



MOUNT PLEASANT PRIMARY SCHOOL



~~~~~ 2015 Issue 2 Newsletter ~~~~~

## WORLD BOOK DAY FUN



For World Book Day we dressed up as our favourite book character, it was a lot of fun. Everyone's costumes were really cool and fun to look at. Nearly the whole school dressed up! Some examples of the cool costumes are The Joker, Elsa from Frozen and Harry Potter characters. Overall it was an amazing day and everyone loved it!

*By Kieran and Jady P7*



### IMPORTANT

**EASTER HOLIDAYS** — We are closed to pupils from Friday 3rd April and reopen on Monday 20th April.

**CHILD SAFETY** — Please remember — children should not arrive at school before 8.40am. There is no Road Crossing Patroller or adult supervision before this time. The school doors are automatically locked until 8.40am therefore the children have no access. We would like to remind parents that children should not be dropped off or picked up from the school car park. Please use the car park across from the lolly crossing. There is very little school parking space available and we require clear access for school transport and emergency vehicles.

**SCHOOL MEALS PRICE INCREASE FROM 20TH APRIL 2015 — £2.10 PER DAY**

### LUNCHTIME LOLLY

From next term our lunch time crossing will be covered from 12.35 to 1.30 pm. Thank you for your patience over the last few months!

### BOOK FAIR

We had our annual Book Fair, where each class came to make a wish list of the books they wanted. We had a variety of different books from picture books to novels; we also had Frozen, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, One Direction and Minecraft posters which interested lots of pupils! Our P7 library monitors; Heidi, Kara, Jake and Abbie, and librarians; Fara and Teoni helped with everything and made sure everything was in order.

We raised an amazing £660 for our school library!

*By Teoni and Heidi P7*

### 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 before 9.30am by calling  
**01847 896030**
- ☎ **Emergency Contact Information** Please ensure you advise us of any changes.

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## Message in a Bottle

P1, P1/2 and GMP2 dug up a message in a bottle and a magic treasure chest on Thurso East Beach. We have been helping Marina the Mermaid and the other sea creatures ever since, because Neptune's Kingdom was devastated by an oil spill. We have found out about the effects of oil spills on sea creatures and how oil spills can be cleaned up and even prevented. We have written letters, posters and news articles to raise awareness of the damage oil spills cause. We have also been to clean up our own beach in Thurso with the help of Mr Castle, Countryside Ranger.

## Easter Badminton

Free Badminton Sessions in partnership with Badminton Scotland are being offered on 7th - 9th April (Thurso 10am-11.30am and Wick 2pm-3.30pm). This is open to children aged 8-16 year olds (max 24 kids). If you are interested please contact Kenny Russell to book your place. [Kenny.russell@highlifehighland.com](mailto:Kenny.russell@highlifehighland.com) 01847 895782

## 2015 Solar Eclipse

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 Primary 6 watched the solar eclipse in the nursery playground. Before we went out we made pinhole cameras with cardboard so we could watch it safely. Although it was cloudy we could still see the eclipse clearly because the clouds were moving really fast. After a while Sandra, the secretary, came out excitedly waving two pairs of special solar eclipse glasses. Mrs McLean



divided us into two lines and each line got a pair of glasses to share. It was amazing looking through them. The sun looked like an orange crescent shape. It started to get really cold as the moon covered the sun and it felt a bit strange and eerie. It was a really good

experience and we can't wait for the next one.

*By Cameron and Michael P6*

We had amazing talk about the Solar Eclipse from Tanya, who came from the Royal Edinburgh Observatory. She talked about how not to look at the Sun or the back of your eyes will get damaged or you could go blind which would be really bad. She talked about the size of all the planets compared to the Sun, which were really, really small!

*By Teoni and Jake - P7*

## Parent Council News

The last Parent Council meeting was held on Wednesday 4 March. They are currently selling Prize Draw tickets. It was suggested that we try and get a date at the Coop to sell them. Santa's Grotto proved to be a great success raising a fantastic £170 towards our school funds. A Beetle Drive was held on Saturday 28 March—it was really successful. They are looking at holding a Bingo event and also a School Fayre to celebrate the school's 50th Birthday.

**Next meeting Wednesday 22 April at 6.30pm  
Creche facilities are to be made available**

## Our Thoughts on Bullying

There may be times when children are being bullied or believe that they are. It is important that parents, who are concerned about possible bullying incidents, contact the school at the earliest opportunity to discuss the problem. We have an Anti-Bullying Policy, which details the action that will be taken and how all children concerned may be supported to ensure incidents are not repeated.

## P1/2 Super Snack Survey



In p1/2 we have been busy learning about different types of graphs and data handling with Miss Lipka. We thought it would be a good idea to carry out a survey in the school for the different types of snack that we all like to eat at break time. In our groups, we first carried out a survey using a frequency table and then we put all of our results onto a bar graph. We were quite shocked by our results, and found out that only 4 people in the whole school had a healthy snack with them on that day!

A few weeks later, after learning how to use tally marks, we carried out the survey again. We were delighted that this time the number of people having a healthy snack had risen to 14! However, P1/2 would like to encourage even more people to take in a healthy snack at break. We have decided to carry out a final survey in a few weeks' time, after the holidays. We hope you are one of our healthy snack hands up!

# Primary 1 & 2 Help Keep Thurso Beautiful



P1, P1/2 and the Gaelic Medium P2 from Mount Pleasant Primary School braved the cold weather last Monday to take part in beach clean down at Thurso East as part of their Keep Scotland Beautiful school topic. A massive 17 bags of rubbish were collected from the beach, with the help of Wildlife Ranger Paul Castle! Well done to the pupils and staff—thank you for helping to keep our coastline looking beautiful!

## Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day finally came along, after a year of waiting, with a bang. On the day we all came with our red noses and pyjamas. Everyone in the school had a shock when they were told that P7s were painting people's faces for a small donation. The P7s painted all the red noses and moustaches, doughnuts and clowns to make a silly face to for this year's Red Nose Day. Also to celebrate we learnt the lyrics from the red nose day song (making silly faces till the sun goes down). The noses were £1 each and they were in a mystery bag. Let's hope next time it comes with a bigger BANG.

*By William C and Tony S - P7*

Well done to the pupils and staff who managed to collect an amazing **£427** for Comic Relief — Special thank you to our hard working Primary 7 Face Painters!

## Chinese New Year



Chinese New Year was on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup>, February 2015. The P7s had fantastic fun and I'm sure the other classes had fun too. The Primary 7s made origami Chinese lanterns. We also made Chinese new year envelopes for money because at Chinese New Year they make envelopes to put money in instead of getting presents. We were also finding out Chinese numbers to 100. We were also learning our name in Chinese and we wrote our names and drew our birth year according to Chinese New Year.

*By Ryan And Eadan - P7*

## Science Festival



At the Science Festival 2 people called Chris and Sarah, came up from Edinburgh. We got to do really cool experiments! We mixed acids and alkalis which was really cool.

They did an awesome explosion trick, it was called the Big Party Popper! We also got a great talk about Super heroes from Lisa which was awesome and we got to make our own super hero called Spike. He had camouflage, mind-reading and lasers. The evil villain was called Professor Jean Splice and she was in the lab and she was really crazy!

*By Teoni and Jake - P7*

## Primary 5 Round Up

This month we attended a dance workshop with Kenny Russell and visiting specialist, Rebecca Miller. We made up our own dance routines in 4 different groups, these then had to be shared with the rest of the class. The Salvation Army and The Ultimate Church visit, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Nick, Shelley and their volunteers invited us along to a fun workshop with four different zones: The history zone, the worship zone, the symbol zone and the community zone. Pupils visited each of the zones participating in a variety of activities including dressing up, drama, matching cards, reading and watching video clips and solving mysteries. Primary 5 pupils have been busy this term learning about The Scottish Wars of Independence and Castles. They have been researching using a variety of books and the internet. They have also built castles and made props for their upcoming play. Writing, editing and rehearsing the Scottish wars of Independence play has been an ongoing task. We are looking forward to presenting our work with our friends in Primary 4 on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

## Head Teacher's Roundup



It is lovely to see the brighter mornings now that Spring has arrived and I am hoping that there will be minimum "April showers" to contend with!!! As the days lengthen and warm up we are hoping that you will be encouraging your children to walk to and from school to help get them active and moving. There is great evidence to show the benefits of a brisk walk not only for physical health but also for mental health. A walk to school can make you feel more positive about the day ahead.

Road safety charity Brake and Churchill Insurance's latest survey put the spotlight on irresponsible driving around schools and nurseries. Three in five parents (59%) reported witnessing speeding outside their child's school or nursery in the past year, with the same number (60%) also reporting drivers pulling out or turning without looking properly.

Brake and Churchill's survey of 1,000 parents of 5-11 year olds also found:

- Nearly half (47%) reported distracted driving, such as drivers on phones, around their child's school.
- Two thirds (65%) reported inconsiderate or illegal parking around their child's school.
- Three in 10 (30%) had witnessed children not being secured properly in child restraints.

There are indications that parents themselves could be part of the problem. A third (32%) admitted they don't drive more safely, for instance by slowing down and looking more than usual, near schools and nurseries, and a quarter (24%) admitted they don't even do so around their child's own school or nursery.

So as we are encouraging our children to walk to school more, let us also do our bit to help and be more considerate of everyone's children around the school and "go 20".

## Welcome our New Staff

We are delighted to tell you that our new staff team will be in place by the start of next term. Colin McLean has joined our team as janitor, Jane McPhee has joined Donella Boulton in our morning nursery, Ann Thomson will be joining Fiona Malcolm and Laura Farquhar in our afternoon nursery and finally John McNab will be joining us as our new road Crossing Patroller. We would like to welcome them aboard and hope they settle in very quickly!

## SCHOOL MEAL CHANGES

New menus have been issued to all the children. From next term the price per day has increased to £2.10 (P1 to P3 Free). The following morning tuck prices have also been changed: Scones 35p and milkshakes 35p. The following changes have been made to the new menus:

Week 1 (Thu) - Lentil Soup + Cheese Sandwich

Week 2 (Thu) - Cheese Baguette

Week 3 (Wed) - Lentil Soup + Ham Sandwich

Week 4 (Thu) - Tuna Wrap



We would like to wish you all a lovely and safe Easter holiday. We will look forward to seeing the children back on Monday 20th April

| School's Out Dates 2015/16 |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Easter 2015                | Fri 3rd Apr to Sun 19th Apr       |
| Summer 2015                | Fri 3rd Jul to Tue 18th Aug       |
| October 2015               | Sat 10th to Sun 25th October      |
| Christmas 2015             | Wed 23rd Dec 15 to Wed 6th Jan 16 |

## Dates For Your Diary

|                          |                                          |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Monday 20th April        | Term 4 starts — School reopens to pupils |
| Thursday 30th April      | P7 Trip to Baillie Windfarm              |
| Friday 1st May           | ANNUAL UNIFORM ORDERS DUE IN BY TODAY    |
| Tuesday 12th May         | P5 Trip to Timespan & Dunrobin           |
| Friday 15th May          | MFR Cash for Kids — Superhero Day        |
| Mon 18th to Fri 22nd May | P7 Trip to Fairburn                      |
| Monday 25th May          | Sports Day—weather permitting!           |

## 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](http://mount-pleasant-primary.co.uk)