



Lairhillock School Newsletter

30 June 2015



We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded our **Sport Scotland Silver Award**. This is as a result of us meeting the two hours of PE as week and the attendance of children at the after school sporting events that take place on the premises. We would like to thank the parents who run the football and helped with the badminton sessions, the coaches from Portlethen Panthers Basketball Club, Mrs Seerey, our Active Schools Coordinator for her work with the clubs and Miss Munro our PE specialist for running a tennis club.

Finally we have our fabulous **outdoor classroom**. The official opening went well with Mrs Maria Walker, Director of Education and Children's Services, cutting the ribbon with the assistance of some willing helpers. We also welcomed Kevin the Minion as a special guest. He was very popular with some of the younger people. Alongside the opening of the classroom was the **whole school art exhibition**, which was very well attended. Thank you to everyone who bought their child/ren's artwork and thank you to those of you who entered into the spirit of things and an bid, or allowed your children to bid, for our 'Old Masters' i.e. pieces created by the staff. We raised an amazing £400.25, which will pay for the Rights Respecting School show in October.



The gods were certainly smiling on us on the day of the **sponsored walk** as we did not get the predicted rain. The children were super on the walk and everyone in school that day participated. As in previous years the Cross Country children were allowed to run all or part of the course. Eilidh Dempsey was the first person back, closely followed by her sister Morven and the fastest boy was Kearan Kuszpit. The first running group returned to school when we were just beyond the half-way point. Thank you to the legion of parents who manned the checkpoints or walked with the children. We couldn't have done it without them. The walk raised a fabulous **£2246.50**, part of which will be used to purchase new textbooks and PE equipment requested by the Pupil Council.

Yet again the **Crynoch Cup and summer barbecue** was a great success. The children played well and were very successful. Thank you to everyone who turned up to make the day such a success. The parent Council raised over **£1800**.

In addition to the money raised at the barbecue the Parent Council also ran a very successful **school disco** which the children enjoyed and there was a profit of **£455.66**.

As ever the turnout for the **end of term assembly** was great. I must apologise because when I was thanking the many parents who support the school I omitted the gardening parents. These ladies do a magnificent job keeping on top of the many jobs needed to keep the garden in shape.

We are sad to lose a number of the children to new schools but we wish them well and hope they will return to see us if they are on holiday at a different time.

The Primary 7s spent a large part of the day getting their polo-shirts signed by as many people as possible. At the end of the day it was lovely to see the P1-6 children cheering them on as they left Lairhillock School for the last time.

STAFFING

Today we said our farewells to Mrs Engle and Mrs Inglis. Both of these ladies have been an asset to the school and we will all miss having them work alongside us. We wish Mrs Engle a very happy retirement and we wish Mrs Inglis well in her new job.



It was Mrs Saunders' last day with Primary 6/7. We would like to thank her for her hard work and support over the last 6 months.

We were finally able to share with the children their potential classes for next session and who the class teacher/s will be. However, we may have another family moving into the area and depending on the ages of the children it may be necessary to change class configurations. Currently classes are:

- Nursery –Miss May, Mrs McGachy & Ms Karen Shepherd (Nursery Nurse)
- P1/2 – Mrs Campbell & Mrs Gill. Mrs Gill will be replaced by Mrs Begg on her return from maternity leave on 26 October 2015
- P2/3 – Mrs Blair & Mrs Strachan
- P4/5 – Mrs Hodge & Mrs Wood (Supply Teacher covering Mrs Engle's vacancy)
- P5/6 – Mrs Kirk & Mrs Wood (Supply Teacher covering Mrs Begg's maternity leave)
- P6/7 – Mrs Bosson full time until Mrs Fish returns on 25 November, when Mrs Bosson will teach the class on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternate Wednesdays and Mrs Fish will do alternate Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

The price of a two course standard meal in all Primary schools will increase by 10p.

From Monday 17 August 2015 the following charges will apply:-

Pupils - two course standard meal - **£2.10**. Books of 10 tickets will be **£21.00**.

YOUNG CARERS

You may have heard in the news about 'Carers' Week' in June, which is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK.

Alongside this Aberdeenshire Authority and NHS Grampian have designed a 'toolkit' to help support young carers and young people affected by a caring role. The definition of a young carer is:

"A child or young person aged under 18 who has a caring role for someone within their household who is experiencing illness or disability. This would be on an ongoing basis, and may include physical, practical and/or emotional support due to illness, disability, mental health or substance misuse issues. It would also include supporting siblings where parent/s are unable to fully undertake the parenting role themselves, due to any of the issues outlined above."

A young person affected by a caring role is:

"... a child or young person aged under 18 who lives in a household where there is a caring role taking place due to illness, disability, mental health or substance misuse issues, which is having an impact on their own wellbeing, but where they do not have to undertake a direct caring role themselves."

With this in mind we are joining many schools across Aberdeenshire who have signed the Young Carers Charter for Action and aim to ensure young carers are identified and offered

appropriate support to achieve their potential. This also demonstrates our commitment to being a carer friendly school.

It is recognised that children living in these situations may at some time require additional support and Aberdeenshire Authority schools are committed to putting in place plans to do this should it be necessary. If you feel your child comes into this category we would like you to contact the school to arrange a meeting to discuss the best way forward.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROJECT

We have been asked to circulate information regarding a research project being carried out by Cambridge University. The information is included at the end of this newsletter.

PARENT COUNCIL

The next Parent Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 1 September 2015 at 7.00 p.m.** This meeting will be the Annual General Meeting to which all parents of children from Nursery to P7 are invited. The Parent Council members will be **electing new office bearers** during this meeting. Items for the agenda should be forwarded to the secretary, Mrs Rachel Anderson.

AND FINALLY...

On behalf of the staff I would like to wish you all a fabulous summer. We will see the children back in school on Tuesday 18 August.

Christeen Seward
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary (Dates may have to change but you will be kept informed)

TERM 1			
01 09 15	TUESDAY	19.00	PARENT COUNCIL AGM

SCHOOL HOLIDAY / TERM TIME DATES

SESSION 2015 – 2016

Term 1	18/08/15 - 09/10/15
Term 2	26/10/15 - 22/12/15
Term 3	06/01/16 - 01/04/16
Term 4	18/04/16 - 01/07/16

In-service Days

17 August 2015
16 November 2015
17 November 2015
16 February 2016
17 February 2016

Public Holidays

15 February 2016
25 March 2016
02 May 2016

Occasional Days

11 February 2016
12 February 2016

“We are a research group from the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Cambridge, investigating individual differences in how the mind works. Our research aims to provide a better understanding about the brain and behavioural differences within the general population, as well as those who have a psychiatric diagnosis. We are inviting you and your partner (if applicable) to join our research panel of adults so we can collect data that represents the make-up of adults in the UK, across all socioeconomic and educational levels.

You have been contacted because your son/daughter attends a primary school in Aberdeenshire, and we are writing to every parent who has a child age 5-11 years old in primary education. We need as many people as possible to help our research and it will only take you 5 minutes!

If you are interested in being part of our volunteer panel, please go to our secure website at <http://cambridgepsychology.com/psp>. If you register, we will ask you to provide some background information about yourself, and then you can go on to take some questionnaires and tests online. You can complete these at your leisure by logging in and out of your volunteer homepage with your chosen login details and will only need to complete them once. We will also encourage you to invite your partner (if applicable) to register (you can do this from your volunteer homepage once you are registered).

We will also contact you from time to time to tell you about new projects which might be of interest to you. Many of our research projects only involve filling in 5 minute questionnaires or doing tasks online. Some of our studies involve being assessed by one of our team (such as brain scanning studies). You are under no obligation to participate in any of the projects but you may find them fascinating and taking part is an excellent way to see what research is going on in Cambridge University. Any information you provide is entirely confidential. You can opt out at any time and we will remove your details, and any data you have provided, from our volunteer database. If you have any questions about registering as a volunteer, please contact our Volunteers Coordinator Paula Smith (pls28@medschl.cam.ac.uk).

There is also a Participant Information Sheet for additional information ([link](#) to PIS or https://cambridgepsychology.com/docs/CamPsych_PIS.pdf).

For more information about our research into psychiatric conditions such as autism, please visit www.autismresearchcentre.com

Thank you for considering our request.”

Best wishes
Professor Simon Baron-Cohen
Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry
University of Cambridge.



COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS

We welcome feedback on how we are doing and will use this to plan for improvement. Please note any points in the space below and return to the school office. Please sign your name if you wish someone to respond to your comments.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____