



Lairhillock School Newsletter

March 2017

World Book Day was a fun day with the children listening to staff read from their favourite books; decorating the classroom doors; and sharing their own loved books. The 'Get Caught Reading' competition winner was selected by an independent judge, as yet again I couldn't cope with the pressure of having to decide. We had a vast range of fabulous ideas from reading in the fridge to reading in the shower and we even had one reader in front of an enormous mural of William Shakespeare. In addition to strange places in the home we had entries from across the country e.g. Stonehenge and Edinburgh. The P1-7 winner was Lilia Meachen who was reading high up in a beautifully leafy tree and our Nursery winner was Milo Johnston on the wing of a jet.



Most of our Primary 5-7 children took part in the **First Aid** training with Grampian Training Services and were awarded their certificates at assembly.

Thank you to Primary 5/6 for organising our **Red Nose Day**. They raised £156.95 from the sale of Red noses and £231.77 on Red Nose Day from donations from people who chose to wear red.

Our **enterprising Primary 2** children hosted a marble run day, where we were invited to play with their marble runs and to vote for our favourite. All of the children produced superb marble runs and the rest of the school enjoyed trialling these. They raised £61.16 and the winning marble run was 'High Strike'. The money will be donated to Victoria Keith's wishing well charity. Well done and thank you P2!

You will be aware from the minutes from the Parent Council that I am off to Ghana in the summer break to work with the **Juliet Johnston School** and to establish International Learning links. After our visit from Basil Johnston, co-founder of the school, and when I told the children I would be going to Ghana they decided to **sponsor a child**. I recently received the following from Basil Johnston:

"I'm back from Ghana and have now got some information about a child I thought Lairhillock Primary would like to sponsor.

His name is Prince and he is one of a family of five children who all attend the school, and who have all been sponsored. Prince is the youngest and is in Nursery 2.





Prince's mother has a severe mental illness. The children didn't go to school for years as they stayed at home to look after their mother.

One of the children has rickets, and two of them – including Prince – are bow legged because the mother didn't have enough calcium during her pregnancies.

Anyway, I don't know how the family heard about the school, but I do know that the father, who is a carpenter by trade, now makes furniture so he can work indoors and look after his wife so the children can go to school.

Four years ago I made a deal with the father and said that I would find sponsors for all of his children.

Thank you VERY VERY much for supporting Prince!"

Article 23

A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and independence, and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to provide support to disabled children.

Article 24

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.



Article 28

Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free. Secondary education must be available for every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Thank you to the four families who helped out at the **Family Gardening** day.





Mrs Kirk was very proud of the **Cross Country** runners who participated in the annual cross country event at Balgownie. Thank you to the parent volunteers who braved the cold weather to support the children.

EVENTS

Primary 5/6 have planned our **10th Birthday party** for the first day back after the Easter break. The day will start at 09.45 with a coffee morning for families and invited guests. During the morning there will be the unveiling of our new glass panel being made by Fiona Paterson of Mearns Art House and the 'launching' of the Breakfast Club wishing well. This is when the winner of the design competition will be revealed.

In the afternoon P5/6 have planned a party for the children (nursery will celebrate in the morning). The children can come to school in party clothes or alternatively change at lunchtime. The latter option will prevent good clothes being ruined in the playground or during lunch.

It is hard to believe that when we return we will only have three weeks in school before the **Primary 7's** are away to **Ardeonaig!** Our **meeting for parents will be on Monday 24 April at 7 p.m.**

Whilst the P7 children are away in Ardeonaig Mrs Wilson will be running the Primary 6 **Bikeability** training. Please don't forget that the **bicycle and helmet check** will be on **Monday 24 April**. We still require volunteers to support the training (8-12 May). If you are able to help please contact the school.

Mrs Kirk will be starting the after school **Cross Country** sessions on Tuesdays after the Easter break. This will be opened up to P4-7 children. Further information will come out from Mrs Kirk after the break.

On returning to school after the holiday, **P4-7** will begin rehearsals for their **show**. We plan on having an afternoon showing on 07 June and an evening performance on 08 June. More information will be available next term.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

At the beginning of the session the yearly overview calendar of reporting was shared with parents and it included **parents' meetings** in May, however we have decided that it would be more effective to postpone the final report and parent/teacher meeting until June, as the Interim Reports were only issued in February. Parents' meetings will now coincide with the digital technologies display on **Wednesday 14 June**.

STAFFING

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Susan Scouler, Early Year's Practitioner, to the nursery. She will be working alongside the existing team until the summer break.



STAFF TRAINING

This term staff have engaged in training in CALM, Digital Technologies, Early Years Literacy, Getting it Right for Every Child and Numeracy & Maths.

During our in-service days we developed our nine year Religious and Moral Education plan and updated the associated policy, which is available on request, and as a whole school looked at Numicon maths.

PARENT COUNCIL

The next Parent Council Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 26 April 2017 at 7.00 p.m.** **Please note this is half an hour earlier than previous meetings.** All parents of children from Nursery to P7 are invited. Items for the agenda should be forwarded to the secretary, Mrs Joanne Owen at the new Parent Council email address:

Lairhillockparentcouncil@gmail.com

AND FINALLY...

Have an enjoyable Easter break and we will see the children back in school on Tuesday 18 April... school birthday party day!

HAPPY
EASTER

Christeen Saward
Head Teacher



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Lairhillock Breakfast & After School Club **Wishing Well Charity**

As you probably know, a wishing well is being built to commemorate Lairhillock Primary's 10th birthday this spring. The well will be up and running for donations after the Easter holiday. Yesterday I asked the children from P1 through to P7 to suggest which charity they thought the well should begin collecting for and cynically on my part presumed I'd get a lot of suggestions for comic relief as they had just raised an impressive amount for that charity last week...How wrong was I? The children blew me away with their suggestions, even the P1s, who maybe weren't aware of too many charity names but have clearly got the concept nonetheless and detailed what they thought would be good things to raise money for – tears to a glass eye stuff! Anyway be very proud of these kind and thoughtful children. Below is the suggestion list. The first one for the well I'll just draw from a hat:

- *Cancer Research
- * Water Aid
- * Willberry Wonder Pony Cancer Charity
- * Cruse Bereavement Care
- * RSPCA
- * Brain Tumour Trust
- * UNICEF
- * SSPCA
- * Childline
- * "The hospital so they can get medicine"
- * WWF
- * "Food for people who don't have money"
- * Jeans for Genes
- * "Water for the people who have none"
- * Down's syndrome Scotland
- * "Toys for children who don't get them"
- * MS society
- * "People who are ill and don't have anyone to help"
- * Comic Relief
- * "Children that have no mums or dads"
- * Children in need
- * "Money to buy houses for homeless people"
- * Poppy Appeal
- * "Shoes for people in a different country"
- * Red Cross
- * "Jumpers for people who don't have much"
- * DEC Appeal
- * New Syrian Scots
- * Ghana School
- *British Heart Foundation

Victoria Keith
Lairhillock Breakfast and After School Club



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

SESSION 2016-2017			
TERM 4			
16 04 17	SUNDAY	-	SCHOOL'S 10th BIRTHDAY
18 04 17	TUESDAY		School's 10 th Birthday Party
24 04 17	MONDAY	a.m.	P6 bicycle and helmet check
		19.00	Ardeonaig meeting for P7 parents
26 04 17	WEDNESDAY	a.m.	Nursery visit to Aberdeen Science Centre
		19.00	Parent Council meeting
27 04 17	THURSDAY	TBC	Parent Council photography session
29 04 17	WEDNESDAY	TBC	P2 assembly – open to parents
08 15 17	MONDAY		Primary 7 leave for Ardeonaig
			Primary 6 start Bikeability training
12 05 17			
18 05 17	THURSDAY	ALL DAY	ECO ACTION DAY!
23 05 17	TUESDAY	09.00-10.00	Nursery Stay & Play
25 05 17	THURSDAY	09.00-10.00	Nursery Stay & Play
31 05 17	WEDNESDAY	14.30	P4/5 assembly – open to parents
		ALL DAY	Scholastic Book Fair in school
07 06 17	WEDNESDAY	TBC	P4-7 show
08 06 17	THURSDAY	TBC	P4-7 show
14 06 17	WEDNESDAY	TBC	Digital Technologies exhibition
		15.30-20.00	End of session parents' meetings
15 06 17	THURSDAY	14.00	P4/5 Enterprise café
16 06 17	FRIDAY	TBC	Parent Council disco
29 06 17	THURSDAY	TBC	P7 leavers assembly – open to parents



SCHOOL HOLIDAY / TERM TIME DATES SESSION 2016 – 2017

	From	To	Public Holidays
Term 1	18 04 17	30 06 17	01 05 17

SCHOOL HOLIDAY / TERM TIME DATES SESSION 2017 – 2018

	From	To	In-service Days	Public Holidays	Occasional Days
Term 1	22 08 17	13 10 17	21 08 17		
Term 2	30 10 17	22 12 17	13 11 17 14 11 17		
Term 3	08 01 18	29 03 18	13 02 18 14 02 18	12 02 18	08 02 18 09 02 17
Term 4	16 04 18	06 07 18		07 05 18	



COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS

We welcome feedback on how we are doing and will use this to plan for improvements. 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:** _____