



MOUNT PLEASANT PRIMARY SCHOOL



~~~~~ September 2014 Newsletter ~~~~~

## HELLO AND WELCOME TO OUR NEW P1s



What a lovely group of Primary 1 children that have joined us this year. We are happy to report that they are all settling in extremely well and are growing in confidence as they move around our school.

## Introducing our Term 1 House Captains



The whole school recently held their House Captain elections. Following consultation with parents and pupils last year we will now be rotating House Captains over the school year. We look forward to hearing your views on this new system.

Congratulations to the following P7 Pupils who will be taking up the mantle of house captain for our first term of office:

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| HARALD   | Fara & Ryan      |
| SINCLAIR | Tori-Lee & Danny |
| THOR     | Bea & Eadan      |

## Contact Information

- ☎ **Telephone:**  
01847 893419
- ✉ **Email:**  
mount-pleasant-  
primary.co.uk
- ☎ **Appointments** to speak to a Class Teacher or Head Teacher can be arranged by contacting the school office.
- ☎ **Absences** should be reported to the school office by 9.30am.
- ☎ **Emergency Contact Information** Please ensure you advise us of any changes.

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## Macmillan Coffee Morning



Due to the building work going on in school this year this is going to be run in a different way. All classes will be given a time to attend the Coffee Morning but unfortunately parents will be unable to attend. If anyone would like to donate some baking for the event this will be gratefully appreciated. The Coffee Morning will be held on Friday October 10<sup>th</sup>. The SNAG group will be running the event. Cost per child is 50p and baking will be available to buy.

## Road Safety Talk

Our School Police Liaison Officers, Audrey and Harry, came to visit the school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September to talk to our Primary 1, 2 & 3 classes about Road Safety. Here are both P2 classes learning about the different types of traffic, safe places to cross, how to cross the road safely and about some of the things that can distract us when we're near busy roads.



## Tag Rugby Festival

Primaries 4 and 5 had great fun at the rugby festival. We all played because it was a festival not a competition so we were in 5 teams. There were 10 children in each team but only 7 played at a time so we took turns. The weather was very warm and sunny so we sat on the grass and mats when we were waiting and when we were eating our snacks. There were some wasps so we had to be careful!

The games were fun but tricky because it was a fast game and we had to dodge people. We had to throw the ball underarm and backwards! It was hard to remember. We played against other schools and had to wear tag belts. We won some of our games.



We are looking forward to next time when it is a competition. Kane is coming in next term to help us improve.

*By Primary 4*

## News from our Gaelic P2 Class



On the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014 the Gaelic Medium class had a visit from BBC Alba and we were filmed all morning doing an active maths lesson. The camera man followed the children and Miss Sutherland around and it was very difficult to pretend that the camera wasn't there. The BBC are very impressed that we have a Gaelic unit so far up north and were wanting to see how we are getting on this term. Mrs Urquhart starred in the filming and showed the camera all of the Gaelic phrases that she is learning- all of us in the unit are enjoying hearing her speak Gaelic to us! We all watched the news on BBC Alba to see ourselves on TV the next evening and we were all very excited when we recognised all of the familiar faces and parts of the school.

*Abair rionnagan! / Stars!*

## Penny Wars is Coming!!!

Penny Wars is coming to Mount Pleasant! Each House Team will try to collect as much money as they can for the library. The winning team will win a prize. Each team must try to collect as much money in their pot by only adding copper coins. After a certain amount of time sabotage will be introduced and the children will then be able to add silver coins, one pound coins and even notes to the other teams tubs to make them lose. For example if they get a silver 10p put in their box they need to add 10p in copper coins to counteract this. Let the Wars begin! The winning team will be announced the last week of term.



## Primary 5 Beach Trip

We went to the beach on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September. We learned about coastal erosion, long-shore drift and deposition. It was quite fun, especially when we found a jelly fish! It was tiny. We had to find jaggy pebbles and smooth ones that had been deposited on the beach. We had to explain how they had become smooth. We saw a huge sea wall, some collapsed cliffs and an old pipe that had made erosion of the cliff worse.

*By Laya P5*



## School Uniform

A massive **THANK YOU** must go to everyone who has dropped in second hand uniform to the school. We now have a great stock of items which are available to buy from the school office. We will also be putting off a uniform order to our supplier at the end of October so if there are any items that you are needing please contact Sandra by 28th October at the very latest. Thank you.



## Do You Shop Online?

We are raising money for classroom resources for our pupils just by shopping online with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). There are no catches and it's completely free to use. It's really simple - just shop online via [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) (remember to select Mount Pleasant Primary School). There are over 2,700 well known retailers like Amazon, Argos, M&S, eBay (and many more!) and whenever you buy something online, the retailer makes a donation to your our school. It is simple to register and doesn't cost you a single penny extra. Please visit: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/)

## Eden Court Visit to P4 & 5

David Hunter came to do a film with us for one hundred years of Caithness. There were lots of parts. Firstly, James was Patrick Sellar, Charis was the minister and Natalie, Emma, Laya and Skye were crofters as part of The Highland Clearances. Next, Allan, Leighton, Megan and Kyle were all soldiers in World War 1. There were also scenes involving bathing in the sea, Dounreay and disco dancing. Using a green screen was a bit hard to act in front of, as there is nothing there!

*By Rosie P5*

## Accelerated Reading

In Primary Three children start to join the Accelerated Reading scheme. They continue with this throughout their time in Mount Pleasant. This is a reading scheme that allows them to read various books both in school and at home. Once they have read the book they quiz on the computer at school. The quizzes focus on comprehension and word meaning. You are able to see how well your child does by accessing Renaissance Home Connect. If you'd like to receive emails showing your child's quiz results, click the Email Set-up link in Renaissance Home Connect and follow the directions. To be sure these emails reach your inbox, add [homeconnectautodelivery@renlearnrp.com](mailto:homeconnectautodelivery@renlearnrp.com) to your address book. <https://ukhosted41.renlearn.co.uk/2240402/HomeConnect/Login.aspx> You will need your child's user name and password, which they will know and if they don't please contact the school and we will give you this. To help your child find suitable books at home, login to <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx>. This allows you to find suitable books or to check books you may wish to buy. The children all should know what reading level they are at alternatively this can be found on Home Connect.

## Quick Notes

- The School's Standards and Quality Report is now available from the school office or by going onto our website.
- School Meal cheque payments should be made payable to Highland Council.
- The way which Highland Council records pupil attendance has recently changed — this means that any absence your child has from school which is not covered by either a note or a phone call will automatically be classed as "truancy" by the SEEMIS pupil database.

## Primary 1/2 Foster a Puppy



On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August Mr Gordon the vet came to visit P2. He knows how well P2 in Mount Pleasant are able to look after lost pets, so he brought us a 5 month old, brown labradoodle who was recently found in the park and asked us if we would foster the puppy until either the owner could be found or a suitable new home arranged. P2 have been looking after Fluffy ever since, and maybe you have even seen one of the posters we made - Jack thought it would be a good way to try to find Fluffy's real owner.



## Head Teacher's Roundup



This is our first official newsletter of our new school year and there are quite a few new beginnings to tell you about. First we are happy to say that our school is getting a bit of a revamp ahead of our big birthday next year. The builders are hard at work replacing windows and roofs and the school is looking all the better for it. Everyone has been so flexible with the different arrangements we have had to make with regards to coming into the school and playtimes. Thank you all.

Also Nick and Shelley from the Salvation Army have had a new arrival of a baby girl called Iona and Mrs MacKintosh recently gave birth to a little baby boy Samuel. Congratulations to both families!

In terms of school life we have now held our House Captain elections and we are pleased to announce the names of the new House Captains: Harald, Fara Donald, Ryan Robson-McDonald, Sinclair, Tori-Lee McIntosh, Danny Elder and Thor, Bea Unger-Russell, Eadan Ross. Following last year's Parents' Questionnaire we have decided to allow all the House Captain nominees the opportunity to be the Head of their House and so there will be 5 terms of office over the school year, allowing more pupils to get the chance to be a House Captain. We will be asking for feedback about this later on in the school year.

Some of you may have been watching James Rhodes on Channel 4 in "Don't Stop the Music" and his instrument amnesty. Susie and Katrina from [caithnessmusic.com](http://caithnessmusic.com) are actively seeking any old instruments that people may have lying about at home that they no longer want. They are then going to unite these instruments with children who are keen to learn more about music. If you have any instruments that you think they could use then you can drop them off at the school office and we will ensure they are passed on.

## Caithness Junior Orchestra



[caithnessmusic.com](http://caithnessmusic.com) are currently running the brand new Caithness Junior Orchestra. This orchestra will be open to any children in Caithness over the age of 8 who play an instrument and read or are learning to read music notation. The orchestra will meet every Monday from 4 - 5 pm in Mount Pleasant Primary School. There will be a small charge per session for those that can afford it and supported places will be available for those that cannot. Please visit our website [www.caithnessmusic.com](http://www.caithnessmusic.com) or phone 01847 893517 to find out more about the Caithness Junior Orchestra and how to join.



### School's Out Dates 2014/15



|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| October 2014      | Sat 11th to Mon 27th Oct    |
| Christmas 2014    | Thu 20th Dec to Sun 4th Jan |
| Feb Mid Term 2015 | Sat 14th to Wed 18th Feb    |
| Easter 2015       | Fri 3rd Apr to Sun 19th Apr |
| Summer 2015       | Fri 3rd Jul to Tue 18th Aug |

## October Birthday Wishes

A big "Happy Birthday" to all our pupils who will be celebrating their birthday in October

|      |                         |
|------|-------------------------|
| P1   | Holly & Shaw            |
| P1/2 | Hannah                  |
| GMP2 | Kian                    |
| P3   | Chelsy, Katie & Madison |
| P6   | Fern, Cameron & Jamie   |
| P7   | Teoni, Reese & Danny    |



## Dates For Your Diary

|                             |                                                              |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thur 2nd October            | School Photographer — individual & family photographs        |
| Tues 7th October            | Primary 4 trip to Caithness Horizons                         |
| Thur 9th October            | Primary 6—Quoybrae "Fun with Food & Farming"                 |
| Frid 10th October           | Macmillan Coffee, Harvest Festival & last day of school term |
| Mon 27th October            | In-service day—Staff only in school                          |
| Tues 28th October           | Pupils back to school                                        |
| Frid 31st October           | Spooky Friday—Fundraising for MFR Cash for Kids              |
| Wed 12th November           | Parents' Night Appointments                                  |
| Thurs 13th, 20th & 27th Nov | Child Smile Tooth Varnishing                                 |
| Frid 14th November          | Be A Hero Day—fundraising for Children in Need               |

### General Information

- ☉ Electronic copies of our School and Nursery Handbooks are available by contacting the school office.
- ☉ Keep up to date with news and pictures by visiting us at:  
**mount-pleasant-primary.co.uk**
- ☉ If you have any suggestions for improvement to our Newsletter please contact the School Office.