

DINGWALL ACADEMY MAY 2012 NEWSLETTER



Staffing

We are delighted to welcome to the school Mrs C Robertson Principal Teacher Business and Computer Education, Mr M Dillon Principal Teacher Physical Education, Health & Nutrition and Mr J Ross Principal Teacher Craft, Design and Technology. Congratulations also to Mrs K Trimble who has been appointed Principal Teacher Art and Music and Mr N Green Acting Principal Teacher English.

S1 Contact Evening

The S1 contact evening takes place on Thursday 31st May. Pupils have all been issued with appointment sheets and should now be arranging appointments with teachers. S1 reports will be issued on Friday 25th May.

S3 Contact Evening

The S3 contact evening takes place on Monday 18th June. Pupils will be issued with appointment sheets at the start of June. S3 reports will be issued on Friday 8th June.

Monday 4th June

Parents are reminded that the school will be closed on Monday 4th June.

S6 Last Day

As has become tradition the S6 pupils celebrated their last day in school with a number of activities. Paintballing proved very popular – with staff and pupils taking the opportunity to land a number of well-aimed hits on each other! This was followed by swimming or ice skating in Inverness before returning to school and dancing a Strip the Willow in front of the main entrance. S6 pupils and over 20 staff then gathered at the National Hotel for a meal and disco. The day will provide many happy memories and we are very fortunate that our S6 pupils are able to mark their last day in school in such a positive and responsible way. Thanks also to all the teachers who helped make the day and evening such a success.

The school would like to wish all S6 pupils good luck in the exams and every success as they move forward to the next stage of their lives.

Congratulations to Ross County

Staff and pupils are all delighted at Ross County's promotion to the SPL. The Ross County flag has been flying at the front of the school and pupils in S1 art designed a fantastic card which was signed and then delivered to the club. Ross County will bring the cup into school on Tuesday 5th June.

Girls Football

Congratulations to the senior girls football team who won the Highland Senior girls and the Highland League cup.

Stompers

At the end of this month those S1 pupils who have taken part in the 'Stompers' interdisciplinary course will put their learning into action with a walk up Fyrish hill. Further information is being issued to all pupils involved and a full report will be included in the June Newsletter.

New Qualifications - Update for Parents and Carers

The SQA have issued the following information for parents:

A guide about the new qualifications is now available for parents and carers. It is available to download from the dedicated section of our website – www.sqa.org.uk/cfeforparents. There is also a guide for young people at www.sqa.org.uk/cfeforyoungpeople and updated guides for teachers and employers. On our website, you can find other useful resources such as our [Mythbuster](#) and [Jargon buster](#).

We have now reached a major milestone in the development process and final documents for the new National 2 to Higher Courses are available. The final documents will be used by teachers and lecturers to prepare to teach each new Course. The documents are still of interest to parents and carers as they give information about the skills and knowledge young people will gain.

Use the subject drop-down menu on our website: www.sqa.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence to find the documents for each subject.

Our CfE Liaison team are continuing to support local events including those with parents: www.sqa.org.uk/cfeteam

S3 Alladale Trip

29 pupils and 4 staff spent a wonderful week on the Alladale Estate, Mhairi MacPhail in S3 describes the experience:

Alladale was a fantastic trip that I enjoyed very much and would recommend to any pupil coming to S3 next year who likes a challenge. On the first day of Alladale we set up at base which was next to some Highland Coos. On Tuesday we went on the gorge walk which was amazing, swimming through rock pools and climbing a waterfall which was challenging. The gorge walk was great but cold although warming up wasn't a problem. After that we walked to the neighbouring estate to camp where a couple of ghost stories were told. On Wednesday we walked up a steep hill and when you thought you had got to the top there was more. The view was incredible. That evening we camped at the badger hide where a couple more ghost stories were told. Thursday was great for the animal lovers. We drove to another neighbouring estate to pick up some branches for the Bison. On the way back we visited Croick church to learn about the Highland Clearances. After that we saw the Elk, Wildcats, Bison and even some Wild Boar. Drove back to base to tell lots of ghost stories and a sing song on the guitar. Friday was the final day to pack up and think about the journey we took. Alladale is a great place to gain and learn new skills and to raise your self-confidence.

Mhairi MacPhail 3T1

Road Safety

We have received a number of reports of pupils playing on the road and close to the level crossings during lunchtime. This is incredibly dangerous to pupils, drivers and other pedestrians. All pupils are being warned about the dangers and urged to report the names of any pupils involved. We would appreciate the support of parents in reinforcing this at home.

Backpack Project

Many thanks to all pupils who have returned bottles of money. £230 has been raised since Christmas and has now been sent to the Mary's Meals Charity. Could anyone with bottles still at home please return them however full as soon as possible.

Maryburgh Youth Club

Seven Members of Maryburgh Youth Club, Sandy Sutherland, Alasdair MacLeod, Jodi Kearney, Chloe Greenhowe, Danielle O'Neill, Callum Russell and Alasdair MacKinnon, accompanied by Two Youth Workers from Highlife Highland, Rhiannon Elder and Michael Rowe, successfully completed a sponsored walk up and around Stac Polliadh on Monday 7th May. The weather remained great and everyone had a fantastic time. It is hoped we will raise in the region of £225 which will enable the Club to continue to offer activities and trips for our young people over the summer. A special thanks to Jim Sutherland who guided the group safely up and down Stac Polliadh, and Mel Rowe who drove the bus. Maryburgh Youth Club has been running for almost 4 years and continues to grow. We run on a Tuesday night in Maryburgh Amenities Centre from 8pm – 9.30pm. All secondary school age young people are welcome.



Hi Sgil

As part of the Inverness Monster Science Festival, Eden Court Theatre are hosting an event to highlight how creativity and innovation in learning can help the growth of modern industry. The event takes place on Saturday 2nd June from 10am – 2pm and entry is free. Parents and pupils are all welcome to attend

CONSULTING HIGHLAND PARENTS: ONLINE SURVEY

Julia Nelson, Health Development Officer has asked that parents are made aware of the following survey.

As you may know, work has been underway for some time to devise a framework for supporting parents in the Highlands. As part of this process, parents' views about their experiences are being gathered, to help shape the framework's development.

Focus groups are being held this month across the area for parents/carers of 0-16+ year olds and we also have a short online survey. I would be grateful if you could email the weblink to the survey to your parents and publicise it in any other way you can e.g. on your school website. The survey will be open to 30 May.

The link is: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/highlandparent>

Science Walk

Well done to class 2G and S3 science students. They have written and organized Science Walk, a magazine for P7 pupils. This can be downloaded at the address below.

http://www.dingwallacademy.com/media/download_gallery/science%20walk%20easter%202012.pdf

Nuffield Science Bursary Award Scheme

Well done to Lisa Swanson S5 and Ruth Macleod S5 for gaining Nuffield Science Scholarships this summer. Lisa will complete a biotechnology project at LifeScan in Inverness and Ruth has a project dot.rural in the Centre for Rural Health in Inverness. We wish them every success.



Community Council Jubilee Event

You have a holiday on Monday 4 June to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Why not spend the day at the street party in Dingwall? The High street will be closed for the day and suitably decorated tables set out along the length of the pedestrian zone for you to come and have your picnic lunch starting at 12 noon. The Tin Pan Alley jazz band will be playing in front of the Town Hall over lunchtime. In the early afternoon there will be mini games, including shinty, hockey, football with Ross County youth coach. From mid afternoon a series of bands and musicians will entertain on the High Street, and there will be a funfair and charity and trade stalls in the Cromartie Car Park, along with a display of classic cars representative of the Queen's reign. There are also expected to be face painting and hair braiding. The evening will be rounded off with an aerobatic display followed by the lighting of a beacon at Knockbain at around 9.00pm.

This is an event which will not be repeated in our lifetimes, and is only the second time in history that a British Monarch has reached this milestone. Please come along and be a part of the party.

Senior pupils are invited to volunteer to help with the setting up during the morning, and as stewards during the afternoon.

Nigel Greenwood – Chairman Community Council

Shinty

Congratulations to the under 14 Boys Shinty Team who won the Robertson's Cup. A special congratulation goes to Blair Morrison (S3) who won player of the tournament with 10 goals.