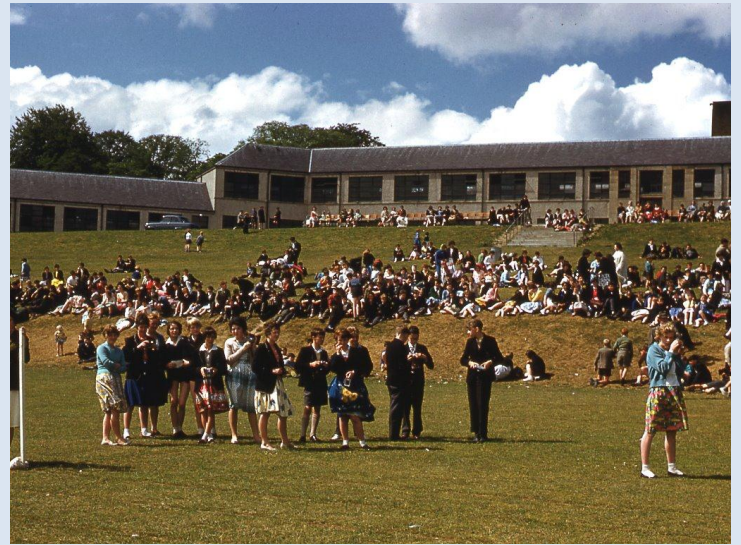
**In conclusion – our geology trip
ROCKED!**

By Katie O'Brien and Danielle Burton



Back in the day...

Sports Day!



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

- Pupil Achievements
- *Lord of the Flies* Dance Review
- 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

The Hills In The Hielands

The hills in the Hielands are bonnie,
Wi' the licht an' the shadow at play;
An' the winds that mak' redder the heather
Far up on the cliff an' the brae.
The white clouds are floatin' abune them,
Like snawdrifts that never can fa',
The hills in the Hielands are bonnie,
The hills in the Hielands are braw!

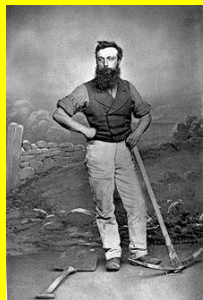
The streets o' the city grow weary
For want o' the glint an' the sheen;
An' the wast wind has never a murmur
O' woods that are wavin' wi' green:
But O, for the bound o' the red deer,
An' the curlew that bugles to a';
The hills in the Hielands are bonnie,
The hills in the Hielands are braw.

I sigh for the roar o' the river
Far down in the depths o' the glen,
The rush an' the whirr o' the blackcock
As he springs frae the side o' the ben;
For the sweep o' the sky-cleavin' eagle,
Whose wings are the bounds o' his law--
The hills in the Hielands are bonnie,
The hills in the Hielands are braw.

Then, O, to be up in the Hielands,
Where the winds draw not bridle nor stay;
Where the forests are tossing their banners,
An' the breckans are thick on the brae.
Where the loch lies in shadow or sunshine,
Or leaps to the winds as they blaw;
The hills in the Hielands are bonnie,
The hills in the Hielands are braw.

brae = hillside
abune = above
braw = very good, excellent
wast = west
ben = mountain
breckans = ferns

by Alexander Anderson
(1845-1909 aka Surfaceman)



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