



Lairhillock School Newsletter

29 January 2016



Thank you to Primary1/2 for organising the very successful **Suitcase Sale**, which raised £303.07 for the flood relief fund. The children arrived laden and with money and left laden and happy but without money!

Last term we looked at the children's right to an education - Article 28 of the United

Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and through our supporting the flood appeal we are looking at Article 24 – the right to health and health services.



Thank you to the parents who took up the challenge of trying to get the **safety surface** in the adventure play area repaired. This should go ahead in February, if the weather permits.

The school is getting busy with lots of clubs etc. outside of school hours. It is great to see things back up and running again. During these out of school activities we would ask that children and parents **do not go into the nursery, classrooms, GP room and Music room**. Should you need to access these areas outwith school hours please ask a member of staff i.e. school staff, caretaker or cleaner. We appreciate your support in this.

Mrs Engel came back to visit as our **Scottish Poetry Competition** judge. She had a very difficult job as the standard of performance was very high.



Mrs Engel with the Scottish Poetry Competition Finalists 2016

Our finalists were:

Primary 1

- Kiki Johnston – P1 winner
- Jessica Currie
- Eve Macdonald

Primary 2

- Callan Armes – P2 winner
- Ayla Gill
- Isaac Smith
- Sophia Valko

Primary 3

- Benjamin Currie – P3 winner
- Anna Forbes
- Isobel Morrison

Primary 4

- Aimee Napier – P4 winner
- Cameron Home
- Amy Strachan

Primary 5

- Caitlin Grimmer – P5 winner and **OVERALL SCHOOL WINNER!**
- Ruby Greig
- Seumas Morrison

Primary 6

- Olivia Manning – P6 winner
- Freddy Macdonald
- Arran MacNamee

Primary 7

- Alex Ringrose – P7 winner
- Morven Dempsey
- Erin Edmond

Thank you to Mandy Tulloch and Shona Grimmer for applying to the **Meikle Carewe Wind Farm fund**. They secured £3300 for the purchase of new playground furniture. Isobel and Seumas Morrison attended the presentation with their mum and are pictured here with Paul Melling and Carl Nelson from the Kindcardineshire Development Partnership.

We look forward to the new items arriving!



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

It is the turn of Primary 5/6 to organise an event. They have taken on responsibility for the **Fairtrade café** to be held on Thursday 25 February. The children will send out information in the near future.

Thursday 03 March is **World Book Day** and we are hoping the children will dress as their favourite character.

Our Cross Country children will be participating in the Robert Gordon's and Albyn School Open **Cross Country** Championship on Friday 18 March.

See also the Mrs Seery's **Active Schools** Newsletter at the end of this newsletter.

STAFFING

Mrs Janette Hayati, Early Years Practitioner (previously known as Nursery Nurses), joined our nursery team on 18 January. We are delighted to finally have her on the team.

PRIMARY 1 FAMILY BOOK BAGS

The Scottish Book Trust would really like your help in gathering feedback about this year's Primary 1 Family Bags. They have compiled a survey through the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2RC87LX>

FEEDBACK

As a result of feedback from the Curriculum Rational events in October we have compiled a 'You said... We did...' response sheet (See end of this newsletter). Hopefully this will help answer any final queries. Please contact me if you need further clarification.

ONLINE E-PAYMENTS FOR SCHOOL MEALS AND OTHER ONLINE PURCHASES

Aberdeenshire Council is introducing a secure and easy way of making payments to primary schools for school meals and more.

The system has been successfully introduced and is operating well in Crimond, Inverallochy, Rathen and St Combs schools in the Fraserburgh school networks.

The rollout to all primary schools in Aberdeenshire is now taking place by network grouping, with a target completion date of June 2016.

Initially the new online system will:

- Provide parents and carers with a secure and simple way of payment for school meals, accessible at their convenience.
- Allow parents to track a purchase history and meal choices including children in receipt of free school meals.
- Reduce cash handling, processing and increase security in schools.

- Decrease food wastage - primary school age children will pre-order their school meals in the classroom at the start of the school day. Helping to ensure each child receives the meal of their choice at lunchtime.

As part of the process:

- Information will be issued giving clear instruction on how to set up an online account and make payment for children.

As yet we do not have a date for implementation in our school network.

PARENT NETWORK SCOTLAND

Parent Network Scotland has a new website at www.parentnetworkscotland.org.uk. PNS run workshops, co-ordinate support groups and provide training tailored to meet the needs of parents in communities across Scotland.

PARENT COUNCIL

The next Parent Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 26 April 2016 at 7.30 p.m.** All parents of children from Nursery to P7 are invited. Items for the agenda should be forwarded to the secretary, Mrs Joanne Owen.

Christeen Saward
Head Teacher

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

TERM 3			
21 01 16	THURSDAY	TBC	SUITCASE SALE
25 02 16	THURSDAY	TBC	FAIRTRADE CAFÉ
26 02 16	FRIDAY	18.30	PARENT COUNCIL BEETLE DRIVE
03 03 16	THURSDAY	ALL DAY	WORLD BOOK DAY
18 03 15	FRIDAY	A.M.	ROBERT GORDON'S AND ALBYN SCHOOL OPEN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP
TERM 4			
26 04 16	TUESDAY	19.30	PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
SESSION 2016-2017			
31 08 16	WEDNESDAY	19.30	PARENT COUNCIL AGM

SCHOOL HOLIDAY / TERM TIME DATES

SESSION 2015 – 2016

Term 3 06/01/16 - 01/04/16

Term 4 18/04/16 - 01/07/16

In-service Days

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



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: _____

Lairhillock
January 2016

Happy New Year to All!

Working together with the Head Teacher and school staff, the pupils have had the opportunity to partake in a few physical activities in Terms 1 & 2 of this school year.

Curling

Once again the opportunity to be involved in curling was given to the P6s. The Mackie cluster of primary schools have now had this opportunity over the past 6 years and I think we are all in agreement when we say a big thank you to CurlAberdeen, who not only allow use of the indoor equipment for practice within school time, but also pay the transport costs to the session at the curling rink. Curling is not a sport that many of the children have tried before and all seem to really enjoy the experience, certainly on the ice! CurlAberdeen have regularly junior lessons, if interested please contact them directly.



Swimming P4/5

P4/5 received swimming lessons at Stonehaven Leisure Centre for 5 weeks. This the first time Active Schools have been offered the use of the Leisure Centre pool so we are grateful, and from feedback from both pupils and class teachers, the sessions were enjoyed especially the week of synchronised swimming! Again a great opportunity for the pupils.

PlayLeaders

P6s received the Playleaders programme delivered by Mrs Saward and all successfully passed and received their certificates. This initiative involves learning the leadership skills of communication, organisation, preparation, delivery, health & safety and allows the P6s to use their skills in the delivery of playground games to P1-3s.

Monday Evening Basketball

After a delay in starting due to no caretaker cover at the school, I am pleased to say the basketball under the coaching skills of Aaron Dempsey is ongoing for the P4/7s. 14 pupils attend and all thoroughly enjoy it. Thanks also to the parents who diligently do their rota duty. If any of the pupils want some further lessons, Portlethen Panthers Basketball Club hold junior sessions in Stonehaven Leisure Centre on Thursday evenings check their website for times.

Lunchtime Table Tennis

2 table tennis tables are set up in the music room on Tuesdays & Fridays to allow 8 x P6s & 8 x P7s to play table tennis. The P7 boys are all now playing to a good standard and therefore, they take it in turns to supervise/help the P6s which is a great leadership skill.



Wednesday After School Badminton

I have been leading these sessions for P5/7 and have 10 pupils attending. The pupils are enjoying learning the various badminton shots. I am hoping to enter a school team into the local badminton competition in March. A couple of spaces are still available just contact me.

Coming up for Term 3

Firstclubgolf

Later this term, a member of Stonehaven Golf Club and I will be out at the school to instruct P4/5 in the Firstclubgolf initiative, involving the learning of various golf shots with well weighted plastic golf clubs. These sessions are an introduction to the sport of golf and following this practise, the P5s (age restricted) will be offered the chance to continue with coaching from instructors at Stonehaven Golf Club.

Badminton Sportshall Challenge

P3/4 will be given the opportunity to practise the skills of the challenge in preparation for selection for the Lairhillock Team for the school cluster event scheduled for late March. Also, for extra practise, there are free sessions on offer to P3/4 at Mackie Academy Sat mornings 11-1pm throughout this term – if interest please contact myself.

Hockey

Also proposed for this term, is Hockey tuition for the P6/7s. This will be given by a coach from Aberdeenshire South Hockey Club – more info to come through the school.

Over and above all that is offered through Active Schools, the school is also moving forward with the opportunity of physical activities being offered by the Head Teacher and PE Teacher – going for GOLD in the school sports award!

If there are any parents who are interested in setting up/assisting an out of school sports/physical activity club, please contact myself and I would be please to give information on sports specific training courses.

If further information on the Active Schools programme is required, please contact me on 07851287035 or email doreen.seery@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Doreen Seery
Active Schools Coordinator

Curriculum Rationale Events September 2015

The following 'You said...' comments were written by parents after the Curriculum Rationale. If your comment appears and has not been fully addressed in the 'We did...' column please contact Mrs Saward for further clarification.

<i>You said...</i>	<i>We did...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Caffeine!" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshments were provided at the next events held for parents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Maybe an evening on a particular area such as numeracy and how it is taught so we can provide better support at home." • "Lower school maths sessions and how it is actually done was very helpful when my children were younger." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will seek a consensus as to what areas would be of most benefit as the Numeracy curriculum is vast.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "More specific info about day-to-day progress in class & feedback on how our child is getting on & whether there is anything we can help with at home." • "Specific to my child how I can be of more help to them." • "f we could know the exact topic that children learn on each and every subject every week, would be beneficial, in case as parents we have to support greatly with our children." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Curriculum Rationale events were the first of three new changes designed to share information. The open sessions on 07 October gave parents a longer session in class with their child to discuss all work that has gone on over the term. The Pupil Profiles are designed to share specific information on a termly basis. Information sessions were held for parents to outline the layout and function of the Pupil Profiles. The Profiles were delayed due to a printing delay, which was outwith our control. • Parents who attended the session were given copies of advice from Education Scotland on how to support their child at home. • School advice on how to support children at home was issued at the beginning of term • General information leaflet shared at Curriculum Rationale event • Useful website: http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/earningathome/index.asp • Teachers contact parents if particular support is required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "How staff measure achievement." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardised testing in P1, P3, P5 and P7. • The Curriculum Rational event shared the full range of outcomes and experiences the children are to engage in in their 9 years at primary school. • Assessments termly in writing. • Continuous monitoring of all areas of literacy and numeracy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A breakdown of levels e.g. E, 1 and 2 for school reports." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was covered in the Curriculum Rationale event and the full Curriculum was shared. This is available on the Education Scotland website.

Curriculum Rationale Events September 2015

<i>You said...</i>	<i>We did...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I would like more inter disciplinary learning particularly in an outdoor setting.” • “Could all classes be allocated time to use the outdoors regularly as part of learning?” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As mentioned at the Curriculum Rationale event we teach a range of subjects in an inter-disciplinary manner. These will be outdoor when appropriate. • The topics outlined at the Curriculum Rationale event included the Term 4 topic focusing on Eco, animals and plants which are well suited to outdoor learning. • The curriculum is very full and when appropriate the classes use the outdoor environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “It would be great to find out if your kid is achieving levels they should achieve at a certain time.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Curriculum Rationale event outlined the expected rate of achievement for most children i.e. Early Level by the end of P1, First Level by the end of P4 and Second Level by the end of P7 • The Pupil Profiles will share levels • End of session reports will have levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Homework? What is our role? How much should we push/encourage?” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The homework policy is under review • This was discussed with an individual parent who raised the concern.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “How parents can support children by involving themselves at school in different kind of activities i.e. baking group, library etc. in that time we can understand how your child is feeling among their peers.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasionally there are specific requests in the monthly newsletter but Parents are welcome to volunteer to help with any of the school activities, simply contact the school to let us know what you would like to help with. • We will provide applications for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) application and this is paid for by Aberdeenshire Council.